

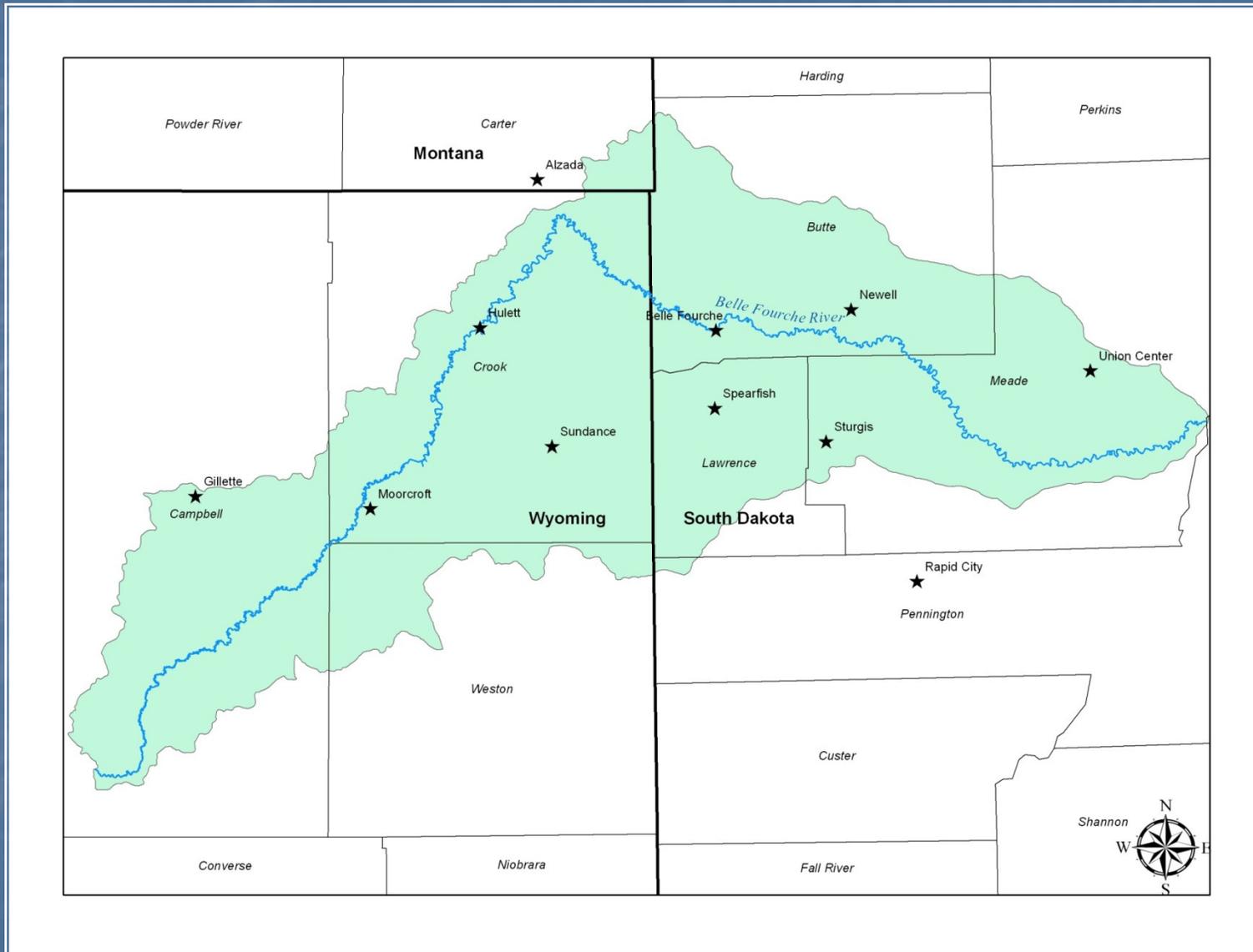
# IMPROVING WATER QUALITY USING RANGE MANAGEMENT IN THE BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED

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# Belle Fourche River Watershed



# Watershed Land Coverage

- Native rangelands comprise 84 percent of land in the Belle Fourche River Watershed
- Other lands include irrigated/dryland crop ground, urban, and forested area
- 15 percent are public grounds



# Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership

A group of local people and organizations coordinating available resources to address concerns associated with the Belle Fourche River Watershed

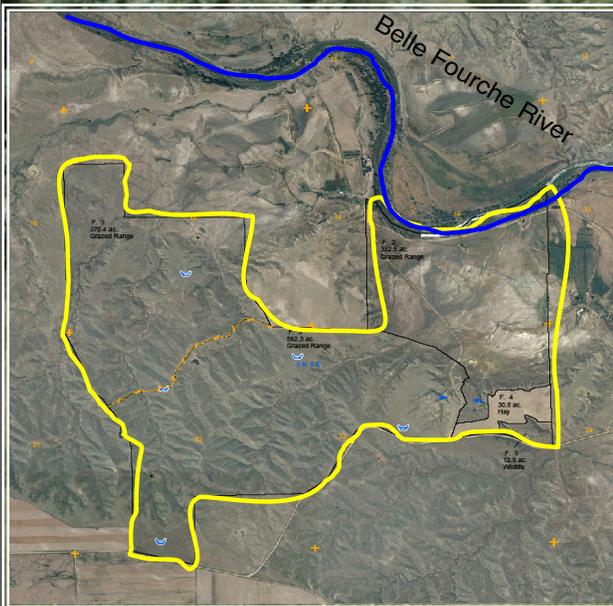


# Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership

- Voting members include presidents of the three South Dakota conservation districts and Belle Fourche Irrigation District representative
- Partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Game, Fish & Parks (GFP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on implementation projects



# Local Water-Quality Issues and Range Management



# Funding Sources

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
319 funds
  - Implementation
  - Planning
  - Follow-up
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)
  - Planning
  - Follow-up
  - Outreach



# Implementation Projects



- 237,749 feet of pipe
- 48 tanks
- 41,723 feet of fence
- 8 wells



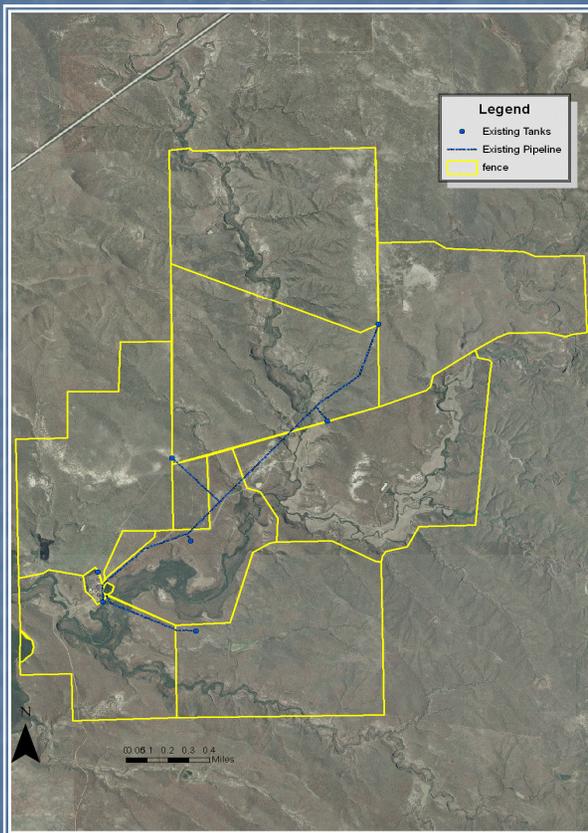
# Range Planning in the Watershed



- Meet with producer to understand goals of the operation
- Resource inventory
  - Existing plant community and production estimates
  - Livestock demand, current grazing system
  - Fences, watering sites

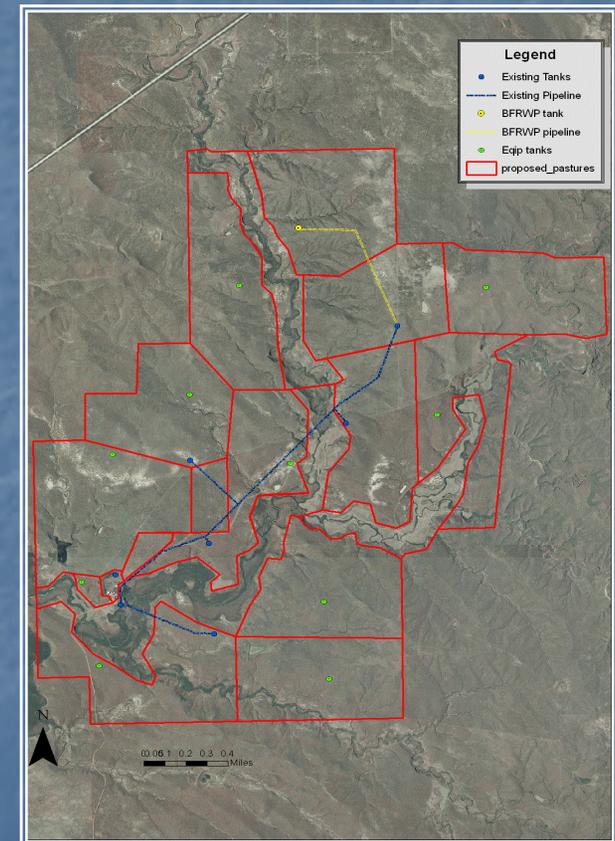
# Planning Range Improvements

## Existing Features



- Watering facilities
- Cross fences
- Riparian fencing create grazing alternatives
- Improved grazing system

## Planned System



# Range Acres Impacted

- Total range acres impacted by Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership (BFRWP) 271,320
  - Planning on 120,564 acres
  - Implementation projects 200,680 acres (overlap with planning projects)



# Producer Follow-Up



- Monitoring available upon request or need
  - Forage utilization
  - Qualitative photograph points



# Follow-Up and Outreach



- Rancher visits
- Pasture walks
- Watershed tours



# Uniqueness of Project



- Pooling resources
- Strengthening relationships between producers and state and federal agencies

- Creating additional conservation and economic opportunities



# Successful Projects



# Discussion

