

# Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



Name of Organizations:

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Federal Tax ID# \* 36-3512179

Contact Person/Title \* Jesse Beckers/Conservation Program Coordinator

Address \* 1605 East Capitol Ave, Suite 101

City \* Bismarck

State \* ND

Zip Code \* 58501

E-mail Address \* [jesse@naturalresourcestrust.com](mailto:jesse@naturalresourcestrust.com)

Web Site Address: [www.ndnrt.com](http://www.ndnrt.com)

Phone \* (701) 223-8501

Fax # (701) 223-6937

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

Dunn County Soil Conservation District

Additional Partners:

- Badlands Advisory Group Landowners
- Mule Deer Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Dunn County Commission
- McKenzie County Commission
- ND Game and Fish Department
- ND Petroleum Council
- ND Department of Mineral Resources
- ND Department of Health
- City of Watford City
- Watford City Police Department
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Partner's Program
- ND Wildlife Federation
- NRCS

**MAJOR Directive:** 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:** 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;

**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.

**Type of organization:**

State Agency

Political Subdivision

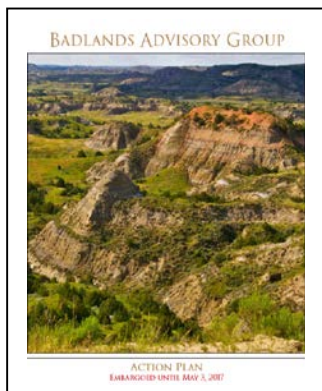
Tribal Entity

Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

**Project Name:** Bakken Development and Working Lands Program (BDWLP).

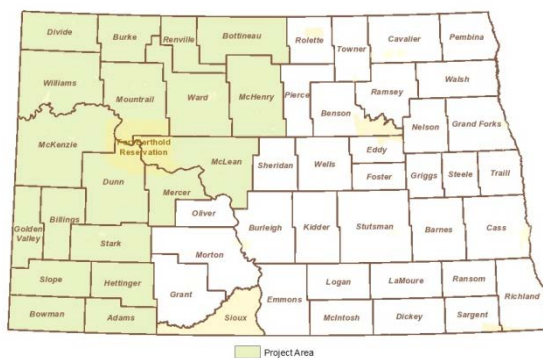
**Abstract/Executive Summary:** In 2016, an assessment was completed to aggregate the perceptions and opinions of stakeholders in agriculture, energy, government, and conservation about oil development in the Badlands. From that assessment evolved the Badlands Advisory Group (BAG), its objectives, and respective Action Plan. The specific component for habitat improvement in the Action Plan is the focus of this grant application. In partnership with OHF,

the BDWLP will benefit the broad base of stakeholders, including both surface and mineral owners, energy companies, conservationists, political subdivisions, state and federal agencies and the at-large public within oil producing counties and the Fort Berthold Reservation. The motivation is to reclaim scattered parcels with abandonment issues, create habitat on irregular lands within development sites and enhance the grassland ecosystem and the agricultural economy in the entire region.



Partners have also identified sites to clean up and create Urban Nature/Interpretive Sites (UNIS) near towns within the Bakken. Additionally, partners will identify and encourage public and private lands partnerships designed to restore, maintain and/or enhance native prairie ecosystems that contribute to native species conservation as well as conservation of the ranching culture. The BDWLP challenge will be to increase grassland quantity/quality, provide support to enhance grazing systems, create wildlife habitat through establishment of new and enhancement of existing cover, utilize cover crops, develop UNIS areas and create outdoor recreation opportunities.

BDWLP will provide cost-share to support project goals and in some cases, where affected land no longer fits in a normal farming practice, to support stewardship practices that enhance farming and ranching through use of Grassland Establishment Incentive Payments (GEIP) based on county NASS rates. The BDWLP joint applicants will oversee this program, working with landowners and developers, identifying funding from multiple government and non-government entities. BDWLP addresses key resource and habitat concerns outlined by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) by increasing the amount/quality of cover with the use of rotational grazing systems with guidance of local SCD offices. Furthermore, the project will strengthen and provide sustainable agriculture systems through cover crops for soil health and enhanced forage for livestock, specifically during times of drought. For habitat areas in/adjacent to cropping systems that would benefit from squaring off areas currently affected by energy development, habitat lease payments will be available to compensate landowners for deferring use to provide habitat for wildlife species around the developed area. Once habitat improvement projects are established, generally by year three, and the working lands concept is in a fully-functioning condition, predictable agricultural use will eliminate the need for GEIP.



The variety of agriculture, habitat, and recreation projects will address quality of life opportunities for Bakken residents. Having enjoyable living environments will attract those choosing to work and reside in the greater Badlands area and the features will benefit the entire region.

**Project Duration:** Projects will be identified and implemented within five (5) years of project initiation.

**Amount of Grant request \$2,170,000**

**Total Project Costs \$3,845,000**

(Note that in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds)

**Amount of Matching Funds: \$1,675,000 (44% of total project)**

Cash: \$773,000

In-kind:\$902,000

**Source(s) of Matching Funds**

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>
• Co-Applicants		
○ NDNRT	\$100,000	\$100,000
○ Dunn County SCD		\$75,000
• Other Partners		
○ Badlands Advisory Group		\$15,000
○ Landowners		\$460,000
○ Dunn County Commission	\$50,000	
○ ND Game and Fish Department	\$25,000	
○ ND Petroleum Council (Energy)		\$50,000
○ ND Department of Mineral Resources	\$300,000	
○ US Forest Service	\$125,000	\$90,000
○ McKenzie County Grazing Association	\$50,000	\$25,000
○ ND Wildlife Federation	\$100,000	
○ NP Resources, LLC	\$10,000	
○ City of Watford City	\$13,000	\$87,000
	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	
	\$773,000	\$902,000

**Certifications \***

X I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

X 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:** The Trust was created in 1986 and was originally called the North Dakota Wetlands Trust until 2000. The Trust’s mission is to preserve, restore, manage, and enhance wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state

of North Dakota. The Trust achieves this mission by partnering with agricultural and conservation organizations to promote productive use of private agricultural lands and private property rights that result in enhancement and protection of private lands, to effectively use North Dakota's public lands both for agriculture and recreation, to promote good land use along urban river corridors, and to enhance the state's significant water resources. The Trust helps shape the landscape through its programs and does its best to help shape both public attitude and public policy to support natural resource protection.

The Trust is managed by a six-member board of directors. Three of the directors are appointed by the governor of North Dakota, one by the National Audubon Society, one by the National Wildlife Federation, and one by the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director is an ex-officio member. The Trust has an Executive Director and four staff members.

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, its goal is to identify common issues, create dialogue, and resolve conflicts.

### **Purpose of Grant:**

Background and Funding Urgency: This proposal is an outgrowth of the BAG in response to the stake-holder assessment. The common response in the Stakeholder Assessment was to “produce oil, but ensure valuable surface resources are protected and recognize the rights and concerns of surface owners.” The BAG identified priority areas and opportunities (BAG 2017) that would involve small scattered parcels utilized for energy infrastructure, irregular areas of land that could be squared off to provide efficiency to the surface owner and wildlife habitat, and larger areas within or in proximity to developed areas. As stated in the BAG Report, “Much of the energy development related disturbance is on private land. It is well known that farmers and ranchers are open to considering private land conservation opportunities that fit their operations and provide adequate compensation.” The BDWLP would provide a major opportunity to engage surface owners and oil and gas companies in innovative conservation and provide public access opportunities in areas impacted by energy development. Several areas are also adjacent to state and federally owned land which has opened the door for cooperative partnerships on habitat projects, thus leveraging more funding sources leading to effectively enhancing the conservation of native prairie.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (SWAP 2015) has also listed an area within the Bakken as a Conservation Priority Area. Several areas within the state are experiencing rapid grassland loss, affecting ranching operations and reducing opportunities for landowners. The project benefits will, among other things, provide enhanced grazing lands and infrastructure for landowners as well as benefit grassland birds with declining populations, thus decreasing the probability for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Goals, Strategies, and Benefits: The goals of the BDWLP for the Bakken region are to: 1) create and enhance working agricultural lands and wildlife habitat near energy sites as well as

throughout the broader landscape; 2) create urban nature/interpretive sites, and 3) coordinate and facilitate energy site reclamation where no current responsible party exists.

1. Working agricultural developments near energy sites. This approach would provide associated grassland development and enhancement cost on land associated with oil and gas development, as well as other lands within the Bakken. This will encourage landowners to enroll small irregular parcels into a habitat area, and incorporate landscape-level tracts with grazing development practices or other enhancements. The local SCD will assist landowners in managing these acres and adjacent grasslands while providing best management practice guidelines for livestock grazing. Both cross and perimeter fencing will be used for new or enhanced rotational grazing systems. Cost share will be 60/40 between the grant and landowner, and fences will adhere to NRCS specifications. By providing grazing system infrastructure for these grasslands, producers will have the opportunity to increase their Animal Units per Month (AUM). The likelihood that grass remains after the life of the contract will greatly increase since that grazing land will be fully integrated into the livestock producers' operations.

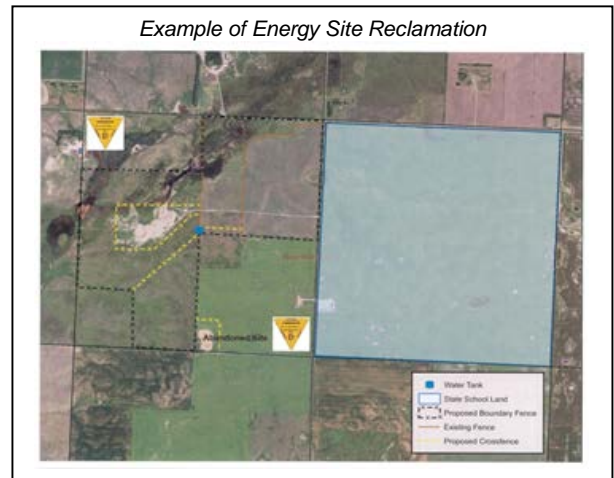


2. Urban Nature/Interpretive Sites. Communities would also benefit through the development of nature sites, outdoor education opportunities and community recreation areas. These sites will include tree plantings, native grass plantings and development of pollinator plots. Tree plantings will follow NRCS specifications and maps detailing tree spacing and numbers planted will be included in reports to OHF. Species selection for native grass and pollinator plantings will be completed through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the local SCD's.





3. Energy site reclamation where no current responsible party exists. Bringing together diverse partnerships will provide opportunities for abandoned sites to be reclaimed and benefiting the producer through establishing additional livestock forage. These areas also have the potential to provide public access for hunting, birding, or other recreational opportunities.



Directives and Timelines: The BDWLP's major directive is (C), *developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands*. This grant will provide landowners and communities the cost assistance and technical guidance to accomplish the full array of innovative improvements.

In addition, directive (A) *providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen*, will be achieved by NDGFD offering landowners PLOTS. 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*, will be achieved by providing landowners cost assistance and technical guidance. Directive (D) *conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and recreation areas*, will be a UNIS program for communities within the Bakken to create kid-safe, outdoor education oriented, habitat based nature areas to add quality of life attributes to individual communities and the entire region.

The project will be five (5) years in length, with the majority of the development practices identified in the first three (3) years. The BDWLP will create agriculture and wildlife benefits on approximately 5,000 - 10,000 acres and multiple urban nature/interpretive projects.

#### **Management of Project:**

Joint applicants will provide management, coordination, and administration to the BDWLP grant. The applicants will work collectively to provide landowners with program information to assist program participants.

The Trust will complete all program coordination from our office located in Bismarck, ND. Kathy Kirschman, Administrative Assistant/Biological Technician, Terry Allbee, Biologist/Business Manager, and Jesse Beckers, Conservation Program Coordinator, will serve as the program coordinators. Trust staff has a combined 25 years of experience in delivering similar

conservation projects. The Trust will provide tracking and reporting for all project agreements following grant guidelines.

The majority of direct contacts with landowners will be done by county SCD's, as well as other partners including the Department of Mineral Resources and North Dakota Petroleum Council members. NRCS staff, NDGFD private lands biologists, USFWS partners program biologists and Forest Service staff will also promote projects and work directly with landowners.

As these professionals work with landowners and communities, agricultural infrastructure development options, conservation habitat, and NDGFD PLOTS agreements will be promoted. All grant funds will be paid as agreements and development activities are completed and proper documentation is supplied to the Trust. BDWLP funding will be provided through continuous enrollment, meaning there will be no batching period and funding stops when the funds are spent. If any evaluation is required to determine the best projects the BAG, in concert with local SCDs, will provide that oversight, utilizing input from other partners as needed. Through the partnership development phase of this grant, numerous projects have already been identified. We will present some specific project examples to the OHF Advisory Board during the presentation of this grant proposal.

**Evaluation:**

Project success will be measured by:

- Number of sites and total acres impacted by energy development reclaimed and enhanced
- Number of acres adjacent to energy development infrastructure enhanced with habitat improvement and improved management for agricultural use
- Number of acres not directly adjacent to energy infrastructure restored, enhanced, placed into public access, made more agriculturally productive or in some other way improved to contribute to the economic and recreational base of the region
- Number and acres of kid-safe, outdoor education oriented, habitat based nature areas established and population served
- The overall results of a unique partnership among and between energy, agriculture, conservation and the citizens/political subdivisions of the region
- Number of public and private land partnerships specifically designed for conservation of native prairie
- Adoption of some of the project's innovative strategies by energy companies as standard business practice



## Financial Information

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

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Other Project Sponsor's Share (Cash)	Other Project Sponsor's Share (In-Kind)	Total Each Project Expense
<u>Working Agricultural Developments</u>						
BMP - Grass Seeding	\$240,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$ 50,000	\$85,000	\$425,000
BMP - Grassland Fence and Water	\$720,000		\$50,000	\$ 125,000	\$355,000	\$1,250,000
BMP - Cover Crop Seeding	\$180,000	\$30,000	\$25,000		\$75,000	\$310,000
BMP - GEIP	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000		\$125,000
BMP – Agricultural/Energy	\$120,000	\$30,000		\$50,000		\$200,000
Subtotal	\$1,310,000	\$110,000	\$125,000	\$250,000	\$515,000	\$2,310,000
<u>Urban Nature/Interpretive Sites</u>						
Project Design and Construction	\$450,000	\$13,000	\$87,000	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$610,000
<u>Energy Site Reclamation</u>						
Energy Sites – Reclamation	\$350,000		\$50,000	\$350,000	\$100,000	\$ 850,000
<u>Contracted Services</u>						
Consulting, Engineering, SHPO, and Technical Services	\$60,000				\$15,000	\$75,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,170,000</b>	<b>\$123,000</b>	<b>\$262,000</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>\$640,000</b>	<b>\$3,845,000</b>

## Budget Narrative

### Working Agricultural Development

- Grass Seeding will follow the ND NPS Management Program's Cost-Share Guidelines for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Best Management Practices (319 program). OHF grant will provide **60%** cost-share of native grass/forb seeding with emphasis on native species that would be utilized by Dakota skipper.
- Fencing and Water Development will follow the ND NPS Management Program's Cost-Share Guidelines for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Best Management Practices (319 program). OHF grant will provide **60%** cost-share for primarily cross fencing, but will include boundary fence and wildlife friendly fence.
- Cover Crop seeding and management will follow the ND NRCS Conservation Practice Specification – 340. OHF grant will provide **60%** cost-share for cover crop installation.
- Grassland Establishment Incentives will be available to producers for the length of time to establish a grass/forb stand, not to exceed three years. This incentive is available to landowners who have cropland in irregular areas and desire a land use change from crop to grassland.
- Agriculture/Energy will include range and grazing system enhancements and best management practices for soil stability and wildlife benefits. Juniper removal to increase grazing land availability and function. OHF grant will provide **60%** cost-share for recommended best management practices.

### Urban Nature/Interpretive Site

- Project Design and Construction will include the installation and enhancements of UNIS areas within Bakken communities. OHF grant will provide **75%** cost-share for UNIS development.

### Energy Site Reclamation

- Reclamation will be completed following NRCS Technical Standards and industry standards. OHF cost-share will not be provided on predetermined sites listed in this application. Non-cash match may also be available from industry to complete the desired earth moving activities.

### Contracted Services

- Contracted Services will include industry professionals and private consultants with experience in reclamation and earth moving activities. All projects will be reviewed by State Historical Society of North Dakota for cultural resources and North Dakota State Historical and Preservation Office approval. If the project requires an on-the-ground cultural review that activity will be outsourced. Each pedestrian review cost \$1,250 and costs would advance depending on findings.

## **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.

Even as funds from the original grant are being expended, project managers and partners will assess landowner interest and success of the program. Ultimately this could lead to a successive OHF grant request with new and innovative partnerships and strategies.

It is also our expectation that this project will be precedent setting in a number of ways and as a result new partners will step forward with innovative ideas and funding opportunities. In addition, we expect the proven success of various project outcomes to encourage their adoption as ongoing sustainable business practices by current and new energy partners.

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

Without funding from OHF the investment made by partners in the Covenant Consulting work, as well as the BAG recommendations and action plan resulting from the stakeholder assessment, will be of limited value. Strategic assessment based on citizen input is only useful when action plans are implemented fully and effectively; this project is of critical importance.

Portions of the project could proceed with limited OHF funding. However, the landscape needs and opportunities identified by the BAG are so immense that even this grant proposal barely scratches the surface of what this unique partnership can accomplish.

**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.**

- Signage at community development areas
- Presence of OHF logo on all project agreements
- Print media coverage
  - Newsletters
  - Newspaper articles
  - Magazines
  - Trade journals
- TV and radio coverage
- Web site coverage and collaboration (see <http://www.ndstakeholders.org/>)
- Social media outreach (dedicated Facebook page, etc.)



## **Wolf Pup Daycare**

Wolf Run Village Inc.  
325 3<sup>rd</sup> St. SE  
PO Box 2973  
Watford City, ND 58854  
701-842-3075

March 28, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

As Director of Wolf Pup Daycare, I am writing on behalf of the City of Watford City to construct and design a walking/biking path in and around Watford City.

As a daycare center that does not provide or have transportation, we utilize the area walking paths daily to get to our parks, activities, and field trips. The walking paths are such a safe way to get to the places that we need to go. They provide a safer area, away from traffic for our kids who are in our large 4 place strollers, for kids who walk holding onto a walking rope, and even our biggest kids who walk in pairs or a single line. We would love to have more opportunity to explore and adventure around our beautiful city.

Wolf Pup Daycare strongly supports this project and would love to be able to utilize more walking paths with our children. The walking paths are the safest way to get our children to the places we need to go.

Sincerely,

Tessa Moberg, Director



**Asst. Chief Jesse A. Wellen**  
**Watford City Police Department**  
**213 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE**  
**P.O. Box 283**  
**Watford City, ND 58854**  
**Telephone: (701) 842 - 2280**  
**Fax: (701) 842 - 2495**

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to show my support of the application for grant for the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund submitted by the City of Watford City. The construction of over a half mile of new multiuse trail proposed by this application will assist in providing safe alternatives for pedestrian travel, while reducing the dependence on motorized travel within the city.

Currently, with limited multiuse trails in the community, pedestrian traffic is forced to use the parking lane along roadways and at times the roadway itself. This creates a safety hazard, impedes the flow of motorized vehicle traffic and deters citizens from using non-motorized transportation. There is a great need to reduce this hazard and provide a safe alternative travel option. I believe that this trail will help provide the assets needed to reduce this hazard and promote the use of alternative travel.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you in advance for considering the City of Watford City for the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund. This proposed trail will add recreation, safety, and quality of life in the city now and well into the future.

Jesse A. Wellen  
Assistant Chief of Police  
Watford City Police Department



March 29, 2018

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 mission of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. The grant proposal submitted to Outdoor Heritage Fund called Bakken Development and Working Lands Program is consistent with our organizations mission and vision. RMEF believes healthy habitat is essential for healthy elk and other wildlife. The RMEF helps partner and conduct a variety of projects to improve essential forage, water, cover and space components of wildlife habitat, and supports research and management efforts to help maintain productive elk herds and habitat.

Consistent with the mission and vision of RMEF Bakken Development and Working Lands Program will provide landowners with a voluntary, simplified, and flexible approach that will conserve existing, and create new, grassland and wetland habitat. Private landowners through the working lands partnership will have options that fit both their operation's fiscal and management needs. We believe this partnership will benefit farmers and ranchers, as well as provide elk conservation benefits.

We are happy to provide our endorsement of the Bakken Development and Working Lands Program grant proposal and look forward toward its future opportunities and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Shawn Kelley  
Regional Director North Dakota  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
7001 Tiffany Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58504





1600 Broadway Suite 2450  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Phone 303) 800-5100  
Fax (303) 648-6787

March 27, 2018

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

ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund

Dear Ms. Fine:

NP Resources, LLC (NP) is writing to express its support for the Bakken Development and Working Lands Program (BDWLP) OHF grant request submitted jointly by the Dunn and McKenzie County Soil Conservation Districts and the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust.

NP supports a balanced and sensible approach to the development of mineral resources in the Badlands of North Dakota. Our guiding principle for cooperative oil and gas development is reduced surface impact. As such, we have watched closely the work of the Badlands Advisory Group (BAG) and are likely the only Bakken energy company with a link to the BAG's report and recommendations (upon which this grant proposal is based) on the sustainability page of our web site ([www.np-es.com](http://www.np-es.com)).

NP has displayed a strong sense of community support in our Bakken energy work. We contribute to community and youth programs in Billings and Golden Valley Counties where the majority of our North Dakota employees live and work. Our interest extends to community in the largest sense, including the private and public land complex that make up the iconic North Dakota badlands. We understand that respect for this scenic land where people live, work and play is vital to the reasonable development of North Dakota's oil and gas resources.

We are also attracted to this grant proposal for the unique and diverse partnerships represented. The interests of local political subdivisions, state and federal agencies, NGOs, the oil and gas industry and the Badlands Advisory Group (BAG), all represented in this grant proposal, speaks volumes about the desire to work collaboratively for the well-being of the badlands.

NP believe this OHF grant proposal represents a positive step forward to implement the BAG recommendations. Accordingly, we have committed the following resources as an



1600 Broadway Suite 2450  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Phone 303) 800-5100  
Fax (303) 648-6787

active grant partner: \$5,000 unrestricted funds plus another \$5,000 for projects within Billings and Golden Valley, plus additional in-kind support through volunteer services and resources that we may have available at the time.

We encourage your favorable consideration of the BDWLP grant request.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clayton Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Clayton Miller  
President/COO



NORTH DAKOTA  
PETROLEUM  
COUNCIL

100 West Broadway, Ste. 200 | P.O. Box 1395 | Bismarck, ND 58501-1395  
701.223.6380 | [ndpc@ndoil.org](mailto:ndpc@ndoil.org) | [www.NDOil.org](http://www.NDOil.org)

March 29, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Fine:

The North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC) is writing to express its support for the Bakken Development and Working Lands Program (BDWLP) OHF grant request submitted jointly by the Dunn County Soil Conservation District and the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust.

The array of on-the-ground conservation programs described in the grant proposal is consistent with the vision of the NDPC and its member organizations for the Bakken landscape. The innovative approach to cooperatively address conservation options, surface remediation needs, and community-based recreation and habitat projects will benefit the region. The larger vision of wildlife habitat development, public access, and enhanced grassland management captures the spirit of our Energy of ND theme that, working collaboratively, we can have the benefits of energy development while protecting and enhancing the land. The diverse partnership among local political subdivisions, state and federal agencies, NGOs, the oil and gas industry and the Badlands Advisory Group (BAG) reinforces that shared belief.

NDPC and its affiliated member organizations believe this OHF grant proposal represents a positive focus on landscape needs. We encourage your favorable consideration of the BDWLP grant request.

Sincerely,

Ron Ness  
President

# NORTH DAKOTA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

*"Variety in Hunting and Fishing"*

GOVERNOR, *Doug Burgum*

DIRECTOR, *Terry Steinwand*

DEPUTY, *Scott A. Peterson*

*100 North Bismarck Expressway  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-5095*

*Phone: (701) 328-6300*

*FAX: (701) 328-6352*

March 29, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Fine:

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's (Department) mission is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use. The Department is the agency responsible for managing the state's fish and wildlife resources and the Department's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is the principle document for safeguarding rare and declining species in North Dakota. Partnerships are critically important, ensuring the Department can carry out its mission and implement conservation actions outlined in the SWAP.

We believe the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (NRT) Bakken Development and Working Lands Program (BDWLP) OHF grant proposal compliments the Department's mission and is an important and positive step in implementing the Department's SWAP. This proposal incorporates recommendations from the Badlands Advisory Group (BAG), which provides the foundation for addressing conservation issues in the Bakken. The SWAP identified focus areas, or landscapes that are crucial for conserving rare and declining species, and BDWLP will restore and enhance habitats in these high priority areas. Through the BDWLP, these recommendations will be implemented by NRT and its partners, helping ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife habitats, including many rare and declining species listed in the Department's SWAP.

The Department will provide \$25,000 match for the BDWLP. We look forward to working with the NRT and other partners on this project.

Sincerely,



Terry Steinwand  
Director

To whom it may concern,

The community of Watford City has planned, debated and partnered with multiple groups including McKenzie County to bring to fruition the Pedestrian and Bikeway Plan for our community. It has been a commitment for over ten years now and as I was sharing with some of our new board members we can see the fruits of our labor.

The proposed trail will serve our local population as well as the large tourist population to our most popular natural resource. Our in-town trails are near completion and we have seen a few fold increase of use to access our public facilities, food sources and parks. However, we have lacked the trails necessary to promote day rides to complete trail loops for the families feeling safe off the busy roadways, that will help promote healthy activity for people of all ages in McKenzie County.

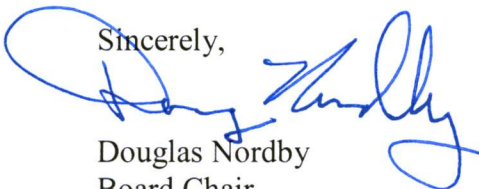
The City is promoting bike tracks and walking paths as new ways to explore and experience our natural resources in and around the City.

As we completed and started to use the Rough Rider Complex and support one of its goals - to recruit sports tourism to our state of the art athletic facilities, it is important that we have the trails that will support the extended leisure activities the families desire.

The ND Hwy 23 underpass was developed with these new activities in mind and we look forward to representing our quality of life and our commitment to recreational activities for our out of state visitors.

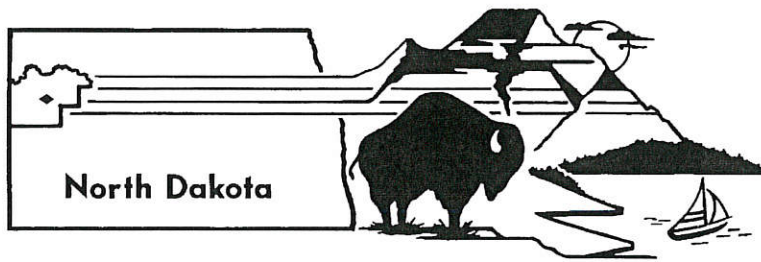
We look forward to the completion of this project and the connections to the proposed Trail system. Please accept this letter of support from the McKenzie County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,



Douglas Nordby  
Board Chair





**CITY OF WATFORD CITY**  
P.O. BOX 494 WATFORD CITY, NORTH DAKOTA 58854

To Whom It May Concern:

As an elected official it is my duty to maintain the community's resources, improve quality of life, and public safety for my constituents. Being awarded the Out Door Heritage Fund Grant would greatly improve the community's health and well-being.

As a rural community, our funding streams are strained, especially as the cost for infrastructure repairs has increased due to the influx in residents after the surge in oil - related population and industry growth has slowed down.

Our goal regarding this grant is to create a fun and safe atmosphere for all residents and tourists to enjoy. We are proposing to extend walking and biking trails, planting pollination gardens, and installing educational plaques for our community to learn about the natural beauty Watford City has to offer. The extension of the trails will provide safe alternative transportation for pedestrians to access community facilities, parks, and commercial businesses. We would also be able to help with the creation and preservation of a natural habitat for essential pollinators such as butterflies and bees. This would be possible by being able to provide additional garden areas consisting of native plants and pollinating flowers.

In closing, I would like to thank you for allocating funding for communities in North Dakota to preserve and enhance our lands. I sincerely believe that through the exceptional foresight of Watford City's leaders, the community enhancement for which this grant is requested will produce equal or better results for the deserving citizens of Watford City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin Voll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "V".

Justin Voll

Watford City Mayor