



Outdoor Heritage Fund

History

- Established on August 1, 2013 by the Legislature.
- Continuing Appropriation of \$20,000,000 annually from oil and gas taxes.
- Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board appointed by the Governor consists of 12 voting members and 4 ex-officio members.
 - Voting members represent: the agriculture community (4), energy industry (2), conservation community (4), business community (1) and recreation and parks (1).
 - Ex-officio members include the Game and Fish Department, State Parks and Recreation, State Forester and the Soil Conservation Districts.

Four Directives



Four Directives



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

Four Directives



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

Four Directives



Developing,
enhancing,
conserving, and
restoring wildlife and
fish habitat on private
and public lands

Four Directives



Conserving natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Eligible Applicants:

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

- **Final** approval of all funding will be made by the North Dakota Industrial Commission—Governor, Attorney General and Agriculture Commissioner. No project can be funded unless it has received a positive recommendation from the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board.

Application Deadlines

The following grant round application deadlines have been established for the 2015-2017 biennium:

- October 1, 2015
- March 1, 2016
- November 1, 2016
- May 1, 2017



Restrictions

The law states that dollars from the Fund cannot be used for:

- Litigation
- Lobbying activities
- 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;
- The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of the directives.

No Consideration

Projects that will not be funded in the future except in extenuating circumstances:

- A completed project or project started 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.

No Consideration

- 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.
- 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.
 - Expenditures may not exceed 5% of the grant if the award exceeds \$250,000 and expenditures may not exceed 10% of the grant if the award is \$250,000 or less;

No Consideration

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

Requirements

Applications must include:

- Description of the proposed project;
- Information on the directives met by the project;
- Total project costs and the amount being requested by the applicant
- Detailed information on how the funds will be expended – labor, operating costs, purchase of equipment, purchase of supplies, etc.;
- Information on how the project will be managed;
- Whether it is a new, innovative program;

Requirements

- Whether there is an urgency for funding;
- Whether the project can proceed with only partial funding;
- Information on how the project will be sustained after the OHF dollars have been expended; and
- Methods for determining the success of the project.
- A minimum of 25% matching funds are required.
 - The matching funds can come from in-kind or indirect services or as cash and can come from any source (federal, state, tribal, private sector, etc.)

Grant Application Process

- All applications are posted on the OHF website.
- They are reviewed by staff to determine completeness and then go to the Technical Committee.
 - Technical Committee is made up of the Ex-Officio Members of the OHF Advisory Board.
- Applicants are given an opportunity to make a 10-minute oral presentation to the OHF Advisory Board.
- Applications receiving a favorable recommendation proceed to the Industrial Commission for final consideration .

Scoring

Applications are scored using the Scoring Form. This scoring form evaluates the application and:

- Awards more points for projects fulfilling more than one directive – the more directives the applicant is impacting the more points they receive;
- Gives the same number of points for each directive;
- Gives additional points for additional matching funds;
- Awards additional points for projects demonstrating sustainability;
- Awards points based on the management of the project and the methods to measure success.

Ranking

- After the scoring is completed the OHF Advisory Board members will then use the Funding Ranking Form as a tool for ranking the applications within the amount of funding that is available and prioritizing the applications.
- Last, the OHF Advisory Board will vote on each application.
 - They can vote on awarding the full amount, partial amount or no award.

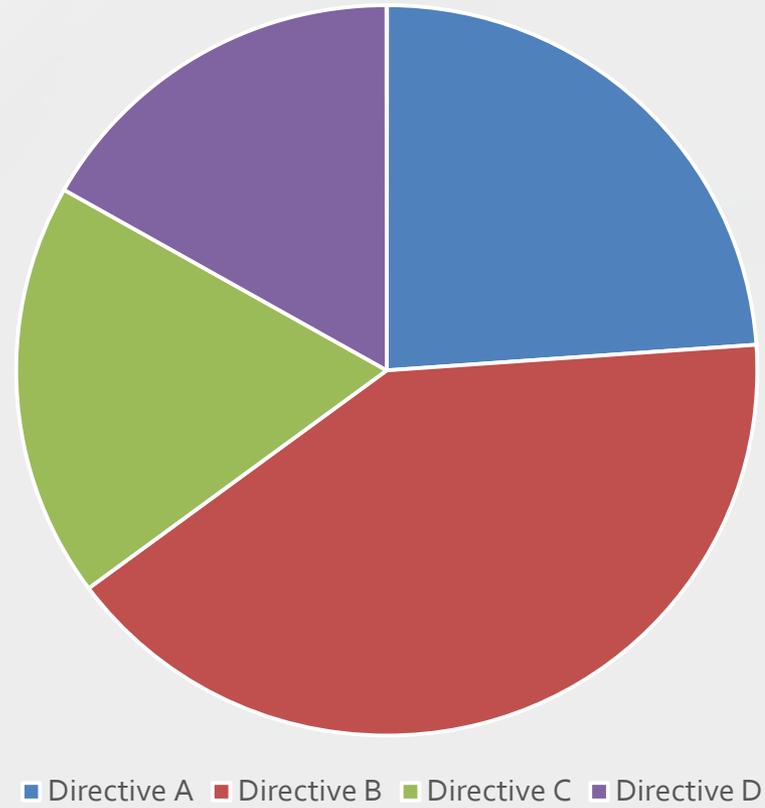
Final Approval

- If an applicant receives approval from the Industrial Commission, a contract is drafted for the applicant's review.
 - Sample contracts are available on the OHF website.
 - The contract will outline the reporting requirements for the project and how the funds will be disbursed.
 - Funds are not awarded upfront—funds are only awarded as work is completed.
 - The reports on each project will be posted on the Industrial Commission's website.
- Our goal is to be very transparent and open so the public and all interested parties can see the results of this funding.

Program Results

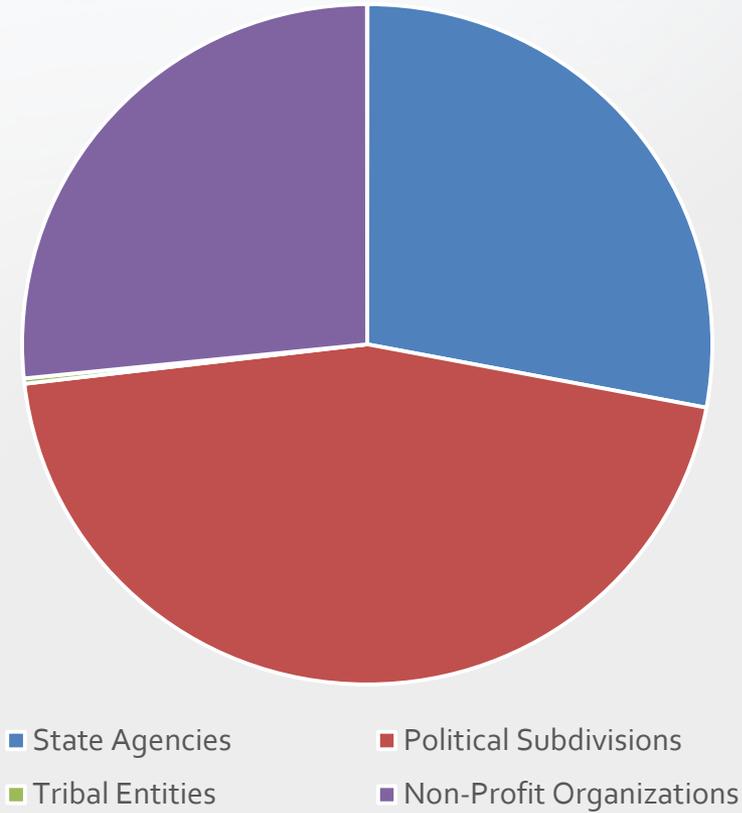
- Industrial Commission has awarded funding for 102 projects for a total of \$29,529,196.

Total Awarded By Directive

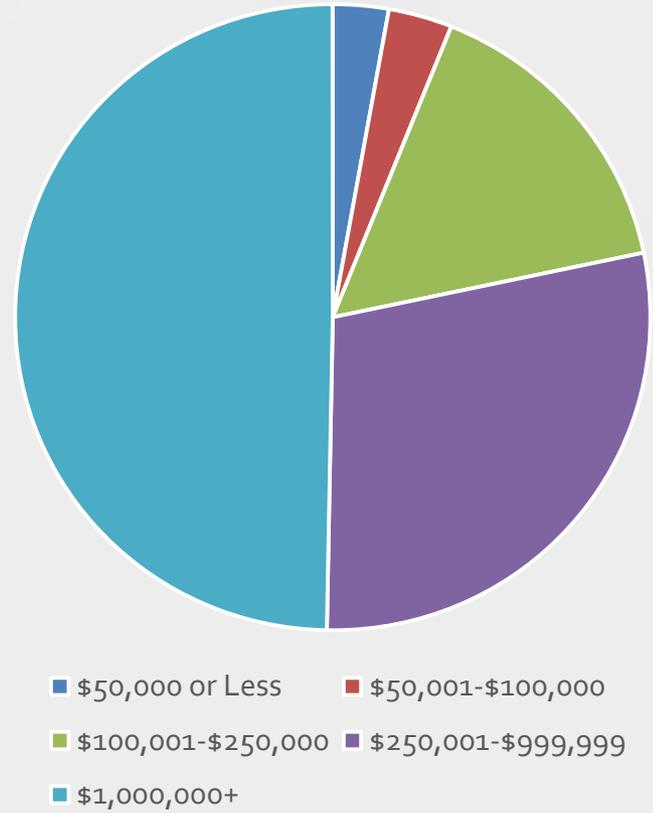


Program Results

Awards by Entity



Awards by Amount



Website Resources

- The application form and budget form are available at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>
- The website includes information on the Application Process and the Review, Scoring and Approval Process.
- The Scoring and Ranking Forms used by the OHF Advisory Board are also available.

Questions

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<http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>