

Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

Resilient Forest Landscapes - Meade County, SD



This Project At-A-Glance

Partners

Elk Creek Conservation District

Meade County Weed and Pest

South Dakota Department of
Agriculture and Natural
Resources

South Dakota Department of
Public Safety, Division of
Wildland Fire

South Dakota Family Forests
Association

USDA Forest Service

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The Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) is a 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

The majority of southwestern Meade 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.

With increased urban encroachment into forested lands, communities such as Black Hawk, Piedmont, Sturgis, and Tilford are now within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and in the vicinity of forests at high risk for wildfire.

Resource Concerns

Vegetation 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 affect soil properties and hydrologic functions.

Goals

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

South Dakota
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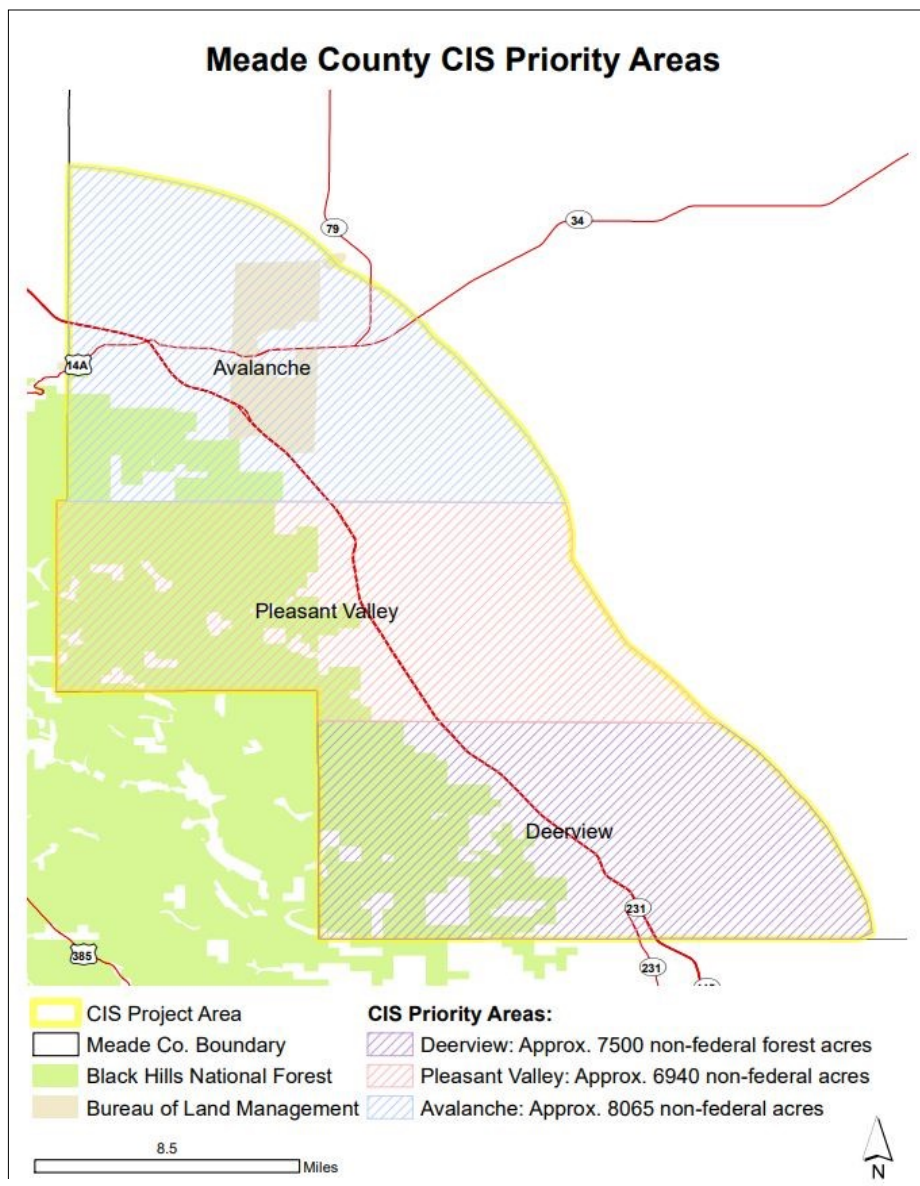
Desired Outcomes

To address these resource concerns, primary and secondary practices have been prioritized to focus implementation in order to address wildfire hazard and plant structure and composition. These will address overstocked conifer stands, conifers encroaching into pasturelands, and spread of noxious weeds.

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

Time Table of Project

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



Map 1. The Meade County project area (yellow) and priority areas, Deerview (purple), Pleasant Valley (pink), and Avalanche (blue).

