

Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

The Oakwood Lakes Watershed



For more information, go to:
www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov -> [Programs](#) / -
> [Farm Bill](#) -> / Conservation
Implementation Strategy (CIS)

This Project At-A-Glance

Partners

Brookings Conservation District
East Dakota Water Development District
SD Association of Conservation Districts

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

Contact:

Jeremy Sova
District Conservationist
USDA NRCS, Brookings Field Office
jeremy.sova@usda.gov
(605) 692-8003

The Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) is a new phased-in approach to deliver conservation programs to farmers and ranchers across South Dakota (SD). 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

The Oakwood Lakes Watershed spans a total area of 55,040 acres. Within the watershed are the three lakes (East Oakwood Lake, Johnson Lake, and Lake Tetonkaha) that are the epicenter of the watershed. The predominate production within the watershed varies between crop and livestock. The Oakwood Lakes Watershed is comprised of two smaller individual watersheds. Oakwood Lakes is an especially important part of Brookings County that provides recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat.

Resource Concerns

Excess nutrients is the priority resource concern to be addressed. Secondary concerns are excess pesticides and sediment in the water. Because of the lack of watering facilities, livestock producers are forced

to use streams and creeks as a water source. This threatens the integrity of the stream banks, ultimately causing erosion. High nutrient loads and sedimentation continue to cause a loss of both aquatic and terrestrial habitat and decrease in overall water quality.

Goal

The goal is to install a suite of conservation practices that reduce nutrient and pesticide levels in surface water and reduce soil erosion including: Grassed Waterways, Cover Crops, Prescribed Grazing, Stream Crossings, Reduced Tillage, and more.

**South Dakota
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**



Desired Results

To address these resource concerns, we have prioritized primary and secondary practices as to how we will focus our implementation in addressing the excess sedimentation in the watershed.

The installed practices will address major gullies and eroded areas on pasture and cropland, and be healed by seeding back to grass using species unique to their forage suitability classes.

Primary Practices	Secondary Practices
Grassed Waterway (412)	Critical Area Plating (342)
Cover Crops (340)	Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Prescribed Grazing (528)	Livestock Pipeline (516)
Filter Strip (393)	Heavy Use Protection Area (561)
Residue and Tillage Management - No-till (329)	Mulching (484)
Residue and Tillage Management- Reduced Till (345)	Stream and Shoreline Protection (580)
Nutrient Management (590)	Stream Crossing (578)
Pest Management Conservation System (595)	Livestock Watering Facility (Livestock) (614)
	Fence (382)

Primary and Secondary Practices chosen to have the highest benefit factor for addressing our given resource concerns.

