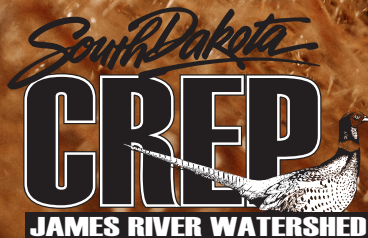


LANDOWNERS MATTER

SPECIAL EDITION



SOUTH DAKOTA
CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

A CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY LIKE NO OTHER IS BACK!

Landowners in the James River Watershed once again have the opportunity to participate in a truly unique conservation program thanks to the creation of the Habitat Stamp by the South Dakota Legislature in 2020. January 11th marked the first day landowners could sign up for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) since the program was suspended back in 2014 due to Department of Game, Fish, & Parks funding limitations. This conservation program may offer more benefits to landowners, wildlife, and the public than any other in the state's history.

CREP is a state and federal partnership that allows landowners to receive rental and incentive payments for installing specific conservation practices that help improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, aid flood control, and enhance wildlife habitat. South Dakota's CREP targets the James River Watershed and utilizes existing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices. The big difference is that CREP adds incentive payments from South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) for public access and watershed specific conservation benefits.

“CRP alone did not pay enough to make it worth enrolling my land. The additional CREP payment from SD Game, Fish, and Parks made the difference. This is an incredibly important program for soil health, water quality, creating wildlife habitat, and providing public hunting opportunity. I have been happy with CREP for the past 10 years and just reenrolled my land for another 10.”

Royce Huber, Hutchinson County

ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENTS

To be eligible for CREP, the land must be located in the James River Watershed boundary and have been farmed 4 out of 6 years from 2012-2017. Pasture and rangeland may also be eligible pending an evaluation of the land. Contract lengths for CREP will be between 10-15 years. There is a 40 acre access minimum. The minimum can be achieved with just CREP acres or a combination of CREP and SDGFP's Walk-In Area program.

CREP offers a variety of rental payments, with the high end ranging from \$100 per acre in Hyde County to \$232 per acre in Yankton County. Each rental payment varies and is dependent on the three predominant soil types in the field being enrolled. Payments are also determined by the type of conservation practice being installed. Here are a few explanations and an example.

ELIGIBLE CONSERVATION PRACTICES (CP) FOR CREP

CP2 Establishment of Native Grasses

This practice is for seeding cropland to native grasses and wild flowers. Great for large field enrollment to re-establish native prairie habitat in areas without wetlands.

CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat

This practice is for seeding cropland to a combination of grass, wild flowers, and shrubs for wildlife habitat. Having wetlands or highly erodible soil in the field being enrolled is not a requirement. This practice is great for enrolling large diverse fields.

LANDOWNER PAYMENTS

Federal signing incentive of 32.5% of first full annual CRP rental payment

The signing incentive is an upfront one-time bonus payment for new land being enrolled in CRP that the landowner will receive shortly after contract approval. CRP contracts being reenrolled are not eligible for this payment. This signing incentive payment is available for all practices except CP2 & CP4D.

Federal annual per acre rental payment

This is a CRP cash rent payment to the landowner for taking land out of production. Payment is for all practices.

Federal 20% increase to the annual per acre rental payment

The 20% incentive payment boosts the annual payment by 20%. This incentive payment is available for all practices except CP2 & CP4D.

State 31% increase to the annual per acre rental payment

The 31% incentive payment is from SD Game, Fish, & Parks and is paid to the landowner for watershed specific conservation benefits and the enrolled land being open to public hunting and fishing

CP21 Filter Strip

Filter strips are grass buffers planted adjacent to a stream, wetland, or permanent water. They can range from 20 feet to 120 feet in width along the length of the water body.

CP23 Wetland Restoration

This practice is for eligible cropped wetlands in addition to seeding of an associated buffer inside the 100 year floodplain. The maximum buffer to wetland ratio is 3:1.

CP23A Wetland Restoration

This practice is for eligible cropped wetlands in addition to seeding of an associated buffer outside the 100 year floodplain. The maximum buffer to wetland ratio is 4:1.

CP29 Marginal Pastureland-Wildlife Habitat Buffer

The marginal pastureland practice is for restoring a vegetative buffer adjacent to a water body. For CP29 this would be a pasture adjacent to a stream or permanent water.

CP30 Marginal Pastureland-Wetland Buffer

The CP30 is similar to CP29 except that this practice is located adjacent to a wetland.

CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative

A vast majority of the land enrolled into CREP will be CP37. This practice is for the establishment of nesting cover adjacent to wetlands. The maximum upland buffer to wetland ratio is 10:1 and minimum is 4:1. The CP37 includes all of the incentive payments and allows landowners to enroll large fields.

access. This incentive boosts the annual CRP cash rental payment by 31% and is in addition to the 20% federal rental incentive for all practices except CP2 and CP4D. The 31% incentive is paid for all practices.

Federal 50% cost-share

Cost-share for all establishment costs is 50%. Payment is for all practices.

Federal 20% cost-share incentive payment for installation

The 20% cost-share incentive payment is separate from the 50% establishment cost-share. It will come as a separate payment and covers 20% of what the 50% cost-share did not. This incentive payment is available for all practices except CP2 & CP4D.

State 20% cost-share incentive payment for installation

The 20% state cost-share incentive is in addition to the federal 50% establishment cost-share and the federal 20% cost-share incentive payment. Payment is for all practices. All practices except for CP4D and CP10 will receive 90% cost-share for establishment, so the out of pocket expenses for the landowner are only 10% to 30%.

PUTTING THE PENCIL TO CREP

Example of a 160 acre field enrolled into CP37 for 10 years in Beadle County.

Rental Payment and Incentive:

Federal Weighted Average Soil Rental Rate (WASRR)..\$110.00 (per acre)

Federal 20% increase to the WASRR+\$22.00

Total Federal CRP Annual Rental Rate= (\$132.00 per acre)

State 31% increase to the WASRR.....+\$34.10 (separate annual payment)

Total Annual Rental Rate= (\$166.10 per acre)

.....
Final Annual Rental Payment = \$166.10 per acre x 160 acres = \$26,576
.....

Federal Signing Incentive of 32.5% of WASRR\$132 x 32.5% x 160 acres = \$6,874
for new CRP enrollments only (upfront)

..... + \$6,874 (upfront)

Establishment Cost-Share:

Cost of establishment.....\$140.00 (per acre)

Federal 50% cost-share-\$70.00 = (\$70.00 per acre)

Federal 20% practice incentive payment.....-\$28.00 = (\$42.00 per acre)

State 20% cost-share incentive payment.....-\$28.00 = (\$14.00 per acre)

Total Cost-Share provided = \$126 per acre x 160 acres = \$20,160

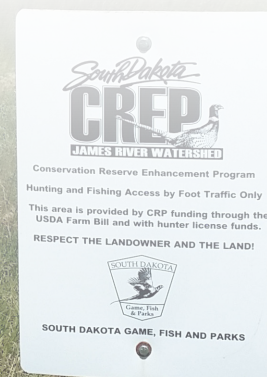
Remaining cost to landowner\$14.00 per acre x 160 acres = \$2,240

Total CREP payment to landowner over 10 years \$265,760 annual rental payments

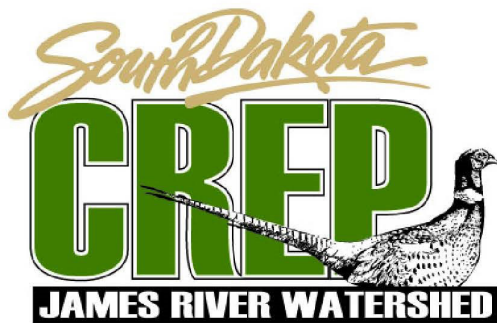
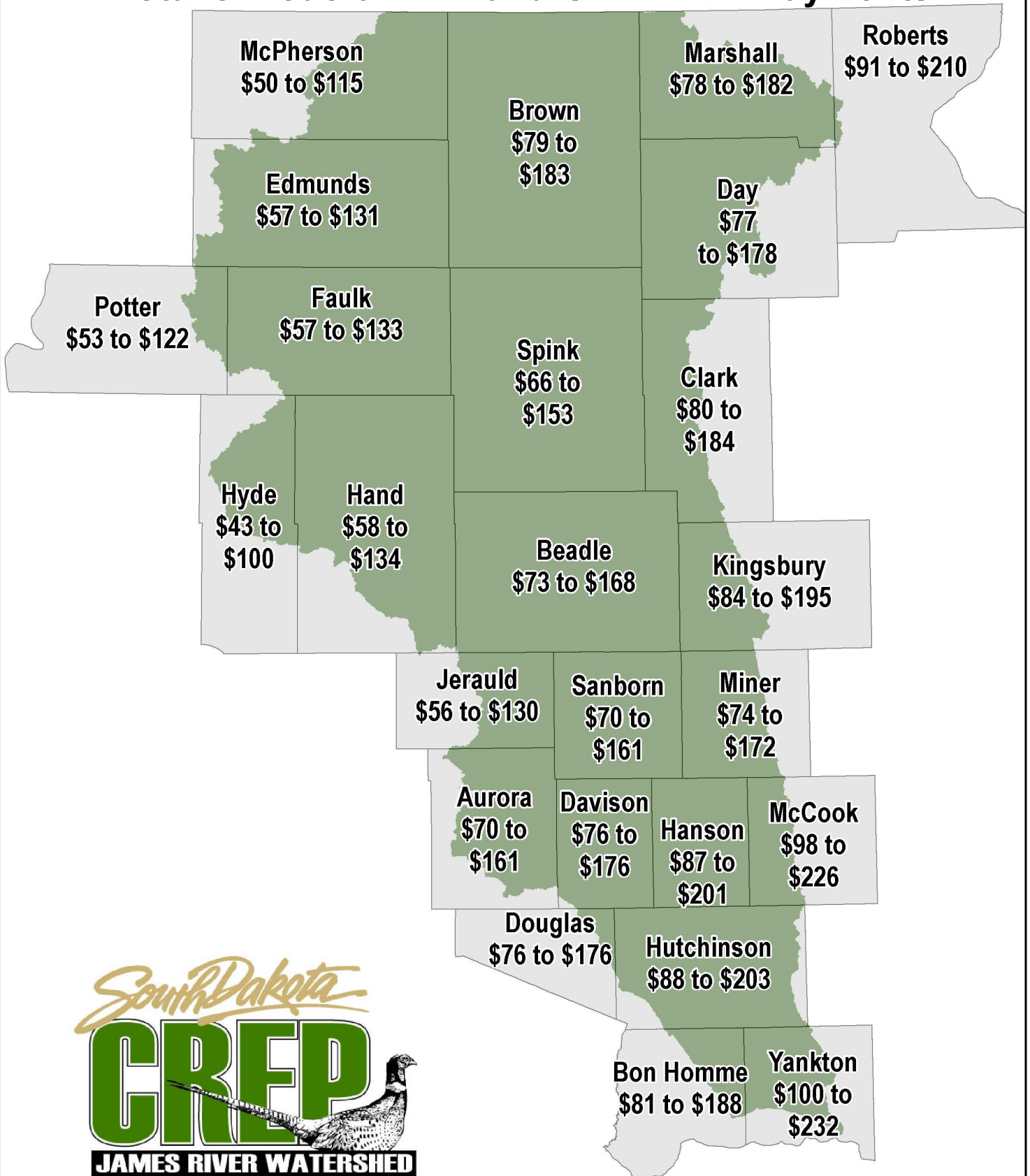
..... +\$6,874 signing incentive payment

..... +\$20,160 cost-share payments

\$292,794



CREP Rental Rate Per Acre Payment Range Total of Federal CRP and GFP CREP Payments



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CREP

Question: Where do I sign up for CREP?

Answer: Sign up for CREP will be at your local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) service center Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Question: How can I tell if my land is in the James River Watershed?

Answer: The best way is to contact your local USDA service center, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, or SDGFP Private Land Biologist.

Question: I used to have land enrolled in CRP several years ago and only received \$50-\$70 per acre. At the time this payment was reasonable. When I was offered to re-enroll the land, the payment was the same and that was not enough for us to put it back in the program. How is this program any different?

Answer: A lot has changed since the general CRP sign up from years ago. For many years, the rental payments were not adjusted because they reflected the actual cash rent payments. Recent increases in land and crop prices rose too quickly for the CRP rental rates to be adjusted to what cash rent prices were. CREP now offers incentive payments to the base rental payment that will, in most cases, meet or exceed actual cash rent values. CREP is paying a premium rental rate for the benefit of public hunting and fishing access and because CREP practices will address public resource concerns in the James River Watershed.

Question: How is CREP different from the SDGFP Walk-In Area program?

Answer: The South Dakota CREP utilizes CRP practices only and targets land in the James River Watershed. The Walk-In Area program is state wide and almost any cover type can be enrolled. CREP provides access for a 10-15 year period, whereas the Walk-In Area program offers access contracts as short as 1 year.

Question: Most of my fields are good crop ground with only a few poor areas. I thought about putting those acres into CRP but the payment was not enough. Why would I want to put those areas into CREP?

Answer: The poor areas could be enrolled into CREP and you would receive a 31% higher rental payment than enrolling those areas into CRP. If the total of these acres is less than the 40 acre minimum, the remainder of the field can be enrolled into the Walk-In Area program and the land would still be eligible for CREP. That means you can still farm the good land while receiving a higher CREP payment on the poor land and receive a Walk-In Area payment on the rest.

Question: What would my rental payment be?

Answer: Rental payments can be estimated by Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists or SDGFP Private Land Biologists, but official rental payments can only be calculated by FSA.

Question: Why would I want to allow public hunting and fishing access to my land?

Answer: Hunting and fishing are a large part of South Dakota's outdoor heritage and in many ways help define South Dakota. Many landowners who participate in CREP and other public hunting & fishing access programs in South Dakota have fond memories of hunting and fishing. They want to provide opportunities for others to have those same experiences with their family and friends.

Some landowners will find that, even though they hunt and fish on their land, they might not utilize all of it for these purposes. Some fields may have no wildlife habitat to start with and do not get hunted. CREP will create wildlife habitat on those acres and provide landowners a new place to hunt while also receiving the CREP payments.

Providing public hunting and fishing access helps put money back into your community. According to the 2017 Survey of Economic Impact of Outdoor Activities Managed by South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, people spent \$954 million in South Dakota while hunting and fishing. Having more areas to hunt and fish can lead to more people taking up the sport and contributing to our local economies.

The number of youngsters interested in the outdoors is declining. A few of the reasons can be attributed to lack of access and hunting pressure. Opening your land up to public access can help provide more places for youth to hunt and help reduce crowding on all areas open to public hunting and fishing and help raise interest levels in our youth.

Question: I heard that I am liable if someone gets hurt on my land. Is this True?

Answer: This is a common question from landowners who are considering enrolling their land into SDGFP's popular Walk-In Area program. Like the Walk-In Area program, CREP lands are open to public hunting access, and state statutes provide landowners with immunity from normal, non-negligent, or intentional liability.

“The additional payment and liability protections that come with having land enrolled in CREP are nice, but I enjoy seeing a family out hunting on our CREP land and getting to meet new people who come to the area to hunt because they see our land is open to public hunting. I have met many people and developed new friendships since we placed our land in CREP. Hunters are extremely appreciative for the public hunting opportunity.”

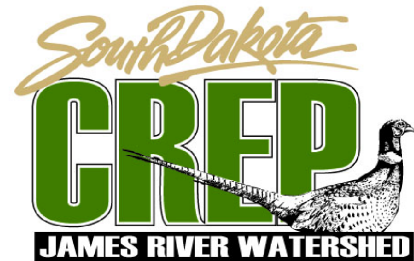
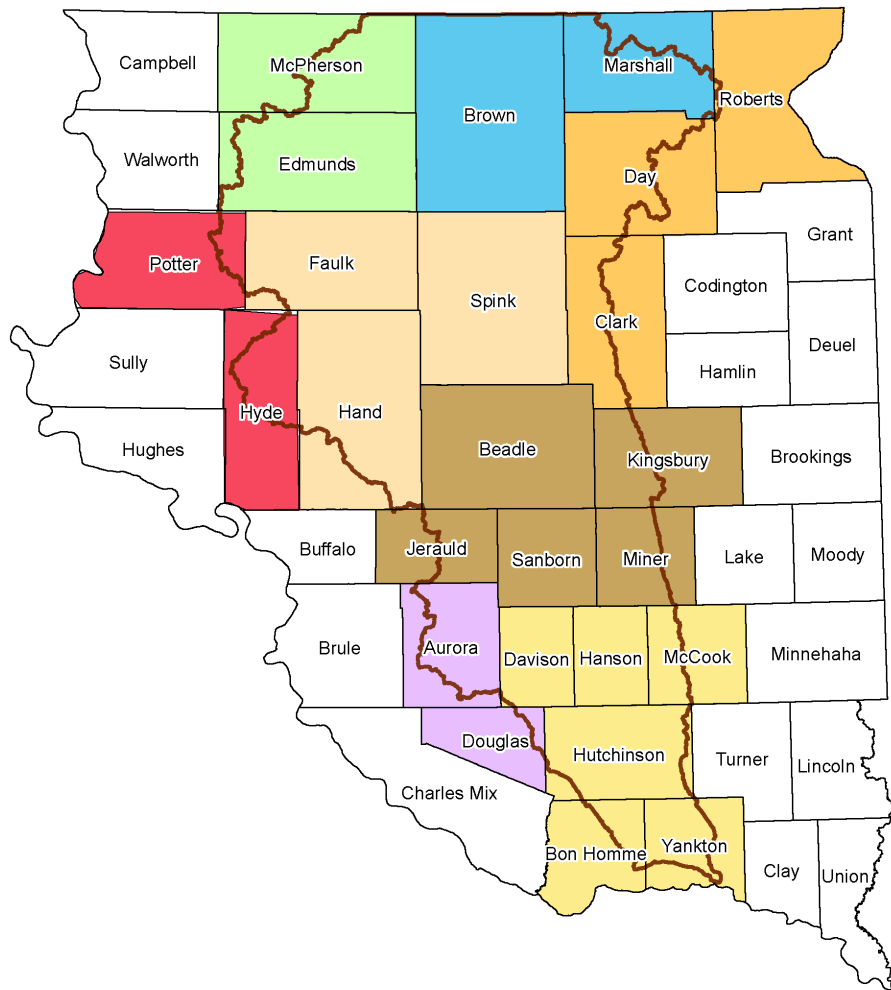
Jeff Schaunaman – Brown County

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CREP:

There are 11 full time contacts for CREP as seen on the adjacent maps. These contacts are experts with CREP as well as other conservation programs. Your local USDA service center is another good place to look for information about the program.

Sign up for CREP will be at your local USDA service center FSA office.

James River Watershed CREP Contacts



Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

- Tom Zinter (605) 216-0104
- Emmett Lenihan (605) 216-6281
- Catherine Beall (605) 464-4541
- Isaac Full (817) 701-6707
- Eric Flanigan (605) 212-8815
- Justin Enfeild (605) 770-5026
- Nick Goehring (605) 216-4390
- Jackie Krakow (605) 421-8639

SD Game, Fish and Parks

- Matt Grunig - Huron - (605) 350-1725
- Eric Magedanz - Watertown - (605) 880-2651
- Mark Norton - Pierre - (605) 773-3096



USDA Service Centers

- Aurora (605) 942-7719
- Beadle (605) 352-2998
- Bon Homme (605) 589-3383
- Brown (605) 226-3360
- Clark (605) 532-3686
- Davison (605) 996-1564
- Day (605) 345-4661
- Douglas (605) 724-2846
- Edmunds (605) 426-6951
- Faulk (605) 598-6237
- Hand (605) 853-2410
- Hanson (605) 996-1564

- Hutchinson (605) 928-7925
- Hyde (605) 852-2221
- Jerauld (605) 539-9232
- Kingsbury (605) 854-9123
- Marshall (605) 448-5921
- McCook (605) 425-2483
- McPherson (605) 439-3336
- Miner (605) 772-5642
- Sanborn (605) 796-4476
- Spink (605) 472-0102
- Roberts (605) 698-7639
- Yankton (605) 665-2662

LANDOWNERS MATTER

GAME, FISH AND PARKS | 523 EAST CAPITOL AVE | PIERRE, SD 57501

The Game, Fish and Parks' mission is to provide sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardships and safely connecting people with the outdoors.



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