

WHAT ARE RESOURCE CONCERNS?

The technical definition of a resource concern is “an expected degradation of the resource base to an extent the sustainability or intended use of the resource is impaired.” In simpler terms, a resource concern refers to a natural or human caused issue that can lead to lower production and value of our natural resources – the Soil, Water, Air, Plants, and Animals that all life depends on. When these natural resources start to decay or are threatened, they become a “Resource Concern.”

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

When a particular natural resource is in jeopardy of being severely impaired, it can take years, or even decades, to rebuild. By being able to recognize a resource concern, we can assist nature with the healing process – and be sure our natural resources are around for future generations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Start by contacting your local conservation district or NRCS office.

You can also visit www.sdresourceconcerns.org for more information on South Dakota's resource concerns.

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Local people know the natural resources around them better than anyone else. Your local Conservation District needs your thoughts on the condition these natural resources.

Scan the **QR code** or visit www.sdresourceconcerns.org to let us know which natural resource concerns are important to you!



United States Department of Agriculture

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

www.sdresourceconcerns.org
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SOUTH DAKOTA'S RESOURCE CONCERNS

www.sdresourceconcerns.org





CROPLAND



Aggregate stability is a measure of how well soil aggregates hold together when they are subjected to wind or water. Soil aggregation is a complex process that is largely dependent upon microorganisms to provide glues that hold soil particles together. These glues are carbon-containing compounds that protect microorganisms from drying out. As shown in the photo, soil erosion is commonly present when aggregate stability is low.



Concentration of salts leads to: salinity and/or sodicity, reduces productivity, increases concentrations of other chemicals that impact productivity, reduces populations of beneficial organisms, or limits desired use. The image above shows one of many indicators of salt effected soils. Due to decreased vegetation growth, erosion and/or poor soil structure is common.



GRASSLAND



A **plant productivity and health resource concern** refers to improper fertility and/or management, or plants not adapted to site, resulting in a degraded plant condition. This photo shows a comparison of plant condition from overgrazing and drought, right side of the fence shows a healthy plant community from rotational grazing management.



Nutrients - organic and inorganic - are transported to receiving waters through surface runoff and/or leaching into shallow ground waters in quantities that degrade **water quality** and limit use for intended purposes. This resource concern can also deplete habitat for aquatic species.



FORESTLAND



Emerald ash borers are an **invasive species** of insect that are responsible for damaging and killing ash trees. They feed under the tree's bark, eventually damaging the tree's ability to transport moisture and nutrients from the soil to the tree's leaves, causing the tree's decline and death. This photo shows the tunnels left behind by ash borers.



Overcrowded forest stands are a top resource concern in western South Dakota and create ideal conditions for catastrophic wildland fires. These stands are more stressed than others, and often stagnate and grow very little. This can also increase the chances of large beetle infestations, leaving behind large areas of tree mortality.