

## Management Recommendations

Creation of these land cover and stewardship layers provides the first step toward conservation of natural habitats in South Dakota. While status 1 and 2 lands are relatively low in number and size, many conservation lands are managed throughout the state, including the Black Hills National Forest and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Easements. These lands offer a high level of protection from conversion to unnatural habitats. Under the National Gap Analysis Program standards, they are considered status 3 lands. Reconsideration of the status designations outside of the GAP program may be necessary for a more representative depiction of the conservation of natural habitats in South Dakota.

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