

PHEASANT HABITAT SUMMIT
Break-out Session Ideas/Suggestions by Categories
December 6, 2013

Tax Issues

- Tax property according to its use
 - Lower taxes according to land use type
 - Reduce property taxes on nesting cover or food plots on private land
 - Change tax structure to re-assess grasslands
 - Tax property based on land use - grasslands not taxed as agricultural land
 - Erodible land vs. cropland
 - Taxation based on what is being raised on the land
 - Conservation Reserve Program Enhancement Incentives – provide a 50% property tax reduction on CRP
 - Tax land on its use, not on soil productivity type as it is now
 - Evaluate taxation policies in regard to land use
 - Provide tax exemptions
 - Reform taxing by soil type
 - Rearrange tax structure - actual use taxation
 - Actual use of land for tax assessment, instead of “best use”
 - Tax land based on actual use
 - Compensate (taxes) to leave wetlands
 - Tax incentive to allow producers to keep grass- tax on actual use
 - Taxed based on specific land use
 - Base land taxes upon actual use vs. land potential
 - Property tax reduction on grassland or trees
 - More direction for Directors of Equalization about possible adjustments for land with easements or uses of land, such as grasslands
 - Level playing field on soil taxation - go to more of an “actual use” taxation
 - Property taxes should be taxed at actual use instead of capability - grassland rates vs. cropland rates
 - Property tax adjustment for lands such as shelterbelts and other wildlife habitat
 - Present tax structure is negative when trying to keep grass on your land
 - Tax structure needs to be based on how the land will be used rather than productivity
 - Remove taxes from lands enrolled in CRP program & additional incentives
- Increase state sales tax and dedicate toward habitat enhancement and protection
- Reevaluate taxation and develop incentives for producers on undeveloped section lines
- Need more consistency across counties for taxing property
- Eliminate the subjective appeals process in determining tax levels - causes variation between counties
- Tax benefits for public hunting - shifting of burden to more productive land - come from license dollars - stays within county

- Put money brought in from tourism taxes back into the habitat producers
- State policies changed taxation of CRP to productivity after re-enrollment of CRP was already done
- Establish a dedicated conservation funding through a portion of a tax
- Establish a mechanisms to fund habitat on private lands by round up to next dollar figure at stores (malls etc.) and call it habitat heritage for South Dakota
- Increase licenses fees
- Increase tourism tax and/or increase license prices to pay a bounty on predators

Policy and Regulation

- Easements
 - Grassland easements - change federal rules to allow more flexibility in land management
 - Relax federal easements (Fish and Wildlife easements) to allow more flexibility, so more elements can be added or changed on the easement land.
 - Allow landowners to buy back portions of easements that have farming history
 - Perpetual easements are scary - look at removing “perpetual” and put in a shorter timeframe
 - Work with USFWS to increase management on wetland easements
- Road Ditches & Rights-of-Way
 - Mowing ditches - manage roadsides for residual cover or all year not just through mid-July
 - Don't mow ditches but manage for better habitat along roadways - would provide habitat and more hunting opportunities; would also save counties money used for cutting the road ditches
 - Enforce section line and road right of way mowing date laws
 - Enforce ditch mowing and haying date
 - Farming right up to road leave ROW should be reduced
 - Better enforcement of ROW laws
 - Look at ditch mow policies concerning the state and landowners
 - Enforce laws to prevent farming of ditches- multiple supporters
 - Reduce railroad ROW mowing conserve the existing habitat
 - Implement “rules” to protect fence lines and road right of ways
 - Defer or stop mowing road ditches
 - Stop broadcast spraying of road ditches
 - Better protection and utilization of road right of ways by establishing rules and enforcing the laws already on the books
- Wetlands
 - Buffer area around tile outlets - leave some of the original wetland basin to allow for water conservation
 - Better tile management and restrictions
 - At state level better regulation of draining and tiling - negative effect on habitat

- Address tiling practices
- Regulate the draining of wetlands
- Establish wetland burn dates - similar to hay dates in road ditches
- Review/revise drainage laws
- Create wetland protection law or watershed drainage laws and tiling regulations
- State needs to pressure Federal government to improve and enforce tiling regulations - some are choosing to tile lands and opt out of the farm program and then “selling” them to a relative who then is permitted to re-enroll - Establish a method to permanently remove the tiled land from all farm programs for the future (crop insurance and other programs)
- Crop Insurance
 - Tie conservation compliance to crop Insurance premium subsidy eligibility
 - Exclude crop insurance payments to any native prairie broken
 - Tie federal crop insurance to comply with USDA rules
 - Visit crop insurance policies to unify so the winter cereals are insured
 - Sod-saver provision and farm bill - through crop insurance farmers can make too much money on first year of breaking sod up
 - Address crop insurance - currently a low risk for farmer to convert grassland to cropland
 - Conservation compliance being tied back into farm program participation (crop insurance)
 - Risk management insurance for pasture/range/livestock (i.e. crop insurance)
 - Reduce or eliminate crop insurance for marginal land being farmed
 - Revise/reform crop insurance program
- Establish incentives to keep land in grassland instead of breaking for crops
- Working lands program that coordinates various programs (i.e. fed, state, private, clubs)
- Action oriented commitment to habitat at all administrative levels
- Encourage more conservation spending on a Federal level
- Reduce ethanol subsidies and ethanol demand as well as overall cropping production
- Simplify programs and provide additional technical assistance
- Regulate importation of pheasants – (Animal Industry Board)
- Landowners who receive compensation have to allow public access during certain times
- Work to stabilize the corn supply
- Encourage multi crop rotations
- Streamline over regulation of preserves
- Predator control rule modification
- Conservation clause
- Allow tree plantings into “native prairie”
- Requirement of every quarter of land to provide “some” amount of habitat – e.g. 2% of acreage

- Incorporate cellulose ethanol
- Create a task force/email list to address administrative rules that specifically pertain to South Dakota
- Subsidies for conservation, similar to what ethanol was and crop insurance
- Review money being spent by GFP, such as non-productive/quality walk-in areas
- Use of grass cover from CRP during management periods - Haying\Grazing - CRP payment adjustment after a period of time, such as mid contract.
- Eliminate the mixed message between agencies - one federal agency promoting farming wetlands while another is trying to protect e.g. crop insurance vs. easements.
- Level the field between livestock and row crop production
- Look at the impact of the early and later seasons on shooting preserves
- Allow maximum local administrative flexibility to customize state and federal wildlife programs
- Visit with Rep. Kristi Noem on conservation compliance

Funding Sources and Initiatives

- Hunting Licenses & Fees
 - Offer more non-resident waterfowl licenses above the current limit - funds used for wildlife habitat
 - Charge more for existing non-resident small game licenses – funds used for wildlife habitat
 - The \$2 agent fee on for online license would be allocated for wildlife habitat versus general fund
 - Create a habitat stamp for hunters to buy
 - Open waterfowl hunting to non-residents for additional funding
 - Create a trust fund by increasing resident and non-resident small game license fees to \$10 for residents and \$20 for non-resident, and by creating an excise tax of \$5.00 per acre for non-residents landowners
 - Find “new revenue” e.g., allow NR to purchase waterfowl license in northeast SD
 - Create a Pheasant stamp
 - Create additional non-resident hunting opportunities with added licenses
 - Fourth Pheasant Tag – funds go to pheasant habitat/management
 - More flexible days for none resident licenses
 - Funding to enhance habitat from surcharge on non-resident license
 - Allow additional hunting opportunity (non-resident waterfowl and other) with money going to habitat
 - Establish a state habitat stamp
 - Use sportsmen’s dollars to improve public lands with a Habitat Stamp
 - Habitat stamp to raise money for habitat programs - \$20
 - Federal Pheasant\Upland stamp
 - Increase nonresident waterfowl season opportunities as a way to offset and increase revenue (possible provide a joint license)

- Identify new revenue sources to fund conservation practices (e.g. a habitat stamp)
- Increase habitat stamp price
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- Taxes & Fees
 - Funding mechanisms put in place to fund habitat on private lands (e.g. round up to next dollar figure at stores and call it habitat heritage for South Dakota, increase fees on licenses, habitat stamp); would be a fund created statewide and that money would be allocated for just pheasant habitat
 - Long term funding source for habitat within the state - Sales tax, lodging tax, dedicated fund
 - Create and excise tax of \$5.00 per acre for non-residents landowners with money placed in a habitat trust fund for GFP
 - Citizen initiative to initiate funding for habitat programs
 - Dedicated funding for conservation
 - Secure a dedicated funding source that is used, at least in part, to improve pheasant habitat. (Pheasant habitat stamp, bird stamp, license plates, etc.)
 - Explore dedicated funding for wildlife conservation including private lands, not just public land
 - Develop a source for dedicated funding for habitat
 - Dedicated conservation funding through a portion of a tax
 - Sales tax for habitat
 - Dedicated conservation fund at state level
 - Put a tourism tax portion back into habitat - look at an equal new tax across the state
 - SD needs a dedicated conservation fund (from various sources-habitat stamp, tax structure, etc.) for habitat that everyone has to pay into
 - Dedicated tax for habitat
- Funding source ideas: license plate revenue, habitat stamp sales, increased license fees, and combination of all to produce the needed funds for the State to fund programs. Focus efforts to educate. Dedicated conservation funding through a portion of a tax
- Reprioritize resources (dollars) to maximize public resources on public lands
- Utilize Audubon Society or other non-governmental entities for funding wildlife habitat
- Earmark tourism dollars for habitat
- Identify partners who aren't paying for habitat
- Encourage more conservation spending on a Federal level
- Use state funds (not GFP funds) to fund conservation programs
- Reduce GFP budget and use that money for putting more habitat on the land
- Encourage NGO's to directly participate in wildlife habitat management
- Leverage other wildlife species to secure more funding resources (deer, waterfowl, endangered species, and pollinators)
- Generate alternative funding sources

- Identify other stakeholders to ante-up
- Use surplus funds from unclaimed property for habitat
- Enhance communication between conservation agencies and major Ag business (Monsanto sponsored pheasant factory)
- Carbon Credit program like ND
- Analysis of funding sources to provide incentives to landowners
- Funding from all the businesses that benefit from the resource
- Extend pheasant season to increase \$ to state - can increase on front end to avoid severe winter affects
- Use lottery dollars towards habitat
- Have other states pitch in

Private Lands Habitat Programs

- State subsidy for leaving habitat for wildlife- leaving cattail sloughs instead of burning/breaking up
- Local community/owner groups plant food plots & trees
- Help farmers convert to harvest winter wheat heads only (stripper heads)
- Promote to wildlife friendly crops like winter wheat
- Wildlife friendly methods to harvest crops
- Subsidize seed stripper heads for winter wheat
- Program to renovate old tree belts and expand existing program and/or tree belts – flexible programs
- Working lands program (i.e. fed, state, private, clubs)
- Offer incentives for smaller acreages or lands
- Better promotion of existing state programs available to producers (i.e. state subsidy for leaving some crops as food plots)
- Use walk-in area program funds to pay for habitat (i.e., leave more wetlands) and remove some of the acreage of walk-in acres that has poor habitat
- Water conservation projects - create water structures for wildlife habitat (i.e. wetland or dugout fencing for West River)
- Help for burning management on private land and CRP
- Program for management of wetland vegetation in wetlands (water into cattail habitat)
- Focus money to additional programs on private land (similar to CREP) to support quality habitat for an extended period of time (15 year)
- Focus money to additional programs on private land (similar to CREP) to support quality habitat for an extended period of time (15 year) - Big Sioux CREP - Higher payments
- Increase food plot incentives in existing conservation programs (CREP)
- Good farming practice incentive
- Expand the buffer stripe program and payment
- More holistic approach to land management
- Increase woody cover - i.e. trees

- Create financial incentives for landowners who “do the right thing” by putting their land into conservation programs and use FEMA and other funding by enhancing the CSP program
- Develop a program to enhance habitat payments on lands such as CRP where access is open on 50% of the land to the public and GFP controls weeds and plants food plots
- Identify farmers/landowners with smaller blocks of land or “odd areas” and provide incentive
- Replant tree belts that have been removed
- Utilize Round-up ready alfalfa for nesting cover; limit to 25 acre plots
- Incentive program to purchase/use stripper heads for wheat harvest
- Website for farmers to solicit food plot donations
- Conservation Co-Ops leveraging state, local, and national resources with local producers and business to fill voids with current conservation programs/policy
- State funding that does not require reasonable hunting access
- Landowner agreements for walk-ins and keeping grass standing - Walk-in areas for CRP acres
- Encourage cover crops and crop rotations – maybe incentives for planting crops other than or in addition to corn and soybeans
- Buffer land program
- Tree planting - work with county conservation districts to help replace tree loss
- Incentives to leave existing tree belts and to replace old ones that have reached their life span
- Increase GFP food plot payment to cover expenses
- Toughen requirements within conservation plans for marginal or highly erodible land
- Improve relationship between state (GFP, tourism, Ag) and farmers and landowners
- Increase incentives for winter wheat
- Plan to utilize leftover trees – possibly have counties working together to utilize leftover trees and partner with Pheasants Forever to find suitable sites
- Creating financial incentives and management flexibility for habitat programs (CRP, grasslands, wetlands, shelterbelts, etc.)
- Promoting and marketing small grains in lieu of row crops, including research to make them more competitive and complimentary with corn and soybeans.
- Encourage ways to incentivize grass based land uses on the landscape
- Identify habitat goals by county and focus farm programs towards land types
- Focus effort toward winter cereal crops in the eastern portion of SD to provide more nesting cover - encourage through incentive program for producers.
- Incentive program for producers to square off sloughs or habitat areas vs. farming through them
- Build support around cow/calf operators - promote the ranch and value the grass acres
- Improve condition of both WIA’s and Government lands - use monies to enhance the existing areas through agreements with landowners to use grazing...such as a grass bank program.

- Shift focus from buying land and use funding to impact a broader area and affect more acres through programs on private lands
- Take habitat dollars on a state level and use it to pay landowners for crucial habitat acres
- Establish pheasant habitat management zones
- Promote and encourage prescribed grazing, deferred, or delayed grazing on private land
- Incentives for saving marginal cropland acres for habitat
- Create state buffer program
- Instead of buying more public land use same money to create more incentives towards habitat creation or preservation
- Work with land owners neighboring up to public lands on planting food plots - have a middle man or local conservation group between GFP and neighboring land owners
- Incentives for practicing good habitat practices to land owners
- Work with individuals who have the greatest ability to supply habitat
- State incentive that piggy backs on federal CRP program
- More partnerships from private entities with state and federal governments
- Encourage people to raise pollinator and other quality habitat covers
- Use cover crops to offset CRP losses
- Encourage small scale management of Ag fields to find marginal lands and target for conservation
- Encourage usage of buffer and filter strips
- Encourage the enrollment of small odd areas into conservation programs
- Encourage SAFE areas on private lands
- Encourage food plots - deviate from just leaving standing corn (millet)
- Shelterbelts include fruit bearing shrubs
- Increased availability of food plot seed (use a good mixture)
- Pay for cattail wetland/ winter cover
- Make state dollars be added to federal programs to make it more attractive
- Develop odd areas on every farm for wildlife habitat
- Develop habitat on marginal acres
- Need group to encourage development of marginal acres for pheasant habitat - involve communities
- Maximize what we're putting in the ground - put in cheap forbs
- Maximize species diversity - do more with less.
- Work through federal or state government to give incentives to have landowners to plant winter wheat or other small grains - limit incentive payments to a percentage of acres
- Adopt a food plot program - look for diverse funding for food plots and continue to promote free seed for food plots through GFP and Pheasants Forever
- Provide advice on planting shelterbelts and how to maintain them (correct species, configurations, size, and location)
- Encourage further partnership with Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist Program
- Use fire for habitat management

- Work with NGO's (DU, PF, etc.) to implement habitat improvements and manage lands
- Implement a South Dakota CRP program

Farm Bill – CRP

- CRP program – less red tape
- Increase CRP maximum payment/year from \$50,000 per year cap on payment to Ag subsidy amount (\$250,000) to inflation
- CRP payments that follow cash rent payments
- Renewal of CRP should not need a legume or to replant
- Legume component making CRP hard to manage (noxious weed control)
- CRP- subsidize CRP program with other funds versus federal (i.e. conservation groups to fund CRP)
- Modify CRP rules to allow more frequent management so that grasslands are more early successional versus late successional (i.e. early seral stage grasslands)
- Increase subsidies on CRP
- Help for burning management on private land and CRP
- Adjust CRP restrictions to allow for more financial incentive for landowners
- Expand CREP program
- Focus money to additional programs on private land (similar to CREP) to support quality habitat for an extended period of time (15 year) - Big Sioux CREP
- Increase food plot incentives in existing conservation programs (CREP)
- Incentives for more liberalized native grassland management (mid-contract management on CRP) - pay landowner more money for management practices
- Expand CREP beyond the James River Watershed
- Better management of existing CRP grazing process
- Expand the buffer strip program and payment
- Conservation Reserve Program Enhancement Incentives, i.e. 50% property tax reduction on CRP, allow food plots on CRP
- Create more flexibility in the federal programs administered by FSA and NRCS at a local level
- Create single species CRP programs – e.g. switchgrass stands where landowners can then sell seeds - makes CRP working land for landowners
- Ensure that mid-contract management on CRP is enforced
- Enhance and support CREP
- Smaller areas of CRP spread out on a larger area – place a higher emphasis on wildlife as a concern for enrollment - better application of technology - better educational spectrum at college level with emphasis on plant science and agronomy
- Flexibility and targeting of CRP program - increase funding to create economic viable rotation systems
- Better manage habitat specifically on CREP acres, including predator control
- Allow up to 20% CRP/WRP to be put into food plots

- Create a user friendly CRP program, addressing cover requirements, eligibility (no water bank acres, weed control in high diversity mixes, mid contract management (can't keep hay), season of management allowed
- CRP is not a one size fits all program - 1 out of 5 years isn't enough management
- Competitive CRP rates
- Destroying of CRP bales – try to find better uses for it and get NRCS to change their rules
- Evolve CRP into a working lands program
- Allow for management of CRP grasses
- Expand CREP Program along Big Sioux River
- Allow food plots in CRP – currently must be in original contract
- CRP haying rules modification to provide incentives - maybe mow 1/3 at a time
- More local control of CRP rules
- Competitive CRP rental rates, practical rules for midterm management and spraying
- Expand CREP outside James River Watershed
- Midterm management - haying - allow landowners to use hay, not destroy it
- Allow yearly haying of part of a CRP contract
- Make it tougher to remove tree belts that were CRP belts
- Keep CRP rental rates competitive to keep up with technology that allows farming of marginal lands
- Requirement to replace existing tree belts on the same or different sites - tired of paying for CRP tree belts then watch them removed when contract expires
- Allow reenrollment of tree belts into CRP
- Increase upfront payment for CRP trees to cover establishment costs - allow increased rows
- Allow increased CRP tree rows
- Modify CRP to be more of a working land program- haying, grazing, seed harvesting- buyback program for seed
- Higher rental rates
- Shorter (2-3) year contract options
- “Localized” program funded by state general funds
- CRP renamed “Cattle Revitalization Project” - state needs to increase cattle numbers - manage larger tracts of land with cattle – incentives for young farmers to have cattle herds
- Allow hay from CRP to be sold
- Make sure there is a program available and funded to a level to allow enrollment.
- Incentive program for producers to square off sloughs or habitat areas vs. farming through them
- SD should work with the FSA for a working land CRP program - allow uses of hay whether for feed or sale - pilot project
- Simplify regulations on CRP, not requiring contracts to be tore up
- Index or adjustment for inflation for CRP
- Shorten contracts on existing CRP renewals
- Cost shares should reflect reality - crop insurance is by the section and conservation is by the acre

- Establish pheasant habitat management zones
- Use one time money, leveraging federal dollars, and create more incentives for current CRP holders
- Rotational grazing on CRP
- Change administration on federal level for CRP regulations - example of haying CRP and not being able to use it is not cost effective for producer
- No incentive for mid-term management of CRP
- Incentives for saving marginal cropland acres for habitat
- More partnerships from private entities with state and federal governments
- Turn CRP into a working lands program - utilize grass every 2-3 years
- Use grass cover from CRP during management periods - haying\grazing - CRP payment adjustment after a period of time, such as mid contract
- Shorter CRP contract - 3-5 years.
- CREP expansion utilizing multiple partners (municipalities, tourism, etc.)
- Encourage small scale management of Ag fields to find marginal lands and target for conservation
- Encourage usage of buffer and filter strips
- More management options for maintenance on CRP
- Importance of forbs in CRP
- Shorten contracts on CRP
- Reduce the cost of seeding CRP
- Limit how many acres or a percentage of a farm you can put into the CRP program to maximize limited CRP acres
- Avoid whole farm enrollments
- Looking for ways to sweep CRP acres that were not used by other states
- Leverage pollinator habitat
- Tie payment on a sliding scale to real time commodity prices
- Shorter CRP contracts
- Make CRP contracts non-renewable to help spread it out over the landscape - basically adding it into a landowner's crop rotation.
- Simplify and consolidate CRP program - more flexibility.
- Mid-term management should be enforced
- Remove payment limitations on CRP - obstacles such as income level restrictions on Federal CRP prevents affluent landowners/operators from being conservationists
- Remove threshold entry requirement prior to enrollment in CRP program - cropping history requirements are limiting enrollment
- Refocus CRP to its original intent of highly erodible lands (Class III Class IV)
- Make CRP incentives more in-line with rental rates to make enrollment more attractive - state money in addition to Federal money
- Revise the Federal CRP program and work to implement a State CRP program

Farm Bill – Other

- Conservation compliance and crop insurance
 - Conservation compliance tied to crop insurance

- Conservation compliance in farm bill
- Conservation Compliance
- Modification to current crop insurance programs
- Revenue insurance for grassland similar to crop insurance
- Include conservation compliance and sod saver provision in the next farm bill
- Address crop insurance - currently low risk to convert grassland to cropland
- Conservation compliance being tied back into farm program participation (crop insurance)
- Risk management insurance for pasture/range/livestock (i.e. crop insurance)
- Visit with Rep. Kristi Noem on conservation compliance
- Farm the best save the rest (incentivize the conservation practices)
- Farm programs that look at entire farm, leave 80% of farm into production take the 20% of farm that will not produce as much to conservation practices (conservation practices would be considered steady income) – farm the best save the rest
- Program for management of wetland vegetation in wetlands
- Create financial incentives for landowners who “do the right thing” by putting their land into conservation programs and use FEMA and other funding by enhancing the CSP program
- Create more flexibility in the federal programs administered by FSA and NRCS at a local level
- Maintain existing tree groves on private lands
- Allow food plots in GRP
- Modify current federal rules and regulations for conservation programs
- Increase flexibility in conservation programs; e.g. smaller tracts of land
- Incentives for utilizing precision agriculture - find marginal land on each operation - establish habitat on those acres - plant to “precision plots” that maximize pheasant production per acre
- Enhance management of grasslands (GPA, WPA, CRP) - diversity of plots for habitat = intensification
- Establish incentives to leave grassland ungrazed for a year, grazing rotation
- Compensate not to farm lower quality farm ground
- Change prevent plant rules to discourage farming marginal lands
- Mitigation of cropland and habitat acres
- Incorporate cellulose ethanol and regulate the draining of wetlands
- Subsidies for conservation - similar to what ethanol was and crop insurance
- More federal incentives
- Incentives for practicing good habitat practices to land owners
- Level the field between livestock and row crop production.
- Public information campaign on the current federal rules
- Use of cover crops to offset CRP losses
- Allow maximum local administrative flexibility to customize state and federal wildlife programs
- No-till farming to promote cover
- Precision conservation

- Work through federal or state government to give incentives to have landowners plant winter wheat or other small grains - limit incentive payment to a percentage of acres
- State needs to pressure Federal Government to improve and enforce tiling regulations - some are choosing to tile lands and opt out of the farm program and then “selling” them to a relative who then is permitted to re-enroll - Establish a method to permanently remove the tilled land from all farm programs for the future (crop insurance and other programs)

Public Lands

- Road Ditches & Rights-of-Way
 - Improve roadside habitat
 - Mowing ditches- manage roadsides for residual cover or all year not just through mid-July
 - Section line and road right of way law enforcement
 - Restore road right of ways to perennial cover to allow nesting.
 - Defer or stop mowing road ditches
 - Stop broadcast spraying of road ditches
 - Better protection and utilization of road right of ways. Establish rules and enforce the laws already on the books
- Maximize public areas for maximum wildlife production
- Coordinate with USFWS on land management – leave tree belts, timely burns
- Have local community/owner groups plant food plots & trees
- Maximize public land production (especially GPA’s & USFW) or conservation practices to benefit the wildlife
- Reprioritize resources (dollars) to maximize public resources on public lands
- Better management of roadside ditches and public areas (i.e., leave more residual cover all year long along road ditches and would save money; manage public lands better for food plots, burning, grazing etc.)
- Better management of federal and state lands that are already public
- Better management of public areas (i.e. food plots, burning, grazing etc.).
- Management plans for school and public lands
- Increase high intensity management on public land (GPA, WPA, SPL)
- Purchase more public land
- Increase high intensity management on public land (WIA and GPA)
- Regulate how School and Public lands are managed (leave habitat for wildlife)
- Against the timing of the burning public lands during nesting season
- Grazing public lands instead of fire management - increase the number of cattle and productivity of the land use
- Better management of existing grazing process
- Incentives to prevent over grazing of public lands
- Use more milo as food plots on public lands
- Section line and road right of way law enforcement
- Acquire more marginal land for GPA’s

- More holistic approach to land management
- Enhance and increase management of all public lands for wildlife habitat by utilizing trust funds
- Enhance publicly owned land with food plots and winter wheat
- All publically grazed lands, including School and Public lands, BLM, National Grasslands, and Title 6 Lands should have an established grazing rotation system - i.e. management plan with controlled grazing
- Have GFP assume management of school and public lands
- GFP either rents or assumes control/management of all School and Public Lands
- Leave trees/brush on federal WPAs
- State program that explores habitat opportunities on municipal, school and public lands
- Grass bank with state and federal lands
- GFP list public areas and turn in "pheasant factories" - identify nesting cover - winter cover - predator concerns
- State policy for SP&L leases concerning land management, stocking rate, rotations
- Maintain current moratorium on S&PL sales
- Optimize management of public hunting areas
- Stock birds on state owned lands
- Communication among landowner and GFP on game production area management
- Partner with local groups to help manage public areas
- State land purchases - simplify process increase public land
- The budget that provides for GPA management needs to be preserved
- Improve condition of both WIA's and Government lands - use monies to enhance the existing areas through agreements with landowners to use grazing - grass bank program.
- Shift focus from buying land and use funding to impact a broader area and affect more acres through programs on private lands.
- Use sportsmen's dollars to improve public lands (Habitat Stamp)
- Create state buffer program, instead of buying more public land use same money to create more incentives towards habitat creation or preservation
- Creating better habitat on publicly owned lands
- Regulation of grasses on public areas - assure public shooting areas have the best nesting/winter cover grasses available
- Efficiency on public lands
- Regular regional meetings with landowners, operators, and interested parties that address habitat issues, provide solutions, and release new information on habitat work
- Encourage state & federal land managers to incorporate pheasant habitat into existing lands (WPA's)
- Improve management of food plots, cover, and habitat on State and Federal lands
- School and Public Lands - Continue moratorium on lands - management plan that protects the resource and state interest (e.g. wildlife production)
- State acquisition of lands
- Land acquisition to provide stability

- Improved management of state lands
- School and Public lands that are currently grassland stay in grasslands
- Regulate the management and grazing of School and Public Lands
- Adjust the rental system on School and Public lands to generate more funds
- State and Local government land purchases
- State cooperate with federal agencies to improve public lands for wildlife
- All GFP properties purchased must have habitat improvement as priority concern
- Food plots - deviate from just leaving standing corn (millet)
- Shelterbelts should include fruit bearing shrubs
- Improve and focus habitat on Government owned/managed lands (State, School & Public, and Federal)
- Increase food plots and cover (corn, milo, cane, switch grass, cedar trees, etc.) on government managed lands - leave through the spring (April 15th) - more consistent management across all public lands
- Work with NGO's (DU, PF, etc.) to implement habitat improvements and manage lands
- Accountability for that habitat that is managed by GFP
- Build a better working relationship with School and Public lands
- Build a program that permits landowners adjacent to public lands to plant crops on the land and harvest it after April 15th
- Implement a state-wide pheasant habitat program that includes State, Federal, & NGO's that includes metrics for habitat on public lands - Must be measureable and uniform across all lands

Education, Outreach, and Promotion

- Farm the best save the rest (incentivize the conservation practices)
- Have local community/owner groups plant food plots & trees
- Help farmers covert to harvest winter wheat heads only (stripper heads)
- Promote wildlife friendly crops like winter wheat
- Better promotion of existing state programs available to producers (i.e. state subsidy for leaving some crops as food plots)
- Better information about how license funds are used
- Help for burning management - private land and CRP - and public education
- Inform landowners about available habitat programs
- Personal proactive meetings with landowners about conservation possibilities
- Identify partners who aren't paying for habitat
- Communication with landowner knowledge
- More holistic approach to land management
- Educate the public on conservation and the land
- Have GFP and Dept. of Agriculture educate producers/landowners on farming and conservation for wildlife and environmental benefits - i.e. the value of waterways and grass strips
- Increase Farm Bill Biologist program - these positions assist landowners in navigating the federal programs and getting habitat on the ground

- Encourage NGOs to directly participate in wildlife habitat management
- Encourage conservation land ethic, buffers, water quality, enforcing section lines laws, public policy, and education
- Utilize existing acres in floodplains to deal with flooding events
- Education on rotational system including cover crops
- Better networking and education opportunities for farmers to discuss and implement better conservation programs for habitats and pheasants, incentive programs to promote or reward the producer who operates in a pheasant friendly manner
- Annual Summit event
- Farm the best and leave the rest
- Improve communications among government agencies to allow for continuity between programs
- Create partnerships/pool resources to develop competitive programs - labor, equipment, ideas
- Perpetual easements and allowing landowners to have the ability to get into an easement - more information about easements to the public - such as land is still on tax roll
- Education on “good” grasses to leave for habitat - variety of grasses and continuing to encourage diversity of grasses
- Education on planting mid-size shrubs as winter cover and not tall trees
- Assistance with finding good habitat locations (with landowner compensation) to dedicate to pheasants
- Use non-governmental organizations for information and as a resource
- Use neighbor outreach to educate on land management and conservation plans
- Industry education on conservation benefits – Ag supply industries
- Internal marketing campaign to South Dakotans on importance of pheasants and conservation - where taxes go that come from Pheasant Hunting
- School program – Ag in the Classroom, Conservation in the Classroom, Pheasant in the Classroom
- Instead of Meatless Monday promote Wild Game Wednesday
- Education with tiling contractors on density of tile
- More awareness of programs available through PF, NRCS, and GFP to promote habitat conservation
- More education on the value of wetlands to wildlife
- Promote wildlife woody habitat program - may not have to be big plots
- Conservation Education Program Expansion
- Talk about the benefits of good stewardship
- Workshops for landowners with multiple agencies and organization
- Continuing education of Ag producers in farm program to understand of alternatives to enhance habitat
- Build support around cow/calf operators - promote the ranch and value the grass acres
- Develop a best management practices book for proper pheasant management
- Tie habitat benefits to other qualities of life that involve a larger portion of the population

- Promoting and marketing small grains in lieu of row crops, including research to make them more competitive and complimentary with corn and soybeans
- Better job on promoting and marketing small grains on a state level
- Promote 40 acre blocks of habitat as a minimum for pheasant production
- Encourage/educate pheasant friendly farming practices (flusher bar when haying, delayed haying)
- Marketing campaign targeted towards landowners creating/preserving pheasant habitat
- Appeal to more sportsman to care about habitat
- Public information campaign on the current federal rules
- Review education practices at the university level and try to introduce conservation stewardship
- A more realistic ad campaign.
- Teach good wildlife habitat principles to individuals
- Local sportsman's clubs participate in education of youth and landowners
- Reach out to the city residents for funding in the rural areas
- Encourage and promote people to raise pollinator and other quality habitat covers
- Engage the small business community, and stress the connection to them - Economic Development in the rural communities
- Educate ourselves on the issues of habitat, predator control, releasing birds
- Promote no-till farming as cover
- Education - all South Dakotans have a vested interest in promoting pheasant habitat
- Precision conservation
- Farmer/public education
- Need groups to encourage development of marginal acres for pheasant habitat - involve communities
- Educate public that conservation and nature is everyone's responsibility
- Merchandise and market habitat in SD
- Sell downstream states on the value of clean water resulting from habitat in SD
- Create presentations on the benefits of habitat and clean water in SD cities
- Recognize financial contribution that landowners make to pheasant's habitat
- Better communication from GFP on solutions to issues that impact pheasant numbers - improve relationships and communication with landowners - Serving People
- Build a better working relationship with School and Public lands
- Better utilize and inform the "human resources" of the state - many volunteers and groups willing to help with various projects
- Better education of all residents why the pheasant habitat and hunting matters to them as a resident of this state (Economic, Recreation, Quality of life)
- As a show of appreciation for that landowner providing pheasant habitat, offer landowners a discounted (\$5) statewide small game license based on meeting certain qualifying criteria (e.g. number of acres farmed, number of acres in CRP, a number of hunters allowed access, etc.)
- Encourage ways to incentivize grass based land uses on the landscape

Research

- State needs to conduct disease monitoring in wild pheasant populations - if they are already they need to be releasing information
- Introduction of diseases through released birds on wild populations - Monitoring/change in genetics/regulating
- Study that examines effects of bt corn and certain insecticides - effects of other agricultural practices - provide information of known impacts
- Disease research
- Consider tree species when doing woody cover plantings
- Look at studying the correlation of outlawing road hunting and habitat
- Commercial operators get out of the business to eliminate daily hassle
- Studies to look at disease as a contributing factor
- Further understanding of effects of herbicides and pesticides on pheasant populations
- Research turkey and predator effects on pheasants

Other non-habitat topics: stocking, predators, hunting access, etc. (non-habitat based)

- Use walk-in area program funds to pay for habitat (i.e. leave more wetlands) and remove some of the acreage of walk-in acres that has poor habitat
- Offer more non-resident waterfowl licenses above the current limit - funds would provide more funds for wildlife habitat
- Allow landowners to buy back portions of easements that have farming history
- Better information about how license funds are used
- Follow through with plans from summit
- Increase access-lease or purchase
- No online licensing for nonresidents
- Take possession of license while in state
- Pick a target number for habitat acres
- Identify partners who aren't paying for habitat
- Action oriented commitment to habitat at all administrative levels
- Focus on better quality habitat with Walk-in Areas
- Block management - private owned land, - landowner paid by state based on hunter use (similar to CHAP) - must be conservation compliant
- Open waterfowl hunting to non-residents for additional funding
- Increase predator control
- Walk-in area habitat grade payment
- Cost share release birds
- Use current Walk-in money to maximize the public wildlife areas (GPA's), ensure that Walk-in Areas have quality habitat
- Enhancement with basic needs, like food, cover, water
- Restock if necessary
- Predator control

- Better predator control programs and policy including night hunting regulation - utilize the current habitat that exists
- Bounty program for predator control, new program
- Education for improving habitat on non-tillable acres
- More networking for landowners, producers to discuss and implement better conservation programs for habitats and pheasants
- Repopulating with spring hen release program
- Bounty on predators through increased tourism tax and/or increased license price
- Add management to Pheasant Habitat Summit title - manage habitat specifically for pheasant which includes predator control
- Remove or liberalize restrictions on predator hunting
- Support the development of perennial wheat ASAP
- State program to raise and stock pheasants
- State aid for released birds
- Resident hunting – public opportunities and access to good hunting lands
- Better promotion and additional Rooster Rush cities
- Control predators
- Look a pheasant number setting season length
- Supplemental winter feeding of pheasants in a bad winter
- Develop strategies to keep the momentum going on this effort
- Recognize or reward good land stewards – conservationist of the year programs
- Reevaluate pheasant stocking
- Develop local seed industry to allow seed production for enhancement of multiple ground types
- Predators
- Commercial hunting has never been “respected” in SD it has been “tolerated” - Habitat producers in this state - “Texas Model”
- A bounty on nest predators
- Displacing predators with farming more acres creating greater varmint densities on remaining CRP acres - use habitat dollars to reduce predators
- Hen releases
- Predator control districts with producer funding
- Grain elevators assisting by spreading screenings for winter food sources
- Predator control
- Better predator control
- Address stocking, predators, and weather issues