

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 **November 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-info/page.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 * Logan County Soil Conservation District

Federal Tax ID# * 45-0282749

Contact Person/Title * Shelley Vetter, District Manager

Address * PO Box 240

City * Napoleon

State * ND

Zip Code * 58561-0240

E-mail Address * michelle.vetter@nd.nacdnet.net

Web Site Address * logancountyscd.com

Phone * 701-754-2234 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. 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;

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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.

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

State Agency

Political Subdivision

Tribal Entity

Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

Project Name*

LOGAN COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM (LCNRP)

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)

All too often, it is believed that agriculture production and wildlife conservation have little in common. Landowners and operators in Logan County will always grow low residue crops such as corn for silage, sunflowers, and soybeans as part of their crop rotation. Livestock grazing can help diversify these rotations while increasing wildlife-habitat diversity. How can this be accomplished? By focusing on healthy productive native grasslands and changing crop rotations so livestock production and wildlife management can come together and work for the benefit of our natural resources.

The main objective of the Logan County Natural Resource Program (LCNRP) is to focus on providing our landowners and operators with an opportunity to improve the resources in their operations and to give them an opportunity to get 60% financial assistance to implement conservation practices to address cropland and grassland resource needs for the benefit of livestock production, soil health, and wildlife management.

The LCNRP's will focus mainly on these items: maintain native prairie health by keeping grass and native prairie in grass, improve grazing management by implementing adequate rest/recovery periods and installing adequate water sources, increasing season long cover crops, encourage fall seeding crops to increase nesting cover, and to improve conservation crop rotation by increasing high residue crops.

Over the years Logan County has seen a decline of acres in native prairie and acres enrolled or re-enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The trend of breaking up native

prairie into cropland and the large amount of acres coming out of CRP has created a negative impact on wildlife habitat. Within the last five years, Logan County has had 17,691 acres of Conservation Reserve Program grasslands have been converted back into annual crop production. This has a huge impact on the ability to protect our soil and water resources.

The project duration will be for four years (2017-2021). The total amount requested from the Outdoor Heritage Fund is \$420,000 for a total of \$700,000 for the project.

The benefits of having a project like this in Logan County is an overall improved ecology of the landscape.

Project Duration:* Four Years (2017-2021)

Amount of Grant request \$ * \$420,000

Total Project Costs \$* \$700,000

(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 \$*

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

Matching funds will be cash contributions from the applicants.

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 (2017-2021). 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.

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.

Our applicants will be responsible to pay their 40% of actual cost of their 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 Logan County Soil Conservation District (SCD) was organized in 1947. The Soil Conservation District is a legal subdivision of the State, organized under the North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts Law. The District is managed by a five-person board of locally elected and appointed supervisors, three elected serving a six year term while the two appointed serve a one year term. The supervisors work with all individuals, groups, and agencies interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning, watershed protection, and other interests and endeavors. The District employs two permanent employees. Shelley Vetter is the District Manager and has been with the District for 21 years. Terry Weigel is the District Technician for the past 15 years.

The mission of the Logan County SCD is to promote soil and water conservation by offering financial, technical, informational, and educational assistance and opportunities to the people of the district. The top five resource concerns in our county are soil erosion, sustainable land use, wildlife habitat and management, address soil salinity concerns, and wetland conservation.

The District is an important asset to the County because it provides many valuable services such as no-till tree planting and fabric application, shallow water pipeline installation, and drill services which consist of a John Deere No-Till Drill, Great Plains Drill, and a Haybuster Drill. The District also provides education opportunities for their youth by supporting their local FFA and 4H Chapters, provide ECO-ED Tours for 8th Graders, Scholarship Program for High School Seniors, and sponsor youth to Range Camp.

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.

This project would be the first of its kind in Logan County and new to the Logan County Soil Conservation District.

The primary goal of the Logan County Natural Resource Program (LCNRP) is to address cropland and grassland resource needs for the benefit of livestock production and wildlife management. The LCNRP will accomplish this by providing technical and financial assistance for the implementation of conservation crop rotations with increased high residue crops, seeding fall crops to increase nesting cover over winter, planting season long cover crops with multi species, implementing prescribed grazing plans, and converting cropland to grassland.

The secondary goal of this project would be implementing Resource Management System (RMS) on soil erosion not to exceed the tolerable soil loss, limit grazing or haying on season long cover crops until after October 1st to preserve wildlife nesting, establish pollinator plantings, planting a variety of cool and warm season forages, installing wildlife escape ramps on all new and existing livestock tanks, cross fencing, and improve water quality and quantity by providing adequate livestock watering systems.

With the increase of high residue crops, planting a variety of cool and warm season forages, and increasing rest periods on grazing lands will increase soil health, provide higher quality forage, create higher diversity of forages, and increase wildlife, nesting, roosting, and winter thermal cover. These improvements will not only increase agriculture benefits for our local producers but will have a positive impact on hunting and outdoor opportunities. They will also fulfill our primary and secondary goals.

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.

Brief Background and Work Experience: The SCD staff has experience working with a past 319 Department of Health Watershed Program which was the Beaver Creek Watershed. The Beaver Creek Watershed was a program that involved three counties: Logan, Emmons, and McIntosh. The Beaver Creek Watershed was implemented for approximately 10 years between the three counties. The Logan County SCD’s two permanent employees have experience working with various job positions with the District. Shelley Vetter served as the District Technician for a year and also was the secretary for the Beaver Creek Watershed for numerous years during the early project implementation as well as doing her duties as the District Manager. Terry was the Watershed Coordinator from 2001 until the project ended in

2010 and he also oversees the District's services that they provide to the producers of Logan County along with his District Technician Duties and assisting NRCS with their programs.

Management of the Project: The Logan County Board of Supervisors will be managing the Natural Resource Program. District Manager, Shelley Vetter, will be responsible for the grant funds and will be doing all of the reporting and paperwork for the project. The District Technician, Terry Weigel, will be responsible for helping put the conservation practices onto the land. His responsibilities will be contacting landowners, assisting them with the application process, developing the conservation plans, and submitting the pay applications on the completed projects.

The Logan County SCD Board will establish a Resource Concern Checklist and will also take into consideration the conservation of an entire operational system over a single practice, single field application. The Logan County SCD Board will review and prioritize all applications by using the checklist prior to the applications being approved for funding. All approved applications will be required to have a conservation plan and will also incorporate a management and/or a monitoring system to guarantee continued stewardship for the resource concern that was identified. All structural practices must meet NRCS standards and specifications.

Timeline of the Project: The program will begin the summer of 2017 with advertising, onsite visits, and planning with the potential applicants. Agreements would be signed and conservation contracts will be approved during the fall and winter of 2017 and 2018. The practice installation will begin and continue through 2021. This would involve 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 Logan County Soil Conservation District will measure success by keeping track of the acres that are positively impacted by improving and increasing grassland management and cropland soil health resources. Program participants will be asked to use photo points as a way to measure improvements in their grassland management. Cropland soil health resources will be monitored by using various NRCS tools to measure progress on treated acres.

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.

Approved applicants will be entered into a contract with the Logan County Soil Conservation District and be required to sign an agreement. This agreement would state that they have to manage, monitor, and utilize the conservation practice(s) installed for the entire duration of the expected life span for the approved conservation practice even if the agreement has expired. The Logan County Soil Conservation District will monitor these agreements, practice installations, and will conduct field status reviews on a yearly basis to ensure that the participant is meeting their compliance agreement.

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

Partial funding would limit the amount of conservation being put on the ground and reduce the number of acres that could be 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? * 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.

1. Our program applications and agreements would have a statement within it stating that funding is made available through the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF).
2. Advertisements for our grant would be in our local newspapers and SCD newsletter with a clause that funding is made possible through a Grant through the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF).
3. Information about the Logan County Natural Resource Program will be displayed on our SCD's website.
4. Program participants who wish to open their lands to public access for hunting would have a small sign placed in these areas. Signs would give credit to the OHF and the Logan County SCD along with notification that the land is open to public access.

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
Grassland Practices Landowner Cost Share Based on 60/40	\$294,000.00	\$196,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$490,000.00
Cropland Practices Landowner Cost Share Based on 60/40	\$126,000.00	\$ 84,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$210,000.00
Total Costs	\$420,000.00	\$280,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$700,000.00

DRAW TEXT BOX FOR DETAILS HERE

	Amount
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$700,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST	\$420,000.00
70% Grassland	\$294,000.00
30% Cropland	\$126,000.00
TOTAL PRODUCER CONTRIBUTION	\$280,000.00
70% Grassland	\$196,000.00
30% Cropland	\$ 84,000.00

Grassland Practices (\$294,000.00)

- Livestock Water Pipelines
- Livestock Watering Facilities
- Livestock Water Pumping Plants
- Livestock Water Wells
- Cross Fence
- Rural Water Hook
- Grass Seedings
- Wildlife Escape Ramps

* Require 3 Year Prescribed Grazing With No Payment

Cropland Practices (\$126,000.00)

- Nutrient Management
- Hayland Planting
- Grassland Planting
- Grassed Waterways
- Cover Crops
- Pollinator Planting

*Required Pest Management, Crop Rotation, and Residue Management for 3 Years with No Payment

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.

Recommended by OHF Advisory Board: October 17, 2013

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