

COVER PHOTO: Pond built using Coordinated Natural Resources Conservation Grant Funds. 3,000 copies of this brochure were printed by Alpha Graphics at a cost of \$0.19 per copy on a minimum 10% post-consumer recycled paper.

## Acknowledgments

*The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and HDR Engineering would like to thank the partners, agricultural producers, private citizens, conservation districts, and organizations who were instrumental in providing the data used in the development of the Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation.*



South Dakota  
Department of Agriculture  
Division of Resource  
Conservation and Forestry  
523 Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501-3182  
1.605.773.3623

*Prepared by:  
HDR Engineering, Inc.*

# South Dakota Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation

South Dakota Department of Agriculture  
Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry

*December 2012*



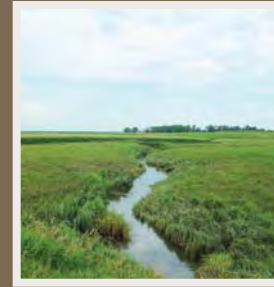
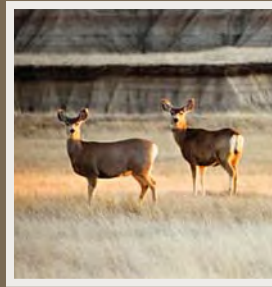


**South Dakota citizens** historically have recognized the benefits of conserving natural resources within their state. Widespread recognition of conservation throughout the state was immediately recognized as drought devastated the Great Plains during the 1930's Dust Bowl. South Dakota responded quickly to the subsequent request from President Franklin Roosevelt urging the states to organize soil conservation districts. As a result, South Dakota was one of the first states to establish soil conservation districts.

South Dakota's commitment to conservation continues as many conservation partners proactively work together to implement federal, state, and local conservation programs which protect and enhance the State's many natural resources. In order to understand success of the conservation efforts in South Dakota, an evaluation of the past and present conditions was completed by the conservation partners.

The evaluation included a look at the following resources: water, soil, air, recreation, and wildlife. Next, the goals and results of the 2007 Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation were assessed. The results included some goals that were met or exceeded, while others were partially met or not met. For example, efforts put forth toward recreation and wildlife exceeded all the goals within the 2007 plan, while objectives falling under air quality and public awareness goals were partially met. These evaluations allowed the conservation partners to create viable goals and objectives for the next seven years.

**Please join us and do your part to protect and enhance our rich heritage.**



As demonstrated in the past, South Dakota's conservation partnership has strengthened since the implementation of the original plan in 1991, and have worked toward a common vision. For this reason, the conservation partners have updated the statewide plan.

## Goals for the Revised Conservation Plan

### Water Resources

South Dakota continuously monitors surface water quality and invests considerable effort to remain compliant with the beneficial use standards in all waters throughout the state.

**Goal 1:** Fifty percent of South Dakota waters will meet their beneficial uses.

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

### Soil Resources

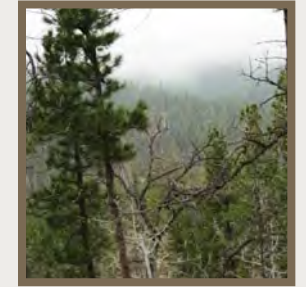
Erosion rates have stabilized due largely to the implementation of innovative tillage practices and the adoption of soil conservation practices.

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

### Air Quality

South Dakota maintains air quality above national standards for all measured criteria at all monitored locations.

**Goal 4:** All of South Dakota will meet air quality standards.



### Wildlife

South Dakota contains unique landscapes due to the wide range of climate, geology, and landforms along with various disturbance elements (grazing and fire) resulting in diverse habitats.

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

### Public Awareness

South Dakota citizens have long recognized the strong ties between natural resources and the economy. South Dakota is committed to developing outreach materials and providing opportunities for all people to establish and build upon an understanding of the importance of a healthy environment.

**Goal 6:** South Dakota citizens will have an awareness and understanding of the benefits of natural resources management.

### Funding

Funds are often the limiting factor for action. South Dakota is committed to pursuing new funding sources and to effectively utilize current funds.

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

### Energy

South Dakota contains vast potential for renewable energy generation. Utilizing renewable energy sources and conservation of energy are becoming critically important.

**Goal 8:** To promote the use of renewable energy and energy conservation through advocacy and education.