

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

Name of Organization BARNES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Federal Tax ID# 45-6002681

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MAJOR Directive:

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: Choose all that apply

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

Type of organization:

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

**Project Name: SHEYENNE RIVER SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION PROJECT
PHASE II**

Abstract/Executive Summary

The project is designed to provide technical, financial and educational assistance to all agriculture producers and landowners with riparian acreage and/or upland cropland at high risk of erosion within the Sheyenne River watershed in Barnes County. Our goal is to restore the aquatic life uses and to maintain the recreational uses of the Sheyenne River and its tributaries.

Sponsors will:

- 1) Provide technical and financial assistance to producers/landowners within ½ mile of the Sheyenne River and its tributaries and to prioritize locations when outside the AnnAgnps priority areas.
- 2) Assist with best management practices that protect/enhance our riparian, crop, and non-crop acreage in high priority areas.
- 3) Develop education programs to heighten public awareness of non-point pollution impacts and solutions.
- 4) Develop working partnerships in the local community to benefit natural resources.

We are striving to reduce the sources of sedimentation within the priority areas, utilize a water quality farm assessment focused on a systems approach for water quality management at the farm unit level, reduce E.coli concentrations, with a target concentration per sampling site of a geometric mean of 126 colonies/100 ml with less than 10% of the samples exceeding 409 colonies/100 ml. And lastly to carry out an information/education program to promote water quality awareness and best management practices.

The EPA-319 project began in the spring of 2014 and will run until September 30th of 2018.

Phase I Allocations:

319 Funds Requested:	\$400,200.00	State/Local Match:	\$411,800.00
Federal Funds:	\$25,000.00	Outdoor Heritage Funds:	\$126,000.00
OHF Phase II :	<u>\$200,000.00</u>		
Total Project Cost:	\$1,163,000.00		

Of the \$126,000.00 funds awarded in 2014 \$100,111.00 have been expended on the installation of BMPs within the project area.

Outdoor Heritage Funds are used strictly to reduce the landowners cost of implementing best management practices by 60%. Currently the project has 9 producers under contract for just over

\$50,000.00, and 1 riverbank stabilization project for approximately \$90,000.00 of cost-share dollars. Four landowners are waiting for field visits to determine their needs. This does not take into consideration other possible projects in the upcoming years.

The Barnes County Soil Conservation District (BCSCD) is the lead agency and work closely with all county residents, NDSU Extension, ND Department of Health, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), ND Game & Fish, Barnes County Rural Water Users (RWU), and local leaders.

Amount of Grant request: \$200,000.00

Total Project Costs: \$1,163,000.00

Amount & Source of Matching Funds

EPA Section 319	\$400,200.00
RC&D (TA & FA)	\$5,000.00
NRCS (TA)	\$5,000.00
NDDoH (TA)	\$15,000.00
BCSCD (TA & FA)	\$62,500.00
NDSU Ext. (TA)	\$500.00
Barnes Co RW (FA)	\$2,000.00
Landowners (FA)	\$346,800.00
Outdoor Heritage (FA)	\$126,000.00
Outdoor Heritage (FA) Phase II	\$200,000.00
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	\$1,163,000.00

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:

Resident farmers and landowners of Barnes County voted in 1948 to approve the formation of their district. Districts are organized by the vote of the people within the district and are managed by a board of supervisors also elected by the people. The Barnes County board consists of three elected and 2 appointed supervisors.

Mission Statement:

To promote soil and water conservation by offering financial, technical, informational and educational assistance and opportunities to the people of the district, as we have a real duty to use resources wisely and to preserve them for the future.

The district employs a full-time clerk, technician and a watershed coordinator, as well as temporary summer help. Currently the Barnes County SCD is involved in the second year of an EPA Section 319 grant. Previous grants have helped to install over 1.3 million dollars of best management practices. The district was also approved for a Wildfire grant from the US Forest Service in August of 2013. The grant provides FireWise assessments to homeowners, and communities to lessen the chance of losing their homes in a wildfire.

The district assists landowners with planning and the installation of farmstead shelterbelts, field windbreaks, and wildlife plantings. The district owns a John-Deere no-till drill, and a traveling-gun irrigation system (to pump waste pond effluent) which producers are able to rent.

The district is also the lead agency in the State-Wide Eco-Ed program for 6th grade students and is extremely involved with the Envirothon Competition for ND high school students. We are also partnering with NDSU Extension, USGS and the NDDoH on the Discovery Farm research project.

A booth at the annual Winter Show, Conservation Fairs, workshops, tours, district web-site, quarterly newsletters, our Restoration Park, annual Water Festivals and Project Wet tours are all part of our educational outreach.

Purpose of Grant

The goal is to reduce the amount of sedimentation originating from the Sheyenne River Watershed thereby restoring the aquatic life uses and maintaining the recreational uses of the Sheyenne River. By making contacts with producers and landowners we are able to offer both technical and financial assistance to improve soil health, lessen wind and water erosion, stabilize river and stream banks, enhance grazing systems, and to encourage cover crop usage.

Data collected from sampling sites on the Sheyenne River show increasing Total Suspended Solid (TSS) concentrations. By partnering with the EPA Section 319 grant additional cost share dollars will be available to put practices on the ground. By providing financial assistance, landowners are better able to make these changes. Many want to protect our water resources, but are not able because of the financial burden.

Barnes County was privileged to have been awarded an EPA Section 319 grant in 2010 to address water quality issues within the entire county. Funding was to extend through September of 2014, but with the interest, needs and cooperation from landowners those funds were utilized well before the end of 2013. The current EPA-319 Sedimentation Reduction Grant (which is targeting the Sheyenne River watershed) began in April of 2014. We continue to see significant interest from our farmers, ranchers, and local residents.

AnnAgnps is a computer model which predicts surface runoff and soil erosion at a watershed scale. A letter was sent to all landowners with acreage in the AnnAgnps priority areas. Responses received were for grazing systems, partial manure management systems, grassed waterways, bank erosion, eroding spillways, failing septic systems, and cover crops. Anyone requesting assistance outside of the AnnAgnps priority areas are being ranked on cost verses benefits.

A planning process to address water quality as an entire farm unit has been established. We are encouraging producers to look at current management, resource concerns, topography, and possible BMPs as a whole to develop comprehensive long term planning.

The Sheyenne River Sedimentation Reduction Project started April 1, 2014 and is scheduled to end September of 2018 (sooner if all funds are expended). The support of the Outdoor Heritage Funds awarded in the 1st batching period of \$126,000.00 has provided 60% cost-share assistance to farmers, ranchers, and landowners in implementing BMPs which enhance and/or protect our water resources. With Phase II funding we will be able to continue this crucial work being accomplished on the ground.

Management of Project

Our current watershed coordinator has 22 years of experience working for Soil Conservation Districts. Seventeen of those years have been with EPA Section 319 grant projects. She has a complete understanding of all programs, water quality issues, best management practices and has developed a rapport with the landowners, producers, and partnering agencies.

Evaluation

River sampling protocol continues at our four original sites. Since our previous watershed project has created a base-line of water quality data, we are able to identify any changes in concentrations of nutrients, E.coli, and total suspended solids. Samples are collected every week, from ice melt to freeze up with at least 30 samples required per year.

Monthly reports are sent to the NDDoH, itemizing personnel, fringe benefits, travel, food, lodging, supplies, communication (telephone/postage), equipment, BMPs, and administration expenditures. An annual report is due each October and a final wrap-up report upon completion of the project.

Previous Outdoor Heritage Fund reports were sent by mail and hard copies e-mailed to the Industrial Commission during the summer and fall months when BMPs are being installed.

All producers implementing BMPs are required to sign application forms detailing practices being installed, lifespan of those practices and estimated costs. All practices must meet NRCS standards and specifications. Upon completion the designing engineer or watershed coordinator must verify each practice before a payment application can be processed.

Financial Information

Project Budget

FUNDING SOURCES	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTALS
EPA SECTION 319 FUNDS *	\$70,200	\$85,000	\$80,000	\$83,000	\$82,000	\$400,200
OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUNDS **	\$94,927	\$31,073	0	0	0	\$126,000
OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUNDS PHASE II	0	\$150,000	\$50,000			\$200,000
SUBTOTAL	\$165,127	\$266,073	\$130,000	\$83,000	\$82,000	\$726,200
OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS						
1) RC&D (TA & FA)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
2) NRCS (TA)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
3) NDDoH (TA)	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$15,000
SUBTOTAL	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
STATE/ LOCAL MATCH						
1) LOCAL SCD (TA & FA)	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$62,500
2) LANDOWNERS (FA)	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$53,400	\$53,400	\$346,800
3) NDSU EXTENSION (TA)	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$500
4) BARNES COUNTY RWU (FA)	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$2,000
SUBTOTAL	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$66,400	\$66,400	\$411,800
TOTAL BUDGET	\$263,127	\$364,073	\$228,000	\$154,400	\$153,400	\$1,163,000

FA: Financial Assistance

TA: Technical Assistance

RC&D: Resource Conservation & Development

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

NDDoH: North Dakota Department of Health

SCD: Soil Conservation District

NDSU: North Dakota State University

RWU: Rural Water Users

* 319 Funds will be used for all aspects of program.

** OH Funds will be used exclusively for BMP practices.

Portions of SCD & landowner match will be in-kind

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

Sustainability

Once Outdoor Heritage and EPA 319 funds are expended the project will be completed. Our sustainability will continue with the practices installed, the crop and rangeland management of our producers, and with the education of water quality we have provided to landowners.

If goals and objectives are not met by the end of the project, and there is continued interest in applying BMPs by landowners the district may seek another EPA Section 319 grant.

Partial Funding

In the case of a reduced amount of dollars being awarded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund fewer practices will be implemented and thereby producing less water quality improvements.

Partnership Recognition

Recognition of the Outdoor Heritage Funds has been and would continue to be provided through our quarterly newsletter, the annual Winter Show Booth, local newspaper articles, radio broadcasts, and word of mouth by grateful landowners. Our display at the recent "Conservation at the Capital" featured projects completed with cost-share from these funds.

Awarding of Grants

- I certify that all the provisions of the sample contract will be met.