

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 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. 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 * Emmons County Soil Conservation District

Federal Tax ID# * 45-45-0278947

Contact Person/Title * Rhonda Vetsch – District Administrator
Jeff Humann – Emmons County Soil Conservation Board Chairman

Address * 318 S. Broadway Street

City * Linton

State * ND

Zip Code * 58552

E-mail Address * Rhonda.vetsch@nd.nacdnet.net

Web Site Address (Optional)

Phone * 701-254-4653 Ext. 3

Fax # (if available)

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;

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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*

Emmons County Grassland and Cropland Conservation Effort

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)

The objective of the Emmons County Grassland and Cropland Conservation Effort is to provide landowners and operators with an opportunity to conduct conservation planning to address natural resource concerns and provide 60% financial assistance to implement conservation practices which address grassland and cropland resource needs. The total project cost for the Emmons County Grassland and Cropland Effort is \$1,000,000. The project requests \$600,000 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and requires applicants to contribute \$400,000.

Emmons County has lost 11,391 acres of native prairie to cropland conversion since 2010. In addition, 27,052 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grasslands have been returned to cropland production since 2010. Livestock Inventories indicate an increase in all cattle numbers from 60,000 head in 2009 to 70,000 head in 2013. The conversion of native prairie to cropland and increase in cattle numbers have made it more imperative than ever to conserve and protect grassland acres in Emmons County. The introduction of rural water systems and conservation technologies have created perfect opportunities to expand conservation on grassland acres. The conversion of 38,443 acres from grassland to cropland has intensified a demand for quality conservation planning on cropland in order to protect soil and water resources. The loss of 38,443 acres, which is the equivalent of 60 square miles, of grassland has dramatically impacted the quality habitat available to wildlife for cover, food and shelter.

The project is expected to be four years in length, from 2015 to 2018, with an expected positive conservation impact on at least 40,000 acres of grassland and cropland. The results are tangible and easily quantified by the acres of applied improved conservation on cropland and acres of established or improved grazing systems.

Project Duration:* 4 years (2015-2018)

Amount of Grant request \$ * \$660,000.00

The estimated payment to an Applicant for a conservation practice will be 60% of the installation cost. The estimate for payments will be based on the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Program Payment Schedule for the applicable year during grant administration time frame (2015-2018). However, the payment to an Applicant will not exceed 60% of the actual cost. Additionally, the payment to an Applicant will be a minimum of 60% of the actual cost.

Total Project Costs \$* \$1,080,000.00

(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 \$* 420,000.00

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

Matching funds will be cash contribution from the Applicant.

Source(s) of Matching Funds*

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

An Applicant will be responsible to pay 40% of the cost of practice installation.

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 Emmons County Soil Conservation District (SCD) was organized on September 9, 1951. The District is a governmental subdivision of state and the public body, corporate, and politic representing all land within the boundaries of Emmons County. The District is governed by a five member board of supervisors with three elected by the qualified electors of the district. The three elected supervisors appoint an additional two supervisors. The mission of the SCD is to develop, administer and educate landowners within Emmons County on the conservation of soil, water, and animal resources. The Emmons County SCD annually hosts field tours and informational producer meetings open to the public. They participate in youth education and outreach, field demonstration sites and support community enhancement projects. The SCD has administered cost share programs within the county utilizing working partnerships with other entities. The SCD has 64 years of experience in developing working

relationships with landowners and delivering conservation technical assistance and conservation programs to protect Emmons County natural resources.

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.

The Emmons County Grassland and Cropland Conservation Effort project goal is to address natural resource conservation needs on grasslands and croplands in Emmons County. It is the first project of its' kind in Emmons County to partner the Soil Conservation District technical assistance delivery system, Outdoor Heritage Fund funding, and voluntary commitment of Emmons County landowners and producers to address conservation needs driven by a decrease in native prairie, an increase in conversion of grassland to cropland and declining wildlife habitat.

The availability of grassland acres for livestock grazing production has decreased in Emmons County by 11,391 acres in the last five years while the number of livestock has increased by 10,000 animals in the same five year period. The proposed project will implement practices such as livestock water systems (pipelines, tanks, wells, rural water connections, etc...), grassland plantings, cross fence, and prescribed, or cell, grazing to conserve and protect grassland systems. In addition, the project allows for livestock water systems to expand to cropland in order to provide additional opportunities for native grasslands to have adequate rest and recovery periods. The introduction of rural water systems in Emmons County and conservation technologies have created opportunities to expand conservation on grassland acres. The project is designed to implement conservation plans to improve grazing distribution, increase plant species diversity, protect livestock health, improve the structure and composition of grasslands, and improve the quality of the products ranchers provide to the public.

In the last five years, Emmons County has converted 38,443 acres of native prairie and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres into production cropland. The proposed project would encourage and implement practices such as improvements in on-farm nutrient management programs, hayland and grassland plantings, grassed waterways, pest management and risk assessments, improved diversity in crop rotation and improved residue management. The project would implement these practices as part of a conservation plan to address soil wind and water erosion, improve and protect surface and groundwater water quality, and improve sustainability of cropping systems to simultaneously provide food for a growing populations and improve the soil resource base.

The loss of 38,443 acres of grassland has dramatically impacted the quality of habitat available to wildlife for cover, food and shelter. The proposed project would protect and conserve habitat for upland game birds, song birds, large game animals, and pollinator species (including honeybees). The project would encourage the conservation and protection of fish and wildlife resources for future generations of sportsman and wildlife enthusiasts while supporting the economic impacts of hunting and fishing in Emmons County.

Citation: Data on changes in land use and livestock numbers taken from the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics publications compiled by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office and the Emmons County Service Center Farm Service Agency acreage reports.

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.

The project will be managed by the Emmons County SCD Board of Supervisors. District staff has working knowledge and experience with the administration of a past 319 ND Department of Health Watershed Grant on the Beaver Creek Watershed. The Beaver Creek Watershed Project had a duration of 10 years.

The SCD Board of Supervisors will establish a Priority Resource Concern Checklist in order to identify local priorities in conservation practice implementation. While establishing priority for funding, the SCD Board of Supervisors will take into consideration the conservation of an entire operational system over a single practice, single field application. All applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the Board of Supervisors using the Checklist prior to applications being approved for funding.

A Conservation Plans will be required for each application. The Conservation plan must incorporate a management and/or monitoring system to ensure continued stewardship for the resource concern identified.

Implementation of the project will begin the fall of 2015 with promotion, onsite visits and conservation plan development with producers. Agreements would be signed and conservation contracts approved during the winter of 2015 and 2016 for practice installation to begin in 2016 and continue through 2018. This would encompass a four year project duration with acceptance, installation, and monitoring of these projects.

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.

The SCD Board of Supervisors will evaluate the success of this project by monitoring the number of acres positively impacted by improved grazing management systems and cropland soil health resources.

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.

Applicants entering into a contract with the Emmons County SCD Board of Supervisors will be required to sign an agreement to manage, monitor, and utilize the conservation practice(s) installed for the entire duration of the expected life span for the approved conservation practice. The SCD Board of Supervisors will annually monitor agreements, practice installation, and conduct field status reviews.

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

Partial funding would reduce the number of conservation practices and number of acres being positively impacted by an improved operational system.

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

The Outdoor Heritage Fund would be listed as primary sponsor of this conservation initiative when working with producers and have visible recognition on advertisements, pamphlets, and press releases. Producer contract agreements will have the Outdoor Heritage Fund logo displayed and a financial contribution statement. The SCD annually hosts a number of tours and meetings to showcase best management practice. The SCD would utilize this time to highlight the accomplishment of our partnerships through technical and financial contributions.

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

Revised August 21, 2014

Budget Standard Form

Please use the table below to provide a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting and the matching funds being utilized to fund this project. Please note if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. Match can come from any source (i.e. private sources, State and Federal funding, Tribal funding, etc.) Note a minimum of 25% match funding is strongly encouraged. An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Please feel free to add columns and rows as needed. Please include narrative to fully explain the proposed budget.

Note that NO INDIRECT COSTS will be funded from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Also by law several items are ineligible for funding -- see Exemptions in the Application Form. Effective January 29, 2014 the following guidelines were approved by the Industrial Commission:

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 snowmobiles, tractors);
- Research;
- Projects where the applicant is not directly involved in the project.

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
Grassland Practices Landowner Cost Share Based on 60/40	\$420,000.00	\$280,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$700,000.00
Cropland Practices Landowner Cost Share Based on 60/40	\$180,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$300,000.00
Education/Outreach for tours, pamphlets and press releases	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Administration if considered for reimbursement	\$60,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$60,000.00
Total Costs	\$660,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$	\$	\$20,000.00	\$1,080,000.00

Total Project Cost	\$1,000,000.00
Total Amount of Grant Request	\$600,000.00
70% Grassland	\$420,000.00
30% Cropland	\$180,000.00

Total Producer Contribution	\$400,000.00
70% Grassland	\$280,000.00
30% Cropland	\$120,000.00

Grassland Practices (\$420,000.00)

- Livestock Water Pipelines
- Livestock Watering Facilities
- Livestock Water Pumping Plants
- Livestock Water Wells
- Crossfence
- Rural Water Hook-up

***Require 3 Year Prescribed Grazing with no payment**

Cropland Practices (\$180,000.00)

- Nutrient Management
- Hayland Planting
- Grassland Planting
- Grassed Waterway
- Cover Crops

***Required Pest Management, Crop Rotation and Residue Management for 3 years with no payment**

***Cover Crop eligible for applicants who have not planted them before and at 50% the NRCS rate**