

## Norbeck Society Newsletter – September 2022

### Report on Activities:

**August Field Trip:** Thirteen people attended the Wind Cave National Park Surface Water Tour on August 6. Beth Burkhart guided us through trails by streams that have been impacted by wildlife grazing.

**Mark Vander Meer / Soils Project:** Six days of field work was completed thanks to 10 volunteers. Special thanks to Mary Zimmerman for coordinating the daily activities and participating each day. Mark will be collating the data and writing a draft report for the steering committee to review. We will be able to use the information and what we've learned as we work on the Forest Plan and comment on various projects. It was a great opportunity to see first-hand the effects (not all good!) of recent logging practices. We hope to have Mark Vander Meer speak about the Soils Project for our November 10 Public Meeting.

**Norbeck Society Op-Ed in Rapid City Journal, Aug 31:** Issues of Quantity and Quality (see attached file)

### Upcoming Events:

**September 17, 2022: Norbeck Society Field Trip - Part 2: Precious streams, springs and seeps in the dry prairie and savanna of Wind Cave National Park.**

**What:** Please join us for a field trip in Wind Cave NP to explore more wetlands. Field trip leader Beth Burkhart and participants of Part 1 field trip Aug 6 hiked along Cold Spring Creek, Beaver Creek and Highland Creek to look at streambanks, streamside vegetation and stream conditions. Field trip Sept 17 will involve a longer, more challenging cross-country hike of about 5 miles along Blacktail Creek to Blacktail Springs in the eastern side of the park. Time allowing, we may also hike into the Sanson Addition which has recently been opened to the public. Beth is a Botanist experienced in implementing riparian monitoring on public lands throughout the Black Hills.

**When: Meet at the intersection of Hwy 87 (paved road) and NPS 5 (gravel road) in Wind Cave NP at 8:30am on Sept 17. We will car caravan from there.** This is just south of where Hwy 87 crosses the boundary between Wind Cave NP and Custer State Park. Be prepared for any weather – hot, cold, wet, dry. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, wind protection, etc.

**Register for the trip:** please email Beth at [burkhartbeth1227@gmail.com](mailto:burkhartbeth1227@gmail.com)

**Background:** The Norbeck Society steering committee has been in conversation with Wind Cave NP since last winter to gather information and better understand management of surface water resources (streams, springs, seeps) in the park. Wetlands

make up less than 1% of the area of Wind Cave NP but are critical to all park life, from animals to plants. The two field trips this summer are an opportunity for members to see the resources in person and discover what questions you'd like to ask at the October public meeting (see below)!

**October 1: Annual General Meeting and Fall Picnic, Steamboat Rock Picnic**

**Area.** Office-bearer elections will be held - let me know if you have nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Feel free to nominate yourself!

**October 13: Norbeck Society Public Meeting** - Wind Cave NP Chief of Natural Resource Management Greg Schroeder will speak about water and wildlife management at WICA.