

Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

Project Type Habitat restoration

Title Enhance wildlife habitat provided by aspen in Custer State Park

In a nutshell Aspen stands are succeeding to conifers in the Black Hills, and regeneration is necessary to sustain the diverse aspen-dependent wildlife communities. This project included several methods to enhance aspen stands in Custer State Park.

Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

Relevant Habitats aspen stands in Black Hills, SD

Cooperators Custer State Park, SDGFP (Dr. Gary Brundige)

Purpose To initiate a wildlife habitat enhancement program to protect and enhance aspen stands by treating aspen clones at least 1 acre in size. Wildlife species expected to benefit include ruffed grouse, red-naped sapsucker, warbling vireo, MacGillivray's warbler and ovenbird.

Location Custer State Park, SD

Timeframe May 2003 – September 2004

Summary or Important Findings

- Thirteen aspen clones were fenced to protect aspen suckers from wildlife browsing.
- Eight sites were treated to stop pine encroachment.
- An aspen master burning plan was completed for Custer State Park.

Best contact person Gary Brundige, Custer State Park, SDGFP

More Information

Brundige, G. 2004. Performance Report – Enhance wildlife habitat provided by aspen in Custer State Park. 2 pp.