South Dakota State Ducks Unlimited Annual Convention Pierre, SD • January 25-27, 2019 Ramkota Convention Hall

By Bill Marketon, South Dakota State Chairman

How about a fun filled weekend in Pierre in January of 2019. It is a time to renew friendships, celebrate and educate those interested in Conservation. Ducks Unlimited is having our annual state convention at the Ramkota Convention Hall January 24-27th.

It begins on Thursday evening with a Legislative and Political leader get together. We are asking our SD Political leaders at all levels to join us for a cocktail reception beginning at 5:30. Our goal is to inform everyone in attendance of Ducks Unlimited mission and to explain how we can better reach our mission with their help.

Friday evening is a fun Hawaiian themed social and banquet. There will be many games, raffles and silent auction items to bid on. This is a great evening of fellowship with other Conservation oriented volunteers.

() TransCanada

TransCanada Corporation Partners with DU in South Dakota The partnership will improve soil health, communities & wildlife habitat

Fast Facts:

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• TransCanada Corporation recently awarded DU \$75,000 for habitat conservation and community investment work in South Dakota.

• This partnership helps local landowners, rural communities and wildlife populations.

• Funds will be invested in DU's soil health initiative and a 600-acre restoration project.

BROOKINGS, S.D. - TransCanada Corp. recently awarded DU \$75,000 to promote soil health, rural communities and wildlife habitat initiatives across eastern SD. These community investment funds will be focused in the Prairie Pothole Region, one of DU's highest conservation priority areas for North American breeding waterfowl populations.

"Soil health initiative funds will be used to partner with private landowners interested in improving their operations. This is a voluntary program that offers help to establish cover crops, diversify crop rotations, reduce tillage, conserve wetlands, plant grasslands and improve livestock production," said Steve Donovan, DU's manager of conservation programs for South Dakota. "We will also restore a 600-acre Roberts County parcel we own, which is open to the public."

DU and TransCanada Corporation share a long history of working with private landowners in SD and the many other states in which they operate. This program builds on that success and advances a new and exciting partnership.

"TransCanada strives to build stronger communities where we live, work and operate. We have been a part of SD for decades and will continue to be for the foreseeable future," said Emily Stibbs, TransCanada's community investment lead for the U.S. "As a result. we want to safeguard our soil and land, so they can sustain vital industries, like agriculture, for many years to come. We are thrilled to work with Ducks Unlimited to achieve these shared goals."

"This partnership is about more than ducks. It is about helping landowners, enhancing agricultural lands, improving wildlife habitat and providing places for people to enjoy and recreate, said Eric Lindstrom, managing director of development for DU's Great Plains Region "These are the things that make SD so great."

TransCanada and DU funds will also be used to leverage other local, state and federal resources to expand this work. DU plans to protect. enhance and restore more than 14,000 acres in SD this year.

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, DU has conserved more than 14 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. For more information on our work, visit www.ducks.org.

With more than 65 years' experience, TransCanada is a leader in the responsible development and reliable operation of North American energy infrastructure including natural gas and liquids pipelines, power generation and gas storage facilities. TransCanada operates one of the largest natural gas transmission networks that extends more than 91,900 km (57,100 mi.), tapping into virtually all major gas supply basins in North America. TransCanada is a leading provider of gas storage and related services with 653 billion cu. ft. of storage capacity. A large independent power producer, TransCanada owns or has interests in approximately 5,700 MW of power generation in Canada and the U.S. TransCanada is also the developer and operator of one of North America's leading liquids pipeline systems that extends approximately 4,900 km (3,000 mi.), connecting growing continental oil supplies to key markets and refineries. TransCanada's common shares trade on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges under the symbol TRP. Visit www.transcanada.com to learn more or connect with us on social media.

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Saturday is a long day that begins with our State Council meeting. Shortly thereafter we begin educational sessions and speeches on what is happening in South Dakota on the Conservation front. There will be sessions on clean water, drain tiling, crop rotation and cover crops to name a few. We will have several high profile speakers including Nick Wiley, the Chief Conservation Officer of Ducks Unlimited in attendance. A lunch we will recognize our volunteer committees for their achievements. The evening Gala will include recognition of key volunteers, a keynote speaker, live auction and entertainment.

It will be a GRAND weekend. Please go to www.ducks.org. Click on events, then select South Dakota. You will be able to register under State Convention. If you have any questions, please feel to call or email me at 605-310-9793 or sd.du.ce@gmail.com. We hope to see you there.

