

# 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 **March 1, 2016 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 \*  
Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association

Federal Tax ID# \* 45-023178

Contact Person/Title \* Scott Olerud – President - Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association

Address \* 15 Main Street,

City \* McLeod

State \* North Dakota

Zip Code \* 58057

E-mail Address \* None

Web Site Address (Optional)

Phone \* 701-439-2670

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.** 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;

**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

**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)\***

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

**Project Name\***  
**Grassland Habitat Recovery Project**

**Abstract/Executive Summary. An Executive Summary of the project stating its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants.\* (no more than 500 words)**

This project is a three year effort to recover grassland habitat through the treatment of leafy spurge on the Sheyenne National Grasslands. Loss and degradation of tallgrass prairie in eastern North Dakota has been well documented. The Sheyenne National Grassland contains the largest remaining tract of northern tallgrass prairie. That ecosystem has seen a decline of >95% from its historical extent. In North Dakota, 99.9% of the northern tallgrass prairie is now gone.

This funding is needed to stage a new battle using newly approved, more effective, and target specific herbicide that will spare native forb and grass species, sustaining these few remaining areas for ranchers, wildlife, sportsmen, and nature enthusiasts.

The goals of this project are to work cooperatively with the US Forest Service and the Ransom and Richland County Weed Boards to treat a total of 13,650 acres with Quinclorac (Facet L) over the three year period.

**Project Duration:\* 3 years**

**Amount of Grant request \$ \* \$152,375 per year for 3 years. \$457,125 total**

**Total Project Costs \$\* \$1,000,275**

**A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required. Amount of Matching Funds \$\***

Total Match = \$543,150

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

The cost to treat with Facet L and MSO (surfactant) is \$57.50 per acre. Labor and equipment rates for application of the herbicide is \$11 per acre. The table below shows the breakout of matching funds and the OHF request.

SVGA In-Kind and Cash - \$50,050 per year for 3 years = \$150,150

\$29,150- \$11 application rate x 2650 acres per year  
 \$20,900- Treatment of additional acres of leafy spurge within the project area this includes ATV and UTV equipment costs, treatment of 2350 acres on Federal Land with herbicide, 10,000 acres grazed for leafy spurge control with sheep, plus spraying of private ground within the project area.

Richland and Ransom County Weed Board In-Kind - \$4,000 per year for 3 years = \$12,000

USFS Cash\* = \$127,000 per year for 3 years.

\* The US Forest Service will provide \$127,000 dollars in cash towards the project for the first year, with potential for similar cash contribution in years 2 and 3, dependent upon federal appropriations to the Forest Service.

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
Labor and Equipment for Facet Application (\$11/acre)		Some of this would be cash-labor, fuel, repair	\$29,150 (\$11 application rate x 2650 acres)per year x3 =  <b>\$87,450</b>			<b>\$87,450</b>
Facet L & MSO (\$57.50/acre)	\$152,375 per year x3 = <b>\$457,125</b>					<b>\$457,125</b>
Treatment of Right-of-Ways within project area					\$4000 per year x3 (Richland and Ransom CWB)  <b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
Treatment of additional acres within project area			\$20,900 per year x3 =  <b>\$62,700</b>		\$127,000 per year x3* (USFS)  <b>\$381,000</b>	<b>\$443,700</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$457,125</b>		<b>\$150,150</b>		<b>\$393,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,275</b>

\* Dependent on federal appropriations.

Please provide verification that these matching funds are available for your project. Note that effective as of July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose.

**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 SVGA is organized with a President, Secretary/Treasurer, and an 11-member Board of Directors and general membership of approximately 65 members.

The Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association (SVGA) cares about the conservation and wise use of natural resources and rangeland resources throughout Richland and Ransom Counties in North Dakota. As stated in their Articles of Incorporation, the SVGA was formed for the purpose of ‘aiding in the conservation, restoration, improvement, development, and utilization of the natural forage resources in Ransom and Richland Counties, North Dakota; where a grazing area has been acquired’, and may ‘act as an agent of’ and as provided by Section 36-08-02.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, ‘cooperate with the Federal and State government or any department or agency thereof to fulfill its purpose’. As noxious weeds do not recognize land ownership boundaries, SVGA, Richland and Ransom County Weed Boards, North Dakota State University and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands are working cooperatively together to coordinate control efforts on private, state and federally owned lands. This coordinated approach ensures that each partners’ control efforts are efficient and responsive to noxious weed infestations.

**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. If your project includes tree/shrub/grass planting, please provide a planting plan describing the site design, planting methods, number of trees/shrubs by species and stock size, grass species and future maintenance. A statement certifying that the applicant will adhere to USDA-NRCS tree/shrub/grass planting specifications along with the name of the governmental entity designing the planting may be substituted for a planting plan. If your project includes Section 319 program funding, please provide, in detail, the specific best management practices that will be implemented and the specific projects for which you are seeking funding. 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.

**Need for the Project:** The purpose of this project is 3-fold. The first is to improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching. Approximately half of the SNG has been invaded by

leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula* L.), which continues to spread and threaten sustainability and productivity of the grassland. Leafy spurge is a deep-rooted perennial weed that degrades rangeland condition by reducing forage, crowding out native vegetation, and can be toxic to cattle that graze the plant. The second is to develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife habitat on private and public lands, which contributes to the third goal which is to improve the quality of the experience on public lands available to for sportsmen and outdoor recreationists.

**Urgency for the Funding:** The recent Endangered Species Act listing of the Dakota Skipper and Powesheik Skipperling butterflies makes the need for using target specific, forb sparing herbicide greater than ever. Undesired non-native species reduce the diversity of vegetation composition needed to support habitat needs of the federally listed butterflies. As a result, critical habitat for these federally listed butterflies is at dire risk without immediate action to treat leafy spurge. Other pollinator species at risk of T&E listing will benefit from any preservation efforts on remaining tracts of native grasslands.

**Goal:** The goal of this project is to treat approximately 15,000 acres annually of leafy spurge infested areas through the use of sheep grazing and herbicide application. The requested funds would be used to treat 2650 acres of leafy spurge in an effort to improve habitat and forage quality through the use of a newly approved herbicide (Facet L) to treat noxious weeds and limit the impact to native forbs and grass species on the Sheyenne National Grasslands. This project is designed to expand presence of desired native grasses through restoration and noxious weed treatment; and to maintain positive working relationships with all partners to improve grassland resources.

**Strategies:** An interdisciplinary, landscape-level improvement strategy was used to develop the actions identified in this proposal. Areas for treatment will be prioritized for treatment cooperatively between the USFS, SVGA, and Richland and Ransom County Weed Boards. Areas of top priority for treatment are those areas that have been identified as potential or occupied habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the Dakota Skipper, and Western Prairie Fringed Orchid. Research has shown that a minimum of two applications are needed to achieve 90% or better control. Annual monitoring and field visits by all partners will be used to prioritize areas needing treatment on a year by year basis.

**Innovative Features:** Quinclorac (Facet L) is a substituted quinolinecarboxylic acid, a highly selective auxin herbicide was recently approved for use on range and pasture, making it available for use on grazing lands. In plants sensitive to this herbicide, Quinclorac (Facet L) is readily absorbed through leaves, roots, and germinating seeds then translocated throughout the plant. In two North Dakota studies, leafy spurge control at SNG using fall-applied Quinclorac (Facet L) ranged from 72-100% 10 months after treatment.

This herbicide is innovative because many herbicides cannot be utilized at the SNG due to sandy soils and shallow groundwater, nor can they be applied on or near the federally listed Western Prairie Fringed Orchid. Picloram, a widely used herbicide for leafy spurge control, cannot be used at the SNG due to high soil mobility characteristics and potential for groundwater contamination. Chemical control has been limited to 2,4-D and imazapic (Plateau®). The 2,4-D only reduces the top-growth for a short time and imazapic (Plateau®) use has been limited due to sandy soils and shallow groundwater and its potential to cause damage to cool season grasses. Biological control of leafy spurge has been successful with the use of *Aphthona* spp. flea beetles in many environments. However, *Aphthona* spp. have not established well in areas with sandy soils, such as found at the SNG.

The environmental fate of an herbicide is important in the determination of use rate and location. A study recently conducted by North Dakota State University showed Quinclorac (Facet L) did not leach through the soil profile of any soil type from the SNG. Movement was reduced in the soil as organic matter and clay content increased. Therefore, Quinclorac (Facet L) is suitable for use at the SNG for leafy spurge control.

**Benefits:**

**Forage Production** - Cattle ranchers depend on grazing on the Sheyenne National Grasslands for their livelihood. Currently, the SNG has 55 grazing allotments. The Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association manages the grazing permit on the SNG for approximately 59,000 animal unit months (AUM). If leafy spurge is left ineffectively treated, the grazing capacity of the SNG would be reduced up to 50%.

**Threatened and Endangered Species** - Undesired non-native species reduce the diversity of vegetation composition needed to support habitat needs of the federally listed Dakota Skipper, Powesheik Skipperling, and Western Prairie Fringed Orchid. As a result, potential and occupied habitat for federally listed Dakota Skipper and Powesheik Skipperling are at dire risk without immediate action to treat non-native plants such as leafy spurge. Other pollinator species at risk of T&E listing will benefit from any preservation efforts on remaining tracts of native grasslands.

**Upland Bird Habitat** - Infestations have limited this area's ability to achieve vegetative structure preferred by upland bird species, such as greater prairie chicken, sharp-tailed grouse, mallard, blue-winged teal, bobolink, red-winged blackbird, western meadowlark, clay-colored sparrow, savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, field sparrow, vesper sparrow, lark sparrow, brown-headed cowbirds, common yellowthroat, red-winged blackbird, western meadowlark; grasshopper, clay-colored, savannah sparrows, dickcissel, Le Conte's sparrow, marbled godwit, Nelson's sparrow, northern harrier, sedge wren, upland sandpiper, willet and many others.

**Quality Access to Public Land** - Low habitat quality decreases the availability of quality experiences for sportsmen and outdoor recreationist. The Sheyenne National Grasslands is a major asset in public lands in close proximity to the Fargo/Moorhead area.

**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.

Areas for treatment will be prioritized for treatment cooperatively between the USFS, SVGA, and Richland and Ransom County Weed Boards. Areas of top priority for treatment are those areas that have been identified as potential or occupied habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the Dakota Skipper and Western Prairie Fringed Orchid. Research has shown that a minimum of two applications are needed to achieve 90% or better control. Annual monitoring and field visits by all partners will be used to prioritize areas needing treatment on a year by year basis. The objectives are to treat 15,000 acres annually across the project area, but to specifically use the requested funds to treat 2650 acres annually.

Those managing the project include:

Scott Olerud – Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association (SVGA) President and Noxious Weed Program Coordinator for 4 years, farmer and rancher in the McLeod, ND area for 35 years.

Herbicide applicators – The SVGA has two to three applicators that manage the spray equipment and complete the herbicide application.

Lori Thorson – SVGA secretary for 6 years, assists with coordination and administration of Noxious Weed Program.

Bernadette Braun – Sheyenne District Ranger (Acting) USFS, 30 years' experience with rangeland management and noxious weed control on the Sheyenne National Grassland.

Stacy Swenson –Rangeland Management Specialist USFS, 10 years' experience with rangeland management and noxious weed control on the Sheyenne National Grassland.

Chad Prosser – Noxious Weed Program Manager USFS, 20 years' experience with noxious weed control and native prairie restoration throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

**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.

Field visits by USFS staff and SVGA members will be conducted to determine effectiveness and follow up treatments of the Facet L applications. Site visits will include photo points taken while leafy spurge is flowering. These photos, along with field notes will describe density of leafy spurge at treatment sites. When control of leafy spurge becomes less than 60% the site will be considered for retreatment. Success will be measured by density of leafy spurge within treated areas compared to areas not treated. Current density of leafy spurge on the Grassland is generally at 60% canopy cover or greater. If treatments are able to reduce the density of leafy spurge to 30% canopy cover or less the project would be successful. We realize that the complete reduction of leafy spurge is unlikely; however, moving sites from high to low densities of leafy spurge may allow native grass and forb species to increase.

**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.**

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

**Sustainability – Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. \***

Include information on the sustainability of this project after all the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund has been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

The project might be continued through the use of USFS appropriated dollars when available. In the past, when appropriated dollars were not available, the SVGA used a portion of funds from the general membership and Conservation Practices funds to treat a much smaller acreage of noxious weeds. The SVGA would actively seek out other funding opportunities if USFS appropriated dollars were no longer available.

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

The total project goal is to treat 15,000 acres per year for 3 years, for a total of 45,000 acres throughout the 3 year project. The SVGA, USFS and Richland and Ransom County Weed Boards are committed to treating 12,350 acres of leafy spurge per year with the funds used as match in this grant application. The majority of these acres (10,000) would be treated with sheep grazing, while the remaining 2,350 acres would be treated with herbicide. With the funding requested from the OHF, this will allow the treatment of an additional 2650 acres per year with herbicide (Facet L).

With the OHF funding the SVGA, USFS and Richland and Ransom County Weed Boards, would be able to treat ~5000 acres annually with herbicide. Without the OHF funding, these partners will only be able to treat less than half of the target acres, ~ 2350 acres per year.

**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.**

In order to recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund, the SVGA will recognize the success of the grant to the 65 grazing association members during their annual meeting, in monthly Board of Director meeting minutes, and during any tours that it hosted with members. The USFS would also recognize the project during any tours that were hosted on the Grassland, including a BioBlitz day that is being planned for 2017. In addition, the SVGA and USFS would ask the local and/or regional newspaper to cover a story on the project and recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund's generous contribution.

**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: December 16, 2015

Ransom County Weed Board  
Po Box 830  
Lisbon, ND 58054

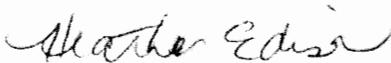
February 29, 2016

The Ransom County Weed Board enthusiastically supports the grant application submitted by the Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association. By offsetting the cost of herbicide (Facet), this grant would assist the Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association in controlling Leafy Spurge on the Grasslands.

The Weed Board encourages and supports the ongoing battle of weed management. The Grazing Association has shown themselves to be a responsible steward of the Sheyenne National Grasslands. The controlling of Leafy Spurge in the grasslands is an essential element in the mission to return the Grasslands back to the native grass that dominated the prairies hundreds of years ago.

This grant will help the Grazing Association fight the battle of Leafy Spurge through the method application of herbicides. Again, The Ransom County Weed board is in full support of this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Edison".

Ransom County Weed Board  
Heather Edison, Secretary



*For a Permanent Agriculture*

Ransom County Soil Conservation District  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Lisbon, North Dakota 58054



February 25, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ransom County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors is in full support of the grant being applied for by the Sheyenne Grazing Association. This grant would provide the association with monies which would be used to offset the cost of the herbicide (Facet) that would be applied to control leafy spurge.

The District promotes all methods of control with the hope that the tall-grass prairie can be restored without the presence of leafy spurge. The application of an effective herbicide is one of the practices that will assist the Grazing Association in working towards that goal. Complete elimination of this invasive pest is difficult, if not impossible, but working to achieve some level of control is imperative for the future of the grasslands.

Being a good steward of the land is a mutually held responsibility shared by both the Ransom County Soil Conservation District and the Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association and provides the foundation for the Districts support of this grant.

Sincerely,

Patrick Freeberg  
Chairman, Ransom County Soil Conservation District