

**Policy #2011-01**  
**Land Use Policy For Fall River County**

As the elected government of Fall River County, South Dakota, we have a solemn duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our County citizens. To fulfill this duty we hereby adopt the following policies for lands publicly held in our County. Should any entity wish to deviate from these policies, they must coordinate with us.

Whereas agriculture and the grazing of livestock are essential to the economic welfare of this County and of the citizens and the businesses that are supported by agriculture, we oppose reduction in grazing allotments or any other change that would hamper our agricultural industry.

Whereas tourism and recreation are critical elements in our County's economic well-being and support many local businesses and because the access to public lands is essential to tourism and recreation, we oppose reduction in public access to public lands.

Whereas access to public lands and the safety of our citizens requires an adequate system of roads, we oppose road closures or travel restrictions on public lands. This does not authorize access across private land.

Whereas our wildlife community and man have developed a balance over the years since man's arrival here, we oppose the introduction or re-introduction of any species not currently present in our county. An exception to this policy would be the introduction of biological control of noxious weeds and other invasive plant species. As agriculture and the raising of livestock are major industries in our County, we oppose the introduction or re-introduction of any predator animals and support control of any existing predators.

Whereas Fall River County currently includes substantial amounts of publicly held land, we oppose further additions to public land unless an equal value of land is returned to private ownership.

Whereas our County contains significant archeological resources that are of interest to the public, we oppose restriction on public access to these resources.

Whereas tourism and aesthetics are important to our citizens and also important to their safety, we favor good forestry management and immediate attention to disease outbreak or infestation in the forests or grasslands.

Whereas usage of natural resources has been historically important in our County and is important to our citizens' economic welfare, we favor good forestry management, well managed timber sales and safe mineral extraction.

We favor agricultural and recreational activity on public land to include, but not be limited to, livestock grazing, hunting, hiking, ATV riding, rock hounding, horse-back riding, sight-seeing, photography, or camping.

***Adopted by the Fall River County Commission***  
***April 5, 2011***