

# acknowledgments

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## COVER PHOTO:

Pond built using coordinated natural resources conservation grant funds.

# coordinated plan for natural resources conservation

South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry

2021



## South Dakota's economy relies heavily on agriculture and natural resources to thrive.

Agricultural commodities are one of the primary exports from

South Dakota due to the rich soil. The citizens of South Dakota take pride in sharing the natural resources of the state, and work to improve the quality of those resources. Efforts to protect the resources of the state resulted in the establishment of the Conservation Districts. South Dakota's commitment to conservation continues as many conservation partners proactively work together to implement federal, state, tribal and local conservation programs which protect and enhance the State's abundant natural resources.

In order to determine the demands of the conservation efforts in South Dakota, an evaluation of the past and present conditions was completed by the conservation partners. As a result of this partnership, the first Conservation Plan was written in 1991. The current Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation includes focus areas of water, soil, air, recreation and wildlife, public awareness, sources of funding, and forestry in efforts to continue the legacy of the conservation of natural resources.

The updated statewide plan included an analysis of the objectives from the 2012 Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation. The results of the 2012 objectives were analyzed and new goals were drafted based on the outcome of the previous goals and current conservation concerns of stakeholders. The analysis and public input allowed the conservation partners to create achievable goals and objectives for the next five years.

**Please join us and do your part to protect and enhance our natural resources.**



Source: <https://habitat.sd.gov/resources/images/Bee3.jpg>

The following categories and goals were developed based on current conservation concerns outlined by state agencies, federal agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

## Goals for the Revised Conservation Plan

### Water Resources

South Dakota continuously monitors water quality and quantity throughout the state, and adapts management practices to ensure the waters in the state support all their beneficial uses.

**Goal 1:** South Dakota streams, rivers, and lakes will meet beneficial uses.

**Goal 2:** South Dakota will have sufficient quantities of quality water.

### Soil Resources

The focus is on reducing erosion rates, healthy soil, and increasing education of urban and rural soil health practices.

**Goal 3:** South Dakota will have healthy soils appropriate to their capability.

### Air Quality

Air quality in South Dakota remains above the national standards for all criteria at all monitored locations.

**Goal 4:** South Dakota will reduce detrimental impacts to air quality.

### Wildlife

South Dakota contains diverse habitat and is home to many game animals, fish, and other wildlife that tourists and citizens enjoy.

**Goal 5:** Enhance and/or establish fish and wildlife habitats.

### Public Awareness

South Dakota continues to encourage its citizens in nurturing a healthy environment and natural resources by providing outreach and education opportunities to all age groups in various formats.

**Goal 6:** Increase South Dakota citizens' awareness and understanding of the benefits of natural resources management in urban and rural areas.

### Funding

Natural resource conservation is often limited by lack of funding. South Dakota is consistently identifying new sources of funding and efficiently applying current funding.

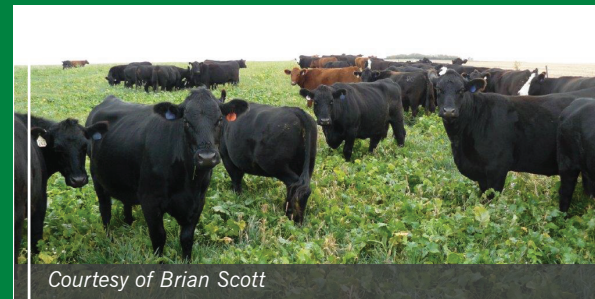
**Goal 7:** Each conservation district will increase their supplemental funding by pursuing additional services or projects.

### Forestry

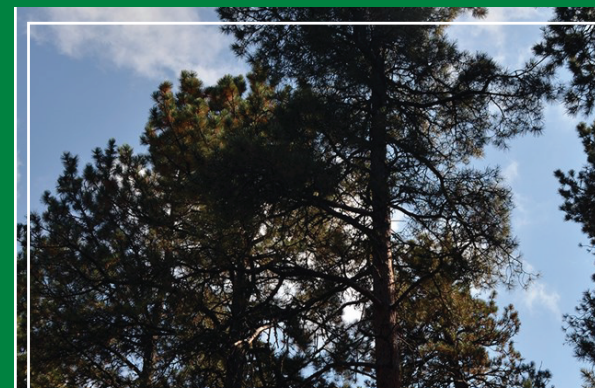
Forestry has been added as a conservation goal due to private forest landownership, the loss of shelter belts, and pest species such as emerald ash borer.

**Goal 8:** Districts will help to actively and sustainably manage our state's privately owned forests.

**Goal 9:** Conservation Districts and partners will enhance trees outside of forests to provide natural resources benefits.



Courtesy of Brian Scott



Source: <https://www.nps.gov/moru/learn/nature/forests.htm>