

**Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
Sky Chief Park**

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



Fishing Pier Project

October 29, 2014

**Submitted by
Sky Chief Natural Resources Department**

COVER INFORMATION

Name of Organization **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians**

Federal Tax ID# **45-0223071**

Contact Person/Title **Lyle Poitra, Tribal Developer, Sky Chief Park**
Rick Davis, Director, Sky Chief Park

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PRIMARY DIRECTIVE

The Primary Directive addressed by this application to purchase and install Handicapped Accessible Fishing Piers at Sky Chief Park - Gordon and Wheaton lakes is Directive A: Provide access to public and private lands for sportsman, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsman.

The secondary directive is Directive C: Conserve Natural Areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and recreation areas.

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: **Tribal Entitle**

PROJECT NAME **TMBCI Sky Chief Park Fishing Pier Project**

ABSTRACT/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall Goal of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa’s proposed ND Outdoor Heritage Project application is to install two (2) commercial grade Fishing Piers at the Sky Chief Park Gordon and Wheaton Lake Recreational Area.

The total cost of the project is \$70,000 with a request of \$60,000 from the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund with the tribe committing a \$10,000 cash match.

The tribal Natural Resources Department will oversee the purchase, construction and continual maintenance of the Fishing Piers.

PROJECT DURATION:	3 months
AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST:	\$ 60,000
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 70,000
AMOUNT OF MATCHING FUNDS	\$ 10,000 cash match
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

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, 8,497 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. The Chippewa, Cree and Michif peoples comprising the Tribe have lived, hunted and gathered in the *Miikinoock Kijews* (Turtle Mountains) region for centuries.

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.*

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 of 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 unequalled in the state or region.

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.

Organizational Information - 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.

Purpose of Grant

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (the Tribe) proposes to purchase and install a Commercial Fishing Pier/Doc at the Sky Chief Park Area.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa has been actively enhancing local tribal Tourism efforts by adopting both a Comprehensive Land Use Plan and a Tribal Tourism Plan in 2009 and a Scenic Byway Plan in 2013.

Comprehensive Land Use Plan – the plan will guide the tribe's land use planning efforts in relation to economic, social, and educational development.

Master Tourism Plan: the tribal Pathways to Prosperity injected approximately \$800,000 in Tourism Dollars to various Organizations for the promotion of tourism. The Sky Chief Park received \$30,000 to enhance the Park's buffalo herd.

The mission of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Master Tourism Plan is to capitalize on and preserve our natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources in a way that will increase tourism revenue.

The vision is to become a premier tourist destination by increasing revenues, encouraging local involvement and investment, and continually improve our product to entice tourists to our community.

Scenic Byway Plan: adopted in 2009 to promote a tribal designated byway adjacent to and existing state byway – Highway 43.

Goals, Strategies, Benefits and Timetable

The Fishing Pier Equipment will be purchased from Zachmeier Mfg. based in Mandan, ND. One Pier will be sized with two (2) 6' x 28' sections and the other will be sized with two (2) 8' x 28' sections. One fishing pier will be installed at Gordon Lake and the other at Wheaton Lake, Both lakes are situated on the 1313 acre Sky Chief Park reserve.

The Natural Resources employees several maintenance/grounds keeper(s) who have the capacity to install the Piers under the guidance of the dealer – Zachmeir Mfg - who have agreed to oversee construction on site. The Department has a commercial Dozer and machinery that can ready the site for development.

The Turtle Mountain Tribe does not charge an entrance fee into the Sky Chief Park area. Fishing is free to tribal members and non-members can fish at a \$10.00 daily fee. Major benefits of the proposed commercial Fishing Pier/Doc project include:

1. Attract more local and off-reservation visitors to the Sky Chief Park recreational area.
2. Provide fishing and recreational opportunities for the handicapped.
3. Provide accessibility to the Wheaton and Gordon Lake waterways.
4. Will enhance the Tribal Tourism Plan.
5. Provide additional safety to patrons using the lakes for swimming and fishing.

Management of Project

The Sky Chief Park Playground Project will be managed and sustained by the tribal Natural Resources Department. The Department is overseen by the TMBCI Natural Resources Board who were 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 of experience managing the Bureau of Indian Affairs Natural Resources Branch at Turtle Mountain.

Evaluation

The Natural Resources Department Director will compile monthly progress reports and present them to the Natural Resources Board on behalf of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribal Council. Copies of these monthly reports will be submitted to the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund as part of final reporting requirements.

Major performance measures will include timely completion of construction schedule, number of sportsman using the fishing piers, leveraged resources, and visitor survey results.
Leverage Capacity

Financial Information

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

Sustainability

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 lifeways. 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.

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 and use strategies that will provide four-season outdoor parks and recreational opportunities for community members and visitors alike.

Park staff will maintain the upkeep of the fishing piers with organizational funds that is allocated to the Natural Resources Department from various tribal, state and federal resources.

Partial Funding –

The Sky Chief Park's inclusion within the tribe's Master Tourism Plan and Scenic Byway Plan will enhance opportunities to leverage funds from local (Pathways to Prosperity) and State (Federal Highway Program) resources. The tribal Natural Resources Department assures that the ~~Playground~~ will be closely monitored and maintained. If partially funded, the tribal Natural Resources Department will conduct fundraising activities to finance the project. This will done mostly at the local level.

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piers

Partnership Recognition

The TMBCI Natural Resources Department has access to all local media such as the Turtle Mountain Times, Turtle Mountain Star, and KEYA-FM radio. The tribal government encourages the promotion of community driven projects that are beneficial to the tribe at large. This project will take advantage of this opportunity and will assure that the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund will receive recognition and promotional coverage in these media streams.

**Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund (TMCOHF)
Proposed 2014 Budget requested from North Dakota OHF**

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Cash Match	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Other Sponsors Share
Fishing Piers (2) 6' x 28' sections	\$ 22,133.00	\$	\$	\$
Fishing Pier (2) 8' x 28' sections	\$ 34,888.00	\$	\$	\$
Site Development	\$	\$ 7,500		\$
Installation/ Set Up	\$	\$ 2,500		\$
Installation Hardware	\$ 2,879.00 9			
Total Project Costs	\$ 60,000	\$ 10,000	\$	\$ 70,000

Zachmeier Mfg
 4515 Memorial Hwy
 Mandan, ND 58554
 Zack Shack*Zack Dock*Zach Stand*Zach Shed*
 Garage
info@zachmeiermfg.com

ZACHMEIER MFG. -Quote

TO: Department of Natural Resources, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Belcourt Nd.58316	SHIP TO:
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INVOICE	FOB	SHIP VIA	TERMS	DATE
Rick Davis			½ to start build	9/24/14

ITEM	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	2	each	6'x28' Fish pier walkway w/floor plate deck	\$9,550.00	\$ 19,100.00
2	400	ft	3/8" galv cable	\$1.25	\$ 500.00
3	8	each	3/8" galv clamps	\$4.25	\$ 34.00
4	4	each	Screw anchors	\$22.50	\$ 90.00
5	4	each	Stake eyes & stakes	\$28.35	\$ 113.40
6	2	each	6'x12' Tapered end (walkway section)	\$750.00	\$ 1,500.00
7	2	each	Hinged transition plate	\$198.00	\$ 396.00
8	1	each	Set-up	\$400.00	\$ 400.00
				Sub-total	\$ 22,133.40
1	2	each	8'x28' fishing pier section w/floor plate	\$10,550.00	\$21,100.00
2	4	each	Adj. turnbuckles & bracing	\$60.00	\$ 240.00
3	2	lot	3 Floats #4896-16 & brackets	\$2,944.00	\$ 5,888.00
4	2	lot	1 Floats #4848-16 & brackets	\$470.00	\$ 940.00
5	12	each	Fish rod & beverage holders	\$85.00	\$ 1,020.00
6	6	set	Dock wheels w/dual pedestal and 6 foam filled plastic dock tires	\$950.00	\$ 5,700.00
				Sub-total	\$ 34,888.00
				Total	\$ 57,021.40

GORDON LAKE

Management Background

Gordon Lake was constructed in 1963 by the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide flood control, recreation, and wildlife habitat. It still retains its use for flood control and recreation for sport fishermen. Recreational facilities at the lake are managed by the Turtle Mountain Department of Natural Resources.

Physical Features

Gordon Lake is a 370 acre reservoir that was constructed in 1963. It impounds an unnamed creek that enters it from the north. The reservoir is located 5 miles north and 2 miles west of Belcourt, North Dakota. The lake has 3.83 miles of shoreline. The surrounding habitat is comprised primarily of poplar, quaking aspen, and burr oak. The conservation pool is 2,090 feet. The maximum depth of the lake is estimated to be 27 feet and the average depth is 12 feet. The lake level fluctuates each year depending on rainfall and on the amount of water that is retained by the dam drain system. Currently, there is no water level management plan in place to benefit fisheries or wildlife.

Habitat

Shoreline habitat in Gordon Lake is primarily comprised of rock and gravel with a dense growth of aquatic vegetation. Additional habitat includes man-made structures such as shoreline rip-rap and boat docks. Natural aquatic vegetation is especially abundant in the northern and eastern portions of the lake.

Fish Species

Gordon Lake has been stocked with a variety of species over the decades. These include walleye (*Stizostedion Vitreum*), northern pike (*Esox Lucius*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), and bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*). Other species known or reported to exist in Gordon Lake include black crappie (*Promoxis nigromaculatus*) and black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*). Forage species include creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*), fathead (*Pimephales promelas*), and shiners (*Notropis*).

A record of recent fish stocking for Gordon Lake is provided in Appendix A.

Threats to the Fishery

1. Non-point source pollution – possible rural agricultural seepage
2. Discarded trash into the lake by visitors
3. Erosion and turbidity due to fluctuating lake levels
4. Invasive species

WHEATON LAKE

Management Background

Wheaton Lake is a natural lake that provides recreation, and wildlife habitat. Recreational facilities at the lake are managed by the Turtle Mountain Department of Natural Resources.

Physical Features

Gordon Lake is a 133 acre natural lake. It derives its inflow from an unnamed creek that enters it from the north. The lake is located 5 miles north and 2 miles west of Belcourt, North Dakota. The lake has 2.56 miles of shoreline. The surrounding habitat is comprised primarily of poplar, quaking aspen, and burr oak. The conservation pool is 2,109 feet. The maximum depth of the lake is estimated to be 27 feet and the average depth is 14 feet. The lake level is generally constant, but can fluctuate depending on rainfall.

Habitat

Shoreline habitat in Wheaton Lake is primarily comprised of rock and gravel with a dense growth of aquatic vegetation. Natural aquatic vegetation is abundant throughout the lake.

Fish Species

Wheaton Lake has been stocked with a variety of species over the decades. These include walleye (*Stizostedion Vitreum*), northern pike (*Esox Lucius*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), and bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*). Forage species include creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*), fathead (*Pimephales promelas*), and shiners (*Notropis*).

A record of recent fish stocking for Wheaton Lake is provided in Appendix A.

Threats to the Fishery

1. Non-point source pollution – possible rural agricultural seepage
2. Discarded trash into the lake by visitors
3. Invasive species



Google earth

feet
km

5000

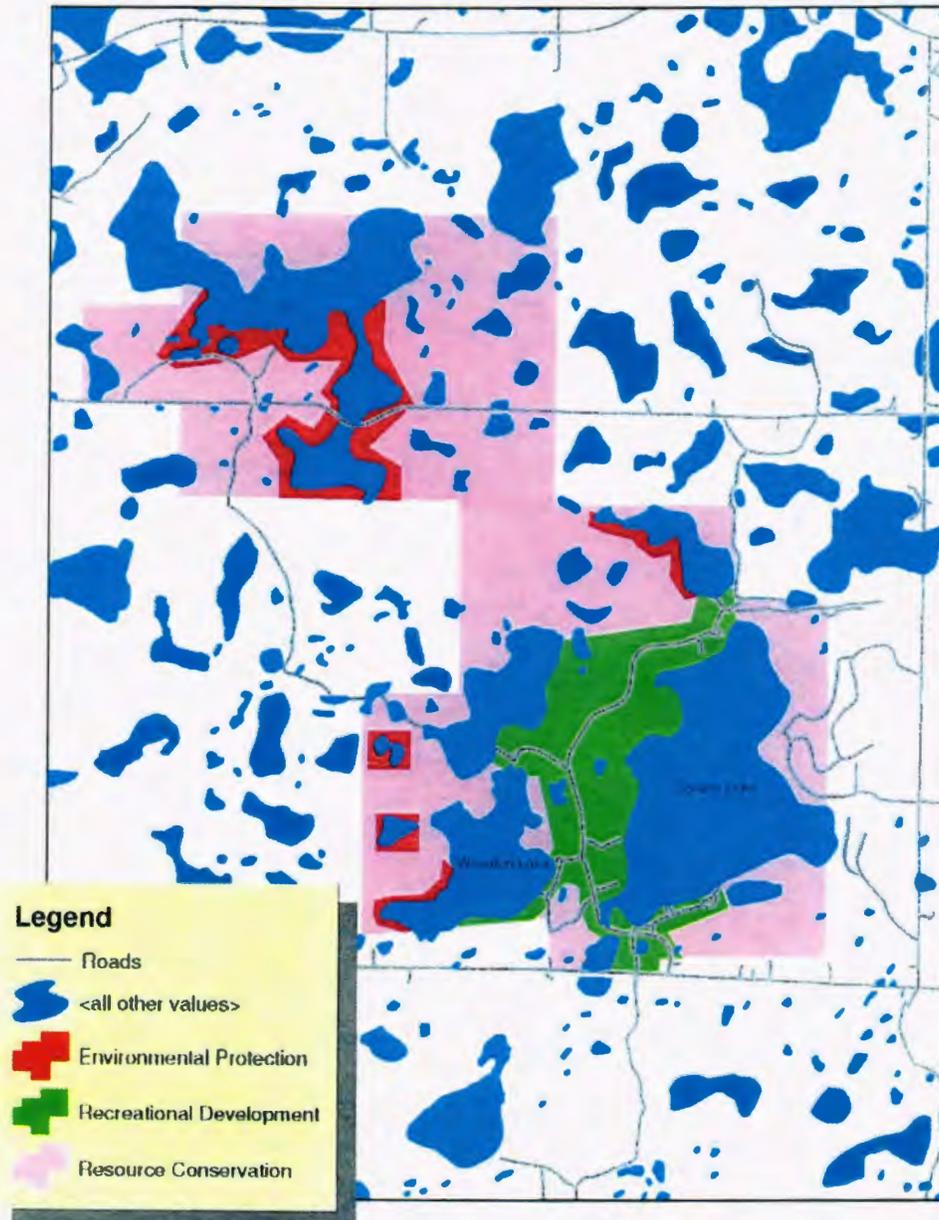
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WHEATON LAKE

GORDON LAKE

Priority 3: Recreational Development

This includes areas of a park that are capable of supporting the development of facilities and services associated with outdoor recreation activities and more intensive visitor use. These zones are used to focus park facilities and services, as well as public use, within the most appropriate park areas without compromising protection-oriented values of the park.



Primary Zones
Ogimaa Giizhig Recreation Park