Outdoor Heritage Fund
Background

- Established on August 1, 2013 by the Legislature
- Currently approximately $4.9 million available.
- Appropriation of $7,500,000 annually for the 19-21 biennium from oil and gas taxes
- Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) Advisory Board appointed by the Governor consists of
  - 12 voting members
  - 4 ex-officio members
Advisory Board

• Voting members represent:
  – Agriculture community (4)
  – Energy industry (2)
  – Conservation community (4)
  – Business community (1)
  – Recreation and parks (1)

• Ex-officio members include:
  – Game and Fish Department
  – State Parks and Recreation
  – State Forester
  – Soil Conservation Districts
Four Directives
Four Directives – Access to Land

Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
Four Directives – Agricultural Stewardship

Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems, and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching.
Four Directives – Habitat Restoration

Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands.
Four Directives – Outdoor Recreation Areas

Conserve 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
Match

- A minimum of 25% matching funds are required.
  - Projects with higher match receive a higher score
  - Match can be: cash, in-kind, or indirect services
  - Can come from a variety of sources—federal, tribal, private sector, etc.

- State General Fund dollars cannot be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose.
Application Process

Application Submitted

Reviewed by Staff

Board Submits Questions

Technical Committee Review

*Tech Committee consists of the Ex-Officio members of the OHF Advisory Board.
Applicants Provide 10 Minute Presentation

Board Votes

Board Recommendations go to Industrial Commission for Final Approval

Successful Applicants Are Issued a Contract
Scoring

- Preference is given to projects fulfilling additional directives.
- The same number of points are awarded for each directive.
- Additional points for additional matching funds.
- Additional points for projects demonstrating sustainability, management of the project and methods to measure success.
Ranking

• After scoring, the OHF Advisory Board will use the Ranking Form as a tool to rank the applications within the funding that is available and prioritize applications.

• OHF Advisory Board can elect to award the full amount, a partial amount or no award.
Successful Applications

- Sample contracts are available at the OHF website.

- Reporting requirements for the project and how the funds will be disbursed will be outlined.

- Funds are only disbursed as work is completed.

- Reports will be posted on the Industrial Commission’s website.
Website Resources

• The application available at:
  http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm

• List of Funded Projects at
  http://www.nd.gov/ndic/ohf-projects.html
Restrictions

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

- Litigation
- Lobbying activities
- The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than 20 years
Restrictions

- Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with:
  - surface coal mining operations;
  - sand, gravel, scoria extraction activities;
  - oil and gas operations; or
  - other energy facility or infrastructure development

- Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of the directives.
No Consideration

In the absence of extenuating circumstances, the following projects will **not** receive consideration:

- Projects that have already been completed, or were started prior to submitting an application
- Feasibility or research studies
- Maintenance costs
- Paving projects for roads and parking lots
- A swimming pool or aquatic park
- Personal property that is not affixed to the land
No Consideration

• 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 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.
No Consideration

• Buildings and infrastructure not 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.
Program Results

- The Industrial Commission has awarded funding for 156 projects for a total of over $46 million.
OHF Funds Awarded by Activity

*Projects that were approved and subsequently withdrawn by recipient not included. Tree planting occurs in small amounts in other activities. Examples of BMPs include: perimeter fencing, cross fencing, wells, tanks, pipelines, cover crops, and grass planting.
Program Results

Awards by Entity
- State Agencies: 45%
- Political Subdivisions: 36%
- Tribal Entities: 18%
- Non-Profit Organizations: 1%

Awards by Amount
- $50,000 or Less: 51%
- $50,001-$100,000: 14%
- $100,001-$250,000: 3%
- $250,001-$999,999: 3%
- $1,000,000+: 29%
North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund
Awards by County, Grant Rounds 1-14

*Excludes Statewide Projects
Upcoming Application Deadlines

- November 1, 2019
- March 2, 2020
- September 1, 2020
- May 3, 2021
Questions

Bob Kuylen, Chairman
701-677-4115

Andrea Pfennig, Deputy Executive Director
Industrial Commission
apfennig@nd.gov
701-328-3786