

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Conservation Implementation Strategy Project
**Resilient Forests -
Lawrence County, South Dakota**



This Project At-A-Glance

Partners

Lawrence Conservation District

South Dakota Department of
Agriculture and Natural
Resources (SD DANR)

South Dakota Department of
Public Safety, Division of
Wildland Fire

South Dakota Family Forests
Association

USDA Forest Service

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

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). Funding and support from other agencies and groups can be leveraged and coordinated to focus on mutual issues of the highest priority.

Background

South of Interstate-90, the majority of Lawrence County is forested land dominated by ponderosa pine. Many of the pine stands are overstocked, meaning there are too many trees. Historically, this condition has contributed to insect infestation and wildfire spread.

Communities such as Deadwood, Lead, Nemo, and Spearfish are continually expanding into the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and within the vicinity of forests at high risk from wildfire.

Resource Concerns

Plant structure and composition and wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation are the priority resource concerns to be addressed.

Wildfire resulting from increased forest density and fuels could significantly alter collection and transportation of freshwater through watersheds. Moderate to severe fire can also negatively impact soil physical properties and hydrologic functioning.

Goals

The goals are to apply a host of conservation practices that promote forest health and reduce wildfire risk, which includes reducing stand densities and fuels accumulation, removing encroaching conifers from grasslands and meadows, improving forage productions and habitat diversity, and mitigating invasive species spread.

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Desired Outcomes

To address these resource concerns, we have prioritized primary and secondary practices that will focus our implementation on addressing wildfire hazard and plant structure and composition.

The applied practices will address overstocked conifer stands, encroaching conifers into pasturelands, and noxious weed establishment.

Core Practices	Supporting Practices
Forest Stand Improvement (666)	Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
Brush Management (314)	
Fuel Break (383)	
Woody Residue Treatment (384)	

Time Table of Project

- Batching: February 4, 2022
- Eligibility: March 11, 2022
- Ranking: July 29, 2022
- Obligation: August 31, 2022

