

# 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, with higher priority given to projects that enhance conservation practices in this state by:

**Directive A.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

**Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

**Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

**Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other 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 a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission, the following projects will NOT receive consideration for funding:

- A completed project or project commenced before the grant application is submitted;
- A feasibility or research study;
- Maintenance costs;
- A paving project for a road or parking lot;
- A swimming pool or aquatic park;
- Personal property that is not affixed to the land;
- Playground equipment, except that grant funds may be provided for up to 25% of the cost of the equipment not exceeding \$10,000 per project and all playground equipment grants may not exceed 5% of the total grants per year (see Budget Form for how this will be calculated);
- Staffing or outside consultants except for costs for staffing or an outside consultant to design and implement an approved project based on the documented need of the applicant and the expenditures may not exceed 5% of the grant to a grantee if the grant exceeds \$250,000 and expenditures may not exceed 10% of the grant to a grantee if the grant is \$250,000 or less (see Budget Form for how this will be calculated);

- A building except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project (see Budget Form for definition of comprehensive conservation plan and new or expanded recreational project); or
- A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of the project.

## **Application Deadline**

Applications for this grant round cycle are due on **October 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 \* **Delta Waterfowl**

Federal Tax ID# \* **53-025-9796**

Contact Person/Title \* **Matt Chouinard/Waterfowl Programs Manager**

Address \* **1312 Basin Ave**

City \* **Bismarck**

State \* **North Dakota**

Zip Code \* **58504**

E-mail Address \* **mchouinard@deltawaterfowl.org**

Web Site Address (Optional)

Phone \* **701-222-8857**

Fax # (if available) **701-224-1924**

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.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

**Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

**Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

**Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other 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.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

X **Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

O **Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

O **Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

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

O State Agency

O Political Subdivision

O Tribal Entity

X Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

**Project Name\*** North Dakota Hen House Project II

**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)**

Since the annual Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey began in the 1950s, waterfowl populations have fluctuated largely in response to drought cycles in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR). With above average wetland counts and 5 million additional acres of nesting habitat in the U.S (Conservation Reserve Program—CRP), duck populations have been at or above the long-term average for nearly 20 years. During this time, hunters have been blessed with liberal hunting seasons and limits.

Unfortunately, drought is unpredictable and could return to the prairies at any time, limiting wetland habitat for nesting ducks. Loss and fragmentation of nesting habitat, including the continuing decline in CRP acres, will compound the problem. Many hunters remember the 1980s and early-1990s when duck seasons were short and waterfowl hunting participation declined severely. These periods of low waterfowl numbers and restrictive hunting regulations have been a major driver of waterfowl research, habitat restoration and innovation. One such innovation is Delta Waterfowl's Hen House (HH; nest structure for mallards).

Like most waterfowl management techniques in the PPR, the goal of a HH program is duck production. Hen Houses enhance existing habitat by providing a safe place for mallards to nest. Nest success, the percentage of nest attempts that successfully hatch, typically ranges between 60 and 90 percent in HHs, well above typical nest success for mallards in North Dakota (< 20%). After nearly 5 decades of research, HHs have been found productive and cost-effective in nearly every location in North America where significant numbers of mallards nest. Delta Waterfowl currently has partnership programs throughout the PPR, including

several hundred HHs in North Dakota. Hen Houses in North Dakota have also proven to be very productive, including 120 structures recently installed through an Outdoor Heritage Fund grant.

**With this proposal, Delta Waterfowl is requesting \$26,600 (\$60,900 total project cost) to establish 200 new Hen Houses (each with 10 year maintenance agreements) in North Dakota.** The Hen Houses would be installed between December 2016 and February 2017 and would be operational for 10 nesting seasons (through 2026). Delta Waterfowl estimates these Hen Houses would produce over 400 additional mallards each year and nearly 4,500 over the course of the project. In combination with our other Hen House projects in North Dakota, over 1,000 mallards would be produced annually. This project would enhance wildlife habitat on both public and private lands, boost duck production in North Dakota, and provide an opportunity to work with private landowners on their property, where most ducks nest.

Project partners would include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and North Dakota Game and Fish Department who will provide assistance with landowner permission, potential Hen House locations and access to public lands.

**Project Duration:**\* 10 years (OHF funding would be utilized by 30 June 2017)

**Amount of Grant request:** \$26,600

**Total Project Costs:** \$60,900

(Note that in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds)

**A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required. Amount of Matching Funds:** \$34,300  
(\$29,300 cash and \$5,000 in-kind)

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

Matching dollars and in-kind support will be provided by Delta Waterfowl through contributions from members/supporters and from funds raised at Chapter events throughout North America.

#### **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)

The Delta Waterfowl Foundation is a non-profit waterfowl conservation organization that was founded in 1911 by James Ford Bell, then owner of General Mills. Bell was a passionate waterfowl hunter that sought the best ways to manage and sustain duck populations. With the help of Aldo Leopold and Albert Hochbaum, Bell founded Delta’s prestigious waterfowl research program in 1938. For most of the last 75 years, Delta has been focused on waterfowl research and development of effective waterfowl management techniques. In the late 1990s, Delta began a chapter/membership program that has grown to include 300 chapters and over 46,000 members throughout North America, including nearly 1,000 in North Dakota. Delta’s mission is to efficiently conserve waterfowl populations and secure the future of waterfowl hunting.

Since 1993, Delta has been conducting waterfowl research in North Dakota, including studies on two significant Delta programs—Predator Management (targeted predator removal to increase duck production) and Hen Houses (mallard nest structures). These programs are now operational in key duck production areas of North Dakota and Delta will be expanding them as funding allows. Delta’s waterfowl hunter recruitment program is called First Hunt, and is our targeted effort to promote waterfowl hunting. First Hunt is primarily delivered by Delta chapters and includes mentored hunts, hunting information days, and outdoor expos.

Delta Waterfowl is governed by a Board of Directors and led by Chief Executive Office Dr. Scott Petrie, a distinguished waterfowl research scientist and passionate duck hunter. The Waterfowl Programs department, led by Joel Brice (VP of Waterfowl Programs and Hunter Recruitment), would be responsible for execution of this grant. Additional staff involved include Waterfowl Programs Manager Matt Chouinard and Waterfowl Programs Coordinator Mike Buxton as well as contractors who would be responsible for installation and maintenance of the Hen Houses.

**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. Please note that if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

One of the most effective ways to boost duck production is through management techniques that improve nest success, the percentage of nests in which at least one egg successfully hatches. Fifteen to 20% nest success is believed necessary to sustain duck populations, but in many areas of the PPR, including portions of North Dakota, nest success has been

consistently below this threshold. Reasons abound for these low reproductive rates—reduced nesting cover, fewer wetlands and changes in the predator community—and many of these factors will not improve significantly for generations. The recent decline in Conservation Reserve Program grasslands has only increased the need for programs that improve nest success in the remaining habitats available to nesting ducks.

In an effort to develop techniques with potential to increase duck production, Delta Waterfowl began research on mallard nest structures in 1991. Early success led Delta to label these structures “Hen Houses” (HH). Also called nest tunnels or nest cylinders, HHs are erected on a post above a wetland (Figure 1), where nests are safe from many terrestrial predators including badgers, coyotes, red fox, and striped skunk. A string of Delta HH research projects—including nine graduate research studies—were conducted from 1993 to 2008. In contrast to upland nests, nest success in HHs typically averaged over 60% and exceeded 90% in some areas.



Figure 1. A nesting mallard hen exits a Hen House.

Near Minnedosa, Manitoba, nest success for mallards nesting in upland sites averaged less than 3% from 2002-2005, while nest success in HHs ranged from 43 to 74 percent—a dramatic improvement (Figure 2). Hen Houses are consistently among the most cost-effective methods of producing additional ducks.

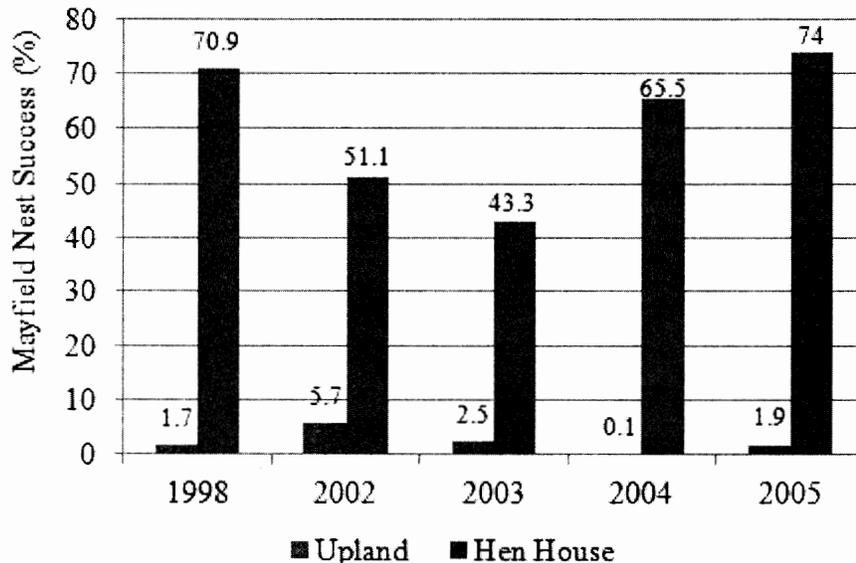


Figure 2. Mallard Mayfield nest success in upland sites and Hen Houses near Minnedosa, Manitoba (Coulton and Clark 2008).

Hen Houses support the directives of the Outdoor Heritage Fund by providing/enhancing nesting habitat for waterfowl. Delta Waterfowl would utilize grant monies from the North

Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund to create two new HH Supersites. Supersites are congregations of 100 HHs that are strategically located to maximize duck production, while minimizing installation and maintenance costs. These Supersites would be located on public and private lands near Woodworth, North Dakota in Stutsman County. This area has a significant population of breeding mallards and suitable wetlands for nest structures.

Delta Waterfowl will work with the USFWS, NDGF, and private landowners to locate and gain access to suitable HH locations. Because HHs are installed in existing wetlands, this project offers an excellent opportunity to work with private landowners to boost duck production, without impacting land use practices. Hen House projects create good working relationships with landowners and, in some cases, open the door to other conservation programs.

In total, 200 new HHs would be installed bringing the total number of Delta HHs in North Dakota to nearly 500. The HHs would be installed during the 2016-2017 winter and be operational for 10 nesting seasons. Delta estimates that the new Supersites would produce approximately 420 additional ducks each year or 4,200 over the course of the project. If funded, this project would be one part of Delta Waterfowl's initiative to offset the loss of duck production as a result of declining CRP acreage. Over 7,000 new Hen Houses are projected to be installed throughout the PPR, including North Dakota, over the next four years.

**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.

Delta Waterfowl staff have extensive experience delivering large-scale nest structure projects throughout North America, including over 300 current Hen Houses (HH) in North Dakota. Joel Brice, Delta's VP of Conservation Programs and First Hunt, has lived and worked in North Dakota for nearly 15 years and has great working relationships with regional USFWS and NDGF staff. Joel has extensive experience working with HHs and has directed delivery of successful predator management and HH programs throughout the state. Joel would supervise and assist with management of the project.

Matt Chouinard, Delta's Conservation Biologist, conducted his graduate research on Hen Houses and has installed over 1,000 HHs in his career. Currently, Matt is managing productive HH projects in Iowa, Minnesota and Manitoba, Canada that include over 4,200 nest structures. For this project, Matt would manage the contractors responsible for HH construction, installation and maintenance.

John Mazur and Tom Sweet would be the contractors responsible for all field work associated with this project. These gentlemen have conducted contract HH construction, installation and maintenance for over 10 years, including installation of 120 structures as part of a currently funded Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. During winter installation, John and Tom would also collect and provide GPS coordinates for all HH locations. This information must be provided by the contractor before payment will occur. Each spring during the project, Matt

Chouinard or other Delta Biologists would tour HH sites to ensure proper nest structure installation and maintenance has taken place.

**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.

Delta Waterfowl would use several measures to gauge success of this project. First, all project HHs must be installed by March 31, 2017, prior to the return of nesting ducks. To be successful throughout the project lifespan, all 200 HHs must be available to ducks each nesting season from 2017–2026.

An additional metric of success is called the usage/occupancy rate—the percentage of HHs that were used by ducks during each nesting season. Simply put, the more hens that use HHs each year, the more productive the program. The usage rate of HHs is often low (<20%) during the first nesting season after installation but increases annually for several years. This project will be deemed a success if the usage rate meets or exceeds 40% within three years of installation. Usage rate will be determined during winter maintenance by Delta contractors. Delta Waterfowl will provide annual reports to the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Advisory Board detailing the number of available HHs and estimated usage rate.

**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 required.\***

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. Effective July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose. 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.

Grant funding provided by the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund would be used to build and install all 200 Hen Houses prior to the 2017 breeding season. After installation, funding for maintenance and replacement of damaged structures would be provided by Delta Waterfowl for a minimum of 10 years (anticipated lifespan of a HH). At the conclusion of the

project, Delta Waterfowl would evaluate the productivity of the project and determine if it should continue in the current site or move to an alternate area. In either circumstance, Delta Waterfowl would seek funding opportunities to sustain the project.

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

If less funding is available, Delta Waterfowl would still be able to deliver a smaller version of this project. However, fewer HHs would reduce the efficiency of the project and result in fewer ducks produced for North Dakota hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.

**Partnership Recognition - If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? \* Please note it is a requirement that there be signage at the location of the project acknowledging the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund if appropriate for your project.**

If our grant proposal is successful, the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund would be recognized on all of Delta Waterfowl's media platforms, including our magazine, website, press releases, and social media. If appropriate, signage will be placed in visible locations where collections of Hen Houses have been installed.

**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. The Commission can set a limit on duration of an offer on each application or if there isn't a specific date indicated in the application for implementation of the project, then the applicant has until the next Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board regular meeting to sign the contract and get the project underway or the commitment for funding will be terminated and the applicant may resubmit for funding. 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: June 10, 2015

Delta Waterfowl  
North Dakota Hen House Project II 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
Evaluation of Nest Structure Locations and Landowner Contact/Annual Reporting		\$500	\$1,500			\$2,000
Materials and Construction (248 Hen Houses) <sup>1</sup>	\$19,800	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$19,800
Contractor Payments for Installation of Structures	\$6,000 <sup>2</sup>	\$1,200 <sup>3</sup>	\$	\$	\$	\$7,200
Auger Purchase or Rental and Maintenance	\$300	\$600				\$900
Travel Costs for Site Inspections	\$500	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$500
Project Administration	\$	\$	\$2,500	\$	\$	\$2,500
Contractor Payments for Annual Maintenance	\$	\$27,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$	\$	\$	\$27,000
Data Collection and Mapping	\$	\$	\$1,000	\$	\$	\$1,000
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$26,600</b>	<b>\$29,300</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$60,900</b>

<sup>1</sup>Over the 10-yr project, about 25% (48) of the HHs will need to be replaced at some point due to damage by ice and wind. All of the structures will be built at the beginning of the project and used as needed.

<sup>2</sup>Contractors are paid a flat rate of \$27.50/HH for installation of structures. This covers vehicle mileage (fed rate), use and wear of their personal equipment (ATV/snowmobile, trailer, post pounder), and a wage of approximately \$15/hr. Contractors will also be reimbursed up to \$500 for acquisition (flax straw, hardware, etc) and transportation of materials to work area.

<sup>3</sup>Delta Waterfowl will be responsible for downstream (years 2-10) installation and maintenance costs of the nest structures.