

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

Name of Organization GRIGGS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Federal Tax ID# 45-0229519

Contact Person/Title NATHAN JOHNSON, DISTRICT MANAGER

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City COOPERSTOWN

State ND

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MAJOR Directive:

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: 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;

O **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;

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

O **Directive D.** Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Type of organization:

- O State Agency
- Political Subdivision
- O Tribal Entity
- O Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, as described in United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501 (c))

Project Name: BALD HILL CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT

Abstract/Executive Summary

The project is designed to provide technical, financial and educational assistance to all agriculture producers and landowners with riparian acreage within the Bald Hill Creek watershed in Griggs County. Our goal is to restore the aquatic life uses and to maintain the recreational uses of the Bald Hill Creek and its tributaries.

As sponsors we will:

- 1) Provide technical and financial assistance to producers/landowners within ½ mile of the Bald Hill Creek and its tributaries and to prioritize locations when outside the AnnAgnp priority areas.
- 2) Assist with best management practices that protect/enhance our riparian, crop, and non-crop acreage in high priority areas.
- 3) Develop education programs to heighten public awareness of non-point pollution impacts and solutions.
- 4) Develop working partnerships in the local community to benefit natural resources.

We want to restore and maintain the recreational uses at a “fully supporting” status in Baldhill Creek and its tributaries in Griggs County, reduce E.coli concentrations, with a target concentration per sampling site of a geometric mean of 126 colonies/100 ml with less than 10% of the samples exceeding 409 colonies/100 ml. And lastly to carry out an information/education program to promote water quality awareness and best management practices.

The project would begin in the spring of 2014 and run until September 30th of 2018.

319 Funds Requested:	\$255,400.00	State/Local Match:	\$300,265.00
Federal Funds:	\$25,000.00	Outdoor Heritage Funds:	\$300,000.00
Total Project Cost:	\$880,665.00		

Outdoor Heritage Funds would be used strictly to reduce the landowners cost of implementing best management practices (BMPs).

The Griggs County Soil Conservation District (GCSCD) would be the lead agency and would work closely with all county residents in the Bald Hill Watershed, NDSU Extension, ND Department of Health, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Griggs County Water Resource Board.

Amount of Grant request: \$300,000.00

Total Project Costs: \$880,665.00

Amount & Source of Matching Funds

EPA Section 319	\$255,400.00
NRCS (TA)	\$12,500.00
NDDoH (TA)	\$12,500.00
GCSCD (TA & FA)	\$30,700.00
Griggs Co RWB (FA)	\$30,700.00
Landowners (FA)	<u>\$238,865.00</u>
	\$580,665.00
Outdoor Heritage (FA)	<u>\$300,000.00</u>
	\$880,665.00

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:

Resident farmers and landowners of Griggs County voted to approve the formation of their district. Districts are organized by the vote of the people within the district and are managed by a board of supervisors also elected by the people. The Griggs County board consists of three elected and 2 appointed supervisors.

Mission Statement:

To promote soil and water conservation by offering financial, technical, informational and educational assistance and opportunities to the people of the district, as we have a real duty to use resources wisely and to preserve them for the future.

The district employs one full time District Manager, as well as temporary summer help. Currently the Griggs County SCD is involved in the beginning stages of an EPA Section 319 grant, which will help farmers and ranchers with the installation of best management practices.

The district assists landowners with planning and installation of farmstead shelterbelts, field windbreaks, and wildlife plantings. The district owns a soil sampler and offers soil sampling as a service. It also wholesales cover crop seed to help make it available more easily to the producers.

The district is involved with the State-Wide Eco-Ed program for 6th grade students and tries to put on annual informative workshops for producers. It sends out quarterly newsletters and sponsors Tom Gibson in the school as part of their educational outreach.

Purpose of Grant

Our goal is to reduce E. coli concentrations in Bald Hill Creek Watershed thereby restoring the aquatic life uses and maintaining the recreational uses of the Bald Hill Creek. By making contacts with producers and landowners we can offer both technical and financial assistance to improve soil health, lessen wind and water erosion, stabilize river and stream banks, enhance grazing systems, and to encourage cover crop usage.

Data collected from sampling sites on the Bald Hill Creek show E. coli concentrations exceeding state water quality standards. By partnering with the EPA Section 319 grant more cost share dollars will be available to put practices on the ground. By providing financial assistance, landowners are better able to make these changes. Many want to protect our water resources, but are not able because of the financial burden.

Griggs County was fortunate to have been awarded an EPA Section 319 grant in 2014 to address water quality issues within the county. Funding is budgeted to extend through 2018, but because of Federal funding our grant wasn't as much as we would have liked and this won't allow us to help as many landowners as is needed to install better management practices. We have already had 5 producers come in and inquire about different BMP's that they would like to do and the project hasn't even started yet. We wish to be able to continue our efforts of protecting and restoring our water quality as long as possible.

If approved the Bald Hill Creek Watershed Project would start in the spring of 2014 and end September of 2018 or sooner if funds are expended.

Management of Project

Our current District Manager has been working for the Griggs County Soil Conservation District for 7 years. He has a complete understanding of all programs, water quality issues, best management practices and has developed a rapport with the landowners, producers, and partnering agencies.

Evaluation

Water sampling will be done at the sites determined by the ND Dept. of Health. Since previous sampling has created a base-line of water quality data, we will be able to identify any changes in concentrations of E.coli. Samples are collected every week, from ice melt to freeze up with at least 30 samples required per year.

Monthly reports are sent to the NDDoH, itemizing personnel, fringe benefits, travel, food, lodging, supplies, communication (telephone/postage), equipment, BMPs, and administration expenditures. An annual report is due each October and a final wrap-up report upon completion of the project. Therefore any additional reporting to the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program would be quite simple.

All producers implementing BMPs are required to sign applications detailing practices being installed, lifespan of those practices and estimated costs. All practices must meet NRCS standards and specifications. Upon completion the designing engineer or watershed coordinator must verify each practice before a payment application can be processed.

Financial Information

Project Budget

FUNDING SOURCES	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTALS
EPA SECTION 319 FUNDS *	\$51,080	\$51,080	\$51,080	\$51,080	\$51,080	\$255,400
OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUNDS **	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$300,000
SUBTOTAL	\$111,080	\$111,080	\$111,080	\$111,080	\$111,080	\$555,400
OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS						
1) NRCS (TA)	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$12,500
2) NDDoH (TA)	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$12,500
SUBTOTAL	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
STATE/ LOCAL MATCH						
1) LOCAL SCD (TA & FA)	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$30,700
2) Griggs Cnty WRB (TA & FA)	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$30,700
3) Landowners (FA)	\$47,773	\$47,773	\$47,773	\$47,773	\$47,773	\$238,865
SUBTOTAL	\$60,053	\$60,053	\$60,053	\$60,053	\$60,053	\$300,265
TOTAL BUDGET	\$176,133	\$176,133	\$176,133	\$176,133	\$176,133	\$880,665

FA: Financial Assistance

TA: Technical Assistance

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

NDDoH: North Dakota Department of Health

SCD: Soil Conservation District

NDSU: North Dakota State University

WRB: Water Resource Board

* 319 Funds will be used for all aspects of program.

** OH Funds will be used exclusively for BMP practices.

Portions of SCD & landowner match will be in-kind

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

Sustainability

Once Outdoor Heritage and EPA 319 funds are expended the project will be completed. Our sustainability will continue with the practices installed, the crop and rangeland management of our producers, and with the education of water quality we have provided to landowners.

If goals and objectives are not met by the end of the project, and there is continued interest in applying BMPs by landowners the district may seek another EPA Section 319 grant.

Partial Funding

In the case of a reduced amount of dollars being awarded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund fewer practices will be implemented and thereby producing less water quality improvements.

Awarding of Grants

- I certify that all the provisions of the sample contract will be met.