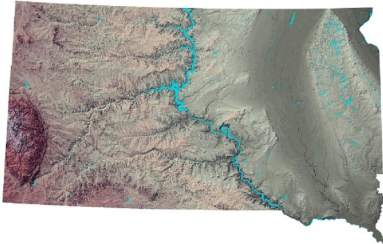


Conservation Implementation Strategy Project Cedar Control on Native Grasslands



The Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) is a new phased-in approach to deliver conservation programs to farmers and ranchers across South Dakota. Funding for CIS comes through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Funding and support from other agencies and groups can be leveraged and coordinated to focus on mutual issues of the highest priority.

For more information, go to:
<https://bit.ly/SDNRCS-CIS>

This Project At-A-Glance

Partners

SD Association of Conservation Districts
SD Grassland Coalition
Charles Mix Conservation District
National Wild Turkey Federation
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Pheasants Forever
Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association
The Bureau of Indian Affairs-Yankton Agency

Funding for this project is provided by the EQIP Program and partners with financial and in-kind contributions.

Contact:
Alex Petrik
Field Manager
Lake Andes Field Office
USDA-NRCS
alex.petrik@usda.gov
(605) 487-7577

Background

Historically, the hills and land around the banks of the Missouri River were well vegetated grasslands. The water resources and rich lands allowed early settlers to farm and ranch for a profit as well as hunt to eat. As settlers began protecting their land from wildfires and other natural disasters, the land was left unprotected against invasive species, specifically the Eastern Red Cedar glacier, and leaving less acres for grazing.

Resource Concern(s)

The two main resource concerns to be addressed with this project are degraded plant conditions for cattle grazing and inadequate habitat for wildlife. Controlling the invasive Eastern Red Cedar glacier is critical to protect habitats for birds and mammals, as well as protecting quality grasses for grazing.

Goals

The goal is to remove as many trees possible to create a sustainable productive grassland.

Desired Outcomes

With more grass and a better growth of hardwoods, the number of cattle on these working lands can be increased. More wildlife habitat will be produced by creating more favorable habitat conditions resulting in increased wildlife numbers. Not only will that be beneficial for the ecosystem, but also for the many sportsmen in South Dakota who hunt these animals for food.

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