

# 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 **November 3, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 \* Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Federal Tax ID# \* 13-5643799

Contact Person/Title \* Rick Warhurst/Senior Regional Biologist

Address \* 2525 River Road

City \* Bismarck

State \* North Dakota

Zip Code \* 58503

E-mail Address \* [rwarhurst@ducks.org](mailto:rwarhurst@ducks.org)

Web Site Address (Optional)

Phone \* 701-355-3527

Fax # (if available) 701-355-3512

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

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**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.

**Project Name\*Private Land Aquatic Habitat Creation and Infrastructure Enhancement**

**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)**

This project will restore, develop and enhance aquatic habitats and enhance grassland habitats located on privately owned and managed lands in Emmons, McLean and Sioux Counties in North Dakota over a two-year time period (2015-2016). The aquatic habitats include twelve stock dam wetland impoundments and one water-spreader, irrigation wetland system. Grassland habitats include twelve grassland paddocks that are parts of larger grassland pastures surrounding the created and enhanced wetland impoundments. Development activities include the construction of new dams and emergency spillways, repair of existing dams and emergency spillways, and installation of water control structures and primary spillways. Twelve separate wetland impoundments covering 132.4 acres situated on private land owned and managed by nine individual landowners will be created or repaired and enhanced. These wetland impoundments are located in extensive grassland covering a minimum of 4,320 acres on private land managed for livestock production. Each of the twelve wetland impoundments will supply critical water sources for livestock and, additionally, on one project, water to flood-irrigate hayland in the spring. The creation, development and enhancement of the twelve wetland impoundments will allow the grassland paddocks to be used by grazing livestock and managed for livestock production. This proposal represents Phase II of an on-going, longer-term program to enhance and develop the infrastructure of aquatic habitats in North Dakota. Phase I included both public and privately owned habitats. This proposal is focused only on privately owned wetland impoundments used for livestock production by ranchers. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) will oversee all development work associated with this project and will cooperate with all nine landowners on which aquatic development and enhancement and grassland enhancement activities occur. These twelve aquatic habitats provide many benefits to people and wildlife including; water sources for livestock production, ecological goods and services such as flood attenuation, improved water quality, groundwater recharge, economic gain and grassland enhancement for ranchers, recreational opportunities for people such as hunting, bird watching, wildlife viewing, furbearer trapping, and production and migration habitat for waterfowl, water birds, shorebirds and other resident wildlife species. DU seeks \$495,000 of

O.H.F. funds for construction contracts for the development and enhancement of twelve aquatic habitat projects situated on private land. Private landowners impacted by the project will supply ten percent of construction contract costs or \$55,000. DU will provide as match; engineering services, including engineer design, drafting of construction plans, bidding and administration of construction contracts, construction management services and other engineering professional services of \$192,500, in-kind biological and administration professional services of \$10,000 and \$87,214 of indirect contribution to the project.

**Project Duration:**\* The project will be developed during a two-year time period (2015-2016). DU will develop a “Private Lands Habitat Development Agreement” that states the roles, contributions and responsibilities of DU and the landowner in the habitat development and enhancement work and in the future management of the project to restore functionality and characteristics of a productive wetland impoundment. These agreements will be for 20 years.

**Amount of Grant request \$ \*495,000**

**Total Project Costs \$ \*839,714**

(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 \$\*344,714; Landowner Contributions to Construction Contracts-\$55,000, DU Engineering and Other Professional Services-\$192,500, In-Kind-Biological/Administration-\$10,000, Indirect Costs-\$87,214**

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

**Source(s) of Matching Funds\***Private Landowners and Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

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

**Certifications \***

X I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

X 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)

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is dedicated to conserving North America’s continually declining waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 13.3 million acres in North America, thanks to more than one million supporters across the continent. DU’s mission is to conserve, restore, enhance and manage wetlands and associated upland habitats for North America’s waterfowl and other wildlife populations. These habitats also benefit people by filtering pollutants from our water, replenishing groundwater supplies and increasing flood storage capacity during storm events. DU is regarded among the scientific and conservation community as a world leader in wetlands conservation.

The DU Great Plains Regional Office (GPRO), located in Bismarck, ND, employs an engineering service department, wetland and waterfowl scientists, agronomists, regional biologists and conservation specialists stationed throughout a seven-state region in the Northern Great Plains of the U.S. DU biologists and engineers work closely with private landowners and public land management agencies to develop water and grassland projects that are beneficial to agriculture and waterfowl populations. DU completed 1,325 habitat conservation projects impacting 467,299 acres during 1984-2014 in North Dakota. DU has performed biological planning, engineering design, other professional services, construction contract administration and construction management on most of these completed projects. Construction contracts are awarded to private contractors through regulated procurement processes. DU has worked cooperatively with private landowners and public land management agencies in the completion of many of these projects.

**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.

This project will restore, develop and enhance aquatic habitats located on privately owned and managed lands in Emmons, McLean and Sioux Counties in North Dakota over a two-year time period (2015-2016). These aquatic habitats include twelve separate stock dam wetland impoundments and one water-spreader, irrigation wetland system. These twelve wetland impoundments are owned by nine individual ranching landowners and cover 132.4 acres. Development activities included in this project are the construction of new dams and emergency spillways (three sites). Enhancement activities include repair of existing dams and emergency spillways (nine sites) and installation of water control structures and primary spillways (approximately seven of the sites). These wetland impoundments are located in extensive grassland paddocks covering a minimum of 4,320 acres that are parts of much larger grassland pastures used for livestock grazing and managed for livestock production. Each of the wetland impoundments will supply critical water sources for livestock, and additionally, on one project, water to flood-irrigate hayland in the spring. The new dams will supply water in parts of pastures previously lacking water and allow ranchers to implement managed, rotational grazing systems. This will enhance their grasslands and also improve their economic gain. The repaired dams will restore water to important pasture areas and ensure that water will be available in the future in those areas. This project will allow these nine ranchers to improve grassland health through managed grazing systems and the economic profitability of their ranching operations.

Because aquatic biomes are the world's most dynamic and productive biological system, the biodiversity of plants and animals will also be enhanced as a result of completing this project. This project represents Phase II of an on-going, longer-term program to enhance and develop the infrastructure of aquatic habitats in North Dakota. This project will be focused on development and enhancement activities on privately owned and managed ranchland.

Since 1984, DU has worked extensively with private landowners to enhance and develop wildlife habitat on their land in North Dakota and other states in the region. In many instances, DU is the only agency or organization performing wetland impoundment restoration, enhancement and development work. DU has completed projects on many Works Progress Administration (WPA) Dams in North and South Dakota. These historically significant impoundments supply livestock water sources and recreational sites in many areas of North Dakota. DU seeks to develop and enhance wetland impoundments in landscapes dominated by grassland used for grazing. These wetlands supply valuable waterfowl breeding pair and brood-rearing habitat that is interspersed in excellent nesting cover and significantly enhances the biodiversity of plants and animals in these grasslands. The ponds also provide vital water sources for livestock production, improve water quality, and help retain ranchers and the ranching lifestyle on the North Dakota landscape.

DU has cooperatively identified twelve aquatic habitat development and enhancement project sites covering 132.4 acres in Emmons, McLean and Sioux Counties in North Dakota. These project sites are situated on private land owned by nine separate landowners. The following list provides specific information concerning each of the twelve proposed project sites.

- Rick Van Beek Ranch; Emmons County, ND Section 28, T130N, R76W; 13-acre wetland impoundment, complete breach of dam, primary spillway washed out, severe head-cut in the emergency spillway; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$60,000, Landowner contribution-\$6,000, O.H.F. funding-\$54,000, DU match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$27,500.

- George Becker Ranch; Sioux County, ND Section 16, T131N, R81W; 7-acre wetland impoundment, dam needs major repair and rip-rap, primary spillway structure needed; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$60,000, Landowner contribution-\$6,000, O.H.F. funding-\$54,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$17,500.

- Ken Magilke Ranch; Sioux County, ND Section 12, T133N, R80W; 3-acre wetland impoundment and a 37-acre flood irrigated, hayland wetland system, dam needs repair and extended, severe head-cut in emergency spillway, a primary spillway water control structure is needed; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$40,000, Landowner contribution-\$4,000, O.H.F. funding-\$36,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$17,500.

- Clair Gullickson Ranch; Sioux County, ND Section 25, T133N, R80W; Site 1: 6-acre wetland impoundment, dam in need of repair, rip-rap for dam face, water control structure in need of repair, emergency spillway in need of repair; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$40,000, Landowner contribution-\$4,000, O.H.F. funding-\$36,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$12,500

Site 2: 1-acre wetland impoundment, dam fully breached, severe head-cut in the emergency spillway; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$10,000, Landowner contribution-\$1,000, O.H.F. funding-\$9,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$7,500.

- Kelly Froelich Ranch; Sioux County, ND Site 1: Section 18, T131N, R82W, 4-acre wetland development (new wetland impoundment), Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$60,000,

Landowner contribution-\$6,000, O.H.F. funding-\$54,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$22,500

Site 2: Section 20, T131N, R82W, 1-acre wetland impoundment, dam fully breached, emergency spillway needs repair; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$10,000, Landowner contribution-\$1,000, O.H.F. funding-\$9,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$7,500.

- Fran Dobitz Ranch; Sioux County, ND Section 16, T129N, R85W; 16-acre wetland impoundment, dam needs repair and rip-rap, severe head-cut in the emergency spillway; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$100,000, Landowner contribution-\$10,000, O.H.F. funding-\$90,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$17,500.

- James Blotske Ranch; Sioux County, ND Section 10, T130N, R82W; 4-acre wetland impoundment, dam completely breached, head-cut in the emergency spillway, needs a primary spillway, power pole in upper end of impoundment that will need to be addressed; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$40,000, Landowner contribution-\$4,000, O.H.F. funding-\$36,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$17,500.

- Chris Meyer Ranch; Sioux County, ND Section 32, T130N, R84W; Site 1: 14.7-acre wetland development (new wetland impoundment), Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$60,000, Landowner contribution-\$6,000, O.H.F. funding-\$54,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$17,500

Site 2: 5.7-acre wetland development (new wetland impoundment), Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$40,000, Landowner contribution-\$4,000, O.H.F. funding-\$36,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$12,500.

- Myron Lick Ranch; McLean County, ND Section 32, T150N, R80W; 20-acre wetland impoundment, dam completely breached, dam eroded and needs widening, needs a primary spillway; Estimated Contract Construction Costs-\$30,000, Landowner contribution-\$3,000, O.H.F. funding-\$27,000, DU Match for Engineering and other Professional Services-\$15,000.

These projects represent aquatic habitat development and enhancement project sites that have immediate needs and in which no other funding exists for the aquatic development and enhancement work. DU will work cooperatively with all of the nine landowners of project sites and will oversee all development work associated with the projects. DU will use \$495,000 of O.H.F. funding and \$55,000 of landowner contributions for construction contract expenditures. As match, DU will provide \$192,500 of engineering and other professional services, \$10,000 of in-kind biological/administration professional services and \$87,214 of indirect contribution to the completion of this project. The indirect rate is a federally approved indirect rate of .1159. DU has been the recipient of numerous state and federal grants and has developed federally approved procedures to account for all costs.

The twelve sites identified in this proposal represent an on-going effort to develop, enhance and restore aquatic habitats in North Dakota. This proposal focuses on nine privately owned and managed ranches that have critical needs to supply water to livestock in their pastures. The development and enhancement of these twelve project sites will supply critical water for livestock, enhance extensive grassland resources, provide important habitat for wildlife populations, contribute numerous valuable goods and services to society and make available recreational opportunities to people.

**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.

Ducks Unlimited will oversee all development and enhancement work associated with completion of this project. DU will develop a “Private Lands Habitat Development Agreement” that states the roles, contributions and responsibilities of DU and the landowner in the habitat development and enhancement work and in the future management of the project to restore functionality and characteristics of a productive wetland. The Agreement will be dated and signed by the landowner and DU. The agreement period will be for 20 years. The twelve project sites will be managed for livestock production and, at one site, also for hay production by the individual landowner. The created and restored wetlands and enhanced surrounding grasslands will supply valuable wildlife habitat, specifically waterfowl and other wildlife production habitat. The grasslands surrounding the project wetland impoundments will provide attractive nesting cover for waterfowl and many passerine grassland bird species.

Managers of this project for DU are Rick Warhurst and Roger Smith. Rick Warhurst is a Senior Regional Biologist for DU. Rick has worked as a waterfowl and wetlands biologist for DU in the GPRO for over 29 years. Rick has performed biological recommendations and evaluations on hundreds of completed DU projects in North Dakota and six other Northern Great Plains states. Rick has a B.S. Degree in Wildlife Management from Kansas State University and an M.S. Degree in Zoology from Ohio State University. Before joining DU staff, Rick was employed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife as an Assistant State Waterfowl Biologist and the Kansas Fish and Game Commission as a Wildlife Area Manager.

Roger Smith is the Director of Conservation Services for DU. Roger serves as the lead engineer for DU in the GPRO and has over 30 years of experience designing wetland infrastructure development, enhancement and restoration projects. Roger has a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University and is a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) in North Dakota and surrounding states. Prior to employment with DU, Roger worked for the North Dakota State Water Commission as a Project Engineer.

**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.

DU personnel will make biological recommendations, perform necessary topography surveys, do required soil investigations, complete engineering design, perform the drafting of construction plans, administer construction contracts and perform the necessary construction management services on all sites to ensure that all projects are constructed and completed according to acceptable engineering standards. When a project is completed, the landowner and DU will meet on site with the construction contractor to mutually approve and accept the completed project. Following completion of the project, management of the project will be with the landowner in compliance with plans and objectives identified in the “Private Lands Habitat Development Agreement”. The managing landowner will keep DU informed if the project site fails or does not perform to expectations from an engineering, biological or ranching standpoint.

DU will prepare and submit status and expenditure reports as requested by O.H.F. periodically and also submit a final report stating results of the project, including final budget expenditures.

## 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.

The private landowners will assume responsibility for the future management and sustainability of their twelve project sites. Each landowner has agreed to provide ten percent of the construction contract costs for his project site(s). DU biologists and an engineer will be available in the future to respond to questions concerning biological concerns and/or structural management and maintenance of each project site.

**Partial Funding – Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested. \* If less funding than is requested is granted, fewer project sites will be completed. DU biologists and engineers and the landowners will discuss which project sites are of highest priority and which sites are affordable relative to the O.H. F. funding amount received.**

**Partnership Recognition – The Outdoor Heritage Fund would be mentioned in any Ducks Unlimited news releases, publications, presentations, magazine stories, etc. as the major contributor to the successful completion of the project. We will plan to develop small, metal signs that would recognize all contributors to the various project sites including the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the landowner and erect them at all of the project sites impacted by this project.**

## 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](mailto:kfine@nd.gov)

Revised July 3, 2014

