

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 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 * [Audubon Dakota](#)

Federal Tax ID# * [13-1624102](#)

Contact Person/Title * [Marshall Johnson](#)

Address * [118 N Broadway Ste. 716](#)

City * Fargo

State * ND

Zip Code * 58102

E-mail Address * mejohnson@audubon.org

Web Site Address (Optional) Dakota.audubon.org

Phone * 701-298-3373

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;

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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;

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

State Agency

Political Subdivision

Tribal Entity

Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

Project Name* Missouri Coteau Habitat Enhancement

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)

As grasslands continue to be degraded and lost from the Missouri Coteau landscape, grassland birds and wildlife have suffered dramatic declines in numbers, as have hunting opportunities. In 2012, Audubon Dakota and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented a grazing system with over 8.5 miles of grazing infrastructure, focused on improving bird and wildlife habitat at The Frederick L. Wicks Prairie Wildlife Sanctuary, owned by Audubon Dakota, Bloom Waterfowl Production Area, managed by the USFWS, and Brown Ranch, a privately owned ranch, in Mountrail County, North Dakota.

It's been shown that when used effectively, cattle are one of the best tools for creating high quality habitat for birds and wildlife. While the plant community has responded positively with the new grazing system, more progress could be made if the current paddocks are reduced in size to support higher intensity grazing.

To continue the positive effects of adaptive grazing at Audubon's Wicks Prairie, and surrounding Mountrail County, Audubon Dakota strives to support local grazing efforts. To this end, Audubon has partnered with neighboring ranchers, who are now using planned adaptive grazing at the Wicks Prairie. Having witnessed the success of the grazing techniques for both cattle performance and habitat enhancement, Audubon and its cooperating ranchers seek to intensify their management program at both the Wicks Prairie and adjacent private land.

Therefore, Audubon Dakota plans to construct and improve boundary fencing, cross fencing infrastructure, and water well development within the Wicks-Bloom-Brown complex to support this management expansion. The ultimate goal of the project is to utilize more intensive adaptive management to increase nesting, brooding, and feeding cover for grassland birds, increase the forage quality for cattle, and generally create more hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities.

With this project, Audubon has enabled private ranching partners to use the sanctuary lands for cattle production through a prescribed system, and as a result, increased the quality of habitat for wildlife. This project has and will continue to foster partnerships and shared management objectives between Audubon, government entities, and private landowners. The intent is for the boundary fencing, cross fencing, and water systems to be installed during the spring and summer of 2016 so that grazing can commence as soon as possible. The total cost of the project is \$214,618.48 and will help conservation efforts on almost 1700 acres of grassland and wetland habitat.

Project Duration: * Spring to Fall 2016

Amount of Grant request \$ * 128,771.09

Total Project Costs \$ * 214,618.48

(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 \$ * \$85,847.39

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

Matching funds will be cash.

Source(s) of Matching Funds*

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.

Audubon Dakota (Private Donors)
Private Ranching Cooperator (1)

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)

Audubon Dakota is the North and South Dakota state program within the National Audubon Society. Since 1905, the National Audubon Society has been focused on conserving bird habitat, promoting avian education, and engaging individuals and communities in a variety of activities and opportunities. Audubon Dakota as a state program was instituted in 1997, however Audubon's role in the Dakotas spans back to the mid-1970s. The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity. Audubon seeks out partnerships that advance its habitat conservation goals, including supporting, through grassland habitat projects, the ranching industry. As a state office, Audubon Dakota has two full time staff members for the two-state region (North and South Dakota). Audubon Dakota's Advisory Board is comprised of 7 North Dakota citizens. Currently, Audubon Dakota manages roughly 5,000 acres within the state. This would not be possible without the support and help of many different private land cooperators, agencies and programs, local businesses and individuals, and many volunteers and local Audubon Chapters. Audubon Dakota is also working on a habitat enhancement project on urban acres in Fargo and a grazing program throughout North and South Dakota. In all of our programs, from grazing and haying to education and outreach, the efforts and cooperation of our supporters is crucial to our success and crucial to conserving bird habitat in the Dakotas.

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.

The goal of this project is to create and improve the system of paddocks and water sources that will enable Audubon Dakota's ranching cooperator to increase cattle production on the Frederick L. Wicks Prairie Wildlife-Bloom WPA-Brown Ranch Complex. In doing so, grassland habitat will be enhanced for birds and wildlife, while also improving the forage quality for cattle.

Grazing is an important management tool for the grassland landscape. With the continued implementation of a grazing program, the project will promote the growth of native vegetation and healthy grassland ecosystem. This will in turn greatly benefit birds and other wildlife, and create additional hunting opportunities for area residents. The Missouri Coteau of western North Dakota is an extremely important region for waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, and other wildlife, and this project will increase suitable habitat. Because of the need for healthy

habitat, there is a general sense of urgency associated with any new grassland management projects such as this one.

The Frederick L. Wicks Prairie Management Area (Wicks Prairie) is approximately 400 acres of unbroken prairie including over 20 wetland basins. Adjacent to Bloom Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), the Wicks Prairie is part of a larger grassland management area which covers over 2,500 acres. On the edge of the Bakken oil formation, this sanctuary is now listed as a Globally Important Bird Area through the National Audubon Society and BirdLife International. Audubon Dakota is committed to managing the site to enhance avian and wildlife habitat.

The project as a whole will require a sizable amount of boundary fencing, cross fencing, and water well infrastructure. Previous funding for the initial 2012 grazing infrastructure at Wicks-Bloom complex is no longer available for continued grazing development; therefore additional outside sources of funding must be obtained.

Working with grazing cooperators, Audubon has identified the needs/requirements of the paddocks in terms of size, water sources, fences, etc. at the Wicks-Bloom-Brown complex. Once installed, the grazing on the pastures will provide habitat for birds and wildlife on nearly 1,300 acres of private lands. By working with a private ranching cooperator, Audubon has the opportunity to help influence conservation on private lands as well as on the Frederick L. Wicks Prairie Wildlife Sanctuary and Bloom WPA.

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 primary management team for this project would include our cooperating private rancher, Todd Brown, USFWS staff, and staff from Audubon Dakota. From Audubon Dakota, the staff members associated with the project will be Marshall Johnson and Sarah Wilson. Marshall Johnson is the Executive Director of Audubon Dakota and has been involved with conservation in North Dakota for the past 6 years, and established the grazing-based infrastructure project at Audubon's Frederick L. Wicks Prairie Wildlife Sanctuary. His background in business and his leadership skills make him a natural manager for this project. Sarah Wilson, Audubon Dakota's Conservation Programs Coordinator has her Masters of Natural Resources Management and has had technical training in prairie management and restoration through the USFWS.

Our grazing partners, Todd and Cindy Brown, are and will continue to be in charge of the day to day operation of the cattle, in accordance to the agreed-upon grazing plan. USFWS staff members are and will continue to also be key project partners for consulting and land management. With these partners, Audubon can successfully manage for higher quality grassland habitat for birds and wildlife.

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.

Evaluating a project such as this habitat initiative will be straightforward, with Audubon staff monitoring vegetation and wildlife response to the prescribed grazing regime, making necessary adjustments when and where appropriate. More specifically, there are two main metrics Audubon can use to determine success. The first is the presence of native vegetation and wildlife species utilizing the property. By comparing to previous records, the increased presence of native vegetation, birds, wildlife species, and general overall appearance of the properties are the first success measurement tools Audubon will use.

The second indicator is the successful production of cattle from the pastures. While the main focus of this project is aimed at enhancing habitat, that goal is not possible without cattle and our cooperators. As such, it's important that the cooperator is maximizing his yield (while staying within our stocking requirements). If the producer is consistently producing cattle off of the properties, it would not only indicate success, but also be a positive in fostering Audubon's relationship with other private land owners and ranchers. As with our previously implemented grazing system at the Wicks-Bloom complex, we expect to begin seeing some results immediately, while others will develop over time.

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.

After the initial cost of the fencing and water systems installation, costs will significantly decrease. Long term management of infrastructure will be supported by grazing rent. Any repairs, additions, or changes to the system after the initial installation will be taken on by Audubon Dakota and/or cooperators involved.

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

Should this project only be partially funded, it could delay the implementation of the improved grazing system at the Wicks-Bloom Sanctuary, while also greatly diminishing the probability of beginning the fencing project at the Brown Ranch. Funding for both fencing and water systems is crucial to the success of grassland habitat enhancements at the entire Wicks-Bloom-Brown Complex.

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.

Upon completion of this project, Audubon will promote the project funding by the Outdoor Heritage Fund at the entire Wicks-Bloom-Brown Complex. Signs will be present at the Complex, which will display the names and logos of funding partners who helped make the grazing project possible.

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

Revised: December 16, 2015

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.) 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. Note a minimum of 25% match funding is required. An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Please feel free to insert 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 June 10, 2015 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 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 Definitions/Clarifications below)
- 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 Definitions/Clarifications below)
- A building except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project; (See Definitions/Clarifications below)
- A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of 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
Fence Installation (68,859 ft of fence - \$2.42/ft)	\$99,983.27	\$66,655.51	\$	\$	\$	\$166,638.78
Water Tanks (6 - \$1,750)	\$6,300.00	\$4,200.00	\$	\$	\$	\$10,500.00
Solar Pump Well (2 - \$8,000/well)	\$9,600.00	\$6,400	\$	\$	\$	\$16,000.00
Water Pipeline	\$12,887.82	\$8,591.88	\$	\$	\$	\$21,479.70

(9,339 ft of pipeline - \$2.30/ft)						
Total Costs	\$128,771.09	\$85,847.39	\$	\$	\$	\$214,618.48

DRAW TEXT BOX FOR DETAILS HERE

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Permanent Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment)
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program please use those rates and note your source.

Definitions/Clarifications:

Building - Defined as “A structure with a roof either with walls or without walls and is attached to the ground in a permanent nature.”

Comprehensive Conservation Plan - Defined as “A detailed plan that has been formally adopted by the governing board which includes goals and objectives--both short and long term, must show how this building will enhance the overall conservation goals of the project and the protection or preservation of wildlife and fish habitat or natural areas.” This does not need to be a complex multi-page document. It could be included as a part of the application or be an attachment.

New and Expanded Recreational Project means that the proposed building cannot be a replacement of a current building. The proposed building must also be related to either a new or expanded recreational project--either an expansion in land or an expansion of an existing building or in the opportunities for recreation at the project site.

Playground equipment calculation - Only the actual costs of the playground equipment (a bid or invoice showing the amount of the equipment costs must be provided) - cannot include freight or installation or surface materials or removal of old equipment, etc.

Staffing/Outside Consultants Costs - If you are requesting OHF funding for staffing or for an outside consultant, you must provide information in your application on the need for OHF funding to cover these costs. For example, if you are an entity that has engineering staff you must explain why you don't have sufficient staff to do the work or if specific expertise is needed or whatever the reason is for your entity to retain an outside consultant. If it is a request for reimbursement for staff time then a written explanation is required in the application of why OHF funding is needed to pay for the costs of that staff member(s) time. **The budget form must reflect on a separate line item the specific amount that is being requested for staffing and/or the hiring of an outside consultant.** This separate line item will then be used to make the calculation of 5% or 10% as outlined in the law. Note that the calculation will be made on the grant less the costs for the consultant or staff.

Approved by Industrial Commission: October 22, 2013
Revisions recommended by OHF Advisory Board: January 22, 2014
Approved by Industrial Commission: January 29, 2014
Revisions recommended by OHF Advisory Board: May 13, 2014
Approved by Industrial Commission: May 27, 2014
Revisions recommended by OHF Advisory Board: June 3, 2015
Approved by Industrial Commission: June 10, 2015