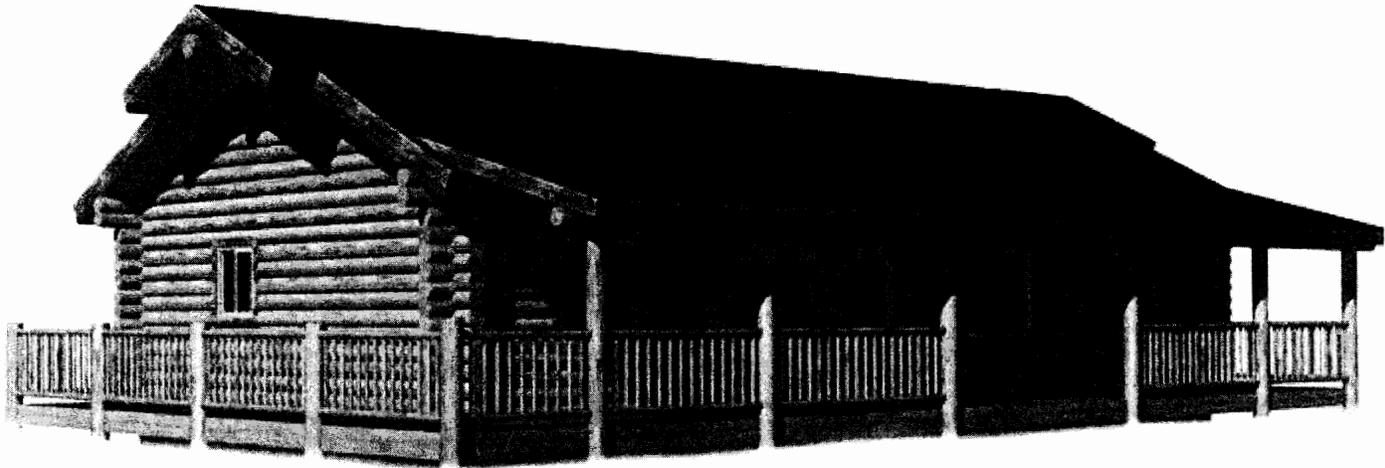


Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

**Application
to the
North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund
to construct the**

**Sky Chief Park (Ogimaa Giizhig)
Educational Stewardship Lodge**



April 1, 2014

**Turtle Mountain Chippewa
Natural Resources Department
April 1, 2014**

COVER INFORMATION

Name of Organization	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
Federal Tax ID#	45-0223071
Contact Person/Title	Bruce Nadeau, Director, Sky Chief Park
Address	PO Box 900
City	Belcourt
State	North Dakota
Zip Code	58316
E-mail Address	brucefnadeau@gmai.com
Web Site Address	www.tmbci.net
Phone	701 477-2640

PRIMARY DIRECTIVE

The Primary Directive addressed by this application -- to construct the 'Sky Chief Educational Stewardship Lodge' -- is Directive D : Conserve Natural Areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and recreation areas. The secondary directive is Directive C: Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands.

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Tribal Entity

PROJECT NAME TMBCI Sky Chief Park Educational Stewardship Lodge

in most federal budgets. The Sky Chief Educational Stewardship Project is considered high tribal priority so it will be constructed, however, it could be delayed until all funding is secured.

**Turtle Mountain Chippewa Educational Stewardship Lodge Project
Proposed 2014 Budget requested from North Dakota OHF**

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Cash Match	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Total Budge OHF/Tribal
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Log Kit	\$ 60,000	\$	\$	\$ 60,000
Four (4) staff dedicated time, 25% salary and fringe	\$	\$ 8,000	\$	\$ 8,000
Site development with concrete footings	\$	\$ 4,500	\$	\$ 4,500
Sewer/drainfield/plumbing materials and installation	\$	\$ 10,000	\$	\$ 10,000
Electrical Heating: materials and installation	\$	\$ 7,500	\$	\$ 7,500
	\$			
			\$	
	\$			
			\$	
Total Project Costs	\$ 60,000	\$ 30,000	\$	\$ 90,000



TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

4180 HIGHWAY 281
P.O. BOX 900
BELCOURT, NORTH DAKOTA 58316

(701) 477-2600
FAX: (701) 477-6836

March 31, 2014

North Dakota Industrial Commission
Attn: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capital – Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Ms. Karlene Fine:

On behalf of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Government, whom are elected to serve over 20,000 tribal members residing on the Turtle Mountain Reservation, I offer my wholehearted support to Sky Chief Park's Educational Stewardship Lodge Project. We limited our application to one specific project that will be accomplished in 2014.

The Lodge will serve as a focal point of educational and cultural programming that will result in sustainable management of our fish and wildlife, recreational park, and natural resources. It will also compliment the adjacent Pow-Wow grounds and Community Pavilion.

I anticipate that our application falls within North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund guidelines. The Sky Chief Park is an ideal locale to host events and activities relevant to sustaining and enhancing our heritage and natural resources. We are committing up to 25% in matching funds from our limited financial resources and assure that all project goals and objectives will be accomplished, under the direct oversight of our tribal government.

Sincerely,

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard McCloud".

Richard McCloud
Tribal Chairman



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North Dakota Industrial Commission
Attn: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
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600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Ms. Karlene Fine:

I am writing this letter in support of the Sky Chief Park's proposed for an Educational Stewardship Lodge. I am the tribal council representative designee for the tribal Natural Resources Department.

The Sky Chief Park is an area of natural beauty that the tribal government wants to preserve and develop as a park that will serve both reservation residents and outside visitors. It has a lot to offer in regards to sightseeing, hunting, fishing, water and land research, etc.

One of my prime objectives as Tribal Council representatives is to start a youth hunting and fishing club. Hunter safety is extremely important considering we are a large tribe housed in a small land base reservation. Also, hunting and fishing has sustained our native people throughout our tribal history and we need to enlarge and expand opportunities for future generations.

The Sky Chief Park staff has done an excellent job with the resources that they have leveraged thus far. They will construct a well-built Lodge that will be a benefit to our people. Please give our tribal application favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Troy "Big D" Decoteau
TMBCI and Natural Resources Representative



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Turtle Mountain Agency
P.O. Box 60
Belcourt, ND 58316



March 31, 2014

North Dakota Industrial Commission
Attn: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capital – Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Ms. Karlene Fine:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Turtle Mountain Agency serves approximately 20,000 tribal members and manages approximately 45,000 acres of individual Trust and Tribal Trust properties on the Turtle Mountain Reservation and Rolette County. I offer our full support to Sky Chief Park's Educational Stewardship Lodge Project.

Over the years our agency has routinely assisted in the development of other projects similar to this. The Lodge will serve as a focal point of educational and cultural programming that is focused around educating our youth in outdoor recreation, management of our fish and wildlife, recreational parks, and natural resources.

The concept which the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa has taken with Sky Chief Park is admirable. I believe it is an ideal locale to host events and activities around educating our youth in outdoor recreation, which will also promote activities relevant to sustaining and enhancing our heritage and natural resources. We are committing our assistance to ensure that all project goals and objectives will be accomplished in conjunction with the direct oversight of our tribal government.

Sincerely,

David M. Keplin
Superintendent

ABSTRACT/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall Goal of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa’s Heritage Fund *is to construct the Sky Chief Park Educational Stewardship Lodge* which will increase the capacity of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa government, community, and youth to understand, protect, conserve, restore, manage, share and sustain our natural heritage –the diverse and dynamic ecosystems which are the foundation of our Turtle Mountain Chippewa culture, history and sustainable future.

The Educational Stewardship Lodge will be multi-faceted but targeted to address:

- Educational Stewardship: bringing our whole community into the process as stakeholders, stewards and monitors with “ownership” of Outdoor Heritage conservation, enhancement, management and related governance initiatives.
- Fishing and Hunting Safety and Instruction: to teach our people how to sustain their livelihood with hunting and fishing and to practice safety from the inception, ie at a young age.
- Cultural Revitalization and Enhancement: the protection and caring of Mother Earth is ingrained in the Chippewa Lifeways and seeks to balance life and nature as one. The philosophy of 7th generation teachings is that our current generation will affect our people for the next 7 generations so we must be ‘protectors’ of our sacred Mother Earth.

The Sky Chief Park Natural Resources Department is committed to the construction, maintenance, and sustainability of the project. They have hired staff, equipment (dozer, trucks, backhoe) and oversee several grant programs that can cover matching requirements. The timeline from inception to completion of the Education Stewardship Lodge is six months.

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST:	\$ 60,000
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 90,000
AMOUNT OF MATCHING FUNDS	\$ 30,000
SOURCE(S) OF MATCHING FUNDS	Sky Chief Park – Annual Allocations

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

Tribal Demographics

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (the Tribe) -- the Applicant Organization in this request -- is a federally recognized Indian tribe with some 25,000 enrolled members. Most of whom live on or adjacent to the Tribe's 86,989 acres of tribal and individual allotted trust lands in the center of Rolette County, North Dakota. Although the Chippewa, Cree and Michif peoples comprising the Tribe have lived, hunted and gathered in the *Miikinoock Kijews* (Turtle Mountains) region for centuries, their present reservation was only established in 1884, after a painful and protracted process of successive forced cessions of land to the federal government during the 19th century.

Tribal Government

The Tribe is governed by an eight-member elected Tribal Council and elected Chairman of the Tribal Council, under the guidance of the Tribe's Constitution. The Tribal Council and Chairman oversee and lead the operations of several dozen departments and programs, which are funded through grants, contracts and cooperative agreements with private, state and federal agencies. The Tribe's Mission is to be a sovereign community in the heart of North America, comprised of a people in harmony with our unique traditions and culture; and to achieve self-sufficiency, financial independence and a healthy lifestyle through the knowledge and education of our most important asset – our people. Our specific primary Goal is to strengthen the interdependent wholeness and health of our youth, families, community, lands and natural resources.

TMBCI Natural Resources Department

The Department of Natural Resources of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (<http://tmdnr.webs.com/>) manages the wildlife and fish, bison, parks and recreation, agricultural, and other natural and cultural resources on Turtle Mountain tribal lands to the optimum benefit of the Turtle Mountain community, now and for future generations. The Department maintains a full-time staff of 10 individuals; and partners with local training programs such as Summer Youth, Adult Workforce Training, and Experience Works to assist with projects during the summer months.

In 2010, the Department established the 1,313 acre *Ogimaa Giizhig* (SkyChief) Recreation Park as a joint venture between the Department of Natural Resources, Turtle Mountain Tribal Council, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Tribal Tourism Department, and Pathways to Prosperity. The park is the Tribe's primary outdoor cultural and environmental literacy classroom and facility. It encompasses two lakes; and includes opportunities for fishing, walking and nature trails, swimming and water sports, individual and group picnic facilities, and wildlife viewing opportunities -- as these may be developed carefully within the context of an integrated stewardship and management plan.

The Sky Chief (*Ogimaa Giizhig*) Recreation Park would benefit enormously from individuals and groups from the Turtle Mountain community taking responsibility for one or another of the many attributes of the Park which need focused attention and care. The Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribal Council adopted the Long Term Park Management Plan in 2010 to guide the tribal Natural Resources Department for the next 10-15 years. The Plan identifies five principle management goals:

1. to preserve the park's natural and cultural heritage values
2. to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation that are compatible with the emphasis placed on protecting the park's natural setting.
3. to enhance public understanding and appreciation for park values.
4. to provide facilities and services to enhance visitor enjoyment and park management.
5. to ensure public access, safety, and use.

Description of Turtle Mountain Chippewa Lands, Waters, Plants and Wildlife

Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribal lands on and off-reservation in Rolette County include about 84,500 acres of some the most beautiful and unique natural landscapes and diverse environments on the northern plains. The climate is semi-arid continental, characterized by long cold winters; short, warm summers; large annual and daily temperature changes; erratic distribution of precipitation; and nearly continuous air movement. The Turtle Mountain region is covered by remnants of the Wisconsin glaciations, which melted at the end of the last Ice Age some 12,000 years ago. The receding glaciers created an elevated terrain of rolling "turtle back" hills and scooped-out lakes, resulting in an area of scenic beauty unequaled in the state or region.

In the Turtle Mountains, the underlying Tongue River Formation is covered by some 200-300 of glacial till and outwash in hilly areas, and of glacial lake deposits in more level areas. Soils are formed mainly in this glacial drift, and are mostly very deep fine sandy loams to silt loams to silty clays, classified by the USDA to be "prime farmland".

The drainage pattern is poorly integrated, with most runoff collecting in some 6,000 deep depressions ("prairie potholes"), ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Water percolates through these coarse sediments to collect in shallow aquifers to the south of the Turtle Mountains; these shallow aquifers are the principal source of drinking water for the Tribe.

Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribal land uses include: an estimated 43,300 acres of forest, woodland, and shrub or grass deciduous cover (60%); some 22,000 acres of agricultural uses (26%) including about 14,200 acres of grazing lands and 7,600 acres of dry-farmed crop lands; about 8,400 acres of lakes, ponds and wetlands (10%); and about 3,400 acres of commercial, municipal, and residential uses (4%).

Forest, woodland and shrub species include quaking aspen and bur oak as the dominant trees. Other species growing in scattered areas throughout the Turtle Mountains include green ash, black ash, common chokecherry, golden currant, American hazelnut, paper birch, red-osier dogwood, American high-bush cranberry, hawthorn, raspberry, box elder, Saskatoon serviceberry, staghorn sumac, silver buffaloberry, and common snowberry. In the bottomlands,

dominant trees include American elm, green ash, box elder, and various willows. Less common are cottonwood, common choke cherry, and red osier dogwood. Sedges, rushes, cat-tails, bull-rushes and grasses predominate in wetlands.

Wildlife habitat diversity on Tribal lands is enhanced by the numerous wetlands, ponds and lakes that serve many birds, migratory waterfowl, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fishes including : gray partridge, ruffed grouse, mourning doves, white pelicans; herons and grebes; hawks (marsh, red-tailed); red-wing blackbirds; swallows; loons, and many species of ducks (coots, teal, canvas-back, mallards, northern shoveler, merganser, and ruddy) and wild geese; red fox, lynx, weasels, moose, white-tailed deer, elk, muskrat, mink, raccoon, badger, cottontail rabbit, white-tailed jack-rabbit – as well as occasional sightings of wolves, bears and mountain lions; garter snakes and wood frogs; and also, northern pike, walleye, blue gill, smallmouth bass, crappie, trout, bullhead and perch.

PURPOSE OF GRANT

Need

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (the Tribe) proposes to construct an Educational Stewardship Lodge which will facilitate, guide, leverage and manage critically-needed targeted investments into opportunities to enhance culturally-grounded management, restoration and stewardship of Tribal lands, waters, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, prime agricultural resources, and outdoor parks and recreation.

The Turtle Mountains have been the heart of our Chippewa, Cree and Michif homelands for centuries. The landscapes and resources of the Turtle Mountains shaped the rugged independence and sense of community that define the Turtle Mountain Chippewa. These mountains have long supported abundant and diverse native plant, fish and wildlife species, including nuts, berries, tubers, and medicinal herbs, edible fish, bird and mammal species. Tribal members traditionally depended on these plants and animals, as well as cultivated staple crops, for their sustenance, medicines, and well-being. Learning from and honoring these relationships is at the heart of fundamental Turtle Mountain Chippewa values and teachings of respect, integrity, courage, humility, honesty, service, and stewardship – and of individual and community well-being. This weave of cultural and natural heritages has given us our sense of identity and cultural continuity, creativity and vitality.

Over the past several generations, the multi-generational transmission of many cultural knowledge and teachings -- including how to learn about, respect, identify, manage, conserve, harvest, prepare and share these plants and animals -- have greatly diminished. This is due to multiple factors: the establishment of the reservation system, oppression by traders and missionaries, the effects of Indian boarding schools, federal relocation policy, and others – which have forced gradual acculturation into mainstream society perceptions, diets, economy and lifestyles.

Much of the knowledge and skills linked to key cultural elements such as ceremonies, identity and sense of place, respect and reverence for the natural world, traditional plant and animal knowledge, music, dance, and craftsmanship are disappearing due to declining numbers of

knowledgeable elders and practitioners and the disassociation of youth. As traditional cultural and ecological knowledge and practices have declined, the health and well-being of the people, and of the plants and animal communities on the Tribe's homelands, have also suffered.

Turtle Mountain youth especially have been affected by this loss of cultural teachings, values and strength. As generations of chronic poverty and social distress take their toll, more and more youth are at risk of negative and destructive patterns of behavior, including poor school attendance, violence, delinquency, and substance abuse.

Our elders say that we must embrace life and positive actions, not dwell on the negative. Our youth tell us that they do not enough positive strengthening activities – especially in winter; and not enough arts and cultural and outdoor activities, or whole family recreation. Our lands and waters cry out for effective community education and engagement in protecting, managing, conserving and fostering growth and stewardship of our natural resources, our traditional plant and animal teachers and foods and medicines. We have heard these voices.

The Tribe's cultural sites, parks, wild lands, lakes and streams are gifts inherited from the ancestors -- places that offer refuge from the demands of daily life, that renew spirits and enrich memories. They also are working lands that have fed and sustained the community for generations. We take pride in these places; we share responsibility to care for them for the generations to come. Yet we are losing touch with too many of the places and values that we treasure. Our farms, ranches and forests, the pristine qualities of our lakes and wetlands, the diversity, health and abundance of our wildlife and other resources are disappearing due to growing population pressures and changing land uses. Our families spend less time together on the land. Despite ongoing conservation efforts, our lands continue to fragment, many of our lakes and streams are endangered by pollution, and we are losing our connection to the wild places we grew up with and cherish. And our youth spend far less time outdoors running and playing, fishing and hunting, and connecting to the natural world as we and our ancestors did.

The well-being of our human community is profoundly affected by the health of our natural environment. Contamination and other disturbances of our natural environment are reflected in our well-being. The Tribe's foremost environmental concern is the impact of deteriorating water quality on all aspects of environmental and community health. Contributing factors include our rapidly increasing population dispersed on a small land base; water resources vulnerable to contamination from agricultural and residential land uses due to shallow aquifers and porous soils; and, often, the lack of awareness of these relationships by policy-makers, planners, and community members.

We are focusing our proposed **Sky Chief Park Educational Stewardship Lodge** especially on engaging our youth (over 40 % of our people are younger than 20), particularly on the estimated 2000 or so of our youth between the ages of 15 and 24, so that they may gain and strengthen the tools, skills, knowledge and hope they need to cherish and sustain their natural heritage in years to come.

Turtle Mountain tribal community, culture, values, and governance have always been grounded in respect for our “outdoor heritage” – for the Earth, for the lands, waters, plants and wildlife

whose health and well-being are inextricably interwoven with the health and well-being of our community and of our future. Our proposed collaborative and educational partnership with the State of North Dakota promises to strengthen not only our own outdoor heritage, but also to enhance understanding of our neighbors' and friends' outdoor heritage throughout the region.

Goals, Strategies, Benefits and Timetable

Our Turtle Mountain Chippewa community and government share common goals, strategies and responsibilities to protect, preserve, restore and enhance our lands, waters, plants, wildlife, and natural resources vital to our traditional cultural values and life ways. We are fully committed to planning, developing, and implementing appropriate projects, programs, policies, and ordinances that provide for the full protection, stewardship and maintenance of all our scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

The *overall Goal is to construct the Sky Chief Park Educational Stewardship Lodge*. This Lodge will be highly beneficial to the tribe as it will aid in building the capacity of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa government, community, and especially our youth to understand, protect, conserve, restore, manage, share and sustain our natural heritage.

The Educational Stewardship Lodge will afford the tribe the following programmatic educational activities:

- Educational Stewardship: the Lodge will provide a unique environment to a continuum of related topics such as water, ecology, native plants, agricultural related disciplines, environmental science, and Chippewa tribal culture.
- Fish and Wildlife Habitation and Instruction: Seminars and presentations to the community, youth conservation efforts, hunter safety courses, etc.
- Cultural Revitalization and Enhancement: located adjacent to the community pavilion and future Pow Wow Arbor, the Lodge will host cultural events and seminars that evolve around taking care of Mother Earth teachings.

2014 Timetable – Construction Phase

<u>Activity</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Grant Award	x					
Public Awareness Campaign	x					
Site Development		x	x			
Foundation – Concrete			x			
Log Kit Assembly		x	x	x	x	x
Electrical/Plumbing/Heating Installation			x	x		
Monthly written progress reports	x	x	x	x	x	x
Monthly evaluation meetings	x	x	x	x	x	x
Photo and video-documentations	x	x	x	x	x	x
Annual Report to ND OHF						x

MANAGEMENT OF PROJECT

The construction of the Sky Chief Educational Stewardship Lodge will be overseen by the Sky Chief Director working under the direction of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Natural Resources Board. Established by the Tribal Council to provide leadership and policy direction to all natural resources initiatives, the Natural Resources Board is headed by Lyle Morin, who has thirty years experience managing the Bureau of Indian Affairs Natural Resources Branch at Turtle Mountain.

The Natural Resources Board adheres to the adopted plan and strives to assure that the Sky Chief Park is managed responsibly and effectively and is civic minded. Emphasis is placed on interpreting the park’s diverse natural and cultural heritage values. These efforts include development of an information brochure, on-site interpretive signage and special event programming.

Facilities and services will be limited to the provision of public parking and pedestrian access, an inter-connected system of trails, picnic/open space areas, fishing areas, campsites and RV sites, and carry-in access for canoes/kayaks and interpretive/orientation information. In recognition of the park’s classification as a Natural Environmental Park, where possible facilities and services will be located on the park periphery to minimize impacts on park values.

EVALUATION

The Sky Chief Park Director will update the Tribal Natural Resources Board during their monthly Board meetings. The report will highlight the progress toward construction, etc. The Sky Chief Park Director will compile a final progress report which will be shared with the Tribal Council and Natural Resources Board and forwarded to the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund. The Annual Report will be supplemented by photo and video-documentations to highlight the construction of the facility.

Major Performance Measures will include:

- the number of individuals (adults and youth) who receive mentoring, training and capacity-building in natural resources stewardship, wildlife habitat restoration and management, and related fields through the funded **Outdoor Heritage** projects ;
- the number of natural resources stewardship, wildlife habitat restoration and management, and related activities that are planned, conducted successfully, documented and evaluated;
- the number of our youth who engage directly in natural resources stewardship, wildlife habitat restoration and management, and related activities.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

SUSTAINABILITY

The Environmental Stewardship Lodge will be situated at the Sky Chief Park amidst the Administrative area of the complex. The Natural Resources Office will sustain the upkeep and maintenance of the building. The utility expenses will be covered by the Sky Chief Park's Historic Preservation funds which can cover the cost of overhead expenditures.

In partnership with the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, and local partners and allies, we will be able to strengthen our community and tribal government education, participation, and capacities to identify and integrate conservation design, creative planning, supportive zoning, and other resource management.

PARTIAL FUNDING

If partially funded, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa would initiate a small scale capital campaign to identify and secure the funding necessary to complete the project. There are several prospects, however, contributions would be minimal as construction is not an allowable expense