

EPA orders restoration of damaged South Dakota wetlands

10/18-- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered Randy L. Brownlee, Rita Brownlee, and Brownlee Construction, Inc. to restore approximately 0.65 acres of wetlands they damaged adjacent to the Big Sioux River in Codington County, S.D.

The Brownlees illegally discharged material into the wetlands to prepare the site for commercial use without a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Federal Clean Water Act prohibits such discharges unless authorized by a COE permit.

The EPA order requires the Brownlees to remove all unauthorized material placed into wetlands and to restore the wetlands to pre-impact conditions.

Mike Risner, EPA Region 8 Legal Enforcement Director, said, "EPA is taking this action to protect the wetlands of South Dakota and to provide deterrence against future violations of Federal laws designed to protect valuable water resources."