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 **April 1, 2018 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-infopage.htm](http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm)) to your computer and provide the information as requested. You are not limited to the spacing provided except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. After completing the application, save it and attach it to an e-mail and send it to outdoorheritage@nd.gov 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 McHenry Soil Conservation District
Federal Tax ID# * 45-0276067
Contact Person/Title * Lorinda Haman/District Manager
Address * 705 Main St S. Suite 2
City * Towner
State * ND
Zip Code * 58788
E-mail Address * Lorinda.Haman@nd.nacdnet.net

Web Site Address (Optional)
Phone * (701)537-5471 ext. 3
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)*

O State Agency
X Political Subdivision
O Tribal Entity
O Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

Project Name* McHenry County Conservation Program (MCCP)

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 objective of the McHenry County Conservation Program (MCCP) is to assist the McHenry County Soil Conservation Districts (SCD) in addressing the resource concerns and achieving the conservation objectives and goals identified in their respective annual and long-range plans. The MCCP will provide financial assistance directly to producers to encourage grassland and cropland conservation. The MCCP will directly assist the SCD in making progress toward addressing three of the top five natural resource concerns identified in their long-range plans; 1) soil (soil erosion, soil health); 2) sustainable land use; and 3) wildlife habitat through conservation projects.

The general purpose of the SCD is to: 1) focus attention on land, water, and other natural resource problems, 2) develop programs to solve these problems, and 3) enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the SCD’s goals. Since 93% of North Dakota is privately owned, conservation success in North Dakota hinges upon our ability to design and implement conservation practices that benefit working farms and ranches. The SCD forms a vital link between conservation plans and programs and private landowners and is key to the successful conservation of North Dakota’s natural resources.

McHenry County has one of North Dakota’s largest unfragmented tracts of grassland and is heavily influenced by livestock production. Improved management of these grassland resources will have a positive impact on the overall health and vigor of grasslands, improve soil health and water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat found in McHenry County, while at the same time increasing the overall sustainability of the ranching operation. We will work with livestock producers to implement practices that facilitate improved grazing management by assisting with the installation cross fencing and livestock water facilities to improve grazing distribution.

The MCCP is expected to impact a total of 12,000 acres in the three years that will extend from 2018 to 2021. We estimate we will complete 3 to 5 grass plantings and assist with the installations of 20 to 25 grazing systems. To implement the McHenry County Conservation Project, we are requesting $250,000 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund for a total project cost
of $465,000. Private landowners that participate in this opportunity will be responsible for 40% of the total project cost, including in-kind for labor, equipment use, and/or cash.

**Project Duration:** *3 years*

**Amount of Grant request:** *$250,000*

**Total Project Costs:** *$465,000*  
(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** *$215,000*

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

**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.

Producers = $190,000  
USFWS's Partners for Fish and Wildlife= $25,000

**Certifications**

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

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

**Narrative**

**Organization Information** – Briefly summarize your organization’s history, mission, current programs and activities.*
Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement. (no more than 300 words)

The SCD’s are legal subdivisions of the State, organized under the North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts Law enacted in 1937 and as later amended. They are organized by the vote of the people within the district and are managed by a Board of Supervisors, also elected by the people. Each SCD in North Dakota is managed by a five-person board of locally elected and appointed supervisors. The supervisors work with all individuals, groups and agencies interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning, watershed protection, and other local natural resource interests and endeavors.

The McHenry County SCDs were organized between 1946 and 1947 with the purpose of fostering the widespread application of sound and practical soil and water conservation
practices within these counties. Everything we do must promote conservation. Our primary resource concerns include soil erosion, soil salinity and soil health, sustainable land use, wildlife habitat, and wetland conservation. Our strategy for addressing our conservation concerns is working with producers and other private landowners to control erosion manage nutrients and pesticides, maintain soil health, improve water quality, improve and promote healthy rangelands, protect, maintain, and improve water resources and improve and promote wildlife habitat throughout the County. Our ultimate goal is to conserve and protect our natural resources for future generations.

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.

Project Goals, Strategies and Benefits: The goal of the MCCP is to work with producers to address natural resource conservation needs on grassland and cropland within the county area. The MCCP will help the SCD address several priority natural resource concerns (soil erosion, soil health, sustainable land use, wildlife habitat) through voluntary conservation projects and will improve and help provide vital forage sources for livestock on private lands.

The goal of the MCCP is to improve the overall health of the grasslands in McHenry County by providing technical and financial assistance to implement practices such as livestock water system (pipelines, tanks, wells, rural water connections, etc…), grass plantings, cross fence, boundary fence (on expired CRP, and new grass plantings). In addition, the project allows for livestock water systems to expand to cropland in order to provide additional grazing opportunities on cover crops, and crop aftermath, allowing for existing grassland to
have adequate rest and recovery periods. The project is designed to utilize conservation plans to improve grazing distribution, increase plant species diversity, protect livestock health and improve wildlife habitat. The proposed project would also implement practices such as hay and grassland plantings. All of these practices will help lessen the pressure on the existing grassland and at the same time provide high quality livestock forage while restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat.

The MCCP is a new and innovative approach for private landowners in McHenry County to partner with the SCD and other conservation interests to address the priority natural resource concerns of the SCD as well as the forage needs of livestock producers. We have 25 unfunded EQIP applications in McHenry County this year and although the MCCP will not meet the needs of all 25 applications, it will allow us to address our top priorities. These priority applications include requests for 52,000 feet of shallow livestock pipeline, 36 tanks, 19 wells, 19 pumps, 60,000 feet of fence and 4 grass seedings.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Partners for Fish Wildlife Program (PFW) has offered to fund $25,000 towards practices associated with MCCP, furthering the size and scope of the project. An estimated 1,000 additional grassland acres will be positively impacted by adding cross fence and water development for rotational grazing systems uses these funds.

A Conservation Plan that meets NRCS standards and specifications will be required for each application. The Conservation plan must incorporate a management and monitoring system to ensure continued stewardship for the resource concern identified.

The MCCP directly addresses Directive B that will improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching. It also addresses Directive C by developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private lands. While not a requirement of enrollment in the MCCP, the project may also address Directive A by providing access to private lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat, since MCCP participants may also be offered the opportunity to enroll these lands in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department Private Lands Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program.

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 McHenry Soil Conservation District manages thousands of linear feet of trees and fabric which is installed each year. They make sure trees are planted to NRCS standards and specifications. The SCD will provide oversight and will coordinate all activities associated with the MCCP. A ranking committee, comprised of SCD manager, and board members will establish a list of criteria based on local resource concerns. Each application will be reviewed and scored based on the criteria that are established at that time, and projects will
be approved for funding if criteria are met. The SCD will develop site specific agreements with private landowners that identify project location, payment information (calculations and totals), and project size.

**Timetable for Implementation:** The SCD has already visited with some private landowners about the MCCP concept and interest is strong. If needed, additional outreach efforts will be implemented immediately after the grant is approved and will continue until the grant goals are achieved. The SCD will work with individual landowners and other conservation interests to raise awareness and garner interest in the project. If approved, implementation of the project will begin in 2018 with promotion, onsite visits, conservation plan development with producers and agreements signed. Practice installation will begin as soon as the OHF Grant funds are made available and continue through 2021.

**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.

Strong landowner interest and signed agreements are the key to the success of the MCCP and therefore, success will be measured by landowner enrollment in the program.

The SCD will monitor MCCP program interest, agreements, expenditures and goals throughout the grant period and regular reports, final evaluations and expenditure reports will be completed.

**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.

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

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

Include information on the sustainability of this project after all the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund has been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.
Producers entering into a contract with the McHenry SCD Board of Supervisors will be required to sign an agreement to manage, monitor and utilize the conservation practice(s) installed for the entire duration of the expected life span for the approved conservation practice. The SCD Board of Supervisors will annually monitor agreements, practice installation and field status reviews.

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

The SCD thanks the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board for considering our McHenry County Conservation Project proposal. The request is for $250,000 of OHF funds and $215,000 in-kind match provided by private landowners and/or other conservation interests to deliver conservation practices with private landowners in McHenry County. If OHF recommends a reduction in funding from the original proposal, this will result in fewer agreements with private landowners and a reduction in the amount of match provided by private landowners and/or other conservation interests.

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.

Upon receiving notice that the project is funded the SCD will publish the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership in county newsletters. The producer agreements will have the Outdoor Heritage Fund logo and will show they are the primary funding source on the financial contribution statement.

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](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](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: December 14, 2017
Budget Standard Form

Please use the table below to provide a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting and the matching funds being utilized to fund this project. Please note if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. Match can come from any source (i.e. private sources, State and Federal funding, Tribal funding, etc.) 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. Note a minimum of 25% match funding is required. An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

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

Note that NO INDIRECT COSTS will be funded from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Also by law several items are ineligible for funding -- see Exemptions in the Application Form. Effective June 10, 2015 the following guidelines were approved by the Industrial Commission:

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 Definitions/Clarifications below)
- 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 Definitions/Clarifications below)
- A building except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project; (See Definitions/Clarifications below)
- A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of the project.
Table 1: MCCP Grassland Improvement Project Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Expense</th>
<th>OHF Request</th>
<th>Applicant's Match Share (Cash/In-Kind)</th>
<th>Other Project Sponsor's Share</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project cost at the 60:40 rate</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
<td>$190,000.00</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
<td>$465,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
<td>$190,000.00</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
<td>$465,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cost-Shared Practices:
- Cross-Fence
- Livestock Water Wells
- Livestock Water Tanks
- Livestock Pipelines
- Electrical/Power Hookups
- Livestock Water Pumping Stations

***Table 1 is for all anticipated project costs. Table 2 represents the estimated costs for the currently interested producers. We are anticipating more producers willing to take part in this project than just those that have contacted our office to date. Therefore, we are requesting $250,000 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to fully fund all of the planned grassland improvement practices and allow for additional practices to be implemented.***

Table 2: Estimates for Currently Planned Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Expense</th>
<th>OHF Request</th>
<th>Applicant's Match Share (Cash/In-Kind)</th>
<th>Other Project Sponsor's Share</th>
<th>Total Each Project Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60,000 feet fence</td>
<td>$43,600.00</td>
<td>$32,400.00</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>$81,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 livestock water wells</td>
<td>$38,000.00</td>
<td>$52,000.00</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>$95,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 livestock water tanks</td>
<td>$39,000.00</td>
<td>$28,000.00</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>$72,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52,000 feet pipeline</td>
<td>$44,920.00</td>
<td>$33,280.00</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>$83,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 electrical/power hookups</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 solar pumping stations</td>
<td>$23,200.00</td>
<td>$16,800.00</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$42,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 acres grass seeding</td>
<td>$24,500.00</td>
<td>$17,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$42,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 submersible water pumps</td>
<td>$2,320.00</td>
<td>$2,880.00</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$7,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$221,540.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$186,360.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25,000.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$432,900.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Fence in estimated at $1.35 per foot
- Livestock water wells are estimated at $5,000.00 each
- Livestock water tanks are estimated at $2,000.00 per unit
- Livestock water pipeline is estimated at $1.60 per foot
• Electrical setups are estimated at $5,000 per site
• Solar water pumping stations are estimated at $6,000 per site
• Submersible water pumps are estimated at $600 each
• Grass seedings are estimated at $85.00 per acre
Ms. Haman;

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program is pleased to write this letter in support of your project entitled, "McHenry County Conservation Program". We understand that there is a great deal of interest in McHenry County to work collaboratively on projects that both improve the landowners' farming and ranching operations and the valuable grassland and wetland wildlife habitat in the area. It is very exciting for our program to partner on projects that recognize that agriculture and wildlife can thrive together. The PFW program has been working with private landowners on similar projects in North Dakota since 1987. Since that time, we have worked on more than 4,200 habitat projects with more than 3,200 North Dakota private landowners.

Specifically, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through our Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in North Dakota is prepared to commit a minimum of $25,000 in cash toward projects involved in this proposal. Our funds are intended to help stretch the grant and other match funds associated with this proposal to assist more landowners and enhance more acres of habitat. Where appropriate, we will also provide technical assistance through our local biologist stationed at J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge. He has over 20 years of experience working with private landowners in McHenry County.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this very worthwhile project. The habitat that is proposed to be enhanced will benefit wildlife and people for years to come. We sincerely enjoy working with local Soil Conservation Districts like yours on projects like this. By regularly attending SCD meetings, we stay abreast of conservation issues that are the most important in a specific area of the state. We look forward to working with you and best of luck on the proposal.

Sincerely,

Steve Fairbairn
USFWS, Asst. State Coordinator, ND Partners for Fish and Wildlife

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA