

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations to:

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.

Exemptions

Outdoor Heritage Fund grants may not be used to finance the following:

- A. Litigation;
- B. Lobbying activities;
- C. Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- D. The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- E. Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code.

Application Deadline

Applications for the first grant round cycle are due on **December 2, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. CST.** All information, including attachments, must be submitted by that date. See instructions below for submission information.

Instructions

It is our intent to have this form available on line. However, until that on-line form is available we are asking that you submit your application as a Word document. Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>) to your computer and provide the information as requested. You are not limited to the spacing provided except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. After completing the application, save it and attach it to an e-mail and send it to outdoorheritage@nd.gov .Then submit the Word document as noted in the following paragraph.

Attachments in support of your application may be sent by mail to North Dakota Industrial Commission, ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program, State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405, Bismarck, ND 58505 or by e-mail to outdoorheritage@nd.gov . The application and all attachments must be received or postmarked by the application deadline. You will be sent a confirmation by e-mail of receipt of your application.

You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. Early submission is appreciated and encouraged to allow adequate time to review your application and ensure that all required information has been included. Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding. **Any item noted with an * is required.**

Oral Presentation. Please note that you will be given an opportunity to make a ten-minute Oral Presentation at a meeting of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board tentatively scheduled for the week of January 13, 2014. These presentations are strongly encouraged.

Open Record. Please note that your application and any attachments will be open records as defined by law and will be posted on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund website.

Name of Organization – Save The Hens Foundation, Inc

Federal Tax ID# 77-0639875

Contact Person/Title – John DeVries/President

Address - 260 Front St.

City - Sheldon

State - ND

Zip Code - 58068

E-mail Address – savethehens@mlgc.com

Web Site Address (Optional)

Phone – 701-793-0668

Fax # (if available)

List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal

MAJOR Directive: (select the Directive that best describes your grant request)*

Choose only one response

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

O **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;

O **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: (select the directives that also apply to the grant application purpose)*

Choose all that apply

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

X **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;

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

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

Type of organization: (select the category that describes your organization)*

State Agency

Political Subdivision

Tribal Entity

X Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, as described in United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501 (c))

Project Name*

Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program

Abstract/Executive Summary. An Executive Summary of the project stating its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants.* (no more than 500 words)

Background

Historically, eastern North Dakota was an immense area of diverse prairie habitat and wetlands. Today, only remnants of the original prairie remain and these parcels are over-run with invasive, non-indigenous trees, plants and grasses. The fact is wild natural landscapes are becoming fewer and smaller. Areas that are set aside for wildlife preservation need to be managed to maximize their productivity. This grant will go a long way toward truly making North Dakota a “better place for wildlife and people”.

Objective

The objective of the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program is to develop an abundant source of highly diverse native prairie plant seeds that can be used in restoration efforts and to create public access for utilization of the restored prairie. The native prairie plant seeds harvested from this project will serve as a seed source for multiple end users in their own restoration efforts. End users may include private landowners, water management districts, municipalities, North Dakota Game and Fish, USFWS, Save The Hens Foundation and the North Dakota Department of Transportation among others.

Expected Results

It is the goal of this project to secure a total of 600 acres over the course of three years to be designated as Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Plots. The development of this initial seed source is the solution to high dollar large acre prairie restorations which are needed to create long term grassland habitats free of invasive, non-indigenous trees, plants and grasses. The seeds generated from the original plots will be harvested and used to restore other prairie land. In turn, those seeds will be harvested and used to restore yet more reclaimed prairie. In twenty to thirty years from the original funding of the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program, the expected result will be thousands of acres of North Dakota prairie resembling the look pioneers saw when homesteading in the state.

Duration

The project in its entirety requires 10 years. Full development of the seed source will take approximately 4 years. Once full development has occurred, 200 acres of the seed plots will be harvested and processed annually.

Total Project Cost

\$1,862,116

Participants

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Valley City Wetland Management District

Amount of Grant request \$ *

\$129,480 annually for 10 years

Total Project Costs \$*

(Note that in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds)

\$1,862,116

Amount of Matching Funds \$

If applicable

Please indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash.

Total match of \$567,316

\$132,316 – Cash

\$435,000 – In-Kind

Source(s) of Matching Funds

Ransom County Economic Development Board
USFWS Valley City Wetland Management District
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Save The Hens Foundation, Inc

Certifications *

X I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

X 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 – Briefly summarize your organization’s history, mission, current programs and activities. *

Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement. (no more than 300 words)

Save The Hens Foundation, a Federal 501c3 public non-profit organization, has as its mission building a better prairie by restoring prairie grassland habitat. Founded in 2004, Save The Hens continues to grow and is a leader in the field of habitat restoration. Existing habitat has been neglected and unmanaged for so long that most prairie habitats are not sustainable. The Foundation, through its mission projects, restores these neglected habitats and returns them to functional grassland-based prairie habitat. Key to our success is the targeting of non-native invasive plants in all of the Foundation’s habitat projects. In 2004 the Foundation began removing invasive trees from prairie habitats with a chainsaw and donated Bobcat loader. Since that first project in Ransom County, ND, the Foundation has continued to grow and is now working projects in South Dakota, Minnesota and North Dakota. The Foundation has restored 1000’s of acres on both public and privately owned land.

Partnerships have developed with help from five regional United States Fish & Wildlife Service Wetland Management Districts, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Recently, the Foundation entered into cooperative management agreements with numerous USFWS Districts to restore neglected low priority properties. Companies like Scheels, Bobcat, Arctic Cat, North Dakota Natural Resource Trust and others help fund the operation of heavy equipment allowing our continued growth and restored prairie acres to climb.

Save The Hens Foundation prides itself on our community involvement. Our headquarters building, the Sheldon Community Center, is used extensively by local community groups. In our 10 years of operation we have been devoted exclusively to helping the people and habitats of the prairie. The Foundation operates with a Board of Directors and a local seven person steering committee.

Purpose of Grant – Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program *

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Please indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project.

Project Goal

The Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program is a new project whose goal is to restore prairie grasslands and create a source of highly diverse native prairie grass and forb seeds to be used in future prairie restoration efforts. Our vision is to emulate, to the best of our ability, the historical conditions of the Tallgrass prairie by replicating species composition, structure and function in our restorations. A total of 600 acres will be designated as Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Plots. Seeds cultivated from these plots will be available to a wide range of end users including, but not limited to:

- Private Landowners
- Water Management Districts
- Municipalities
- North Dakota Game and Fish
- USFWS
- Save The Hens Foundation
- North Dakota Department of Transportation

The Project will meet all of the directives outlined by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program:

Directive A – The scope of the project creates wildlife habitat. Through a partnership with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department many of the native seed development plots will be enrolled into the State's PLOTS program, which is a program providing public access to sportsmen on private land.

Directive B – Prairie restorations not only benefit wildlife, they provide many ecosystem services such as soil retention, carbon sequestration and cleaner water. Ultimately, all ranching and farming benefit from the complexity of these plant communities whether from enjoyment of wildlife or a reduction in flood waters. To this end, cooperation and understanding is needed by all who may be impacted by our seeding program.

Directive C – The Foundation has cooperative land management contracts with area USFWS Wetland Management Districts to restore grasslands on SE North Dakota Waterfowl Production Area properties, which are open to the public. Many properties that will be developed with the native prairie seed mixes funded by this grant are on properties owned by regional water districts and are open to the public. Interseeding highly diverse seed mixes into existing grasslands on both private and public properties will further the development and enhancement of North Dakota grasslands.

Directive D – Prairie plantings will be developed in partnership with the City of Enderlin and Cass County. These areas will be accessible to the public for recreational and educational purposes. Public exposure to the native grass development plots is critical to educating the public about North Dakota's prairie heritage and the importance of native prairie plant diversity to support our prairie ecosystem.

Why the need for this Project?

Restoration of North Dakota tallgrass prairie habitats is needed but often too costly. The remaining prairie habitats are very fragmented and many are infested with invasive weeds. As a result, it is not possible to use them as a harvestable seed source. Restoration and development of prairie habitats requires a large quantity of native prairie seed mix and while it is possible to purchase these seed mixes commercially, they are very expensive and exceed what is available in most habitat managers' budgets. What is needed is a harvestable, renewable source of tallgrass prairie seed so that habitat restoration can expand rapidly and cost effectively. This project will reduce the cost of native seed from \$1,800 - \$2,500 or more per acre to \$60 - \$100 per acre.

Additionally, many commercial seeds are cultivars which have been greenhouse developed and don't adapt to North Dakota's unique environment. Seeds produced by the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program will be naturally adapted to the region's climate. It would be like a North Dakota farmer planting 110 day corn and expecting it to mature in that time frame. Using seed indigenous to the area is the key to success.

Grassland prairie habitats are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world today. The science behind a diverse plant community is well documented. The more diverse the plant community, the more diverse and abundant the wildlife community. Native diversity also makes the plant community less susceptible to invasives such as thistle, smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass. Clarence Lehman, former director of Cedar Creek Research Center, said their research indicated at least five additional species of insects are introduced to the plant community with the addition of each plant species. The increase in insects brings more songbirds. Adding more plants increases seed production which in turn increases the small rodent populations. The whole idea is to increase the insect, song birds and rodent populations, which in turn provides alternative prey species for predators, which leads to less pressure on such things as waterfowl, pheasants, and deer. The larger the prey base, the less impact to each individual component of that prey base. Clean water and soil retention are also benefits of a diverse plant community. All aspects of a diverse prairie habitat provide positive scientific outcomes.

Strategies

Restoration Vision

We are charged with the responsibility for planting a *complex* plant community that is attractive to a wide array of wildlife. Our vision is to emulate, to the best of our ability, the historical conditions of the tallgrass prairie by replicating species composition, structure and function in our restorations.

Restoration Methods

During restoration, a diverse seed mix harvested from local remnant prairies and greater than 50 species in number, is broadcast over the snow in late winter using a Vicon broadcast spreader with a 15-foot spread. Research has shown that broadcast seeding a high diversity mix during the dormant season (fall/winter) typically results in successful restorations with lower percentages of invasive species (Larson, et al. 2010, Larson 2010).

Field Preparation

Field preparation is minimal. The typical field (under the snow) is untilled Glyphosate- ready soybean stubble. Weather conditions best for snow-seeding include partly to mostly sunny skies with a temperature between 25 and 35 degrees F. Too much wind (20+ mph) may hamper the ability to seed. Too much snow may result in horizontal seed movement when it melts; depth of less than a foot should be OK. Seeding should cease for the day by 1:00 PM or earlier to allow the sun time to warm the seed during the afternoon. Once the seed has been locked in by freezing night-time temperatures, it can no longer move laterally. During further snow melt, the seed will be pulled in when the top layer of soil is soft. There is no need for further tillage or packing. Currently, a seeding rate of at least two million pure live seeds (PLS) per acre is recommended. A higher seeding rate may be advised if seeding into existing cover.

The restored newly seeded prairie will be allowed to mature for four years. Prairie plants require at least four years to mature because of their extensive root systems. The length of some prairie plant roots can grow up to twenty-five feet long. Their extensive root systems are what allows them to survive the severe weather found on the prairie and contributes to the high quality soil found on the prairie.

Prescribed Fire

The key to successful plot management is prescribed fire. Fire will be used every three years prior to harvesting. Fire also spurs seed development producing as much as three times the seed of unburned land. Valley City Wetland Management District has committed to use prescribed burns to enhance the seed harvest of public land plots located on VCWMD managed lands. The Foundation will write burn plans and manage the prescribed fire on the private land plots.

Seed Harvest

Seed harvest will begin once the Native Seed Development Plots have matured. Two hundred of the 600 acres of developed seed plots will be harvested annually. The targeted harvest acres will undergo a prescribed fire in May and the seeds harvested in September and October. The rotation will allow for the plots to properly mature and grow. The final two years of the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Project will see up to the entire 600 acres harvested.

Benefits

The long term benefit of the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program will be an ever increasing source of native North Dakota flora that makes for a diverse ecosystem.

Benefits of a quality grassland restoration program are many:

- Soil stabilization
- Long term weed management
- Partnership with local farms
- Creation of a high quality native prairie seed source that can be harvested and used in other projects
- A diverse native grassland adds to the aesthetics of a community whether it is the colors of fall or the blossoms of summer.
- Wildlife such as deer, pheasants, waterfowl, bees and other non-game species thrive
- Plants native to North Dakota dominate habitats and support a diverse ecosystem
- Tallgrass prairie can reduce the impact of wildlife on nearby crops while at the same time providing abundant pollinators that can assist agriculture in general

The purpose of a well-managed highly diverse prairie restoration is to keep invasive plants out of a restored prairie eco-system. Native plants root much deeper than invasively introduced species, giving the land much better long term erosion control and cleaner water: the NRCS recognizes diverse native grassland as the habitat most able to reduce runoff and absorb rainfall events.

Timetable

Please reference the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program Timetable located on Page 10.

Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program Timetable

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014												
Program Development												
Grant Approval Received												
Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Plot Identification (TPSSP)												
Hand harvest of early maturing forbs												
Identifying and mapping of native seed harvest locations												
Harvesting of native prairie seeds for use in TPSSP plots												
Seed preparation and testing												
2015-2017												
Program Development												
Seed preparation and testing continues												
Seeding of previously identified TPSSP's												
TPSSP Identification continues												
Hand harvest of early maturing forbs												
Identifying and mapping of native seed harvest locations												
Harvesting of native prairie seeds for use in TPSSP												
Seed preparation and testing												
2018												
Program Harvest												
Management plan developed for TPSSP harvest												
Seed preparation and testing continues												
First prescribed burn on TPSSP												
Hand harvest of early maturing forbs												
First combine harvest of seed from prescribed burn plots												
Seed preparation and testing												
2019 - Completion												
Program Harvest and Maintenance												
Seed preparation and testing continues												
Prescribed burns on TPSSP's												
Hand harvest of early maturing forbs												
Combine harvest of seed												
Seed preparation and testing												

Management of Project – Provide a description of how the you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met.*

Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

Leading Save The Hens Foundation's restoration efforts is Larry Hanson, a 35 year veteran of prairie restoration. Working for 35 years as a USFWS biologist for the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, Larry has restored thousands of acres of prairie and has taught restoration techniques in both the US and Canada. Larry will direct all management activities to maximize the potential of the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program. Additionally, biologists from grant partners at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Valley City Wetland Management District will be actively involved in the overall management of the project.

Evaluation – Describe your plan to document progress and results. *

How will you tell if the project is successful? Please be specific on the methods you will utilize to measure success. Note that regular reporting, final evaluation and expenditure reports will be required for every grant awarded.

Native Grassland Seed Development Evaluation

Prairie restoration is a process that takes time. Like weed management, one must think long-term. The following is a general description of what can be expected during the first 5 growing seasons of the restoration.

Year 1: After seeding during the late winter, the seeded field will continue to appear as though it is untilled soybean stubble through May and into June. By July the field will green over and by late August to mid-September plants flowering will include annuals such as pigweed, kochia, and horseweed along with native spp. such as big bluestem, bearded wheatgrass, Maximillian sunflower and red-stemmed aster.

Year 2: The second year of growth is “visually” the most difficult year. This is the year of the biennials. Thus the field may begin the growing season with native forbs such as golden alexanders, black-eyed susans and daisy fleabanes, but soon progress in June to the bolting stage of plumeless, musk and Canada thistle. Sweet clover also tends to show up in these seedings. By the end of July additional natives such as gray-headed coneflower and purple prairie clover may blossom and go to seed. The growing season ends with a flush of native goldenrods and asters.

Year 3: The third year of growth will see the native grasses begin to get what we refer to as “large shoulders” where grass stem density is dramatic and a marked decrease is noted in the unwanted spp. such as thistles. The number of forb species increase as well, with *one-time, rapid assessments* totaling 10-12 native species. Sow, musk and plumeless thistle should wane if left untouched and a few Canada thistles remain. All native spp. will attempt to blossom and seed out.

Year 4: During the fourth growing season the vitality of the native spp. will be apparent as there should be a wide variety of natives flowering from early spring till freeze-up. Sow and plumeless thistle are/nearly all gone. Some Canadas may remain, but are visually insignificant among the native grasses and forbs.

Year 5: By year five the field should be essentially converted to a diverse native plant community with approximately 85% cover of native and 15% non-native species, of which less than 5% will be considered “weed” spp.

Native Harvest is the Ultimate Evaluation

Beginning in year 4 and beyond, the seedlings may have the potential for significant native seed harvest. With a goal of harvesting 200 acres per year, seed harvest could produce as much as 20,000 pounds of bulk seed or more. This would translate into the ability to use this seed for seeding additional acres – as much as 600 acres depending on seed testing. Being able to harvest seed from the seeded plots, will aid in reducing the long term financial costs of future projects.

Evaluation Results in Grant Value

Harvested seed from the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program will be valued between \$1200 and \$2000 an acre. The variance is a function of the unknown variables in the quality and number of seed types present in final seed tests. Total target acres developed from the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program are 4800 acres at a conservative seed cost value of \$5,760,000.

Financial Information

ATTACHMENT: Project Budget – Using the standard project budget format that is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> , please include a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting.*

The project budget should identify all matching funds, funding sources and indicate whether the matching funds are in the form of cash or in-kind services. As noted on the standard project budget format, certain values have been identified for in-kind services. Please utilize these values in identifying your matching funds.

NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded.

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

Sustainability – Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. *

Include information on the sustainability of this project after all the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund has been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Seed from the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program will be used on land that is perpetually protected and on private land grasslands. The perpetually protected lands that get seed from the program have management in place that will continue to manage the properties for species diversity. The private land used will have the landowners receiving seed taught how to care for the high diverse native grass and from Foundation support will develop an easy to use plan that will see most of the restored grasslands developed from the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program thriving for 20-30 years and some cases for eternity. Lead plant and other plants developed in the program can with a little management live for centuries!

Partial Funding – Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested. *

If less funding for this Project is available the most significant setback will be in the ability to recruit private landowners for partnerships. Although cutting back on private land acres would cut grant costs, private land acres are necessary to provide added habitat and expanded public access for education and recreation.

Budget Standard Form

Please use the table below to provide a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting and if there are any matching funds being utilized to fund this project. Please note if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. Match can come from any source (i.e. private sources, State and Federal funding, Tribal funding, etc.) Note match funding is not required but an application will be scored higher if match funding is provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Please feel free to add columns and rows as needed. Please include narrative to fully explain the proposed budget.

Note that NO INDIRECT COSTS will be funded from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Please reference the Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Budget located on page 14.

Scoring of Grants

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking sheet(s) that will be used by the Board is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> .

Awarding of Grants

All decisions on requests will be reported to applicants no later than 30 days after Industrial Commission consideration. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant. Please note the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> that set forth the general provisions that will be included in any contract issued by the North Dakota Industrial Commission. Please indicate if you can meet all the provisions of the sample contract. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be. *

Responsibility of Recipient

The recipient of any grant from the Industrial Commission must use the funds awarded for the specific purpose described in the grant application and in accordance with the contract. The recipient cannot use any of the funds for the purposes stated under Exemptions on the first page of this application.

If you have any questions about the application or have trouble submitting the application, please contact Karlene Fine at 701-328-3722 or kfine@nd.gov

Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program Budget

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share
Land Rental:					
Public (1)					\$330,000
Private (2)	\$450,000				
Public Access (2a)					\$18,000
Seed Processing:					
Equipment (3)		\$5,331			
Supplies (4)	\$14,500				
Native Seed Purchase (5)					\$50,000
Grass Storage/Processing Facility (6)	\$60,000				
Equipment:					
Combine/Grass Trailer (7)		\$21,985			
Combine Transportation Trailer/Semi tractor (8)		\$32,000			
Combine/Trucking Fuel & Maintenance (9)	\$33,500				
Prescribed Fire:					
Private Land (10)			\$12,000		
USFWS Plots (11)					\$21,000
Project Mgmt. (12)	\$250,000				
Labor (13)	\$380,000 (a)		\$72,000 (b)		\$5,000 (c)
Administration (14)	\$106,800				
Total Project Costs	\$1,294,800	\$59,316	\$84,000	\$0	\$424,000

1. 300 acres valued at \$110/acre based on 2013 public land rental average of Ransom, Richland and Cass Counties for 10 years.
2. 300 acres valued at \$150/acre based on 2013 private land rental high average of Ransom, Richland and Cass Counties for 10 years.
 - a. Funded and administered by North Dakota Game and Fish Department's PLOTS Program. \$6/acre x 300 acres x 10 years.
3. Seed bags, testing and mix.
4. Seed needs forced-air drying equipment. Price quote by MRL Manufacturing, Enderlin, ND
5. Valley City Wetland Management District cash match for adding species diversity in seed mix for use on District owned lands.
6. Warehouse rental @ \$500/month for 120 months.
7. International Harvester 1640 Combine. Price determined by TractorHouse.com average price for IH1640. Trailer is a 16 foot hydraulic dump with air system priced on EBAY.
8. Flatbed trailer and semi-tractor average low price from TruckPaper.com.
9. Conservative estimate to fuel combine, trucks and for oil and miscellaneous repairs.
10. 10 people x \$15/hour x 10 hours x 6 years= \$9,000 plus \$3,000 for water truck support.
11. 10 people x \$15/hour x 10 hours x 6 years= \$9,000 plus \$12,000 for fire trucks and support equipment.
12. Salary contract for Larry Hansen, Project advisor: \$25,000 annually for 10 years.
13. Labor costs:
 - a. STH employee labor.
 - b. Youth Habitat Alliance volunteers in-kind contribution: 20 youth x 24 hours x \$15/hr. x 10 years= \$72,000.
 - c. Ransom County Economic Development cash contribution to fund the Youth Habitat Alliance crews.
14. Utilities, insurance, grant reporting and overhead valued at 10% of OHF grant request.



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

November 18, 2013

John DeVries, Founder/President
Save The Hens Foundation, Incorporated
260 Front Street, PO Box 66
Sheldon, ND 58068

Dear Mr. DeVries:

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's (Department) mission is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and non consumptive use. We believe the efforts of Save The Hens Foundation (STH) are assisting the Department in achieving its mission.

The Department supports the STH Outdoor Heritage Fund Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program proposal. North Dakota is known as a prairie state and was once dominated by tallgrass, mixed-grass and shortgrass prairies. Tallgrass prairie once covered much of the central United States and Canada; however, increased agricultural production has led to conversion of most of the tallgrass prairie. It is estimated only 3% of it remains unplowed in the entire country. North Dakota's remaining tallgrass prairie is found almost exclusively in the eastern portion of the state. In addition, conversion of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands has increased substantially in recent years. Together, the loss of CRP and native tallgrass prairie will have negative impacts on many species of grassland nesting birds and other animals.

The Department is concerned about the increased loss of grasslands and the impacts to wildlife populations. The STH Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program is an important step in addressing this concern in the near-term, by developing highly diverse, local native grass seed sources, and also in the long-term by providing sustainable seed production, wildlife habitat and hunting access. The Department looks forward to working with STH on this proposal by managing native grass seed plots through agreements with landowners enrolled in the Conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) program.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kading
Private Lands Section Leader



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Valley City Wetland Management District
11515 River Road
Valley City, ND 58072-9619

November 22, 2013

John DeVries, Founder/President
Save The Hens Foundation
260 Front Street, PO Box 66
Sheldon, ND 58068

Dear Mr. DeVries:

This letter is written in support of and commitment to an Outdoor Heritage Fund grant application submitted by Save The Hens Foundation (Foundation). The project is entitled Tallgrass Prairie Seed Source Program.

The Foundation has proposed that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Valley City Wetland Management District (District) provide 300 acres of land to be developed as highly diverse native prairie restorations. These lands will benefit wildlife and provide a site for harvest of native flora seeds. As proposed, grass and forb seed from District lands will be harvested by the Foundation over the next 10 years.

District staff will classify the restored production sites as high priority habitats which will result in an increased effort to apply prescribed fire management to the established grasslands, aiding in seed production. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff will provide the resources to necessary to complete the prescribed burns.

Proceeds from several of the District's cooperative farming agreements will provide funding to add to the diversity of the native seed mixes to be planted on Service lands included in the project area. The amount due from each cooperator at the end of each agreement will be applied to the purchase of grass and forb seed that will be combined with seed harvested by the Foundation.

I fully support the Foundation's grant application and am committed to fulfilling the Service's partnership in this project.

Sincerely,


Kurt Tompkins
District Manager