



# FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES RESOURCE CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

**Our Mission is to protect and preserve South Dakota's agriculture, environment, and natural resources through effective regulatory services, natural resource conservation, and financial and technical assistance.**

### Good Neighbor Authority

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects started in South Dakota in September of 2019. The goal of the GNA projects is to allow the state to assist the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) to increase the pace and scale of forest management on National Forest System lands.

In September 2022, the Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) with the US Forest Service and the Joint Powers Agreement with the Pennington Conservation District closed. Under that SPA, 29 projects covering 15,565.90 acres were completed. Those projects consisted of marking and layout for 22 timber sales, two stewardship projects, five fuels mitigation projects, and one fuel break project.



#### By the Numbers- FY2023

Unit Boundary Painted (Acres)	274
Cut-Tree Marking Completed (Acres)	87
Leave-Tree Marking Completed (Acres)	187



### Watershed Protection

The Watershed Protection Programs assessment team conducted comprehensive ecological assessments at 23 stream sites across South Dakota as part of EPA's National Rivers and Streams Assessment. The assessment work is part of a national effort to document water quality condition at the state and national scale. An additional 23 stream sites will be assessed during the 2024 field season. The assessment team also conducted water quality sampling at 67 stream sites and 26 lakes in the Black Hills region and 35 lakes in eastern South Dakota as part of the Rotating Basins and Statewide Lakes Assessment projects, respectively. Water quality data generated from these efforts will be used to assess beneficial use support as part of the [Integrated Report](#) process. The implementation team continues to manage six watershed scale projects that focus on implementing nonpoint source conservation practices to improve and protect water quality. The Watershed Protection Program receives ~\$2 million in Clean Water Act section 319 funds annually to support these projects, leveraging local, state and other federal funds. This program administers the Riparian Buffer Initiative project, which provides state and federal funds to landowners willing to install riparian buffers to help improve water quality. During FY2023 two Riparian Buffer Initiative contracts were awarded in the Big Sioux River Watershed. Information pertaining to projects, reporting and other activities can be found on the [Watershed Protection Programs webpage](#).

## Plant Industry

The Plant Industry Program encompasses apiary, weed and pest – including the SD Weed and Pest Control Commission, biological control, Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys (CAPS), quarantine, export, seed, and nursery.

### SD Weed & Pest Control Commission

The SD Weed and Pest Control Commission is authorized in SDCL 38-22-38, to expend weed and pest control funds it considers appropriate for weed and pest control projects. The Commission had spending authority of \$450,000 for the FY2023 grants. Fifty-three counties received funds for their regular cost share grants available to them. In addition, eighteen competitive grants were also funded for special projects. Funds for the weed and pest control fund are derived from a portion of the pesticide product registration fees paid yearly when companies register their products in the state.

### Apiary Program



For 2023, there were 7,158 registered apiaries and 354,413 registered colonies. The apiary inspection staff inspected 202 apiaries belonging to 112 beekeepers during the 2023 inspection season. No colonies with American Foulbrood (AFB) were detected during the routine inspections. The staff also performed 880 ether roll inspections for Varroa mite, of which 569 were positive (65%). The range of those samples was one mite to 68 mites per ether roll. Beekeepers still reported problems getting good mite control during the fall of 2023.

Staff did not conduct routine nosema testing during the 2023 inspection season.

Staff continue to monitor for Small Hive Beetles and made a few detections during the 2023 inspection season. The primary concern regarding Small Hive Beetles is how to protect weakened colonies, supers of honey, empty supers and wax cappings in the honey house. The beetles can damage supers of honey while waiting in the hot rooms to be extracted and

make the honey unsuitable for human consumption. Small hive beetles have not been a major problem in the apiaries, but they raise management concerns in the honey house.

The apiary inspection staff continued to look for red imported fire ants in bee colonies during routine apiary inspections. No imported fire ants were observed. The DANR again participated in a USDA / APHIS National Honey Bee Survey in 2023. The sample results provide valuable information regarding bee viruses.

### Plant Quarantine Program

The South Dakota internal quarantine for emerald ash borer (EAB) continued to generate questions from the public and compliance agreements. This is the sixth year for the internal quarantine. Early 2023, a detection in Union County was found, and the county was added to the internal quarantine area. The South Dakota EAB quarantine currently includes four counties in the southeastern part of the state: Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner, and Union. USDA continued to work with the bio control releases but are experiencing disappointing results. Communities within the internal quarantine area continue to remove ash trees as feasible.

In response to the deregulation of EAB by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ, DANR implemented an external quarantine in 2022 that limits the entry of regulated articles into South Dakota, similar to the former federal EAB quarantine. DANR has received questions regarding that regulation from one out of state person. DANR also requested to participate in the Federally Recognized State Managed Phytosanitary Program, which directs the Customs & Border Patrol to continue regulating EAB in shipments destined to South Dakota. With the high number of tourists visiting the Black Hills and South Dakota, this is an important program. APHIS has not provided their decision concerning the FRSMP request.

***Emerald ash borer trapping:*** Purple prism traps and green funnel traps, and lures, were obtained through USDA-APHIS-PPQ. DANR placed traps at business parks and key pathway locations across the state. Traps & lures were also shared with cooperators, including SDSU Extension and city Parks & Recreation Departments. Although SDSU Extension focused trapping within the quarantine area in Sioux Falls, most of the traps were in communities outside of the quarantine area. No EAB beetles were discovered by this effort outside of the quarantine area.

## Pest Survey Program

### Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS): Nursery & Ornamental Survey

- Old world boll worm—53 traps placed—0 finds
- Box tree moth—21 traps placed & 25 visual inspections—0 finds—Boxwood was found in more retail nurseries than anticipated
- Spotted lantern fly—59 visual inspections—0 finds—Inspected ~20 business parks areas for signs of SLF
- *P. ramorum*—65 visual inspections at 45 nurseries—0 finds—three suspect samples submitted (all negative)
- Tomato brown rugose fruit virus, Tobacco mosaic virus, and Tobacco ringspot virus—65 visual inspections at 45 nurseries—0 finds

### Pathway Survey

- Old world boll worm—21 traps placed—0 finds
- Egyptian cotton worm—22 traps placed—0 finds
- Silver Y moth—22 traps placed—0 finds
- *Dendrolimus sibiricus* & *D pini*—24 traps placed—0 finds
- Hokaido gypsy moth—24 traps placed—0 finds
- Pine processionary moth—0 traps
- Velvet long horned beetle—12 traps placed—4 beetles found in 3 locations—Probably last year of VLHB trapping

### Farm Bill Surveys

- Khapra beetle—0 traps placed—Plan to run in 2024
- Honey Bee—24 samples—Contact Bob Reiners for results

### Other/Miscellaneous

- Spongy moth—254\* traps placed—2 months in 1 trap—APHIS found several in their trapping (Numbers not included)
- Japanese beetle—126 traps placed at 95 locations (38 of which trapped beetles)—7,533\*\* total beetles trapped at 27 locations (24 communities—9 of which had positive traps)—No new counties positive
- Oriental beetle—25 traps placed—7 beetles found
- Emerald ash borer—53 traps placed—0 finds—Includes cooperators except SDSU Extension
- Karnal bunt—49 samples—Elevator samples all negative
- Barberry Varieties—34 locations—0 finds—No suspect varieties found

\*Of the 249 traps placed, 179 were placed via the CAPS program and 75 were placed via Forestry Staff. There was an additional moth confirmed positive by DANR staff.

\*\*Of the 7,533 about 6,000 of the beetles were trapped from one area

## Nursery Program

The 2023 nursery season had a nice start with moderate temperatures and adequate moisture. Higher than normal temperatures in late May and throughout the month of June made for drier than normal conditions in much of the state. Timely moisture in July and August however promoted good plant establishment in many areas. Building and landscaping projects continue well into this fall season. Trees and perennials have remained in high demand for residential, and shelterbelt establishment. Evergreen species of all varieties continue to have lower than normal inventory as demand for these species remains very high. Declining tree populations due to pine wilt, emerald ash borer, fire-blight, and other insect/diseases will continue the need for more diverse and resistant tree species. DANR statewide nursery inspections for 2023 totaled 118 permitted sites which includes both nursery dealers and resident nurseryman.

## Biological Control Program

In 2023, DANR participated in the release and redistribution of various biological control agents on leafy spurge and yellow toadflax. Cooperative efforts involved USDA-APHIS-PPQ, County Weed and Pest programs, state, and federal land managers, SDSU-CES, and USDA-ARS.

Leafy spurge biocontrol continues to be widely distributed in the state. Public collections of *Apthona* beetles were held in Codington and Roberts Counties with roughly 500,000 agents collected and redistributed throughout the state. Weather and public interest was a factor for collections this past year with decreased numbers of agents being collected for redistribution.

Yellow toadflax is currently the priority species to establish insectaries in the state. In 2023, with the support of USDA APHIS and USFS the department received 1,500 *Mecinus janthinus* for releases. DANR released 700 *M. janthinus* in the Black Hills in western South Dakota with 200 agents being released in tents. The remaining 800 agents were released in Edmunds County in the north central part of the state with 400 agents being released in tents. DANR is working the USFS to determine if tented releases are more suitable for establishing insectaries in substantial sized infestation of yellow toadflax.



*Rhinusa pilosa* was released in Brown County for the third year and this is the second years of releases in the Black Hills. DANR began monitoring these sites in May of 2023 and found that these agents had limited overwintering. The monitoring continued throughout 2023, noting that plants with galls were much smaller and had reduced seed production. In September, Sharlene Sing and DANR staff visited these sites and found that the releases of agents had reproduced. DANR received 1,000 agents in October and augmented the site in Brown County with 800 agents and released the remaining 200 agents in the Black Hills in one of the *M. janthinus* sites. DANR is optimistic this agent will establish in the coming years.

## Weed Free Forage

In 2023, Weed Free Forage inspections (WFF) were conducted for eight different producers of grass and alfalfa for a total of 141 acres inspected, with 106 acres certified. This is the lowest acres inspected for many years. Excessive moisture and the concern for getting hay baled was the most common reason people didn't proceed with WFF in 2023. Most of the certified hay will be used in the Black Hills National Forest and the Badlands National Park. A total of 2,949 tags were requested, though not all hay bales produced were tagged.

## Seed Program

DANR conducted seed inspections at 173 locations in 2023, involving seedsman, seed dealers and seed producers. Inspections included examinations of documents, labels, and seed samples, with 202 seed lots sampled, representing over 22 different agricultural and vegetable crop kinds. Of those samples, 32 did not pass laboratory analysis which resulted in 29 warning letters issued and 20 stop sale orders. The most common violations were germination and pure seed out of tolerance levels. Warning letters were also sent for improper seed advertisements in various newspapers. DANR continues to conduct investigations to maintain compliance with the state seed laws. Biennial permits are issued to seedsman, seed dealers and seed producers. There are just under 1,300 with active permits in South Dakota.



## Forest Health Technical Assistance

Combined technical assists related to forest health totaled 2,289 in FY2023. This year, the three most common tree genus from which samples were submitted or inspected during site visits included pine (*Pinus*), ash (*Fraxinus*), and spruce (*Picea*). Other common tree genera submitted as samples included maples (*Acer*), elms (*Ulmus*), juniper (*Juniperus*), and apple (*Malus*).



### EAB UPDATE

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in two more communities in southeastern South Dakota: Baltic and Dakota Dunes. The confirmation of an EAB population in Dakota Dunes adds Union County to the state quarantine list along with Minnehaha, Turner, and Lincoln counties. Many communities in the southeastern part of the state are taking proactive measures to reduce the impact of this invasive pest's inevitable spread; such measures include removing ash trees, treating remaining ash trees within 15 miles of known infestations, and planting various species of hardwoods to promote biodiversity and forest health.

For more information visit <https://emeraldashborerinsouthdakota.sd.gov/>



Pine loopers defoliated ponderosa pines over 7,000 acres along a ridge east and north of Pringle. The defoliation was first reported by landowners on August 12, 2022, when they noticed a sudden appearance of caterpillars in the pines. The

caterpillars were identified as the pine looper, a native insect responsible for infrequent defoliation in the Black Hills. The previous outbreak was in 2001 in the southern Black Hills and 1972 in the northern Black Hills. While the primary concern was the effect of the defoliation on the pines, the larvae were also a nuisance as they crawled up houses and over patios in search of more trees to defoliate. The Black Hills experienced above-average precipitation during the spring of 2023 and the defoliated trees have their new needles expanding. The trees are not becoming infested by engraver beetles, an insect that attacks stressed pines. Most outbreaks of pine looper last only a single season and healthy pines can tolerate one year of defoliation. If the outbreak continues for a second year, landowners will be contacted in time for them to treat high-value pines near their homes.



Pine looper eggs

## US Forest Service Grants for Invasive Plant Control

Four organizations were awarded reimbursements in FY2023 for nine projects related to invasive plant management; on lands adjacent to national forests and grasslands;

- ◆ Fall River Weed and Pest
- ◆ Lyman County Weed and Pest
- ◆ Pennington County Weed and Pest
- ◆ Custer County Weed and Pest

These organizations used \$31,007.11 between the US Forest Service Invasive Plant Grants and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Invasive Plant program to treat 2,450 acres of potentially damaging weeds like Canada thistle, hoary cress, absinth worm-wood, and common mullein on land adjacent to national forests and grasslands. BIL-Invasive Plant funds were used to defray the costs of printing over 6,500 copies of educational brochures and newsletters and distributing them to more than 1,700 landowners in Custer and Fall River counties.

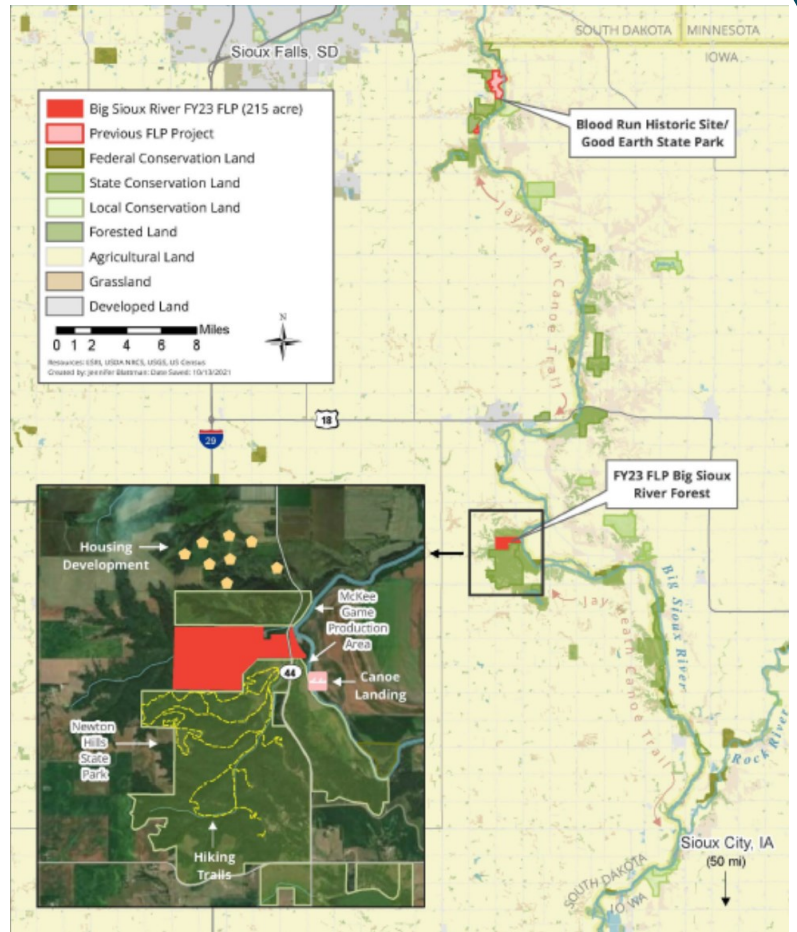
## Resource Conservation

The purpose of the Resource 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. In addition, the Program provides administrative and technical assistance to the State Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts to implement the goals within the Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation (Coordinated Plan).

### Forest Legacy Program

The Big Sioux River Forest project will protect a unique, fully forested 215-acre parcel through a fee simple purchase. Currently a Boy Scout camp, this oak-dominated upland forest bordering the Big Sioux River is part of a narrow strip of rolling hills and forest extending along the state's eastern border. Part of a green ribbon of biologically rich and scenic forest flowing through flat cropland monoculture, the property is a climate resilient refuge. The project will connect Newton Hills State Park to the McKee Game Production Area to the north, forming a 1,758-acre continuous block of state conserved lands. Demand for recreational access, particularly evident during the pandemic and in short supply in this region, is driving the need for more land dedicated to trails with river access.

- Fee Simple Purchase
- Game, Fish & Parks is coordinating with The Conservation Fund (TCF)
- Approximately 60 acres added to Newton Hills State Park
- Approximately 155 acres added to the Johnson Game Production Area
- Protects drainage into the Big Sioux River



Looking west from Iowa across Big Sioux River at TCF tract (valley in center). (Photo by Ascending Innovations LLC)



**Agroforestry Accomplishments**

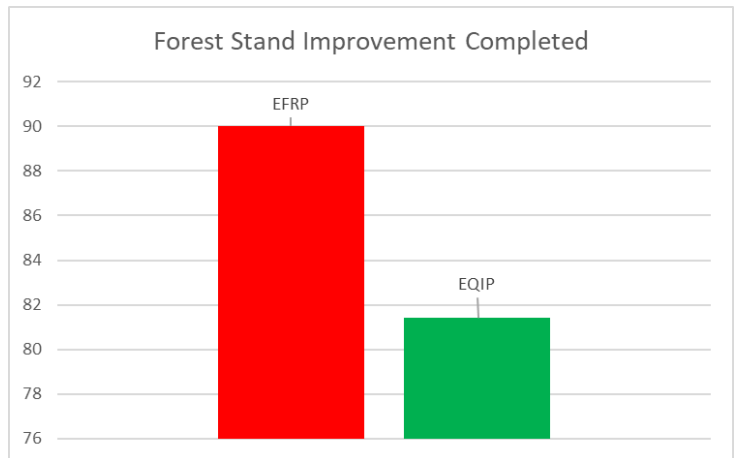
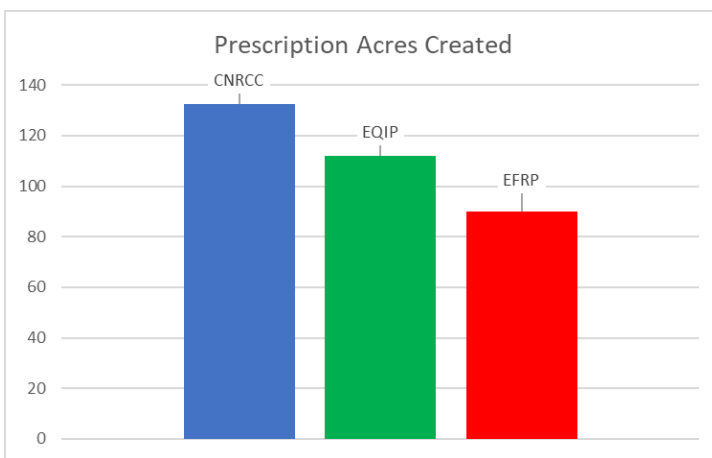
- ♦ 2 Shelterbelt Renovation Plans completed totaling 2 acres
- ♦ 218 Prairie Forestry Assists
- ♦ 5 Workshop Trainings with 548 participants

## Forest Stewardship

The rural forestry team performed and provided 482 landowner assists. Staff presented at over 15 educational events to educate landowners, general public, environmental professionals, industry professionals, and other individuals. An estimated 529 individuals attended the events throughout the year.

Private professional foresters, industry foresters, cooperating foresters, and others assisted 13 timbered landowners with new forest stewardship plans. Five landowners utilized South Dakota Family Forests Association’s Forest Stewardship Plan Development Grant. A total of 16 forest stewardship plans covering 5,458 acres were completed bringing the total active plans to 68,780 acres. A total of 24,564 acres of private lands are participating in the South Dakota Family Forests Association program.

The team wrote 334 acres of individual prescriptions for Coordinated Natural Resources Conservation Commission thinning grants (CNRCC), United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services (USDA NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Farm Service Agency Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). One hundred and seventy acres has been completed in the EFRP and EQIP programs.



## 2023 Conservation Speech Contest

The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Resource Conservation Speech Contest State Finals were held at the State Capitol in Pierre on Saturday, April 22, 2023. The contest theme was “Back Yard Conservation: Don’t Water it Down.”

Ten contestants competed in the 2023 state finals. Scholarships were provided by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Dakota. The contest is co-sponsored by the DANR and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

South Dakota high school students first participated in a local contest sponsored by their Conservation District. Two students from each District were then eligible to participate in an area contest. From there, the top two winners from each area were eligible to advance to the state finals.

Winning first place and a \$1,200 scholarship was Calister Grimsley. Calister was sponsored by Lawrence Conservation District and is a junior at Spearfish High School. He is the son of Ron and Misty Grimsley from Spearfish.

Winning second place and a \$800 scholarship was Katie Button. Katie was sponsored by Pennington Conservation District and is a sophomore at Rapid City Christian School. She is the daughter Kristi and Josh Button from Rapid City.

Winning third place and a \$500 scholarship was Autumn Lentz. Autumn was sponsored by Davison Conservation District and a junior at Mitchell High School. She is the daughter of John and Heather Lentz from Fulton.

**“Back Yard Conservation: Don’t Water It Down”**

### Conservation Commission Grants Funded in FY2023

DISTRICT	Project Name	Commission Funds	Forest Resiliency Funds	Match	Total Project Cost
Beadle	Livestock Water	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$36,040.00	\$56,040.00
	Shelterbelt Program	\$22,218.00	\$0.00	\$38,507.00	\$60,725.00
Bennett/ Badlands	Bennett/Badlands Tree Planting 2023	\$12,397.92	\$0.00	\$14,645.54	\$27,043.46
Brule Buffalo	Renovation and Tree Planting	\$36,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$76,000.00
Charles Mix	Shelterbelt Cost share	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$11,000.00	\$21,000.00
Codington	State Land & Range Contest	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$16,000.00
	Promotional Grant	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Corson	Corson/Dewey Tree Grant	\$14,494.65	\$0.00	\$21,020.77	\$35,515.42
Custer	Thinning for a Resilient Forest	\$75,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$180,000.00
Davison	DCD Tree Plantings	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$15,000.00
	Multi County Brush Mgmt. Project	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$80,000.00
	Cover Crop/Grazing	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
	Awareness & Outreach Activities Grant	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
Fall River	Forest Resiliency & Health	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00
Haakon	Haakon Multi-Purpose Grant	\$38,176.00	\$0.00	\$53,358.00	\$91,534.00
Hamlin	2023 Tree Plantings	\$11,168.00	\$0.00	\$16,454.00	\$27,622.00
	2023 Promoting Conservation Districts	\$4,600.00	\$0.00	\$4,400.00	\$9,000.00
Hughes	2023-2025 HCCD Tree Initiative	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$48,250.00	\$83,250.00
Jerauld	Multi-Purpose	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$60,000.00
Jones	North Dam Urban Grant	\$0.00	\$176.92	\$1,042.68	\$1,219.60
	Shelterbelt Fire Recovery	\$0.00	\$2,343.64	\$3,542.76	\$5,886.40
Kingsbury	Conservation Practice	\$65,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00	\$130,000.00
Lawrence	Forest Resiliency Project	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
McPherson	Shelterbelt Renovation & Establishment	\$62,000.00	\$0.00	\$66,540.00	\$128,540.00
Miner	Public Awareness of Conservation	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$2,250.00	\$4,500.00
	Soil Health Improvement	\$11,992.00	\$0.00	\$13,880.00	\$25,872.00
	State-Wide Career Develop. Planning	\$3,630.00	\$0.00	\$4,750.00	\$8,380.00
	Pollinator Plantings in Miner County	\$1,475.00	\$0.00	\$1,595.00	\$3,070.00
Minnehaha	Minnehaha Shelterbelt Renovation	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$29,485.00	\$40,485.00
	Minnehaha Wildlife Habitat Project	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$33,750.00	\$43,750.00
Moody	Shelterbelt Grant	\$35,860.00	\$0.00	\$41,319.00	\$77,179.00
Pennington	Thinning for Forest Health	\$0.00	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$66,000.00
Perkins	NW Area Tree Planting Grant	\$23,460.00	\$0.00	\$52,276.00	\$75,736.00
Roberts	Community Outreach	\$6,150.00	\$0.00	\$6,150.00	\$12,300.00
Spink	2023/2024 Education & Promotion	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
Turner	Shelterbelt Renovation	\$9,067.00	\$0.00	\$9,067.00	\$18,134.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$653,438.57</b>	<b>\$70,520.56</b>	<b>\$875,822.75</b>	<b>\$1,599,781.88</b>



## Community Forestry Programs

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program submitted an Inflation Reduction Act grant application in February 2023 for approximately \$25 million. In April all applicants were informed the process had become non-competitive and that allocations would be population-based; South Dakota received \$600,000. The funding will be passed-through to disadvantaged communities as determined by federal tools. The grant funding requires no match and can fund urban forestry activities, including tree removals.

Tree City USA recognizes communities who demonstrate a commitment to maintaining and growing their trees. This year, Resource Conservation and Forestry (RCF) had 26 approved Tree City USA and five Tree Campus USA applications. One of the requirements for this designation is to proclaim and celebrate Arbor Day. RCF hosted 37 presentations on Arbor Day which was attended by 1,610 participants. RCF also administered the Arbor Day poster contest. This contest is open to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The top 12 posters are featured in a calendar. First place receives a \$125 cash prize and their teacher receives \$175 to purchase school supplies. This year’s theme was “Enchanted Forest”.



The FY23 Arbor Day Poster Contest winner was Anaiya Koistinen from the Hamlin Education Center in Hayti, SD

## Community Forestry Grant

RCF offers the Community Forestry Grant Program geared toward helping communities promote their forests and to solve forestry problems within the community. **This year 18 projects were completed and approximately 225 trees were planted across the state.**

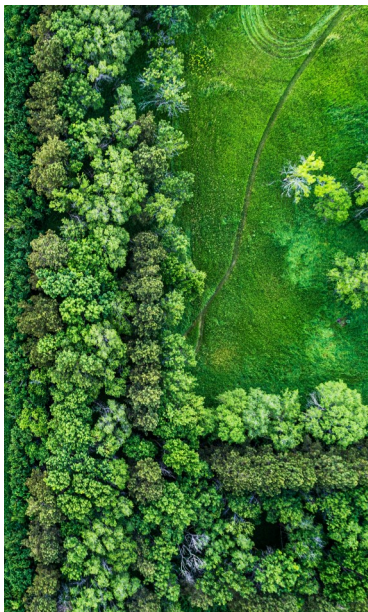
Applicant	Project	Funding Request
City of Bryant	New tree planting to replace ash loss	\$5,000.00
City of Buffalo	New tree planting with an irrigation system for the trees.	\$2,500.00
City of Centerville	Tree trimming combined with tree planting	\$5,000.00
City of Chamberlain	New tree plantings in various parks	\$2,500.00
City of Chancellor	Tree trimming in public parks and areas	\$5,000.00
City of Elk Point	New tree planting to replace ash trees	\$2,500.00
City of Gary	New tree plantings in newly developed areas and to replace loss in parks.	\$3,725.00
City of Humboldt	New tree planting due to tornado and storm damage.	\$5,000.00
City of Huron	New tree planting at the softball fields to provide shade.	\$1,670.00
City of Kadoka	Tree trimming and new tree planting.	\$2,400.00
City of Montrose	Tree planting in campgrounds, near the municipal pool and softball fields	\$2,500.00
City of Pierre	Staff training for safe cutting and pruning in addition to new tree planting.	\$2,500.00
City of Rapid City	Purchase of TreePlotter for a tree inventory	\$4,500.00
City of Spearfish	Fencing for the urban food forest to reduce deer damage.	\$3,000.00
City of Summerset	Training and education for city staff	\$1,300.00
City of Viborg	New tree plantings in parks to replace loss from storms.	\$5,000.00
University of South Dakota - Vermillion	Tree Inventory	\$5,000.00
Western Dakota Tech.	New tree planting.	\$2,500.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$61,595.00</b>

## Conservation Grants and Loans

In FY2023, 38 grant applications were received requesting \$813,812.13. The State Conservation Commission awarded funding to 36 projects for a total of \$653,438.57 of Coordinated Natural Resources Conservation Grant Fund and \$70,520.56 of Forest Resiliency funds. For more information, see the attached grants table (page 6).

Projects included best management practices targeting improvements to grasslands, cropland, wetlands, forests, and shelterbelts, as well as other surface and ground water quality improvements. Other projects included multi-district resource conservation information and education.

Nine producers nominated by five Conservation Districts received the Soil Conservation Award.



The State Conservation Commission approved 11 Revolving Loan applications for a total of \$535,616.89. Approved loans assisted conservation districts for purchases of equipment and supplies needed to further their programs. All loans are approved at a three percent interest per annum.

Loans made in fiscal year 2023 included:

- ◆ Beadle Conservation District — \$30,000 for a pick-up.
- ◆ Brule-Buffalo Conservation District — \$45,000 for a spray drone.
- ◆ Clark Conservation District — \$30,000 for a tractor.
- ◆ Codington Conservation District — \$17,000 for tree cooler compressor and \$27,950 to refinance pick-up loan.
- ◆ Davison Conservation District — \$50,000 to purchase a pick-up.
- ◆ Gregory Conservation District — \$16,500 to purchase a fabric machine.
- ◆ Minnehaha Conservation District — \$55,652 to purchase a tractor.
- ◆ Perkins Conservation District — \$59,565 to purchase no-till drill.
- ◆ Spink Conservation District — \$180,000 to purchase tractor.
- ◆ Turner Conservation District — \$30,000 to purchase no-till drill.

Any person who believes they have been discriminated against with respect to a DANR program or activity has a right to file a complaint. The written complaint must be filed through our website, by email, in person, or by mail with DANR's Nondiscrimination Coordinator, within 180 days from the alleged discriminatory act or upon notice of the discriminatory act. A Nondiscrimination Complaint form may be obtained online at [www.danr.sd.gov](http://www.danr.sd.gov) or by directly contacting the department's Nondiscrimination Coordinator.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a and the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 govern the confidentiality to be provided for information received by the Forest Service.