Issue 202 | June 2022

South Dakota GRASSLAND INITIATIVE Partner Updates

Stories, information & opportunities from your partners in South Dakota Grassland Conservation

Any SDGI partner is encouraged to share updates or stories with Grassland Staff contact listed at the end of each section. Please include photos when possible. Please also let us know if you are attending, or upcoming events, please email your photos and stories to Laura.Gene@southdakotagrass.org by August 19th for the Summer SDGI newsletter.

Quick Links to Important upcoming dates for the SD Grassland Initiative including the Partner Updates section (back to section)

There are many happenings all around the state this summer! Check them out at the bottom of the newsletter (back to section)

National Wild Turkey Federation

The National Wild Turkey Federation recently awarded funding for their Wildlife for Wildlife (WWW) initiative for 2022. The WWW initiative is a 50 state, landscape scale initiative that focuses on the habitat needs of wildlife species that are declining in population across the country. Grassland habitat is a 2021 include acquisitions, beaver control, prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, tree and shrub removal, wetlands and more. In total, 11 projects across six states were funded that will conserve/ enhance 637 habitat acres and 17.5 wetland acres.

The South Dakota NWTF Hunting Heritage Super Fund (HHF) is currently open and accepting grant applications through August 31st, 2022. The HHF is a competitive cost share conservation early establishment program. HHF - If it has trees or it supports an eligible, or other questions regarding these funding opportunities or the HHF please contact Jason Fischer, Conservation Director, at jfischer@nwtf.net or 214-587-3923.

Please note that if a conservation project is not eligible for a NWTF grant, the organization that has an established relationship with NWTF is asked to submit the application.

Photo by Paul Sanner

Ducks Unlimited

The Working Grasslands Partnership is a collaborative, 5-year conservation project and the NRCS to provide incentives for planting Habitat Management practices on Grassland Project participants and wildlife habitat improvements. Grassland Conservation applications now and interested landowners can contact Ryan Fischer here.

Watch this video to learn about the Partnership: https://youtu.be/NzKdXZ0ieho

2nd Century Habitat Fund

The Defenders Habitat Office is getting traction, and Second Century Habitat Fund is excited to share several key developments with our partners. Launched in December of last year, the Defenders Habitat Office is a nationwide, 10-year, $100 million campaign to raising voter funds to support habitat conservation projects across the country.

The centerpiece of the campaign is the grand prize: a 2020 Can-Am Defender Max Limited, fully equipped for backcountry hunting and adventure in Grand Teton and Death Valley. Voters also directly support the restoration of upland habitat for pollinators, game birds, and other wildlife.

We're pleased to announce that Governor Larry Rhoden participated in a photo shoot with the Can-Am Defender on Friday, May 6, taking glamour shots and preparing for the campaign launch. Governor Rhoden's participation underscores the collaborative importance of investing in conservation and outdoorsmen and women in South Dakota.

To date, our multi-channel campaign—spanning social media, email marketing, and in-person engagement—has reached over 1,000 people and generated 300 new leads, including 50 qualified voters who have contacted Defenders advocates in the coming weeks.

Please share the raffle link and encourage your friends to participate: https://www.defenders.org/habitat-raffle-south-dakota

Voters who are not just offering a response – but taking real impact to South Dakota's landscape and legacy.

Rangeland & Soil Days

The 2023 Rangeland & Soil days will take place on June 30th - 31st. Mark your calendars! Contact Jessica Jacobsen with questions: rangeland.days.info@

Save The Date!
Rangeland & Soil Days
June 30th - 31st

Lyman Prairie Direction Landowner Webinar

For long-term ranchers have given Americans everything they in return, have asked for, our ranchers hardly anything. Recent economic realizations of the value of a healthy prairie ecosystem have created a new opportunity for ranchers to earn what they are owed. Jack Ward Thomas, a biologist, and a scientist, that is known for his work with the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Forest Service, and the National Wildlife Federation, and the National Audubon Society, and other wildlife groups, in the state of Oregon, and Washington, and Idaho, and Montana, and Wyoming, and Alaska, and Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and Guam, and Samoa, and Saipan, and Tinian, and Rota, and Guam, and Palau, and Micronesia, and Marshall Islands, and Wake Island, and Midway Island, and Johnston Island, and Palmyra Island, and Kingman Reef, and Jarvis Island, and Baker Island, and Howland Island, and Navassa Island, and Bikini Atoll, and Kwajalein Atoll, and Eniwetok Atoll, and Bikini Atoll, and Rongelap Island, and Ailinglapalap Island, and Ailinginae Island, and Rongerik Island, and Wake Island, and Utirik Island, and Ailuk Island, and Jaluit Island, and Mili Island, and Ebon Island, and Kwajalein Island, and Ujae Island, and Lae Island, and Lib Island, and Namu Island, and Rongrong Island, and Rongel