

November 15, 2013

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing this letter to request funding for the North Country Trail Association, (NCTA). This trail is 4600 miles long and runs through 7 northern States. In North Dakota the trail extends from Lake Sacajawea to the Minnesota border at Abercrombie. North Dakota is behind other States in building and improving its reach.

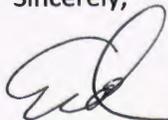
Why is this trail important to North Dakota?

1. History shows that getting people involved in outdoor activities is good for both the individual's health and their appreciation of the environment.
2. Footpaths in other areas of the country are heavily used by hikers, hunters, families, birders, etc.
3. As an avid outdoorsman who has worked on our trail and one who has hiked on trails in other areas of the Country I see the benefits of having a trail in our State.
4. During several Legislative Committee meetings, there have been discussions of how to attract and keep new citizens to our State. I have heard the term "lack of quality of life" bandied around. One of the things pointed out is the absence of cultural and outdoor amenities. Although we will never have downhill skiing to compete with Montana or a "Lakes Area" to compete with Minnesota we can and do have interesting and inviting areas in which to simply, "take a hike".

Full disclosure, I am a State Representative form District 45 in Fargo. I am also a National Board member of the NCTA . This trail is a growing asset to North Dakota and this grant will allow us to complete and improve certain sections of our trail.

Please consider our application for Grant Funding and help us improve the North Dakota section of the North Country Trial. A "Footpath" that is free to use by anyone who simply want to take a hike in our beautiful State.

Sincerely,



Representative Ed Gruchalla
District 45
Fargo, North Dakota

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

To complete this application, fill out all required fields below. Click the "submit" button at the bottom of the page after you have finished entering all your information. You will not be able to make changes after submitting the form. If you wish to submit your application as a Word document, please go to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at _____ and download the application form (Word Format). Then submit the Word document as noted in the following paragraph.

Attachments in support of your application must 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 kfine@nd.gov no later than 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 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 * North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

Federal Tax ID# * 45-0433249

Contact Person/Title * Matthew Gardner – Recreation Division Manager

Address * 1600 E. Century Ave. Suite 3

City * Bismarck

State * ND

Zip Code * 58503

E-mail Address * msgardner@nd.gov

Web Site Address (Optional) www.parkrec.nd.gov

Phone * 701-328-5369

Fax # 701-328-5363

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

North Dakota Forest Service
North Country Trail Association –Sheyenne River Valley and Dakota Prairie Chapters

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

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

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: (select the category that describes your 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* Trail Restoration and Improvement 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)

The Trail Restoration and Improvement Program is a two year project aimed at enhancing recreational use and access through the construction of sustainable trails and easement acquisition in the state's high priority recreational areas. The Turtle Mountains and Sheyenne River Valley are designated as 2 of the high priority resources according to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and will be the focus of this project.

The project represents a partnership between the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, the North Dakota Forest Service, and the Sheyenne River Valley and Dakota Prairie Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. These entities have demonstrated successful recreational improvements and coordination among stakeholders.

The Turtle Mountain State Forest is the state's largest contiguous tract of undisturbed forestland. The area is a popular recreational site for horseback riders, hunters, hikers, cross country skiers, and snowmobilers. Much of this trail system is in need of significant restoration, as wet conditions and rising water tables has inundated many segments of the trail system. Proposed activities include enhancing trail sustainability, re-routing trails around sensitive sites, water crossing improvements, and trail head improvements. These restoration projects will open up many miles of trail increasing recreational access and improving the natural resource conditions.

The North Country National Scenic Trail, is a 4,600 mile National Trail that starts on the shores of Lake Champlain, New York and ends at Lake Sakakawea State Park. The trail crosses through many of North Dakota's notable landmarks; the Sheyenne National Grasslands, Sheyenne State Forest, Fort Ransom State Park, Clausen Springs Recreation Area, Lake Ashtabula, Lonetree Wildlife Management Area and Lake Sakakawea. The primary uses for this trail are hiking but horseback riding; hunting, and snowshoeing are other popular activities. The goal of the North Country National Scenic Trail project is to acquire private landowner easements to get on-road sections, off-road to ensure a more enjoyable and safe recreational experience to users. In conjunction with easement acquisition, the North Country Trail Association, will implement sustainable trail building and armoring techniques to restore and improve current and new sections of trail on private and public lands.

The goals of the initiative include: enhancing use and access to recreational opportunities, connect people and out-of-state visitors with nature, construct sustainable trails that protect sensitive habitats and natural resources. The program will provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen; Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems by re-routing trails away from sensitive areas; and conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment of easements.

Amount of Grant request \$132,456.20

Total Project Costs \$242,629

Amount of Matching Funds \$110,172.80

If applicable

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

Source(s) of Matching Funds

- **73212.80 – Cash - Federal funds**
- **30,060 – In-kind volunteer labor**
- **6,900 – Indirect costs – force account labor**

Certification *

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

XX 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)

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department’s mission is to *“Provide and enhance the state’s outdoor recreation opportunities through diverse parks and programs that conserve the state’s natural diversity”*. Currently, the Department operates 13 state parks and one state recreation area; providing unique recreational opportunities for North Dakotans and visitors from abroad. In conjunction with operating our state parks and recreation areas the Department assists other partners in recreation and natural resource management programs. The Department administers two federal recreational grants: the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Department is also responsible for the Community Grant which is a state appropriated grant available to political subdivisions to develop outdoor recreation facilities and community leadership programs. These grant programs provide around \$3.5 million per biennium towards outdoor recreation. Every five years the Department is charged with developing the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which serves as a guide for managing and developing North Dakota’s non-consumptive outdoor recreation base (See the most recent version of the SCORP at <http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/information/department/attachments/scorp-2013-2017.pdf>). During this

process, recreationalists, park districts, state/federal agencies and other recreational providers were surveyed to identify statewide recreational facility priorities. Through these programs and projects the Department has developed strong partnerships statewide to educate, enhance and engage outdoor recreation in North Dakota.

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 the 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.

Trail Restoration and Improvement Program

Needs:

Despite the agency's success in administering recreational development programs, many unmet needs exist. According to the 2013 SCORP, 93% of North Dakotan households feel that outdoor recreation is important with 55% of those expressing that it is very important. The projects within the Trail Restoration and Improvement Program identified as top priorities in the 2013 SCORP. Overall, 57% of outdoor recreation providers report demand for facilities and activities exceeds supply for their users (SCORP, 2013).

Goals:

Trails provide many benefits to their users like: exercise, wildlife viewing, hunting access, family friendly activities and reconnects people with nature. The purpose of this grant is to restore and improve two important trail systems in North Dakota. These trail systems include the Turtle Mountain State Forest Trails and the North Dakota section of the North Country National Scenic Trail that goes from Fort Abercrombie through the Sheyenne National Grasslands up the Sheyenne River Valley to Lake Ashtabula. These systems are high profile, high use recreation destinations.

The Turtle Mountain State Forest is on the western edge of the Turtle Mountains in Bottineau County which rise 600 to 800 feet above the surrounding prairie/wetlands landscape. The Turtle Mountain State Forest encompasses 7,763 acres on five parcels. This forest is one of the largest continuous blocks of forestland found anywhere in the state. Primary uses included hunting, hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, fishing, horseback riding and wildlife viewing. To date the forest has 17.8 miles of trails that gets used by all forms of recreationalists with hunters, hikers, snowmobilers and horseback riders being the largest group of users.

The goal of the Turtle Mountains State Forest Trail project is to implement sustainable trail building and armoring techniques to improve access, user experience and resource protection. This will be accomplished by rerouting trails around sensitive wetlands, repairing resource damage areas and building connecting routes to expand access. Results include trail armoring, re-routing trails to more suitable areas, implement water mitigating techniques such as culverts, boardwalks and correct trail slopes to promote sheet water flow across the trail and limit the effects of erosion. Secondary goals would be to improve trailhead information centers, user access points and overall trail signage to accurately direct users to create a positive recreational experience.

The North Country National Scenic Trail is a 4,600 mile National Trail that starts on the shores of Lake Champlain, New York and ends at Lake Sakakawea State Park. The trail enters into North Dakota from Minnesota across the Red River at Fort Abercrombie. This trail then crosses through many of North Dakota's notable landmarks; the Sheyenne National Grasslands, Sheyenne State Forest, Fort Ransom State Park, Clausen Springs Recreation Area, Lake Ashtabula, Lonetree Wildlife Management Area and Lake Sakakawea. The primary uses for this trail are hikers which come from all over the world but horseback riding, biking, hunting and snowshoeing are other popular activities on the trail.

The goal of the North Country National Scenic Trail project is to acquire private landowner easements to convert on-road routes to off-road trail segments to ensure a more enjoyable and safe recreational experience to users. In conjunction with easement acquisition, the North Country Trail Association will implement sustainable trail building and armoring techniques to restore and improve current and new sections of trail on private and public lands. As of now there are currently (222 miles) of trail off road with needs of acquiring (250 miles) to complete the North Dakota section. Within the last two years 29 miles of private easements have been secured which lead to volunteers building 29 miles of new trail. This project's focus area is on the section of trail that runs from Fort Abercrombie to Lake Ashtabula. Trail easements will greatly improve the connectivity of the trail furthering the big picture goal for the North Dakota section of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

Strategies:

The strategy for completion of the Trails Restoration and Improvement Program is to utilize the experience, skills and resources made available by the many partners involved in this program to ensure program objectives are met as described in our goals above. Collectively there is a wealth of knowledge of project management, sustainable trail building techniques, procurement practices, environmental assessment, volunteer pooling and geographical expertise. This will be accomplished through coordination with landowners and stakeholders, site visits, cultural resource assessments, and geotechnical assessments.

Benefits:

The benefits of multi-use trails positively impact environmental, social and economic conditions for users and area communities. Trails create healthy recreational opportunities for a large variety of users and provide a gateway for access that may not normally be obtained. This project will connect critical trail segments allowing users to engage in multi-day/camping experiences. Such new opportunities will draw out-of-state visitors to experience North Dakota in new ways.

Turtle Mountain Project:

Project Leads:

- North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
- North Dakota Forest Service

Time Line

Spring 2014

- Design sign kiosks and trail head signage
- Order/bid sign and kiosk materials

Summer 2014

- Environmental, cultural and historic reviews of project area
- Start work on trailhead and trail improvements
 - Kiosks
 - Trailheads
 - Gravel pads
 - Trail signage
- Start constructing boardwalk

Fall 2014

- Flag and mark re-route locations, culverts and other negative control points for reconstruction and repair.

Winter 2014

- Send out invitation to bid notifications for contract work of trail re-routes, trail armoring and culvert installation
- Bid opening and bid award

Summer 2015

- Start trail construction work - Contractor

Fall 2015

- Finalize all trail restoration and improvement projects
 - Construction
 - Armoring
 - Re-routes
 - Culvert installation
 - Boardwalks
 - Signage
 - Trailhead Improvements
- Final Inspection

North Country Trail Project

Project Leads

- North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
- North Dakota Forest Service
- North Country Trail Association

Time Line

Winter 2014

- Start securing land easements. – This will continue throughout the entire project as work progresses.

Spring 2014

- Design sign kiosks
- Order/bid signs, kiosks, gravel and building materials

- Coordinate volunteer efforts for summer 2014
- Construct boardwalk sections

Summer 2014

- Flag and mark new trail sections and puncheon placement.
- Install kiosks and trail signage
- Install boardwalks
- Sheyenne State Forest - Coordinate trail shaping and armoring effort with NDFS fire crew and NDPRD seasonal trail crew.
- Build and install stiles
- Construct and install puncheon sections – Phase 1

Fall 2014

- Finish up trail signage where possible

Spring 2015

- Trail Armoring Project – Hermanson, McGregor and Skogen Segments.
 - Deliver Class 5 Gravel to site
 - Coordinate efforts between volunteers and Department trail crew
- Inspect 2014 trail armoring, boardwalk and puncheon installation projects.
- Coordinate volunteer efforts summer 2015

Summer 2015

- Finish signage installation
- Build and install stiles
- Finish construction and installation of puncheon sections

Fall 2015

- Final Inspection

Management of Project – Provide a description of how the applicant 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.

The Department will be the acting project manager for this program with assistance from the North Dakota Forest Service and the Sheyenne Valley and Dakota Prairie Chapters of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA). Collectively these agencies and associations bring many years of experience managing capital improvement and trail construction projects.

The North Dakota Forest Service has a demonstrated history of project management and oversight. The agency completes deferred maintenance, plant improvements, and capital projects each biennium. Projects are completed in accordance with North Dakota University System Office guidelines and policies. NDFS Team Leaders facilitate project implementation and financial oversight

of capital projects. The NDFS coordinates frequently with NDSU Facilities management for technical support on NDSU policies. Contracts for projects are reviewed and approved by NDSU legal counsel. The NDFS follows NDSU purchasing policies. All deferred maintenance and plant improvement projects are completed within the biennium. The NDFS will employ these resources to ensure that the Trail Restoration Improvement Program is completed on schedule, within granted authorities, and ensure that objectives are met.

The NCTA and its Chapters also has demonstrated a positive history of project management and oversight. Their proven history of successfully completing projects using federal grants, state grants, and private funding show their commitment to the NCT and their abilities to get things done. Further dedication is shown through their volunteer efforts by logging 4820 volunteer hours since 2011. They have been successful in building, maintaining, and protecting the NCT using volunteers and working through partnerships with federal, state, and local government agencies.

The Department has been managing grant programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund since 1965, the Recreational Trails Program since 1992 and the Community Grant since 2009. Combined, the Department has managed over \$75 million dollars in recreational projects statewide in these three programs alone. Last biennium the Department managed over \$2 million just in trail projects. During these projects it was the Department's duty to ensure that the intended recreational need is met, will not negatively impact the environment or historically significant area, bid projects, follow State and Federal procurement processes and monitor progress to meet deadlines and budget constraints. The Department's project management experience coupled with the area expertise of the North Dakota Forest Service and North Country Trail Association will ensure the success of the Trail Restoration and Improvement Program of the Turtle Mountain State Forest and North Dakota section of the North Country Trail projects.

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.

The first step in a successful project is a complete and comprehensive plan with outlined objectives. During the coordination of this grant application these objectives were outlined and will serve as our measuring tool for success. Our progress will follow these objectives and the use of benchmarks along the project timeline to ensure an on-time completion. In turn, the Department will use progress reporting and evaluation standards already established through their grant and project management processes. In the end the over-reaching goal is to provide access and recreational opportunities to North Dakotans and the state's visitors.

Financial Information

ATTACHMENT: Project Budget –Using the standard project budget format that is available on the website at _____, 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. In-kind services are to be calculated using the in-kind standards available on the website at _____. **NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded.**

See Attachment

XX 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.

The key to sustainability in trails is to implement sustainable trail building and armoring techniques. The most destructive force to trails is water and a key focus area for the Trails Restoration and Improvement Program is to mitigate water issues. Getting trails to a sustainable state will help ensure the longevity of the trail system and reduce maintenance costs in the future.

All trails require some maintenance and the Department, the NDFS and NCTA have proven track records of trail maintenance with their program areas. These agencies and chapters have resources available to provide future trail assistance and maintenance. Federal funds through the Recreation Trails Program matched with state and local funds will also be used when available. The Department, NDFS and NCTA have Memorandums of Understandings between our respective agencies/organizations to ensure long term trail management and maintenance.

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

Partial funding will negatively affect the completion of the entire program. If partial funding is given, a set of priorities will be established in relation to funding amounts to accomplish projects of greatest importance. Projects will be completed with partial funding but not at the complete scope of the initial Trails Restoration and Improvement Program initiative.

Scoring of Grants

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking sheet that will be used by the Board is available on the website at _____.

Awarding of Grants

All decisions on requests will be reported to applicants no later than January 31, 2014. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant. Please note the sample contracts on the website at _____ that

set forth the general provisions that will be included in any contract issued by the North Dakota Industrial Commission. If you believe 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 328-3722 or kfine@nd.gov

Submit



Sheyenne River Chapter North Country National Scenic Trail
Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway
250 West Main, Street Suite 1
Valley City, ND 58072
www.hellovalley.com



North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee:

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) and Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway asks for your support of the Trail Restoration & Improvement Program project as submitted by ND Parks and Recreation. This project will assist in securing long term private landowner easements for gap segments along the trail across North Dakota, provide trailhead improvements, armoring trail and assist with trail construction and signage to complement this North Dakota amenity for residents and visitors who are outdoor enthusiasts that enjoy hiking, birding, snow shoeing, cross country skiing and horseback riding on the North Country National Scenic Trail in North Dakota.

The North Country National Scenic Trail as designated by Congress traverses 4,600 miles through 7 States from Lake Sakakawea State Park in North Dakota east to Crown Point, New York.

The Sheyenne River Valley Chapter North Country Trail Association (NCTA) has a Memorandum of Understanding with ND Parks & Recreation as well as the ND Forest Service. The North Country Trail Association and National Park Service has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with ND Parks and Recreation, ND Forest Service, State Historical Society of ND, and ND Department of Commerce Tourism Division. Additional partnerships with ND Game & Fish, Barnes County Parks, Barnes County Wildlife Club, US Army Corps of Engineers, communities and US Forest Service have helped volunteer members of the NCTA make the trail a reality.

This project as requested complements North Country National Scenic Trail development efforts across North Dakota. Currently the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan indicates trails as a priority in all regions in which the trail exists and or will be routed across. Sheyenne River Valley Chapter members have been busy developing over 29 miles of new trail and are committed to completing construction and maintaining up to 75 miles of trail, having donated over 2,800 hours of volunteer labor since 1/1/2011.

Our two nationally recognized organizations will help promote the use of the area by trail hikers and byway visitors. This project will enhance and showcase North Dakota's natural, historic, recreational and scenic features as well as offering the opportunity to hike safely across the state.

Please support funding for this project to assist the ND Parks and Recreation and the North Country Trail volunteers in completing the longest scenic trail in America. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobby Koeplin".

Bobby Koeplin, President
Sheyenne River Chapter of the National Scenic North Country Trail
Chairperson, Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway
Past President, North Country Trail Association

November 21, 2013

Mark Zimmerman, Director
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649

Mr. Zimmerman,

The North Dakota Paint Horse Club is pleased to support the Trail Restoration and Improvement Program. We believe this project will address trail improvement needs in the Turtle Mountain area and is a favorite recreational site for many horseback riding groups.

Much of the trail system has been closed as the recent wet cycle has flooded many portions of this system. We feel that the initiative provides the necessary mechanism to reroute existing trails and improve the overall resource for visitors to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Ezra

Ezra Aberle, President
North Dakota Paint Horse Club

*Natural Resources Management
College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources
NDSU Dept. 7510
305 Morrill Hall
P.O. Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050*

North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee,

As the coordinator for special projects at the Ekre Grassland Preserve which is owned by the NDSU Development Foundation and run by the School of Natural Resources Sciences I support the "Trail Restoration and Improvement Program" proposal put forward by the ND Parks & Recreation Department. The Ekre Grassland Preserve has a trail head and 3 existing miles of the North Country Trail and anticipates putting in more trails so that there is a continuous trail from the Sheyenne grasslands to the eastern border of North Dakota. The existence of the North Country Trail adds value to the mission of the Ekre Grassland Preserve by allowing people to enjoy the natural beauty and historical significance of the preserve in keeping with the will of Albert Ekre and the mission of the Ekre Grassland Preserve. In addition, we use the trail to inform people of the research going on the preserve and demonstrate how working lands contribute both to agriculture and conservation. So establishing more trail and the improvements that go with the trail will further enhance the mission of the preserve.

As an expression of our support, if more resources are made available for improvements NDSU students from the Natural Resources Management Club are willing to volunteer to build the trail improvements in the area. The club has already volunteered on trail projects and is committed to helping the North Country Trail.

With best regards,

Jack Norland
Assistant Professor of Natural Resources /Natural Resources Management Program
School of Natural Resource Sciences
North Dakota State University
Dept 7150 PO Box 6050
Morrill Hall, room 205A, 2nd floor N side
Fargo, ND 58108-6050
Jack.Norland@ndsu.edu

Trail Photos ~ North Country Trail Development Project



Fence Stile



North Country Trail



Boardwalk



Benching



Carsonite trail signage



Tree Blaze

NOV 29 2013

November 25, 2013

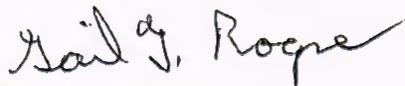
North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee:

As President of the Dakota Prairie Chapter of the North Country Trail Association, I am writing in support of the need for more resources for trail building and maintenance for the North Country Trail in North Dakota. This trail has helped many people in North Dakota get out and enjoy nature and the beauty that North Dakota offers. A large part of the trail in North Dakota remains to be built. Currently, the Dakota Prairie section of the trail is expected to go from Abercrombie to the Sheyenne National Grasslands where there is existing trail. This takes many volunteer hours and resources to obtain the equipment needed for building and maintaining the trail. A dedicated group of volunteers has built many miles of trail, scoped for continuing sections of the trail and worked with landowners to obtain the land necessary for the trail. However, this group continues to need resources over and above their personal budgets to continue the process.

We of the Dakota Prairie Chapter hope that you will support us in our efforts to bring more tourists to North Dakota and provide more environmentally friendly opportunities for the citizens of North Dakota to get out and enjoy the natural beauty of their state. We support the application for the "Restoration and Improvement Program" for a grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. We are especially supporting the improvement part of that program.

Sincerely,



Gail T. Rogne,
President, Dakota Chapter
North Country Trail Association

*Natural Resources Management
College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources
NDSU Dept. 7510
305 Morrill Hall
P.O. Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050*

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As the coordinator for special projects at the Ekre Grassland Preserve which is owned by the NDSU Development Foundation and run by the School of Natural Resources Sciences I support the "Trail Restoration and Improvement Program" proposal put forward by the ND Parks & Recreation Department. The Ekre Grassland Preserve has a trail head and 3 existing miles of the North Country Trail and anticipates putting in more trails so that there is a continuous trail from the Sheyenne grasslands to the eastern border of North Dakota. The existence of the North Country Trail adds value to the mission of the Ekre Grassland Preserve by allowing people to enjoy the natural beauty and historical significance of the preserve in keeping with the will of Albert Ekre and the mission of the Ekre Grassland Preserve. In addition, we use the trail to inform people of the research going on the preserve and demonstrate how working lands contribute both to agriculture and conservation. So establishing more trail and the improvements that go with the trail will further enhance the mission of the preserve.

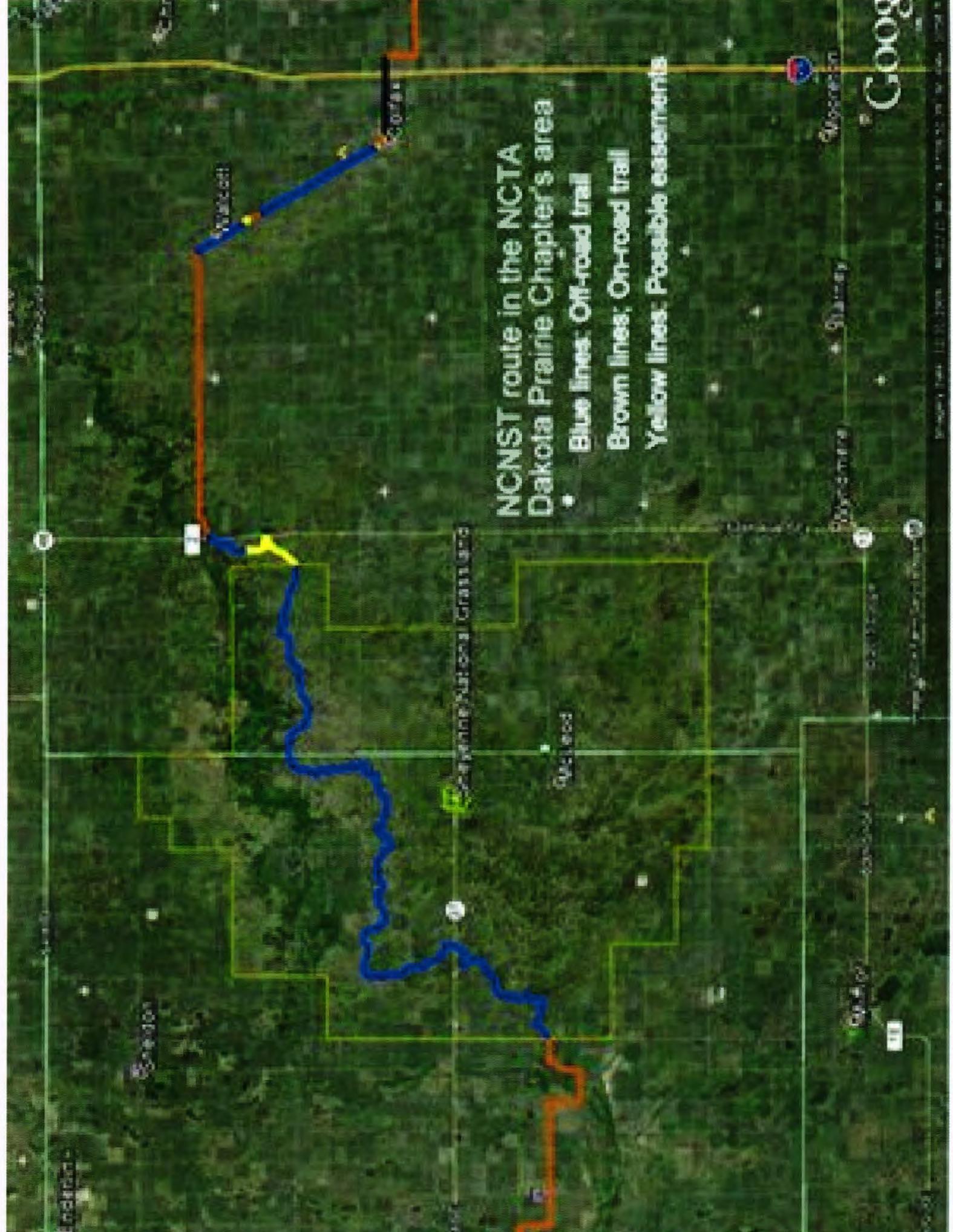
As an expression of our support, if more resources are made available for improvements NDSU students from the Natural Resources Management Club are willing to volunteer to build the trail improvements in the area. The club has already volunteered on trail projects and is committed to helping the North Country Trail.

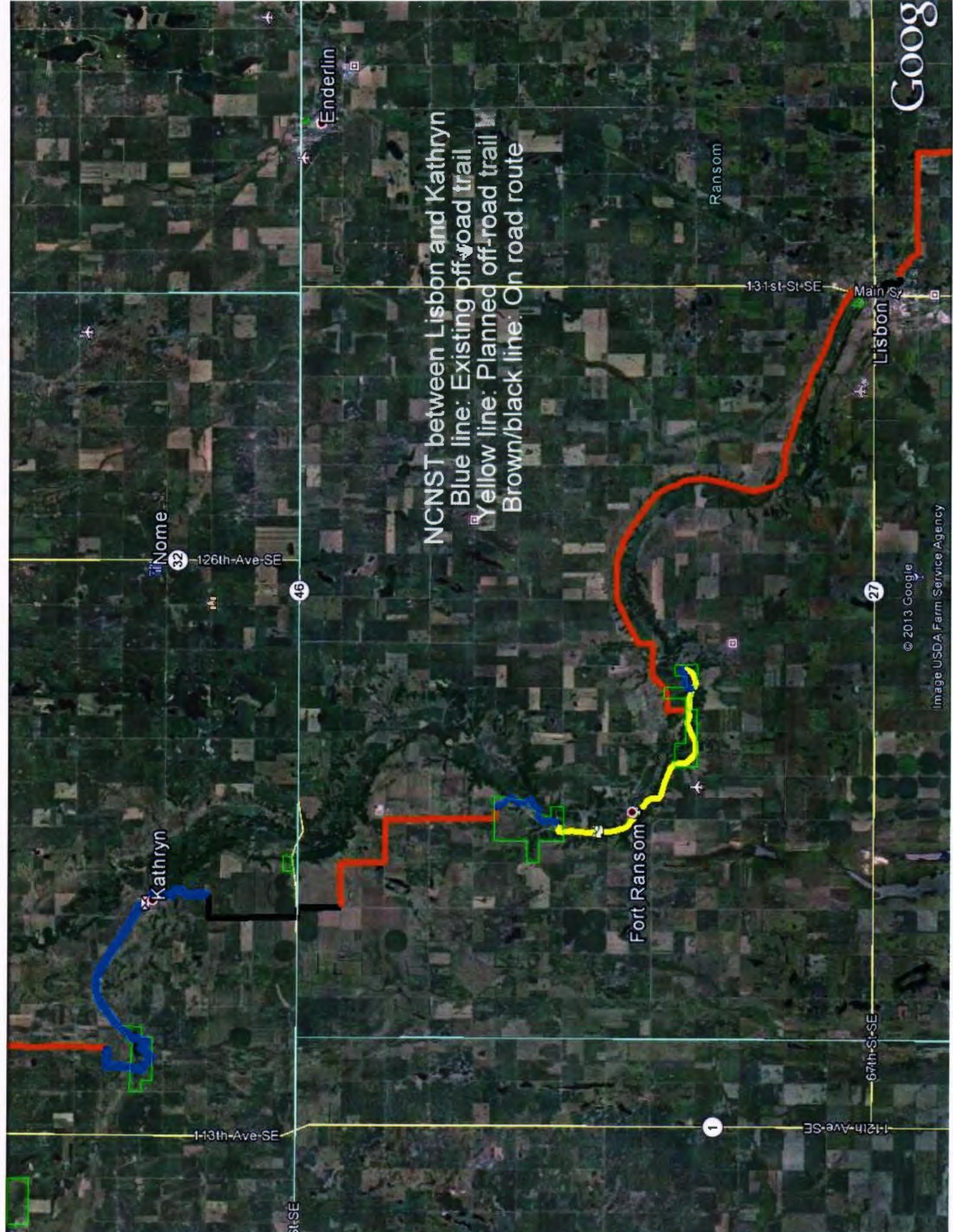
With best regards,

Jack Norland
Assistant Professor of Natural Resources /Natural Resources Management Program
School of Natural Resource Sciences
North Dakota State University
Dept 7150 PO Box 6050
Morrill Hall, room 205A, 2nd floor N side
Fargo, ND 58108-6050
Jack.Norland@ndsu.edu

**NCNST route in the NCTA
Dakota Prairie Chapter's area**

- **Blue lines: Off-road trail**
- **Brown lines: On-road trail**
- **Yellow lines: Possible easements**





NCNST between Lisbon and Kathryn
 Blue line: Existing off-road trail
 Yellow line: Planned off-road trail
 Brown/black line: On road route

Nome

32

126th-Ave-SE

46

Kathryn

Enderlin

Fort Ransom

Ransom

131-st-St-SE

Main St

Lisbon

27

113th-Ave-SE

St-SE

1

112th-Ave-SE

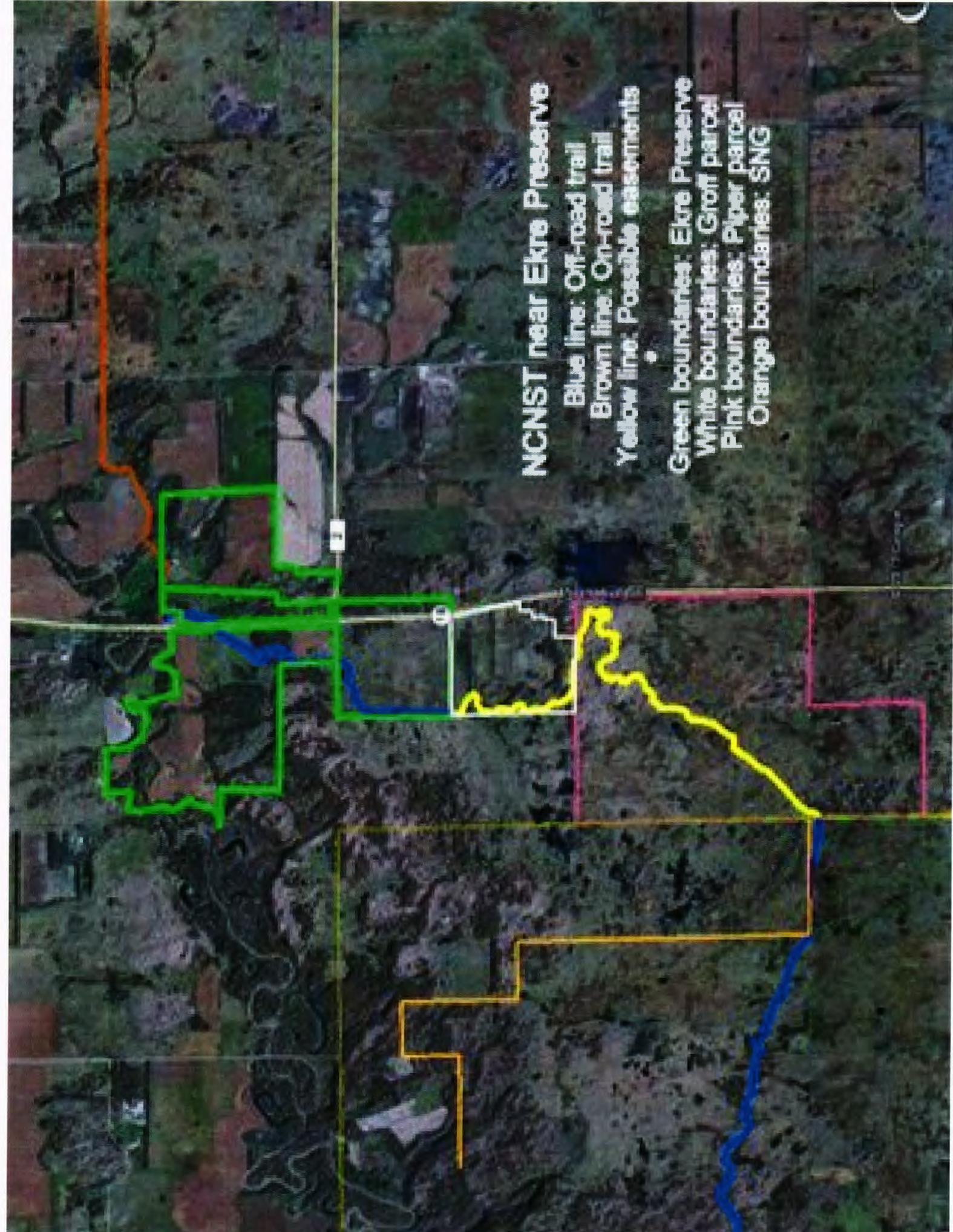
67th-St-SE

Goog

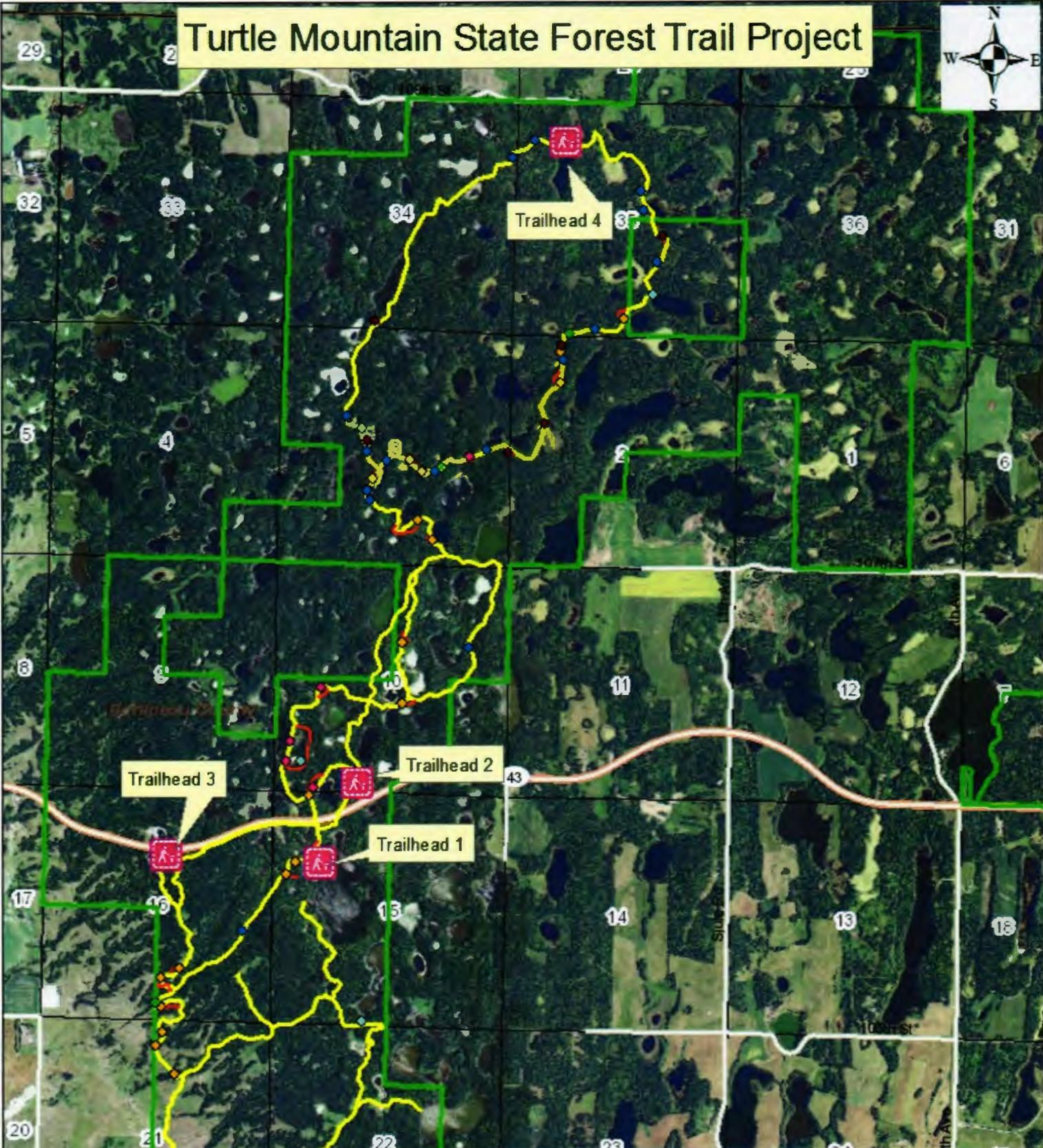
© 2013 Google
 Image USDA, Farm Service Agency

NCNST near Ekro Preserve

- Blue line: Off-road trail
- Brown line: On-road trail
- Yellow line: Possible easements
- Green boundaries: Ekro Preserve
- White boundaries: Groff parcel
- Pink boundaries: Piper parcel
- Orange boundaries: SNG



Turtle Mountain State Forest Trail Project



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Trail Head Locations | | Mud Holes - 5 |
| | Beaver Dams - 3 | | Steep Slopes - 22 |
| | Water Crossing Needed - 17 | | Re-Routes Needed - 2 Miles |
| | Downed Trees - 3 | | 2013 Trails |
| | Flooded Trail - 4 spots | | Turtle Mountain State Forest |

Trails Restoration and Improvement 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
Contracted Labor (1)	\$15,492	\$61,968	\$	\$	\$
Other Labor (2)	\$	\$	\$30,060	\$6,900	\$
Supplies/Materials (3)	\$57,714.20	\$11,244.80	\$	\$	\$
Equipment Rental (4)	\$18,870	\$	\$	\$	\$
Easement Acquisition (5)	\$40,380	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Project Costs	\$132,456.20	\$73,212.80	\$30,060	\$6900	\$

1. Contracted Labor – (federal match) Construct 2 miles of trail at \$6 per foot (\$63,360). Additional expenses for hourly equipment rates for culvert installation and trail armoring. (\$14,100)
2. Other Labor-
 - a. Volunteer Labor (1,964 hours)
 - i. Puncheon Installation
 - ii. Boardwalk installation
 - iii. Stile Installation
 - iv. Signing
 - v. Trail Armoring Project – SRV Chapter
 - b. Force Account Labor (460 hours)
 - i. Trail layout and design (NDPRD)
 - ii. MT 55 walk behind loader w/six way blade & operator (NDPRD)
 - iii. Seasonal Trail Crew (NDPRD)
 - iv. Boardwalk Construction (NDPRD)
 - v. NDFS Fire Crew
3. Supplies/Materials (Federal match on eligible expenses)
 - a. Puncheon, boardwalk, kiosks and stiles building materials
 - b. Signing materials
 - i. Wooden Posts
 - ii. Carsonite
 - iii. Telespar
 - iv. Aluminum Signs
 - v. Labels
 - vi. Laminate
 - c. Class 5 Gravel – trailheads and armoring
4. Equipment Rental
 - a. Auger - setting posts, stiles and boardwalk/puncheon anchors
 - b. Plate compactor – packing gravel
 - c. Skidsteer – 8 miles of trail tread work.
5. Easement Acquisition
 - a. 7.5 miles of new trail connectors – North Country National Scenic Trail

DEC - 3 2013



North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee,

Please accept this letter of support from the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) in support of the **Trail Restoration and Improvement Program** proposal submitted by North Dakota Parks and Recreation to the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

NCTA is the main partner of the National Park Service in building, maintaining and protecting the North Country National Scenic Trail across seven states and 4,600 miles. NCTA is led by a team of professional staff but our biggest contribution comes from our volunteers. Last year, our volunteers contributed almost 77,000 hours toward building and maintaining the Trail and telling its story, valued at \$1.7 million dollars which is matched by a financial contribution of \$352,000 from our membership.

In North Dakota, our chapters work closely with North Dakota Parks and Recreation to create an incredible recreational resource that benefits the local communities and attracts visitors from around the nation. If funded, the Trail Restoration and Improvement Program will provide critical resources to build additional segments of the North Country Trail across treasured North Dakota landscapes, rehabilitate sections experiencing natural resource impacts, and improve the facilities and information for trail users. With good working partnerships and strong local support in place, we have the infrastructure needed to move these projects forward and the volunteer force to build and maintain the trail for future generations.

Thank you for consideration of the Trail Restoration and Improvement Program and your support of the North Country National Scenic Trail!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Matthews". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Bruce Matthews
Executive Director
North Country Trail Association

DEC - 3 2013



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Lake Ashtabula Project Office

2630-114th Avenue Southeast; Valley City, ND 58072-9795

Phone: 701-845-2970

FAX: 701-845-0712

North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee:

The US Army Corps of Engineers Lake Ashtabula Project Office asks for your support of the Trail Restoration & Improvement Program project as submitted by ND Parks and Recreation. This project will go a long way towards the completion of the North Country National Scenic Trail in North Dakota. The US Army Corps of Engineers maintains 35 miles of trail along Lake Ashtabula as a trail partner.

The North Country National Scenic Trail as designated by Congress traverses 4,600 miles through 7 States from Lake Sakakawea State Park in North Dakota east to Crown Point, New York. Currently the trail is about 50% complete in North Dakota. The existing segments of the North Country trail have proven to be a tourist draw to North Dakota and especially the Sheyenne River Valley and Lake Ashtabula. This important resource draws hundreds of people to North Dakota from all over the United States.

This project as requested complements North Country National Scenic Trail development efforts across North Dakota. Currently the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan indicates trails as a priority in all regions in which the trail exists and or will be routed across. While much of the trail development is accomplished through the use of volunteers, it will take financial support to continue its development.

Please support funding for this project to assist the ND Parks and Recreation and the North Country Trail volunteers in completing the longest scenic trail in America. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Tichy".

Scott Tichy
Park Ranger
US Army Corps of Engineers
Lake Ashtabula Project Office
2630 114th Ave SE
Valley City, ND 58072