EXHIBIT A

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Soil Health Improvement and Planning Project Segment 3 Amendment 1

PROJECT PERIOD: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026
Amendment 1: September 1, 2026 -- December 31, 2028
NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE AND E-MAIL OF LEAD PROJECT SPONSOR
South Dakota Soil Health Coalition
Chairman: Brian Johnson
116 N. Euclid Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-0275 Phone: 605-280-4190
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319 NONPOINT SOURCE FUNDS: $657,000 $800,000
WATER QUALITY FUNDS: $ 0
MATCH: $560,500, $1,283,950
OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS: $81,750
OTHER FUNDS: $ 600,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST: $1,617,000.00 **$3,422,700**
WATERSHED: Statewide

HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE: Statewide **HIGH PRIORITY WATERSHED**: YES

TMDL Development: No **TMDL Implementation:** Yes

PROJECT TYPE: Watershed

NPS CATEGORY: Agriculture

NPS FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY: BMP IMPLEMENTATION , INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

NPS POLLUTANTS TO BE ADDRESSED:
EXCESS NITROGEN, EXCESS PHOSPHORUS, SEDIMENTATION, PESTICIDES

PROJECT LOCATION: State of South Dakota **START DATE:** 9/1/2023 Amendment 1 9/1/2026

SUMMARIZATION OF MAJOR GOALS:
The goal of this three-year project is to improve water quality through planning and implementation of soil health agricultural best management practices (BMPs) and outreach to producers in selected 303(d) listed water bodies in South Dakota. Implementing and promoting best management practices in the watershed that reduce sediment loading and prevent bacterial contamination working to attain total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) developed for the rivers, tributaries and lakes and meet the designated beneficial uses. Outreach will include planning and holding workshops and field demonstration tours to educate and inform producers of ways to manage land to reduce runoff and improve nutrient cycling which will ultimately improve water quality. The project will also provide

information and education to local landowners and the public to provide a better understanding of water quality and its relationship to soil health benefits.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project will provide continued support for one full-time project coordinator to manage the project on a day-to-day basis and one and half full-time technician to work with producers' conservation planning. The South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC) Coordinator in partnership with the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Section 319 Watershed Projects will cooperatively work to achieve project success. Local conservation office will be provide office space as needed or as agreed to by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS will provide the SDSHC staff training in NRCS standardized planning practices and Farm Bill related documentation. NRCS will also allow the SDSHC staff access to their office files, with producer permission, so they can locate maps, soils data, and check existing planning. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) will provide the coordinator with funding for salary, travel, BMPs, and watershed targeting information. The coordinator will work with targeted 12-digit Hydrologic Units (HUs) within selected 303(d) listed water bodies statewide with special emphasis on the Lower Big Sioux River, the Vermillion River, and the Lower James River to develop and implement conservation plans and BMPs. The project will provide information and education to local landowners and the public to provide a better understanding of water quality benefits and the relationship to soil health practices. Assistance will be provided through an agreement between South Dakota State University (SDSU) and the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition to provide an Outreach Coordinator/Information Specialist. This position is 0.10 FTE of an SDSU Department of Natural Resource Management staff person assigned to provide leadership to the Soil Health Coalition and project staff for planning and coordination of information transfer and outreach activities.

SDSHC will work to compliment the established projects as well as promote partner available programs to effectively improve water quality within South Dakota.

FTE's: 2.60

EPA 319: $657,000 $800,000=$1,457,000 **Other Federal:** $81,750 **Match**: $1,283,950
Additional resources: $ 600,000
Total project cost: $1,617,000 $3,422,700 Other secured funds private: $171,290

2.0 STATEMENT OF NEED

Previous Section 319 Watershed project experience in South Dakota indicates that one-on-one technical assistance is a critical factor in improving landowner participation in conservation innovations and programs that improve water quality through watershed projects. Landowners residing in watersheds with impaired waterbodies are often willing to install agricultural BMPs and management practices which improve water quality, but they do not understand the importance of soil health improvement activities and how they affect water quality, water infiltration, reduce runoff, and improved soil characteristics.

According to the 2022 SD DANR Integrated Report, improving water quality is evident by the waterbodies listed as high priority in South Dakota. Appendix D pages 159-168 illustrates the location of the waterbody and the cause for the listing.

To address this need, SDSHC staff will provide planning, design and BMP installation technical assistance that will improve soil health and water quality in targeted watersheds. SDHSC staff will be trained in the use of NRCS conservation planning and related documentation. NRCS will allow SDSHC staff access to NRCS training courses, and agency materials such as maps, soils information, and existing conservation plans pending producer's approval. DANR will provide watershed assessment information and training in the use of water quality assessment techniques. Certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs) and Consultants will be used to provide engineering design and installation and conservation planning assistance when needed.

All Activities completed will be compiled and used in the development of annual reports and the final project report.

2.1 **Demonstrated Water Quality Need**

Most of the research and data collection within the state has shown that South Dakota's soil health continues to deteriorate while waterbodies continue to be listed or remain on the impaired list. The 2022 South Dakota Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality includes eighty-four lakes and ninety-five different streams or stream segments that are impaired requiring a TMDL while forty-five lakes do not support water quality standards for the assigned uses but have approved TMDLs. In most cases, soil health management practices, and implementation of agricultural BMPs help reduce the listed source of water quality impairment(s) through the reduction of nutrients, sediment, and bacteria draining from cropland and grasslands in the identified watersheds, while improving the soil health of those acres. With the sporadic rainfall amounts across the state in recent years and increase in large rainfall events calls for a need in increased water holding capacity on agricultural land. Improving soil health can be the answer to this need.

Many South Dakota producers are not aware of the benefits of improving soil health as it relates to water quality. Educating on no-till and reduce tillage farming methods, multispecies cover crop mixes, diverse crop rotations, livestock integration, rest-oriented grassland management, and deep-rooted perennials in crop rotations can help improve water quality and soil health. The information will be provided to producers within identified 303d listed watersheds and other areas of the state using a team of technical experts and experienced producers. The technical experts will explain implementation and benefits of new land management methods. Experienced producers will validate these methods by sharing the results from their operations.

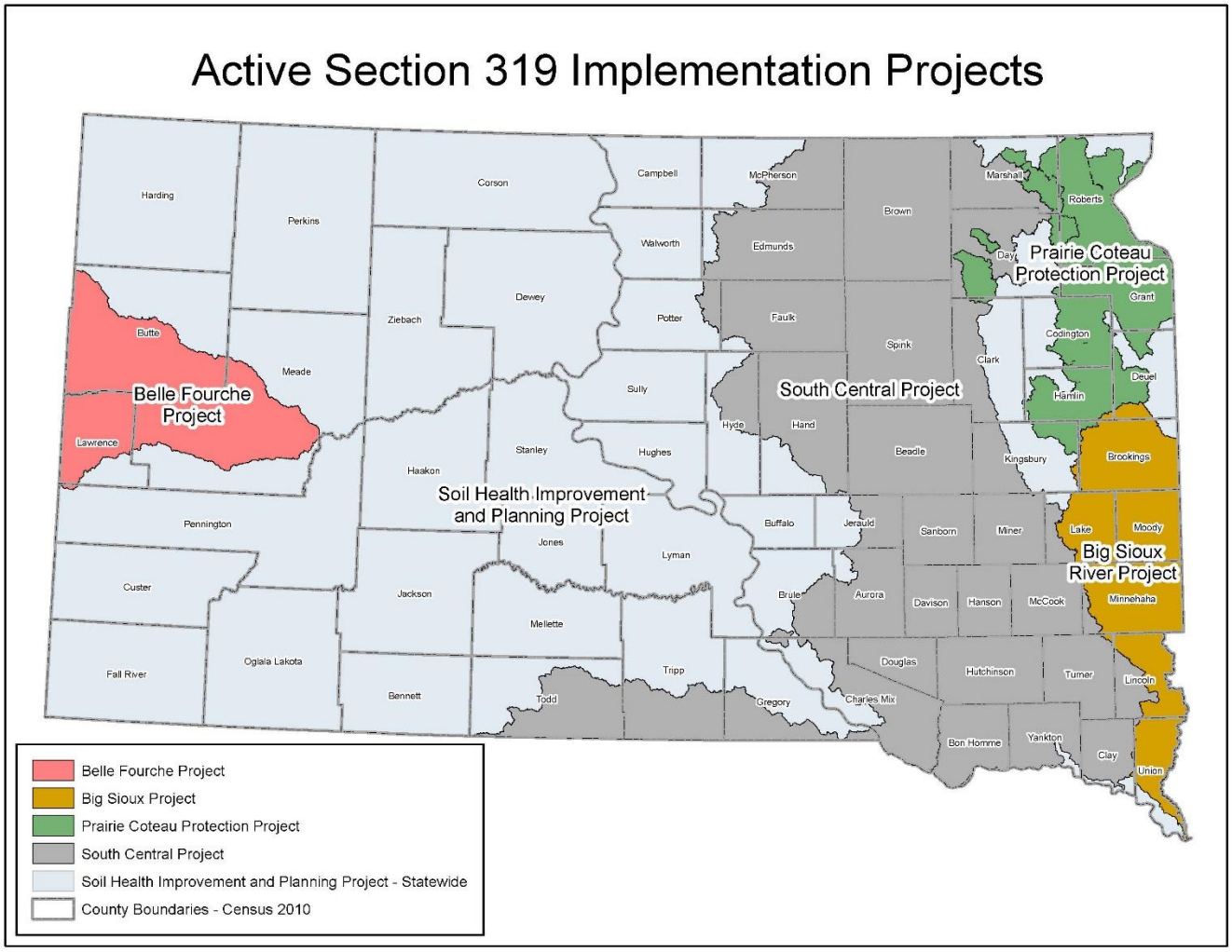
South Dakota uses a partnership approach to address soil health and water quality in the state's watersheds. The approach includes integration of watershed assessment and implementation process along with Information and Education (I&E) activities. The process begins with soil health and water quality monitoring, followed by modeling, and ends with watershed project planning and implementation. The watershed assessment segments of the process are three or more years in duration with implementation taking six to ten years, or longer, depending on the scope of the work required.

Many of the sources of Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) are known in the later stages of the watershed assessment process. This project will use planning, I&E, and installation of best management practices in critical areas in a manner that ensures the partnership process strengthens and is implemented in an efficient manner for the citizens of South Dakota.

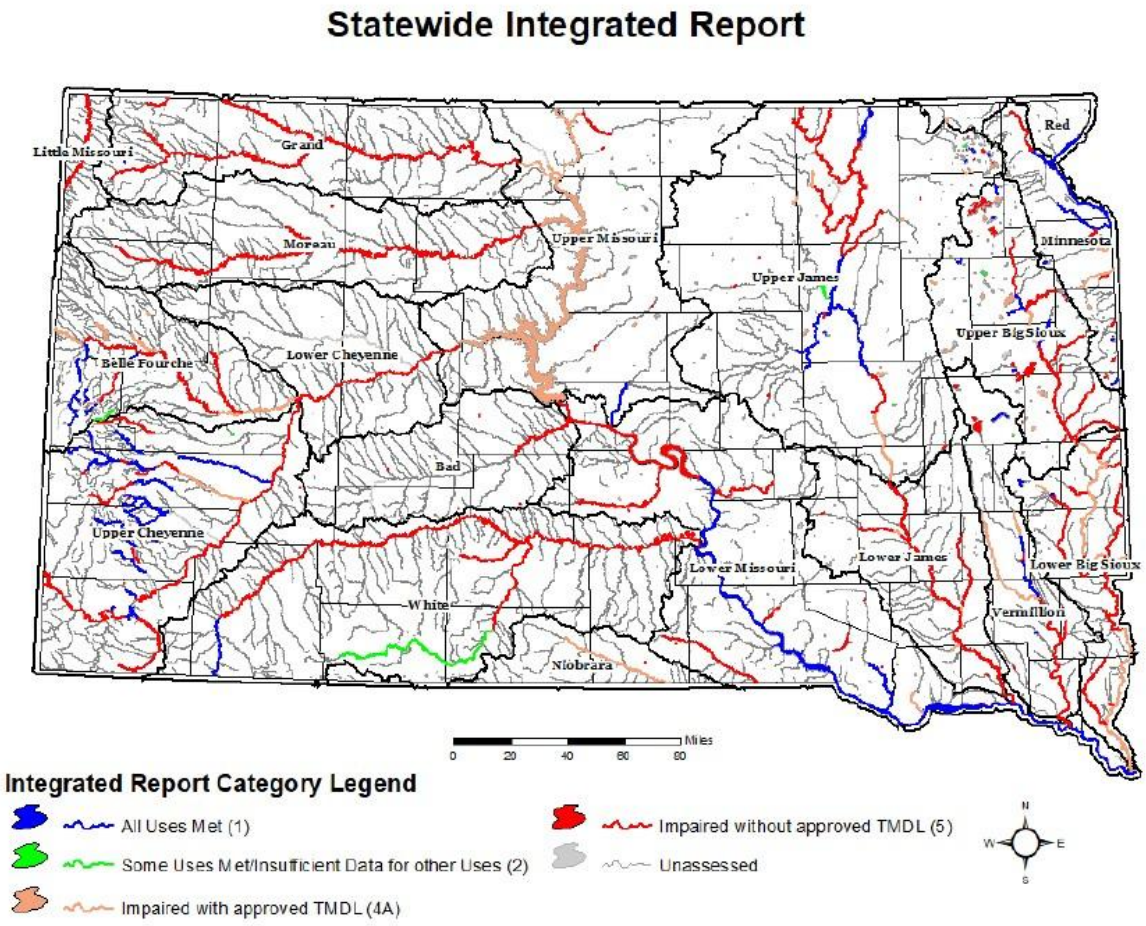
2.2 **Waterbody Information**

Active Section 319 watershed projects in the state include the Southcentral Implementation project, Prairie Coteau Improvement and Protection project, Belle Fourche River Watershed Management and Implementation project, and Central Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation project. This project will provide soil health assistance to these projects by providing funding and installation of soil health related BMPs, conservation planning, and I&E in targeted priority areas utilizing the SD DANR priority area maps.

Programs that will be used to fund BMP installation, in addition to 319 funds, are anticipated to be: General Mills, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Continuous Sign-up Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), SD GFP, SD Dept of Ag, Coordinated Conservation Grants, Partners for Fish & Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever.



2.3 **Maps**



Map from 2022 South Dakota Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment p.55
DANR will provide the following maps:

- Watershed projects that will be partnered with by this project,
- County priority area maps for targeting critical areas.

2.4 General Watershed Information

Watershed information is provided through assessment project implementation plans for the named watersheds. The watersheds are mainly agricultural and have a combination of row crops, small grains, grazing and hay land operations.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the initial segments the Soil Health Coalition placed a project coordinator in the Big Sioux River watershed to provide one-on-one technical assistance to landowners. The individual was in this watershed area to provide timely and efficient technical assistance; however, the coordinator and other SDSHC staff and volunteers provided I&E and facilitated technical assistance statewide with an emphasis on 303(d) listed 12-digit HUs.

SDSHC staff will contact landowners and managers to provide information about potential water quality benefits with soil health improvements and how management practices or BMPs could improve their operation. SDSHC staff will assist landowners by providing funding, technical assistance, BMP information, and planning and preparing applications for financial assistance when needed. Engineering design services and other specialized technical assistance services will be provided using NRCS Engineers and other specialists or contractual services with certified TSP's. Active 319 implementation project coordinators will aid when the Soil Health staff are working within the boundaries of their project.

Soil Health Project staff will be provided access to office space, computers, and software compatible with NRCS computer systems so that information can be readily shared. Landowner confidentiality will be maintained to NRCS standards.

3.1 **Project Goal**

The project goal is to restore and protect the beneficial uses of South Dakota waterbodies with a primary focus on high priority areas designated by SD DANR by implementing and promoting best management practices (BMP) within designated watersheds and throughout priority area maps that reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacteria loadings and improve water quality by applying on the ground soil health type BMPs. The project will also provide information and education to local landowners, youth, communities, agency personnel, consultants, and the public to provide a better understanding of the importance, function and technical design of agricultural soil health practices and related water quality benefits.

3.2 **Objectives, Tasks, Products**

OBJECTIVE 1: Soil Health

Install BMPs that will reduce nutrient, sediment, and fecal coliform bacteria loadings in watershed critical areas that will protect and restore the beneficial uses of waterbodies in South Dakota. Actively locate producers within 319 watershed boundaries or within a priority area designated on DANR priority area maps with assistance from partners including: 319 watershed project coordinators, NRCS, wildlife habitat advisors or conservation district staff.

Task 1: Plan and implement cropland best management practices

Technical and financial assistance will be provided to producers to reduce nonpoint source pollution. BMPs will be installed with landowner funds along with USDA programs (EQIP/CRP/WHIP), Wildlife agency programs such as Partners for Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and SD Game Fish &Parks), and SD DANR Section 319 NPS funds. Establishing a soil health system into farms and ranches can have great benefits to both soil health and water quality. Soil organic matter can be increased through implementation of a soil health system. This system can increase soil resilience to changes in climate and reduce runoff thereby increasing the capacity of the soil to retain water throughout the year, benefiting the water, land, and producer. Adding cover crops to a crop rotation provides known benefits to the producer and increases water quality by reducing erosion, increasing infiltration, increasing soil biodiversity and organic matter, and scavenging essential nutrients. Cover crops also buffer precipitation extremes by reducing excessive moisture during high precipitation events (increasing infiltration) and retaining subsurface

moisture during low precipitation/high temperature periods. Reducing or eliminating tillage on cropland and increasing crop diversity provides benefits to soil structure and hydrology and subsequent benefits to producers and watersheds.

Product 1: Crop rotation

To benefit soil health and water quality, a crop rotation must include a minimum of three different crop rotations (cool season grass, cool season broadleaf, warm season grass, warm season broadleaf, wheat, corn, sunflowers, etc.—see attachment for lists). The rotation should contain high residue crops for maximum ground cover. Diversity increases soil water holding capacity and increasing soil organic matter by 1% increases the soils' ability to capture increased gallons of water per acre, thus reducing run-off. It was determined that organic matter holds 10 times its weight in water.

Milestones: Increase crop rotations: 1,250 acres
Cost: $147,500 **319**: $20,000 **USDA**: $13,750 **Loca**l: $63,750 Private:$50,000

Product 2: Reduced and tillage management/No-till

The 2021 cropping systems inventory, conducted by the NRCS and partners in South Dakota, showed the use of no-till on cropland acres remains under 50% across the state. However, priority watersheds having low no till acres coincide. The same cropping systems inventory showed that areas with low adoption rates of no-till are also areas with a lack of diversity in the crop rotation, including cover crops. Failure to manage additional water, groundcover, or compaction through diversity, including cover crops, can result in discouragement and loss of interest in no-till systems. Funding for crop rotation practices will be sought through USDA and other partners.

Milestones: Reduce tillage/no-till: 750 acres
Cost: $181,000 **319**: $12,000 $40,000 **Other federal**: $8,000 **Loca**l: $52,000
Private: $69,000

Product 3: Cover Crops

Implementing cover crops on cropland can reduce soil erosion, increase soil moisture, and improve soil health. Cover crops produce more vegetation biomass than volunteer plants; these crops do transpire water, increase water infiltration, and decrease surface runoff and runoff velocity. Cover crops help reduce total suspended solids (TSS) and improve water quality. Cover-crop species selection and its management determine the benefits and returns.

Milestones: Cover crop plantings: 16,071 acres
Cost: $980,000 **319**: $300,000 $150,000 **Loca**l: $455,000 Private: $75,000

Product 4: Cropland Grazing

Grazing can occur on crop aftermath (high residue crops) and cover crops provided 60 percent residue is maintained to ensure that there is adequate remaining plant material for the benefit of soil health and water quality. Adequate resting of native grasslands and pastures increases their ability to infiltrate water which reduces runoff.

Milestones: Grazing management: 750 acres

Cost: $108,000 **319**: $4,000 $5000 **Other federal**: $2000 **Local**: $22,000 Private: $75,000

Responsible Agencies

South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, DU, PF
South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts
South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Watershed Projects
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Task 2: Plan and implement grassland best management practices

Technical and financial assistance will be provided to producers to reduce nonpoint source pollution to nearby waters. BMPs will be installed with landowner investments along with funding from Section 319 NPS funds, USDA programs (EQIP/CRP/WHIP), as well as Wildlife agency programs (Partners for Wildlife, DU, PF, and SD GF&P etc.).

Product 5: Forage/Biomass\grass planting

Plantings of tame grass and legumes or native grass and forbs will be established within watershed project boundaries or within designated priority area. Establish grass plantings in perennial or intermittent riparian areas within 319 project areas to improve water quality. Staff will monitor the establishment of plantings prior to cost-share of the BMP. Photo verification and upload to the State's Tracker database will be completed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the BMP. Seed variety will be determined by the SDSHC with help from project partner staff in the project area. 319 project funds reimbursed by this project can cover up to 50% of the cost for the seed to be planted.

Milestones: Grass plantings: 160 acres

Cost: $736,000 **319**: $6,000 $45,000 **Local**: $3500 **Other Federal**: $1,000 **Local Producer**: $30,500 Private: 50,000 Other resources: $600,000

Product 6: Pollinator planting

Establish plantings of a variety of grasses, forbs and legumes along field boundaries to reduce soil erosion.

Milestones: Pollinator plantings: 8 acres
Cost: $7200 **319**: $1000 $2000 **Local**: $2000 **Local Producers:** $2200

Product 7: Pasture Grazing

Riparian Buffers, stock watering BMPs, and fencing. Work directly with landowners and as needed coordination with partners will be sought to apply needed practices to alleviate resource concerns and protect water quality. Staff will monitor the establishment of plantings prior to cost sharing the BMP. Photo verification and upload to the State's Tracker database will be completed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the BMP. Partner Funding for Grazing Management will be sought through USDA and other partners.

Milestones: Pasture Grazing: 3000 acres
Cost: $310,000 **319**: $60,000 $100,000 **Local**: $20,000 **Other Federal**: $10,000 $30,000 **Local Producer**: $120,000 Other secured funds: Private:$171,290

OBJECTIVE 2. Develop and Distribute Information & Education

Task 3: Create an awareness of project goals and objectives

SDSHC and its partners are creating an awareness of water quality and soil benefits from soil health practices through media presentations in local news sources, mailings, and web-based information. Staff will also attend and deliver presentations at meetings of young producer workgroups, co-op meetings, local work groups, water development districts, USDA State Technical Committee, tribal organizations, NPS Task Force, 319 Watershed project board meetings, Conservation Commission, etc.

Product 8: Audio Commercials/presentations

Milestones: Audio commercials education/Presentations/Podcasts: 4 10
Cost: $38,000 **319**: $0 **Private**: $35,000 **Local**: $3,000

Product 9: News articles--Websites

Milestones: News articles: 3 7
Cost: $39,000 **319**: $0 **Private**: $35,000 **USDA**:$1,000 **Local**: $3,000

Task 4: Demonstration plot/tour/workshops

SDSHC and partners hold demonstration tours of soil health practices highlighting effective water quality benefits.

Product 10: Tours/workshops.

Four tours/workshops will be conducted to demonstrate the results of diverse rotations and deep-rooted perennials, methods of applying cover crops in row crops to including inter-seeding or aerial applications, and proper placement of fertilizer, testing for soil fertility and the economics of these activities.

Milestones: Tours/workshops: 4 4
Cost: $44,000 **319**: $0 **USDA**: $2,000 **Private: $**30,000 **Local**: $12,000

Product 11: No-till Demonstration Plots.

Secure land for demonstration plot of no till farming totaling 40 acres where no-till farming is uncommon and demonstration plots totaling 40 acres of cover crops.

Milestones: No-till and Cover Crop Demonstration Plots: 80 acres
Cost: $48,000 **319**: $0 **USDA**: $4,000 **Private: $**15,000 **Local**: $29,000

Responsible Agencies

South Dakota Soil Health Coalition
South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts
Local Conservation Districts
Local Stakeholders
South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Task 5: Monitor project progress and evaluate project

Project progress will be monitored to determine the soil health and water quality impacts of the project and to provide information to DANR. The location of BMPs designed and installed will continue to be mapped and provided to DANR using ARCmap, Google Earth, CD, CART and the Tracker database. NPS load reductions expected from the BMPs will be calculated and provided to DANR through Tracker. The programs used to determine the load reduction are those approved by DANR for this purpose which include the DANR Tracker database, STEPL and RUSLE2. When tracking BMPs installed in a watershed, a unique identifier is used. Progress in building partnerships and developing nonpoint source abatements plans will be gauged by the milestones achieved and the number of contacts or partnerships developed. Annual project status reports will be prepared and submitted to DANR for entry into GRTS. The cost to complete the monitoring, reporting and location maps will primarily be salary costs of project staff.

Product 12: Reports.

Milestones: GRTS reports: 3 5
Final report: 1
Cost: $0 **319**: $0 **SRF-WQ**: $0 **Local**: $0

Annual GRTS & Final Reports

Responsible Agencies
South Dakota Soil Health Coalition
South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts
South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

3.3 **Milestone Table** (attached Appendix B)

3.4 **Project Management Tracking** The South Dakota Soil Health Coalition is the project sponsor. The project staff is responsible for implementing best management practices and uploading the information into the database. The Soil Health Coalition currently uses the DANR's Tracker database for reporting, invoicing, and tracking of milestones.

3.5 **Permits**

Permits are not required for planning activities. When a BMP is ready for installation, project staff will assist the producer with securing any required water rights, building permits, 401, 404 and storm water construction permits. They will also ensure compliance with all local, state or federal requirements such as the threatened and endangered species act and historic/cultural resources requirements.

4.0 COORDINATION PLAN

4.1 **Cooperating Organizations:**

South Dakota Soil Health Coalition – The Project Sponsor will hire a SDSHC (project) coordinator through SDACD. South Dakota Soil Health Coalition staff includes Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, and Soil Health Technicians directed by the SDSHC Board of Directors. The SDSHC Coordinator will facilitate and organize project activities, report on project activities and progress, voucher for grant funds, and provide record keeping. Project staff and directors will give presentations at meetings with local work groups, tribal organizations, the State Technical Committee, NPS Task Force, the Conservation Commission, etc.

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts – Will assist the project sponsor by entering a contract with SDSHC to carry out the project activities. SDACD staff includes the executive director, supervised by a Board of Directors. SDACD will assist the project sponsor by providing employee record keeping. SDACD will solicit local conservation district staff and other local interest groups in targeting the delivery of technical assistance to landowners.

Conservation Districts – Will provide technical assistance for BMP installation, assist with BMP prioritization, public information assistance, host local meetings, and coordinate with local work groups for USDA funding.

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks – Will provide technical and financial assistance through several private lands wildlife habitat programs they administer; these programs also provide nonpoint source pollution control benefits. The SDGF&P Private Lands Program will coordinate with the Second Century Program and Every Acre Counts project.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Will provide technical assistance and training access to records and maps, cost share assistance for BMP installation through those USDA programs authorized in the Farm Bill, and assistance with Information and Education. NRCS provides office for SDSHC staff.

Farm Service Agency – Will provide financial assistance through those USDA cost-share or land retirement programs authorized in the Farm Bill.

US Fish and Wildlife Service – Will provide technical and financial assistance including necessary grazing practices on cropland system through programs administered such as Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

US Environmental Protection Agency – Will provide Section 319 grant funds to South Dakota DANR.

Ducks Unlimited Inc. – Will provide technical and financial assistance through cost share and technical staff promoting this project and coordinating projects.

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Inc. – Will provide technical and financial assistance through cost share technical staff promoting and coordinating projects.

SD DANR – Will administer SRF-NPS Water Quality Funds, EPA Section 319 grant funds, and will provide technical assistance for project planning, management, and training.

SDSU Extension -- Will provide contractual services for a portion of an FTE (0.10) to coordinate/assist with information transfer and soil health school; management and coordination of demonstration sites; and serve as an important point of contact for project sponsor and producers.

General Mills –Will provide financial assistance through cost share and educational outreach.

Cargill, Inc—Will provide financial assistance for educational outreach and contracted personnel.

Audubon Great Plains— Will provide financial and technical assistance for cost share and technical staff promoting this project and collaborating projects.

Northern Great Plains Joint Venture—Will provide financial and technical assistance for cost share and technical staff promoting this project and collaborating projects.

World Wildlife Fund-- Will provide financial and technical assistance for cost share and technical staff promoting this project and collaborating projects.

The Nature Conservancy—Will provide financial assistance for pasture management project utilizing technology.

National Wild Turkey Federation—Will provide financial assistance for pasture management project utilizing technology.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation—Will provide financial assistance for pasture management project utilizing technology.

4.2 Local Support for the Project

Application for this project is supported by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA-Farm Services Agency, USDI-Fish and Wildlife Service, South Dakota State University Extension, SD Game Fish and Parks, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, SDACD and all Conservation Districts.

4.3 Non-duplication of Effort

This project is a partnership of local, state, and federal agencies that provide technical and financial assistance for the implementation of NPS TMDLs in South Dakota. The project is managed to maximize the delivery of technical assistance and minimizes duplication of effort. For example, Pheasants Forever working in partnership with NRCS and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and Pheasants Forever has placed wildlife habitat specialists in several areas of South Dakota to assist in these agencies with wildlife habitat planning. Their activities will be coordinated with this project to avoid duplication of effort.
The project compliments established watershed projects to avoid duplication and reach a larger audience to implement practices in priority areas.

4.4 Assumption of the Responsibilities of Other Entities

Every Acre Counts and Second Century Program will complement the project with opportunities to establish financial assistance on additional acres.

Eighteen Pheasants Forever, four Ducks Unlimited, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and fourteen South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, wildlife habitat specialists are placed across South Dakota to assist in wildlife habitat planning. Program activities will be coordinated with these project teams to avoid overlap and duplication of contacts. These entities indicate they expect their project to continue.

The South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts will provide information to and coordinate with the NRCS State Technical Committee and subcommittees to coordinate the funding through those USDA programs authorized in the Farm Bill. The Association will also work with other Section 319 projects to coordinate and augment their efforts.

5.0 EVALUATIONS AND MONITORING PLAN

5.1 Monitoring Strategy

The evaluation and monitoring plan includes documentation of project activities and BMPs installed. Load reductions and BMP implementation information will be provided to DANR as part of the GRTS report and provided to Section 319 projects in the areas serviced. STEPL will be used to evaluate the load reductions calculated from the BMP's implemented. Load reductions of BMP's implemented with financial assistance from this project will be credited to this project.

5.2 Sampling and Analysis plan

Water quality sampling is not included in the project work plan. Therefore, a sampling and analysis plan will not be developed. Any sampling near implemented practices will be completed by the respective implementation project staff.

5.3 Quality assurance project plan

Water quality sampling is not included in the project work plan. Therefore, a quality assurance project plan will not be developed with the designation of when, where, and how samples are collected.

5.4 Data Collection, Management, and Analysis

The project staff will document all project activities and report these activities to the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition who will submit the annual report for this project. The annual report will be prepared by end each year. The annual reports will be available to all local, tribal, state, and federal agencies and organizations. Annual reports will also be posted on the SDSHC web site.

Project activities that will be documented include:

- On-farm visits and landowner/operator contacts and follow-ups, plans developed as result of visits/contacts, and BMPs implemented
- Partnership building contacts/presentations and report of results
- Workshop and tour attendance and activities generated through workshops or tours
- News releases and other media contacts (TV/Radio) and indications of activities generated as result of releases or contacts
- Presentations/attendance at meetings where project activities are discussed (conservation boards, local governments, tribal governments, lake associations) and reports of activities generated as result of presentations
- Before and after photos of certain best management practices implemented
- Project expenditures and receipts for all funds spent

- Local cash match and in-kind contributions
- A final project report

Data collected during this project, and documentation of project activities and expenditures will be compiled and used to draft a final report prepared following guidance provided by DANR. The report will focus on this project and contain a comparison of planned versus completed activities, estimate of load reductions achieved, and an evaluation of success in relation to the project goal. Copies of the report will be provided to project partners.

6.0 Information and Education (see objective 2)

7.0 Budget and Budget Justification (attached Appendix A)

6.0: SDSHC Budget - Appendix A to Exhibit A	Project Funding												
September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total	319	SRF-WQ	Federal (USDA)	State SDSU	State SDGFP	Federal USFWS	Local PF, DU	Local-SDSHC	Local-Producers
Project Coordinator (1.0) wages & benefits	$ 70,000	$ 71,000	$ 72,000	$ 213,000	$ 213,000	$ 0							
Expenses (Travel, mileage, Per diem, office supplies)	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 60,000	$ 45,000	$ 0						$ 15,000	
Contract Management	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	$ 0							
Audit		$ 2,000		$ 2,000	$ 1,000							$ 1,000	
SDSU Extension Outreach Coordinator/Information Specialist (Indirect included)(0.1)	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 15,000				$ 15,000					
Objective 1 - Install BMP's													
Task 1. Cropland best management practices													
Product 1: Crop rotation $22 x 1,250ac	$ 9,000	$ 9,200	$ 9,300	$ 27,500			$ 13,750						$ 13,750
Product 2: Reduce tillage management and No-till $36 x 750ac	$9,000	$9,000	$9,000	$ 27,000	$12,000		$8,000						$7,000
Product 3: Cover Crop $56 x 10,715ac	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$ 600,000	$300,000								$300,000
Product 4: Cropland grazing $8 x 1,000ac	$2,000	$3,000	$3,000	$ 8,000	$4,000		$2,000						$2,000
Task 2: Grassland best management practices													
Product 5: Forage/biomass/grass planting $100 x 160ac	$5,500	$5,500	$5,000	$ 16,000	$6,000				$2,000	$1,000	$1,500		$5,500
Product 6: Pollinator Planting $245 x 16ac	$1,200	$1,200	$1,600	$ 4,000	$1,000				$1,000		$1,000		$1,000
Product 7: Pasture Grazing Management $36.66 x 3,000ac	$35,000	$35,000	$40,000	$ 110,000	$60,000				$10,000	$10,000	$10,000		$20,000
Objective 2 - Develop and distribute I & E													
Task 3: Create awareness of project goals and objectives				$ 0									
Product 8: Audio commercials/presentations	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$ 3,000							$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Product 9: News articles	$2,000	$1,000	$1,000	$ 4,000			$1,000					$2,000	$1,000
Task 4: Demonstration plot/tour/workshops													
Product 10: Tour/workshops	$ 3,500	$ 3,500	$ 3,000	$ 10,000			$ 2,000					$ 4,000	$ 4,000
Product 11: Demonstration plots no-till and cover crops	$ 7,500	$ 7,500	$ 7,500	$ 22,500			$ 4,000						$ 18,500
TOTALS	$ 375,700	$ 378,900	$ 382,400	$ 1,137,000	$ 657,000	$ 0	$ 30,750	$ 15,000	$ 13,000	$ 11,000	$ 13,500	$ 23,000	$ 373,750
Ineligible for match							$ 30,750			$ 11,000			
319 portion					59.99%								
Matching portion					40.01%							**Matching Total:**	**$ 1,095,250**

3.3: Milestone Table--Appendix B to Exihibit A																	
Soil Health Improvement and Planning Segment 3			**Year 1**				**Year 2**					**Year 3**					
September 1, 2023--August 31, 2026	Groups	Quantity	2023		2024				2025			2025		2026			
Objective/Task/Product			Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept.	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Aug	Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Aug	
Project Management																	
Coordinator	1,2,3,4,6	1	1														
SDSU Information Specialist	1,2,3,4,6	1	1														
Objective 1: Install BMP's																	
Task 1: Cropland best management practices																	
Product 1: Crop rotation (acres)	1,2,3,4,5,6	1250	250			250	250			250					250		
Product 2: Reduce tillage management and No-till (acres)	1,2,3,4,5,6	750		250		250						250					
Product 3: Cover crops (acres)	1,2,3,4,5,6	10715	500	1500	500	1000	1500	1500		1000	500	500	1500		500	215	
Product 4: Cropland grazing (acres)	1,2,3,4,5,6	1000		250				250	250				250				
Task 2: Grassland best management practices																	
Product 5: Forage/biomass/grass planting (acres)	1,2,3,4,5,6	160		50				40				50			20		
Product 6:Pollinator Planting (acres)	1,2,3,4,5,6	16		5		5				5			1				
Product 7: Pasture grazing Management (acres)	1,2,3,4,5,6	3000		700				600				300	200		200	1000	
Objective 2: Develop and Distribute I & E																	
Task 3: Create Awareness of project goals and objectives																	
Product 8: Audio commercials/presentations	1,2,3,4	4			1			1					1		1		
Product 9: News articles	1,2,3	3		1					1					1			
Task 4: Demonstration plot/tour/workshops																	
Product 10: Tour/workshops	1,2,3,6	6	1			1	1		1			1		1			
Product 11: Demonstration plots no-till and cover crops																	
No-till demonstration plots (40 acres)	1,2,4,5,6	40			10			10							10	10	
Cover crop demonstration plots (40 acres)	1,2,4,5,6	40			10				10			10			10		
Objective 3: Project Management and Administration																	
Task 5: Monitor project progress and evaluate project																	
Product 12: GRTS reports	1,2,4	3		1				1					1				
Product 13: Final Report	1,2,4	1														1	
Groups: 1.South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts		4. SD Department of Agricutlure and Natural Resources															
2. South Dakota Soil Health Coalition		5. Private Consultants and /or TSPS															
3. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Service Age		6.South Dakota State University															