



January 20, 2022

Ms. Brenda McGruder  
PO Box F  
Deadwood, South Dakota 57732-0678

Dear Auditor:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency that works with private landowners to help them conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. The NRCS emphasizes voluntary, science-based conservation; technical assistance; partnerships; incentive-based programs; and cooperative problem-solving at the community level. Over the next several years, the NRCS will continue to assist landowners in South Dakota (SD), with conservation activities as part of its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other programs throughout SD. Project activities may include such things as pipelines and watering tanks for livestock, animal waste storage facilities, planning shelterbelts or riparian buffers, grassed waterways, terraces, and other conservation practices.

As a federal agency, the NRCS complies with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and takes historic properties (i.e., buildings, structures, archeological sites, objects, and districts eligible or listed in the National Register of Historic Places) into account for all undertakings that have the potential to affect such properties. To assist the NRCS in identifying historic properties (also called cultural resources) that may be important to different communities or groups, we are soliciting public involvement and consultation on our activities and are asking you to please respond to this letter if your organization has specific locations of concern regarding historic properties.

While the SD NRCS has professional cultural resource specialists on staff and each project with the potential to affect historic properties is checked for known archeological sites or national or state register listed properties, local communities are often aware of other resources in their rural areas that have not been previously identified on state or national lists. If your organization does have locations of cultural resource concerns, please identify these general areas on a town or county map and return the map to our office within 45 days of receipt of this letter. As our office reviews future EQIP or other program applications, the NRCS will identify those program activities which have the potential to affect historic properties/cultural resources and consult with any identified interested public official on a project-by-project basis. If you have no specific concerns, you may either notify our office of such in writing or simply not respond to this letter. Also, please let the NRCS know if you are aware of any other interested individuals or groups. For your information, similar letters have also been sent to each county commission and each local historical museum director.

Please visit our Web site at <http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov/> to find out more about our agency and programs.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Paige Olson, State Cultural Resource Specialist, at (605) 301-3443. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting our important resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Lawson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ROBERT LAWSON  
Acting State Conservationist

cc:

Paige Olson, State Cultural Resource Specialist, NRCS, Pierre FSO  
Justin Boerboom, RUC, NRCS  
Victor Tuschen, DC, NRCS, Belle Fourche FO