

August 26, 2026

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
On Draft Section 4(f) De Minimis Evaluation for Lake Sutton Game Production Area**

RE: Project # P-PH 0015(85)141, PCN 05F5, Deuel County
SD15 - Fm Clear Lake N to US212
Grading, Interim Surfacing

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) has proposed a project to reconstruct SD15 from Clear Lake to the junction of US212 to increase the shoulder width, re-establish ditch section and flatten out deficient vertical curves.

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303) requires a special effort be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites. In accordance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) implementing regulations found at 23 CFR Part 774, comments are being solicited regarding the effects this project would have on the Lake Sutton Game Production Area, managed by South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP). The Lake Sutton Game Production Area is considered a Section 4(f) Property because of its designation as a Game Production Area and its intended use as a public recreation area.

The project will include the acquisition of a minor amount permanent easement and temporary easement on the Lake Sutton Game production Area by SDDOT for the intended purpose of maintaining the inslope of SD15, which is prone to a high level of erosion due to it passing directly through Lake Sutton. The proposed project will result in 0.71 acres of permanent incorporation of the Lake Sutton Game Production Area into a transportation facility (SD15). The proposed project will also result in 0.8 acres of temporary easement which will last for the duration of the project. The minor amount of permanent incorporation will not adversely affect the recreational use of the Game Production Area. The following measures to minimize harm will be incorporated into the plans as plan notes and as environmental commitments in the environmental document:

- Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert users of Lake Sutton Game Production Area of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points.
- The staging and/or storage of construction equipment or materials shall not take place outside proposed construction limits that are within the defined boundaries of the 4(f) property.
- The Contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with SDDOT and the SDGFP Habitat Program Administrator prior to the start of construction activities.

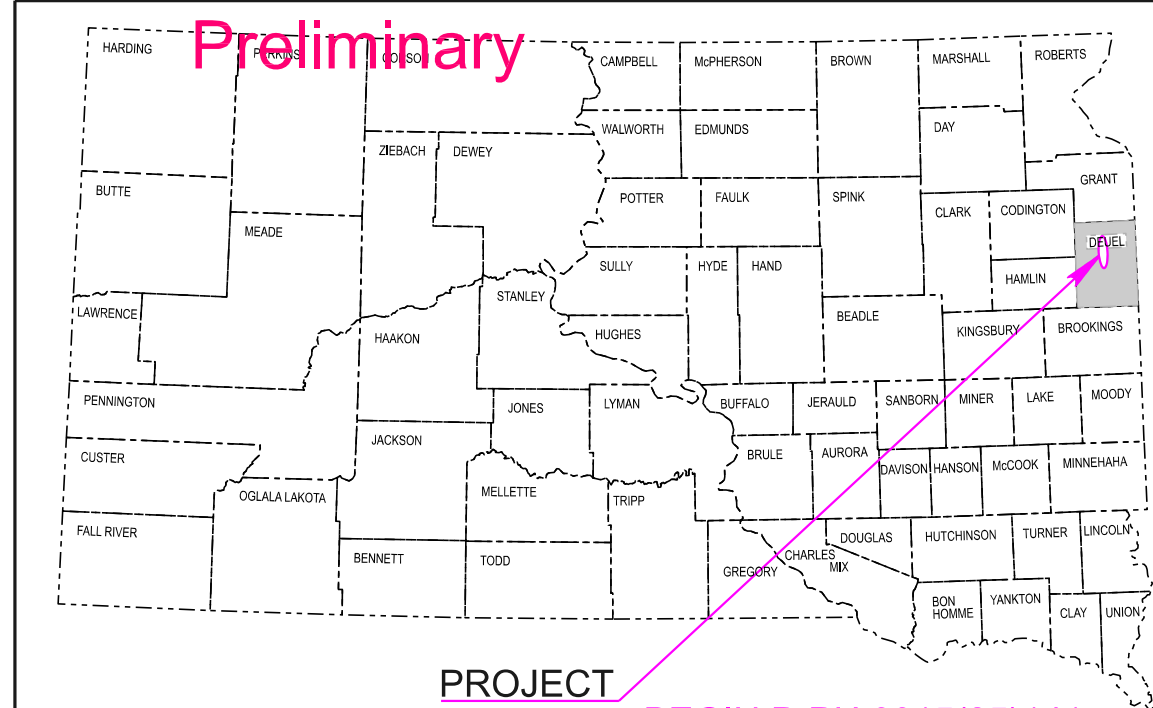
The SDDOT and the FHWA intend to make a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding regarding the effects of the proposed SD15 project on the Lake Sutton Game Production Area. This finding is based upon the following assessment:

- All possible planning to minimize harm has been incorporated into project development.
- The nature and magnitude of changes will not adversely affect the recreational activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for Section 4(f) protection.
- Proposed measures to minimize harm and resulting mitigation, in regard to protecting the Section 4(f) property and maintaining access and safety, are considered to be reasonable and acceptable.

Comments will be accepted for a period of 15 days by email at chad.babcock@state.sd.us or by postal service at:

Chad Babcock
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 E. Broadway
Pierre, SD 57501

Preliminary



PROJECT

**BEGIN P-PH 0015(85)141
BEGIN GRADING**
Station 30+76.00
MRM 141.42+0.034
Approximately 1.41 feet South and 0.25 feet West
of the southeast corner of Section 22 -
Township 115 North - Range 49 West

**END P-PH 0015(85)141
END GRADING**
Station 509+06.45
MRM 150.50+0.000
Approximately 594.61 feet North and
1463.46 feet West of the southeast
corner of Section 34 -Township 117 North -
Range 49 West

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PLANS FOR PROPOSED

PROJECT P-PH 0015(85)141 SD HIGHWAY 15 DEUEL COUNTY

ROW PLANS
PCN 05F5

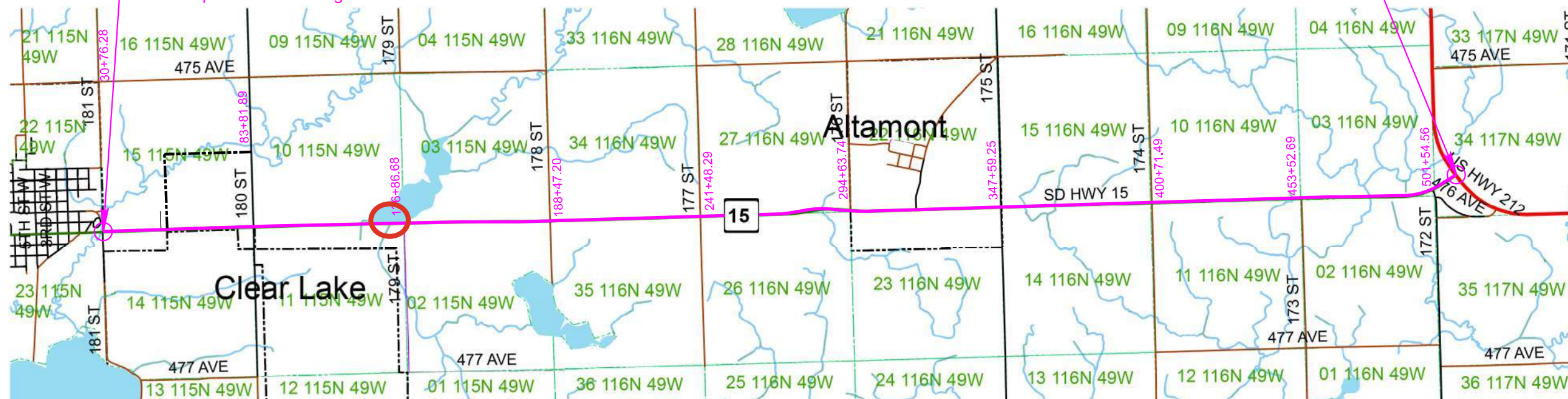
SD DOT	PROJECT	SECTION	SHEET
	P-PH 0015(85)141	ROW	1/19

Plotting Date: 1/20/2026



DESIGN DESIGNATION

AADT (2023)	Clear Lake to US 212
AADT (2048)	1069
DHV	1548
D	227
T DHV %	50%
T ADT	4.2%
V	16.9%
	70mph



LEGEND

STATE AND NATIONAL LINE	---
COUNTY LINE	---
SECTION LINE	---
QUARTER LINE	---
SIXTEENTH LINE	---
PROPERTY LINE	---
CONSTRUCTION LINE	---
EXISTING R.O.W. LINE	---
PROPOSED R.O.W. LINE	---
CUT AND FILL LIMITS	---
EXISTING C.O.A. LINE	---
PROPOSED C.O.A. LINE	---
PROPOSED R.O.W. LINE (After Property Disposal)	---

Gross Length	47,830.45 Feet	9.058 Miles
Length of Exceptions	0.00 Feet	0.000 Miles
Net Length	47,830.45 Feet	9.058 Miles

Preliminary

Preliminary

Preliminary



PROJECT		SECTION	SHEET
P-PH 0015(85)141		ROW	5/19

Plotting Date: 1/20/2023

Flown Date: Bing Image
Photo Not to Scale



Sec 10 - T115N - R49W

Hall Family, LLP

The SE1/4 NE1/4 and the diagonal SW1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4 of Section 10 - Township 115 North - Range 49 West of the 5 P.M., except the East 313 feet of the South 200 feet in the SE1/4 NE1/4, the North 465 feet of the South 665 feet of the East 688 feet in the NE1/4 and the North 100 feet of the South 765 feet of the East 263 feet in the NE1/4; all lying immediately West of Lot H1 in the NE1/4 of Section 10 and except Lot H1 in the NE1/4

Parcel 20
0.36 ac, R.O.W.
(15593 sq ft), more or less

State of South Dakota
(Department of Game, Fish and Parks)

The diagonal NE1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4 of Section 10 - Township 115 North - Range 49 West of the 5th P.M., except Lot H1 in the NE1/4

Parcel 21
0.71 ac, Permanent Easement
(30757 sq ft), more or less

Duane L. Martin Revocable Trust

The East 313 feet of the South 200 feet in the SE1/4 NE1/4, the North 465 feet of the South 665 feet of the East 688 feet in the NE1/4 and the North 100 feet of the South 765 feet of the East 263 feet in the NE1/4; all lying immediately West of Lot H1 in the NE1/4 of Section 10 - Township 115 North - Range 49 West of the 5th P.M.

Parcel 19
0.44 ac, R.O.W.
(19129 sq ft), more or less

SW1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4

LAKE SUTTON

NE1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4

SE1/4 NE1/4

Present SD Hwy 15

Carol A. Estebo Family Trust

The NW1/4 of Section 11 - Township 115 North - Range 49 West of the 5th P.M., except a strip of land 17 feet, more or less, in width, for highway right of way, as laid out by the State Highway Commission of the State of South Dakota; said strip of land being adjacent to the present right of way of U.S. Highway 77 (now know as S.D. Highway 15) in the NW1/4 of said Section 11

Parcel 22
1.50 ac, R.O.W.
(65476 sq ft), more or less

NW1/4

LAKE SUTTON

LAKE SUTTON

Sec 11 - T115N - R49W

CLEAR LAKE

Parcel 19
110+34.46 to 117+99.14 L
Temporary Easement containing
0.4 ac, more or less

Parcel 20
117+98.95 to 124+62.88 L
Temporary Easement containing
0.4 ac, more or less

Parcel 21
124+35.37 to 136+53.06 L
Temporary Easement containing
0.8 ac, more or less

Parcel 22
110+34.49 to 136+54.01 R
Temporary Easement containing
1.6 ac, more or less

Preliminary

Preliminary

Preliminary