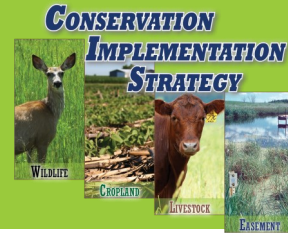


Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Project



This Project At-A-Glance

Partners:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

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

Background

The Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Project is a targeted approach working with landowners in focus areas to improve grazing systems, restore grasslands, and eradicate problematic woody vegetation. Because sharp-tailed grouse are sensitive to grassland quantity and quality, conservation must focus on enhancing, preserving, and restoring critical habitat. Management practices on rangeland, such as rotational grazing, provide financial stability on the ranch, while improving range condition and habitat for sharp-tailed grouse.

Goals

Objective #1: Improve grazing management to increase grouse habitat on existing grasslands.

Objective #2: Establish additional habitat through conversion of cropland to native grassland.

Objective #3: Improve native grassland quality through control of invasive tree species.

Target Area

The Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Project area includes land located in Campbell, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Grant, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, and Walworth Counties. Within these counties, low, medium, and high priority areas exist. Priority areas are based on a recent habitat suitability model created by the South Dakota Department of Game,

Fish and Parks (SDGFP) staff. See Figure 1 on the reverse.

Application Priority

Applications for the Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Project will be accepted for land located within the 10-county area. Preference will be given to applicants based on the high, medium, and low priority areas.

Funding Priority

Funding decisions will be based on a ranking process. Applications will be evaluated based on how well the planned activities meet the goals and objectives of the project.

Application Process

To get started on a conservation plan, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Office or SDGFP biologist. Applications for the Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Project can be found at your local NRCS. Applications must be submitted to NRCS by January 21, 2022, to be eligible for 2022 funding.

**South Dakota
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**



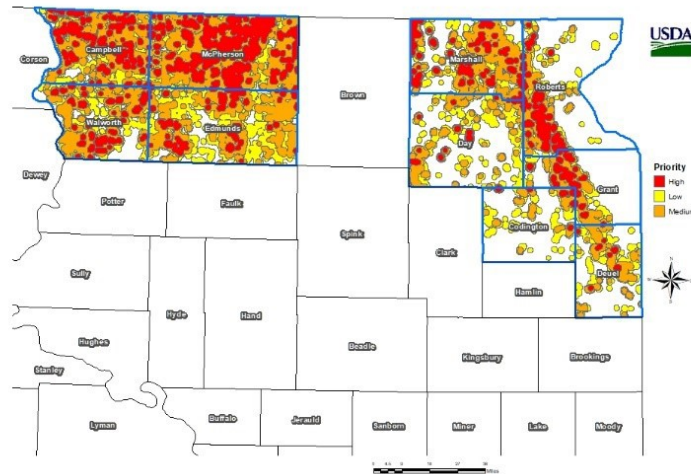


Figure 1 Sharp-tailed Grouse Priority Areas

Core Practices*	Supporting Practices
Conservation Cover (327)	Brush Management (314)
Prescribed Grazing (528)	Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
Range Planting (550)	Prescribed Burning (338)
	Cover Crops (340)**
	Fence (382)
	Wood Residue Treatment (384)
	Obstruction Removal (500)
	Livestock Pipeline (516)
	Pumping Plant (533)
	Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
	Watering Facility (614)
	Water Well (642)

***Note:** To qualify for project fund, at least one of the following core practices must be applied on the contracted acres.

****Note:** Season long cover crops only.

Time Table of Project

- **Batching Date: January 21, 2022**

