

State of South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report

Photo of Sylvan Lake



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CREDITS

Raymond A. Sowers

State Forester/Division Director, Resource Conservation and Forestry
523 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Writer/Editor

Chris Johnson
Community Forestry Coordinator

Contributors

Coe Foss, Greg Josten, Bill Smith, Brian Scott, Pam Bergstrom, Dianne Miller, Cec Johnson, Doug Haugan

Photographs

RC&F personnel, Natural Resources Conservation Service website, SD Dept of Tourism, USFS, GF&P, SD Assoc. of Conservation Districts

New Personnel



The Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry went through personnel changes. In April, Bill Smith came on board as our Conservation Program Supervisor in the Pierre office.

William “Bill” Smith:

I was born in St. Johns Michigan and grew up in Westphalia, Michigan. I received a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University and a Master of Science degree from Kansas State University. I came to Pierre after being hired by Game, Fish and Parks as a Senior Wildlife Biologist in 1999 and worked there until April 2009. Past other jobs included Resource Analyst with Michigan DEQ from 1997-1999; Electrician at Westphalia Electric from 1996-1997 and 1993-1986; Graduate Research Assistant at Kansas State University from 1994-1996. I am married (Stacey) and have three kids (2 sons—Canaan & Noah and a daughter—Alee). My hobbies include fishing, hunting, target shooting, flying model airplanes, reading and playing with my kids.

Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry

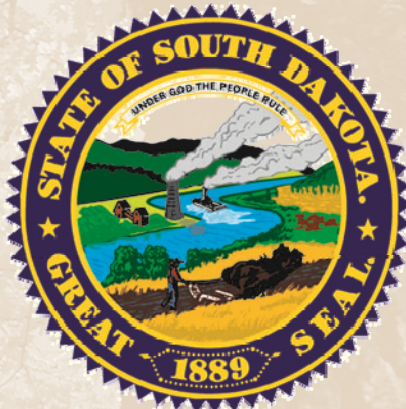
The division continues to operate on a program level along four core programs: Community Forestry, Conservation, Forest Health, and Service Forestry. Each program has a team leader and a program administrator. The administrators and team leaders are:

- State Forester/Division Director - Raymond A. Sowers (Pierre office)
- Community Forestry - Chris Johnson, team leader; Bill Smith, program administrator (Pierre office)
- Conservation - Bill Smith, team leader and program administrator (Pierre office)
- Forest Health - Coe Foss, team leader and program administrator (Rapid City office)
- Service Forestry - Greg Josten, team leader and program administrator (Rapid City office)

Each of the four teams has two to four field foresters to handle technical assists. Our offices are located in Hot Springs, Huron, Lead, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and Watertown. Contact information for our field offices can be found at www.state.sd.us/doa/forestry and on the last page of this publication.

This year end report highlights our accomplishments and special projects in fiscal year 2009 by each program. All photos in this report are courtesy of division staff, South Dakota Department of Tourism, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, SD Assoc. of Conservation Districts, and Natural Resources Conservation Service website. For additional copies of this report contact the division office in Pierre at 605.773.3623, toll free for in state callers 1.800.228.5254, or by emailing SDRCF@state.sd.us.

SOUTH DAKOTA



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Urban & Community Forestry

Community Forestry Programs

Community Forestry (CF) in South Dakota

Over 71 percent of South Dakota's people live within urban areas. The division has offered community forestry (CF) technical assistance to individuals, service organizations, non-profit groups, and communities since 1972. We provide technical assistance to establish tree boards, develop tree ordinances, organize community tree inventories, tree planting and maintenance, identifying and controlling insects and disease problems, grant preparation, and administration. We also provide training in all aspects of urban forestry and arboriculture (the care and maintenance of trees). The CF team focuses its effort on assisting communities with the development of local community forestry programs.



Local tree boards are an important part of any community forestry program. They provide the foundation for most of the community forestry programs in S. Dak. These tree boards which consist of community leaders, city employees, and volunteer citizens perform a wide variety of functions; including development of tree ordinances, preparation of annual work plans, planning and implementing tree plantings, and pruning and removal projects in the community. They also provide information and education to local citizens, secure and administer grant funds, and conduct Arbor Day activities. At the present time there are 95 known tree boards across the state.



The CF program is financed and administered nationally by the US Forest Service through the State and Private Forestry Program. In South Dakota CF is administered by the Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry in the Department of Agriculture.

Urban & Community Forestry

Technical Assistance

The division provided 393 technical assists to community governments, volunteer-service groups and organizations, and private citizens in 77 communities. The assists covered topics such as Big Tree measurement, damage evaluations, tree care recommendations and advice, and general urban forestry projects and grant applications.

Community Forestry Presentations

The community forestry team made 49 presentations to school classes and civic groups about Arbor Day, Tree City USA, Smokey Bear and fire prevention, and other community forestry subjects. Twenty-one workshops on tree planting, tree care, and forest health were presented. There were 18 TV, radio, and newspaper spots about Arbor Day, tree planting and care, and general community forestry issues produced.



Arbor Day Programs

Tree City USA

Tree City USA is a community improvement and national recognition program for towns and cities that meet established standards and effectively manage their public tree resources. The program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and the US Forest Service at the national level, and by the South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry at the state level. To qualify for Tree City USA designation, a community must meet four standards:

1. Organize a community tree board to oversee the urban & community forestry program
2. Establish and enforce an effective community tree ordinance
3. Implement a community forestry program funded by a minimum of \$2.00 per capita
4. Celebrate Arbor Day with an official proclamation and organized observance

Our foresters re-certified 33 active Tree City USA communities in 2008. South Dakota's Tree City USA communities with first year of recognition, population, 2007 forestry budgets, and per capita spending are as follows:

Tree City USA	Year First Recognized	Population	Urban Forestry Budget (2008)	Per Capita Spending	Application Received	Anniversary Tree (5yr increments) in 2009
Aberdeen**	1980	28,000	\$ 336,745	\$ 12.03	12/22/2008	
Baltic	2003	950	\$ 1,970	\$ 2.07	12/22/2008	
Belle Fourche	1991	4,565	\$ 19,286	\$ 4.22	11/26/2008	
Brandon*	2008	7,700	\$ 40,636	\$ 5.28	11/05/2008	First Year
Brookings	1982	18,500	\$ 329,000	\$ 17.78	12/29/2008	
Buffalo Gap*	2008	134	\$ 3,300	\$ 24.63	12/03/2008	First Year
Burke	1983	676	\$ 2,550	\$ 3.77	11/17/2008	
Clark	1981	1,285	\$ 49,258	\$ 38.33	01/08/2009	
Deadwood	1992	1,400	\$ 46,651	\$ 33.32	12/30/2008	
Dell Rapids	1984	3,262	\$ 21,915	\$ 6.72	01/02/2009	25 Years
De Smet	1997	1,200	\$ 2,731	\$ 2.28	12/11/2008	
Ellsworth Air Force Base	1999	8,441	\$ 409,730	\$ 48.54	01/06/2009	10 Years
Freeman	2003	1,317	\$ 10,348	\$ 7.86	12/15/2008	
Gary	2006	240	\$ 7,188	\$ 29.95	12/29/2008	
Gregory	1984	1,342	\$ 3,800	\$ 2.83	12/01/2008	25 Years
Hartford	1992	1,844	\$ 6,983	\$ 3.79	12/01/2008	
Huron	1982	11,893	\$ 27,363	\$ 2.30	12/29/2008	
Lead	1987	3,100	\$ 12,550	\$ 4.05	01/02/2009	
Lemmon*	2008	1,398	\$ 12,457	\$ 8.91	12/08/2008	First Year
Madison	1980	6,252	\$ 19,723	\$ 3.15	12/31/2008	
Mitchell	1980	14,558	\$ 125,658	\$ 8.63	12/08/2008	
Mobridge	1983	3,500	\$ 10,070	\$ 2.88	01/02/2009	
Pierre**	1983	14,000	\$ 148,403	\$ 10.60	01/15/2009	
Platte	1995	1,367	\$ 20,806	\$ 15.22	12/11/2008	
Rapid City	1980	59,607	\$ 439,638	\$ 7.38	12/03/2008	
Redfield	1990	2,800	\$ 33,368	\$ 11.92	12/24/2008	
Sinai	2003	133	\$ 695	\$ 5.22	01/15/2009	
Sioux Falls	1980	151,300	\$ 1,317,100	\$ 8.71	12/19/2008	
Sisseton	1982	2,572	\$ 7,085	\$ 2.75	12/15/2008	
Spearfish	1984	12,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 2.25	11/05/2008	25 Years
Spencer	1999	170	\$ 517	\$ 3.04	12/24/2008	10 Years
Sturgis	1983	6,442	\$ 34,580	\$ 5.37	12/10/2008	
Vermillion	1984	10,050	\$ 27,700	\$ 2.76	12/11/2008	25 Years
Watertown	1982	21,000	\$ 198,630	\$ 9.46	12/15/2008	
Whitewood*	2008	844	\$ 2,230	\$ 2.64	01/05/2009	First Year
Winner	1984	3,137	\$ 36,380	\$ 11.60	12/31/2008	25 Years
Yankton	1983	13,969	\$ 88,211	\$ 6.31	12/29/2008	
Total		420,948	\$ 3,882,254	Average Per Capita Spending \$ 10.23		

2000 US Census 754,844
 54% of S.D. Population live in TCUSA's
 * indicates new TCUSA ** indicates TC Growth Award

Conservation Programs

The purpose of the state conservation program is to provide for the conservation of soil and water resources within the state; to prevent or control soil erosion; to prevent or minimize flood damage, and, to conserve, develop, utilize, and preserve the natural resources of this state (SDCL 38-7-1). In addition the Division provides administrative and technical assistance to the State Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts. The primary programs include; Coordinated Natural Resources Conservation Grant Program, Revolving Loan Fund, Conservation District Programs, and Technical Assistance.

South Dakota Coordinated Natural Resources Conservation Plan

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, State Conservation Commission, Conservation Districts and their federal, state, tribal and local partners revised the state conservation plan. Goals are as follows:

Goal 1: All Missouri River watersheds in South Dakota will achieve their environmental, social, and economic values.

Goal 2: All South Dakota waters will provide sufficient quantities of quality water to meet their beneficial uses.

Goal 3: All lands in South Dakota will have quality soils appropriate for their capability.

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

Goal 5: Enhance recreation opportunities and wildlife habitats.

Goal 6: Every South Dakota citizen will have an awareness and understanding of the benefits of natural resource management.

Goal 7: Secure stable funding and financial opportunities for natural resource management.



Conservation Programs

Conservation Grants

During FY 2009, 50 grant applications were received and 32 projects were funded for a total of \$676,770.

Revolving Loan Program

Loans can be made to conservation districts or watershed districts for securing, by purchase or otherwise, necessary equipment, trees and other plant materials and supplies needed to further their programs. Loans are made at 3 percent interest per annum.

Loans made in FY 2009 were: Minnehaha, No-till Drill, \$17,000.00; Minnehaha, Tree Truck, \$13,000.00; Jackson, Cooling Unit/Drill Parts, \$7,000.00; Brookings, Truax Grass Drill, \$18,000.00; Grant, Fabric, \$15,000.00; for a total of \$70,000.00.

Conservation District Assistance

In FY 2009 program staff made 956 grant and loan program assists, 1181 non-grant related assists, 12 planning assists, and conducted 50 training sessions for 2185 district employees and other conservation related individuals.

Conservation District	Project Description	Grant funds Awarded
Pennington	Forest Restoration	\$17,500
Lawrence	Forest Restoration	\$17,500
East Pennington	Range Protection Incentives	\$10,500
Clark	Clark Assistance Enhancement	\$10,000
Clark	Natural Resources	\$8,450
Todd	TMJ 3 County Wind & Erosion	\$21,000
Mellette	Grazing Distribution	\$19,000
Mellette	2009 Ponds	\$34,500
Harding	NW Wetland & Rangeland	\$32,000
Jackson	Shelterbelt Establishment	\$7,907
Corson	Conservation Resource	\$17,500
Day	NE Grazing Water Development	\$66,040
Bennett	Grass Seeding Cost-Share	\$2,040
Douglas	Resource Technician	\$15,000
Day	Northeast Glacial Lakes	\$60,000
Perkins	Cottonwood Re-establishment	\$27,000
Perkins	NW Area Tree Planting	\$23,000
Perkins	NW Area Forester	\$43,000
Miner	Resource Technician	\$17,666
Miner	Conservation Education	\$7,000
Faulk	Upper Snake Creek	\$37,600
Marshall	Wetland Creation	\$10,000
Charles Mix	Shelterbelt Cost-Share	\$18,100
Jones	Pipelines	\$30,000
Bon Homme	BHCD Cons. Enhancement	\$14,000
Brule Buffalo	Wetland & Grassland Impr.	\$38,000
Davison	Davison & Hanson Tech. Assistance	\$15,000
Davison	Davison Co. Conservation Programs	\$11,765
Hutchinson	Wolf Creek Stream Erosion	\$16,094
Hyde	Google Earth Watershed	\$2,500
Lawrence	2009 SD BMP Field Audits	\$12,107.75
Yankton	Yankton Co. Conservation Programs	\$15,000

Conservation Programs

Conservation Commission

Support to the State Conservation Commission in 2009 consisted of working with partners to find new permanent funding source(s) for the conservation grant program; refine the grant application review approval process developed in FY 2008; revising the grant funding docket; and updated their annual priorities and work plan. The commission met with multiple conservation agencies and groups to identify priorities and shared visions for conservation in South Dakota.

Funding

The conservation grant program is funded by a portion of the reimbursable but unclaimed gasoline taxes collected for non-highway (off-road) uses. As the agricultural community changes from gasoline to diesel powered equipment gasoline use is diminishing. Consequently the funds available to the conservation grant program is declining. The program also received funds through a two year special allocation from the Pesticide Registration fund; added short-term to address declining fuel tax deposits. That special allocation will cease June 30, 2010. Other sources of funding included a \$16,350 technical assistance grant from Natural Resources Conservation Service for FY2009 and the first half of FY2010.

General Accomplishments

During FY2009 conservation program staff provided 29 print and radio news releases, participated in the National Association of State Conservation Agencies evaluation of the national conservation delivery system, developed a state natural resources prioritization process, participated as a “cooperating agency” for the Bureau of Land Management plan revision, published news letters to conservation districts, and conducted the state conservation speech contest.

Multi-District Projects

A priority was established for funding grants to conservation districts working together in a defined area using joint-powers-agreements. Ten projects were funded in 2009 including sharing technicians, grassland and wetland improvement, cottonwood reestablishment, and shelterbelt establishment.

Conservation Programs

Soil Conservation Award Program

The Soil Conservation Award Program was created by the 2008 State Legislature to recognize exceptional farming and ranching practices that conserve soil and other natural resources in South Dakota. In FY 2009, program staff worked with the Conservation Commission and partners to develop rules for the award program. Producers utilizing grassed waterways, terraces, crop rotations, sufficient crop residue to protect soil stability, no-till, grasslands managed for sustainable productivity, livestock management to limit soil and nutrient runoff or forest lands managed according to a forest stewardship plan are eligible for the award. In FY 2009, fifteen producers nominated by twelve conservation districts received the award.

District Supervisor Accreditation Program

In FY 2009, program staff completed the first set of training modules for an online Conservation District Supervisor Accreditation Program. Staff has been working cooperatively with South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts to develop the online training program to make Conservation District Supervisors aware of the history of the conservation movement, the roles and responsibilities of district supervisors and legal issues important to conservation districts. The remainder of the modules will be completed in FY 2010. South Dakota State University is providing the computer network for the on-line training program.

2009 State Speech Contest

The 48th annual State Finals of the Resource Conservation Speech Contest was held Saturday, April 18, 2009 in the state Senate Chambers in Pierre with eleven contestants competing. The theme of this year's contest was "Clean Green Alternative Energy." Eleven high school students from across South Dakota competed at the state level. Winning first place and a \$1,100 scholarship was Bailey Hurlbert sponsored by the Clark County Conservation District. Schroeder is a junior at Clark High School and is the daughter of Russell and Sherray Hurlbert of Raymond, South Dakota. Receiving second place and a \$750 scholarship was A'Lece Boomsma, a junior at Wolsey-Wessington High School. She is the daughter of Steve and Julie Boomsma of Wolsey, South Dakota and was sponsored by the Beadle County Conservation District. Obtaining third place and a \$450 scholarship was Gemma Trask sponsored by the East Pennington Conservation District. She is a sophomore at Wall High School and is the daughter of Pat & Rosemary Trask of Wasta, South Dakota. Scholarships totaling \$2,300 for the winners are provided by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Dakota. The contest is co-sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

Service Forestry

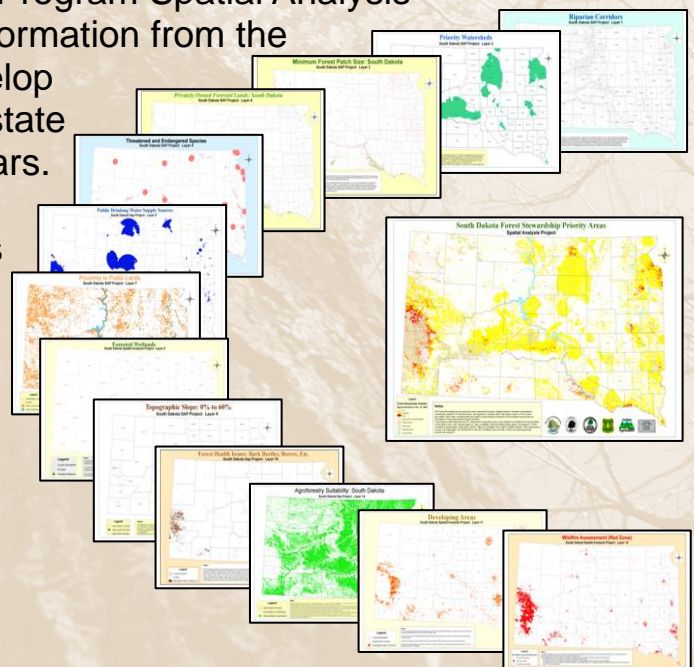
Established through the 1990 Farm Bill, the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) encourages private forest landowners to manage their lands using professionally prepared forest stewardship plans. These plans consider and integrate forest resources, including timber, wildlife and fish, water, aesthetics, and all associated resources to meet landowner objectives. In South Dakota, since 1990, there have been 1129 plans written covering over 63,370 acres of forestland. In addition to forest stewardship plan preparation, FSP is the primary source of funding for forest management technical assistance provided by the Division.

The FSP is financed and administered nationally by the USDA Forest Service through the State and Private Forestry Program. In South Dakota, FSP is administered by the Resource Conservation and Forestry Division, with guidance provided by the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (FSCC).

To participate in the FSP, each state must complete and maintain a current state forest stewardship plan. The South Dakota Forest Stewardship Plan was revised in 2007 to reflect current issues and trends affecting non-industrial private forest lands in the state. All members of the FSCC signed the plan indicating their concurrence with its direction.

Revision of the state plan involved the spatial analysis of geographic information system data layers reflecting resource richness and resource threats. These 14 data layers were prioritized with input from the FSCC to develop a single layer illustrating areas of stewardship potential in South Dakota. Details of this process are described in the report “South Dakota Forest Stewardship Program Spatial Analysis Project Summary and Methodology Report.” Information from the Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) was used to develop goals, objectives, and priority areas for guiding state implementation of the FSP over the next five years. Both the methodology report and the SD Forest Stewardship Plan can be found on the Division’s web site.

<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/forestry/programs-Services/forestry/foreststewardship.htm>



Service Forestry

Technical Assistance

In 2009 the division prepared or approved 6 forest stewardship plans for private landowners covering 528 acres. Division foresters updated 6 old forest stewardship plans covering 2,114 acres. Foresters provided 445 forest management assists, and 92 agroforestry assists.

Assistance and planning by division service foresters resulted in the planting of 42,844 new trees and shrubs on 107 acres for conservation purposes. Restoration was completed in 6 existing windbreaks covering 12.4 acres. Division service foresters assisted with the establishment of 35 new windbreaks and living snow fences covering 95 acres, resulting in the planting of 38,446 trees and shrubs. GF&P cost shared 14 tree and shrub planting for wildlife. Plantings involved 43.7 acres and 17,680 trees and shrubs. The Forest Land Enhancement Program funded one new plantings and three renovations of existing windbreaks totaling 7 acres and 1,731 trees and shrubs.

One brochure was written, distributed, and posted to the division's web page to educate landowners about Shrub row Repair in Windbreaks.

Written prescriptions for 18 non-commercial thinning project were prepared and when completed will result in the improvement of 367 acres of pine and hardwoods. Fieldwork was completed in preparation for 17 non-commercial thinning projects covering 326 acres.

Non-commercial thinning was completed on 2 projects involving 36 acres of forestland.



Service Forestry

Tree Farm Program

The American Tree Farm System promotes good forest management through the certification of sustainable managed woodland Tree Farms, and recognition of well managed windbreaks. There are 197 Tree Farms in South Dakota covering 25,743 acres of forestland and windbreaks. There are 100 certified woodland Tree Farms covering 21,967 acres, and 97 windbreak Tree Farms covering 3,773 acres. Division foresters completed 25 of the 30 Tree Farm inspections in 2009 covering 2,580 acres.



The SD Tree Farm Committee (SDTFC) established a program to help landowners hire consultant foresters to prepare forest stewardship plans for their property. In fiscal year, 2007 The Division provided a \$3,500 grant to fund the program, which the Black Hills Forest Resource Association and the SDTFC matched. The Division provided another \$1,000 in Fiscal Year 2009. SDTFC matched this money with additional \$4,500. Landowners are required to pay at least 25% of the cost of plan preparation. SDTFC approved and landowners completed nine contracts by the end of fiscal year 2009. Completed plans cover 1,032 acres.

Every year American Tree Farm System has to conduct a third party audit to maintain its certification with the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) as a producer of certified wood. The American Tree Farm System selected South Dakota as the Western area state to be audited. Service team members assisted South Dakota Tree Farm with seven of the twelve South Dakota Certified Tree Farms that were audited. The American Tree Farm System passed this audit.

Division personnel provided Tree Farm Inspector training to eleven foresters from three states. After receiving this training, the foresters can conduct Tree Farm inspections on certified tree farms.

Division foresters nominated the winning 2009 Tree Farmer of the Year. The 2009 Woodland Tree Farmer of the Year and the 2009 Windbreak Tree Farmer of the Year is Martin Vanderploeg of Martin SD.

Service Forestry

Information and Education

On September 9 and 10, 2009, The Resource Conservation and Forestry division hosted the “Great Plains Riparian Forest Management Summit” in Sioux Falls. The summit provided a better understanding of the history, ecology, economic, cultural, and invasive species impacts on Great Plains riparian areas. In addition, it provided available management techniques for restoring forested riparian areas in the Northern Great Plains. Over 120 professionals from 10 Great Plains states and Canada attend. The summit was a multiple agencies project involving the US Forest Service, South Dakota Resource Conservation and Forestry, NRCS, South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD), and Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society of Canada. A wide range of speakers presented the newest science of riparian management in the Great Plains. This three-day workshop was open to all resource professional and private landowners interested in riparian management.

Service team member presented South Dakota Best Management Practices at the “Managing Forested Watershed for Water Quality and Quantity” workshop in Rapid City. One hundred resource professionals attend this workshop.

Division personnel provided information on tree selection at the Agriculture and Rural Living Seminar in Hot Springs SD.

Division personnel provided 100 students at Pine Ridge High school with information on woody plants identification and uses.



Forest Health

Forest health management in South Dakota encompasses a wide array of growing conditions, management practices, and host species. The Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry provides more than 1,200 technical assists to private landowners, conservation districts, state parks, and cooperative extension personnel each year. Many of these assists involve injury to individual landowner trees, but many also involve problems with windbreak and shelterbelt trees. Timely information on current pest problems and results of diagnoses are communicated to extension, conservation district and the Department of Game, Fish and Parks personnel, as well as the general public, via a weekly Pest Update located on the Division's website. Forest Pest Bulletins and other publications are updated with current information.

The mountain pine beetle program, in response to the epidemic in the Black Hills region of South Dakota, continues to yield positive results. The epidemic, now in its 11th year shows no signs of decreasing. The mountain pine beetle population is still increasing in many parts of the Black Hills.

Custer State Park MPB Projects

Significant resources are being devoted to the growing infestation of mountain pine beetle in the northwestern corner of Custer State Park. The Division continued a program of spot baiting and thinning to reduce the rate of spread from the adjacent Black Elk Wilderness Area to the ponderosa pine forests of the park.

Protection measures were also continued this year for keeping the remnant stand of limber pine free from mountain pine beetle attack. Anti-aggregate pheromones were placed on limber pine of appropriate diameter at the end of June.

To help treat mountain pine beetle infested trees and reduce stand densities in Custer State Park the Division worked cooperatively with Custer State Park. Division personnel marked approximately 21,000 infested trees from September 2008 through December 2008. In the summer of 2009, trees were baited with an attractant within the proposed Custer State Park timber sales. This will help in attracting mountain pine beetles to areas where the trees will be harvested. Traps were set up in 5 locations in the park to keep emerging mountain pine beetles from infesting residual trees.

Forest Health

Sawmill Trapping Initiative

The division continued a mass-trapping program at sawmills in the Black Hills area to reduce the potential for pine engraver beetles emerging from infested logs and infesting trees outside of the mills. The trapping program has been very successful at keeping tree mortality adjacent to sawmills at lower levels than they would be without trapping.

Gypsy Moth Trapping Project

The 2009 gypsy moth monitoring program was conducted as a cooperative effort with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service. The gypsy moth is a defoliating insect that was introduced into New England from Europe in the 1860s. It has spread since then into deciduous forests throughout eastern United States and is now established in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Traps were placed at campgrounds and rest areas.

Dutch Elm Disease

Dutch elm disease was discovered in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1930 and since then, it has continued to be a threat to the elm trees that remain in the communities across South Dakota. Dutch elm disease surveys were conducted by division personnel in 5 communities and 94 trees were found to be infected.

Early Detection and Rapid Response Project (EDRR)

The Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Pilot Project 2001-2006 (Rabaglia et. al., 2007) demonstrated the feasibility of a nationally coordinated survey for non-native bark beetles. Beginning in FY 2007, this project began national implementation. Based on funding levels, and taxonomic capacity, trapping has been conducted in about 17 states each year. Funding is provided to Forest Service Regions, which then fund states to conduct the trapping. From 2007 through 2009, most of the 50 states have participated in the EDRR project. A National EDRR Team sets survey priorities, selects target species, and develops protocols for state participation.

The Division set up traps at nine sites, 7 sites west river and 2 sites east river. The insects were collected from the traps every two weeks and sent in for analysis. No new exotics were identified.

Forest Health

Black Hills Forest Health and Restoration Grant

With this grant the division was able to do mountain pine beetle surveying, detection, and treatment work in the Black Hills.

Division personnel surveyed 2,036 acres of private lands for mountain pine beetle infestations. We marked 11,556 infested trees for treatment on private lands. The cost of treating the infested trees was borne by the landowners.

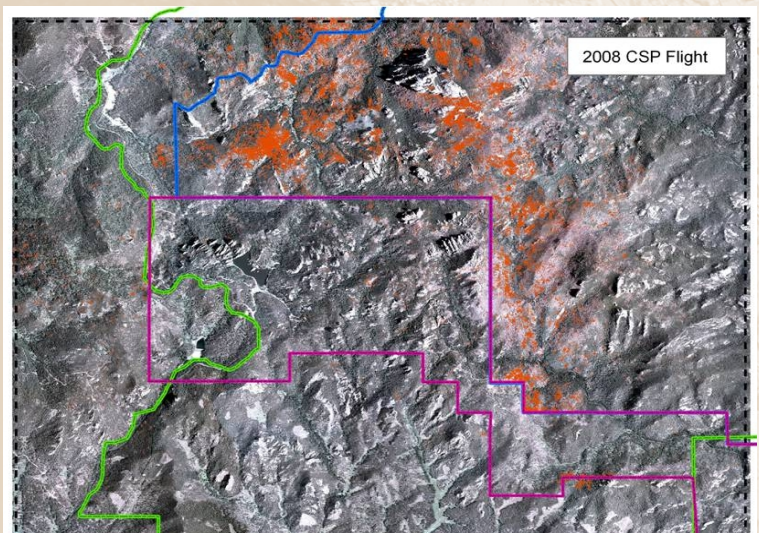
The Division contracted for aerial photography of the Sylvan Lake area of Custer State Park (CSP). This photography was used to track mountain pine beetle infestations in CSP and the adjacent Black Elk Wilderness and Norbeck Wildlife Preserve.

The grant was used to cover a portion of the marking and treating of mountain pine beetle trees in CSP.

The grant was also used to restore the health of forest stands on private lands in the Black Hills. Priority was given to treatments in close proximity to federal lands where treatments are in progress, or were recently completed.

Grant funds were provided to Lawrence and Pennington Conservation Districts. Each district used the funds to leverage money from the SD Conservation Commission Grant program. The Districts currently have 257 acres of restoration treatments under contract on 15 non-industrial private forest ownerships at 75% cost-share.

The remaining counties in the Black Hills area, Meade, Custer, and Fall River, were able to use direct grant funds at 50% cost-share. There are six landowners that have participated, covering 154 acres.



Forest Health

Emerald Ash Borer Initiative

The Division is also alerting nurseries, conservation districts, campground owners, communities, and landowners about the potential threat of the emerald ash borer. This Asian insect has infested thousands of acres of forests, resulting in the loss of more than 8 million ash trees, in southeastern Michigan and northern Ohio and has been detected in several other locations. The most recent detection was in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since many of South Dakota's windbreaks are planted in green ash and this same species is the most common city street tree in the state, the potential damage from an infestation of this insect is very high.

The most likely threat for South Dakota is from the accidental introduction of this pest through infested firewood. The adult emerald ash borer emerges from infested wood during the summer months so its emergence is timed perfectly with high campground use from visitors from other states including Michigan. The Division has developed a program to educate campground owners and visitors of the possibility of moving this insect and the need to dispose of any firewood brought in from outside the state.

The Division worked with North Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas to acquire funding for the Great Plains Emerald Ash Borer Initiative to prepare for the eventual introduction of this insect into the Great Plains. The grant was used to educate the public about EAB, inventory our states to determine the ash levels, estimate the financial impacts on the states, and to have a readiness plan in place for when EAB reaches our states. 2009 is the last year of the grant. South Dakota began the tree inventory in late May 2009. The inventory for the 2009 growing season involved a total of 200 rural plots statewide.

Buy it where you burn it... Buy it where you burn it... Buy it where you burn it...

Don't Move Firewood!

The bugs in it can kill trees.

For more information contact:
South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry
1.800.275.4954 or 1.800.228.5254

Buy it where you burn it... Buy it where you burn it... Buy it where you burn it...

South Dakota is in danger of losing its ash trees as a result of humans moving the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) into our state by firewood transportation, infected nursery material, and other means of movement.

HELP US!

We need your help with education, outreach, and identification of this serious threat.



Above: Healthy green ash boulevard trees
Below: Green ash boulevard trees after EAB



Display EAB information materials at your counters and information stands

Have on hand EAB identification kits or other sources to help initially identify the EAB beetle or larvae

EAB Detection kits are available for people to send in suspect insects



For more information on the EAB program or to order supplies, contact:

South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry
1-800-275-4954

Forest Inventory and Analysis

The FIA program collects, analyzes, and reports information on the status and trends of America's forests. Information is collected on how much forest exists, who owns it and how it is changing, as well as how the trees and other forest vegetation are growing and how much has died or has been removed in recent years. This information can be used in evaluating wildlife habitat conditions, assessing the sustainability of ecosystem management practices and supporting planning and decision-making activities undertaken by public and private enterprises.

The FIA program combines this information with related data on insects, diseases and other types of forest damaging agents and stresses. This is done to assess the health condition and potential future risks to forests. The program also projects what the forests may be like in 10 to 50 years under various scenarios. This information is essential for evaluating whether current forest management practices are sustainable in the long run and whether current policies will allow future generations to benefit from the many uses that America's forests provide.

In state FY2009, the division completed the fourth panel of our second annualized inventory. These re-inventories will show how the State's forest resources are changing as well as how the trees and other forest vegetation are growing and how much has died or has been removed in recent years. They also completed planning for the 2010 inventory season.

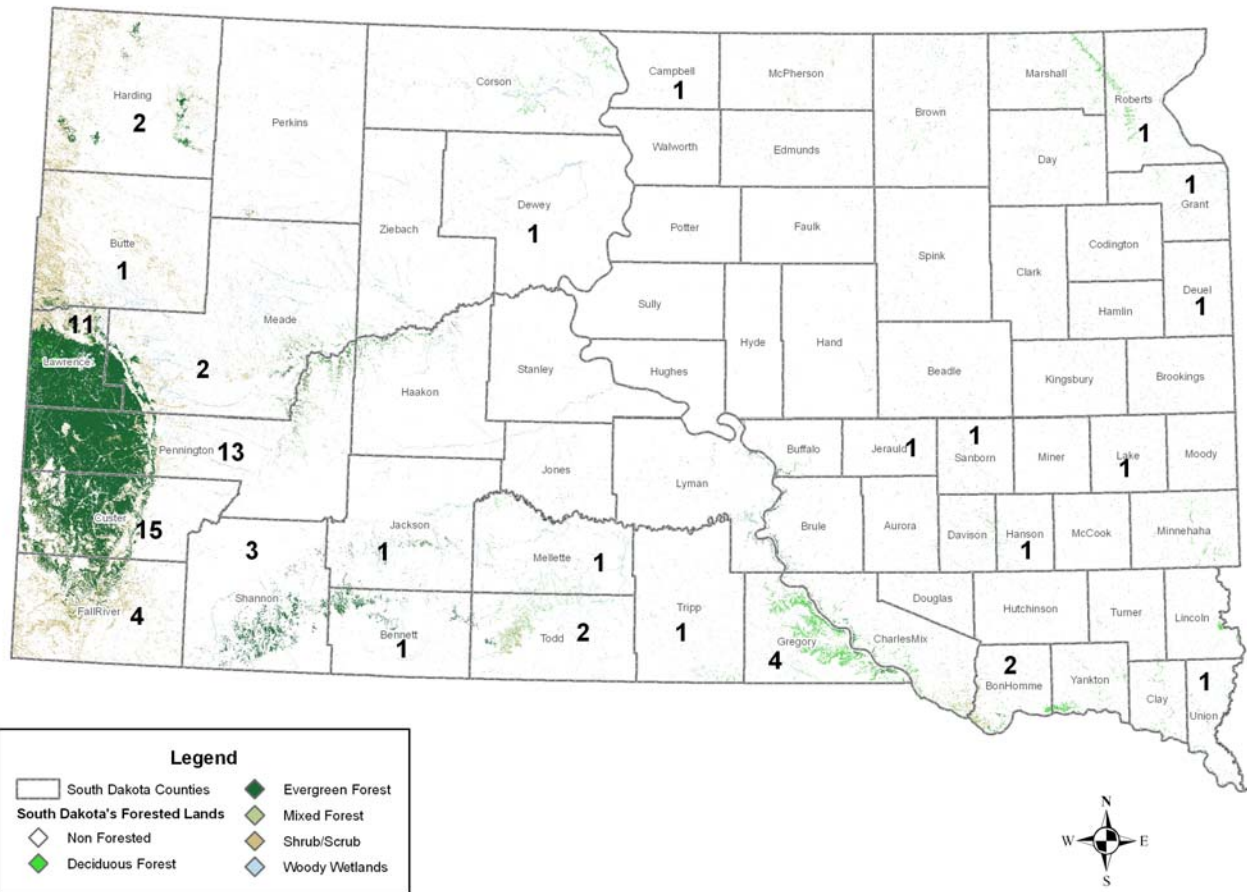
In 2009, the State of South Dakota received \$15,000.00 from the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory Analysis Unit, to inventory 73 P2 forest inventory plots, 25 QAQC plots and 12 ozone plots. The Northern Research Station was solely responsible for collecting data for the P3 (forest health) plots. There was only one (1) P3 plot for the 2009 inventory cycle.

The most recent five year report on the annualized inventory in South Dakota is titled "South Dakotas Forests, 2005" and can be found at:
<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/9724>

The most recent annual report on the annualized inventory in South Dakota is titled "South Dakota's Forest Resources, 2007" and can be found at:
http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/rn/rn_nrs32.pdf

Forest Inventory and Analysis

South Dakota's FIA P2 Plots 2009 and Forest Landcover Type
Plot Count per County



Project Learning Tree

South Dakota Project Learning Tree Inc. (SD PLT) is widely recognized in the state as a premier environmental education program. This program focuses on the mission to work with formal and non formal educators to educate the youth with the understanding to learn how to think, not what to think, about our environment and natural resources. Our complex environment can be better understood with critical thinking skills, service-learning, and inquiry-based activities found in our PLT basic (Pre-K through 8th grade) and secondary education modules. All of the PLT materials have been written by educators and professional resource managers.

The target audience includes formal and non-formal educators as well as students. The audience for fiscal year 2009 included 650 students, 293 educators and 3,800 members of the general public. Those in the audience classified as urban participants totaled 1,750 while those categorized as underserved totaled 2,000.

Audience members reached on an indirect basis totaled 5,860 students - the number of educators who received the training times 20 students for one year. The number of educators reached indirectly totaled 879 – number of educators trained talked with 3 others for one year. An additional 1,000 members of the general public were also reached through word of mouth.

The following workshops/training session were completed:

- Two DDN Workshop covering ten sites
- In-service workshop for the Custer schools
- Black Hills State University pre-service workshop
- Forestry workshop
- Places We Live workshop in conjunction with Project Wet
- Rapid City Children's Center Workshop
- Facilitator's Workshop
- Two Head Start Workshops
- Outdoor Education Workshop

Other activities

- Kids Fair – booth
- Walk in the Forest
- Health and Safety Fair – booth
- Science Day
- 2 sessions of Kindergarten Days
- SDACD Convention

Sponsored 5 educators to attend the Dakotas Chapter Society of American Foresters



Hy-Vee Tree Planting Project



Sioux Falls

- Hy-Vee donated 52 Prince Regal oaks and Greenspire lindens
- The trees were planted to replace dead and dying cottonwoods in Yankton Trails Park along the running path
- Governor Rounds was there to issue the state proclamation for Arbor Day and Arbor Week
- Members from the Hy-Vee corporate office in Des Moines, IA were there along with Mayor Dave Munson of Sioux Falls



Brookings

- Hy-Vee donated 280 flowering crabapples
- The trees were planted in an industrial area to beautify the community
- The celebration took place along S Main Ave in Brookings
- Here is Doug Bell, Brookings Hy-Vee store director planting one the crabapples



Watertown

- Hy-Vee donated 300 lindens, maples, and hybrid elms
- The trees were planted along the city's bike path, which is an on going project
- The celebration took place at the Bramble Park Zoo
- Watertown Hy-Vee store director, James Siemmens and city forester Terry Jorgenson were there to plant trees with an elementary class



Vermillion

- Hy-Vee donated 150 hackberries, bur oaks, lindens, and crabapple varieties
- The planting is part of the city's sesquicentennial celebration; the trees are going to be planted on public and private properties
- The celebration took place at Vermillion City Hall
- Vermillion Hy-Vee store director Ron Avery, Mayor Dan Christopherson, and Parks and Rec superintendent Aaron Baedke were in attendance



Yankton

- Hy-Vee donated 17 red oak, bur oak, Kentucky coffee tree, linden, and ponderosa pine
- The planting is part of a community revitalization project in partnership with Keep Yankton Beautiful and the city of Yankton; to beautify Yankton's Broadway Ave, the city's main corridor
- The celebration took place at Tripp Park on S Broadway
- Yankton Hy-Vee store director Brad Dykes, Mayor Dan Specht, city forester Stan Hoffart, and Keep Yankton Beautiful director Carmen Schramm were in attendance.

Governor Rounds Tree Planting Campaign

Brookings County—Tree Bank Demonstration Area

The Brookings County Conservation District partnered with the City of Brookings to establish a tree bank. The tree bank will provide trees for replacement or new plantings on public property in Brookings and other incorporated communities within Brookings County. The project involved the planting of tree seedlings or one year grafted or budded tree cultivars and maintaining them for approximately five



years to allow them to grow to a suitable size for transplanting to a permanent site. Inventories of reasonably priced replacement trees will be crucial when emerald ash borer are detected in South Dakota. The primary location for the Brookings County tree bank was on city property located on 8th St SW adjacent to the Brookings airport.

Supplies used included:

- 1,000 trees;
- 6,000 feet of weed fabric;
- 1,000 Vermeer baskets;
- 1,000 basket liners;
- 1,000 36 inch plastic tree guards;
- 500 6 foot tree stakes

Total cost was for the Brookings County tree bank was \$21,780.49.

Beadle County—Tree Planting on Private Land Demonstration Area

The Beadle County Conservation District partnered with a private landowner in Beadle County to demonstrate the positive impacts of tree plantings on private land. The location for the Beadle County project was on Mike Langbehn's farm located near Wolsey. The location for this project was chosen because it lies within the area proposed for the James River Watershed Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The Beadle County project resulted in 924.7 rod rows of shrubs, 231.2 rod rows of trees and 577.4 rods of fabric resulting in a total of 5.9 acres of trees and shrubs at a cost of \$16,961.88.

Governor Rounds Tree Planting Campaign

Miner County—Green Belt Demonstration Area

The Miner County Conservation District partnered with the City of Howard and the Howard Development District to establish a green belt on the south edge of Howard. The location was chosen near the city lagoon to serve as an odor and visual screen, protect the city from wind, provide wildlife habitat and scenic recreation for the residents of the Whispering Winds Assisted Living Center. Species selected included Black Hills spruce, cedar, juniper, maple, oak, honey locust, hackberry, fruit trees and shrubs. Weed fabric was also used on the planting.

The Miner County project resulted 10 rows of trees and shrubs planted on five acres at a cost of \$22,875.00.

Day County—Storm Damaged Tree Replacement Demonstration

The Day County Conservation District partnered with residents of Day County to provide replacement trees and education on tree care after an extreme windstorm on July 31, 2008 that damaged thousands of trees. Replacement trees were provided at half the normal price.

The Day County project held three different workshops to educate residents to replace the storm damaged trees. The first workshop was held in August 2008, the second during the county Farm Show and the third was held in March. The Day County project resulted in 1,352 large trees cost-shared at a rate of 50% with the residents of Day County. Total cost of the project was \$32,644.00.



For additional copies of this report contact the Division
office in Pierre at:

Phone: 605-773-3623

1-800-228-5254 (In State only, Toll Free)

Fax: 605-773-4003

Email: SDRCF@state.sd.us

Website: <http://sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/>

