

PRIVATE LANDS HABITAT AND ACCESS PROGRAM GUIDE

2026



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PRIVATE LANDS HABITAT PROGRAM

The goal of GFP's Private Lands Habitat Program is to help landowners establish, restore, or manage habitat on private land to enhance reproduction, recruitment, and survival of wildlife. Several program options are available to support management practices that emphasize healthy working grasslands. All projects are subject to approval by a GFP private lands habitat biologist. Cooperators must allow some amount of reasonable public hunting.

FOOD PLOTS

- » Food plots must remain unharvested/standing through March 15th.
- » Annual payment of \$20 per acre for food plot acres (\$80/acre for food plots enrolled in a public hunting access program).
- » Free food plot seed is available from GFP each spring (corn, sorghum, brood mix, big game mix).
- » Maximum of 20 acres per quarter section and unlimited total acres per landowner.

WOODY HABITAT (See woody habitat program guidelines)

- » Shelterbelt plantings
- » Shelterbelt renovations
- » Riparian shrub clump plantings
- » Hardwood release program

GRASSLAND ESTABLISHMENT

- » Native grass and forb seed mixes are the priority and plantings must be at least 10 acres.
- » Landowners are reimbursed 100% up to a maximum of \$125/acre for seed costs.
- » Cost-share is NOT available on CRP or WRP plantings
- » Additional incentives available if plantings are enrolled into public hunting access program

BROOD/POLLINATOR PLOTS

- » Designed to provide high quality native perennial habitat for broods and pollinators
- » Landowners are reimbursed 100% up to a maximum of \$150/acre for seed costs
- » Individual plantings must be a minimum of 1 acre and a maximum of 9 acres

GRASSLAND/GRAZING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- » To enhance grazing management opportunities and plant community health on working grasslands
- » Cost-shared practices include:
 - Perimeter and cross fence
 - Woven-wire fence replacement in pronghorn range (wildlife friendly fence design)
 - Water development - stock tanks, pipeline, rural water hook-ups, wells, solar pump units
 - Multi-purpose stock/wildlife impoundments
 - Wetland restorations
 - Grassland establishment
 - Riparian pastures
 - Habitat exclusion fencing
 - Additional incentives available if enrolled into public hunting access program

RIPARIAN HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- » One-time rental payment of 75% per year of the county NASS rate for pasture (10-year contract)
- » Cost share livestock exclusion and alternative water sources
- » Minimum width 35 feet and maximum width of 240 feet.



FOOD PLOTS

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- » Food plots must remain unharvested/standing through March 15th.
- » Annual payment of \$20 per acre for food plot acres.
- » Annual payment increases to \$80/acre for food plots enrolled in a public hunting access program.
- » Maximum of 20 acres per quarter section and unlimited total acres per landowner.
- » Free food plot seed is available from GFP each spring.
- » Seed available: corn, sorghum, brood mix, big game mix

SEED MIXES

BROOD MIX	
SPECIES	LBS/Acre
Buckwheat	1.75
Crimson Clover (Raw)	1.25
Mustard	.50
Phacelia	.15
Proso Millet (White)	3.75
Radish (Cover Crop)	.70
Rape Seed	.50
Sorghum X Sudangrass Hybrid	1.25
Triticale (Spring)	3.50
Grain Sorghum (VNS)	2.60
Peredovik Sunflower	2.05
Flax	2.00
Oats	5.00
TOTAL SEEDING RATE (LB/Acre)	25.00

WESTERN SD BROOD MIX	
SPECIES	LBS/Acre
Field Peas	3.500
Mustard	.800
Phacelia	.250
Proso Millet (White)	2.500
Purple Top Turnip	.500
Radish (Cover Crop)	.400
Rape Seed	.50
Sorghum X Sudangrass Hybrid	2.250
Triticale (Spring)	6.500
Peredovik Sunflower	.350
Flax	1.000
Oats	6.450
TOTAL SEEDING RATE (LB/Acre)	25.00

BIG GAME MIX	
SPECIES	LBS/Acre
Crimson Clover (Raw)	1.0
Field Peas	5.0
Purple Top Turnip	1.5
Radish (Cover Crop)	1.5
Triticale (Spring)	5.0
Barley (Winter)	10.0
Hard Red Winter Wheat	15.0
Oats	11.0
TOTAL SEEDING RATE (LB/Acre)	50.00



GUIDE TO WOODY HABITAT

The goal of the GFP woody habitat practice is to establish large woody plantings that aid wildlife populations by providing food and cover resources. Since most resident wildlife lives on the ground, shrubs and mid-sized trees are required for wildlife shelterbelts and shrub clump plantings to maximize wildlife benefits.

Applications consist of sending a tree plan (including landowner contact information) and color aerial photograph noting the project location to a GFP private lands habitat biologist listed on the bottom of this flyer by November 1 for planning and ensuring tree species availability. If applications do not meet annual planting objectives, this deadline may be extended. Landowners enrolled in this program retain access control to their property but are required to allow some type of reasonable free hunting access.

SHELTERBELT PLANTINGS:

- » New plantings must be a minimum of 8 rows wide and at least 1 acre in size.
- » One row of tall trees may be included in the center of an 8-row planting. For each additional row added beyond 8 rows, 1 additional row of tall trees can be added to the center of the belt.
- » Additional rows can be added to an existing shelterbelt provided that the entire shelterbelt (existing and new rows) meets the above criteria.



COST SHARE:

- » GFP will reimburse landowners for 75% of costs incurred for planting woody habitat up to \$20,000.
- » 90% of landowner costs will be reimbursed for additional rows added onto existing or new CRP tree plantings to meet or exceed the GFP woody habitat 8-row minimum requirement.
- » 100% of landowner costs will be reimbursed if the landowner's property is enrolled into a public hunting access program for 5 or more years at the time of planting. Cancellation of the access contract prior to its expiration date will require the landowner to reimburse GFP any added initial project cost share provided as an access incentive.
- » 75% of landowner costs will be reimbursed for shelterbelt renovations and replanting up to \$30,000. Eligible expenses include heavy equipment contractual services to remove the old belt along with cost of materials and planting of the new belt. The replanted shelterbelt must meet the design requirements of the woody habitat shelterbelt program.
- » \$5,000 of the \$20,000 or \$30,000 maximums can be used for cost share for temporary deer fencing protection.
- » GFP will not provide cost-share on any trees that the landowner is receiving cost share from another entity or program.



GUIDE TO WOODY HABITAT CONTINUED

RIPARIAN SHRUB CLUMP PLANTINGS:

- » Plantings allowed within the riparian area.
- » New plantings must be between ¼ and 2 acres in size.
- » Only shrub and mid-sized species are allowed.
- » Spacing between shrubs and mid-sized trees should be 3 to 5 feet.
- » Plantings will follow NRCS standard designs when possible (Clumpy, Star, Expanding).
- » Species planted must be native to South Dakota.
- » Riparian sites consisting of native sod are not excluded from this practice.

COST SHARE:

- » GFP will reimburse landowners for 75% of cost incurred for planting up to \$20,000.
- » 100% of landowner costs will be reimbursed if the landowner's property is enrolled into a public hunting access program for 5 or more years at the time of planting. Cancellation of the access contract prior to its expiration date will require the landowner to reimburse GFP any added initial project cost share provided as an access incentive.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- » Eastern Red Cedars (ERC) and Rocky Mountain Junipers (RMJ) cannot be included in plantings when native grassland tracts of 80 acres or larger are within a ¼ mile of the planting, unless ERC or RMJ are present on the landscape as part of a tree planting directly between the new tree planting and the native grassland tract.
- » Tree plantings shall not occur within 100 yards of an occupied dwelling or a site with the potential to soon be occupied.
- » Colorado Blue Spruce, Russian Olive, Siberian Elm and Green Ash are not eligible for GFP cost-share.
- » Lands converted by the current owner from native sod to cropland in the previous 5 years are not eligible.
- » Eligible costs include the following: trees, shrubs, weed barrier fabric, tree tubes, native grass seed between rows, planting, and installation. Site preparation costs (disking, tilling, etc.) are not eligible for GFP cost-share.
- » Payment will be issued following project completion and submission of receipts to GFP by the landowner.
- » Contracts are 15 years in length. Removal of the woody habitat planting prior to 15 years after the date of planting requires the landowner to fully reimburse GFP all cost-share provided for the project.
- » All plantings are subject to approval by GFP.

ELIGIBLE SHRUB AND TREE SPECIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- » **Shrubs:** Buffaloberry, Chokeberries, Currants, Caragana, Cotoneasters, Dogwoods, Elderberry, Gooseberry, Juneberry, Lilac, Mongolian Cherry, Nanking Cherry, Nannyberry, Plums, Sandbar Willow, Heartleaf Willow, Sea-buckthorn, Silverberry, Sumacs, Western Sandcherry, American Highbush Cranberry
- » **Mid-Sized Trees:** Amur Maple, Apricot, Aspen, Black Walnut, Buckeye, Cedars, Chokecherry, Crabapples, Hawthorns, Hazelnut, Junipers, Black Hills Spruce, Laurel Willow, Peachleaf Willow, Littleleaf Linden, Mountain-ash, Mulberry, Oaks, Pears, Pin Cherry
- » **Tall Trees (1 row allowed in center of an 8-row belt, for each additional row added to the belt an additional tall tree row may be added to the center to maximize wind diversion and snow catching):** American Linden, Black Cherry, Boxelder, Golden Willow, Hackberry, Honey Locust, Pines, Silver Maple, White Willow, Cottonwood.



GUIDE TO WOODY HABITAT CONTINUED

HARDWOOD RELEASE PROGRAM (BLACK HILLS & NATIVE HARDWOOD FORESTS STATEWIDE)

- » 75% cost share for mastication or hand removal of undesirable species competing with desired hardwood deciduous tree species.
- » \$600 maximum cost share per acre
- » Maximum cost share of \$15,000 per landowner per year.
- » Project size must be ½ acre or larger in size.
- » Deciduous tree species being released include – oak, aspen, willow, cottonwood, and walnut. Other tree and shrub species will be allowed with prior approval.
- » Protective fence is eligible as a standalone project to protect rejuvenating hardwoods at 50% cost share up to \$3.50/ft.
- » Contracts are 15 years in length.
- » An agreed upon forest management plan for the project site will accompany the contract that includes the following -
 - Tree removal method – mastication, hinge cutting, cut and stack, chop and drop
 - Browse protection for desired tree species
 - Ongoing maintenance required by the landowner to keep the site clear of undesirable woody species
- » Commercial timber sales may not be part of the project however this program may be used following timber harvest to make additional habitat improvements.
- » All hardwood release projects are subject to GFP approval.



GRAZING SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE & WETLAND RESTORATIONS

GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE

Cost share for the following practices is available to improve grazing systems and grassland health. Cost share rates are typically 50% with project maximums. Visit with GFP Private Lands Habitat Biologist for details.

- » Fence (Cross Fence, Perimeter)
- » Woven Wire Replacement in Pronghorn Range
- » Buried Water Pipeline
- » Above-Ground Plastic Water Pipeline
- » Water Tanks
- » Cement Bases for Water Tanks
- » Rural Water Hook-ups
- » Wells
- » Solar Water Pumps

VIRTUAL FENCING

GFP doesn't currently offer cost share for virtual fence but does collaborate with partners that may have options. Virtual fence will be used to manage livestock in a way that enhances grazing land health and function and improve harvest efficiencies of forage resources and protection of sensitive areas.

Cost share options through partners typically cover 50% of approved invoices per ranch or individual. Max cost-share amount can vary by the program or partner providing the cost-share. The cost share applies to all virtual fencing costs including base stations, collars, operational platforms, subscriptions, electrical components and any other work or materials associated with bringing the system to full operation.

WETLAND RESTORATIONS

100% of approved invoices to restore or enhance wetland basins through ditch plug installation and/or drain tile breakage or removal.



RIPARIAN HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (RHEP)

The goal of the GFP Riparian Habitat Enhancement Program is to repair and improve riparian areas adjoining streams and waterways. This program allows cost share and payments to landowners willing to exclude livestock from these critical areas. Cost share assistance is available to install alternative livestock watering facilities. GFP will also provide cost share for fencing materials to exclude livestock. These actions will allow regeneration and repair of riparian areas to a healthy state while reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and providing wildlife habitat.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- » 10-year contract.
- » One-time rental payment of 75% per year of the county NASS rate for pasture.
- » Minimum width must be 35 feet.
- » 240 feet max average width (additional max average width will be allowed to accommodate landscape contours and to facilitate fence construction/maintenance).
- » 120 feet additional max average width allowed to extend CRP marginal pastureland out to a total max average of 240 feet width.
- » Cost share for exclusion fence and alternative water sources based on GFP Private Lands Program rates.
- » Eligible for the riparian shrub clump planting program.
- » Access incentive of \$10/acre/year enrolled.
- » No grazing allowed for first 5 years and grazing in any subsequent years requires approval by a Private Lands Habitat Biologist.



STATEWIDE RIPARIAN BUFFER INITIATIVE (RBI) FACT SHEET

Use of Riparian Buffer Initiative American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to buffer waterbodies are intended to improve water quality in South Dakota by using riparian buffers in the floodplain. Rules for enrollment into the practice are as follows.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PASTURELAND:

- » Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
- » Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
- » Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
- » Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
- » Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
- » If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
- » A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
- » Must agree to enroll ground for ten years.

PROJECT PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS:

- » Payment rates are based on the most current USDA “Pasture Cash Rent Paid Per Acre for South Dakota” publications. The rate will be 250% of the county rate to make a consistent payment across the Project. A link to the current county rates is at: nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Dakota/Publications/County_Estimates/24SDcashrents.pdf
- » A onetime upfront payment will be determined per acre for eligible acres. Costshare of alternative water from enrolled pasture would be available at 75% maximum cost share. Fence materials excluding cattle from enrolled pasture would be available at 100%. Grass seed would be available at 100%. Payment would be completed upon installation of materials and seeding.



STATEWIDE RIPARIAN BUFFER INITIATIVE (RBI) FACT SHEET CONTINUED

REQUIREMENTS FOR CROPLAND:

- » Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
- » Ground must be converted to grass.
- » Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
- » Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
- » Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
- » Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
- » If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
- » A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
- » Must agree to enroll ground for ten years.

PROJECT PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS:

- » Payment rates are based on the most current USDA “Non-Irrigated Cropland Cash Rent Paid Per Acre for South Dakota” publications. The rate is 250% of the county rate to make a consistent payment across the Project. A link to the current county rates is at: nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Dakota/Publications/County_Estimates/24SDcashrents.pdf
- » A onetime upfront payment will be determined per acre for eligible acres. Costshare of alternative water from enrolled pasture would be available at 75% maximum cost share. Fence materials excluding cattle during the recreation season from the enrolled buffer would be available at 100%. Grass seed would be available at 100%. Payment would be completed upon installation of materials and seeding.



WORKING GRASSLANDS PARTNERSHIP

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

A GRASS RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY BY DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Partners are excited to announce a statewide cost share opportunity for grass restorations through a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Interested parties that are completing new grass restorations will have the opportunity to secure a “Grass Establishment Deferral Payment” on planted acres.

The Grass Establishment Deferral Payment is designed to alleviate the loss of income on seeded acres during the establishment period. The cooperating landowner/

operator agrees to defer grazing or haying for 2-3 years while perennial species establish. The annual per-acre payment on seeded acres are based on the County Average CRP Rate. This program will prioritize farming systems that transition land from cropland to grassland. After the establishment period, grasslands are eligible for haying and grazing. Cooperating partners also have options for grazing infrastructure.

Signup is open. For more information, please reach out to staff at the listed organizations below. Follow the QR code or link to have staff reach out to you.

RCCP RENTAL RATES

*Current Rates Eligible for 2026

County	Rate/Ac	County	Rate/Ac	County	Rate/Ac
Aurora	\$127.00	Fall River	\$32.00	Marshall	\$149.00
Beadle	\$128.00	Faulk	\$111.00	Meade	\$36.00
Bennett	\$34.00	Grant	\$157.00	Mellette	\$43.00
Bon Homme	\$164.00	Gregory	\$80.00	Miner	\$146.00
Brookings	\$207.00	Haakon	\$50.00	Minnehaha	\$212.00
Brown	\$165.00	Hamlin	\$194.00	Moody	\$251.00
Brule	\$114.00	Hand	\$103.00	Oglala Lakota	\$36.00
Buffalo	\$75.00	Hanson	\$184.00	Pennington	\$38.00
Butte	\$36.00	Harding	\$33.00	Perkins	\$42.00
Campbell	\$85.00	Hughes	\$83.00	Potter	\$98.00
Charles Mix	\$145.00	Hutchinson	\$172.00	Roberts	\$174.00
Clark	\$151.00	Hyde	\$77.00	Sanborn	\$129.00
Clay	\$213.00	Jackson	\$48.00	Spink	\$126.00
Codington	\$176.00	Jerauld	\$112.00	Stanley	\$43.00
Corson	\$46.00	Jones	\$41.00	Sully	\$97.00
Custer	\$29.00	Kingsbury	\$162.00	Todd	\$36.00
Davison	\$159.00	Lake	\$195.00	Tripp	\$72.00
Day	\$149.00	Lawrence	\$29.00	Turner	\$198.00
Deuel	\$182.00	Lincoln	\$232.00	Union	\$235.00
Dewey	\$50.00	Lyman	\$94.00	Walworth	\$98.00
Douglas	\$144.00	McCook	\$193.00	Yankton	\$194.00
Edmunds	\$119.00	McPherson	\$105.00	Ziebach	\$46.00



Ducks Unlimited
 Audubon Great Plains
 SD Dept of Game, Fish and Parks
 SD Soil Health Coalition
 SD Grassland Coalition
 USFWS Partners for Wildlife

or visit

tinyurl.com/WGP-RCPP





523 E Capitol Ave | Pierre, SD 57501



director@sdhabitatfund.com



sdhabitatfund.com



SCHF WORKING LANDS PROGRAM

Restoring Grasslands, Revitalizing Wildlife, and Supporting South Dakota's Outdoor Heritage

A Partnership for Conservation and Rural Sustainability

The Second Century Working Lands Habitat Program is a forward-thinking conservation effort administered by the Second Century Habitat Fund, Inc., a South Dakota nonprofit. This program provides landowners with a financially viable alternative to cropping marginal land—enhancing wildlife habitat while supporting livestock forage and long-term land productivity.

Key Program Features:

- **Short-Term, High-Impact Enrollment:** Landowners enroll marginal cropland—such as saline or moisture-limited soils and field edges—under a 10-year agreement, receiving a one-time payment based on region. Payment rates are up to \$450 per acre in West River and up to \$750 per acre in East River.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Participants receive free seed mixes (native grasses and forbs) to establish quality wildlife habitat and livestock forage.
- **Sustainable Management:** Haying/grazing permitted after August 1 of the second growing season, with rotational limits to maintain habitat health.
- **Access Flexibility:** Lands are not required to be open for public hunting but can opt into SD Game, Fish and Parks' Walk-In Area or CHAPs Programs for an annual access payment.

Who Benefits?

- ✓ South Dakota's wildlife populations, including ground-nesting birds
- ✓ Producers, who improve marginal lands and diversify revenue
- ✓ Hunters, who gain more high-quality private land access opportunities
- ✓ Rural communities and agritourism, which thrive from increased outdoor recreation and hunting-related economic activity

Support & Resources:

- Technical assistance from Habitat Advisors statewide via habitat.sd.gov/advisors
- Drill equipment access through local Conservation Districts via sdconservation.org/conservation-districts
- Online guidance and local contacts via sdhabitatfund.com/programs

Contact:

Elysabeth Kierl, Executive Director | director@sdhabitatfund.com | 605.998.SCHF
Sal Roseland, Director of Partnerships | salroseland@gmail.com | 605.216.2436

Working Lands Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Second Century Working Lands Habitat Program partners with South Dakota landowners to establish perennial nesting and brood-rearing habitat on marginal cropland. This program helps convert underperforming acres into productive, managed habitat that supports wildlife while allowing compatible agricultural use.

1 Flexible Payment Options	<p>Landowner compensation is provided through approved payment structures, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-time, upfront payment • Structured payments over the term of the agreement <p>Payment structure, timing, and amount are defined in the individual contract and are subject to available funding.</p>
2 Contract Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-year agreement • Not renewable upon contract completion • Future enrollment depends on available funding
3 Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to all cropland statewide • No minimum or maximum acreage requirements • Enrollment evaluated to ensure alignment with program goals
4 Seed & Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed provided at no cost and tailored to upland or saline/wet conditions • Landowner responsibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Seedbed preparation ◦ Planting (spring or fall, as directed) ◦ Weed and pest control • Technical assistance available through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pheasants Forever ◦ SD Game, Fish & Parks Habitat Advisors
5 Haying & Grazing Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No haying or grazing during the first growing season • Haying and grazing allowed August 1 – March 1 thereafter • Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Hay no more than 50% annually, or ◦ Hay the entire acreage every other year • Maintain an average 8-inch stubble height for wildlife cover
6 Access & Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting rights remain with the landowner • No paid or commercial hunting on enrolled acres • Hunting access is by landowner permission • Reasonable access may be required when supported by hunting license funds
7 Program Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program is stackable with other conservation programs, where allowed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ SD Game, Fish & Parks Walk-In Area (WIA) ◦ CHAPs • Select NRCS conservation programs • All program stacking is evaluated parcel by parcel and must comply with all program and contract requirements.
8 Why Enroll?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put underproductive, marginal acres back to work • Improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity • Maintain flexibility for agricultural use • Improve soil and water quality

SOUTH DAKOTA DAKOTA SKIPPER PROJECT



**PHEASANTS
FOREVER**

Applications must be sent to
csergeant@pheasantsforever.org

Quality habitat establishment and management to provide appropriate areas for Monarchs, Dakota Skippers, and other native pollinators.

How is Pollinator Habitat defined?

Newly created pollinator habitat must use a seed mix with at least 25 native species, including one milkweed species and at least 3 species in each bloom period, and no more than 50% native grasses.

What is the contract length?

10
years

Contract length is 10 years. It is required that participants keep established pollinator habitat and fencing infrastructure in place for this period, with appropriate management during this period.

What are the cost-share rates?

Establishing new pollinator habitat:

- Seed reimbursement of \$200/acre

Prescribed fire (established acres):

- \$48/acre
- *Cannot be enrolled in other cost-share programs*

Grazing infrastructure (must meet EQIP standards):

- High tensile fence — up to \$0.52/foot
- Multi-strand barbed wire — up to \$0.87/foot

Are there any additional considerations for landowners?

Landowners should be aware that reasonable access is requested for monitoring after establishment or practice implantation takes place.

What acres are eligible for this program?

Enrollment is focused on creating and maintaining quality pollinator habitat.

Acres will be considered if management plans include:



**Prescribed
Burning**



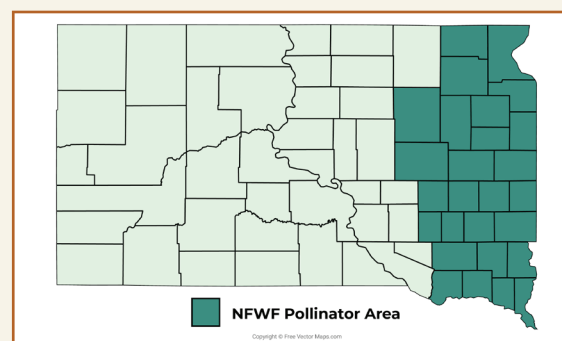
**Rotational
Grazing**



**Pollinator
Habitat
Creation**

Acres must be within the following counties in eastern SD:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| • Beadle | • Lake |
| • Bon Homme | • Lincoln |
| • Brookings | • Marshall |
| • Clark | • McCook |
| • Clay | • Miner |
| • Codington | • Minnehaha |
| • Davison | • Moody |
| • Day | • Roberts |
| • Deuel | • Sanborn |
| • Grant | • Spink |
| • Hamlin | • Turner |
| • Hanson | • Union |
| • Hutchinson | • Yankton |
| • Kingsbury | |



PRIVATE LAND HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAMS

State statutes (SDCL 20-9-12 through SDCL 20-9-18) protect landowners who enroll in these programs from certain liability.

WALK-IN AREA PROGRAM (WIA)

- » Enrolled land is open to public hunting access for the duration of all hunting seasons and is limited to foot-traffic only.
- » Annual Payment
 - Eastern South Dakota + Lyman, Gregory, & Tripp Counties
 - * \$1/acre - base access annual payment
 - * +\$9/acre - habitat bonus annual payment for undisturbed habitat (CRP, wetlands, woody cover, grassland, etc.)
 - Western South Dakota
 - * Most WIAs annual payments range from \$0.60 – 1.50/acre
 - * Payment depends on size, habitat, and potential hunter use & opportunity
 - * Payment may be the same as Eastern SD for land in Bennett, Corson, Dewey, Haakon, Harding, Jones, Mellette, Perkins, Stanley, or Ziebach County that contains undisturbed habitat and good pheasant hunting opportunity.
- » Signing Bonus Payment – One-time upfront bonus payment for multi-year contracts
 - Up to \$5/ac./year for undisturbed habitat in Butte, Meade, Lawrence, Pennington, Jackson, Custer, Fall River, Ogalala Lakota, & Bennett County.
 - Up to \$10/ac./year for undisturbed habitat in rest of the state.
 - Signing bonuses are also available for high demand big game hunting opportunity as approved by regional review teams.
 - Must be paid back in full if contract is cancelled early
- » Restrictions can be placed on WIA (ex. Not Open Until Nov 1 (50% annual payment), No Hunting in Unharvested Crops, No Rifle hunting)
- » Annual Payment is issued in February following fall hunting season.

CONTROLLED HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM (CHAP)

- » Enrolled land is open to limited public hunting access by foot-traffic only.
- » Landowners can limit:
 - The number of hunters/day
 - Type of game that can be hunted
 - Type of take (ex. Archery only)
 - Dates the area is open
- » CHAP annual payments are based on the number of hunters that use the area.
 - \$10/hunter/day
 - Minimum annual payment of \$250
 - CHAPs of 1,000 acres or more receive additional \$250/yr.
- » Signing bonuses may be paid for multi-year contracts that provide priority hunting opportunity for deer, elk, pheasant, turkey, or waterfowl. Bonus payment amount determined by regional review team.
- » New CHAP Signing Bonus of \$1,000 for a new three year or longer CHAP contract. Only applies to new land being enrolled in CHAP.
- » Landowners manage hunter access via direct contact or a self-serve check box or through an on-line reservation system.
- » Hunters without a permission slip can be cited.



CO-OP WIA HUNTING ACCESS AREA FACT SHEET

State statutes (SDCL 20-9-12 through SDCL 20-9-18) protect landowners who enroll in these programs from certain liability.

Whole farms units that offer a diverse mix of cropland and undisturbed habitat such as wetlands, CRP, and woody habitat are leased to provide walk-in public hunting opportunity.

- » Driving is allowed on harvested crop land to place and retrieve waterfowl decoys and for disabled hunter permit holders to hunt any game (see payment options below based on vehicle type). All other hunting is by walk-in access only.
- » No hunting is allowed while farm machinery is present in the fields.
- » Enrolled land is open to all hunting for the duration of all hunting seasons in the enrolled area.
- » The cooperators must be legally able (ownership or rental agreement that includes hunting privileges) to enroll offered land.

ANNUAL PAYMENT OPTIONS

Driving Allowed by All Vehicles

- » \$3/acre if at least 20% of the land leased is undisturbed habitat
- » \$2/acre if less than 20% of the land leased is undisturbed habitat

Driving Restricted to ATVs/UTVs (All-Terrain Vehicles/Utility Terrain Vehicles) and Trailers Only

- » \$2.25/acre if at least 20% of the land leased is undisturbed habitat and driving is limited to ATVs/UTVs only
- » \$1.25/acre if less than 20% of the land leased is undisturbed habitat and driving is limited to ATVs/UTVs only

SIGNING BONUS

- » An upfront signing bonus is paid for multi-year contracts up to 10 years.
- » The signing bonus is calculated by multiplying 1/2 of the annual payment by the number of years of the contract. Example: A 3-year contract for 1,000 acres eligible for \$2/ac. would receive an annual payment of \$2,000 and a one-time upfront signing bonus of \$3,000 ($1/2 \times \$2,000 \times 3$ years).
- » The signing bonus must be repaid in full if the contract is terminated early for any reason by the cooperator.



ELK HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM

GUIDELINES FOR LANDOWNER PARTICIPATION

The purpose of the program is to provide access opportunities for elk hunters to private land with cooperating landowners, especially to assist private landowners who are experiencing elk depredation by increasing the opportunity for successful hunter harvests in the problem area.

REQUIREMENTS:

- » Private lands are eligible if they are within the boundaries of any elk unit.
- » Landowners will be required to sign a contract describing what land is enrolled, valid for a oneyear hunting season. Contracts will be reevaluated each following year and renewed if criteria are still met.
- » Landowner contact information will be provided to individual hunters upon request. This information will not be published in any public format (website, hunting handbook, etc.).
- » If no elk harvest occurs over a 3-year span, hunter use days will be reviewed and the landowner may be removed from the program for at least 1 year if hunters are not actively utilizing the property.



PAYMENTS:

- » Base payments start at \$0.50 per acre enrolled for antlerless elk only access
 - Maximum contract base payment of \$2,000.00
- » Base payments start at \$1.00 per acre enrolled for Any Elk access
 - Maximum contract base payment of \$7,000.00
- » Incentive payment-
- » \$200 incentive for each harvested elk
 - Landowner must complete Elk Access Hunter Information Sheet
 - * Failure to provide hunter information sheet will be considered noncompliance with the terms of the contract, effectively voiding said contract and no payments will be made.
 - * Track all hunters not just successful hunters
 - * Hunter information sheets provided no later than January 31st
 - * Return to GFP staff



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

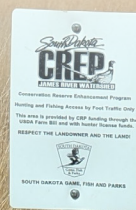
The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a partnership between a local or state government entity or a non-governmental organization and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to develop a customized Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) project targeting specific conservation issues within a targeted area.

CREP projects are usually centered on specific watersheds to address water quality issues and other resource concerns by enrolling cropland and marginal pastureland into grassland and wetland habitat.

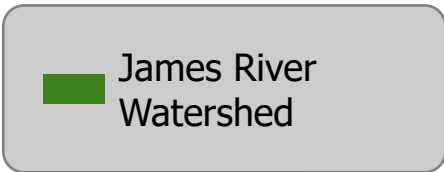
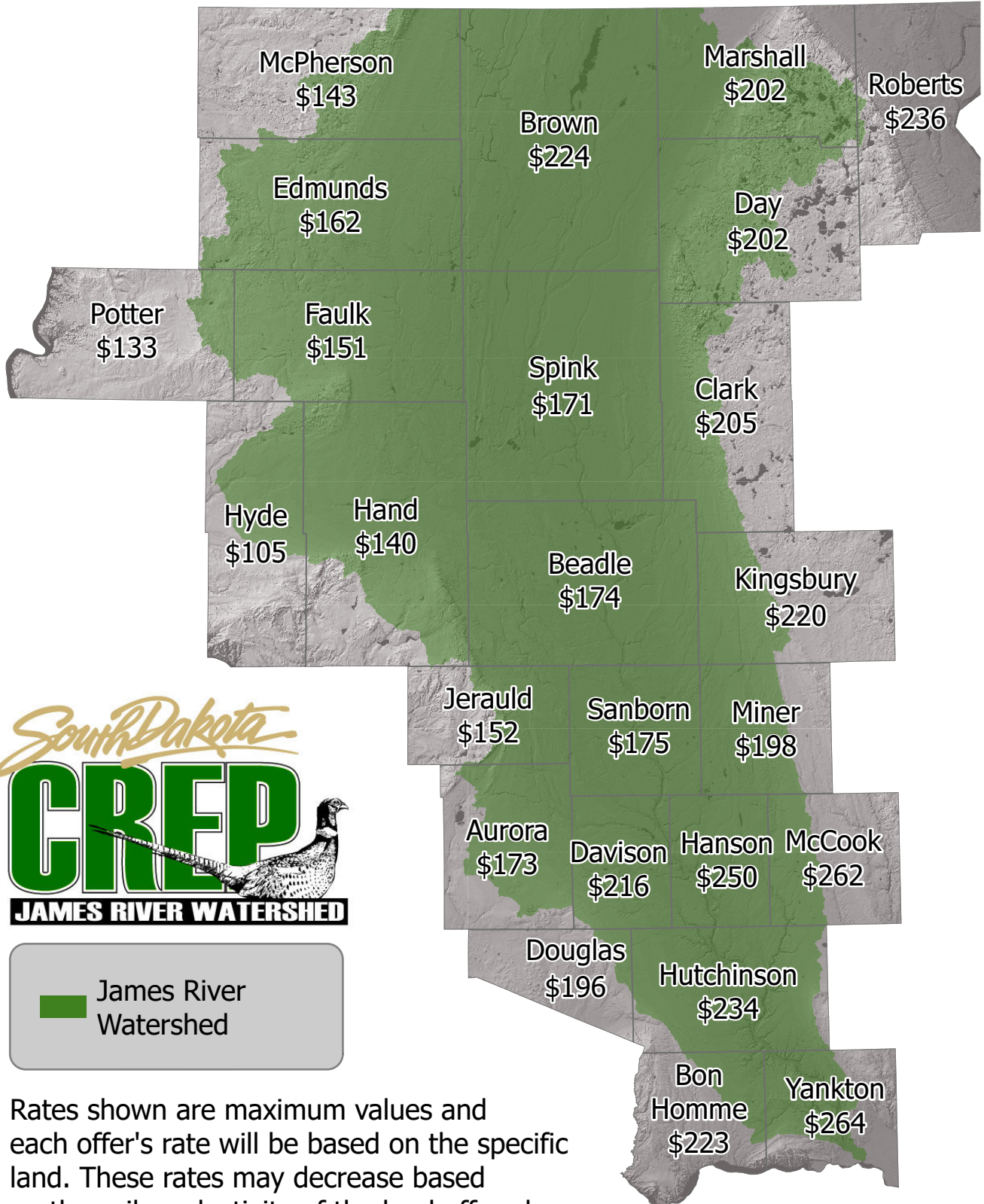
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has partnered with FSA to create two CREP projects in South Dakota. The Big Sioux River Watershed (BSRW) CREP and James River Watershed (JRW) CREP.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

- » CREP allows landowners and producers to enroll land into 10 to 15-year contracts and receive a higher rental rate than if they were to just enroll their land in CRP.
- » The participants receive annual rental payments from both USDA FSA and GFP.
- » GFP's annual payments average between 31-34% of the CRP payment in addition to the payment made by FSA on the CRP contract.
- » CRP acres that expired may also be eligible to be re-enrolled into CREP.
- » Enrollment is facilitated by working with a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist in coordination with GFP and USDA FSA.
- » All land enrolled in one of these CREP projects is open to public walk-in hunting and fishing access.



2026 CREP Maximum Rental Rate/Acre Total of Federal CRP and SD GFP CREP Payments

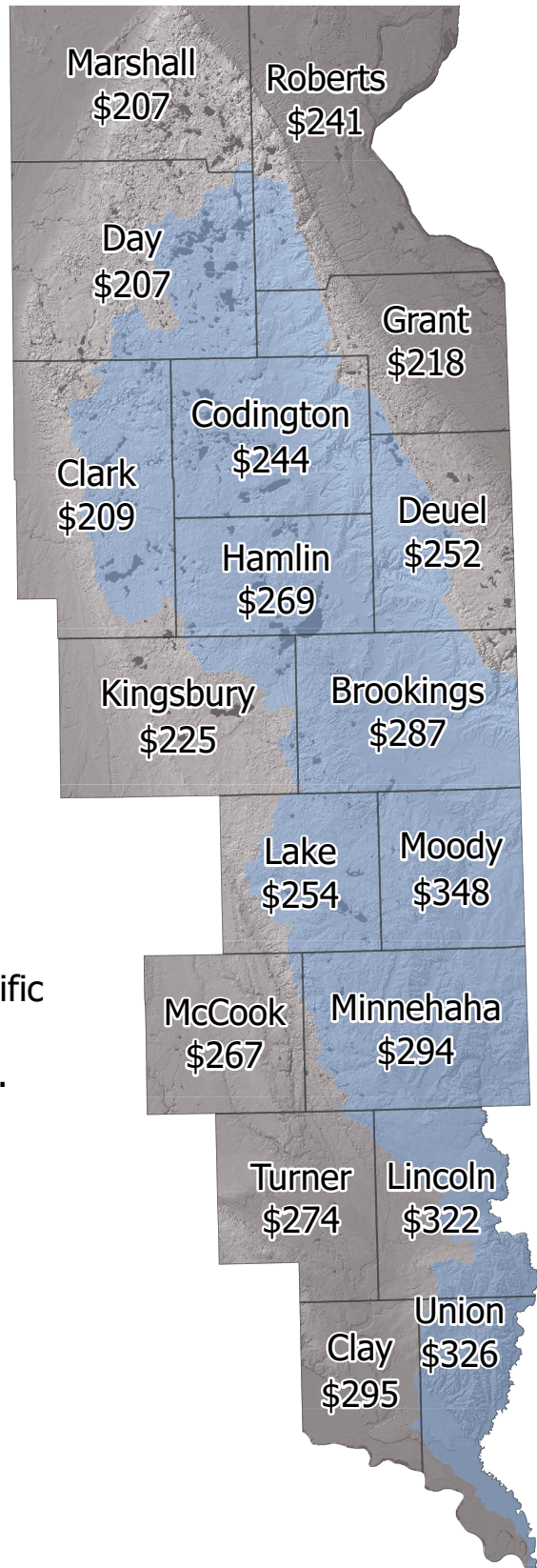
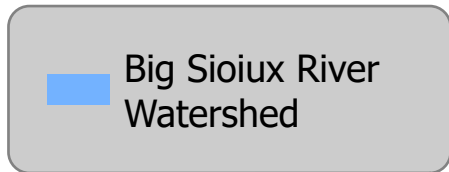


Rates shown are maximum values and each offer's rate will be based on the specific land. These rates may decrease based on the soil productivity of the land offered.



2/12/2026

2026 CREP Maximum Rental Rate/Acre Total of Federal CRP and SD GFP CREP Payments



Rates shown are maximum values and each offer's rate will be based on the specific land. These rates may decrease based on the soil productivity of the land offered.



PHEASANTS FOREVER®



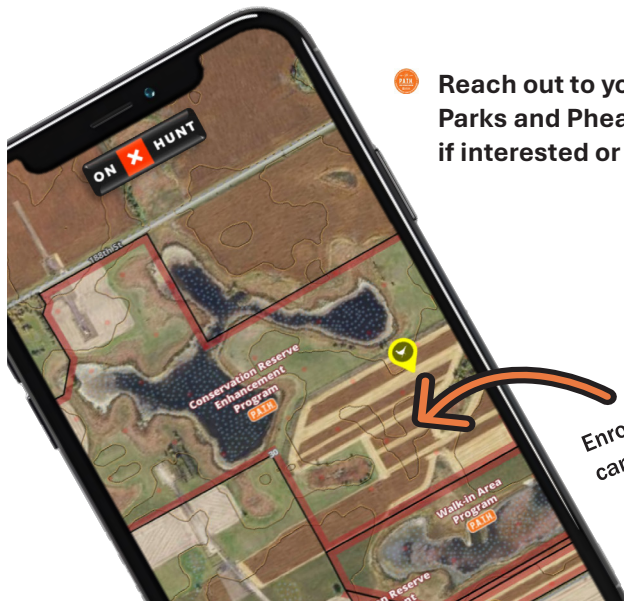
Public Access to Habitat (PATH)

Program Overview

- Voluntary enrollment program focused on long term public access for hunting on private lands.
- Pheasants Forever partnered up with Game Fish and Park’s Walk in Program (WIA), onX Hunt, and South Dakota Tourism.
 - The goal is to create healthy habitats, boost wildlife populations, impacted rural South Dakota economies, and provided new places for public hunting.
- Since Sept. of 2023, PATH has helped open **76,800 NEW public acres across South Dakota!**
 - PATH properties are located in 38 counties throughout South Dakota.
- PATH is focused on enrolling high-quality habitat and undisturbed areas for public hunting.
 - CRP, Easements, Shelterbelts, Wetlands, Grasslands and well managed range lands.
 - High quality habitat will receive a one-time payment up to \$25/acre.
 - 10-year contracts or matching Game Fish and Parks WIA contract length.



● Reach out to your local Game Fish and Parks and Pheasants Forever biologists if interested or want more information.



Enrolled PATH acres can be found on the onX Hunt App!

Scan Here to Learn More!



www.pheasantsforever.org/path

AQUATIC HABITAT AND ACCESS PROGRAM

Fish Management Agreement

Agreement between a landowner and the Department which allows for open public access to fisheries located on private property. Department would provide assistance to the landowner which may take the form of fish stockings and fisheries management. A financial incentive also exists for landowner. Form is free of charge and available at gfp.sd.gov/forms/fishmanagement/.

Aquatic Access Lease Agreements

Agreement between landowner and the Department to lease private property next to waterbodies, often 1 - 5 acres, but can be larger and there is no maximum. Can utilize grants (e.g., NRCS VPA-HIP) to incentivize with bonus payments (generally \$500/yr for 5-year contract, \$1,000/year for 10-year contract, etc.), along with annual payments to the landowner. These leases can be tailored to each specific scenario; however, for non-meandered waters, there is a maximum of 10 years for an agreement. For more information, please work with the area Aquatic Habitat and Access Biologist in your area: gfp.sd.gov/contactus/.

Resource Management Forms:

Application to Stock a Public Waterbody: Provides authorization by the Department for and individual to stock fish into a public water (i.e., surface water) within the state. The application is free of charge and available online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/ under “Resource Management” within “Aquatic Resource Permitting”.

Shoreline Alteration Permit: Provides authorization by the Department for an individual to conduct alterations to shoreline property. The application is free of charge and available online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/ under “Resource Management” within “Aquatic Resource Permitting”.

Landowner Authorization Form

Allows for certain fisheries management activities by a landowner or their designee on man-made waters where they control all the access. These activities can include using special types of gear (e.g., nets and electrofishing) and stocking of certain species of fish. There is no fee or expiration date. The form is free of charge and available at gfp.sd.gov/forms/ under “Resource Management” within “Aquatic Resource Permitting”.

Shoreline Restoration Program

Incentivizes landowners with lakeside property to return shoreline habitat to native vegetation and natural appearance. These projects can be tailored to each specific scenario. For more information, please work with the area Aquatic Habitat and Access Biologist in your area: gfp.sd.gov/contactus/.



AQUATIC HABITAT AND ACCESS PROGRAM

Chemical Plant Control

Provides authorization by the Department for an individual to conduct certain activities in regard to control of aquatic plants through the use of chemicals. The application is free of charge and available online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/ under "Resource Management" within "Aquatic Resource Permitting".

Boat Dock Variance

Provides authorization by the Department to allow for exemptions from the standards dimensions and placement requirements of boat docks and lifts. The application is free of charge and available online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/ under "Resource Management" within "Aquatic Resource Permitting".

Other topics to direct towards the area Aquatic Habitat and Access Biologist:

- » Non-meandered waters
- » Riparian work
- » Alternative Water Source
- » Fencing



AQUATIC ACCESS LEASE GUIDELINES

State statutes (SDCL 20-9-13 through SDCL 20-9-15) protects landowners who enroll in access programs from certain liabilities

Aquatic Access Lease Program

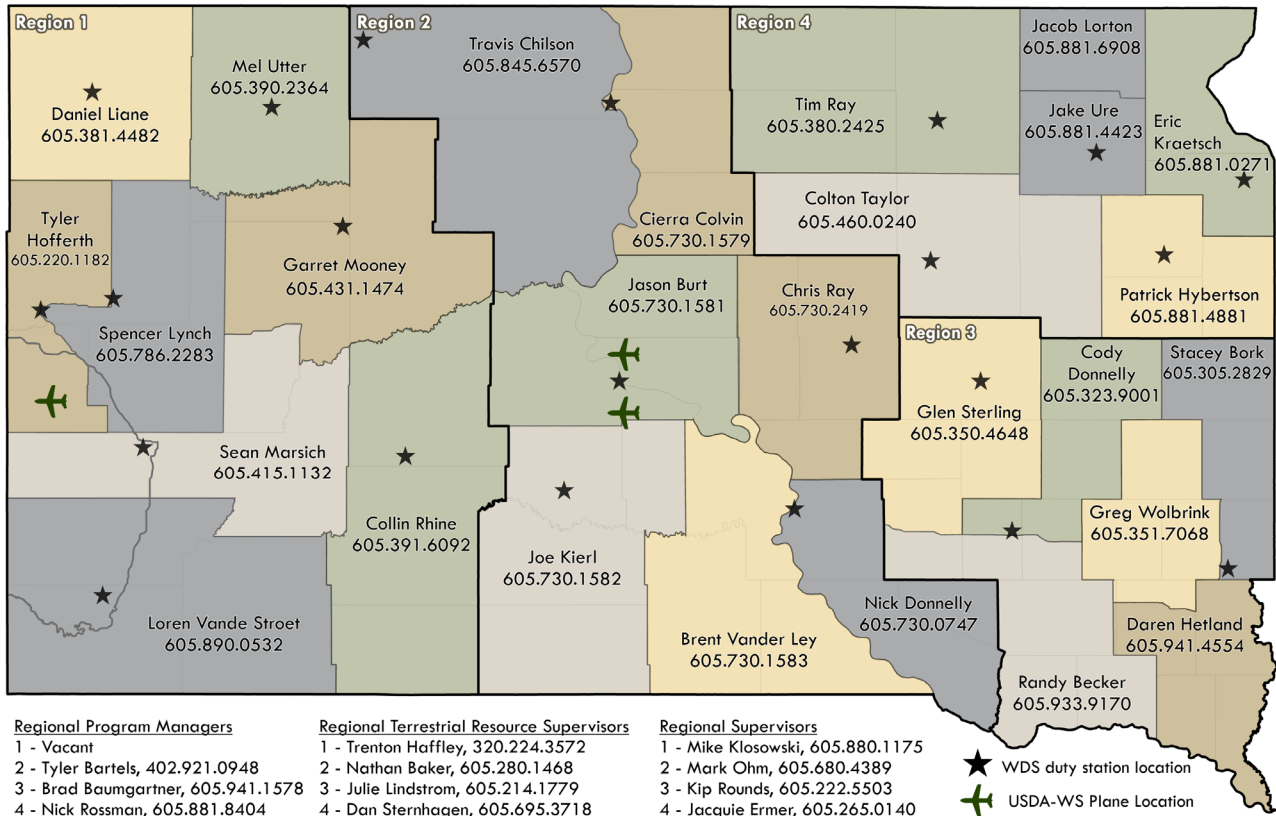
- » Enrolled land and water is open to public water access all year round.
 - Unless otherwise listed in lease (ex: ice fishing only or restricted date ranges).
 - Can be paired with other programs like WIA for hunting and fishing access to increase payment.
- » General Guidelines
 - No size restrictions on acreage.
 - May or may not allow vehicle and boat access via road, parking, ramp establishment.
 - Non-Meandered Waters max term is set to 10 years.
 - Statewide Review Team will review requests for nontypical amounts and exceptions.
- » Annual Payment
 - \$500/year base payment term.
 - Added payment rates based on access amenities and fishery present.
 - Access considerations: Boat, shore, and ice access, boating restrictions, % waterbody owned, size of waterbody, proximity to population centers, other opportunities allowed (i.e. hunting/trapping), and neighboring views.
 - Fishery considerations: Max water depth, current fish population characteristics, desired regulations outside statewide limits.
- » Signing Bonus Payment
 - One-time upfront bonus payment for multi-year contracts.
 - Must be paid back for unused full years if cancelled early.
 - \$500/year for 5-year term.
 - Increases by \$500/year for every added 5-year term (ex: \$1,000/year for 10-year contract).
- » Annual Payment is issued in May or November depending on the time of sign up.
- » Restrictions can be placed on Access Leases.
 - May reduce annual payment amount.
 - Examples – No hunting, No access during calving, Waterfowl restrictions, ice access only, etc.





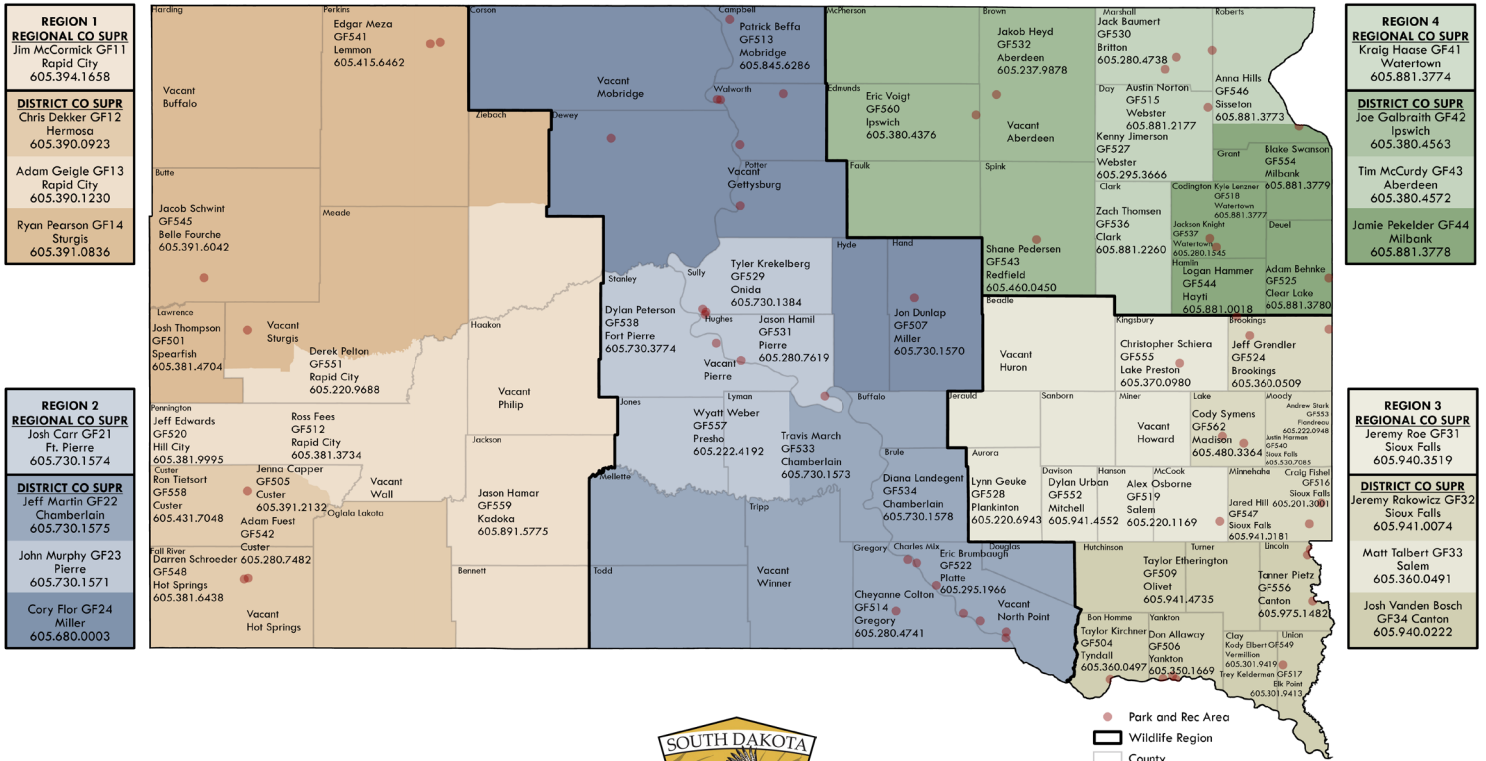
WILDLIFE DAMAGE SPECIALISTS

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH & PARKS



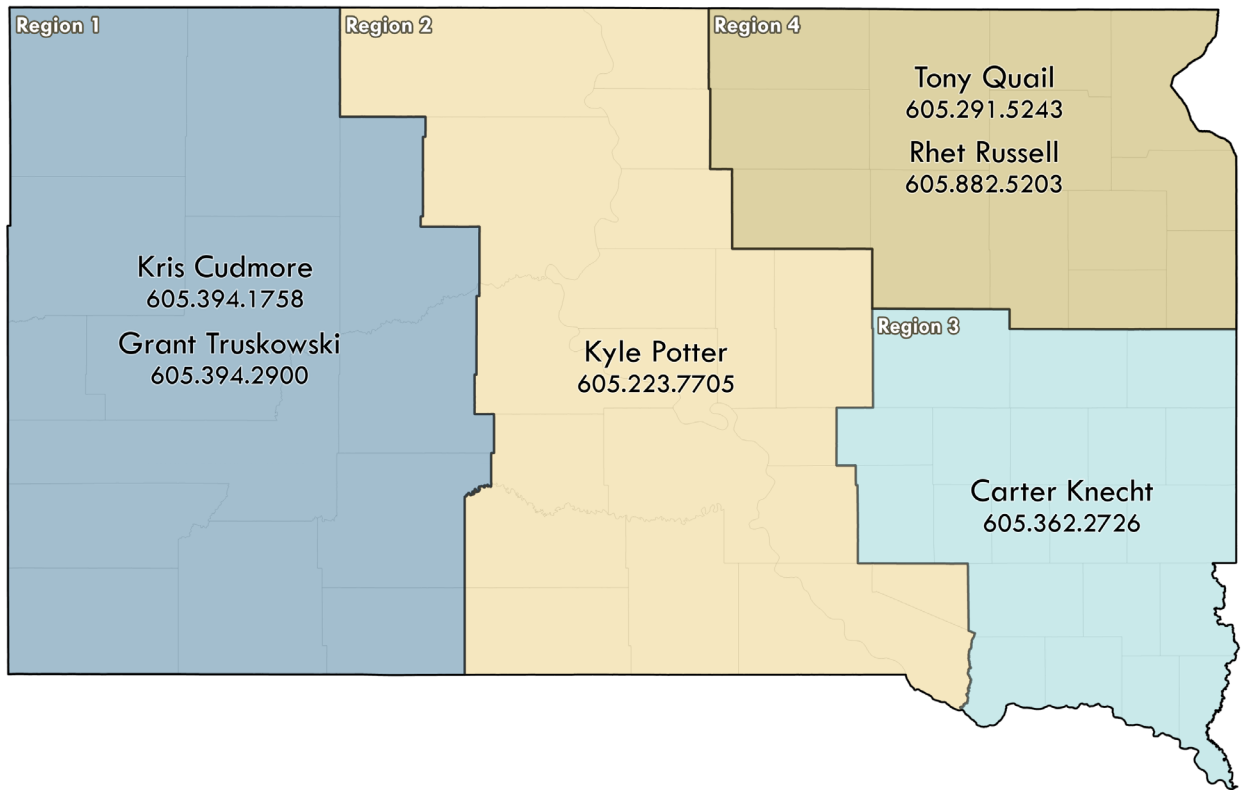
LAW ENFORCEMENT

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH & PARKS





AQUATIC HABITAT AND ACCESS BIOLOGISTS SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH & PARKS



PRIVATE LANDS HABITAT AND ACCESS BIOLOGISTS SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH & PARKS

