

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations to:

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

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

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

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

Exemptions

Outdoor Heritage Fund grants may not be used to finance the following:

- A. Litigation;
- B. Lobbying activities;
- C. Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- D. The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- E. Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code

NO CONSIDERATION:

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

- Projects that are already completed;
- Projects that are on-going (Phased projects would be considered);
- Staffing;
- Feasibility studies;
- Annual maintenance;
- Paving projects for roads and parking lots;
- Swimming pools;
- Non-permanent equipment (such as tractors, snowmobiles);
- Research;
- Projects where the applicant is not directly involved in the project.

Application Deadline

Applications for the second grant round cycle are due on **April 1, 2014 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>) 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* United Prairie Foundation, Inc.

Federal Tax ID# * 77-0639875

Contact Person/Title * John DeVries

Address * 260 Front St

City * Sheldon

State * North Dakota

Zip Code * 58068

E-mail Address * savethehens@mlgc.com

Web Site Address (Optional)

Phone * 701-793-0668

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.** Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

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

Choose all that apply

- Directive A.** Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Type of organization: (select the category that describes your organization)*

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

Project Name* Prairie Project

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)

Background

Historically, eastern North Dakota was an immense area of diverse prairie habitat and wetlands. Today, only remnants of the original prairie remain and these parcels are over-run with invasive, non-indigenous trees, plants and grasses. **The fact is wild natural landscapes are becoming fewer and smaller.** Areas that are set aside for wildlife preservation need to be managed to maximize their productivity of native plants and grasses. This grant will go a long way toward truly making North Dakota a “better place for wildlife and people”.

Objective

The objective of the Prairie Project is to develop programs with end users that utilize local origin native prairie plants in future grassland plantings. The grant is a development project and will be free to participating end users during the course of the grant. Seed will be classified in a way similar to the way in which the Iowa DOT tests their seed to certify it as local origin native. Seed will then be bagged and made available to end users. End users include private landowners, counties, cities, North Dakota Game and Fish, and the North Dakota Department of Transportation among others willing to offer access to the public. Seed will be made available to private landowners who enroll the seeded acres into the North Dakota Game and Fish PLOTS program for ten years.

Expected Results

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will be holding the landowner contracts involved in the grant program. No long term leases are held by anyone. The seeds generated from the original plots will be harvested and used to restore other prairie land. In turn, those seeds will be harvested and used to restore yet more reclaimed prairie. Twenty to thirty years from the original funding of the Prairie Project, the expected result will be thousands of acres of North Dakota prairie resembling the look pioneers saw when homesteading in the state. Future generations will benefit from the results of this grant. Most prairie plants out live trees and like trees take time to mature. Creating programs with end users that continue to grow and create a prairie eco-system is the expected result. The expansion and promotion of using highly diverse native prairie in plantings will aide everyone from native seed dealers to farmers.

Duration

It is the goal of this project to secure a total of 300 PLOTS acres over the course of three years to be designated as a Prairie Seed source. The project in its entirety requires 10 years. Full development of the seed source will take approximately 4 years. Once full development has occurred, 150 - 300 acres of the seed plots will be harvested and processed annually. The development of native prairie seed mixes takes time. At the conclusion of the grant the landowners are free to do what they like with the established Prairie Seed Source Plots.

Amount of Grant request \$ * \$640,300

Total Project Costs \$* \$842,300

(Note that in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds)

A minimum of 25% Match Funding is strongly encouraged. Amount of Matching Funds \$*

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

Matching Funds: \$202,000

In-Kind: \$62,000

Cash: \$140,000

Source(s) of Matching Funds*

Please provide verification that these matching funds are available for your project.

Matching funds are available through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Please see the North Dakota Game and Fish Department commitment letter attached to this application.

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)

United Prairie Foundation, Inc., a Federal 501c3 public non-profit organization, has as its mission building a better prairie by restoring prairie grassland habitat. Founded in 2004, United Prairie continues to grow and is a leader in the field of habitat restoration. Existing habitat has been neglected and unmanaged for so long that most prairie habitats are not sustainable. The Foundation, through its mission projects, restores these neglected habitats and returns them to functional grassland-based prairie habitat. The key to our success is the targeting of non-native invasive plants in all of the Foundation’s habitat projects. In 2004 the Foundation began removing invasive trees from prairie habitats with a chainsaw and donated Bobcat loader. Since that first project in Ransom County, ND, the Foundation has continued to grow and is now working projects in South Dakota, Minnesota and North Dakota. The Foundation has restored 1000’s of acres on both public and privately owned land.

Partnerships have developed with help from local family farms, five regional United States Fish & Wildlife Service Wetland Management Districts, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Recently, the Foundation entered into cooperative management agreements with numerous USFWS Districts to restore neglected low priority properties. Companies

like Scheels, Bobcat, Arctic Cat, North Dakota Natural Resource Trust, Evans Oil and others help fund the operation of heavy equipment allowing our continued growth and restored prairie acres to climb.

United Prairie prides itself on our community involvement. Our headquarters building, the Sheldon Community Center, is used extensively by local community groups. In our 10 years of operation we have been devoted exclusively to helping the people and habitats of the prairie. The Foundation operates with a Board of Directors and a local seven person steering committee.

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.

Project Goal

The Prairie Project is a new project whose goal is to restore prairie grasslands and create a source of highly diverse native prairie grass and forb seeds to be used in future grassland plantings. Our vision is to emulate, to the best of our ability, the historical conditions of the Tallgrass Prairie by replicating species composition, structure and function in our restorations. A total of 300 acres will be designated as Prairie Seed Source Plots. Seeds cultivated from these plots will be made available at no charge to a wide range of end users:

- Private Landowners
- ND Counties
- ND Cities
- North Dakota Game and Fish Department
- North Dakota Department of Transportation

The Prairie Project will meet Directives A, B and C as outlined by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program:

Directive A – The scope of the project creates wildlife habitat. Through a partnership with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department many of the native seed development plots will be enrolled into the State's PLOTS program, which is a program providing public access to sportsmen on private land.

Directive B – Prairie restorations not only benefit wildlife, they provide many ecosystem services such as soil retention, carbon sequestration and cleaner water. Ultimately, all ranching and farming benefit from the complexity of these plant communities whether from enjoyment of wildlife or a reduction in flood waters. In addition, the wildflowers planted create a quality source of pollinator habitat which supports agriculture.

Directive C – Inter-seeding highly diverse seed mixes into existing grasslands on both private and public properties will further the development and enhancement of North Dakota grasslands. The program's entire goal is to add acres of native based grassland where none existed before.

Why the need for this Project?

Restoration of North Dakota Tallgrass Prairie habitats is needed but often too costly. The remaining prairie habitats are very fragmented and many are infested with invasive weeds. As a result, it is not possible to use them as a harvestable seed source. Restoration and development of prairie habitats requires a large quantity of native prairie seed mix and while it is possible to purchase these seed mixes commercially, they are very expensive and exceed what is available in most habitat managers' budgets. What is needed is a harvestable, renewable source of Tallgrass Prairie seed so that habitat restoration can expand rapidly and cost effectively. This project will reduce the cost of native seed from \$1,500 - \$2,500 or more per acre to around \$100 per acre.

Additionally, many commercial seeds are cultivars which have been greenhouse developed and don't adapt to North Dakota's unique environment. Seeds produced by the Prairie Project will be naturally adapted to the region's climate. It would be like a North Dakota farmer planting 110 day corn and expecting it to mature in that time frame. Using seed indigenous to the area is the key to success.

Grassland prairie habitats are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world today. The science behind a diverse plant community is well documented. The more diverse the plant community, the more diverse and abundant the wildlife community. Native diversity also makes the plant community less susceptible to invasion by plants such as thistle, smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass. Clarence Lehman, former director of Cedar Creek Research Center, said their research indicated at least five additional species of insects are introduced to the plant community with the addition of each plant species. The increase in insects brings more songbirds. Adding more plants increases seed production which in turn increases the small rodent populations. The whole idea is to increase the insect, song birds and rodent populations, which in turn provides alternative prey species for predators, which leads to less pressure on such things as waterfowl, pheasants, and deer. The larger the prey base, the less impact to each individual component of that prey base. Clean water and soil retention are also benefits of a diverse plant community. All aspects of a diverse prairie habitat provide positive scientific outcomes.

Strategies

Restoration Vision

We are charged with the responsibility for planting a *complex* plant community that is attractive to a wide array of wildlife. Our vision is to emulate, to the best of our ability, the historical conditions of the Tallgrass Prairie by replicating species composition, structure and function in our restorations.

Restoration Methods

During restoration, a diverse seed mix harvested from local remnant prairies and greater than 50 species in number, is broadcast over the snow in late winter. The proven best seed bed is un-tilled soybean stubble. Soybeans fix nitrogen and provide the nutrients needed for the newly planted prairie. Research has shown that broadcast seeding a high diversity mix during the dormant season (fall/winter) typically results in successful restorations with lower percentages of invasive species.

Field Preparation

Field preparation is minimal. The typical field (under the snow) is untilled soybean stubble. Weather conditions best for snow-seeding include partly to mostly sunny skies with a temperature between 25 and 35 degrees F with winds less than 20 mph and snow cover less than 12 inches. Seeding should cease for the day by 1:00 PM or earlier to allow the sun time to warm the seed during the afternoon. The seed is locked into place by the freezing night-time temperatures and can no longer move laterally. During snow melt, the seed will be pulled into the ground when the top layer of soil is soft. There is no need for further tillage or packing.

The restored newly seeded prairie will be allowed to mature for four years. Prairie plants require at least four years to mature because of their extensive root systems. The length of some prairie plant roots can grow up to twenty-five feet long. Their extensive root systems are what allows them to survive the severe prairie weather and contributes to the high quality soil found on the prairie.

Prescribed Fire

The key to successful plot management is prescribed fire. Fire will be used every three years prior to harvesting. Fire also spurs seed development producing as much as three times the seed of unburned land.

Seed Harvest

Seed harvest will begin once the Prairie Seed Source Plots have matured. Between 150 and 300 acres of developed seed plots will be harvested annually. Harvest actually occurs over a very wide time frame. Early maturing forbs will get hand harvested in early summer. A grant from Ransom County Economic Development has provided funding to establish a Youth Habitat Alliance which educates and involves a large number of youth in hand harvesting native prairie plant seeds. The grass will get combine harvested in September. Like many agricultural crops timing of harvest is critical. All of the seed harvested with the combine needs to be put on air immediately to start the drying process. Even the transport trailers have aeration systems and are powered by a generator. If air circulation is not provided the seed will heat up due to high moisture levels. Wet grass starts breaking down killing the viability of the seed. Once the grasses and forbs have dried the entire seed batch is mixed. The seed mix is then bagged into 40 pound bags and random samples of the seed mix are sent to a lab to be tested.

Benefits

The long term benefit of the Prairie Project will be an ever increasing source of native North Dakota flora that makes for a diverse ecosystem. Benefits of a quality grassland restoration program are many:

- Soil stabilization
- Long term weed management
- Partnership with local farms
- Creation of a high quality native prairie seed source that can be harvested and used in other projects
- A diverse native grassland adds to the aesthetics of a community whether it is the colors of fall or the blossoms of summer.
- Wildlife such as deer, pheasants, waterfowl, bees and other non-game species thrive
- Two species of butterflies being listed will benefit from the grant project
- Plants native to North Dakota dominate habitats and support a diverse ecosystem

- Tallgrass Prairie can reduce the impact of wildlife on nearby crops while at the same time providing abundant pollinators that can assist agriculture in general.

The purpose of a well-managed highly diverse prairie restoration is to keep invasive plants out of a restored prairie eco-system. Native plants root much deeper than invasively introduced species, giving the land much better long term erosion control and cleaner water. The NRCS recognizes diverse native grassland as the habitat most able to reduce runoff and absorb rainfall events.

Timetable

2014 – Seed collection for development plots and involves both hand harvest and mechanical combine harvest.

2015 – Seed collection for development plots and seeding first 100 acres

2016 – Seed collection for development plots and seeding second 100 acres

2017 – Seeding final 100 acre plot

2018 – Plots develop - all in-kind management provided – only grant costs are land rents

2019 – Between 100 and 150 acres of seeded prairie harvested and processed

2020 – In addition to the harvesting and processing, processed seed will be made available to end users and seeded by the Foundation

2021 – 2023 – Maximum harvest with 300 acres harvested and processed, made available to end users and seeded by the Foundation.

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.

Prairie Project Management

The employees of United Prairie will manage the grant project. All reporting and technical review will be conducted by Foundation staff and volunteers. In-kind technical support will be provided by volunteer biologists. The team assembled to manage this project is second to none. Utilizing additional in-kind management from NDGF staff biologists further the strength of the management team.

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.

Native Grassland Seed Development Evaluation

Prairie restoration is a process that takes time. Like weed management, one must think long-term. The following is a general description of what can be expected during the first 5 growing seasons of the restoration.

Year 1: After seeding during the late winter, the seeded field will continue to appear as though it is untilled soybean stubble through May and into June. By July the field will green over and by late August to mid-September plants flowering will include annuals such as pigweed, kochia, and horseweed along with native spp. such as big bluestem, bearded wheatgrass, Maximilian sunflower and red-stemmed aster.

Year 2: The second year of growth is “visually” the most difficult year. This is the year of the biennials. Thus the field may begin the growing season with native forbs such as golden alexanders, black-eyed susans and daisy fleabanes, but soon progress in June to the bolting stage of plumeless, musk and Canada thistle. Sweet clover also tends to show up in these seedings. By the end of July additional natives such as gray-headed coneflower and purple prairie clover may blossom and go to seed. The growing season ends with a flush of native goldenrods and asters.

Year 3: The third year of growth will see the native grasses begin to get what we refer to as “large shoulders” where grass stem density is dramatic and a marked decrease is noted in the unwanted spp. such as thistles. The number of forb species increase as well, with *one-time, rapid assessments* totaling 10-12 native species. Sow, musk and plumeless thistle should wane if left untouched and a few Canada thistles remain. All native spp. will attempt to blossom and seed out.

Year 4: During the fourth growing season the vitality of the native spp. will be apparent as there should be a wide variety of natives flowering from early spring till freeze-up. Sow and plumeless thistle are/nearly all gone. Some Canadas may remain, but are visually insignificant among the native grasses and forbs.

Year 5: By year five the field should be essentially converted to a diverse native plant community with approximately 85% cover of native and 15% non-native species, of which less than 5% will be considered "weed" spp.

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> , 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 strongly encouraged.*

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. 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.

Prairie Project Sustainability

A majority of the seed produced would go to public entity land management which would allow further native seed harvest without the large costs associated with land rentals. Using these figures and eliminating the cost of land rentals drops the cost to produce and seed an acre of prairie to \$95.

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

If less funding is provided, a reduction of enrolled acres would be required to reduce costs.

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. 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 January 29, 2014

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.) Note a minimum of 25% match funding is strongly encouraged. An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Please feel free to add 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 January 29, 2014 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 exceptional circumstances, the following projects will NOT receive consideration for funding:

- Projects that are already completed;
- Projects that are on-going (Phased projects would be considered);
- Staffing;
- Feasibility studies;
- Annual maintenance;
- Paving projects for roads and parking lots;
- Swimming pools;
- Non-permanent equipment (such as snowmobiles, tractors);
- Research;
- Projects where the applicant is not directly involved in the project.

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
Land Rent	\$240,000	\$	\$	\$	\$135,000
Native Prairie Seed Mix	\$120,000	\$	\$	\$	\$
Hand Harvest Youth Crews	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$5,000
Seed Harvest Management	\$	\$	\$32,500	\$	\$
Seeding	\$47,700	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prescribed Fire	\$9,500	\$	\$4,500	\$	\$
Harvest/Process Seed	\$170,000		\$25,000		
Administrative	\$53,100				
Total Project Costs	\$640,300	\$	\$62,000	\$	\$140,000

DRAW TEXT BOX FOR DETAILS HERE

Land Rent – Contracts are held by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Rental estimate is based on a rental cost of \$150 an acre. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will contribute \$50 per acre annually.

Native Prairie Seed Mix – provided by United Prairie and is valued at \$400 per acre. The seed will be a local origin native seed mix with between 50 and 80 prairie plant species.

Hand Harvest Youth Crews – Youth Habitat Alliance established by United Prairie with funding provided from Ransom County Economic Development. Youth crews will hand harvest hard to combine wildflower seeds.

Seed Harvest Management – an annual cost for labor, planning, mapping and logistics to organize native seed harvest locations. Funded by United Prairie.

Seeding – All seed produced by the grant will get seeded by the Foundation using a tracked Bobcat loader and Vicon broadcast seeder.

Prescribed Fire – Grant funds will be used for cooperative partnerships with Rural Fire Departments. The Foundation's in-kind support is for equipment and labor.

Harvest/Process Seed – Grant funds will be used for fuel, seed testing, seed drying, hand harvest and combining costs. United Prairie Foundation is providing all annual costs and equipment, which include seed hauling trailers, warehouse facilities, combine and support trucking.

Administrative – includes a wide variety of activities including grant reporting, planning seed distribution and general operations required to make the program a success.

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most Recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Permanent Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment)
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program please use those rates and note your source.

Approved by OHF Advisory Board: October 17, 2013
Approved by Industrial Commission: October 22, 2013
Revised by OHF Advisory Board: January 22, 2014
Approved by Industrial Commission: January 29, 2014



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501 5095 PHONE 701 328 6300 FAX 701 328 6352

March 31, 2014

John DeVries, Founder/President
United Prairie Foundation, Incorporated
260 Front Street, PO Box 66
Sheldon, ND 58068

Dear Mr. DeVries:

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's (Department) mission is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and non consumptive use. We believe the efforts of United Prairie Foundation are assisting the Department in achieving its mission.

The Department is offering support of the United Prairie Foundation's (UPF) Prairie Project Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. Through a Conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) agreement with the landowner and UPF, the Department will provide a portion of land rental, while UPF and other partners provide the remaining share for land rental, in-kind and administrative costs. Department private lands staff will also work with UPF to identify potential private landowners willing to establish seed development plots.

The Department looks forward to working with UPF on this proposal; feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Kading".

Kevin Kading
Private Lands Section Leader