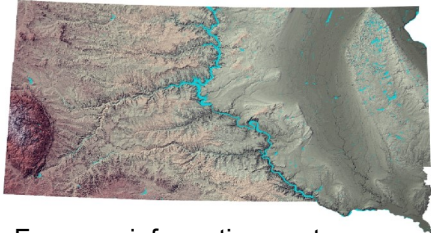


Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

Upper James River Saline/Sodic Soils Conservation Initiative



For more information, go to:

<https://bit.ly/SDNRCS-CIS>

This Project At-A-Glance

Partners

Day, Brown, South Brown/
Marshall, Spink, Clark
County Conservation Districts
Pheasants Forever
South Dakota Corn
SD Soil Health Coalition
Ducks Unlimited-South Dakota
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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

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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.

Background

Changes in land use, in commodity crop production techniques, and in crop rotations, in conjunction with above average precipitation, has allowed soils at risk of being saline/sodic affected to become nonproductive. This provides no economic returns to the producers nor any wildlife benefit. If traditional management continues, these saline sodic areas will continue to form, existing areas will expand, resulting in loss of production, loss of income, and loss of wildlife habitat.

Resource Concern(s)

The concerns include soil quality limitation, wind and water erosion, concentrated erosion, degraded plant condition, pest pressure, soil organic matter and livestock production limitations.

Goals

This initiative addresses resource concerns associated with saline/sodic areas using vegetative practices in order to return impacted areas back to production, as well as prevent the expansion of existing areas, and most critically, prevent formation of

new saline/sodic areas through producer education and technical and financial assistance.

Desired Outcomes

Implementing this project plan will address the resource concerns through the use of conservation practices which use vegetative practices as well as changes in management. Within the project area, following implantation, 6,000 acres identified as already being highly impacted by soil quality limitation (salt/sodic concentrations) will be in the process of being healed, stabilized, or brought back into production or wildlife habitat. Further, this initiative will prevent the formation of new saline/sodic areas on 24,000 acres of at-risk crop ground by using appropriate preventive management practices and stakeholder education.

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