

South Dakota Habitat Conservation Fund 2016 Small Grant Awards

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project Description</u>
Ducks Unlimited	Firesteel Wetlands	\$10,000.00	A Plankinton-area producer and rancher approached Ducks Unlimited about project assistance to repair a breached dam in some pasture he rents in Aurora County. The earthen dam had run over approximately six years ago and head-cut to the point where it is no longer holding water. Attempts were made to repair the cut, but were unsuccessful. The existing dam is overrun with trees and is unrepairable. This dam retains water that runs into the West Branch of the Firesteel Creek (approximately 1/2 mile downstream), a stream noted for impaired water quality from excessive sediments, bacteria, and nutrients. Ducks Unlimited will reconstruct this dam moving the centerline slightly downstream including a water control structure with a primary and emergency spillway capable of handling a 100-year precipitation event. An adjacent landowner also has four drained temporary basins in an adjacent field currently in CRP, and has agreed to allow DU to restore these wetlands in conjunction with the dam construction. DU feels this is a unique opportunity to assist a private landowner resulting in great improvements in water control and quality, and restoring critical wildlife habitat.
Ducks Unlimited	Hyde County Right-of-Way	\$5,137.50	Approximately 35 acres of highway right-of-way will be re-seeded to a diverse mix of native grassland species, improving habitat for pheasants, ducks and other ground nesting birds.
Ducks Unlimited	SD Highway 37 ROW Habitat Improvement	\$7,462.50	Approximately 55 acres of highway right-of-way along SD Highway 37 in Brown County will be re-seeded to a diverse mix of native grassland species, improving habitat for pheasants, ducks and other ground nesting birds.
Pheasant Forever Northern SD Chapter	Aberdeen Pheasants Coalition Project	\$30,000.00	A pilot project that provides a one time up front sign up incentive of \$25/ acre to farmers and landowners in Brown County who enroll a minimum of 40 acres into CRP dense nesting cover or brood rearing habitat and also enroll these same acres into South Dakota Game Fish and Parks' public Walk-In Hunting Access program. Acres enrolled thru this program will be open to public hunting for the life of the CRP contract (minimum 10 years to a maximum of 15 years). Grant funds will be matched with \$70,000 from the Aberdeen Businesses and the Aberdeen Tourist Industry as well as the local Northern SD (Aberdeen) Pheasants Forever Chapter #77.
Ducks Unlimited	Swan Lake Restoration	\$15,360.00	Ducks Unlimited and other partners will restore the wetland basins on a 240 acre piece of land along the south shore of Swan Lake in Clark County. It will also enhance the grasslands by creating a diverse mix of warm-season native grasses to provide a more robust and resilient upland habitat for many species of wildlife.
Pheasants Forever	CRP Habitat Enhancement in Deuel County	\$30,000.00	Enhance 1,000 acres of new and existing CRP plantings in Deuel County with higher forb seeding rates and greater forb diversity.
Ducks Unlimited	Mallard Dam Repair	\$20,000.00	Partner with the U.S. Forest Service, and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to repair Mallard Dam, a 28-acre small lake south of Pierre on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands. The property is heavily used by the public for both hunting and fishing

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Pheasants Forever Brookings Chapter	Nesting/Rearing Habitat on Working Lands: A Pilot Project in the Big Sioux River Watershed	\$30,000.00	Sign up 5-10 landowner's for Pilot Projects, keeping in mind locations for "tour potential" access and visibility. Establish three (3) deferred grazing or haying practices pilot locations within watershed. Prepare and establish habitat practices on three (3) center pivot irrigation system locations corners (four six acre corners or 24 acres per 160 acre center pivot site). Establish nesting cover on three (3) low productivity (15-20 acre sites). Develop a budget of expenses and revenues on each practice site to generate an economic analysis of practice, returns to landowner including valuing the wildlife returns, water quality benefits and environment returns were tangible. Incorporate the economic analysis as a portion of the tour/video presentation. Educate and market to landowners available practices and encourage adoption of "niche conservation" in some manner on their land. Prepare pilot sites and establish a watershed tour for landowners, land operators and community to see practices and economics of establishing wildlife habitat. Create a video of practices using incorporating traditional and "drone" video clips to illustrate the visual accomplishments and insert economic analysis as discussion. Use tour events and video to create more landowner and community interest to establish long-term practices and funding sources (County/Community Wildlife Coalitions).
	Total Awarded	\$147,960.00	