

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

Name of Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Federal Tax ID#: 41-1429149
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List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal

MAJOR Directive:

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

Additional Directive: Choose all that apply

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

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

Directive 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: Public Land Enhancement Program

Abstract/Executive Summary: North Dakota public lands are a treasure, and provide significant contributions to our quality of life. Whether it is fishing, hiking or hunting, public lands contribute to the North Dakota experience by providing excellent outdoor recreation opportunities. This proposal seeks to maximize productivity of our public wildlife lands by enhancing grassland habitat via best management practices including: prescribed/rotational grazing, undesirable tree/structure removal, and diversity seeding (including pollinator habitat). Public lands targeted for enhancements include wildlife management areas, state parks, state school lands, waterfowl production areas, state recreation areas, Army Corps of Engineers lands, national grasslands and other public lands that provide public recreation. If

funded by the OHF, Pheasants Forever and its partners will accelerate the enhancement of our public land habitat. Goals would be to improve habitat quality, game production and the public experience. By providing infrastructure to graze (fencing, water sources, etc.) public land habitat, we aim to improve grassland health for wildlife and benefit producers who cooperatively utilize grasslands on public lands as part of their operation. Thus, we improve cattle operations, public lands, and private land pastures for wildlife. Rotational grazing improves grassland vigor and structure that a high diversity of resident (e.g. pheasants grouse) and migratory birds use during the nesting season, and it provides weight gains for cattle. Our initial goal would be to install 20 miles of interior/exterior fencing (\$211,000 OHF) and 10 water structures (\$120,000 OHF) to facilitate rotational grazing on ND public lands. Additionally, it is well documented that grasslands are more diverse, productive and vital when actively managed. We propose upgrading the upland nesting cover on 500 acres (\$175,000 OHF) of public lands using diverse native seedings. Work required to enhance degraded grasslands to diverse native vegetation includes site preparation, herbicide, seed, seeding and clipping. Benefits of diverse grasslands include revitalized structure, improved diversity, open space for brood movement, increased insect abundance for brood forage, pollinator forage and nest site habitat. Also, we propose to enhance nesting cover by removing undesirable trees. Trees, especially tall deciduous trees, attract mammalian and avian predators that reduce nesting success for grassland nesting birds. Thus, we propose to remove 28 acres of undesirable trees to enhance 8,472 acres (\$250,000 OHF) of public lands. Work would include the cutting, chipping, piling, removal, and herbicide treatment of undesirable woody vegetation. Additionally, we propose to remove undesirable artificial/man-made odd areas (e.g. rock piles) from public lands that disproportionately attract mammalian predators, and negatively affect grassland nesting birds. Work would include rock/junk/other pile burial/removal using heavy equipment contractors (\$40,000 OHF to remove/bury approximately 240 sites). Finally, we request support for direct to project personnel costs (\$12,000 OHF) required to deliver the results. In total, we'll work on over 12,000 acres of public land holdings and directly improve/enhance 6,252 acres, expending \$808,000 of North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund and \$223,961 in match. Our goals are to significantly improve North Dakota public lands for habitat, game production and public recreation. We expect to complete this work by June 30, 2015.

Amount of Grant request \$808,000

Total Project Costs \$1,031,961

Amount of Matching Funds \$223,961

Total Match	Cash Match	In-kind Match	Indirect Match
\$223,961	\$42,000		\$181,961

Source(s) of Matching Funds:

Match funds are coming from the following sources:

Source	Cash	In-kind	Indirect
Pheasants Forever	\$10,000		\$181,961
US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$32,000		
TOTAL	\$42,000		\$181,961

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 – Pheasants Forever is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs. Formed in 1982 in response to declining pheasant populations, PF has grown to over 135,000 members and 650 chapters across North America. Pheasants Forever has fifteen national board members from across the country including the President/CEO and fourteen volunteer board members. One key to PF's success has been the model of empowering local chapters to decide how funds are raised and spent to impact the Pheasants Forever mission. North Dakota is currently home to 27 Pheasants Forever chapters and over 4,000 members. Pheasants Forever chapters hold annual fundraising events, support statewide partnerships and programs, work on habitat projects, and promote youth outdoor education. North Dakota Pheasants Forever has six biologists, including a regional representative (Forman, ND) and five farm bill wildlife biologists located in Mandan, Devils Lake, Hettinger, Jamestown, and Forman. Pheasants Forever's Farm Bill Biologist Program is a partnership with North Dakota Game & Fish, USDA-NRCS, and the ND Natural Resources Trust to put capacity on the ground locally to work with farmers and private landowners to accelerate enrollment in wildlife habitat programs (e.g. CRP) offered through the Farm Bill. This partnership has impacted 300,000 acres of private land habitat in North Dakota since 2008. Pheasants Forever's tagline is "The Habitat Organization" and we bring a unique model and mission that empowers local people to impact local habitat for pheasants and other wildlife in meaningful ways across 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

The purpose of this grant is to enhance our public lands to be as productive and diverse habitats as possible (Directive C, B, D, A), produce as much game as possible, and provide the highest quality outdoor recreation experience for users (Directive A, D). By partnering with the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, public land management agencies and communities, Pheasants Forever will install/replace 20 miles of interior and exterior fence to facilitate rotational grazing on 2,800 acres of public lands. Additionally, we'll install 10 water sources to enhance 2,925 acres, seed 500 acres to diverse nesting cover, remove 28-acres of undesirable trees to enhance 8,200 acres of nesting cover, and remove artificial predator habitat (e.g. rock piles, junk piles, buildings). It is well-documented that North Dakota has lost significant habitat in recent years (e.g. 650,000 acres of CRP expired in North Dakota last year alone). Thus, to sustain and/or mitigate wildlife habitat and population losses, it is increasingly important to maximize productivity on the existing public land habitat geared towards game production and public use. North Dakota Outdoor Heritage funds will accelerate restorations, enhancements and other improvements to public land habitat.

Additionally, the benefits of partnerships in the restoration and enhancement of North Dakota public lands will bring additional resources to the state to keep our public lands vital and productive. Another result is to forge relationships among partners and cooperators (e.g. cattlemen, contractors, etc.) to facilitate support, resources, and collaboration to accelerate active management and enhancement of our ND public habitat resources.

Result	Estimated Completion
20 miles of fencing for rotational grazing	June 30, 2015
500 acres of diversity seeding	June 30, 2015
Install 10 water wells, tanks and solar pumps	November 30, 2014
Undesirable tree removal	May 1, 2015
Predator Structure Removal – 166 hours	November 30, 2014
Identify Prescribed Fire Needs	November 30, 2014
Identify winter cover needs	November 30, 2014
Project Administration and Final Reporting	June 30, 2015

Management of Project – Provide a description of how 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.

The project manager is Pheasants Forever's North Dakota regional representative, Matt Olson. A North Dakota native, Matt resides in Forman. Olson earned an A.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Management in May of 2003 from Minot State University-Bottineau, prior to completing a B.S. in Zoology with an emphasis in Wildlife and Fisheries Management in May of 2005 from North Dakota State University. He has served as a Farm Bill Biologist in Forman, ND for the last four years working with farmers and ranchers on habitat conservation programs. He has experience in delivering USDA conservation programs like CRP, which includes significant paper work, reporting, follow through and attention to detail. Matt also has the support of Pheasants Forever's grant development and administration team to assist with core business functions, procurement, proper grant administration, financial and performance reporting and contracting.

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.

Success will be based on the acres of public lands that are enhanced, restored or otherwise improved. Specific deliverables related to miles of fence, number of water facilities, acres seeded/planted, acres treated/enhanced, and predator sites removed/buried will be tracked and reported upon. A list of properties and the work completed will be provided. We have also proposed funding signage to identify public lands where the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund and partners are working to improve wildlife habitat for the people of North Dakota. We will also provide a narrative report on challenges to accomplishing this important work and considerations for improving our collective approach to growing game and enhancing outdoor experiences here in North Dakota.

Financial Information: - Please see attached budget

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.

Investments in improving the productivity and quality of wildlife habitat on North Dakota public lands will be sustained by the public land management agencies. Additionally, the formation of a partnership striving to actively manage our public land habitats for maximum production has many long-term benefits. Much of the work proposed has long-term benefits like providing infrastructure for rotational grazing (20-25 years lifespan of fencing, 10 year lifespan of a water facility). Additionally, some results proposed are one-time enhancements such as rock/junk pile burial. Tree removal and diversity seeding can provide lasting improvements to public lands that can be realized for 5-25 years, and longer with active management. This partnership intends to provide lasting efficiencies for public land management agencies that will serve to reduce management costs while providing long-term benefits to public land habitats. Enhancements achieved also impact the health & productivity of other pastures in the system in the general area (rotational grazing), further enhancing these practices for wildlife and the community.

Ultimately, the agencies are responsible for the long-term health and management of our public lands. This proposal and partnership hopes to engage North Dakota public land managers in addressing long-term beneficial practices that enhance wildlife production, reduce long-term management costs, and engage in working lands practices that benefit North Dakota communities.

Partial Funding – Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested. If provided less funding, Pheasants Forever and its partners will complete less work. We have built this proposal to accelerate the accomplishment of real projects on permanently protected wildlife habitat. Our proposal is scaled and designed to foster partnership and address unmet needs on public lands in ND. We look forward to working with the Outdoor Heritage Fund and other partners in building this program and enhancing public lands for wildlife and recreation into the future. PF will strive to find other sources of matching funds to bring more resources to accelerate active management of our North Dakota public lands by means of rotational grazing, prescribed fire, upland upgrades, pollinators, hostile habitat removal and any other means that helps to support game production, public recreation, and working lands.

Pheasants Forever can meet the provisions of the contract proposed by the North Dakota Industrial Commission.

Budget Standard Form
Public Lands Enhancement Proposal
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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
Rotational Grazing Infrastructure	\$ 331,000	\$	\$	\$ 74,541	\$ 10,000
Upland diversity Upgrades	\$ 175,000	\$ 5,000	\$	\$ 39,410	\$ 22,000
Undesirable Tree Removal	\$ 250,000	\$ 5,000	\$	\$ 56,300	\$
Predator Habitat Removal	\$ 40,000	\$	\$	\$ 9,008	\$
Personnel	\$ 12,000			\$ 2,702	
Total Project Costs	\$ 808,000	\$ 10,000	\$	\$ 181,961	\$ 32,000

*PF has a federally approved indirect rate of 22.52%

Rotational Grazing Infrastructure includes: 20 Miles of interior/exterior fence/fence removal (\$211k) to facilitate rotational grazing on 2,800 acres; Installation of 10 wells @ \$12k for cattle water facilitation (\$120k) to enhance 2,925 acres. \$74,541 of indirect match will be provided by Pheasants Forever and \$10,000 is to be provided by FWS.

Upland diversity upgrades includes: 500 acres of reseeding @ \$350/acre. Work includes: site preparation, herbicide treatment, seed, seeding & two clippings. PF commits \$5,000 and FWS has committed \$22,000 in match and PF will provide \$39,410 of indirect match.

Tree Removal includes: 28 acres of groves or dense trees removed plus scattered trees on public lands totaling 8,200 acres. Impacts are assumed to enhance entire public unit. Work includes cutting, treating, piling, removal, chipping of trees per the land manager site prescription. PF will provide \$5,000 cash and \$56,300 in indirect match.

Predator Habitat Removal: This includes the removal or burial of rock piles and other artificial structures that increase abundance of mammalian predators that negatively impact grassland birds. Contractor costs estimated at \$40,000 (\$150/hr.) and would be executed per land manager prescription. PF offers \$9,008 in indirect match.

Personnel: PF requests 400 hours at \$30/hour for direct to project personnel time (0.19 FTE). This includes developing contractor RFP's, project management, fulfillment and reporting. PF offers \$2,702 of indirect match under this result.