

# 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 **April 1, 2015 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 \* North Dakota Forest Service

Federal Tax ID# \* 45-6002439

Contact Person/Title \* Tom Claeys, Forestry and Fire Management Team Leader

Address \* 916 East Interstate Avenue, Suite 4

City \* Bismarck

State \* ND

Zip Code \* 58503

E-mail Address \* [Thomas.Claeys@ndsu.edu](mailto:Thomas.Claeys@ndsu.edu)

Web Site Address (Optional) <http://www.ndsu.edu/ndfs/>

Phone \* 701-328-9945

Fax # (if available) 701-328-9947

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

- 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: (select the category that describes your organization)\***

- State Agency
- Political Subdivision
- Tribal Entity
- Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

**Project Name\*** North Dakota Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative

**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)**

**Background:**

A monumental shelterbelt planting effort was initiated throughout the Prairie Grasslands Region following the Dustbowl of the 1930s. An estimated 18,670 miles of trees and shrubs were planted to protect soil and valuable cropland. The Soil Bank program of the 1960s also resulted in a significant number of shelterbelts planted across the state. These aging shelterbelts have endured droughts, flooding, storm damage, and a variety of insect and disease threats, and are now in decline and in need of renovation. The landscape of the upper Great Plains is changing and so too are conservation priorities and farming practices. Today shelterbelts are commonly referred to as windbreaks, and they continue to serve a role and function in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

An estimated 55,000 linear miles of windbreaks have been planted in North Dakota since the 1930s. A 2008-2009 windbreak inventory of the four states entitled the "*Great Plains Tree and Forest Pest Initiative*" substantiates the resource concerns surrounding the estimated 145,177 miles of shelterbelts in the four-state area with 62% in fair to poor condition.

This project serves to expand upon the success of the USDA NRCS Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative effort, which included Kansas, Nebraska, South and North Dakota. During the project, requests far exceeded available funding. In the second year of the grant, 95 applicants requested \$1,172,582 in cost-share. Six applications were funded and \$53,386 obligated, with an unmet need of 89 projects and \$1,119,196 in cost-share. Most of these projects have not received cost-share and there are many landowners that have not yet applied or do not qualify for USDA cost-share.

**Objectives:**

1. Ensure that windbreaks remain a part of North Dakota's conservation heritage and viable part of the agricultural landscape.
2. Reduce the number of windbreaks destroyed by offering incentives to replace dead/deteriorating windbreaks.
3. Incorporate species diversity and select species most suitable for the site to mitigate future losses due to abiotic factors or insect and disease issues.
4. Provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to help achieve their conservation goals.
5. Administer a simple, effective, statewide cost-share program that leverages landowner's match with a source of grant funds for a variety of windbreak renovation practices.

**Expected Results:**

Success will be measured by the acres of windbreaks renovated with an emphasis on selecting species most suitable for the site. Acres of farm land, number of rural residences and miles of roads protected by the practices will also be tangible results.

**Duration:**

This project will begin July 1, 2015, and end on June 30, 2020. Projects will be selected for funding with corresponding award letters and agreements in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Renovation practices will take place the fall of 2015 - spring 2020.

**Total Project Costs:**

Total project cost is \$3.6 million, of that, \$1.8 million in grant funds will be used for funding actual windbreak renovation practices on the ground. The \$1.8 million match is the landowner's cash match or in-kind.

**Participants:**

For conservation practices, an effective local delivery system currently exists and is provided by North Dakota's 55 soil conservation districts (SCDs). Field personnel provide technical assistance and/or tree planting services. Other partners include the North Dakota Forest Service (grant administration and technical assistance), ND Game and Fish Department, ND Parks and Recreation Department, ND Conservation District Employee's Association, NDSU Extension Service, and the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

**Project Duration:\* 5 years**

Windbreak renovation practices that include tree removal may involve securing and scheduling a heavy equipment contractor, and take multiple growing seasons to properly remove trees, prepare the site, and plant new trees. Removal and replacement practices can take more than two years to complete once funding is obligated.

**Amount of Grant request \$ \* 1,800,000**

**Total Project Costs \$\* \$3,600,000**

(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 \$\* \$1,800,000**

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

Landowners will provide 40% of the practice costs through cash and or in-kind efforts= \$1,440,000

10% In-kind match will be provided through a per-acre land rent\* credit multiplied by 10 years (the length of the agreement) = \$360,000

\*Land rental rates as determined by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands and identified within the North Dakota Rents and Values Annual Survey.

<http://www.land.nd.gov/surface/RentSurvey.aspx>

### **Source(s) of Matching Funds\***

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

Landowners interested in participating in this project will sign a 10-year practice maintenance agreement with the NDFS before grant funds are obligated. Grant funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis following completion of the windbreak renovation project. Proof of actual cash expenditures and in-kind will be required to receive reimbursement. In-kind value will be based on USDA cost share standardized rates for individual practices. A standard USDA NRCS as-planted ND-CPA-4 Conservation Tree Planting Plan will be required as part of the reimbursement materials and an on-site inspection will be conducted for each project.

The land rent credit will be based on the five-year average per-acre cash rental rate for non-irrigated cropland in the project county, as reported annually by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands in cooperation with the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This value, multiplied by ten years, represents a financial commitment to conservation by binding the land to a conservation practice rather than crop production, and will be credited as the landowner's in-kind match.

### **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 – 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)

The North Dakota Forest Service is organized under the North Dakota Board of Higher Education. The agency is administered by the State Forester who reports to the president of North Dakota State University at Fargo, and supports the land grant mission in public service. The mission of the North Dakota Forest Service is to *"care for, protect and improve forest resources to enhance the quality of life for future generations."*

A wide variety of customers depend on the North Dakota Forest Service for technical, financial and educational forestry assistance. The State Forester administers forestry programs serving communities, rural landowners, soil conservation districts, rural fire districts, schools and citizens of North Dakota. All the programs utilize a voluntary, educational and incentives-based approach to address natural resource needs and customer demands. The agency also operates a nursery at Towner specializing in the production of conifer (evergreen) tree stock. The Towner State Nursery is the sole supplier of evergreen seedlings in North Dakota. The agency also owns and manages approximately 13,290 acres of state forestlands.

#### **State Forester's Goals:**

1. To positively impact forest-based economic growth and sustainability of communities by promoting the wise use of natural resources.
2. To improve the protection of people, property and natural resources by enhancing interagency cooperation in wildfire management.
3. To support informed decision-making and foster individual responsibility in stewards of all ages by raising public awareness about natural resource values.
4. To meet the forest and conservation tree planting needs of private and public landowners by producing and marketing high quality nursery stock.

5. To meet current societal demands by ensuring the health, productivity and growth of private, community and state forests.

**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.

**Goals:**

Meet the need for windbreak renovation cost-share assistance to landowners. In a 2011 questionnaire to SCDs, district employees indicated that to 73% of their customers, cost-share is very important. To an additional 16%, cost-share is somewhat important. They also identified numerous landowner types that are currently ineligible for cost-share for a variety of reasons.

**Strategies:**

Outdoor Heritage Grant Funds would not compete with federal sources of cost-share and are not intended to be used to leverage additional sources of state funding to buy down the landowner's match on federal projects. Outdoor Heritage Grant Funds would provide cost-share for landowners who may not qualify for USDA programs and or have not been successful in receiving financial assistance through EQIP.

Careful consideration will be given to avoid conversion of native prairie, to the potential impacts to grassland wildlife species.

In order to assist with their windbreak renovation goals, landowners will receive management advice for improving their windbreaks. Natural resource professionals will inventory windbreak resources and develop a written windbreak renovation plan and management activity calendar that guides landowner's windbreak renovation activities.

**Benefits:**

Healthy, diverse, properly designed and functioning windbreaks are consistent with sustainable agriculture. Since the massive tree planting era following the Dustbowl days, North Dakota has been a leader in windbreak technology and planting. Windbreaks, living snow fences and other conservation tree plantings, can complement modern farming practices. They protect soil from wind erosion, increase crop yields, trap and disperse snow, provide cover for wildlife, screen unsightly views, and reduce noise.

Windbreaks serve the dual purpose of modifying climactic factors and providing methods for managing snow. In open areas, wind lifts, carries, and deposits snowflakes just as it does soil particles. By modifying wind flow, blowing snow can be distributed over a field or deposited within a given area. Effective snow management can yield a variety of results. A low density field windbreak will spread snow across the protected area, provide additional moisture for crop fields and rangelands, and increase productivity and economic return. Field and rangeland windbreaks reduce spring runoff partly through the physical retarding action of snowdrifts on water flow and partly through the presence of unfrozen soil under the snow cover.

*Water Quality* (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)

Windbreaks can help alleviate water quality and quantity problems. From upland areas down to the water's edge, they reduce and slow runoff and trap pollutants in both rural and urban settings. Vegetation and plant debris slow surface runoff encouraging sediment and sediment-bound contaminants to settle before entering surface water. Root growth and plant residue improve soil structure which enhance infiltration of dissolved contaminants. Once in the soil, contaminants can be immobilized and transformed by soil microbes or taken up

by vegetation. Groundwater flowing through the root zone is also filtered by these processes. Additionally, trees can trap windblown dust before it enters stream and lakes

*Soil Conditions* (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)

Sediment eroded from crop fields and construction sites carries unwanted pesticides and excess nutrients into ditches, streams and water supply reservoirs. Eroded soils are less productive due to loss of organic matter, nutrients and soil structure. Trees, shrubs and other permanent vegetation in the landscape create stable areas that reduce or eliminate soil erosion by wind or water.

When windbreaks are placed perpendicular to prevailing winds, the reduced wind energy results in less soil erosion. By reducing wind speed, windbreaks also modify the climate in the areas they shelter. The effects of reduced wind speed are: moderated soil and air temperatures; increased relative humidity; reduced evaporation and increased soil moisture; and changes in the distribution of snow. Windbreaks increase crop quality and yield in sheltered areas by: reducing evaporation, increasing air temp, increasing soil moisture, increasing relative humidity and helping to retain soil moisture; and reducing physical damage caused by high wind. The amount a crop will benefit from a windbreak depends on the site, windbreak design and crop variety.

*Enhancing Farming and Ranching* (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)

Farm productivity and product quality can be increased substantially when windbreaks are utilized. Windbreaks protect crops, livestock and soil and water resources. In dry climates, windbreaks can increase row-crop productivity from 10 to 25 percent. This is due to their ability to moderate the effects of hot, drying winds, which increase evaporation and plant transpiration by crops. Farmstead windbreaks enhance living and working environments, add value to homes and help conserve energy. Living snowfences keep roads clear of drifting snow and increase driving safety.

In cold weather, livestock protected by trees exhibit improved weight gains of as much as 10 percent and require up to 50 percent less feed. Milk production has been shown to increase by eight to 20 percent. Windbreaks can greatly reduce or eliminate disastrous losses of newborn lambs and calves from blizzards. Windbreaks or living barns can significantly lower stress on animals and, consequently, reduce feed energy requirements. The benefits to farmers and ranchers include better animal health, lower feed costs and greater financial gain. During the summer months, trees can reduce livestock stress by providing cooling shade and protection from hot winds.

*Wildlife Habitat* (Directive C - Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands)

Although not every species of wildlife benefits from the introduction of trees and shrubs on the landscape, windbreaks can add critical wildlife habitat to the landscape for many species. Windbreaks can provide food, cover, and nesting sites, which are essential wildlife habitat components. Windbreaks add diversity and help reconnect the landscape by creating travel corridors for wildlife. Vegetation can be used to connect several small isolated areas within a landscape, thus making those areas more viable and increasing the usable space for wildlife. In addition, over 50 bird species are known to use windbreaks during the breeding season.

Windbreaks can be designed to provide bees and other pollinators with habitat, food resources and protection from pesticide drift. These additions include flowering trees and shrubs that provide pollen and/or nectar throughout the growing season to support bees, our major crop pollinators, and a greater use of taller trees and shrubs with denser growth to prevent pesticide spray drift. Approximately 30 percent (around 1,200 species) of bees in North America are wood nesters. In addition, the undisturbed soils in windbreaks can provide critical habitat to native pollinators, 70% of which are ground dwellers.

**Timetable:**

All windbreak renovations will be guided by a windbreak renovation plan, prepared by a qualified natural resource professional, based on current condition of the exiting windbreak, landowner's objectives and incorporating recommended renovation practices.

*Timeline: July 2015, 2016, 2017.*

NDFS works with SCDs, NRCS and partners to develop simple, standardized application, agreement and reimbursement forms.

*Timeline: October 2015, 2016, 2017.*

Partners rank applications and renovation projects are selected. NDFS develops award letters and agreements

*Timeline: December 2015, 2016, 2017.*

Windbreak renovation practices commence. Completed projects are inspected.

*Timeline: January 2016 through June 2020.*

Reimbursement processes initiated through NDFS/NDSU.

*Timeline: Prior to June 30, 2020.*

Landowners maintain projects as per agreement. Agreements initiated

*Timeline: 2015, 2016, 2017.*

Annual reporting detailing the progress of the renovation project; and number of applications and dollars requested; and applications and dollars committed for projects.

*Timeline: December 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (last report 6/30/20.)*

**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.

**Background and Experience:**

Tom Claeys, NDFS - Forestry and Fire Management Team Leader (23 years with the agency). The Team Leader is responsible for the leadership, administrative and management function of the Forestry and Fire Management Team. The team is responsible for providing technical, financial and educational assistance to landowners, fire departments, communities and the public. Duties include administering technical support for the management and protection of forest resources; financial incentives for best management practices and landscape level development projects; and educational outreach to foster the wise use of natural resources. Tom managed the North Dakota Living Snow Fence Initiative from 1998 - 2009, where 40 counties initiated 594 projects. Approximately 951 miles of trees were planted to protect 270 miles of roads. More than \$3 million in grant funds were administered. Currently, the Forestry and Fire Management Team administers a variety of projects including Mitigation Tree Planting Grants for rural landowners, three Community Tree Planting Grants and Cooperative Fire Protection Grants for Rural Fire Departments.

Liz Smith, NDFS – Forestry Incentives Specialist (3 years with the agency). Forestry Incentives Specialist provides field services and support statewide and serves as liaison to cooperating agencies providing technical and financial assistance for the management and protection of native, riparian and planted forest resources. Duties include both office and field responsibilities promoting Stewardship and related programs and directing landowner assistance to implement forestry best management practices. Liz administers the Forest Stewardship Tax Law, ND Century Code 57-57. The Forest Stewardship Tax Law offers tax incentives to landowners for preserving and protecting forest resources. The program reduces property taxes to a flat payment of \$0.50 per acre per year on eligible lands. Eight counties participate and 40,979 acres are enrolled in the program. Liz also administers the Mitigation Tree Planting incentives for the agency. Since 2011, she has funded 508 projects (award letters and contracts) and reimbursed \$1.3 million in grants to landowners.

**Project Management and Process:**

All windbreak renovations will be guided by a windbreak renovation plan, prepared by a qualified natural resource professional, based on current condition of the exiting windbreak, landowner's objectives and

incorporating recommended windbreak renovation practices. Windbreak renovations will meet USDA National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Technical Guide Standards (TGS) for Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (TGS 650) and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (TGS 380). Other standards that may be used including Mulching (TGS 484), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (TGS 490), and Pest Management (TGS 595).

NDFS works with SCDs, NRCS and partners to develop simple, standardized application, agreement and reimbursement forms. The standardized conservation tree planting (ND-CPA-4) planning document will be utilized. Partners will also develop a project review and ranking system. They will utilize a similar format to the current, existing NDFS cost share programs.

1. Application materials developed and distributed to partners.
2. NDFS staff and partners coordinate project development and applications with landowners.
3. Partners rank applications and renovation projects are selected.
4. NDFS develops award letters and agreements and sends to landowners.
5. Windbreak renovation practices commence.
6. Reimbursement materials received by NDFS following practice completion.
6. Completed projects are inspected.
7. Reimbursement processes initiated through NDFS/NDSU.
8. Landowners maintain projects as per agreement.
9. Reports to Industrial Commission.

### **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.

Measureable accomplishments will include:

1. Acres of windbreaks renovated. *Documentation: Inspection Reports and As-Planted ND-CPA-4 Conservation Tree Planting Plan.*
2. Tree and shrubs species diversity. *Documentation: Renovation Plan and Inspection Reports*
3. Area protected - acres of farm land, number of rural residences and miles of roads protected by the practices. *Documentation: Inspection Reports.*

Project manager will develop quarterly reports identifying accomplishments toward meeting project objectives. Reports will include accomplishments and:

- a. Number of applications by county. *Source: Application materials by Batching Period. Product: Excel Spreadsheet.*
- b. Dollars requested based on applications. *Source: Application materials by Batching Period. Product: Excel Spreadsheet.*
- c. Geo-spatially documented locations of projects. *Source: Application materials, inspection forms. Product: Map.*

## 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.**

✓ 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.

Sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management of individual renovations projects. By properly removing, planning for and planting trees, these renovated windbreaks will provide benefits on the landscape for decades, and serve as a lasting reminder for future generations to enjoy.

Windbreaks of the Northern plains are exposed to numerous pests and environmental conditions that can hinder planting success, reduce their effectiveness, and limit long-term survival. Deterioration of tree plantings is often incited by drought, flooding, frosts, inadequate spacing, weed competition, herbicide exposure, defoliating insects and foliar diseases. As trees become weakened, canker diseases and wood-boring insects cause further damage to these plantings. Trees are living things with a life expectancy. Tree can be planted to perform conservation functions but, like all practices, they need follow-up care and maintenance and have a lifespan.

Across the Great Plains natural resource professionals are continually learning about the interaction between trees and people and dynamic affect windbreaks have on the landscape. In recent years, local, state, federal and university forestry/tree care professionals have promoted species diversification in an attempt to avoid past experiences in tree planting decline. Changes are being made to planning and planting trees to ensure the sustainability of windbreaks. Key messages include tree species diversity, proper design, attention to within-row and between-row spacing, alternating species, proper planting, intermediate treatments, insect and disease monitoring. Underlying these concepts is the overarching theme *“the right tree, in the right place, for the right reasons.”*

### **Partial Funding – Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested. \***

Many windbreak renovation practices involve heavy tree removal equipment and are expensive to implement. If less money was made available, partners would prioritize needs and consider these four alternatives:

1. Emphasize cost-effective intermediate treatments – pruning, thinning, inter-planting.
2. Reduce the number of projects funded through a competitive selection process.
3. Adjust the overall program extent and expected accomplishments.
4. Consider a regional program versus a statewide effort.

## **Partnership Recognition - If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? \***

All informational materials, application forms, agreements and correspondence with partners and landowners will include a message regarding the OHF origin of funding and, if permissible, the OHF promotional logo. Partners will script press releases, initiate demonstration sites and add these preliminary renovations to our various landowner and/or partner tours. During advisory meetings, including the ND Community Forestry Council and ND State Stewardship Coordinating Committee, the grant will be discussed, with recognition and emphasis placed on the OHF funding. The NDFS participates in regional and annual ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts meetings and reports from the NDFS will center on the OHF partnership. Finally, the NDFS and ND Conservation District Employees Association have partnered for the past 15 years to host an annual Tree Promotion Meeting. The North Dakota Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative will be a keystone piece on the agenda for the 2016-2020 Tree Promotion Meetings.

## **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 August 21, 2014

North Dakota Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative  
Detailed Budget

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Project Reimbursements (1)	\$ 1,800,000	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$1,800,000
Landowner Cash or In Kind (2)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 1,440,000	\$1,440,000
Land Rent Credit (3)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 360,000	\$ 360,000
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>	<b>\$3,600,000</b>

1. Grant dollars will be used to reimburse landowners for actual cash expenditures to complete their windbreak renovation project. Documentation of these expenditures including original receipts and payment records will be required.
2. Landowners will provide match through cash and/or in-kind efforts. Proof of actual cash expenditures and in-kind will be required. The value of in-kind efforts will be based on USDA cost share standardized rates for individual practices.
3. The land rent credit will be based on the five-year average per-acre cash rental rate for non-irrigated cropland in the project county, as reported annually by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands in cooperation with the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This value, multiplied by ten years, represents a financial commitment to conservation by binding the land to a conservation practice and will be credited as additional in-kind match.