



# OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND GRANT APPLICATION

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

SFN 61465 (06-2018)

Project Name Maah Daah Hey North Unit Bypass		
Name of Organization Save The Maah Daah Hey		Federal Tax ID Number 81-1897061
Contact Person/Title Nick Ybarra / Executive Director		
Address 600 2nd Ave SW		
City Watford City	State ND	ZIP Code 58854
Email Address nick@experienceland.ord	Web Site Address (optional) www.savethemdh.com	
Telephone Number (701) 570-9138	Fax Number (701) 842-3411	
List Names of Co-Applicants (if this is a joint proposal)		

**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     Directive B     Directive C     Directive D

Type of Agency

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

## Abstract/Executive Summary

Summarize the project, including its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants. (No more than 500 words)

The Maah Daah Hey trail (MDH) consists of 180 miles of trails in the badlands, created by the US Forest Service (USFS) to encourage outdoor recreation in Western ND. Hikers, mountain bikers, campers and horseback riders use the National Grasslands with the access provided by the MDH. Of the 180 trail miles, approximately a mile and a half runs through the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). The MDH was routed through the TRNP due to an inability of the USFS to obtain an easement from a private landowner to otherwise complete the trail in that area. An attachment shows the portion of the MDH that traverses through the TRNP. While hikers and horseback riders can enjoy the full beauty of the MDH through the TRNP, the TRNP prohibits wheeled or mechanical vehicles of any form, including bikes, strollers, game carts, handicap-assisted wheeled vehicles or anything similar, so many MDH users are restricted in this area.

Through this application, the Save the Maah Daah Hey Foundation (SDMH) seeks to generate funds for the initial phase: to plan and locate a MDH TRNP bypass so all recreationalists can enjoy the entire MDH. SDMH's volunteer executive director routinely engages with private landowners along the MDH and has verbal interest in providing a bypass route across private land to avoid the TRNP. To that end, SDMH needs \$40,000, of which \$30,000 is requested in OHF Grant funding for route identification, landowner communication and collaterals, surveying, mapping, permitting, and utility and pipeline location for this initial phase of this important project. SMDH is diligently working towards funding the easement acquisition, design and construction phases. McKenzie County has agreed to fund a portion of the expenses of the project. Requests have been made from Billings County and the Theodore Roosevelt Foundation to assist with easement acquisition and some trail maintenance. SMDH will also apply for funding from the Garrison Diversion Recreational Grant Program and the State Park and Recreation's Recreational Trails Program as possible future sources of funding for engineering, design, construction and easement acquisition.

**Project Duration**

Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.  
Most of funding will be used during 2019 to identify a route, survey, discuss with landowners, create maps, create collateral materials and apply for State and Federal permits. It is expected that the duration could extend through 2020 given the delays occasioned when requesting a permit from the USFS to cross a portion of their land with the trail.

Amount of Grant Request \$30,000.00	Total Project Costs Note: In-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds. The initial phase of this project is expected to cost \$40,000.	Amount of Matching Funds \$10,000.00
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**A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required.** Indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash. 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.

Amount of Match	Funding Source	Type of Match
\$2,000.00	AE2S Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
\$4,000.00	Tami Norgard/Vogel Law Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
\$4,000.00	Nick Ybarra and Phil Helfrich	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect

**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 listed at the back of this form.

**Narrative**

Organization Information - Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, current programs and activities. Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement. (No more than 300 words.)

Nick Ybarra and Phil Helfrich are mountain biking enthusiasts. Nick Ybarra organized a free bike race on the MDH Trail in 2013, and was dismayed when a majority of the bikers got lost on the trail due to poor markings and overgrowth of vegetation of the trail. Frustrated, Nick started mowing the trail from the north. By coincidence, the same weekend, Phil Helfrich began mowing from the south end, mowing through the night to cover as much ground as possible. The two met mowing somewhere in the middle and forged a strong friendship grounded in their mutual love of the trail and dedication to the public recreation and conservation it provides.

They created a non-profit called Save the Maah Daah Hey Foundation (SMHD) in 2013, where Phil is the Board Chair and Nick serves as the Executive Director. They entered into a Volunteer Agreement with the USFS to use federal mowers and their own equipment to maintain, improve and restore the MDH Trail. The SMDH mission statement advises that it exists to save the trail "from erosion, overgrowth and ultimately extinction by volunteering to mow, trim, prune and shovel the entire trail into findable, usable and enjoyable shape for all trail users." The MDH Trail provides access for all to find their way into the National Grasslands that would otherwise be largely inaccessible to most citizens. It also keeps people confined on one uniform trail, which isolates the foot traffic, thereby conserving the pristine natural beauty of the surrounding natural landscape.

**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. 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. Note: 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. (see additional notes below)

The goal of this project is to increase accessibility of the MDH Trail for all trail users, including mountain bikers by creating a bypass around the TRNP through private land. There is currently no momentum within the federal government to construct a bypass, so it is entirely up to people like SMDH, who feel passionate about the MDH to organize and find a way to accomplish this final connection of the trail. The first phase of the project, for which funding is requested, would include the preliminary routing, surveying, permitting, and mapping for a bypass. It will set the stage and provide a basis on which to make requests for a second round of funding, for easement acquisition, planning and design, as well as construction. This first round of funding is crucial to setting the stage for a successful project.

The MDH Trail was created by the federal government, but with limited resources to maintain it. Without SDMH, the trail would have been virtually extinct due to overgrowth and lack of maintenance. SDMH stepped up to maintain this asset to North Dakota, resulting in Medora and ND obtaining national media attention for recreationalists. Biking has brought much attention and notoriety to Western North Dakota. Outdoor Magazine named the MDH as one of the best mountain biking trails in the country ten years ago. Just last month, Men's Journal identified Medora as one of the Top 10 places in the world for people to seek back to back outdoor adventures, touting the well-maintained bike trail and nearby rock climbing opportunities there. This kind of national attention not only attracts tourism, but it also buffers the myriad of negative news articles describing the Bakken in Western ND.

No individuals will receive any funding from an OHF Grant.

Please list the counties that would be impacted by this project:

McKenzie, Billings, Stark and Slope Counties would all enjoy positive economic development from a complete trail. More mountain bikers will come to the area and stay in local communities.

Is this project part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?

No  Yes, If yes, provide copy of plan with the application.

*Note: Projects involving buildings will only be considered if part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Please refer to the "Definitions" section at the back of the form for more details.*

- For tree/shrub/grass plantings: 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.
- For projects including Section 319 funding: provide in detail the specific best management practices that will be implemented and the specific projects for which you are seeking funding.
- For projects including fencing: A minimum cost share of 40% by the recipient is preferred. Include detailed information on the type of fencing to be installed, whether funding is requested for boundary fencing, new or replacement of existing fencing, and/or cross fencing.

**Management of Project** - Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met.

Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

The SMDH Board is strategically set up to include people who intimately know the MDH trail, political officials, a marketing specialist, the CEO of an engineering company with a surveying arm and with a sister company that is a construction firm, as well as a lawyer who practices in the areas of natural resources and real estate, a grant writer and a financial advisor. This group of professionals on the Board will devise and establish accountability by breaking the project into discrete components, assign accountable leadership, establish deadline milestones and deliverable expectations. The skilled leadership will manage to meet these deliverables within the timeframes set. Nick Ybarra and Phil Helfrich have positive landowner relations and experience with the USFS, as well as hundreds of hours spent on the MDH, so they will be tasked with leading the routing effort. Steve Burian, CEO of Advance Engineering and Environmental Services, has spent his career managing surveyors, engineers, and designing projects. Steve will lead the portion of the project that surveys the route, creates maps, and will be involved in future phases of the project when we will be designing the trail, creating construction cost estimates and moving into construction. Tami Norgard, one of the Managing Partners of the Vogel Law Firm, practices in the area of environmental law and natural resources law, and has extensive experience negotiating permits with the federal government, right of way acquisition, and obtaining easements for water and electric utility projects. Tami will lead those aspects of this project.

**Evaluation** - Describe your plan to document progress and results.

Please be specific on the methods you will utilize to measure success. Note that regular reporting, final evaluation and expenditure reports will be required for every grant awarded.

The Board has identified two potential routes to date. They need to build a trail that's maintainable and will be enjoyable to biking enthusiasts like themselves. We created a leadership team that will facilitate a successful outcome.

The measures of success will be to acquire the deliverables set, such as selecting a route accepted by landowners, having surveys conducted, locating utilities, obtaining necessary permits, creating maps, and creating collateral materials. The Board has monthly meetings to keep on task.

**Financial Information**

**Project Budget** - Use the table to provide an itemized list of project expenses and describe the matching funds being utilized for this project.

Indicate if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. **A minimum of 25% match funding is required.** An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Certain values have been identified for in-kind services as detailed under "Budget Information" at the back of this form. Refer to that section and utilize these values in identifying your matching funds. **NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded.**

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Right of Way Land Services			\$4,000.00			\$4,000.00
Routing	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00			\$6,000.00
Utility and pipeline location	\$5,000.00		\$1,000.00			\$6,000.00
Collateral Development			\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
Survey and Mapping	\$16,000.00					\$16,000.00
Permitting	\$6,000.00					\$6,000.00
Total Costs	\$30,000.00		\$10,000.00			\$40,000.00

**Budget Narrative - Use the space below to provide additional detail regarding project expenses.**  
 The overall project will be much larger, with more significant funding by other project sponsors. This is simply the first stage to a larger overall project. McKenzie County agreed to provide \$35,000 for a portion of the easement acquisition and some trail maintenance conditioned upon Billings County or the Theodore Roosevelt Foundation generating a like amount. We will seek other funding from the State Park and Recreation Trails Program for other easement costs and engineering. We are also seeking funding from Garrison Diversion's Recreation Program for portions of this project. As such, we hope this initial planning phase funding will kick start a much larger project.

**Sustainability - Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years.**  
 Include information on the sustainability of this project after OHF funds have been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.  
 One the overall project is completed, the new trail will be maintained along with the rest of the MDH, with volunteers using mowers and equipment provided by the US Forest Service. SMDH will continue to organize the volunteers.  
 Nick, Phil and their band of volunteers have logged an average of well over 1000 hours per summer creating and maintaining eroded trails, mowing each side of the 180 mile trail (360 miles of mowing) and trimming tree branches. SMDH will ensure the priority for top quality maintenance continues.

**Partial Funding - Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested.**  
 If sufficient funding is not obtained, SDMH will seek additional funding through other sources, including political subdivisions, state grants, or private donations. They may need to modify the pace of the plan according to the budget.

**Partnership Recognition - If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? \* There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate.**  
 OHF will be identified on signage on the private land where right of way is obtained, along with other project sponsors and donors. SDMH will include recognition on its website, in social media, during bike races, on maps and brochures providing trail maps, and other collateral.

**Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-info page.htm>.**

Can you meet all the provisions of the sample contract?  Yes  No

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:



**#SAVETHEMDH ORGANIZATION**



Group of passionate trail users  
**WITH ONE GOAL:**

**Save the World's Best Trail  
from Disappearing**

- Founded by Nick Ybarra
- Volunteer Service Agreement with USDA Forest Service
- Self-Funded Effort to Maintain Trail

# VOLUNTEERS



## BOARD MEMBERS

- Phil Helfrich ..... President
- Aaron Gravos ..... Vice President
- Steve Burian
- Tami Norgard
- Justin Fisk
- Ricky Carns
- Bethany Devlin
- Miranda Samuelson

## STAFF

- Nick Ybarra ..... Executive Director
- Lindsey Ybarra ..... Secretary

# DEDICATED TO MAINTENANCE



**No Maintenance = No Trail**

# MDH TRAIL BENEFITS



**Two-a-Days: The World's 10 Best Cities For Back-to-Back Adventures**

**Medora, North Dakota**

For an up-close look, head to the North Dakota State Fairgrounds in Medora, ND, where you'll find the world's largest and oldest fair. The fairgrounds are a great place to enjoy the scenic views of the rolling hills of the North Dakota landscape. For an up-close look, head to the North Dakota State Fairgrounds in Medora, ND, where you'll find the world's largest and oldest fair. The fairgrounds are a great place to enjoy the scenic views of the rolling hills of the North Dakota landscape.

**MDH Provides ND National Exposure**

# MDH TRAIL BENEFITS

## Free Public Recreation

## 8 Races Promote Tourism

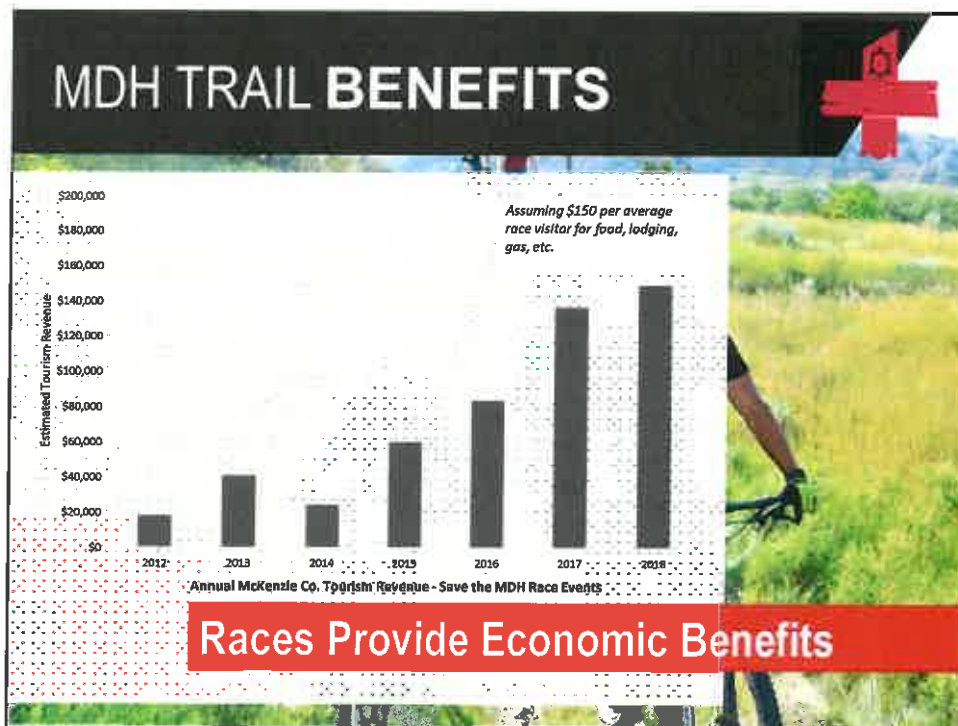
**Major Races Annually on the MDH:**

- MDH100
- 24Hr Race
- MDHTR
- Mud-Run
- MDH150
- BGB
- Poco Rio Frico
- Bold St. Nicks



**1600+ Racers Expected in 2018!**





## MDH TRAIL BENEFITS



	Est. Visitors	Est. Tourism Revenue*
2018 Race Visitors	996	\$149,400
2018 Non-Race Visitors	6,000	\$900,000

\* Assuming \$150 per average visitor

**Non-Racers Make an Impact Too!**

## 2000 Volunteer Hours Annually MDH TRAIL



**Necessary Maintenance & Trail Work**

## MDH TRAIL FUTURE VISION

**1.5 Mile Bike Bypass Addition**

## SAVE THE MDH FINANCIALS

### Historical Expenses vs Revenues

<b>2016</b>	Equipment	\$2,903
	Trail Maintenance	\$233
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,136</b>
	Revenues ( Donations)	\$6,697
	<b>End Of Year Balance</b>	<b>\$3,561</b>
<b>2017</b>	Equipment	\$15,770
	Trail Maintenance	\$1,468
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,238</b>
	Revenues( Donations)	\$32,194
	<b>End Of Year Balance</b>	<b>\$14,956</b>

## SAVE THE MDH FINANCIALS



### 2018 Budget

<b>Expenses</b>	Equipment (Grillo & attachments, string trimmers, leaf blower, etc.)	\$	16,000
	Trail Maintenance	\$	2,500
	Vehicles (1987 Econoline 350 4x4 dually ambulance)	\$	2,000
	Fuel (mowers, strimmers, vehicles)	\$	6,000
	Advertising	\$	1,000
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>27,500</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	2017 Rollover	\$	14,956
	Projected Donation	\$	25,000
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>39,956</b>
	<b>End Of Year Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,456</b>

## MDH TRAIL FINANCIALS



### 2019 Budget and Capital

<b>Expenses</b>	Equipment (more Grillo's, string trimmers, hedge clippers, leaf blowers)	\$	30,000
	Note: The goal is to eventually have 10 mowers, 15 string trimmers, 5 hedge clippers, 4 leaf blowers. We are slowly adding to our fleet every year.		
	Trail Maintenance		
	Vehicles ( 4 door 1-ton truck with pickup camper, 15 passenger van)	\$	20,000
	Maintenance and replacement of existing equipment	\$	5,000
	Fuel (mowers, string trimmers, vehicles)	\$	8,000
	Trail Maintenance	\$	2,500
	Operating costs (salary for Executive Director)	\$	12,000
	Advertising	\$	5,000
	Projects ( TRNP North Unit Bypass Trail Planning and Easement Acquisition)	\$	99,000
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>181,500</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	McKenzie County Contribution (Conditionally approved)	\$	35,000
	Billings County and TR Foundation (Requested)	\$	35,000
	Projected Donation and Additional Grants to be requested	\$	62,500
	Outdoor Heritage Foundation Grant	\$	49,000
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>181,500</b>

