



WEST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH DANR FOR 319 WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

Rapid City, SD – March 24, 2026

West Dakota Water Development District has signed an agreement with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to start a Watershed Improvement Plan for Rapid Creek. The award amount totals \$333,000 split between West Dakota and DANR's 319 Program. The three-year project aims to protect and improve water quality. This is done through planning and implementation of erosion control, stream restoration, and riparian health management practices.

West Dakota Water Development District Chairman Thomas Mack states, "This is a great partnership between the District and DANR to plan to protect Rapid Creek for the future."

DANR's Kris Dozak 319 Program Manager states, "DANR is excited to partner with West Dakota to protect and preserve Rapid Creek and its watershed through this planning project. Rapid Creek is a valued resource for recreation and other water uses, and we look forward to supporting efforts to improve the watershed for the future."

West Dakota next goal is to start the process by finding interested parties and a program administrator to implement the project. More information will be released once the information is available.

West Dakota Water Development District is one of seven water development districts in the state, and its area includes the portion of Pennington west of the Cheyenne River. It also serves as a district-wide clearinghouse authority for water quality and supply projects through financial assistance to prospective and existing project sponsors and through the recommending of projects for inclusion in the State Water Plan.

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