

Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

Project Type Habitat inventory

Title Mapping big sagebrush vegetation in western South Dakota

In a nutshell This cooperative project with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management involved mapping remaining stands of big sagebrush vegetation in western South Dakota. This baseline information will allow future comparisons to assess changes in sagebrush habitat and to help model areas where big sagebrush formerly occurred.

Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)

Relevant Habitats sagebrush

Cooperators Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Cogan Technology Inc. (contractor)

Purpose

- to map remaining stands of big sagebrush vegetation Butte and Harding counties in western South Dakota

Timeframe 2006 - 2008

Location Butte and Harding counties in western South Dakota

Summary or Important Findings

- Digital, color-infrared imagery with one-foot pixels was flown in September 2006 in western Butte and Harding counties.
- Image processing and initial ground-truthing was performed by the Bureau of Reclamation's Remote Sensing and GIS Technical Center, resulting in a partial coverage of about 13,000 polygons representing 166,000 acres of sagebrush vegetation on public lands in northwestern South Dakota.
- Final product was a GIS layer of sagebrush polygons for use by land managers of GFP and BLM.

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More Information

Wright, P. and D. Wegner. 2007. Mapping sagebrush for sage grouse habitat in Butte and Harding counties, South Dakota. Technical Memorandum No. 86-68260-08-01. Remote Sensing and GIS Group Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, CO.