

Black Hills RC&D

RESOURCE

CONSERVATION

& DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving America's Communities



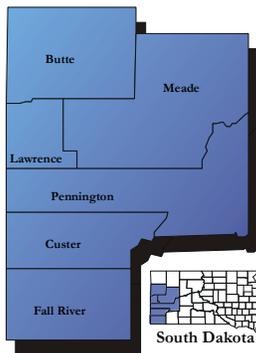
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Sustainable natural resources
and communities for the 21st century.

One of our goals is to assist the public to improve water quality, water use, and water conservation.

Black Hills RC&D



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Spring Creek Watershed

The Spring Creek Watershed Project is a collaborative project that we are very proud to be a part of. The Black Hills RC&D along with local communities and 10 government agencies have come together to improve the water quality in Spring Creek and Sheridan Lake. A 2002 TMDL study indicated high bacteria levels putting the recreational use of Sheridan Lake at risk. It also is a concern that 20% of the Madison Aquifer recharge is a result of Spring Creek, a major source of drinking water in the Black Hills region. Funding through the South Dakota

DENR was approved last spring for the first of 5 segments of this implementation project. The targeted areas of concern include livestock management, riparian buffers, septic compliance and storm water management in Hill City. Aside from participating on the advisory committee and contributing funds the Black Hills RC&D has applied for a grant from the National Forest Foundation to implement a volunteer monitoring program. Through the efforts of all those involved in this project, Spring Creek and Sheridan Lake should have a very bright future.



Black Hills Stream Temperature Assessment

The Black Hills abounds with flowing trout streams and every year travelers from around the country come to enjoy this recreational fishing. The Black Hills RC&D was approached to act as the sponsor for the Black Hills Stream Temperature Assessment. Temperature is a critical factor in maintaining healthy trout populations and currently 28 streams in the Black Hills do not make the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources temperature criteria

for cold water fisheries. Despite this fact many of those streams still consistently maintain healthy trout populations. The purpose of this study is to produce temperature criteria that reflect the variability of parameters affecting stream temperature in the Black Hills. The study will eventually set temperatures that may be exceeded for short periods and lethal temperatures never to be exceeded, identify those streams that can be



improved through BMP's, and evaluate the current beneficial use of Black Hills streams. Funding for the project was obtained from a grant through the South Dakota DENR and will be administered through the Black Hills RC&D.