

TATANKA RC&D

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Cottonwood Re-Establishment Phase I:

A drastic reduction of natural occurring woody vegetation regeneration has been observed in western South Dakota. Aging stands have left many areas with only a few mature trees in poor health. This project primarily focused on wildlife habitat, conservation issues, watershed restoration, and recreational uses.



This project was accomplished through cooperation from numerous groups and entities including the Perkins, Harding, Corson, Dewey, Ziebach, and Tri-County Conservation Districts, the US Forest Service – Grand River National Grasslands District, SDSU, National Wild Turkey Federation, South Dakota Conservation Commission, National Forest Foundation, and the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks.

This program involved planting native cottonwoods along with other native woody vegetation to enhance and re-establish fragile riparian areas. Eleven landowners participated in this program, planting 3,480 native trees (over 13 acres) on private lands. The US Forest Service planted 4,671 native cottonwoods on public lands.

Public funding for this project was provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation and the National Forest Foundation. SD Game Fish & Parks and the SD Department of Agriculture funded the private portion of this project.

The Tatanka RC&D Council Received a “National Grasslands 2009 Prairie Partner” award for their involvement with this project.