

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**FEDERAL LAND DISPOSAL AND REPLACEMENT OF  
HYDRO #2 GAME PRODUCTION AREA**

**LAWRENCE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**March 2024**

**Prepared by:**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, Region 6 Denver, Colorado**

**&**

**South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks Division of Wildlife, Pierre, South Dakota**

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# Chapter 1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

## 1.1 Introduction and Background

The Hydro #2 Game Production Area (GPA) (Figure 1) is located in the Black Hills of western South Dakota (SD) and is owned and managed by the Wildlife Division of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) for wildlife production, wildlife habitat protection, and expanded public hunting and wildlife related recreation opportunities. SDGFP acquired the Hydro #2 GPA (previously known as the Spearfish Canyon HMC Property) in December 2014, with grant funds from the Pittman-Roberson Wildlife Restoration (PR) Act, a grant program administered by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS provided 75% of the cost of the acquisition through Grant #F15AF00029 (SD #W-154-L-1) (Federal Grant). The property was purchased to provide wildlife production, wildlife habitat protection, and expanded public hunting and wildlife related recreation opportunities.

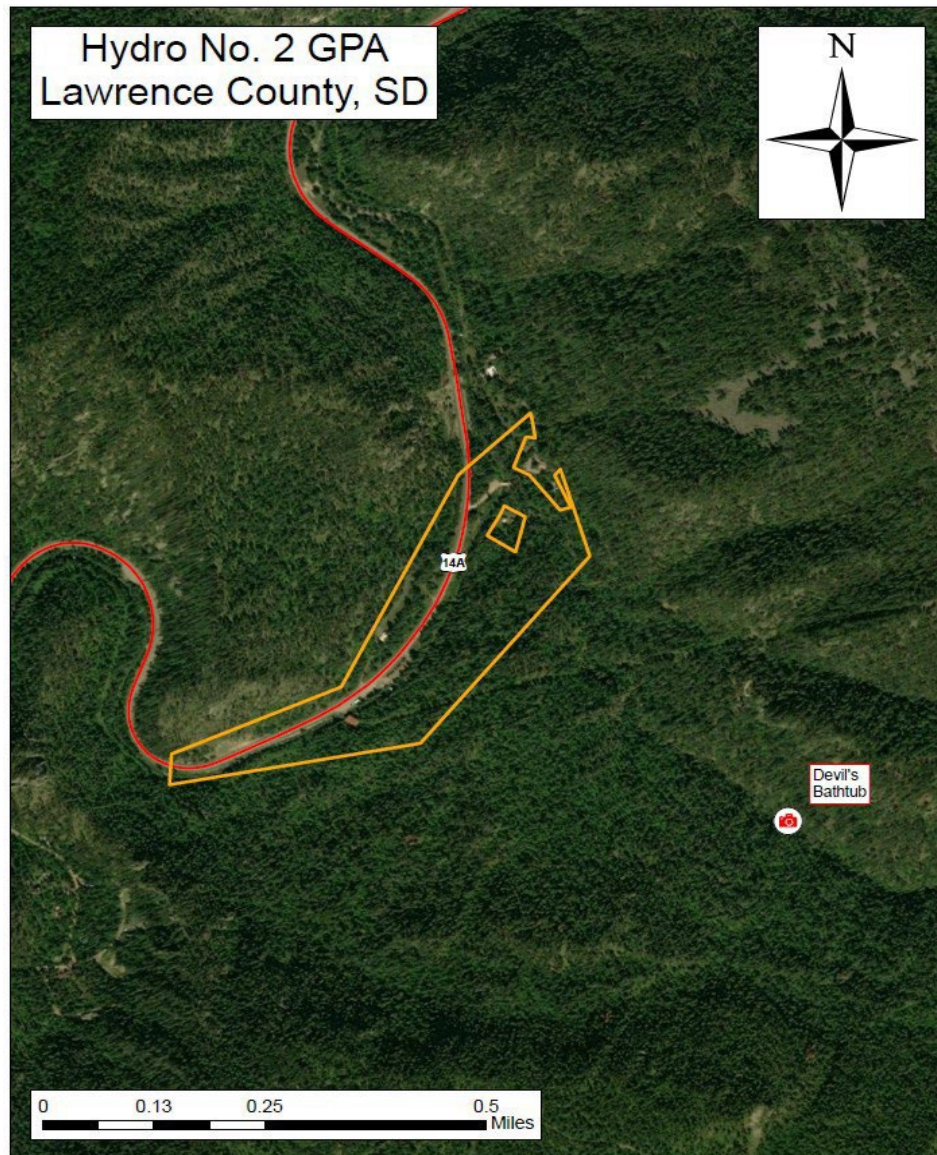


Figure 1 Hydro #2 GPA and adjacent Devil's Bathtub attraction



## **1.2 Purpose and Need for Action**

Public use and expectations of Hydro #2 GPA have expanded beyond those anticipated by SDGFP at the time of purchase. Due to its location in Spearfish Canyon and its adjacency to Spearfish Creek, public use activities, and the seasonality of those uses surrounding a popular location named Devil's Bathtub (Figure 1), have expanded to include more year-round non-consumptive use. Activities such as fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and picnicking have become commonplace in addition to the intended primary use as a public hunting area. Consequently, SDGFP faces new management challenges for Hydro #2 GPA. While it currently continues to serve the purpose for which it was acquired – to provide wildlife production, wildlife habitat protection, and expanded public hunting and wildlife related recreation opportunities – the increasing levels of public use will soon make it challenging to meet that purpose. Specifically, if left unmanaged, the increased levels of public use will begin to impair wildlife habitat and production and threaten safe public hunting and other wildlife related recreational uses. The types and levels of public management necessary to maintain the property in the face of the increased public use would include infrastructure such as restroom facilities, additional parking, and maintained hiking trails. However, this type and amount of infrastructure, while accomplishing the goal of better protecting the wildlife habitat, would be inconsistent with the intent of the original Federal Grant that funded the acquisition.

To accommodate the increase in public use of this area, therefore, SDGFP is now requesting approval from the FWS to dispose of the Federal encumbrance on the 32.251 acre Hydro #2 GPA property in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance on the 320 acre Hepler GPA, a property solely owned by SDGFP and also located in Lawrence County, South Dakota. SDGFP will retain title to the Hydro #2 GPA which will allow the agency more flexibility and latitude in its management of the property.

Specifically, SDGFP would be better positioned to provide additional services and amenities made necessary by expanded public uses, and ultimately enable more effective protection of wildlife habitat at Hydro #2 GPA. SDGFP believes the current Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA, while not itself an impediment to current wildlife and habitat management, presents conflicting use challenges as it broadens its management approach in response to public demands and needs. Upon evaluating the effects of the proposed disposal of the Federal encumbrance, SDGFP has determined that the existing wildlife resources and existing public interests would be unaffected as SDGFP would retain title to property and continue to manage it for its wildlife resources. In addition, by creating a new Federal encumbrance on the Hepler GPA, SDGFP would be able to continue compliance with the original Federal Grant by using that separate property to meet the original grant purposes and management obligations.

## **1.3 Decision to be Made**

The disposal of real property with a federal encumbrance constitutes a Federal action subject to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. Disposal of grant-funded property does not meet the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion under NEPA, and the FWS is therefore required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) based on the procedures for real property disposal to analyze the effects on the human environment and document the findings. The FWS will use this Draft EA and associated public review process to determine if the Proposed Action (i.e., disposal of the Federal encumbrance) is likely to result in significant impacts to the human environment. If it is determined there are no significant adverse impacts, the Service will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). If it is determined, conversely, that significant

impacts might occur by disposing of the Federal encumbrance from Hydro #2 GPA, the Service will be required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the impacts.

## Chapter 2 ALTERNATIVES

### 2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance on 32.251 acres at the Hydro #2 GPA in Lawrence County, South Dakota. The SDGFP will retain title to the property, but under the Proposed Action would remove the Federal encumbrance in land records for Hydro #2 GPA. To remain in compliance with the original Federal Grant that funded acquisition of the property, SDGFP would establish a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA, a property solely owned by SDGFP (2 CFR 200.311 (c)), such that the Hepler GPA would become obligated to meet all of the Federal Grant purposes and requirements. The Proposed Action is thus administrative in nature but would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP's management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses. The Proposed Action will also help address the safety issues that have been created on this property while also minimizing habitat erosion and protecting wildlife from disturbance.

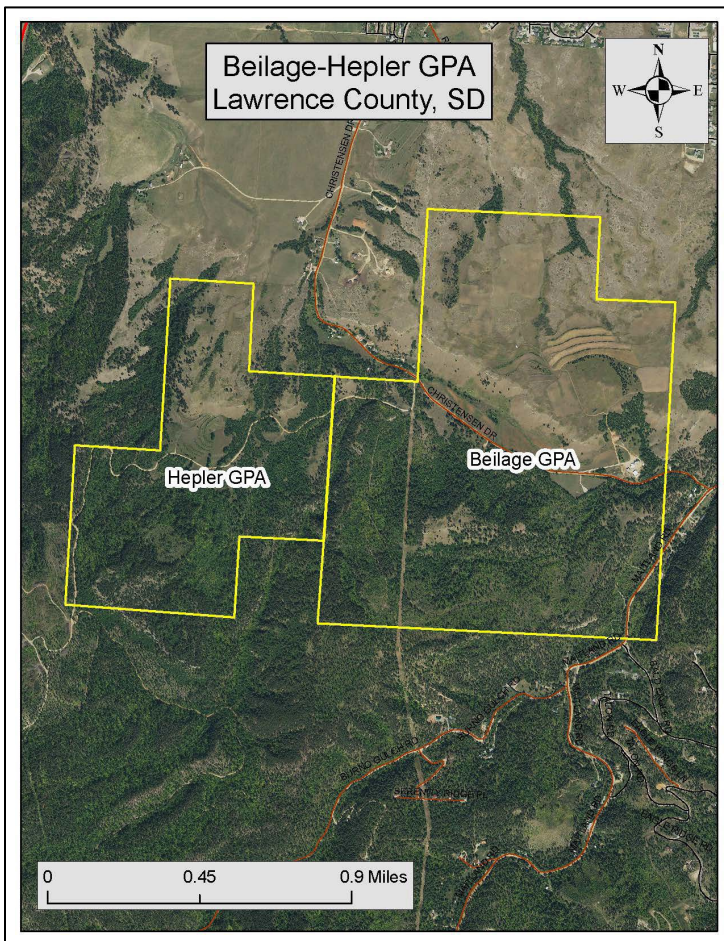


Figure 2 The Hepler GPA of the Beilage-Hepler GPA compound

To approve a real property acquisition as a replacement for grant-funded property no longer serving its authorized purpose, the Service “must determine that the replacement property: (1) Is of at least equal value at current market prices; and (2) Has fish, wildlife, and public-use benefits consistent with the purposes of the original grant (50 CFR 80.135(c)(1-2)).

An appraisal and appraisal review of the Hydro #2 GPA and Beilage-Hepler GPA complex has been prepared in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices (USPAP) and Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA). Based on the analysis provided through the appraisals, the Hepler GPA tract is of substantial greater monetary value at current fair market prices. Among other purposes, the information provided in this Environmental Assessment will be used to determine whether the Hepler GPA also provides fish, wildlife and public use benefits consistent with the purposes of the original Federal Grant that was used to acquire the Hydro #2 GPA.

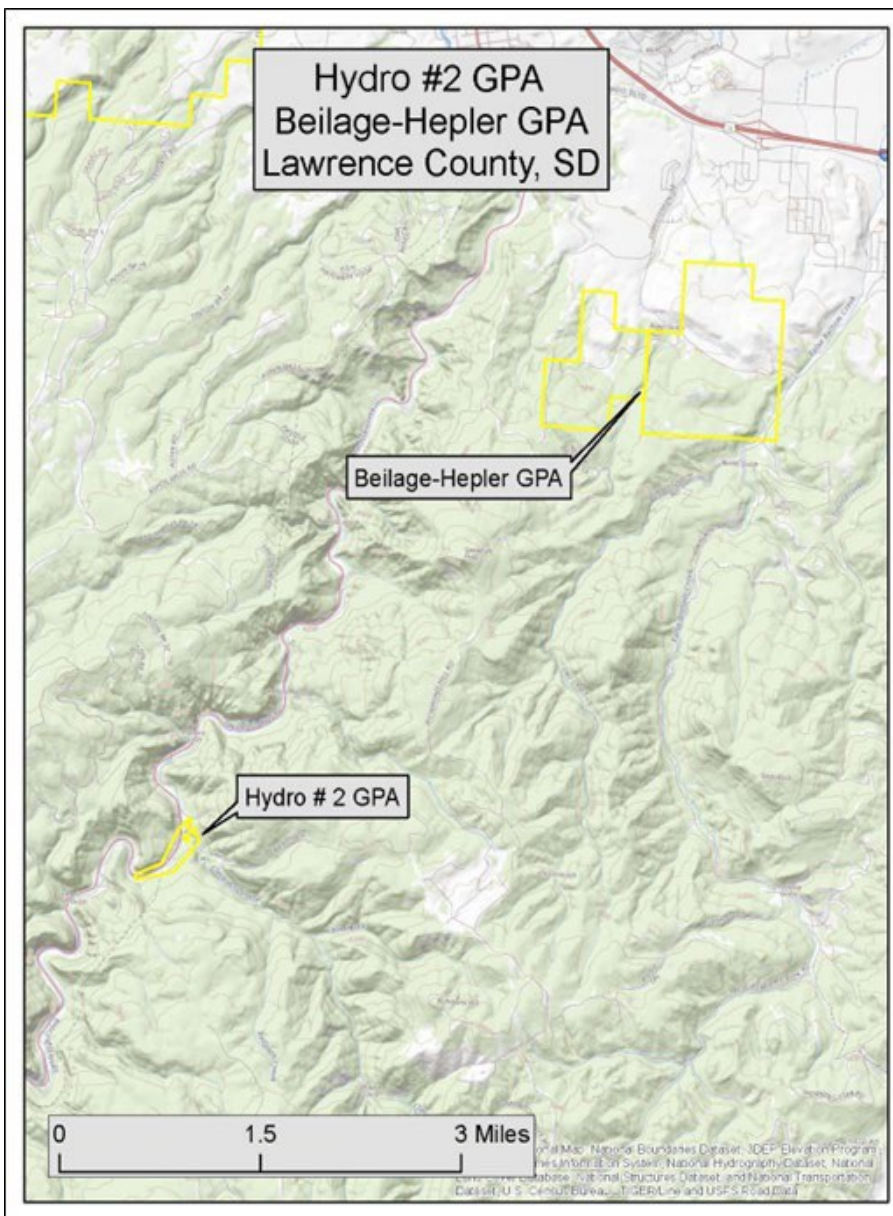


Figure 3. Hepler GPA is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the Hydro #2 GPA

## **2.2 No Action**

If no action is taken, SDGFP will continue to own and manage the Hydro #2 GPA and the Federal encumbrance will remain in the Hydro #2 GPA property. However, the potential to respond adequately and effectively to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses, will likely be unfeasible due to the strict regulations that dictate eligible use of Wildlife Restoration Pittman-Roberson Federal funding. Meanwhile, the increasing public use of the area has potential to degrade habitat and disturb any wildlife present. It is also creating a potentially dangerous situation due to the number of visitors in the area that are parking along the state highway to cross the property to get to Devil's Bathtub on United States Forest Service land that is adjacent to the Hydro #2 GPA. If no action is taken SDGFP will be unable to address these issues by constructing the infrastructure that is needed to protect habitat and manage public use.

Consequently, without the Proposed Action, it is likely that at some point SDGFP will be unable to manage the Hydro #2 GPS consistent with the purposes of the original Federal Grant. If that occurs, and no other property is approved to replace the Hydro #2 GPA, SDGFP may be required to address the lack of compliance by repaying the Federal grant funds at the current market value of the property.

## **2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis**

### Acquire Adjacent Property

Acquiring property adjacent to the existing Hydro #2 GPA was considered as an option for addressing expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses. However, adjoining private properties consist of small privately owned parcels of which all contain a private residence. It was determined impractical and cost ineffective to pursue acquiring and removing a privately owned home in order to accommodate the public use needs associated with Hydro #2 GPA. Additionally, the remaining adjacent property is held by the United States Forest Service, and acquiring Federal property was determined to be impracticable and an inefficient venture. It has been determined this alternative is not viable for SDGFP.

### Purchasing Additional Property to Exchange for the Hydro #2 GPA Property

Exchanging Hydro #2 GPA for a newly acquired property that would be as suitable for wildlife habitat and public hunting and would therefore meet the original Federal Grant purpose, rather than using the currently owned Helper GPA as the property to replace the Hydro #2 GPA, was also considered. However, SDGFP was unable to identify a new property available for acquisition that offers comparable wildlife habitat and wildlife related recreation opportunities to Hydro #2 GPA. Therefore, it has been determined this alternative is not viable for SDGFP.

### Complete Disposal of the Hydro #2 GPA Property

Complete disposal of Hydro #2 GPA via public auction, as is required by State law, was also considered as an option available to SDGFP for addressing expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses. This option would allow repayment of the original Federal Grant, as that grant purpose would no longer be accomplished. However, disposing of Hydro #2 GPA into private ownership would merely eliminate current and future public uses for all recreation purposes, including its current use as wildlife habitat and a public hunting area. It has been determined this alternative is not viable for SDGFP.

## **Chapter 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

### **3.1 Location**

The Hydro #2 GPA is located six miles southwest of Spearfish in Lawrence County, SD, along SD State Highway 14A (Figure 1,3). The property is legally described as HMC Lot 2A, being a portion of Spearfish Placer, M.S. 439, located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 17, Township 5 North, Range 2 East of the BHM, as shown on Plat Document No. 2014-3631 and comprising 32.251 acres, more or less in Lawrence County, SD.

The Hepler GPA is located one mile south of Spearfish in Lawrence County, SD and is approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the Hydro #2 GPA (Figure 2,3). The property is legally described as and W1/2SE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, W1/2NE1/4 of Section 26, Township 6 North, Range 2 East of BHM, containing 320 acres, more or less, in Lawrence County, SD.

### **3.2 Recreation**

Both Hydro #2 GPA and Hepler GPA are owned and managed by SDGFP as GPAs and are thus open to public hunting and other wildlife related recreation. The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. While it would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses, the proposed action if implemented would not change or in any way diminish existing hunting and wildlife related recreation opportunities. Instead, the proposed action would better ensure that continued public use would be safe and feasible.

### **3.3 Wetlands and Floodplains**

According to information from the National Wetlands Inventory website, Hydro #2 GPA contains approximately 3,300 total linear feet of riverine wetlands, consisting of 2,600 linear feet of Spearfish Creek and 700 linear feet of Cleopatra Creek, a tributary of Spearfish Creek (Figure 4). Isolated, seasonal wetlands are not present at Hydro #2 GPA.



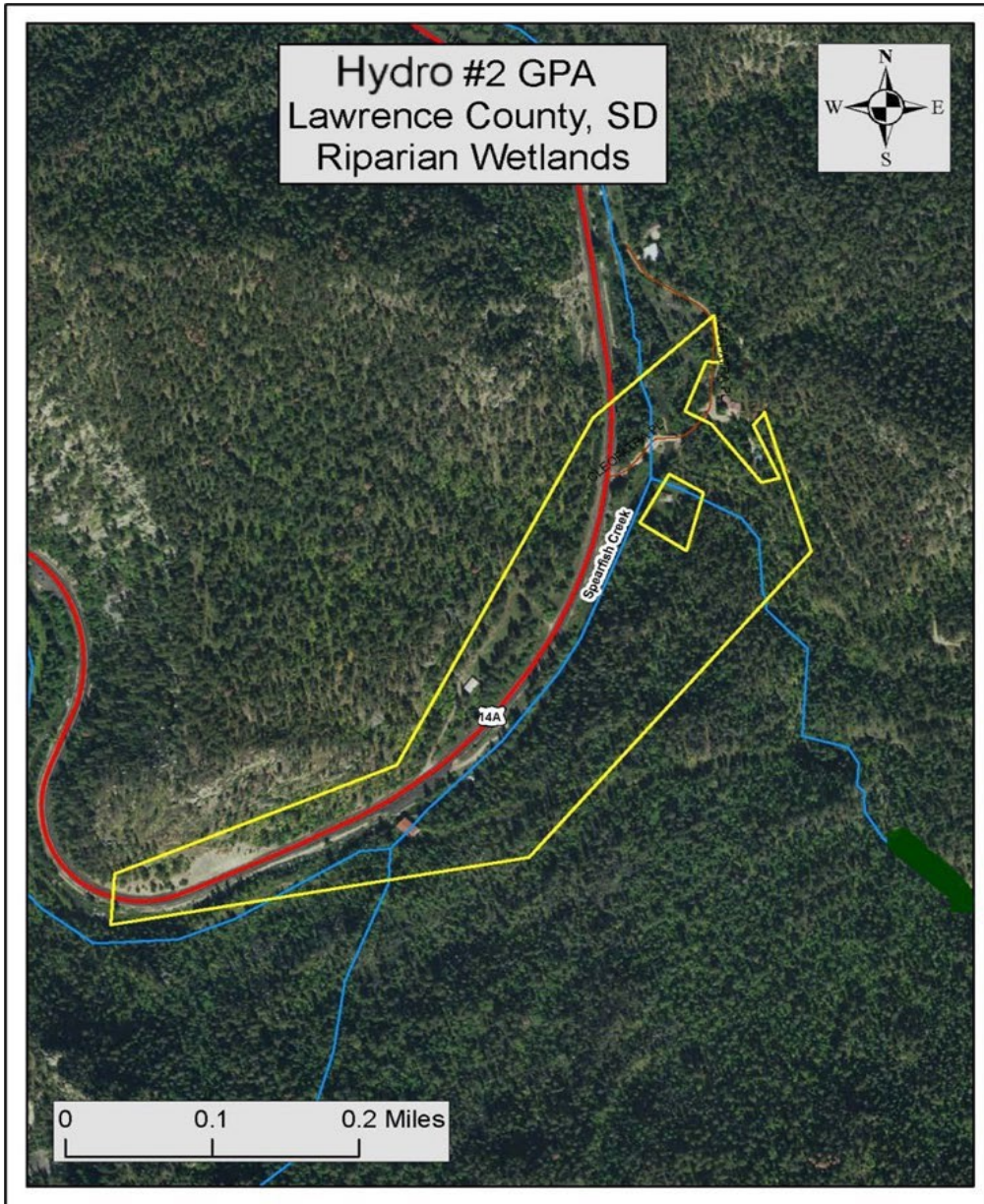


Figure 4 Hydro #2 GPA Riparian Wetlands



The Hepler GPA also contains approximately 600 linear feet of riverine wetland consisting of an unnamed tributary to Spearfish Creek (Figure 5). Isolated, seasonal wetlands are not present on Hepler GPA.

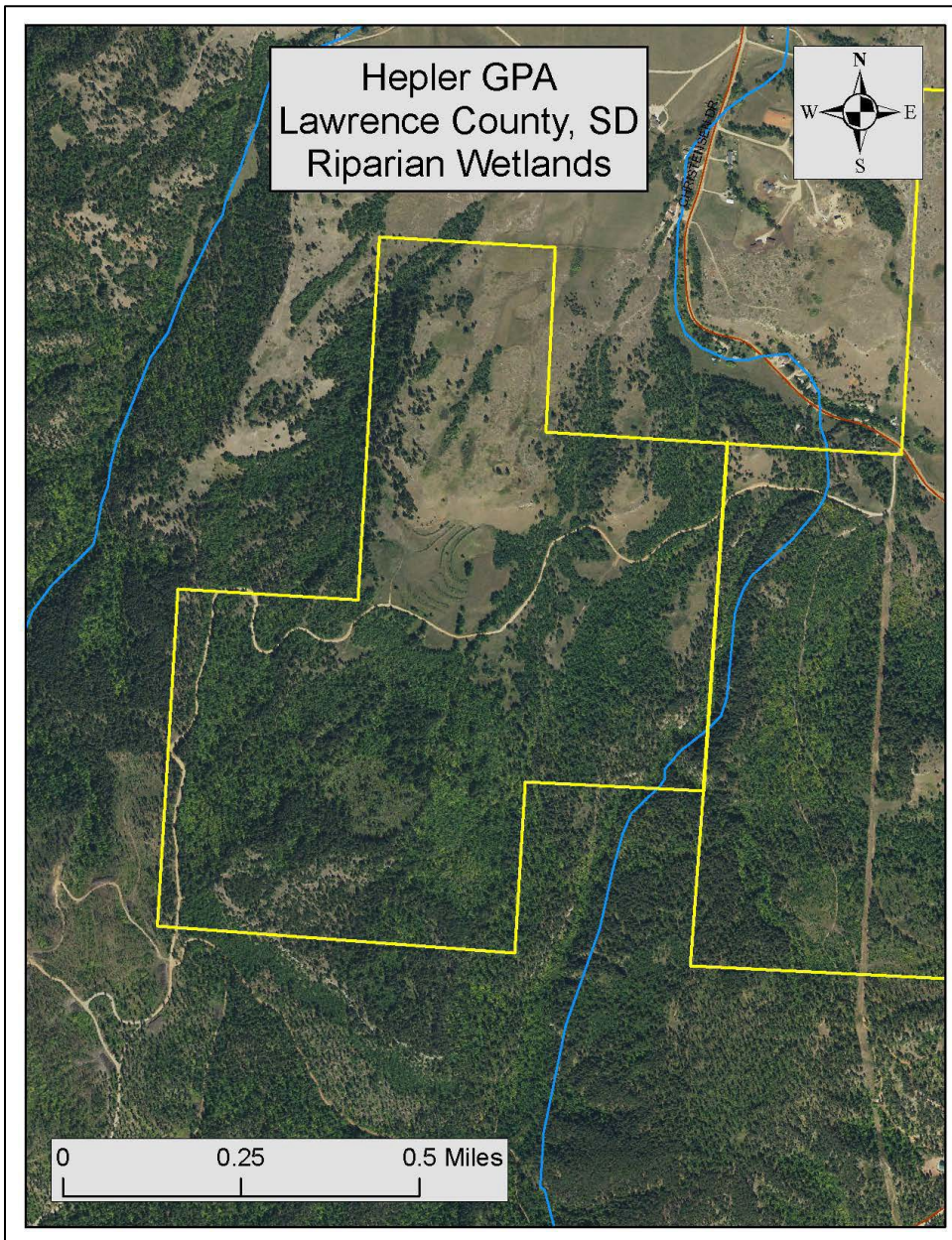


Figure 5 Hepler GPA Riparian Wetlands

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), much of the area along Spearfish Creek and Cleopatra Creek on the Hydro #2 GPA lie within the 100-year floodplain (Figure 6). No part of the Hepler GPA lies within a FEMA designated flood zone.



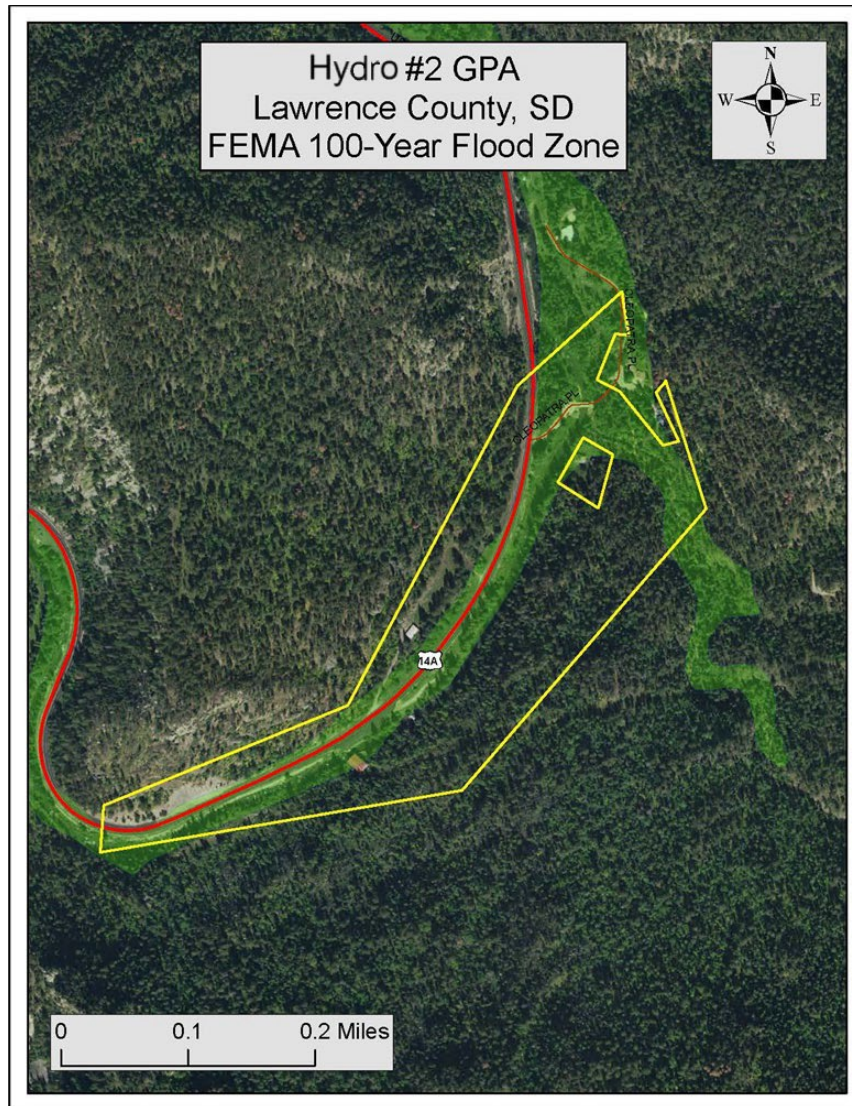


Figure 6 Hydro #2 GPA FEMA 100-Year Flood Zone

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance of Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. While it would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses, the proposed action if implemented would not in any way impact wetland or floodplain resources, except for ownership of those resources.

### 3.4 Prime and Unique Farmlands

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service web soil survey, accessed on March 19, 2019, (<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>) neither the Hydro #2 GPA or Hepler GPA contains any prime or unique farmland soils, but instead are located in a ponderosa pine dominated vegetation community. This soil report is attached in Appendix A.

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. While it would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses, the proposed action if implemented would not change or in any way impact prime and unique farmlands as neither GPA contain soils classified as prime or unique. The Hepler GPA is not currently in agricultural use and will remain in non- agricultural use under future management.

### **3.5 Historic and Cultural Resources**

An Intensive Level III Cultural Resources Survey was conducted at the Hydro #2 GPA site on April 27, 2020. The investigators recommended a Section 106 Finding of No Historic Properties Affected for SDGFP Hydro #2 so long as structure LA00002055 is avoided by future development and site 39LA1711 is avoided or mitigated prior to future development or modification to those locations. The SD State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed the report and developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

According to the Section 106 Project Consultation on June 27, 2022, the SD State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with a No Historic Properties Affected determination for the proposed undertaking provided certain stipulations were met. The stipulations were formalized in an MOA and signed by SHPO, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (Appendix B).

The FWS also invited Tribal Governments in South Dakota to consult on the project and each were provided with a copy of the Class III Intensive Cultural Resources Survey on March 14, 2022 (Appendix D). However, no responses were received by Tribes by the end of the 45-day comment period or any time thereafter.

Additional outreach and invitation to consult on the project with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) occurred on February 24, 2022 (Appendix B). However, no response was received by the end of the 45-day comment period.

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. While it would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses, safety concerns, and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses, the proposed action if implemented would not in any way impact historical or cultural resources at Hydro #2 GPA. The Hepler GPA will continue to be managed for use as a Game Production Area to provide wildlife habitat and public hunting opportunities.

### **3.6 Vegetation**

Both the Hydro #2 GPA and the Hepler GPA are located in a ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) dominated vegetation community within the Black Hills ecosystem of South Dakota. The Hydro #2 plant community is typical of a Black Hills forest riparian system with ponderosa pine located on drier limestone outcropping sites, and Black Hills spruce (*Pinus glauca*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*) communities located within the riparian areas. In addition to the dominant ponderosa pine community, the Hepler GPA also contains a mixed grass prairie plant community containing species such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), and leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*).

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. While it would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses, safety concerns, and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses. Currently, there are no plans to disrupt the current vegetation on the property. The proposed action, if implemented in the future, would disturb some areas of vegetation where infrastructure is built, however, this impact will also serve to minimize a larger area of habitat erosion and protect wildlife (and plant communities) from disturbance. By contrast, without the proposed action, the ability to manage impacts and prevent increased damage to vegetation would be impaired.

### 3.7 Wildlife Resources

- Common wildlife species likely occurring on and around the area of Hydro #2 GPA and the Hepler GPA include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Southern red-backed Vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), Cooper's Rocky Mountain Snail (*Oreohelix strigosa cooperi*), Smooth Green Snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*), American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), Yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronate*), MacGillivray's warblers (*Geothlypis tolmiei*), White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*), Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*), Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*), Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*), Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*).

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. While it would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses, safety concerns, and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses, the proposed action if implemented would not change or in any way impact existing wildlife resources except to protect them from disturbance.

### 3.8 Federally Listed Species

There are no known occurrences of endangered, rare, or threatened species in the immediate project area. Species considered per the Information for Planning and Consultation tool (IPaC) ([www.ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov](http://www.ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov)) for Lawrence County are northern long-eared bat, red knot, and monarch butterflies. A search of the SD Natural Heritage Database does not find any occurrences of endangered, rare, or threatened species in the immediate project area.

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. While it would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses, the proposed action if implemented would not in any way impact Federally or state listed species. Correspondence from South Dakota Natural Heritage Program is attached as Appendix C.

### 3.9 State Species of Special Concern

A search was performed of the South Dakota Natural Heritage Database and records identified occurrences of the American Dipper and Osprey, both species listed as threatened in South Dakota, at the Hydro #2 GPA. Bald Eagle and Iowa Skipper have also been documented at the Beilage-Hepler GPA.

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. While it would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 GPA property as they respond to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses, the proposed action if implemented would not in any way impact State species of special concern. Correspondence from South Dakota Natural Heritage Program is attached as Appendix C.

## **Chapter 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

### **4.1 Alternative 1 - Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA. The proposed action would allow additional flexibility and latitude in SDGFP management of the Hydro #2 property as they respond to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses. The scope of the Proposed Action is administrative in nature and would result in no net loss or gain of property owned and managed by SDGFP, nor any net loss of Federal owned and managed real properties.

### **4.2 Alternative 2 – No Action**

Under the No Action alternative, SDGFP will continue to own and manage both the Hydro #2 GPA and the Hepler GPA, the Federal encumbrance will remain in the Hydro #2 GPA property, and the potential to adequately and effectively respond to expanded public uses and the associated demand for additional services and amenities associated with those public uses will likely be unfeasible due to the strict regulations that dictate eligible use of Pittman-Roberson Federal funding. If no action is taken, SDGFP will be unable to build the infrastructure that will limit or control public use of the area and will be less successful in protecting the habitat from user impacts. The public safety issues related to the inability to accommodate the number of visitors will remain in place on this GPA and will increase over time.

### **4.3 Summary of Alternatives**

The following table summarizes impacts to identified resources for both the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative.

Table 1 - Summary of Potential Impacts to Identified Impact Topics

IMPACT TOPIC	IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE	
	Proposed Action	No Action
<b>RECREATION</b>	The proposed action to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA is administrative in nature. Under the proposed action alternative wildlife recreation opportunities would not change but the proposed action would better ensure that continued public use would be safe and feasible.	If no action is taken to dispose of Hydro #2 GPA, overtime there will be negative impacts to wildlife related recreation from increasing public use of the area.
<b>FLOODPLAINS AND WETLAND RESOURCES</b>	The proposed action to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA is administrative in nature. Under the proposed action alternative, floodplain and wetland resources would be unaffected.	If no action is taken to dispose of Hydro #2 GPA, overtime there will be negative impacts to floodplains and wetland resources from increasing public use of the area.
<b>PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLAND</b>	The proposed action to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA is administrative in nature. Under the proposed action alternative there would be no impact to prime and unique farmlands as none occur on the property.	If no action is taken to dispose of Hydro #2 GPA, there will be no impact to prime and unique farmlands as none occur on the property.
<b>HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	The proposed action to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA is administrative in nature. Under the proposed action alternative there would be no impact to known historic and cultural resources as the impacts have been mitigated with a fully executed MOA.	If no action is taken to dispose of Hydro #2 GPA, overtime there will be negative impacts to historic and cultural resources identified on the property from increasing public use of the area.
<b>VEGETATION RESOURCES</b>	The proposed action to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA is administrative in nature. Under the proposed action alternative, vegetation resources would be less affected. The infrastructure that is needed in specific areas will minimize a larger area of habitat erosion and protect plant communities from disturbance.	If no action is taken to dispose of Hydro #2 GPA, overtime there will be negative impacts to vegetation resources from increasing public use of the area.
<b>WILDLIFE RESOURCES</b>	The proposed action to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA is administrative in nature. Under the proposed action alternative, wildlife resources would be temporarily affected by adding infrastructure in specific areas that	If no action is taken to dispose of Hydro #2 GPA, overtime there will be negative impacts to wildlife resources from increasing public use of the area.



	will minimize a larger area of habitat erosion and protect wildlife resources.	
<b>FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES</b>	The proposed action to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA is administrative in nature. Under the proposed action alternative, there would be no impact to Federally listed species.	If no action is taken to dispose of Hydro #2 GPA, there will be no impact to Federally listed species as none have been found within the project area.
<b>STATE SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN</b>	The proposed action to dispose of the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the Hepler GPA is administrative in nature. Under the proposed action alternative, there would be no impact to state listed threatened or endangered species, or species of greatest conservation need.	If no action is taken to dispose of Hydro #2 GPA, there may be negative impacts to several state listed species and species of special concern from increasing public use of the area.

#### 4.4. Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action

SDGFP acquired the Hydro #2 GPA (previously known as the Spearfish Canyon HMC Property) in December 2014, using grant funds from the Pittman-Roberson Wildlife Restoration Act, resulting in a Federal encumbrance on the property. The property was purchased to provide wildlife production, wildlife habitat protection, and expanded public hunting and wildlife related recreation opportunities. SDGFP is now requesting approval to dispose of the Federal encumbrance on the 32.251-acre Hydro #2 GPA in Lawrence County, South Dakota in exchange for a new Federal encumbrance with the 320 acre Hepler GPA in Lawrence County, South Dakota, a GPA acquired in April 1944 for use as a Game Production Area to provide wildlife habitat and public hunting opportunities.

While the Hydro #2 GPA still currently serves the purposes for which it was acquired, SDGFP has determined public use and public expectations of SDGFP supported services and amenities at Hydro #2 GPA have expanded beyond those anticipated by SDGFP at the time of purchase and will increase over time to a point that it may be infeasible to continue to meet the original Federal Grant purpose. Due to its location off State Highway 14A in Spearfish Canyon and Spearfish Creek, public use activities, and the seasonality of those uses surrounding a popular location named Devil’s Bathtub (Figure 1), have expanded to include more year-round non-consumptive use. Activities such as fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and picnicking have become commonplace in addition to the intended primary public use as a public hunting area. Overtime these activities will affect the wildlife resources currently located on this property due to the increased public use of the area. If no action is taken in the near future the habitat will no doubt be negatively impacted by the increasing public use of the area and will likely no longer serve the purpose for which it was acquired.

Because SDGFP will retain ownership of Hydro #2, transferring the Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA will allow the agency more flexibility and latitude in its management of the property due to the strict regulations that dictate eligible use of Pittman-Roberson funding. Specifically, SDGFP would be better positioned to

provide additional services and amenities made necessary by expanded public uses, possibly including items such as restroom facilities, picnic areas, additional parking, and maintained hiking trails. SDGFP believes the current Federal encumbrance in Hydro #2 GPA, while not an impediment to current management, presents conflicting use challenges as it broadens its management approach in response to public demands and needs. Upon evaluating the effects of the proposed disposal of the Federal encumbrance, SDGFP has determined that any wildlife resources and existing public interests would only be temporarily affected by building the infrastructure needed to minimize a larger area of habitat erosion and protect wildlife resources from disturbance.

## **Chapter 5 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

South Dakota GFP consulted with the following state, county, and federal agencies on this project and the relevant responses are addressed in the attached appendices.

Advisory Council for Historic Properties (ACHP)  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
South Dakota Archaeological Research Center (SD ARC)  
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Environmental Review Team  
South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office  
United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

## **Chapter 6 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Service will accept all public comments related to this proposed action for (30) thirty days from the date when this assessment is published on the Service website. Additionally, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks will post this assessment on their website for the public to view.

## **Chapter 7 LIST OF PREPARERS**

Paul Coughlin, Habitat Program Administrator  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks  
523 East Capitol Ave – Foss Building, Pierre, SD 57501

Tanna Zabel, Federal Aid Coordinator  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks  
523 East Capitol Ave – Foss Building, Pierre, SD 57501

Adrianna Araya, Wildlife Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO

## **APPENDIX A**

Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil Resource Report for Hydro #2  
GPA, Lawrence County, SD

Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil Resource Report for Hepler  
GPA, Lawrence County, SD

**USDA** United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

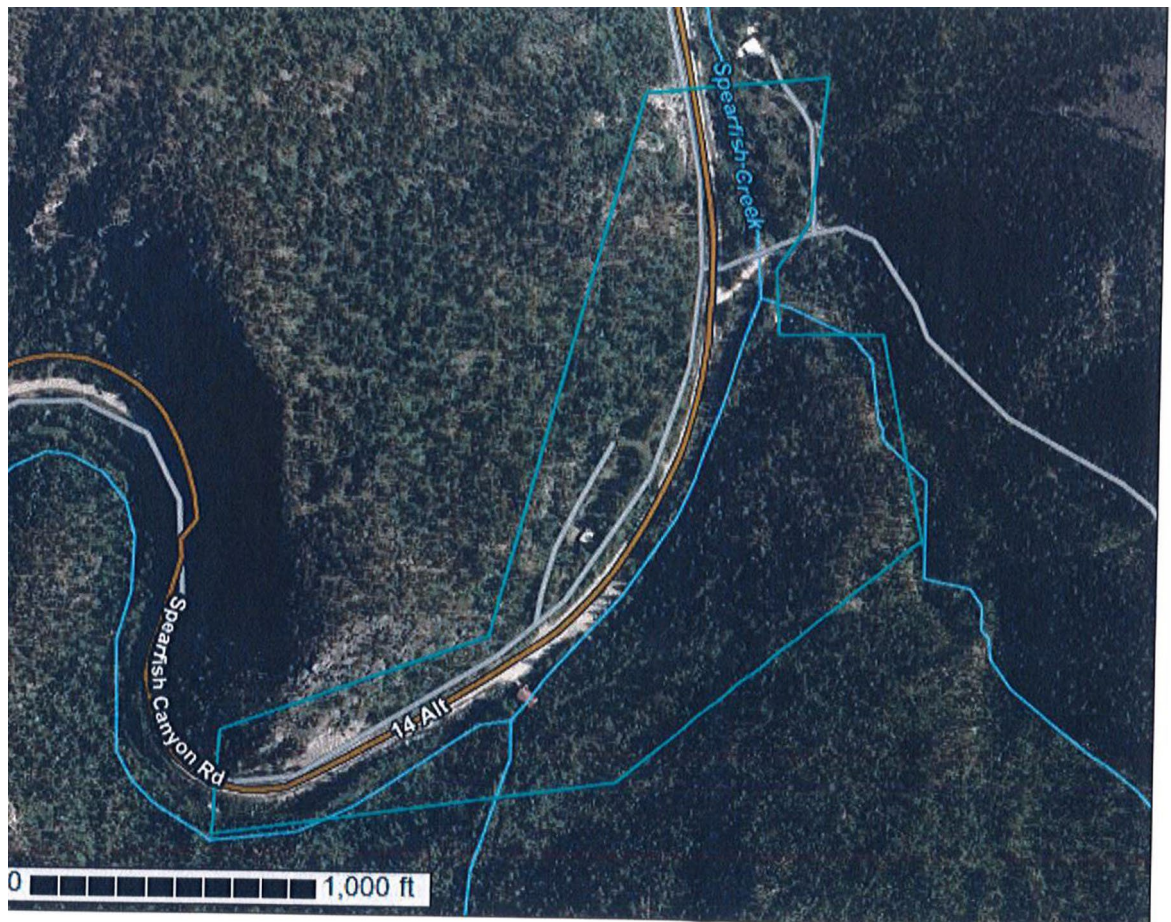
**NRCS**

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

A product of the National  
Cooperative Soil Survey,  
a joint effort of the United  
States Department of  
Agriculture and other  
Federal agencies, State  
agencies including the  
Agricultural Experiment  
Stations, and local  
participants

# Custom Soil Resource Report for Lawrence County, South Dakota

Hydro #2 GPA



# Preface

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Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in suNey areas. They highlight soil limitations that *affect* various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the suNey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conseNationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the suNeys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil suNeys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/>) and certain conseNation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist ([http://www.nres.usda.gov/wps/porta1/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053951](http://www.nres.usda.gov/wps/porta1/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951)).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint *effort* of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources ConseNation SeNice (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require

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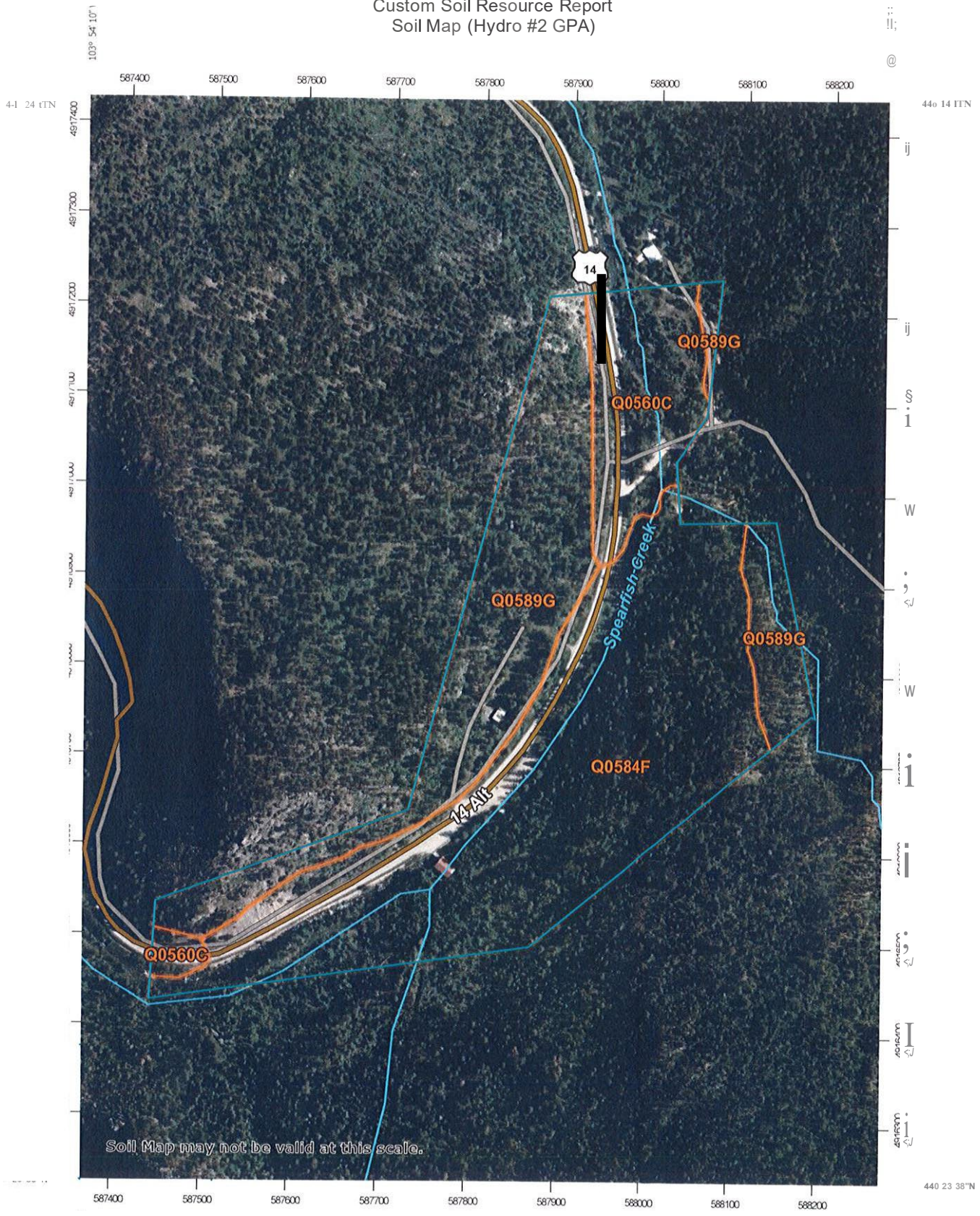


# Soil Map

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The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.

Custom Soil Resource Report  
Soil Map (Hydro #2 GPA)



Map Scale: 1:5,850 printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet.



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MAP LEGEND		MAP INFORMATION	
Area of Interest (AOI)	0 Area of Interest (AOI)	Spoil Area	The soils surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000
Soils	Soil Map Unit Polygons Soil Map Unit Lines C Soil Map Unit Points	0 Stony Spot Very Stony Spot Net Spot Other Special Line Features	Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale
Special Point Features	u) 610 NOUI 181 Borow Pit X Clay Spot Closed Depression X Gravel Pit Gravelly Spot 1? Landfill ^ Lava Flow :i, Marsh or swamp Mine or Quarry @ Miscellaneous Water 0 Perennial Water Rock Outcrop + Same Spot Sandy Spot ■ Severity Eroded Spot Sinkhole Slide or Slip 4 Sod, c Spot	Water Features Streams and Canals Transportation Interstate Highways RR Routes Major Roads Local Roads Background Aerial Photography	Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstandings of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement! These maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale
			Please refer to the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements
			Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)
			Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area such as the Albers equal-area conic projection should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.
			This product is generated from the USOA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.
			Soil Survey Area: Lamont County South Dakota Survey Area Data Version: 25 Sep 2022
			Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger
			Date(s) aerial photographs were photographed: Jun 16 2022-Aug 8, 2022
			The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

## Map Unit Legend (Hydro #2 GPA)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Q0560C	Rapidreek gravelly loam. 2 to 10 percent slopes. rarely flooded	8.6	13.7%
Q0584F	Vanocker-Citadel complex. 20 to 60 percent slopes	34.2	54.6%
Q0589G	Vanocker-Sawdust, moist-Rock outcrop complex. 40 to 80 percent slopes	19.9	31.7%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>62.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Map Unit Descriptions (Hydro #2 GPA)

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate



## Custom Soil Resource Report

pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

# **Soil Information for All Uses**

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## **Suitabilities and Limitations for Use**

The Suitabilities and Limitations for Use section includes various soil interpretations displayed as thematic maps with a summary table for the soil map units in the selected area of interest. A single value or rating for each map unit is generated by aggregating the interpretive ratings of individual map unit components. This aggregation process is defined for each interpretation.

## **Land Classifications**

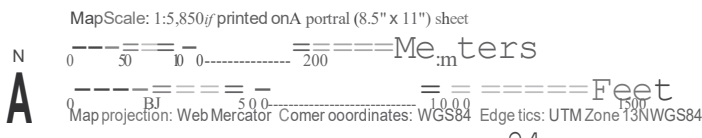
Land Classifications are specified land use and management groupings that are assigned to soil areas because combinations of soil have similar behavior for specified practices. Most are based on soil properties and other factors that directly influence the specific use of the soil. Example classifications include ecological site classification, farmland classification, irrigated and nonirrigated land capability classification, and hydric rating.

## **Farmland Classification (Hydro #2 GPA)**

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.



Custom Soil Resource Report  
 Map-Farmland Classification (Hydro #2 GPA)



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**MAP LEGEND**

<p><b>Area of Interest (AOI)</b></p> <p>[     ] Area or Interest (AOI)</p> <p><b>Soils</b></p> <p><b>Soil Rating Polygons</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not prime farmland</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All areas are prime farmland</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime farmland if drained</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime farmland if irrigated</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime farmland if irrigated and drained</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of (S011 erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of statewide importance if drained</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of statewide importance if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated</p>	<p><b>U</b> Farmland of statewide importance if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><b>D</b> Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and drained</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of statewide importance if subsoiled completely removing the root in the 111ng soil layer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and the product of (S011 erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</p>	<p><b>D</b> Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p><b>U</b> Farmland of statewide importance if drained or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><b>D</b> Farmland of statewide importance if warm enough and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of statewide importance if warm enough</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of statewide importance if flooded</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Farmland of local importance</p> <p><b>U</b> Farmland of local importance if irrigated</p>	<p><b>U</b> Farmland of Unique Importance</p> <p><b>D</b> Not rated or not available</p> <p><b>Soil Rating Lines</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not prime farmland</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All areas are prime farmland</p> <p>...V' Prime farmland if drained</p> <p>...V' Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated</p> <p>Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and drained</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>
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### Custom Soil Resource Report

<p>Prime farmland if subsided completely removing the root in the bltting soil layer</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance</p> <p>Farmland or statewide importance if drained</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated</p>	<p>Farmland of statewide importance if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and drained</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if warm enough and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if warm enough</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and drained</p> <p>Farmland of local importance</p> <p>Farmland of local importance if irrigated</p>	<p>Farmland of unique importance</p> <p>Not rated or not available</p> <p>Soil Rating Points</p> <p>Not prime farmland</p> <p>All areas are prime farmland</p> <p>Prime farmland, drained</p> <p>Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated</p> <p>Prime farmland, drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and drained</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p>Prime farmland if subsided completely removing the root in the bltting soil layer</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p>Farmland or statewide importance</p> <p>Farmland or statewide importance if drained</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated</p>
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<p><b>a</b> Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p>■ Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p>	<p>■ Farmland of unique importance □ Not rated or 001 available</p>	<p>The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000</p>
<p>■ Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated</p>	<p>□ Farmland or statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently</p>	<p>Water Features Streams and Canals Transportation</p>	<p>Warning: S011 Map may not be valid at this scale. Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause</p>
<p>and drained ■ Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p>flooded during the growing season</p>	<p>■ Rails Interstate Highways US Routes Major Roads Local Roads</p>	<p>misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</p>
<p><b>a</b> Farmland of statewide importance, if subsided</p>	<p>■ Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing</p>		<p>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements</p>
<p>completely removing the root-inhibiting soil layer</p>	<p>season Farmland or statewide importance, if warm enough</p>	<p>Background • Aerial Photography</p>	<p>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web S011 Survey URL Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG 3857)</p>
<p><b>a</b> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of 1 (soil erodibility) X C (Climate factor) does not exceed 60</p>	<p>□ Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed ■ Farmland of local importance C Farmland of local importance, if irrigated</p>		<p>Maps from the Web S011 Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</p>
			<p>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below</p>
			<p>S011 Survey Area: Lawrence County, South Dakota Survey Area Data: Version 25 Sep 8 2022</p>
			<p>S011 map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.</p>
			<p>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 16, 2022-Aug 8, 2022</p>

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were completed and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

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**Table-Farmland Classification (Hydro #2 GPA)**

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Q0560C	Rapidreek gravelly loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Not prime farmland	8.6	13.7%
Q0584F	Vanacker-Citadel complex. 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	34.2	54.6%
Q0589G	Vanacker-Sawdust. moist-Rock outcrop complex. 40 to 80 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	19.9	31.7%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>62.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Rating Options-Farmland Classification (Hydro #2 GPA)**

*Aggregation Method:* No Aggregation Necessary

*Tie-break Rule:* Lower

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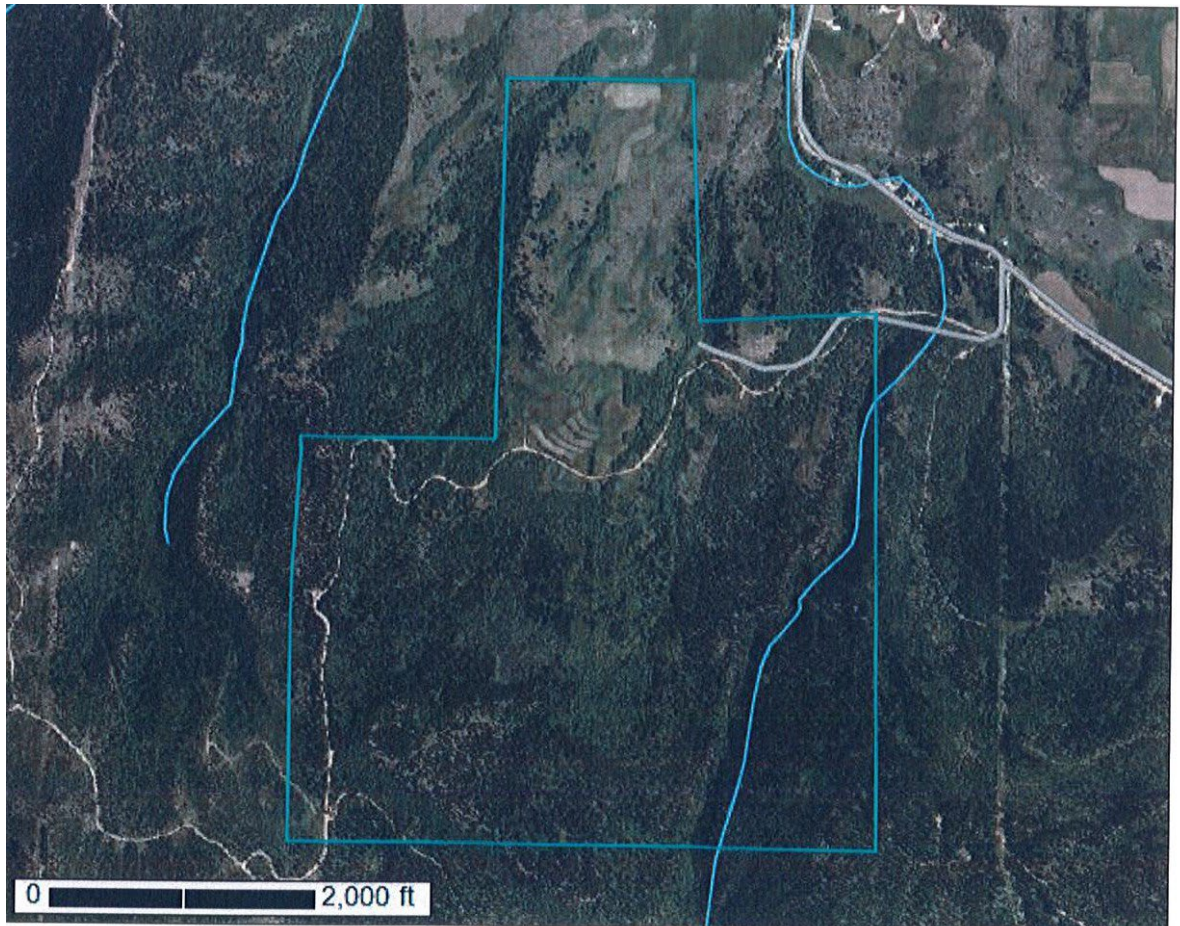
A product of the National  
Cooperative Soil Survey,  
a joint effort of the United  
States Department of  
Agriculture and other  
Federal agencies, State  
agencies including the  
Agricultural Experiment  
Stations, and local  
participants

# Custom Soil Resource Report for Lawrence County, South Dakota

Hepler GPA

Sheet 2

Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area	Area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21



# Preface

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Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in suNey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the suNey areas. Soil suNeys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conseNationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the suNeys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil suNeys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/>) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist ([http://www.nres.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053951](http://www.nres.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951)).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil SuNey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation SeNice (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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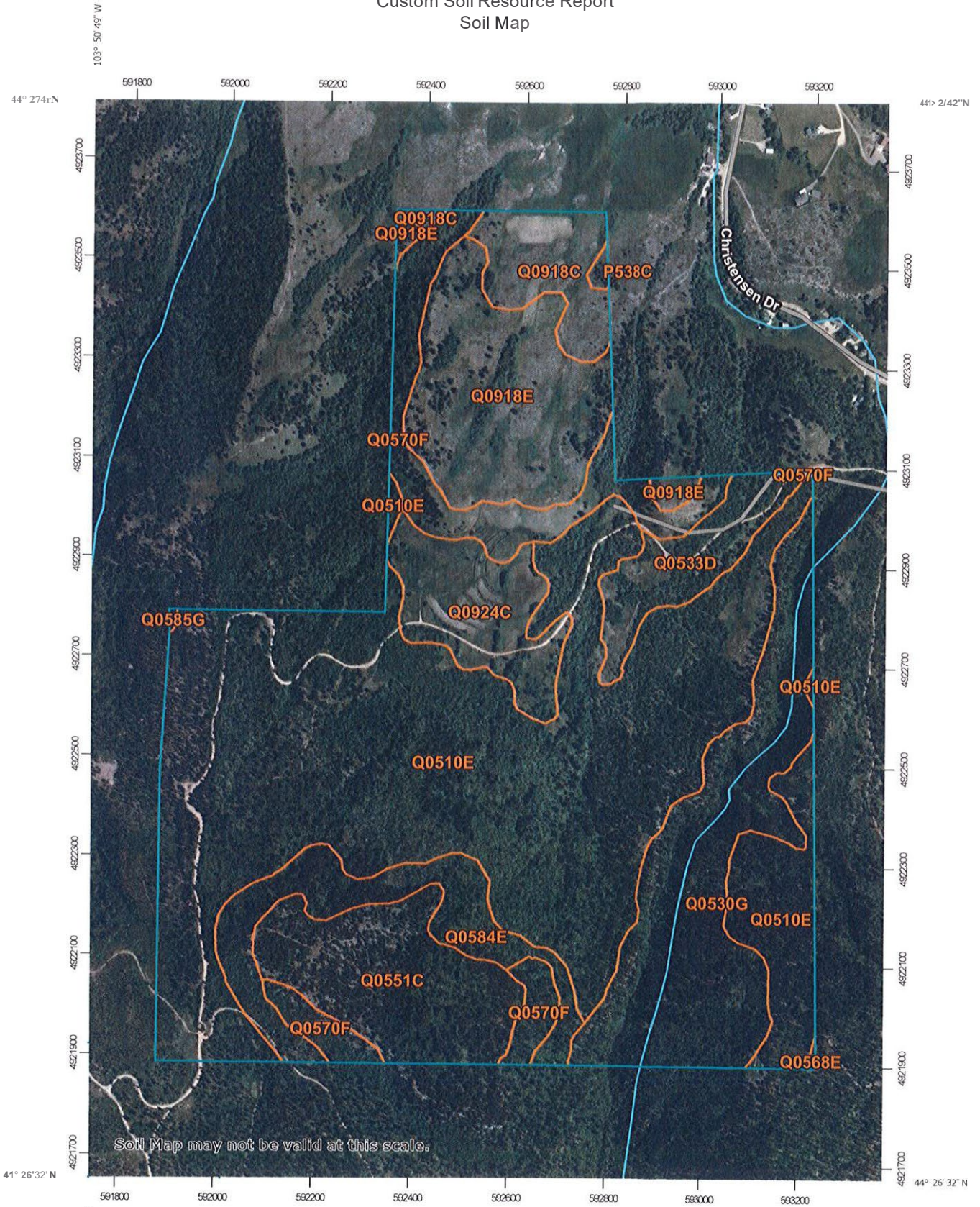
# Soil Map

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The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.



# Custom Soil Resource Report Soil Map






















Map Scale: 1:10,500 printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet

0	150	300	450	600	750	900	1050	1200	1350	1500	1650	1800	1950	2100	2250	2400	2550	2700	2850	3000	3150	3300	3450	3600	3750	3900	4050	4200	4350	4500	4650	4800	4950	5100	5250	5400	5550	5700	5850	6000	6150	6300	6450	6600	6750	6900	7050	7200	7350	7500	7650	7800	7950	8100	8250	8400	8550	8700	8850	9000	9150	9300	9450	9600	9750	9900	10050	10200	10350	10500	10650	10800	10950	11100	11250	11400	11550	11700	11850	12000	12150	12300	12450	12600	12750	12900	13050	13200	13350	13500	13650	13800	13950	14100	14250	14400	14550	14700	14850	15000	15150	15300	15450	15600	15750	15900	16050	16200	16350	16500	16650	16800	16950	17100	17250	17400	17550	17700	17850	18000	18150	18300	18450	18600	18750	18900	19050	19200	19350	19500	19650	19800	19950	20100	20250	20400	20550	20700	20850	21000	21150	21300	21450	21600	21750	21900	22050	22200	22350	22500	22650	22800	22950	23100	23250	23400	23550	23700	23850	24000	24150	24300	24450	24600	24750	24900	25050	25200	25350	25500	25650	25800	25950	26100	26250	26400	26550	26700	26850	27000	27150	27300	27450	27600	27750	27900	28050	28200	28350	28500	28650	28800	28950	29100	29250	29400	29550	29700	29850	30000
0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1500	1550	1600	1650	1700	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500	2550	2600	2650	2700	2750	2800	2850	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500	4550	4600	4650	4700	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950	5000	5050	5100	5150	5200	5250	5300	5350	5400	5450	5500	5550	5600	5650	5700	5750	5800	5850	5900	5950	6000	6050	6100	6150	6200	6250	6300	6350	6400	6450	6500	6550	6600	6650	6700	6750	6800	6850	6900	6950	7000	7050	7100	7150	7200	7250	7300	7350	7400	7450	7500	7550	7600	7650	7700	7750	7800	7850	7900	7950	8000	8050	8100	8150	8200	8250	8300	8350	8400	8450	8500	8550	8600	8650	8700	8750	8800	8850	8900	8950	9000	9050	9100	9150	9200	9250	9300	9350	9400	9450	9500	9550	9600	9650	9700	9750	9800	9850	9900	9950	10000

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 13N WGS84



Custom Soil Resource Report

MAP LEGEND		MAP INFORMATION	
<b>Area of Interest (AOI)</b>  Area of Interest (AOI)		The S011 surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000	
<b>Soils</b>  S011 Map Unit Polygons  S011 Map Unit Lines  Sod Map Unit Points		Warning: S011 Map may not be valid at 1:1 scale  Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting S011s that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.	
<b>Special Point Features</b> C, B, Blowout  Borrow Pit  Clay Spot Closed Depression  Gravel Pit Gravelly Spot  Landfill  Lava Flow  Marsh or swamp  Mine or Quarry  Miscellaneous Water  Perennial Water Rock Outcrop  Sand Spot Sandy Spot  Severely Eroded Spot Sinkhole  Slide or Shp  Sod Spot		<b>Water Features</b> Streams and Canals  <b>Transportation</b>  Rails  Interstate Highways US Routes Major Roads Local Roads  <b>Background</b>  Aerial Photography	
		Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.  Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG 3857)	
		Maps from the Web S011 Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection which preserves distance and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.	
		This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below:  S011 Survey Area: Lawrence County, South Dakota Survey Area Data Version: 25 Sep 8, 2022	
		Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.	
		Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 16, 2022-Aug 8, 2022	
		The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.	

## Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
P538C	Vale silt loam, 6 to 9 percent slopes	0.6	0.2%
Q0510E	Citadel-Tollfiat-Danjay complex. 10 to 40 percent slopes	195.7	46.3%
00530G	Hopdraw-Sawdust-Rock outcrop complex. moist, 40 to 80 percent slopes	53.0	12.6%
005330	Hickok-Maitland, moist complex, 6 to 25 percent slopes	14.6	3.5%
Q0551C	Rockerville complex, 2 to 12 percent slopes	30.9	7.3%
Q0568E	Roubaix silt loam. 6 to 40 percent slopes	0.2	0.0%
Q0570F	Opechekahta-Citivar-Schaeferville complex. 20 to 60 percent slopes	29.3	6.9%
00584E	Vanocker-Citadel complex. 10 to 40 percent slopes	23.0	5.4%
00585G	Vanocker-Danjay-Hopdraw, moist complex, 40 to 80 percent slopes	0.2	0.0%
Q0918C	Rockerville-Pesowyo complex. 3 to 12 percent slopes	14.3	3.4%
Q0918E	Rockerville-Pesowyo complex, 10 to 30 percent slopes	40.1	9.5%
Q0924C	Tilford silt loam, cool, 6 to 10 percent slopes	20.4	4.8%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>422.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without

## Custom Soil Resource Report

including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

## Custom Soil Resource Report

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, Oto 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

# **Soil Information for All Uses**

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## **Suitabilities and Limitations for Use**

The Suitabilities and Limitations for Use section includes various soil interpretations displayed as thematic maps with a summary table for the soil map units in the selected area of interest. A single value or rating for each map unit is generated by aggregating the interpretive ratings of individual map unit components. This aggregation process is defined for each interpretation.

## **Land Classifications**

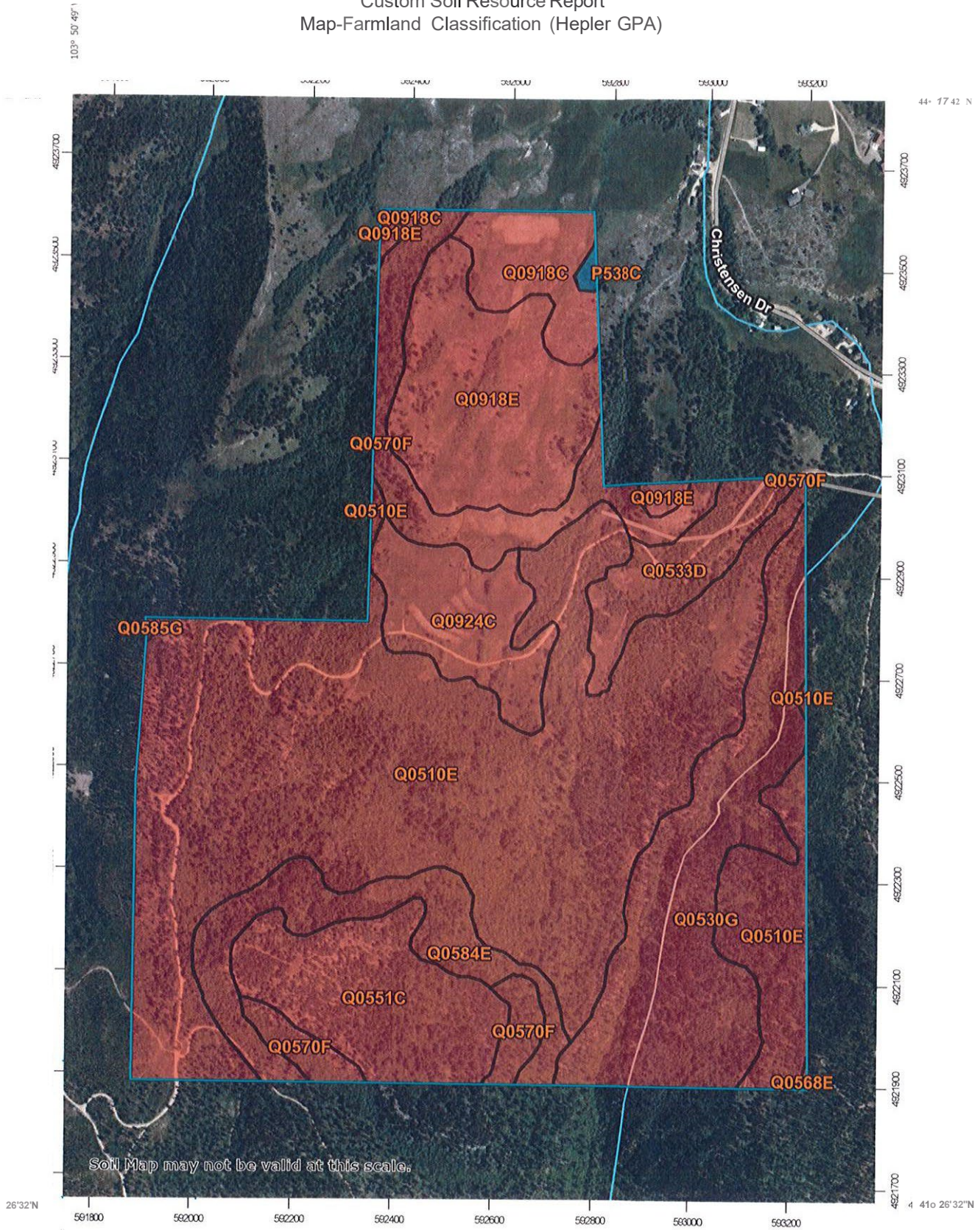
Land Classifications are specified land use and management groupings that are assigned to soil areas because combinations of soil have similar behavior for specified practices. Most are based on soil properties and other factors that directly influence the specific use of the soil. Example classifications include ecological site classification, farmland classification, irrigated and nonirrigated land capability classification, and hydric rating.

## **Farmland Classification (Hepler GPA)**

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.



Custom Soil Resource Report  
 Map-Farmland Classification (Hepler GPA)



Map Scale: 1:10,500 / printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet.


N  
**A**

0	150	300	450	600	750	900
:m						
0	500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000
:ft						

Meters  
 900  
 feet  
 :mo




Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge CS: IJTMZone 13NWGS84




Custom Soil Resource Report

**Area of Interest (AOI)**  
 Area of Interest (AOI)



**Soils**


**Soil Rating Polygons**

**CI** Not prime farmland  
**D** All areas are prime farmland  
 Prime farmland if drained  
 Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  
**LJ** Prime farmland if irrigated  
**LJ** Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  
 Prime farmland if irrigated and drained  
**D** Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season









**J** Prime farmland if subsoiled completely removing the root mottling soil layer  
**CJ** Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (Soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60  
 Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium  
 Farmland of statewide importance  
 Farmland of statewide importance if drained  
**D** Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated  
**D** Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated

**MAP LEGEND**

**LJ** Farmland of statewide importance if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  
 Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and drained  
**D** Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  
**D** Farmland of statewide importance if subsoiled completely removing the root mottling soil layer  
**D** Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60  
**LJ** Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium  
**LJ** Farmland of statewide importance if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  
 Farmland of statewide importance if warm enough and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  
**D** Farmland of statewide importance if warm enough  
**LJ** Farmland of local importance  
**LJ** Farmland of local importance if irrigated

 Farmland of unique importance  
**D** Not rated or not available

**Soil Rating Lines**

 Not prime farmland  
 Areas are prime farmland  
 Prime farmland if drained  
 Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  
 Prime farmland if irrigated  
 Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  
 Prime farmland if irrigated and drained  
 Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

### Custom Soil Resource Report

<p>Prime farmland if subsoiled completely removing the root inhabiting soil layer</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if drained</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated</p>	<p>Farmland of statewide importance if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated and drained</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled completely removing the root inhabiting soil layer</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</p>	<p>Farmland of statewide importance, irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Farmland or statewide importance if warm enough</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if thawed</p> <p>Farmland of local importance</p> <p>Farmland of local importance if irrigated</p>	<p>Farmland of unique importance</p> <p>Not rated or not available</p> <p>Soil Rating Points</p> <p><b>a</b> Not prime farmland</p> <p><b>II</b> All areas are prime farmland</p> <p><b>C</b> Prime farmland if drained</p> <p>Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><b>D</b> Prime farmland, irrigated</p> <p>Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and drained</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p>Prime farmland if subsoiled completely removing the root inhabiting soil layer</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</p> <p>Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p><b>C</b> Farmland of statewide importance</p> <p><b>D</b> Farmland of statewide importance if drained</p> <p>Farmland of statewide importance if irrigated</p>
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Custom Soil Resource Report

<p><b>a</b> Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>● Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained</p> <p>● Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>□ Farmland of statewide importance, if subsided, completely remolded, or eroded in the topsoil layer</p>	<p>■ Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p>□ Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p>● Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p> <p><b>C</b> Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough</p> <p>□ Farmland of statewide importance, if hawed</p> <p>■ Farmland of local importance</p> <p><b>C</b> Farmland of local importance, if irrigated</p>	<p>■ Farmland of unique importance</p> <p>□ Not rated or not available</p> <p><b>Water Features</b> Streams and Canals</p> <p><b>Transportation</b> Rails Interstate Highways US Routes Major Roads Local Roads</p> <p><b>Background</b> • Aerial Photography</p>	<p>The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.</p> <p>Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.</p> <p>Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</p> <p>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.</p> <p>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG 3857)</p> <p>Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used, if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</p> <p>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.</p> <p>Soil Survey Area: Lawrence County, South Dakota Survey Area Data: Version 25 - Sep 8, 2022</p> <p>S011 map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.</p> <p>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 16, 2022-Aug 8, 2022</p> <p>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.</p>
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## Custom Soil Resource Report

### Table-Farmland Classification (Hepler GPA)

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI
P538C	Vale silt loam, 6 to 9 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance	0.6	0.2%
Q0510E	Citadel-Tollflat-Danjay complex, 10 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	195.7	46.3%
Q0530G	Hopdraw-Sawdust-Rock outcrop complex, moist, 40 to 80 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	53.0	12.6%
Q05330	Hickok-Maitland, moist complex, 6 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	14.6	3.5%
Q0551C	Rockerville complex, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	30.9	7.3%
Q0568E	Roubaix silt loam, 6 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	0.2	0.0%
Q0570F	Opechekahta-Citivar-Schaeferville complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	29.3	6.9%
00584E	Vanocker-Citadel complex, 10 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	23.0	5.4%
Q0585G	Vanocker-Danjay-Hopdraw, moist complex, 40 to 80 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	0.2	0.0%
Q0918C	Rockerville-Pesowyo complex, 3 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	14.3	3.4%
Q0918E	Rockerville-Pesowyo complex, 10 to 30 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	40.1	9.5%
Q0924C	Tilford silt loam, cool, 6 to 10 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	20.4	4.8%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>422.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Rating Options-Farmland Classification (Hepler GPA)

*Aggregation Method:* No Aggregation Necessary

*Tie-break Rule:* Lower



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- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. National range and pasture handbook. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/landuse/rangepasture/?cid=stelprdb1043084>

## Custom Soil Resource Report

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. National soil survey handbook, title 430-VI. [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/scientists/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_054242](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/scientists/?cid=nrcs142p2_054242)

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## **APPENDIX B**

State Historical Preservation Office, Section 106 Project Consultation  
Memorandum of Agreement, Hydro #2 Game Production Area Advisory  
Council on Historic Preservation, Invitation to Consult



July 27, 2022

Ms. Tanna Zabel  
Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

### **SECTION 106 PROJECT CONSULTATION**

Project: 190415002F – Federal Encumbrance Removal from Spearfish Canyon Hydro #2 GPA and Transfer Federal Encumbrance to Hepler GPA

Location: Lawrence County  
(USFWS/GFP)

Dear Ms. Zabel:

On July 23, 2022, the agreement titled *Memorandum of Agreement Among United States Fish and Wildlife Service, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer, and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks Regarding the Hydro #2 Game Production Area, Lawrence County, South Dakota* was fully executed pursuant to 54 U.S.C. 306108, also known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Previously, on January 12, 2021, and April 15, 2021, Jana Morehouse of Quality Services, Inc. submitted flash drives to the South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) containing photographs, photo keys, a photo log, and historical research. Submission of this documentation fulfills Stipulations I, II, and III of the above-referenced agreement. SHPO will submit the documentation to the South Dakota State Archives for public use and reproduction, as stipulated in the agreement.

SHPO staff will begin the process of nominating the Hydro #2 Building (LA00002055) to the National Register of Historic Places, as South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) has consented to the nomination of the building in Stipulation IV of the agreement. Please ensure that SDGFP manages LA00002055 and 39LA1711 according to the terms agreed upon in Stipulations V and VI, respectively, of the agreement. As per the stipulations of the agreement, SDGFP must notify SHPO of any planned actions that may disturb or modify either of the properties.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your agency to resolve the adverse effects of the undertaking on LA00002055 and 39LA1711, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.6 of the implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.



Should you require additional information, please contact Jenna Carlson Dietmeier at [Jenna.CarlsonDietmeier@state.sd.us](mailto:Jenna.CarlsonDietmeier@state.sd.us) or at (605)773-8370. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of South Dakota appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ted M. Spencer  
State Historic Preservation Officer



Jenna Carlson Dietmeier, PhD  
Review & Compliance Coordinator

CC: John Kanta - South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
Sean Blanchette – South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
Paul Coughlin – South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
Karri Springer – United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Adrianna Araya – United States Fish and Wildlife Service





IN REPLY REFER TO  
FWS/R6/WSFR

# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region



MAILING ADDRESS:	LOCATION:
P.O. Box 25486, Attn: WSFR	Attn: WSFR
Denver Federal Center	134 Union Boulevard, Suite 460B
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486	Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
AMONG  
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, AND  
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS  
REGARDING  
THE HYDRO #2 GAME PRODUCTION AREA  
LAWRENCE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) provides oversight and administrative support to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) through the Wildlife Restoration Grant Program to conserve, protect, and enhance wildlife, their habitats, and the hunting opportunities they provide; and

**WHEREAS**, SDGFP utilized funding through the Pittman-Roberson Wildlife Restoration Act (grant #F15AF00029 (W-27-L-3) to acquire the Hydro #2 Game Production Area (GPA) in Lawrence County, South Dakota in December 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, for purposes of enhancing public safety and accommodating the increased public use of the area, the USFWS and SDGFP plan to approve an administrative action whereby the federal interest in the Hydro #2 GPA associated with the Pittman-Roberson Wildlife Restoration grant will be removed to allow the SDGFP to build the infrastructure needed that will also minimize habitat erosion and protect wildlife from disturbance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed administrative action is situated in Spearfish Canyon, Lawrence County, South Dakota, as thoroughly described and depicted in the attached *Intensive Level III Cultural Resources Survey of Hydro No. 2 Game Production Area for Game, Fish and Parks, Lawrence County, South Dakota* (Attachment 1), and is known to contain historic properties 39LA1711 and LA00002055 as identified and described also in Attachment 1; and

**WHEREAS**, USFWS and SDGFP, in consultation with the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.5(a)(2)(vii), have determined such administrative action constitutes an undertaking that will have an adverse effect on historic properties 39LA1711 and LA00002055 as identified in the *Intensive Level III Cultural Resources Survey of Hydro No. 2 Game Production Area for Game, Fish and Parks, Lawrence County, South Dakota*; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.6, USFWS has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of its adverse effect determination with specified documentation, and the ACHP has chosen not to participate in the consultation pursuant to 36 CFR part 800.6(a)(1)(iii); and

**WHEREAS**, USFWS has consulted with and invited comments from the eight South Dakota Tribal Governments regarding the undertaking, to which no responses were received.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, USFWS, SDGFP, and SHPO agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to consider the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

## **STIPULATIONS**

USFWS in coordination with SDGFP and SHPO shall ensure the following measures are carried out:

### **I. PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

SDGFP will submit photographic documentation of LA00002055 (Hydro #2 Building) to the SHPO which conforms to the Photography Guidelines for the Purposes of Section 106 Mitigation (Attachment 2). This will include digital color photographs that meet the National Register of Historic Places photograph standards, meaning photos must be at least 2000 x 3000 pixels at 300 dpi, saved as TIFF, and submitted on a CD or flash drive. Photographs shall minimally include full views of the building's primary elevations, close-ups of any decorative, character-defining, or structural features, and general views of the building and its environs. Photographs will be labeled according to the SHPO's naming requirements defined in the South Dakota Historic Resource Survey Manual. SHPO must approve the documentation prior to the removal of the federal encumbrance. Upon review and approval of the documentation, SHPO will submit the photographs to the South Dakota State Archives for public use and reproduction.

### **II. EXISTING RECORD SEARCH**

SDGFP will conduct a search for any existing reports, photographs, drawings, plans, or similar documents related to LA00002055 (Hydro #2 Building). The search will include, but is not limited to, any SDGFP or USFWS files, county or city government files, local historical society or museum files, or other repositories that may likely have records related to the building. SDGFP will submit a letter to SHPO documenting what repositories or files were searched.

### **III. EXISTING RECORD REPRODUCTION**

If any publicly available documents related to LA00002055 (Hydro #2 Building) are found while completing Stipulation II and those documents are not otherwise restricted by federal

or state law, SDGFP will either submit the original, if possible, or one copy of those documents to SHPO. SDGFP will also scan any photographs (historic or more recent) of LA00002055 found while completing Stipulation II and provide the images to SHPO. Images will be scanned at 600 dpi, saved as TIFFs, and submitted on a CD or flash drive. Upon receipt and review of the documents and/or images, SHPO will submit the documents and/or images to the South Dakota State Archives for public use and reproduction.

#### **IV. NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION OF LA00002055**

SDGFP will consent to the nomination of site LA00002055 (Hydro #2 Building) to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **V. MANAGEMENT OF LA00002055**

SDGFP will notify SHPO of any proposed undertaking resulting in any disturbance or modification to LA00002055 (Hydro #2 Building) and will not authorize any third party to modify or occupy the building under a separate arrangement.

#### **VI. MANAGEMENT OF 39LA1711**

SDGFP will continue to manage site 39LA1711 in a manner that protects the integrity of the site by maintaining existing fences and locked gates which are in place to block public access to the site. SDGFP will notify SHPO of any planned undertakings that may result in changes to the existing protections, and disturbance or modification to or within the boundaries of 39LA1711.

#### **VII. DURATION**

This MOA will expire if its terms are not carried out within five (5) years from the date of its execution. Prior to such time, USFWS may consult with the other signatories to reconsider the terms of the MOA, extend the duration, or amend it in accordance with Stipulation XI below.

#### **VIII. POST-REVIEW DISCOVERIES**

SDGFP will notify SHPO if properties are discovered that may be historically significant, or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found immediately upon discovery.

#### **IX. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Each year following execution of the MOA until it expires or is terminated, SDGFP shall provide all parties to this MOA a summary report, detailing work undertaken pursuant to stipulations of this MOA. Such summary report shall be delivered no later than July 1 and shall include descriptions of any scheduling changes proposed, any problems encountered,

and any disputes and objections received in SDGFP's efforts to carry out the terms of this MOA.

## **X. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Should any signatory to this MOA object at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this MOA are implemented, USFWS shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. If USFWS determines that such objection cannot be resolved, it will:

- a. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the USFWS proposed resolution, to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The ACHP shall provide USFWS with its advice on the resolution of the objection within thirty (30) days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the dispute, USFWS shall prepare a written response taking into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP, signatories and concurring parties, and provide them with a copy of this written response. USFWS will then proceed according to its final decision.
- b. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) day period, USFWS may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, USFWS shall prepare a written response taking into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories and concurring parties to the MOA and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response.
- c. USFWS's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this MOA that are not the subject of the dispute remain unchanged.

## **XI. AMENDMENTS**

This MOA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all signatories. Signatories shall consult regarding the nature of the amendment to reach agreement regarding the provisions to be included in the amendment. The amendment will be circulated for signature by all signatories and will become effective on the date a copy signed by all the signatories is filed with the ACHP.

## **XII. TERMINATION**

If any signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other signatories to attempt to develop an amendment per Stipulation XI, above. If within thirty (30) days (or another time period agreed to by all signatories) an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other signatories.

Once the MOA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, USFWS must either (a) execute a MOA pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6 or (b) request, take into

account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR § 800.7. USFWS shall notify the signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

Execution of this MOA by the USFWS, SDGFP, and SHPO and implementation of its terms is evidence USFWS has considered the effects of this undertaking on historic properties and afforded the ACHP an opportunity to comment.

## SIGNATORIES

**ANNA MUNOZ** Digitally signed by ANNA MUNOZ  
Date: 2022.07.15 12:55:26 -06'00'

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Regional Director / Date  
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region 6

**Ted Spencer** Digitally signed by Ted Spencer  
Date: 2022.07.23 01:59:53 -05'00'

---

Ted M Spencer, State Historic Preservation Officer / Date  
South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office

**Kevin Robling** Digitally signed by Kevin Robling  
Date: 2022.07.19 11:08:25 -05'00'

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Kevin Robling, Secretary / Date  
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks





**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**  
**Electronic Section 106 Documentation Submittal System (e106) Form**  
***MS Word* format**

Send to: *e106@achp.gov*

Please review the instructions at [www.achp.gov/e106-email-form](http://www.achp.gov/e106-email-form) prior to completing this form. Questions about whether to use the e106 form should be directed to the assigned ACHP staff member in the Office of Federal Agency Programs.

**I. Basic information**

**1. Purpose of notification.** Indicate whether this documentation is to:

- Notify the ACHP of a finding that an undertaking may adversely affect historic properties
- Invite the ACHP to participate in a Section 106 consultation
- Propose to develop a project Programmatic Agreement (project PA) for complex or multiple undertakings in accordance with 36 C.F.R. 800.14(b)(3)
- Supply additional documentation for a case already entered into the ACHP record system
- File an executed MOA or PA with the ACHP in accordance with 800.6(b)(iv) (where the ACHP did not participate in consultation)
- Other, please describe  
[Click here to enter text.](#)

**2. ACHP Project Number** (If the ACHP was previously notified of the undertaking and an ACHP Project Number has been provided, enter project number here and skip to Item 7 below):

N/A

**3. Name of federal agency** (If multiple agencies, list them all and indicate whether one is the lead agency):

Department of Interior – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**4. Name of undertaking/project** (Include project/permit/application number if applicable):

SD Hydro #2 Game Production Area Property Disposal

**5. Location of undertaking** (Indicate city(s), county(s), state(s), land ownership, and whether it would occur on or affect historic properties located on tribal lands):

The Hydro #2 GPA property is located in the Black Hills of western South Dakota in Lawrence County and is owned and managed by the Wildlife Division of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP). The undertaking will affect historic properties currently located on property with a federal nexus.

**6. Name and title of federal agency official and contact person for this undertaking, including email address and phone number:**

Adrianna Araya, Grant Program Manager, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program,  
[adrianna\\_araya@fws.gov](mailto:adrianna_araya@fws.gov), (303) 236-8165.

**II. Information on the Undertaking\***

**7. Describe the undertaking and nature of federal involvement (if multiple federal agencies are involved, specify involvement of each):**

SDGFP received federal funding through a Wildlife Restoration grant to acquire the Hydro #2 GPA property in 2014 to provide wildlife production, wildlife habitat protection, and expanded public hunting and wildlife related recreation opportunities. In recent years this property has seen an increase in public use by visitors of Spearfish Canyon, not for purposes for which the property was acquired but to visit adjacent property. In this section of Spearfish Canyon the Hydro #2 GPA is bisected by Highway 14A (Figure 1) and the area has become a safety concern because a large number of visitors are parking on the shoulders of the road and from there traveling on foot across the property to the adjacent property. To address the issue, SDGFP is requesting federal approval to remove the federal interest from Hydro #2 GPA property by a land disposal action. This action would allow the Department to continue to manage the property for purpose for which it was acquired while also accommodating the increased public use of the area. With the federal interest removed, the Department can build the infrastructure that is needed to keep visitors safe while minimizing habitat erosion and protecting wildlife from disturbance.

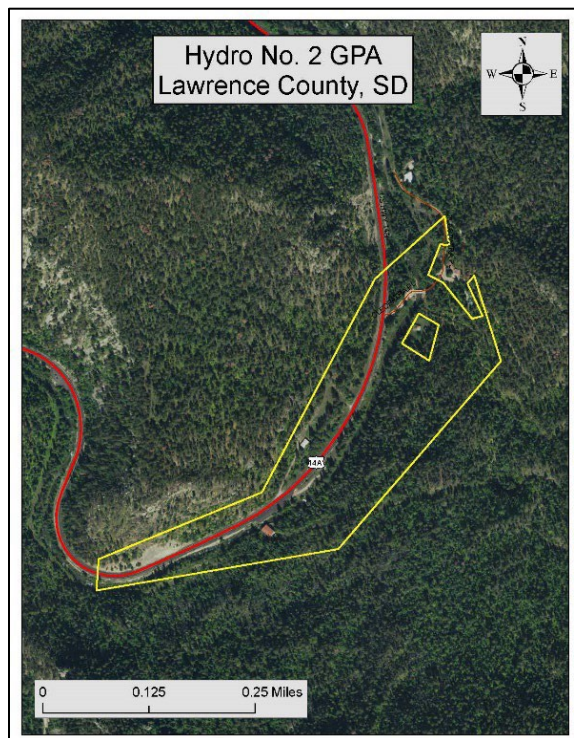


Figure 1. Hydro No. 2 GPA

## 8. Describe the Area of Potential Effects (APE):

The APE involves the entire Hydro #2 GPA property.

## 9. Describe steps taken to identify historic properties:

Within the project area, six previous surveys have been conducted, though no archaeological sites, structures, or bridges have been recorded. For this undertaking SDGFP requested a Phase I record search and intensive cultural resources survey for the 40.1 acres of Hydro #2 GPA. On April 27, 2020 a pedestrian survey was conducted and structure recordation within the proposed project area. An Intensive Level III Cultural Resources Survey was also completed on June 23, 2020 (attachment).

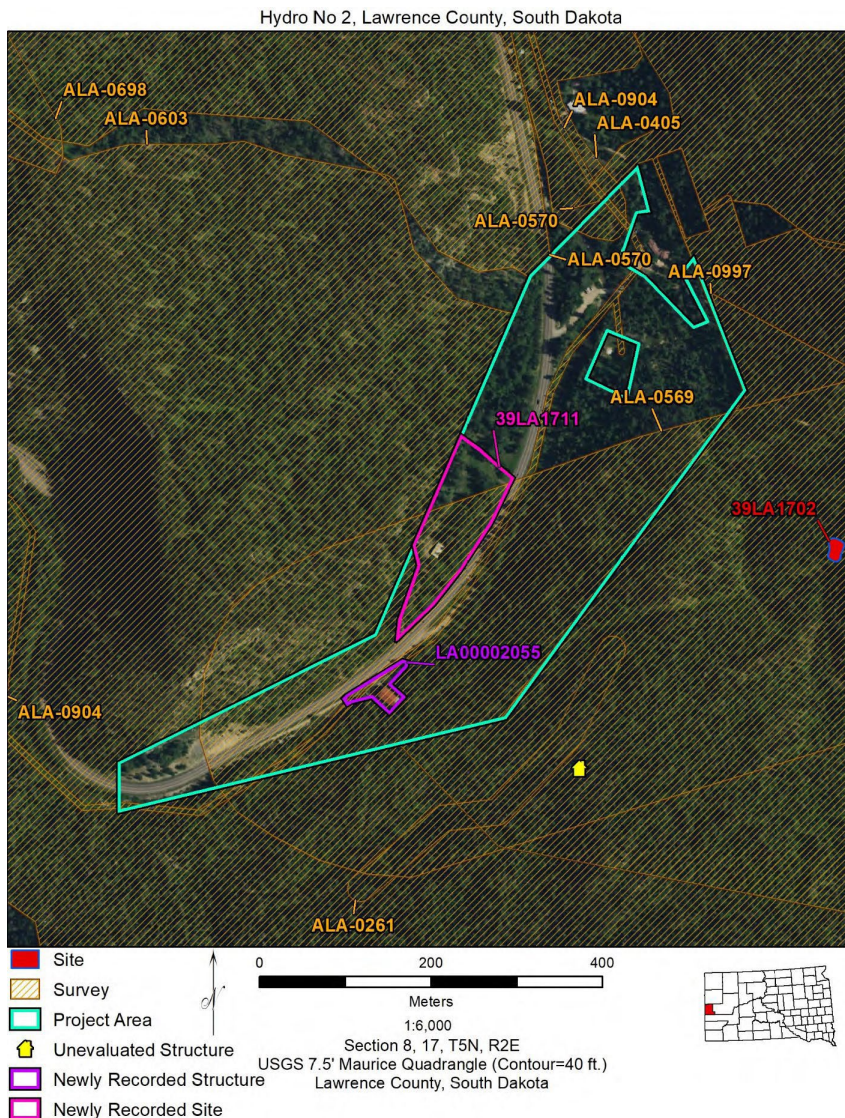


Figure 2. Closeup of Hydro No. 2 APE, newly recorded site and structure, and previously recorded site, surveys, and structure illustrated on Farm Service Agency (FSA) 2018 orthophoto.

## 10. Describe the historic property (or properties) and any National Historic Landmarks within the APE (or attach documentation or provide specific link to this information):



One newly recorded structure was recorded within the APE and is the Homestake Hydro Electric Plant #2 (LA000002055). The facility was built in 1917 as a hydroelectric facility over Spearfish Creek. The hydroelectric function of the building is no longer in use and the area is owned and operated as a Game Production Area by SDGFP. The building is a two-story structure featuring a concrete foundation laid on three loadbearing, clay brick walls.

Architectural features of the building include four two-story arch windows located on both the east and west walls; one small arch window, one oculus window, one lunette window, and a set of large double doors on the north face of the building; a clay brick exterior; and a brick chimney. Spanning Spearfish Creek, the access bridge is comprised of timber beams and steel framing and is anchored to a stone retaining wall spanning the north side of the creek. Similar timber decking continues from the face of LA00002055 around both the east and west sides. Access to the building is controlled by a gated catwalk, chain-link fencing around the entirety of the structure, and metal wiring over all the arch windows as well as the large double doors on the face of the building (Figure 3). As a result, the south face of the building was not accessible for this survey.



**Figure 3. North face of LA00002055. View is to the south-southeast.**

Based on the architectural elements, the structure is considered Eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C, as it exhibits architectural design value and provides a good example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial design. Additionally, the influence of the Homestake Mining Company on Black Hills throughout the late 1800s and mid-1900s was profound and helped to shape the industrial legacy of the regional making LA00002055 Eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early mining history of the region. The SD SHPO concurred with this recommendation of May 28, 2020.

Another new historic period site was recorded during the current survey (39LA1711). Eleven features comprise the site and include both modern and abandoned elements (Figure 4). consists of two foundation remnants, one stone retaining wall, one abandoned fence line, one cistern, one obsolete telephone pole with a discarded glass insulator, and one dump with miscellaneous pieces. Based on

historic records, the site is likely associated with mining or railroad activities at the turn of the twentieth century. Site 39LA1711 is recommended Eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, for its association with the mining industry of the Black Hills, as well as Criterion D, as it has the potential to provide additional data about the early industrial activities of Spearfish Canyon.

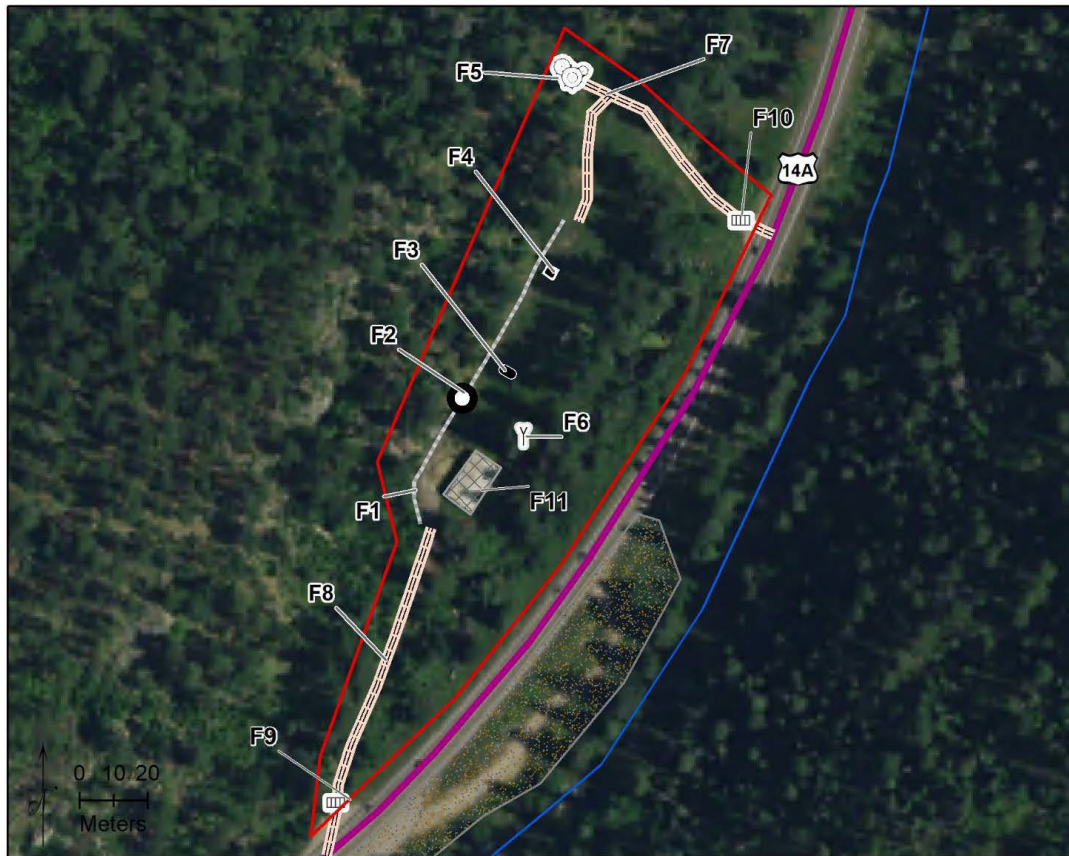


Figure 4. Overview of 39LA1711 showing Features 1-11, illustrated on FSA 2018 orthophoto.

#### 11. Describe the undertaking's effects on historic properties:

The resulting effect from the land disposal action of the Hydro #2 GPA property on historic properties is limited in scope. The LA00002055 structure has not been operated or maintained since it became obsolete and abandoned and has not served a useful purpose for SDGFP since the property was acquired in 2014. SDGFP is restricted from using federal funds to maintain the structure as it would not be considered an ineligible activity or expense under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. Likewise, SDGFP cannot use state license revenue to maintain the structure because to do so would violate the requirements of 50 CFR 80.41. Because SDGFP cannot maintain the structure or historic period sites, the historic properties are expected to deteriorate from the exposure to natural weather events.

#### 12. Explain how this undertaking would adversely affect historic properties (include information on any conditions or future actions known to date to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects):

The Hydro #2 GPA property disposal will remove the federal nexus or interest from the property which will allow the SDGFP greater flexibility to manage the property not only for the purpose for which it was



acquired but also to manage for the increasing amount of public use of the property. Increased public use of the area and pressure on wildlife and wildlife habitat could have unintended consequences, however, the increasing public use of the property and associated safety issues have only become more important to address and mitigate. A draft MOA has been prepared in consultation with SD SHPO with specific stipulations in order to consider the full effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

**13. Provide copies or summaries of the views provided to date by any consulting parties, Indian tribes or Native Hawai'ian organizations, or the public, including any correspondence from the SHPO and/or THPO.**

See attached draft MOA and identified stipulations 1 -12 (I – XII).

\* see *Instructions for Completing the ACHP e106 Form*

### **III. Additional Information**

**14. Please indicate the status of any consultation that has occurred to date, including whether there are any unresolved concerns or issues the ACHP should know about in deciding whether to participate in consultation.** Providing a list of consulting parties, including email addresses and phone numbers if known, can facilitate the ACHP's review response.

Consultation has occurred between the SDGFP and SD SHPO office throughout the development of the proposed project and draft MOA. Tribal Governments will also have an opportunity to participate in the consultation and will be provided with a copy of the Intensive Level III Cultural Resources Survey report and findings to help inform their decision to participate. Tribal Governments in South Dakota will be notified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program and provided with information about how they can participate. Comments on the proposed undertaking will be accepted during a 45-day comment period with all comments fully considered.

See attached List of Parties Invited to Consult and Comment.

**15. Does your agency have a website or website link where the interested public can find out about this project and/or provide comments? Please provide relevant links:**

At this time, SD Tribal Governments and the ACHP are being invited to participate in consultation for this project. Federal regulations for land disposal require that a draft Environmental Assessment be prepared and posted for a 30-day public comment period. The site where the draft EA is expected to be posted for Hydro #2 Game Production Area Property Disposal is: <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/wsfr/nepa.php>.

**16. Is this undertaking considered a “major” or “covered” project listed on the Federal Infrastructure Projects Permitting Dashboard? If so, please provide the link:**

N/A

**The following are attached to this form** (check all that apply):

- Section 106 consultation correspondence (survey and findings report)
- Maps, photographs, drawings, and/or plans (inserted above)
- Additional historic property information
- Consulting party list with known contact information
- Other: draft MOA

## **APPENDIX C**

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Environmental Review  
Office



# SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

March 20, 2023

Tanna Zabel  
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Spearfish Canyon Hydro #2 Game Production Area and Hepler Tract of the Beilage-Hepler Game Production Area, Lawrence County

Dear Tanna,

The Division of Wildlife has reviewed the transfer of a Federal encumbrance from the Spearfish Canyon Hydro #2 Game Production Area (GPA) to the Hepler tract of the Beilage-Hepler GPA in Lawrence County, South Dakota. We have performed a search of the South Dakota Natural Heritage Database. This database monitors species at risk, specifically those species that are legally designated as threatened, endangered or rare. Rare species are those that are declining and restricted to limited habitat or a jurisdiction, may be isolated or disjunct due to geographic or climatic factors that are classified as such due to lack of survey data. We found the following records in the project area:

### Hydro #2 Game Production Area

American Dipper (*Cine/us mexicanus*) nests (2) last documented as active in 2018 along Spearfish Creek. American Dippers are listed as threatened in South Dakota. American Dippers inhabit swift, clear and rocky streams and feed on aquatic insects and small fish. American Dippers typically nest from mid-April to early August in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nest last documented as active in 2019. The Osprey is listed as threatened in South Dakota. Nesting Osprey and their young can be vulnerable to human disturbance near the nest. In South Dakota, Osprey typically nest from March-August.

### Beilage-Hepler Game Production Area

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) potential winter roost last documented as active in 2001. Iowa Skipper (*Atrytone arogos iowa*) last documented in 2005. The Iowa Skipper is a prairie dependent butterfly and is considered a species of greatest conservation need by GFP. Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) is the most commonly reported larval host for Iowa Skippers.

This project involves transferring the federal encumbrance from the Hydro #2 GPA to the Beilage-Hepler GPA, and will not require any physical work completed on the properties themselves. Based on the information provided above, GFP concludes that this project will have no effect on the species listed above.



We have also reviewed the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (iPaC) website to determine if federally threatened or endangered species, or their designated critical habitat are present in the project area (see attached documentation). No critical habitat was present within the project area.

Species that are known or expected to be in or near the project area (Lawrence County) according to the iPaC system are as follows:

Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) federally threatened  
Rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) federally threatened  
Monarch butterfly (*Danus plexippus*) candidate species

At the time of this writing, the Northern Long-Eared Bat was reclassified by the USFish and Wildlife SeNice from threatened to endangered. However, the reclassification will not take effect until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and the Northern Long-Eared Bat is currently listed as threatened. The Northern Long-eared Bat is a wide-ranging bat species that typically overwinters in caves or mines and spends the remainder of the year in forested habitats. Northern Long-eared bats may be found roosting singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities or in crevices of both live trees and dead trees.

The nearest known northern long-eared bat records were approximately 6 miles southeast of the Hydro #2 GPA and 6 miles east of the Beilage-Hepler GPA. Wildlife habitat at the Hydro #2 GPA is a forested riparian area along Spearfish Creek. Wildlife Habitat at the Beilage-Hepler GPA consists of a mix of forested area in the south bordered by grassland habitat with woody draws on the north. False Bottom Creek crosses the southeastern portion of the property. Based on the habitat present in the two properties as described above, this species could occur within the project area. This project does not propose to remove any trees and will not require any physical work to be completed on the properties. Based on this information, GFP concludes that this project will have no effect on northern long-eared bats.

The rufa red knot is a migratory shore bird species primarily located along the Atlantic Coast. There are no records of rufa red knot in the South Dakota Natural Heritage database. Rufa red knot typically require stopover habitat that includes shorelines of large lakes, where they can forage for invertebrates. This project is located in forested, forested riparian and grassland habitats with no large waterbodies present. Based on this information, GFP concludes that this project will have no effect on the rufa red knot.

The Monarch Butterfly is a large, brightly colored migratory butterfly. Adult Monarchs feed on nectar of many flower plants and generally require open, grassy or herbaceous habitats, including roadsides. Monarch butterflies lay eggs on milkweed plants and hatched larvae are dependent upon milkweed for feeding. The Hydro #2 GPA is primarily forested riparian area, and could contain suitable habitat for Monarch butterflies. The Beilage-Hepler GPA contains grassland habitat and forested riparian areas which could serve as suitable habitat for the Monarch butterfly. This project will not require any physical work to be completed on the properties. Based on this information, GFP concludes that this project will have no effect on the Monarch butterfly.

In summary, based on the information provided above we anticipate that this project will have no effect to listed or proposed protected species or their designated critical habitats. If you have any question, please contact me at 605-773-6208.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hilary A. Morey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hilary Morey  
Environmental Review Senior Biologist  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
[hilary.morey@state.sd.us](mailto:hilary.morey@state.sd.us)

# **APPENDIX D**

SD Tribal Governments Invitation to Consult; Section 106 of NHPA



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
134 Union Blvd  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228



In Reply Refer to:  
FWS/IR05/IR07/WSFR

March 14, 2022

Chairman, Harold Frazier  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 590  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Subject: Hydro #2 Game Production Area Proposed Land Disposal, Finding of Adverse Effect on Historic and Cultural Resources

Dear Chairman Frazier:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is extending an invitation to engage in an opportunity to consult on a government-to-government basis with your tribe regarding a proposed project to dispose of real property acquired under a federal award upon which historic and cultural resources have been identified. The project is located on State and Federal-owned lands in the Black Hills of western South Dakota in Lawrence County. The property is legally described as HMC Lot 2A, being a portion of Spearfish Placer, M.S. 439, located in the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 17, Township 5 North, Range 2 East of the BHM, as shown on Plat Document No. 2014-3631 and comprising approximately 32.251 acres. The Area of Potential Effect is the entire Hydro #2 Game Production Area (GPA).

The Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) is considering a proposal from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department (SDGFP) to dispose of the Hydro #2 GPA, thus making the project a Federal undertaking subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulation found at 36 CFR Part 800. At this time, the Service is initiating consultation with your tribe to inform you of the proposed undertaking, to solicit feedback regarding concerns or issues your tribe may have regarding the undertaking of identified properties, and to solicit any information you may be willing to provide regarding places of cultural or religious significance to your tribe that might be affected by the undertaking. Attached to this letter is a list of South Dakota Tribal Governments invited to consult and comment on this project. In addition, the regulations at 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1)) require the Service to notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and invite consultation on the adverse effect by providing the documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(e).

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COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, WYOMING

While the federal interest will be removed from the Hydro #2 GPA by the proposed land disposal action, the property will continue to be owned and maintained by SDGFP for the primary purpose of providing wildlife production, wildlife habitat protection, and expanded public hunting and wildlife related recreation opportunities. The action to remove the federal interest by land disposal is intended to allow the Department more flexibility to manage the property for which it was initially acquired while also accommodating the increased public use of the area. With the federal interest removed from the property the Department can then build the infrastructure that is needed to address public safety, minimize habitat erosion, and protect wildlife from disturbance.

This project location has been reviewed by the Archaeological Research Center, a program of the South Dakota State Historical Society. In summary, the entire project area has been surveyed for historic and cultural resources and the results reported in the attached survey:

Vogt, Cassie - 2020. Intensive Level III Cultural Resources Survey of Hydro No. 2 Game Production Area for Game, Fish and Parks, Lawrence County, South Dakota. Contract Investigations Series No. 3605.

The survey identified two historic properties within the project area. Structure LA00002055 is described as the Homestake Hydro Electric Plant #2, built in 1917 as a hydroelectric facility over Spearfish Creek. The hydroelectric function of the building is no longer in use and the area is owned and operated as a Game Production Area by SDGFP. Based on the architectural elements, the structure is considered Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C, as it exhibits architectural design value and provides a good example of early 20th century industrial design.

The second site 39LA1711 is described as a small settlement, mining camp, or railroad station. Based on the data, this site was occupied between the late 1800s and early to mid-1900s and was likely created as a result of either early railroad or mining in the Black Hills. Based on its association with the mining industry of the Black Hills, the site is recommended Eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A and under Criterion D for the potential to provide additional data about early industrial activities in Spearfish Canyon.

The proposed land disposal project will take place within the site's boundary and will affect the sites. As a result, the Service is recommending a finding of Adverse Effect and the development of a Memorandum of Agreement to mitigate the effects of the project on historic properties. Please review the contents of this letter as well as the attached cultural resource survey report. Any comments provided by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe will be fully considered by the Service prior to implementation of the undertaking.

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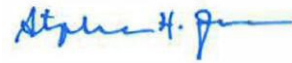
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If you wish to comment on this undertaking, please respond to this letter via email within 45 days to: fw6\_FAGrants@fws.gov; or through the U.S. Postal Service at the following address:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Department of Interior Regions 5, 7 & 9  
134 Union Boulevard, Ste 460B  
Attn: Adrianna Araya, Grant Manager  
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs  
Lakewood, CO 80228

We value the government-to-government relationship that exists between the Service and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and appreciate this opportunity to consult and work with you on this undertaking. Please feel free to contact Adrianna Araya at adrianna\_araya@fws.gov or (303) 236-8165 or me at steve\_jose@fws.gov or (303) 236-4411 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this project. Thank you.



Enclosure: Intensive Level III Cultural Resources Survey of Hydro #2 GPA

cc: Steven Vance, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Cultural Resources Director

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South Dakota Tribal Governments Invited to Consult and Comment

Chairman, Harold Frazier Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe P.O. Box 590 Eagle Butte, SD 57625	Chairman, Peter Lengkeek Crow Creek Sioux Tribe P.O. Box 50 Fort Thompson, SD 57339
Chairperson, Clyde Estes Kul Wicasa Oyate - Lower Brule Sioux Tribe P.O. Box 187 Lower Brule, SD 57548	Chairman, Robert Flying Hawk Yankton Sioux Tribe P.O. Box 1153 Wagner, SD 57380
President, Anthony Reider Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe P.O. Box 283 Flandreau, SD 57028	President, Kevin Killer Oglala Sioux Tribe P.O. Box 2070 Pine Ridge, SD 57770
President, Rodney Bordeaux Rosebud Sioux Tribe P.O. Box 430 Rosebud, SD 57570	Chairman, Delbert Hopkins Jr. Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate P.O. Box 509 Agency Village, SD 57262

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