|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Region:** | Sheridan |
| **Habitat Priority Area Name:** | Belle Fourche River Riparian Corridor |
| **Habitat Area Type (s):** | **Aquatic  Terrestrial  Combined**  Prairie stream, riparian, wetland, cottonwood, willow; the corridor segment from Keyhole Dam to Hulett, which is within the Sheridan terrestrial regions boundary, will be treated as a combined enhancement priority area. |
| **Habitat Issues:** | Keyhole Dam, through modified flow and sediment dynamics, and other corridor developments have altered woody riparian communities providing food and cover for aquatic and terrestrial communities. Invasive plants including leafy spurge, Russian olive, and tamarix dominate areas of the corridor. Other developments have confined segments of the riparian corridor further reducing stream and riparian function and habitat values for fish and wildlife. |
| **Reason Selected:** | Opportunities exist to partner with landowners to rehabilitate corridor segments modified by invasive species, plant community type conversions, and channel confinements benefiting the aquatic and terrestrial communities, landowners, and recreationists. |
| **Area Boundary Description:** | Belle Fourche River from Keyhole Dam to the South Dakota line. |
| **Focal species or species assemblage(s) (limit 6):** | Flathead chub (NSS4), channel catfish, stonecat, mule deer, waterfowl, herpetofauna |
| **SWAP Tier 1 species:** | No SWAP Tier 1 species. |
| **Solutions or actions:** | * Promote efforts and support private lands cooperators to manage invasive plants and passively rehabilitate riparian habitats, particularly woody communities, by applying grazing management strategies to enhance riparian area functions including stream channel shading, streambank stabilization, and recruitment of large woody debris to the aquatic community. * Promote and support active channel rehabilitation when passive restoration measures are considered inadequate. * Promote retaining and managing beaver in suitable habitats where the potential for nuisance situations can be mitigated to enhance channel and floodplain connectivity, augment water tables, enhance riparian habitat development, and increase pools and shallow wetlands. * Promote reconnecting abandoned oxbows, where reconnections are sustainable, to moderate erosive gradients, raise streamside water tables, enhance riparian plant communities, and improve food and cover available to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. |
| **Additional Information:** | Voluntary partnerships with landowners are essential to evaluate site-specific problems and develop win:win solutions. |
| **General land ownership and surface area:** | BLM: 833 ac (1%),  USFS: 1 ac (0%),  Other Federal: 661 ac (1%),  State: 13,968 ac (22%),  Private: 46,676 ac (75%),  Water: 15 ac (0%),  Total area: 62,154 ac |