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, with higher priority given to projects that enhance conservation practices in this state by:

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

**Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

**Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

**Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other 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.

**NO CONSIDERATION:**

In addition to those specific items in law that are ineligible for funding, in the absence of a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission, the following projects will NOT receive consideration for funding:

- A completed project or project commenced before the grant application is submitted;
- A feasibility or research study;
- Maintenance costs;
- A paving project for a road or parking lot;
- A swimming pool or aquatic park;
- Personal property that is not affixed to the land;
- Playground equipment, except that grant funds may be provided for up to 25% of the cost of the equipment not exceeding $10,000 per project and all playground equipment grants may not exceed 5% of the total grants per year (see Budget Form for how this will be calculated);
- Staffing or outside consultants except for costs for staffing or an outside consultant to design and implement an approved project based on the documented need of the applicant and the expenditures may not exceed 5% of the grant to a grantee if the grant exceeds $250,000 and expenditures may not exceed 10% of the grant to a grantee if the grant is $250,000 or less (see Budget Form for how this will be calculated);
• A building except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project (see Budget Form for definition of comprehensive conservation plan and new or expanded recreational project); or
• A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of the project.

Application Deadline
Applications for this grant round cycle are due on **November 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. CT**. All information, including attachments, must be submitted by that date. See instructions below for submission information.

Instructions
Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at [http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-info5page.htm](http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-info5page.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 or print it and mail it to the address noted in the next 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. 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 Petroleum Council

**Federal Tax ID#** * 45-0454738

**Contact Person/Title** * Tessa Sandstrom, Director of Communications

**Address** * 100 West Broadway Avenue, Suite 200
City * Bismarck

State * ND

Zip Code * 58501

E-mail Address * tsandstrom@ndoil.org

Web Site Address (Optional) www.ndoil.org

Phone * 701-223-6380

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

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

☐ Directive B. Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

☒ Directive C. Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

☐ Directive D. Conserving natural areas and creating other 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. Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
Directive B. Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant
diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance
farming and ranching;

Directive C. Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on
private and public lands; and

Directive D. Conserving natural areas and creating other 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.

Project Name* Planting for the Future: Tree Habitat 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)

Trees and forests are an important resource, providing watershed protection, wildlife habitat,
recreational opportunities, and protection for crops, soil and livestock. Currently about 800,000
acres – or 1.8 percent – of North Dakota’s total land area is forested, but annual mortality is on
the rise. Inclement weather, flooding, invasive species and insects, and overmaturity of trees have
impacted and continue to threaten existing forests.

About 70 percent of North Dakota’s forest land is privately owned, which emphasizes the
importance of private landowners in the management of North Dakota’s forest resources. Through
Planting for the Future, the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC), ONEOK, and other
partners, will build and leverage relationships with landowners to aid in the planting of 55,000
trees on private land over the next four years. Already, the partnership has identified six
landowners with shovel-ready projects and several others who have expressed interest in
participating.

The Planting for the Future Partnership’s goal is to complete up to 30 planting projects within the
grant period. All projects will be monitored for up to two years to ensure the survival and success
of plantings. ONEOK is prepared to sponsor at least 20,000 trees and shrubs for the project and
the subsequent monitoring to ensure an 80 percent survival rate. The NDPC will provide funds to
support habitat contractors, and landowners interested in participating in the project are expected
to contribute both cash and in-kind support equal to or greater than 25 percent of the total project
costs.
It is estimated that similar programs cost between $5 and $8 per tree, including all labor and materials; however, because the Partnership is in the unique position to leverage time, money, equipment and other resources from each stakeholder, we are confident we can plant each tree for $1.50, making an even larger impact in rebuilding woodlands and vital habitat.

To implement and grow this project, we are requesting $108,125 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund for a total project cost of $196,375.

**Project Duration:** 4 years

**Amount of Grant request**  $108,125

**Total Project Costs**  $196,375  
*(Note that in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds)*

**A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required.**  Amount of Matching Funds $88,250  
Please indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash.

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**Source(s) of Matching Funds**  
*Please provide verification that these matching funds are available for your project. Note that effective as of July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose.*

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<td>(Cash for trees and monitoring contractor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDPC</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>(Cash)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowner</td>
<td>$ 39,250</td>
<td>(In-Kind and/or cash)</td>
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**Certifications**

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

☑ I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted on Page 1 of this application.

**Narrative**
Organization Information — 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 NDPC is a nonprofit trade association that has represented the industry in North Dakota since 1952. The NDPC represents more than 500 companies involved in all aspects of the oil and gas industry including oil and gas production, refining, pipeline, mineral leasing, consulting, legal work, and oil field service activities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and the Rocky Mountain Region. NDPC members accounted for 98 percent of oil produced in 2016.

Through its Energy of North Dakota program, the NDPC works to educate the public and engage stakeholders to develop partnerships with key stakeholders within the state. This includes working with conservation groups and others to enhance our natural resources. For four years, the NDPC has hosted a charity fishing derby that helps raise funds for wildlife and habitat projects, and the NDPC is prepared to commit some of those funds to the Planting for the Future program to help achieve goals to enhance habitat.

The NDPC, under direction of Ron Ness, president, will oversee the projects and program, and the NDPC Outreach Committee, as well as program partners will offer guidance throughout the process.

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. Please note that if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

If your project includes tree/shrub/grass planting, please provide a planting plan describing the site design, planting methods, number of trees/shrubs by species and stock size, grass species and future maintenance. A statement certifying that the applicant will adhere to USDA-NRCS tree/shrub/grass planting specifications along with the name of the governmental entity designing the planting may be substituted for a planting plan.

If your project includes Section 319 program funding, please provide, in detail, the specific best management practices that will be implemented and the specific projects for which you are seeking funding.

If you are requesting funding for fencing, please note that the Board/Commission’s preference is for a minimum cost share of 40% by the recipient. Please include detailed information on the type of fencing to be installed, whether funding is requested for boundary fencing, new or replacement of existing fencing, and/or cross fencing.
The Planting for the Future Partnership (the Partnership) is a new initiative created through the NDPC with the goal of leveraging industry and landowner support for tree planting, which is crucial for the preservation of wildlife and habitat, as well as the protection of watersheds and soils. The Partnership intends to plant at least 55,000 trees throughout a three-year period, though a fourth year has been added to this grant request to allow for land preparation and possible inclement weather that might delay efforts. The average project will entail the planting of 2,000 trees, though some projects may be larger or smaller depending upon landowner request.

Although there are several tree planting initiatives in existence, this program will be unique in that it will leverage requirements made of ONEOK to plant and monitor at least 20,000 trees or shrubs and involve landowners and other stakeholders in the installation process. This will enable the Partnership to plant trees at an estimated average cost of $1.50 each compared to a higher rate of $5 to $8 each that other organizations, including the National Resource Conservation Service, must pay because they must also cover the cost of labor. The unique advantages of the Partnership will allow it to return more acreage to woodlands at a lower cost. Furthermore, this project will allow the deployment of new methods and technologies that are based on successful and proven practices used in the agriculture industry. This may lead to developments and new standards allowing for better growth at a lower cost in the future.

Because the projects will be implemented in several counties, the specific trees, shrubs and planting methods used will be decided on a case-by-case basis with consideration to each area’s unique geological and geographical attributes, as well as landowner preference. For the Phase I projects, which will take place in Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, and Wells Counties (Appendix A), intended varieties will include (but are not limited to) cedar, scotch pine, ponderosa pine, buffaloberry, lilac, and willows. The Partnership intends to use USDA guidelines for suitable species by county and soil type for other future projects as well. Per NDPSC requirements of ONEOK, all species will be at least two-year-old saplings.

A majority (80 percent, or 44,000 trees) are expected to be planted using the scalping method, which is a mechanical process whereby the soil is peeled back in a wide, shallow furrow. Scalping as site preparation is more cost effective and has proven beneficial on agricultural areas because it reduces competition with other vegetation, improves moisture, and reduces insect predation on roots. A chemical additive for weed control will be applied the first year with additional applications contingent on necessity in following years. While this method is not often deployed, it has shown past success in private projects administered by one of the Partnership’s consultants. Continued development of this method may prove beneficial in advancing new practices that will aid in the planting of more trees at a lower cost and at a greater success rate.

The Partnership will also allot funds for projects that may require or request the use of weed and moisture barriers. It is estimated that this method will cost an additional $3 per tree. We estimate about 20 percent, or 11,000 trees, may require the use of this material, and landowners will be asked to commit up to 25 percent of the additional cost of the barrier.
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.

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

The budget and grant will be managed by the NDPC under the supervision of Ron Ness. The NDPC has a long history of responsibly managing and executing other grant proposals through the Oil and Gas Research Council. The NDPC will employ the same diligence in ensuring the proper and efficient use of any grant dollars received from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Todd Kelvington, the supervisor for Environmental Compliance at ONEOK, Inc. will also serve as an advisor along with various ONEOK staff. Todd has nearly 20 years of experience in environmental management. He has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Norwich University and a Masters in Environmental Policy and Management from the American Military University.

Because neither the NDPC nor ONEOK, Inc. has employees with sufficient experience, qualifications and/or time beyond their usual duties to dedicate to projects, outside contractors will be required for the full and successful implementation of this program.

David Shockman will serve as a lead habitat consultant for projects deploying the scalping method. David is a farmer from Burleigh County and has served as an advisor and leader for several conservation groups. For the last 16 years, he has been involved in tree planting, averaging about 15,000 trees on average. These projects have enjoyed between a 70 and 80 percent success rate.

Dave Nehring will serve as a lead habitat consultant in all projects and will lead projects requiring the use of moisture and weed barrier. Dave is the owner of Habitat Unlimited in Bismarck, a company that specializes in custom planting strategies geared toward enhancing wildlife habitat on private land. Habitat Unlimited has been doing tree projects since 2005. They have planted over 35,000 trees since that time and installed more than 165,000 feet of barrier with survival rates over 90 percent. Many of these projects were done through the ND Forest Service's Living Snowfence program. ND Forest Service hired Habitat Unlimited to do all the Morton County Calendar Year 2010 Tree Project Plans when Morton County did not have a conservationist on staff. These plans were done using USDA guidelines for 19 landowners. Habitat Unlimited has invested in the equipment to ensure the highest success, such as no-till equipment, and refrigerated truck for tree storage.

Katrina Mickelsen will contract to monitor and report on projects. Katrina has bachelor's degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture from North Dakota State University. Prior to working full-time for the North Dakota National Guard, she worked for Prairie View Landscaping in Bismarck, and also has experience working for the Fargo Park Board and her family’s greenhouse in Kenmare, ND.

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.
In its agreement with ONEOK, the PSC has required that all tree plantings be monitored the planting year and two subsequent growing years and achieve an 80 percent survival rate. A report will be filed with the NDPSC annually and will also be provided within grant reports submitted to the Outdoor Heritage Fund for the Planting for the Future program.

**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](http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm), please include a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting. **Note that a minimum of 25% match funding is required.**

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. Effective July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose. 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.**

☒ 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.

We envision that this is a program that will continue for at least five to ten years and will have the potential to last even longer. The NDPC raises between $10,000 and $20,000 each year from its Bakken Classic Fishing Derby for wildlife and habitat projects that can be dedicated to the Planting for the Future initiative as needed. In addition, the unique situation that enabled ONEOK, Inc. to be a major partner in this project is one that will likely continue in the future. The NDPSC often requires that two or more trees or shrubs be planted for every one that is removed during the construction of a pipeline. We anticipate that as infrastructure buildout continues, other companies will have trees or shrubs that will need to be planted as well. Furthermore, our member companies have foundations or budgets for philanthropy and are often looking for environmental projects that they can support. The Planting for the Future initiative would meet many of their requirements, enabling the continued implementation of the program.

The Partnership currently has six landowners committed with shovel-ready projects and at least another 10 have expressed interest. We anticipate that other landowners will also be interested as the project continues and begins to show measurable successes and results.

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

ONEOK, Inc. is prepared to sponsor at least 20,000 trees as a part of agreements made with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) during the construction of NDPSC regulated pipelines within the state. Additionally, ONEOK will provide funding for yearly inspection and monitoring of the planting areas. Because of these obligations, the NDPC
intends to move forward with the initiative even if it does not secure grant funds, albeit at a smaller scale. Instead of creating a large program that would make a real impact in rebuilding woody habitat, this initiative would be limited to about 10 projects and our ability to grow into an impactful, long-lasting program may be hindered without the OHF funding.

Partnership Recognition - If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? Please note it is a requirement that there be signage at the location of the project acknowledging the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund if appropriate for your project.

The NDPC would plan to announce the program through an official announcement and intends to photograph and record the progress of each project. Photos and videos would be compiled into photo galleries, videos and other formats to share through the NDPC’s Energy of North Dakota program’s website and social media channels. All partners, including the Outdoor Heritage Fund, would be acknowledged in these materials.

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. The Commission can set a limit on duration of an offer on each application or if there isn’t a specific date indicated in the application for implementation of the project, then the applicant has until the next Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board regular meeting to sign the contract and get the project underway or the commitment for funding will be terminated and the applicant may resubmit for funding. 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

Revised: June 30, 2017
Appendix A: Phase I Tracts for Tree Planting

Please note that rendering is not drawn to scale and details are subject to change depending on landowner preferences, weather, geology, geography, etc.

Tract in Burleigh County

Tract in Emmons County

Tract in Kidder County

Tract in Kidder County

Tract in Kidder County

Tract bordering Wells and Kidder County
## Project Expense

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(1a) A contractor will be needed to design and implement each project, including site preparation for the planting of trees and monitoring throughout the duration of this grant period. Projects using scalping and chemical treatment will be carried out by David Shockman. Projects using fabric will be carried out by Dave Nehring of Habitat Unlimited. Estimated hours for an average project (2,000 trees) is 15 hours, or approximately 3 days at a fee of $500 per day for labor and equipment. To complete the planting of all 55,000 trees plus subsequent monitoring is an estimated 90 days for a total of $45,000.

(1b) A contractor will be hired at $100 per project including time and mileage to monitor and file a report on each project’s survival rate and make recommendations as necessary for the overall success of the project. This project requires monitoring annually for up to three years and an 80 percent success rate.

(2) Landowners who wish to participate will commit to helping providing in-kind laborers and the contractor has commitments from several Boy Scout Troops to help with the projects as well. The average project of 2,000 trees will take an estimated 75 manhours (or nearly 2,070 hours total) at $15 per hour.

(3a) About 80 percent of tree plantings are expected to be completed using chemical treatment. The estimated cost for this method is $1.50 total per tree for an estimated total cost of $66,000.

(3b) About 20 percent of tree plantings (11,000) are expected to be completed using fabric at an additional cost of $3 per tree (or $4.50 per tree) for a total cost of $49,500. Landowners who prefer this method are committed to 25% of the cost of the fabric, or an estimated $8,250.
October 30, 2017

North Dakota Petroleum Council
100 W. Broadway, Suite 200
Bismarck, ND 58501
C/O Mr. Ron Ness, President

Dear Mr. Ness,

ONEOK, Inc. (ONEOK) would like to express our support for the proposed Planting for the Future Partnership. By leveraging funds from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, ONEOK, landowners, and other contributors, we believe the partnership has the potential to make a much greater improvement on the available woody habitat of North Dakota than any single project alone.

As you are aware, ONEOK and other similar companies many times have mitigation requirements from various state or federal agencies which require us to plant trees and/or restore habitat features. Often times it is difficult for us to identify locations and/or projects that will meet these needs. Additionally, ONEOK is committed to the environment and strives to lead the industry in developing our infrastructure in a sustainable and responsible manner. As such, we are always interested in projects which not only satisfy our regulatory requirements but also provide real and lasting improvement in the areas in which we operate.

ONEOK is prepared to contribute to the Planting for Future Partnership in the current amount of $39,000. These funds would be utilized to sponsor the purchase and planting of approximately 20,000 trees and shrubs and provide inspection and monitoring of these plantings for two subsequent growing years. We hope that as the partnership grows and continues to see success that we can be involved in additional projects throughout the coming years.

The environmental staff here at ONEOK will be available throughout the partnership to serve in consulting and advising roles and to ensure that various projects meet our mutual goals. We look forward to working with NDPC on this important project and trust that the Outdoor Heritage Fund will look favorably upon the grant application.

Respectfully submitted,

ONEOK, Inc.

Todd Kelvington, MS, CEP
Supervisor, Environmental Compliance