

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

Name of Organization **LITTLE MISSOURI GRAZING ASSOCIATON**

Federal Tax ID# **45-0213473**

Contact Person/Title **Lola Hewson, Business Manager or Brian Gerbig, LMGA President**

Address **C/O Lola Hewson
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City **Dickinson**

State **North Dakota**

Zip Code **58601**

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MAJOR Directive:

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:

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:

State Agency

Political Subdivision

Tribal Entity

Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, as described in United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501 (c) **North Dakota Century Code section 36-08-02**

Project Name *Little Missouri Grazing Association Noxious/Invasive Weed Control*

Abstract/Executive Summary.

This project is designed to provide financial and technical assistance to all 104 members of the Little Missouri Grazing Association (LMGA). The Association's goal is to aggressively control the North Dakota noxious and other invasive weeds within the Little Missouri Grazing Association controlled land. 2013 survey data confirms that infested acres are increasing across the Association, particularly along the drainages into the major creeks that drain into the Little Missouri River.

Our mobile society is so conducive to invasive weeds' becoming established or spreading. Regardless of how careful travelers are, seeds will lodge in vehicles' tires and undercarriage and drop where the seeds can establish

The LMGA's own grazing strategies, using deferred grazing, creates ideal growing conditions for Canada thistle. Canada thistle thrives when litter is thick and extended periods without grazing allow it to utilize extra moisture.

Biological control efforts have not been successful. Black leaf beetles and Brown leaf beetles have been dropped into heavily infested drainages over several years, but very few populations have established and reduced leafy spurge populations. The sandy soils along the drainages do not provide suitable overwintering habitat for the leaf beetles.

To combat the spreading noxious weeds, the LMGA will:

1. Develop contracts with commercial sprayers with the LMGA.
2. Coordinate LMGA members with sprayers for efficient spraying time.
3. Develop working partnership with the Slope County weed board and develop a strategy to combat the worst invasive infestations.
4. Develop educational programs to heighten member awareness about potential biological control efforts.

The LMGA wants to contain the current noxious weeds to their present population (?) within a 3 year cycle, by treating 1,160 acres of moderately to heavily infested situations. Once the noxious weeds are contained, the LMGA wants to reduce the invasive weeds to an economically viable population that moves the biological diversity and productivity of the plant community toward improved wildlife habitat and healthy livestock grazing. Aggressively controlling established noxious weeds requires several years of repetitious treatment to effectively reduce a weed infestation.

The project would begin August 1, 2014 and end September 30, 2024.

LMGA Cash/In-kind	\$583,330
Outdoor Heritage Funds	\$1,750,000

Outdoor Heritage Funds would be used to increase treated acres and allotments above and beyond the annual appropriations through the Forest Service's Participating Agreement.

Amount of Grant request \$1,750,000.00

Total Project Costs \$ 2,333,333.00

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

Source(s) of Matching Funds

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

LMGA member contribution (cash)	\$401,330.00
LMGA member and Board In Kind contributions	\$182,000.00
Outdoor Heritage (FA).....	<u>\$1,750,000.00</u>
	<u>\$2,333,333.00</u>

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 –

The Little Missouri Grazing Association (LMGA) was formed in 1940 after the North Dakota legislature authorized cooperative grazing associations in 1935. The government's intent was to permanently revegetated these lands and stabilize local economies, through local cooperative grazing associations. These lands evolved into the National Grasslands and are administered by the United State Forest Service, specifically, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, housed at Bismarck, North Dakota.

The LMGA's mission is to aid its members with *“conservation, restoration, improvement, development and utilization of natural resource within the area of the Little Missouri in the counties of Slope and Golden Valley ... where a grazing area has been acquired.”* The LMGA also integrated private and other non-federal land into the Association controlled land when necessary to create natural management units that facilitate sound land management practices. Today, the LMGA's 117 allotments are comprised of:

Forest Service Lands	155,216.6 Acres
Private Lands	95,839.4 Acres
North Dakota State Lands	7,541.9 Acres
Private Land in Montana	40.0 Acres

The LMGA is divided into 5 districts and each district is represented by an elected board member from each district. There are 3 officers: President, Vice – President, and Secretary – Treasurer. The Board of Directors employs a full-time business manager and a seasonal range technician.

The LMGA responsibilities include identifying potential conservation practices and funding necessary to facilitate grazing management. The Board of Directors assists members installing conservation practices approved by the Forest Service. Since 2002, the LMGA has contracted with commercial sprayers to treat noxious weeds on allotments, using the USFS Participating Agreement monies. The LMGA coordinates with APHIS on grasshopper outbreaks and the range technician sprays grasshopper infestations. The LMGA has contracted with North Dakota State University to complete vegetation surveys. That data is used to assess grazing management and recommend changes as needed. The LMGA partnered with North Dakota Game and Fish to establish baseline sage grouse habitat data. This data will be used to enhance sage grouse habitat through grazing management.

Purpose of Grant

The LMGA goal is to annually treat 1,160 acres of noxious and invasive weeds on privately owned and publicly owned lands within the Association. By attracting a reliable commercial sprayer with a lucrative offer, the LMGA hopes to keep treating these acres for 10 years. Adequate funding will increase the LMGA opportunity to improve soil health, stabilize stream banks, improve wildlife habitat and enhance grazing systems. All LMGA members want to treat the spreading noxious weeds, but program funding is gone before all the affected allotments can be treated.

Noxious weeds invaded and occupied North Dakota since leafy spurge was first recognized near Fargo in 1919, and had spread to nearly 1 million acres by 1997. The Little Missouri Grazing Association harbors 4 of North Dakota's 12 invasive noxious weeds: *leafy spurge, Canada thistle,*

absinth wormwood, Russian knapweed. LMGA also has Slope County noxious weeds: ***houndstongue and black henbane.***

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture recognized that both new and continued noxious weed infestations diminish the productivity and biological diversity of ecosystems. Noxious weed infestation suppresses native plant species due to competition for space, nutrients, and water. Native plant losses negatively impact wildlife habitat as well as healthy viable livestock grazing.

From 2002 through 2013, the Little Missouri Grazing Association has spent **\$480,715.00** spraying noxious weeds, most notably: leafy spurge, houndstongue and Canada thistle on Federal land. The Forest Service contributed **\$338,533.00** through its Participating Agreement. The goal has been to control the spread of leafy spurge, Canada thistle, and houndstongue while preventing new infestations. Unfortunately, less than 10% of the infested acres are treated each year, and the ***noxious weeds are gaining ground.*** A 2013 North Dakota Department of Agriculture State Noxious Weed Survey revealed that invasive weed acreages have ***increased.*** Larger infestations occur on private land as money and member time is spent on federal land. The Forest Service has implemented a “good neighbor policy” and allowed spraying on private land within one mile of federal land being treated, however the funding limited treatment to 4 man hours on private land.

Each year, the earmarked Participating Agreement monies totals approximately \$60,000 and is used up quickly on a small portion of the Association. The federal monies, which are an annual appropriations are not guaranteed; the money is very dependent on the federal budget, which is uncertain every year.

Financially, the LMGA cannot compete with the oil field opportunities. Commercial sprayers find it more lucrative to spray weeds for the oil companies’ roads and oil pads. The LMGA lost its 2013 contracted sprayer to the oil fields. The LMGA cannot afford to pay oil field wages that would attract a reliable knowledgeable employee to spray the weeds.

Financial quandary aside, the expanding use of Federal Lands contributes to the spread of noxious weeds. The Maah Daah Hey Trail extends south into Slope County, attracting more hikers and cyclists, and potentially, more weeds. The prairie dog colonies are frequently accessed by out of state hunters, as well as normal game and upland bird hunting. The increased use of All Terrain Vehicles spreads invasive weeds along trails.

While oil field impact is very low in the Little Missouri Grazing Association today, mineral leases have been aggressively purchased in Slope and Golden Valley Counties. Exploration will occur in the near future and the LMGA desires to have the current noxious weed populations controlled so that the potential seed source is minimized.

The LMGA urgently needs financial assistance to adequately control the noxious weeds on ***private land and federal land*** within its 117 allotments. Noxious weeds do not recognize land boundaries and the Little Missouri Grazing Association would like to aggressively treat all acres.

Management of Project –

The Little Missouri Grazing Association’s Business Manager has over 10 years of experience developing contracts with private businesses and with the federal government. She has a complete understanding of contracting language and developing project completion logs and documentation.

Evaluation – Describe your plan to document progress and results.

The commercial sprayers will use current documentation to record locations, time, mileage and supplies used. The sprayers also use GPS units to record locations and those points will be downloaded into a spreadsheet and onto computer generated maps.

LMGA members will use current documentation to record their time, vehicles and equipment used to spray on their allotments. LMGA members will be required to visually inspect treated areas to assess effectiveness. The members will report their findings to the LMGA Board of Directors annually.

Financial Information

ATTACHMENT: Project Budget –

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

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Total Project Cost
Commercial Spraying Contracted Labor (1)	\$1,675,000.00	\$401,333.00		\$2,076,333.00
Other Labor (2)			\$157,000.00	\$157,000.00
Chemical (3)	\$75,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$	\$100,000.00
Total Project Costs	\$1,750,000.00	\$426,333.00	\$157,000.00	\$2,333,333.00

This budget is for the complete amount requested over 10 years. The estimated total annual cost to treat 1,160 acres equals \$233,333.00, with an annual OHF request of \$175,000.00.

- (1) A commercial sprayer quoted a current rate of \$65.00/man hour for a 7 person crew. (\$65.00 x 7 = 455.00 Per hour)
- (2) Other Labor is LMGA staff, directors, and members' in-kind labor. The labor includes assisting sprayers and scouting. This also includes the members' use of their own equipment and vehicles. These costs have been calculated from the most current NDDA In-kind Rate Table. LMGA member labor is required. The LMGA uses an hourly rate of \$28.50 per hour, an actual cost due to local wages increasing from oil field activity. (See attachments)
- (3) Chemical costs are from the most current pricing for the 2014 year actual costs. Chemicals we use are Outpost, Milestone, Plateau, CB 4# amine, Hi-Light, and MSO.

The terrain where the weeds occur often causes actual hours worked, miles traveled and acres sprayed per day difficult to determine accurately. Based on past spray logs Forest Service Participating Agreements, the total cost of treating (on average) 331 acres per year is \$201.00 per acre.

Sustainability

Once Outdoor Heritage Funding is expended, the noxious weed acreages will be reduced to a population that the LMGA "can live with," meaning that normal LMGA member fees and services will adequately keep the weeds from exploding again.

Partial Funding

In the case of partial funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, fewer acres will be treated, thereby reducing the number of acres of restored plant diversity, improved soil conditions and enhanced livestock grazing.

WORKSHEET FOR

Component Analysis

Use this worksheet to perform the cost analysis that supports the lump sum figures provided in the matrix.
 NOTE: This worksheet auto populates the relevant and applicable matrix cells.

Cost element sections may be deleted or lines may be hidden, if not applicable. Line items may be added or deleted as needed. The Standard Calculation sections provide a standardized formula for determining a line item's cost, e.g. cost/day x # of days=total, where the total is calculated automatically. The Non-Standard Calculation sections provide a write-in area for line items that require a calculation formula that is other than the standardized formulas, e.g. instead of salaries being calculated by cost/day x # of days, costs may be calculated simply by a contracted value that is not dependent on days worked, such as 1 employee x \$1,200/contract= \$1,200. Be sure to review your calculations when entering in a Non-Standard Calculation, and provide a brief explanation of units used to make calculation, e.g. '1 month contract,' on a line below the figures.

Standard Calculation					
Job Description	#	Cost/Hour	# of Hours		Total
Board members	5	\$28.50	20.00		\$2,850.00
Members	30	\$28.50	10.00		\$8,550.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
Non-Standard Calculation					

Total Salaries/Labor	\$11,400.00
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Standard Calculation					
Travel Expense	#	Cost/Mile	# of Miles		Total
Board members	5	\$0.74	100.00		\$370.00
Members	30	\$0.74	100.00		\$2,220.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
Non-Standard Calculation					

Total Travel	\$2,590.00
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Standard Calculation					
Piece of Equipment	# of Units	Cost/Day	# of Days		Total
ATV with Sprayer	30.00	\$112.00	1.00		\$3,360.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00

Non-Standard Calculation

Total Equipment **\$3,360.00**

Supplies/Materials

Standard Calculation

Supplies/Materials	# of Items	Cost/Item	Total
Herbicide		\$850.00	\$850.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00

Non-Standard Calculation

Total Supplies/Materials **\$850.00**

Printing

Standard Calculation

Paper Material	# of Units	Cost/Unit	Total
			\$0.00

Non-Standard Calculation

Total Printing **\$0.00**

Other Expenses

Standard Calculation

Item	# of Units	Cost/Unit	Total
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00

Non-Standard Calculation

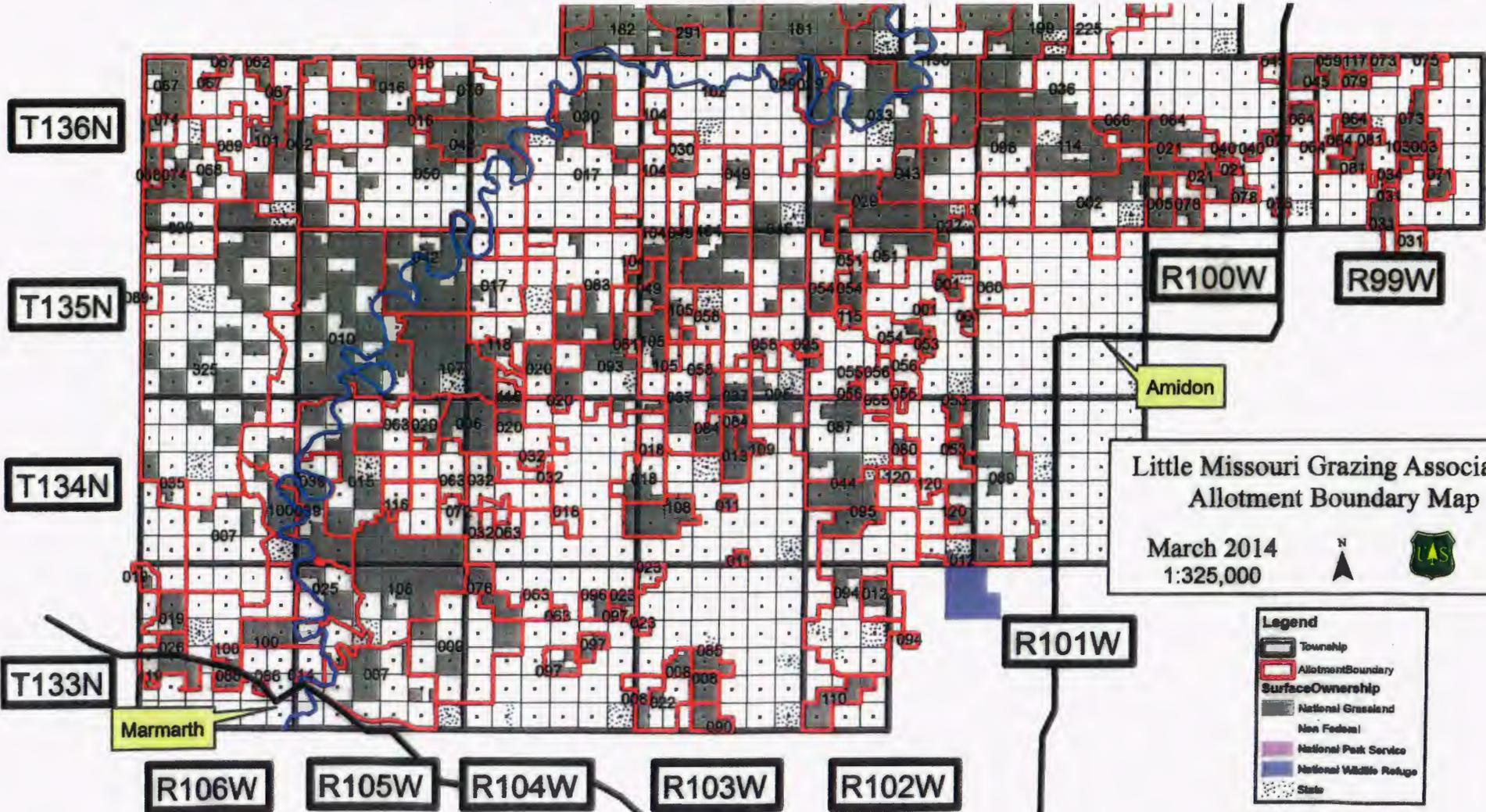
Total Other **\$0.00**

Subtotal Direct Costs **\$18,200.00**

TOTAL COST **\$18,200.00**

NDDA In-kind Rate Table (November 2013)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RATE (DAILY)	RATE (HOURLY)	RATE (OTHER UNIT)
Labor	Commercial applicator	Actual		
	Volunteer labor	Actual		
Vehicles	ATV 4X4 300-400cc	\$90		
	ATV 4X4 300-400cc, with sprayer	\$112		
	UTV with Sprayer	\$142		
	UTV	\$120		
	3-wheelers and motorcycles	\$56		
NDDOT Rate	Sedan/wagon			\$0.40/mile
NDDOT Rate	Light pickup .5 ton/cargo van/full-size utility			\$0.61/mile
NDDOT Rate	Heavy pickup 3/4 ton and 1 ton			\$0.74/mile
	Trucks (.5 ton), with sprayer	\$240	\$30	\$0.61/mile
	Trucks (.75 and 1 ton), with sprayer	\$240	\$30	\$0.74/mile
	Trucks (1 ton or more), with sprayer	\$560	\$70	
NDDOT Rate	Trucks, greater than 1 ton	\$320	\$40	
NDDOT Rate	Trucks, tanker	\$320	\$40	
Trailers	Average - all types	\$56	\$7	
Boats	Powered	\$160	\$20	
	Unpowered	\$80	\$10	
	Powered, with trailer	\$216	\$27	
Equipment	Sprayers, all types except ATV	\$240	\$30	
	Sprayers, backpack, 3gal.	\$6		
	Sprayers, backpack, 5gal.	\$8		
	Pump, transfer with hose	\$56		
	Sweep net	\$24	\$3	
	Computer	\$72	\$9	
	Auxillary			\$0.60/mile
	Water			\$0.02/gallon
GPS Units	General outdoor use	\$24	\$3	
	Attached to handheld computer	\$40	\$5	
Livestock	Horse	\$56		
	Horse, with sprayer unit	\$86		
Contracted Services	Ground broadcast (not including chemical cost)	Actual		
	Ground spot treatment	Actual		
	Backpack treatment	Actual		



T136N

T135N

T134N

T133N

R100W

R99W

Amidon

R101W

Marmarth

R106W

R105W

R104W

R103W

R102W

Little Missouri Grazing Association
Allotment Boundary Map
March 2014
1:325,000



Legend

- Township
- Allotment Boundary
- Surface Ownership**
- National Grassland
- Non Federal
- National Park Service
- National Wildlife Refuge
- State