

# Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

Name of Organization BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Federal Tax ID# 45-6002681

Contact Person/Title LORI FRANK, WATERSHED COORDINATOR

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## **MAJOR Directive:**

Choose only one response

**Directive A.** Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

**Directive B.** Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

**Directive C.** Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

**Directive D.** Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

**Additional Directive:** Choose all that apply

- Directive A.** Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

**Type of organization:**

- State Agency
- Political Subdivision
- Tribal Entity
- Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, as described in United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501 (c))

**Project Name: SHEYENNE RIVER SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION PROJECT**

**Abstract/Executive Summary**

The project is designed to provide technical, financial and educational assistance to all agriculture producers and landowners with riparian acreage and/or upland cropland at high risk of erosion within the Sheyenne River watershed in Barnes County. Our goal is to restore the aquatic life uses and to maintain the recreational uses of the Sheyenne River and its tributaries.

As sponsors we will:

- 1) Provide technical and financial assistance to producers/landowners within ½ mile of the Sheyenne River and its tributaries and to prioritize locations when outside the AnnAgns priority areas.
- 2) Assist with best management practices that protect/enhance our riparian, crop, and non-crop acreage in high priority areas.
- 3) Develop education programs to heighten public awareness of non-point pollution impacts and solutions.
- 4) Develop working partnerships in the local community to benefit natural resources.

We want to reduce the sources of sedimentation within the priority areas, develop a water quality farm assessment focused on a systems approach for water quality management at the farm unit

level, reduce E.coli concentrations, with a target concentration per sampling site of a geometric mean of 126 colonies/100 ml with less than 10% of the samples exceeding 409 colonies/100 ml. And lastly to carry out an information/education program to promote water quality awareness and best management practices.

The project would begin in the spring of 2014 and run until September 30<sup>th</sup> of 2018.

319 Funds Requested:	\$400,200.00	State/Local Match:	\$331,800.00
Federal Funds:	\$25,000.00	Outdoor Heritage Funds:	\$200,000.00
Total Project Cost:	\$957,000.00		

Outdoor Heritage Funds would be used strictly to reduce the landowners cost of implementing best management practices (BMPs).

The Barnes County Soil Conservation District (BCSCD) would be the lead agency and would work closely with all county residents, NDSU Extension, ND Department of Health, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), ND Game & Fish, Barnes County Rural Water Users (RWU), and local leaders.

**Amount of Grant request: \$200,000.00**

**Total Project Costs: \$957,000.00**

**Amount & Source of Matching Funds**

EPA Section 319	\$400,200.00
RC&D (TA & FA)	\$5,000.00
NRCS (TA)	\$5,000.00
NDDoH (TA)	\$15,000.00
BCSCD (TA & FA)	\$62,500.00
NDSU Ext. (TA)	\$500.00
Barnes Co RW (FA)	\$2,000.00
Landowners (FA)	<u>\$266,800.00</u>
	\$757,000.00
Outdoor Heritage (FA)	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
	\$957,000.00

**Certifications**

- I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.
- I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted on Page 1 of this application.

## **Narrative**

### **Organization Information:**

Resident farmers and landowners of Barnes County voted in 1948 to approve the formation of their district. Districts are organized by the vote of the people within the district and are managed by a board of supervisors also elected by the people. The Barnes County board consists of three elected and 2 appointed supervisors.

#### *Mission Statement:*

*To promote soil and water conservation by offering financial, technical, informational and educational assistance and opportunities to the people of the district, as we have a real duty to use resources wisely and to preserve them for the future.*

The district employs one part-time clerk, a full-time technician and a full-time watershed coordinator, as well as temporary summer help. Currently the Barnes County SCD is involved in the final year of an EPA Section 319 grant, which has helped to install over 1.3 million dollars of best management practices. They were also approved for a Wildfire grant from the US Forest Service in August. The grant provides firewise assessments to homeowners, which can lessen the chance of losing their home in a wildfire.

The district assists landowners with planning and installation of farmstead shelterbelts, field windbreaks, and wildlife plantings. The district owns a John-Deere no-till drill, and a traveling-gun irrigation system (to pump waste pond effluent) which producers are able to rent.

The district is also the lead agency in the State-Wide Eco-Ed program for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and is deeply involved with the Envirothon Competition for ND high school students. We have also partnered with NDSU Extension, USGS and the NDDoH on the Discovery Farm research project.

A booth at the annual Winter Show, Conservation Fairs, workshops, tours, district web-site, quarterly newsletters, restoration part, annual Water Festivals and Project Wet tours are all part of our educational outreach.

### **Purpose of Grant**

Our goal is to reduce the amount of sedimentation originating from the Sheyenne River Watershed thereby restoring the aquatic life uses and maintaining the recreational uses of the Sheyenne River. By making contacts with producers and landowners we can offer both technical and financial assistance to improve soil health, lessen wind and water erosion, stabilize river and stream banks, enhance grazing systems, renovate failing septic systems, and to encourage cover crop usage.

Data collected from sampling sites on the Sheyenne River show increasing Total Suspended Solid (TSS) concentrations. By partnering with the EPA Section 319 grant more cost share dollars will be available to put practices on the ground. By providing financial assistance, landowners are better able to make these changes. Many want to protect our water resources, but are not able because of the financial burden.

Barnes County was fortunate to have been awarded an EPA Section 319 grant in 2010 to address water quality issues within the county. Funding was to extend through September of 2014, but

because of the needs and cooperation from landowners these funds were utilized before the end of 2013. At this time we have to turn down projects because of the loss of funds. We wish to be able to continue our efforts of protecting and restoring our water quality.

AnnAgnps is a computer model which predicts surface runoff and soil erosion at a watershed scale. A letter was sent to all landowners with acreage in the AnnAgnps priority areas. Responses received were for grazing systems, partial manure management systems, grassed waterways, bank erosion, eroding spillways, failing septic systems, and cover crops. Anyone requesting assistance outside of the AnnAgnps priority areas will be ranked on cost versus benefits.

We will be developing a planning process to address water quality as an entire farm unit. We want to take a look at current management, resource concerns, topography, and possible BMPs as a whole to develop comprehensive long term planning.

If approved the Sheyenne River Sedimentation Reduction Project would start April 1, 2014 and end September of 2018 or sooner if funds are expended.

## **Management of Project**

Our current watershed coordinator has 21 years of experience working for Soil Conservation Districts. Sixteen of those years have been with EPA Section 319 grant projects. She has a complete understanding of all programs, water quality issues, best management practices and has developed a rapport with the landowners, producers, and partnering agencies.

## **Evaluation**

River sampling protocol will continue at our four original sites. Since our previous watershed project has created a base-line of water quality data, we will be able to identify any changes in concentrations of nutrients, E.coli, and total suspended solids. Samples are collected every week, from ice melt to freeze up with at least 30 samples required per year.

Monthly reports are sent to the NDDoH, itemizing personnel, fringe benefits, travel, food, lodging, supplies, communication (telephone/postage), equipment, BMPs, and administration expenditures. An annual report is due each October and a final wrap-up report upon completion of the project. Therefore any additional reporting to the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program would be quite simple.

All producers implementing BMPs are required to sign applications detailing practices being installed, lifespan of those practices and estimated costs. All practices must meet NRCS standards and specifications. Upon completion the designing engineer or watershed coordinator must verify each practice before a payment application can be processed.

## Financial Information

### Project Budget

FUNDING SOURCES	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTALS
EPA SECTION 319 FUNDS *	\$70,200	\$85,000	\$80,000	\$83,000	\$82,000	\$400,200
OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUNDS **	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$200,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,200</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	<b>\$133,000</b>	<b>\$92,000</b>	<b>\$600,200</b>
OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS						
1) RC&D (TA & FA)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
2) NRCS (TA)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
3) NDDoH (TA)	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$15,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
STATE/ LOCAL MATCH						
1) LOCAL SCD (TA & FA)	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$62,500
2) LANDOWNERS (FA)	\$53,360	\$57,360	\$57,360	\$57,360	\$41,360	\$266,800
3) NDSU EXTENSION (TA)	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$500
4) BARNES COUNTY RWU (FA)	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$2,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,360</b>	<b>\$70,360</b>	<b>\$70,360</b>	<b>\$70,360</b>	<b>\$54,360</b>	<b>\$331,800</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$181,560</b>	<b>\$210,360</b>	<b>\$205,360</b>	<b>\$208,360</b>	<b>\$151,360</b>	<b>\$957,000</b>

FA: Financial Assistance

TA: Technical Assistance

RC&D: Resource Conservation & Development

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

NDDoH: North Dakota Department of Health

SCD: Soil Conservation District

NDSU: North Dakota State University

RWU: Rural Water Users

\* 319 Funds will be used for all aspects of program.

\*\* OH Funds will be used exclusively for BMP practices.

Portions of SCD & landowner match will be in-kind

● I certify that a project budget will be sent to the Commission

## **Sustainability**

Once Outdoor Heritage and EPA 319 funds are expended the project will be completed. Our sustainability will continue with the practices installed, the crop and rangeland management of our producers, and with the education of water quality we have provided to landowners.

If goals and objectives are not met by the end of the project, and there is continued interest in applying BMPs by landowners the district may seek another EPA Section 319 grant.

## **Partial Funding**

In the case of a reduced amount of dollars being awarded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund fewer practices will implemented and thereby producing less water quality improvements.

## **Awarding of Grants**

- I certify that all the provisions of the sample contract will be met.