

# 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-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: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Federal Tax ID#: 13-5643799

Contact Person/Title: Dane Buysse, Conservation Specialist

Address: 2525 River Road

City: Bismarck

State: North Dakota

Zip Code: 58503

E-mail Address: dbuysse@ducks.org

Web Site Address: www.ducks.org

Phone: Office-701-355-3584 / Cell-701-425-4852

Fax # (if available)

**List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal**

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

**MAJOR Directive: (select the Directive that best describes your grant request)\***

Choose only one response

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

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

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

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

**Additional Directive: (select the directives that also apply to the grant application purpose)\***

Choose all that apply

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

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

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

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

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

O State Agency

O Political Subdivision

O Tribal Entity

X Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

**Project Name: Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project (GEPP)**

**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)

North Dakota has millions of acres of Bakken Shale Formation important to energy development, agriculture, and wildlife habitat. These acres also include grasslands which are enjoyed by the public for hunting, livestock grazing, and wildlife watching. The region of North Dakota, Northeast of the Missouri River, known as the prairie pothole region (PPR) has been identified as one of the most unique landscapes in the country. The school trust and public lands in the PPR provide private landowners with additional grazing acres each year. Though most of North Dakota is under private ownership, it is becoming more difficult to maintain or increase grazing numbers on private pasture due to certain grazing practices. Therefore, we have established the objective to work with interested producers improving grazing systems on school trust and public land to provide private land with necessary rest recovery time. But not all school trust and public land is equal. Some parcels simply don't have adequate grazing infrastructure to support cattle, let alone support a rotational grazing system. Ranchers are restricted to haying or large pasture systems due to the fact that fresh water and cross fence aren't always available. Water being the number one limiting factor in grazing systems is the reason our school trust lands, public lands, and neighboring ranchers are not able to benefit from rotational grazing.

The primary objective of the Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project (GEPP) is to improve rangeland health on school trust, public, and private lands throughout the Bakken Shale Formation, northeast of the Missouri River. Objectives will be measured by water infiltration testing and rest recovery time on pastures. This will be accomplished by addressing resource concerns through rotational grazing practices and providing technical and financial assistance to interested producers. By decreasing pasture size and providing quality water, lessees will have the potential to increase the diversity and sustainability of their grazing system. Rotational grazing provides lessees with many benefits along with the ability to adapt to varying conditions. Increased plant diversity, grazing duration and rest-recovery periods, even manure distribution, reduced soil erosion, and improved water quality are just

some of the benefits rotational grazing provides. The lessee is not the only one to benefit from these practices. North Dakota's wildlife species have benefitted from rotational grazing ever since bison walked the landscape. Herds of bison impacted native vegetation on a large scale and utilizing cattle through rotational grazing mimics that impact. Providing wildlife with various stages of vegetative growth benefits all species who inhabit North Dakota's grasslands.

The GEPP will consist of 5 year agreements which will align with agency grazing leases. But grant funds will be utilized within 3 years (2017-2019) and is requesting **\$241,529.40** from the Outdoor Heritage Fund for a **\$438,621.40** project. Currently there are two producers that are working with partners and have a need for five water tanks, three wells, 5,280 feet of pipeline, one electrical hookup, one solar pump station and 27,000 feet of fence.

**Project Duration: 3 years (2017-2019) with agreements having a 5-year lifespan or equivalent of the land holding entity grazing agreement.**

**Amount of Grant request: \$ 241,529.40**

**Total Project Costs: \$ 438,681.40**

**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.

Cash	\$122,832.00
In-Kind	\$ 74,320.00

**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.

North Dakota Department of Trust Lands	\$ 32,120.00
Ducks Unlimited	\$ 13,000.00
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust	\$ 16,500.00
Dakota Missouri Valley Western Railroad	\$ 16,200.00
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$ 10,400.00
Landowners	\$106,632.00
North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition	\$ 2,300.00

**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**

Ducks Unlimited (DU) conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. Established in 1937, DU and its partners have conserved more than 13 million acres of habitat across North America thanks to the generous contributions from more than a million supporters. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. Thanks to over 75 years of success, DU is recognized as the world's largest and most effective private waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization. DU is known for our ability to partner with private individuals, landowners, government agencies, scientific communities, industry leaders and other entities to successfully deliver collaborative conservation projects. DU is a grassroots and volunteer-based organization. Our 675,000 members are conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts who reside across the United States, Canada and Mexico, including over 6,300 members in North Dakota. DU's Great Plains Regional Office, located in Bismarck, ND, employs a multidisciplinary team of engineers, biologists, scientists, agronomists, real estate and administrative support personnel. Since 1984, DU and our partners have completed over 1,300 projects impacting more than 480,000 acres in North Dakota. DU is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers from across the country. For a full listing of DU's Board members, please visit: <http://www.ducks.org/about-du/board-of-directors/>

## **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.

## **Project Background and Funding Urgency**

The Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project is a new project developed to address private landowner resource concerns on school trust and public lands for the benefit of people and wildlife who use these lands. Many school trust and public lands lack the infrastructure for lessees to rotationally graze. Therefore, lessees of these lands are restricted to large pastures with limited water resources. North Dakota has experienced a wet cycle for over 20 years and yet some lessees continue to struggle to provide quality water for their cattle on school trust and public lands. Recognizing and addressing this water resource concern now will assist private landowners and allow them to utilize these trust and public grasslands efficiently when drought conditions return to the upper Midwest.

Water is not the only limiting factor; as sportsmen have recognized the need to increase rest recovery periods on school trust and public lands. Observations from the field show that many pastures on land with public access are large and lack diversity due to many years of season long grazing or non-use. From the sportsman's perspective, some grazing practices on these lands do not provide the necessary cover for improving wildlife habitat and subsequent hunting opportunities. According to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) "North Dakota has lost nearly

two million acres of CRP since 2007", local and migratory wildlife populations are faced with reduced resources and sportsmen are faced with reduced tags, which results in fewer opportunities for families to enjoy North Dakota's great outdoors.

Providing the necessary infrastructure, we can support the improvement of grazing systems on school trust and public lands while providing private lands with necessary rest recovery time. Many school trust and public lands provide an open hunting opportunity for sportsmen, opportunity to hay or graze, nesting cover for birds, rearing habitat for deer and a variety of wildlife species, and water retention during heavy rainfall events. Equally important are grazing and haying lease payments made on school trust lands that provide funding for North Dakota public schools. Lessees of trust lands enroll into five year agreements in return for utilizing the forage production. Addressing lessees resource concerns will improve children's education funding over time while providing lessees with the resources to improve production and livestock health. The project would be a beneficial for lessees and their cattle, state trust land, North Dakota wildlife, and the sportsman that utilize these habitats every fall. According to a survey done by Southwick Associates in their "2013 Economic Impacts of Hunting and Fishing State Reports" they found 82,400 hunters supported 2,254 jobs and spent \$148 million pursuing their passion in North Dakota.

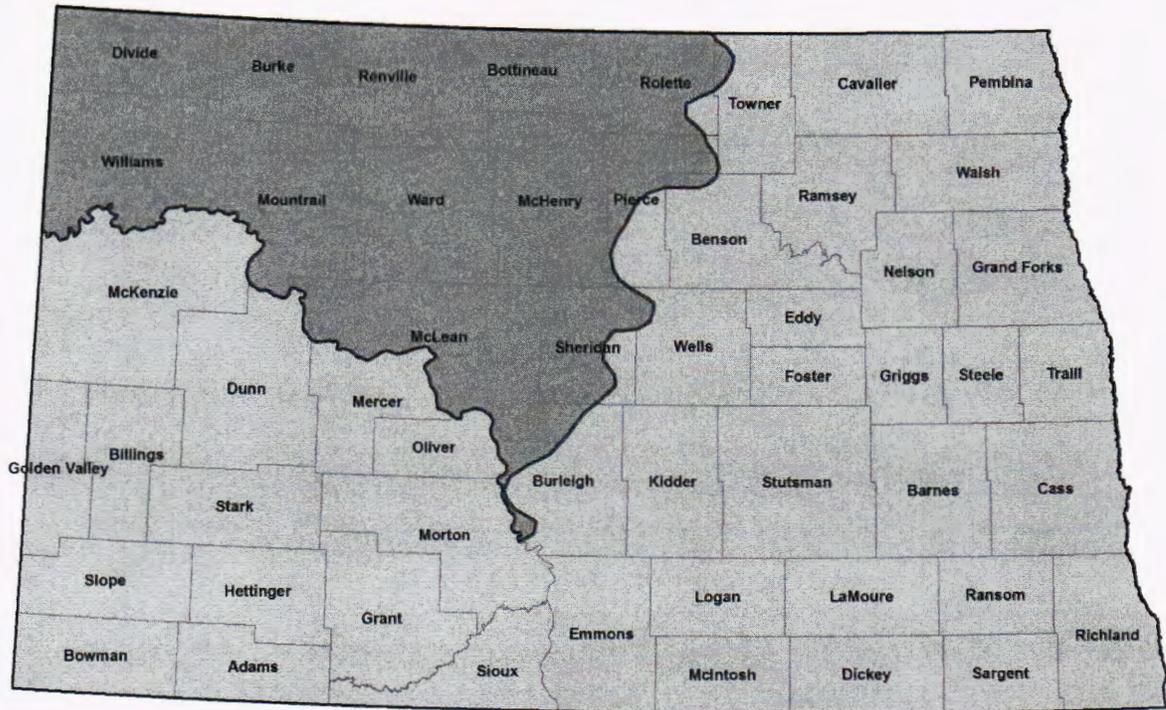
### Goals, Strategies and Benefits

The goal of the GEPP is to address the resource concerns of lessees grazing school trust and public lands to support the implementation of rotational grazing systems. Project partners will work with lessees and land managers to advance grazing systems on school trust and public land. Providing lessees with technical assistance and cost share for grazing infrastructure and improvements will increase cost efficiency and profitability of their operations long-term while also improving grassland health and recreational opportunities.

Through a broad based partnership with a variety of backgrounds and expertise, we will deliver additional options to producers who graze school trust and public lands. Promotion and outreach to lessees will provide an opportunity to develop water and fencing infrastructure on a voluntary basis. Infrastructure will consist of, but not limited to fencing materials, rural water hookups, well hole and casing, water tanks, solar and/or wind stations, electrical hookups, water pumps, pipelines, wetland restorations and grass seeding's. Water pipelines and grass seeding's will comply with NRCS specifications. Grazing systems will consist of a grazing plan which will be focused on duration and recovery time to determine success. A grazing plan based on the principles of duration and recovery time provides producers with opportunity to be flexible based on each year's conditions and associated monitoring. Soil health of the systems will be monitored by water infiltration tests and success of the systems will ultimately be determined by the satisfaction of cooperating producers. To ensure project success and equal participation, cost-share assistance from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will be matched by the landowner, lessee, and project partners at a minimum of 40%.

At a time of reduced agricultural commodities, water availability, grassland acres, and public school funding it is crucial that we encourage the implementation of rotational grazing systems. The GEPP is the first attempt to work together through a diverse partnership to enhancing grazing opportunities for private producers on school trust and public lands. Initial interest has been strong and projects have been identified to initiate the program (Example 1). With success of this initial effort, the partnership expects to broaden opportunities and funding for North Dakota producers utilizing school trust and public land as part of their overall operation while addressing habitat concerns.

## BAKKEN FORMATION MAP (N & E OF MISSOURI)



OHF will provide assistance to implement livestock fencing and water developments on school trust, public land and adjacent private land. These practices will support rotational grazing systems.

Ducks Unlimited will provide outreach through Conservation Program Biologists, funding for wetland restorations, and technical assistance.

North Dakota Department of Trust Lands will provide rent credits to lessees for funding permanent water developments (Well hole and casing) in accordance with their Livestock Water Development Permit application and also provide technical assistance through their surface management team.

Dakota Missouri Valley and Western Railroad will provide funding for fencing materials along railroad right-of-way when deemed necessary.

Natural Resources Trust will provide funding for water developments and technical assistance.

Fish and Wildlife Service will provide rent credits to lessees for funding permanent water developments on Waterfowl Production Areas.

North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition will provide technical assistance through their mentoring network in the development of rotational grazing plans.

### Directives and Timeline

#### OHF Major 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. This major directive will be achieved by providing lessees with cost share and technical guidance to address resource concerns (water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal health). Resource concerns will be addressed by improving rotational grazing systems through a grazing plan and providing livestock infrastructure. Water quality will improve by installing water sources away from wetlands and waterways. Soil conditions will improve through even manure distribution, rest recovery, and plant utilization. Rotational grazing promotes plant diversity through whole plant community utilization and increased stock density for shorter grazing periods.

#### OHF Additional Directives

(A)– Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen; School trust lands have been open to public hunting since 1983. Waterfowl Production Areas are open to public hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife education, and wildlife observation. Providing lessees with financial and technical assistance to implement grazing infrastructure will enhance and provide additional habitat for wildlife on school trust, public and adjacent private land.

(C)– Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; this will be achieved by installing infrastructure to support rotational grazing on school trust, public and adjacent private land, restoring wetlands, seeding grass where needed and implementing grazing plans which promote rest recovery time.

If the GEPP is funded, agreements will be 5 years in length and/or will align with an agency's grazing lease terms. Grazing infrastructure and improvements will be implemented in the first 3 years of the grant term (2017 – 2019) and will utilize funds by December 31, 2019. GEPP partners will continue to monitor the success of the grazing system through the agreement expiration.

#### **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.\***

Ducks Unlimited will provide management, coordination, and administration for the GEPP grant. Ducks Unlimited Conservation Program Biologists and partners will work collaboratively to provide producers with program guidance and technical assistance in developing grazing systems. Grazing systems will be reviewed yearly to monitor the implementation of grazing practices and effectiveness of the grazing systems. Agreements will be 5 years in length and/or scheduled in conjunction with agency grazing lease terms. Projects shall be funded on a first come first serve basis until funds expire. Grant funds will be distributed to the lessees as agreement items are completed and proper documentation is provided to Ducks Unlimited.

ND Natural Resources Trust will provide funding for water developments and technical assistance to lessees interested in the GEPP.

North Dakota Department of Trust Lands will provide lessees of school trust land with necessary permits to install infrastructure pending approval from the commissioner. Technical assistance will also be provided by the surface management team to assist lessees with grazing plans.

Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide technical assistance when installing water pipelines and seeding grass to ensure the planned items meet specifications.

ND Grazing Land Coalition mentoring network will provide technical assistance to develop grazing plans with lessees.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide lessees with grazing agreements and oversight on Koenig Waterfowl Production Area to ensure habitat is the focus.

Dakota Missouri Valley and Western Railroad will provide funding for materials along railroad right-of-way when deemed necessary.

**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.

Success of the GEPP will be determined by the amount of acres affected and rest recovery time for pastures. The number of rest recovery days for pastures will be a tool to determine the success of the rotational grazing systems to promote plant vigor and diversity. Soil health will be determined by water infiltration tests. Progress of the project will be documented through monitoring photos. Success of the program will ultimately be determined by the satisfaction of lessees and the amount of interest in the project.

**Financial Information**

ATTACHMENT: See attached project budget and detailed budget plan.

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

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

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

Sustainability of the GEPP will be carried out in many ways. Water infrastructure implemented by the OHF GEPP will continue to provide lessees with quality water for the lifespan of the well. By providing lessees of trust lands and public lands with quality water it will allow rotational grazing practices to continue to take place during all weather conditions. The benefit to wildlife habitat through rotational grazing is a management tool which could be applied to many other public lands in the state. The GEPP will promote rotational grazing practices on school trust, public, and private lands which will provide producers with additional grazing days. This also equates to additional rest recovery on private pastures and improved habitat for wildlife on school trust, public, and private land.

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

Partial funding would result in fewer lessees having the opportunity to improve their grazing systems on school trust land, public land, and adjacent private land.

**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. Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized when working with producers.
2. Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized in outreach and on the Ducks Unlimited website.
3. Sportsmen will be informed about proper grazing practices and the benefits to habitat in the long term. Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized as a key partner in making quality habitat available for wildlife and improved hunting opportunity in North Dakota.

## **References**

Southwick Associates *"2013 Economic Impacts of Hunting and Fishing State Reports"*

Dyke, Steve R., Sandra K. Johnson, and Patrick T. Isakson. 2015. *"North Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan"*. North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck, ND. Pg.52

## **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. \*

All provisions of the contract will be met by Ducks Unlimited in accordance with the non-profit contract.

## **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.

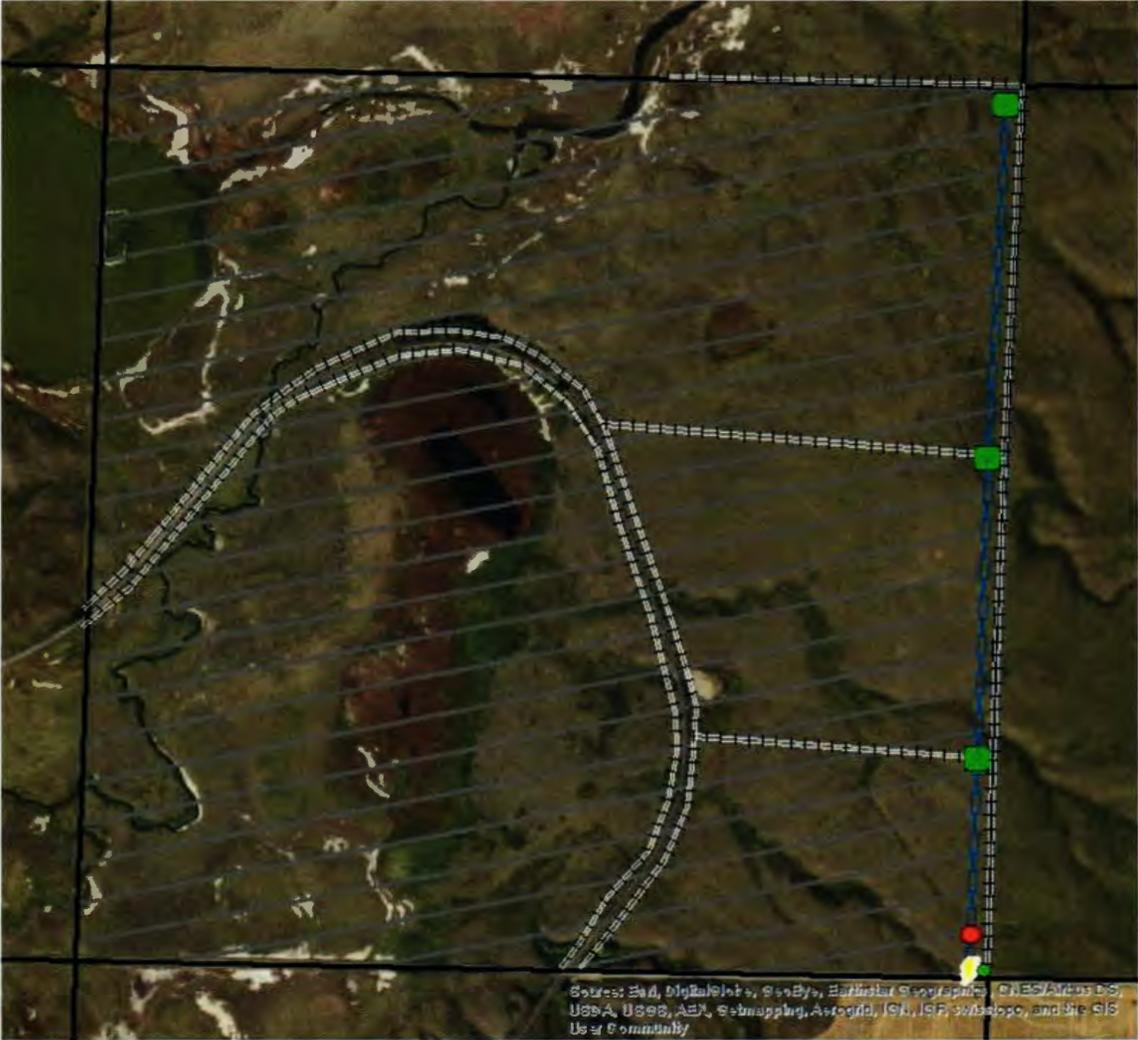
If you have any questions about the application or have trouble submitting the application, please contact Karlene Fine at 701-328-3722 or [kfine@nd.gov](mailto:kfine@nd.gov)

Revised: December 16, 2015

**Example 1: Planned Working Grasslands Pilot Project Grazing System on School Trust Land**

**EXHIBIT A**

County and State: McLean, ND  
 Location: Washburn, ND  
 Project ID: Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project

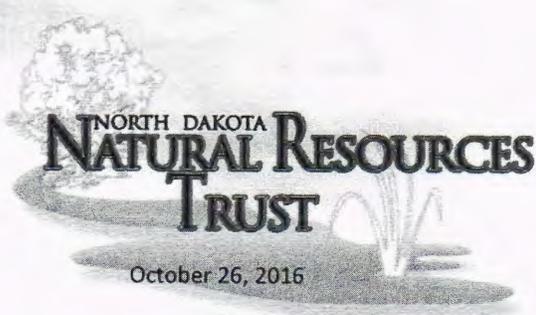


- Legend**
- Well
  - Electric Hookup
  - Pipeline
  - Tank
  - New Fence
  - ▭ Section
  - ▭ School Trust Land

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



OHF funding, partner match, and lessee/landowner contributions will establish 27,000 ft. of fence, three water tanks, one mile of pipeline, one well, and one power hookup. This will provide necessary grazing system infrastructure that will allow for an improved management plan benefitting the cattle, grassland dependent species, and the sportsmen and women that recreate on Trust Lands.



NORTH DAKOTA  
**NATURAL RESOURCES  
TRUST**

October 26, 2016

Keith Trego  
*Executive Director*  
1605 East Capitol Avenue, Ste. 101  
Bismarck, ND 58501-2102  
(701) 223-8501  
FAX: (701) 223-6937

Karlene Fine, Executive Director  
North Dakota Industrial Commission  
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program  
State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor  
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Ms. Fine:

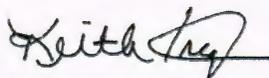
The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust mission is to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota. We are writing in support of the Ducks Unlimited and partners Outdoor Heritage Funds grant proposal titled "Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project."

From its inception, the Trust has played a role as facilitator between agricultural and conservation interests. In addition to facilitating and funding sound, on-the-ground conservation of natural resources, our goal is to identify common issues, create dialogue, and resolve conflicts. Along with its agricultural and conservation partners, the Trust advocates for recognition, appropriate development, and protection of North Dakota's unique natural resource values.

Consistent with the Trust mission, this grant proposal will be the critical component of providing technical and financial assistance to lessees of North Dakota Trust Lands and public lands. This will provide increased livestock production as well as increased wildlife conservation habitat creating a true "win – win situation." The Trust is also aware that the lead for this grant proposal is Ducks Unlimited and the Trust's role as co-applicant will be a providing match to reduce lessees cost share and other project coordinating.

We are happy to provide our endorsement of the Ducks Unlimited and partners grant proposal and look forward to its accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Keith Trego  
Executive Director

*"Dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, restoration and management of wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota."*

1707 North 9th Street  
PO Box 5523  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5523  
Phone: (701) 328-2800  
Fax: (701) 328-3650



[www.land.nd.gov](http://www.land.nd.gov)

Lance D. Gaebe, Commissioner

October 25, 2016

KARLENE FINE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NORTH DAKOTA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
ATTN: OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND PROGRAM  
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVE DEPT 405  
BISMARCK ND 58505

Dear Ms. Fine:

By and through the Department of Trust Lands, the North Dakota Board of University and School Lands manages thousands of acres of trust lands that were granted by the federal government to North Dakota at statehood. These permanent trust lands were provided solely for the purpose of providing financial support to public schools in North Dakota. In order to provide this support, these lands are managed to generate income and are leased to farmers and ranchers at public auction at least once every five years.

The proposed Ducks Unlimited, Inc. "Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project" would complement the Department's mission of enhancing trust lands. Implementation of land improvement and water development on trust lands are desirable because lessees are required to maintain the land in good condition. Cooperative projects, like envisioned in the Ducks Unlimited request, could promote good range and forage management on trust lands.

The Board permits public walk-in access on the majority of the trust lands it manages, unless those lands are posted with signs authorized by the Department if the lessees' livestock management practices conflict with hunting seasons.

The proposed project has potential to enhance trust lands through the application of grazing management, wildlife habitat, and water quality practices to the landscape. The proposed project will encourage farm and ranch operators who lease school trust land to invest in land and water development practices and managed grazing systems, while maintaining the terms of the surface lease and generating income to the schools. Rent credits could be available to trust land lessees as matching funds for heritage grant dollars which support water development projects.

The Department of Trust Lands supports the Ducks Unlimited proposal for an Outdoor Heritage Fund project to enhance public and school trust lands; and it will work within the confines of its fiduciary responsibility to the trusts and beneficiaries to cooperate with the project. The application of land and water development practices will enhance the use and potential value of school trust lands, while maintaining our principal responsibility to generate revenue to the school trusts.

We look forward to participating with the partners in this proposed project in areas where it offers mutual benefit.

Sincerely,

Lance D. Gaebe  
Commissioner



North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition  
PO Box 325, Mandan, ND 58554

www.ndglc.com  
info@ndglc.com

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October 25, 2016

Karlene Fine, Executive Director  
North Dakota Industrial Commission  
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program  
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support by the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) for Ducks Unlimited's "Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal.

NDGLC is a grassroots group organized in 1996 to promote the health and sustainability of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands. Coalition members have a strong focus on managing for soil health and biodiversity to promote sustainable farming and ranching. NDGLC supports the "Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project" as it seeks to improve grazing infrastructure and grazing systems on public and private lands. It is a core belief of ours that through voluntary actions, respect for private property rights, and education on the benefits of well managed grazing resources, their goals are achievable. Advice our mentors provide is based upon the knowledge and experience gained on their operations and through interactions with other ranchers across the state.

It is important to the NDGLC that the ag producer perspective be accounted for in a program like this. Therefore, the NDGLC is excited to be a partner with Ducks Unlimited on the pilot project to enhance public and private land in North Dakota. The proposed rotational grazing systems will be implemented to optimize grazing duration and recovery time that will benefit the rancher and North Dakota's grassland species. The NDGLC mentor network is pleased to provide approximately \$2,300 of in-kind technical assistance to cooperators interested in the program through rotational grazing systems management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell Oswald".

Darrell Oswald  
NDGLC Chairman



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Audubon National Wildlife Refuge  
3275 11<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Coleharbor, ND 58531



October 20, 2016

Karlene Fine, Executive Director  
North Dakota Industrial Commission  
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program  
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Ms. Fine:

I am pleased to work with Ducks Unlimited and other partners on the "Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project" (GEPP). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has a history of working closely with private landowners to manage Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) through grazing. Cooperating ranchers have the opportunity to graze these areas when management is necessary to meet habitat objectives. Therefore, the USFWS is proud to support the GEPP efforts to provide lessees of public lands with infrastructure to rotationally graze.

Waterfowl Production Areas provide the public with access to hunt, bird watch, photograph wildlife and enjoy the outdoors. They also provide a variety of additional benefits to the public such as reducing erosion and flooding, recharging ground water and carbon sequestration. Rotational grazing is a great management tool to maintain native vegetation and control tame cool season grasses, which tend to invade native grasslands.

We are proud to support the efforts of Ducks Unlimited and partners to improve the habitat on public lands. The USFWS will provide rent credits for planned water development enhancements on the Koenig WPA. This grazing system will ensure adequate habitat for ground nesting birds and other wildlife, provide rest recovery time on adjacent pastures, and we look forward to the positive impacts this will provide for the Koenig WPA.

Sincerely,

Kathy Baer  
Wetland District Manager  
Audubon Wetland Management District



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Bismarck State Office  
PO Box 1458  
Bismarck, ND  
58502-1458

Voice 701.530.2000  
Fax 855-813-7556

October 27, 2016

To whom it may concern,

The Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project Application by Ducks Unlimited (for OHF) is an excellent project that fits local conservation needs.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, will provide the technical assistance needed for the Engineering projects and will work closely to assist North Dakota Agricultural Producers and all Grant Partners.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODOLL  
State Conservationist

cc:

Richard Webb, ASTC(FO), NRCS, Devils Lake AO  
Stuart Blotter, ASTC(FO), NRCS, Jamestown AO  
Kresta Faaborg, ASTC(FO), NRCS, Dickinson AO  
Christi Fisher, SCE, NRCS, Bismarck SO  
Todd Hagel, ASTC(P), NRCS, Bismarck SO  
Jarvis Keney, RC(P), NRCS, Bismarck SO  
Dane Buysse, Ducks Unlimited, Bismarck, ND  
Jesse Beckers, ND NRT, Bismarck, ND

*Helping People Help the Land*

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## Grasslands Enhancement Pilot Project Budget

Project Expense	OHF Request	Landowners Match Share (Cash & In-Kind)	Applicants and Partners Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's and Partners Match Share (In-Kind)	Total Each Project Expense
Livestock Water Development (60/40)	\$150,948.00	\$43,112.00 (4)	\$57,520.00 (1,5,7)	\$0.00	\$251,580.00
Livestock Fencing Project (60/40)	\$75,240.00	\$60,960.00 (4)	\$16,200.00 (3)	\$0.00	\$152,400.00
Grass Seeding (60/40)	\$3,840.00	\$2,560.00 (4)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,400.00
Wetland Restoration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00 (2)	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Administrative Staffing and TA (5%)	\$11,501.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,800.00 (2, 6, 7)	\$22,301.40
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$241,529.40</b>	<b>\$106,632.00</b>	<b>\$79,720.00</b>	<b>\$10,800.00</b>	<b>\$438,681.40</b>

- 1) ND Department of Trust Lands - \$32,120 in water development rent credits
  - a. Water Development Credit – Lessees are provided with up to 50% (maximum of \$4,015) in rent credit per water well development (hole and casing only). Remaining project costs, less any cost share assistance, are depreciated in annual installments over ten years. Depreciation over ten years provides the lessee with rent protection.
- 2) Ducks Unlimited - \$5,000 in technical assistance, \$2,000 in travel costs, \$6,000 towards wetland restorations.
- 3) Dakota Missouri Valley Western Railroad - \$16,200 for fencing development adjacent to railroad right of ways.
- 4) Landowners – Cost towards water development \$43,112 and fencing along with fence installation \$60,960 and grass seeding \$2,560.
- 5) US Fish and Wildlife Service - \$10,400 in rent credits to lessee for water improvements on Koenig WPA.
- 6) ND Grazing Lands Coalition - \$2,300 in technical assistance to lessees.
- 7) ND Natural Resources Trust - \$15,000 in cost-share assistance and \$1,500 in technical assistance.

Planned Practices – Two landowners directly affecting 1,440 acres of pasture, indirectly affecting additional private acres.  
 Additional Projected Acres to benefit from OHF funding – 2,560 acres based on 4 lessees at 640 acres each.  
 Total Projected acres to be enhanced – 4,000 acres

## Additional Budget Details

Project Practices	Amount	Units	Cost	Total Cost	Partner Match	L/O Match	OHF Request
<b><u>Livestock Water Development</u></b>							
Water Well	10	Each	\$11,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$40,920.00	\$3,080.00	\$66,000.00
Water Tank	20	Each	\$2,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$14,400.00	\$24,000.00
Water Pipeline	13,200	Feet	\$3.15	\$41,580.00	\$10,000.00	\$6,632.00	\$24,948.00
Electrical Hookup	5	Each	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Solar Pump	3	Each	\$7,000.00	\$21,000.00	0.00	\$8,400.00	\$12,600.00
Windmill Pump	2	Each	\$7,000.00	\$14,000.00	0.00	\$5,600.00	\$8,400.00
				<b>\$251,580.00</b>	<b>\$57,520.00</b>	<b>\$43,112.00</b>	<b>\$150,948.00</b>
<b><u>Livestock Fencing</u></b>							
Fence Barbed	15,000	Feet	\$1.80	\$27,000.00	\$16,200.00	\$10,800.00	\$0.00
Fence – 2 Wire Electric	132,000	Feet	.95	\$125,400.00	\$0.00	\$50,160.00	\$75,240.00
				<b>\$152,400.00</b>	<b>\$16,200.00</b>	<b>\$60,960.00</b>	<b>\$75,240.00</b>
<b><u>Grass Seeding</u></b>							
Grass Seeding	80	Acres	\$80.00	\$6,400.00	\$0.00	\$2,560.00	\$3,840.00
				<b>\$6,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$2,560.00</b>	<b>\$3,840.00</b>
<b><u>Wetland Restoration</u></b>							
Wetland Restoration	3	Each	\$2,000	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				<b>\$6,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b><u>Technical Assistance</u></b>							
					\$10,800.00	\$0.00	\$11,501.40
					<b>\$10,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$11,501.40</b>
<b><u>Gross Total</u></b>					<b>\$90,520.00</b>	<b>\$106,632.00</b>	<b>\$241,529.40</b>

### **OHF Share @ 60%**

**\$241,529.40**

- Planning rates based on ND 319 Cost-Share Guidelines for BMPs updated June 2016.
- In-Kind Technical Assistance provided by DU, NDGLC, NRT through planning and monitoring.
- Outdoor Heritage Fund request for technical assistance is equal to 5% of the request.