

Name of Organization * Spring Creek Watershed, Mercer County Soil Conservation District

Federal Tax ID# * 45-6006603

Contact Person/Title * Kasha Hansen, Watershed Coordinator

Address * 1400 Hwy 49 N #102

City * Beulah

State * ND

Zip Code * 58523

E-mail Address * kasha.hansen@nd.nacdnet.net

Web Site Address: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mercer-County-Soil-Conservation-District/301063439928360?ref=hl>

Phone * 701-873-2101 ext 3

Fax # (if available) NA

MAJOR Directive:

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:

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* Spring Creek Watershed- Cross Fencing for Grazing Management

Abstract/Executive Summary.

The purpose of this project is to enhance new and current contracts within the Spring Creek Watershed by providing additional cost share for cross fencing. The Spring Creek Watershed cost shares best management practices in order to improve water quality and riparian health. Best management practices are wells, water pipelines, water tanks, fence, trees plantings and more. This grant will allow for greater results within the Spring Creek Watershed. By providing additional cost share, we will be able to help producers implement cross fencing to their operation. Mercer County Soil Conservation District will work with producers in the Spring Creek Watershed area which extends into Dunn County.

The objectives are to improve range land health, riparian areas, and water quality. Improving these will enhance wildlife and fish habitat.

The expected results are improved and better grazing practices, healthy grass growth, improved fish and wildlife habitat, improved water quality and riparian areas.

This grant is expected to provide additional cost share to install 10.1 miles of fence. Fence is estimated at a flat rate of \$1.35 per foot (rates are set by the ND Dept. of Health Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program). The Spring Creek Watershed cost shares 60% at \$.81 per foot.

The total project cost for cross fencing is \$72,000, requesting \$14,400. This project will be completed in 2015.

Amount of Grant request \$ * 14,400 20% cost share.

Total Project Costs \$* 72,000

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

Amount of Matching Funds \$ 57,600 cash

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

Source(s) of Matching Funds \$43,200 from Spring Creek Watershed (319 EPA Funds 60%), \$14,400 producer match (20%)

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 –

Mercer County Soil Conservation District (MCSCD) has been working with producers for 75 years to provide conservation programs and cost share. Our Mission is to promote the stewardship of soil and water conservation of our natural resources by educating and providing technical assistance to manage, protect, and enhance the land and water for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Mercer County.

The MCSCD currently provides a tree planting and fabric application service. The MCSCD has had an active watershed project for the last 20 years, currently operating the Spring Creek Watershed Project since 2011. The Spring Creek Watershed project is managed through Mercer County Soil Conservation District, partnered with the Dunn County Soil Conservation District. The Spring Creek Watershed project is a 319 funded program. The Spring Creek Watershed was implemented to improve water quality and riparian areas along Spring Creek.

The MCSCD is governed by a board of five members who oversee the practices installed by the District Manager/Technician and the Watershed Coordinator.

Purpose of Grant

The goals of the project are to improve range land health, riparian areas, and water quality, thus enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Properly maintained rangeland and riparian areas benefit local wildlife. Cross fencing allows cattle to be rotated for better utilization of rangeland and pastures. Rotating cattle allows native prairies and pastures to recover after grazing and the chance for regrowth. Native prairies and pastures that are properly rotated allow wildlife to benefit from the available forage and cover. Riparian areas will also see improvements in grass regrowth. Limiting time in riparian areas will reduce impacts on river banks, minimizing the chances for erosion.

Cross fencing is a valuable practice that benefits many. Producers who reside within the Spring Creek Watershed and those who have contracts with Spring Creek Watershed (which have installed practices such as well, pipelines and tanks) will be approached to install cross fencing. There is a need for additional funding because of the location of the project. Due to economic impacts the costs of installing practices, such as wells, pipelines, fence and water tanks have been increasing. The Spring Creek Watershed cost shares practices at 60% and the producer is responsible for the other 40%. This grant will allow for an additional 20% cost share to the producer.

This is not a new project. The request for this grant money is to improve and expand the existing Spring Creek Watershed project. Producers who have installed conservation practices such as wells, pipelines and water tanks or are planning to, will be offered additional cost share for cross fencing. By adding cross fencing to these practices we will be able to greatly enhance grass stands and riparian areas for wildlife and fish habitat

Fence will be installed according to Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) standards and specifications. These specifications will include the size of posts and wire needed, and spacing of posts. This will insure proper components and installation. Fencing projects will be reviewed with the producer. Fencing projects will need to be completed by November 2015, the end date for the Spring Creek Watershed.

Contract holders will need to implement a grazing plan to assist with grazing rotation. A plan will be developed that meets NRCS specifications and the producer's needs.

Management of Project

This grant will be managed with the Spring Watershed Project. Those wishing to participate will be informed of the contract process and the standards and specifications. Contract holders will be informed of the standards and specifications of fence building. Once a fence is complete it will be visually inspected to insure it was built to standards. The fence will also be measured to determine payment.

The current watershed coordinator has been with the Mercer County Soil Conservation District for five years and manages the Spring Creek Watershed. The watershed coordinator will also manage this grant.

The ND Dept. of Health has developed a program to track all practices installed. Cross fencing will be tracked in this program along with funding spent and footage installed for each producer.

Evaluation

Grazing plans will be evaluated to determine the success of the project. Grass stands will be evaluated to insure proper grazing length of time. Photo points will also be taken at riparian areas for documentation.

Water samples will be taken throughout the length of the Spring Creek Watershed Project. The ND Dept. of Health will analyze the samples and write a final report.

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. *

Once the project is complete, the project will be sustained by management from the contract holders. Additional funding will not be needed. Contract holders will be responsible for maintaining fences.

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

Cross fencing projects will be funded at a lower percentage rate. The percentage rate will be adjusted upon receiving the grant award. In order to make this a successful program enough grant funds must be available to encourage participation.

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.

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
72,000	\$14,400	\$57,600	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Project Costs	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

DRAW TEXT BOX FOR DETAILS HERE

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost.
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program please use those rates and note your source.

Approved by OHF Advisory Board: October 17, 2013
 Approved by Industrial Commission: October 22, 2013