

PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: South Dakota

Project No. T-4-1

Project Title: **Enhance wildlife habitat provided by aspen in Custer State Park**

Period Covered: May 6, 2003 to September 30, 2004

Objectives

Initiate a wildlife habitat enhancement program to protect/enhance essential habitat for numerous migratory and non-migratory songbirds, raptors, mammals, herpetiles and invertebrates, by treating a minimum of 40 aspen clones (20/yr) at least 1 acre in size, or capable of existing at 1 acre or greater in size, by September 30, 2004.

Accomplishments first year:

A total of 12 clones were fenced. Eight additional sites were treated (4 fences, 2 slash and 2 hinge) as part of an aspen regeneration study being conducted in cooperation with the Black Hills National Forest, Rocky Mountain Forest Experiment Station and Utah State University. Pine encroachment in aspen clones was removed and 3 fence types were used to protect aspen suckers from browsing by buffalo, elk, and deer. Protected clones were distributed across the park.

Accomplishments second year:

A total of 13 clones were fenced. Pine treatment occurred on 4 additional sites. Pine encroachment in aspen clones was removed and 3 fence types were used to protect aspen suckers from browsing by buffalo, elk, and deer. Protected clones were distributed across the park. Surveys and preliminary prescriptions for treatment of numerous isolated clones within a 300 ac treatment block were completed. An aspen master burning plan was completed to address treatment of decadent aspen clones throughout Custer State Park.

Completion Date: September 30, 2004

Approved Cost: \$99,360.00

Actual Cost: \$103,937.68

Actual costs exceeded approved costs. Fencing contracts exceeded estimated costs. A total of 37 clones were treated with an additional 300 plus acres surveyed and preliminary treatment prescriptions developed. A draft aspen patch burning master plan was developed to allow treatment of small acreages associated with aspen clones was also developed.

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