

# Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



Project Name: **Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II**

Name of Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Federal Tax ID#: 13-5643799

Contact Person/Title: Tanner Gue, Biologist

Address: 2525 River Road

City: Bismarck

State: North Dakota

Zip Code: 58503

E-mail Address: [tgue@ducks.org](mailto:tgue@ducks.org)

Web Site Address: [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)

Phone: Office-701-355-3592 / Cell-701-595-6945

## MAJOR Directive:

**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:**

- X **Directive A.**
- X **Directive B.**
- X **Directive C.**
- O **Directive D.**

**Type of organization:**

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

**Abstract/Executive Summary.**

Some innovative farmers and ranchers in North Dakota are investing in new conservation practices to build soil health, enhance productivity of croplands and grasslands, and improve operational sustainability. These practices include using cover crops and integrating livestock grazing on cropland acres. Producers have observed outstanding results, noting increased soil organic matter, increased nutrient availability, reduced soil compaction, increased water infiltration, enhanced water quality, and ultimately increased profitability of cropland and grassland acres. Benefits of cover crops and livestock integration also include enhancing existing wildlife habitat and increasing the total acreage of habitat available to wildlife. At a larger scale, benefits include reduced flooding and sedimentation in neighboring creeks and watersheds.

These success stories generate much interest from other producers. Cover crops and livestock integration can be replicated on farms across North Dakota. However, there is financial risk associated with implementing new agricultural practices. Many producers can't afford that risk and they haven't been able to mitigate it because there's a complete lack of available conservation programs that assist with grazing infrastructure on cropland. To help, Ducks Unlimited (DU), other partners, and landowners collaboratively submitted an Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) grant in May 2017 called the "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project" (CCLIP). It was approved in August 2017. The goal of CCLIP was to offer voluntary project options that provide landowners with incentive needed to kick-start cover crops and livestock integration on cropland. Specific objectives CCLIP used to achieve that goal included providing landowners with 60% cost share for fence and water infrastructure on cropland, 60% cost share for 2 years of cover crop seeding costs, and technical assistance in project implementation.

OHF's CCLIP is an unquestionable success. In 1 year, 13 different projects have begun that are enhancing soil health and wildlife habitat on more than 3,620 cropland, 3,699 grassland and 580 wetland acres. At this moment, DU biologists are completing agreement details with more than 12 additional landowners interested in the program. The CCLIP concept has proven to be so effective in getting folks started using soil health practices that DU biologists

regularly receive calls from interested landowners outside of the current CCLIP area. More than 20 different producers are waiting to try cover crops and livestock integration if we can expand CCLIP to a larger scale.

This grant proposal is called CCLIP II. It is the second phase of the previously successful grant and will help initiate cover crop and grazing practices on more than 10,560 cropland acres across a broader geography in North Dakota. CCLIP II will build on strong partnerships established in phase one of the project. Through CCLIP II, OHF will aid implementation of livestock fencing, livestock water, and cover crop seed costs. DU and Pheasants Forever biologists will provide outreach and technical assistance. DU agronomists, Pulse USA, and Millborn Seed staff will help landowners design project-specific cover crop seed mixes. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department may provide public access incentives to landowners interested in the Private Lands Open to Sportsmen program.

**Project Duration: 5 years**

All OHF funds for livestock grazing infrastructure on cropland are intended to be spent within the first 3 years of the project. Approximately 20% of OHF funds for cover crop seeding costs are intended to be spent each year of the 5-year project. See intended OHF fund use schedule below.

- Year 1: \$383,137.94
- Year 2: \$383,137.93
- Year 3: \$383,137.93
- Year 4: \$50,688.00
- Year 5: \$50,688.00

**Amount of Grant request: \$1,250,789.80**

**Total Project Costs: \$2,128,172.64**

**Amount of Matching Funds: \$877,382.84 (41% of total project costs)**

Amount of Match	Funding Source	Type of Match
\$846,707.84	Landowners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind
\$10,000.00	Ducks Unlimited	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind
\$1,403.00	Ducks Unlimited	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indirect
\$9,636.00	Millborn Seeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash
\$9,636.00	North Dakota Natural Resources Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash

**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 in the back 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/aboutdu/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. 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.

### **Project Background and Funding Urgency**

Agricultural production in North Dakota has experienced reduced diversity over the past few decades. Historically, this landscape was marked with small mixed-operator farms incorporating diverse cropping rotations and small herds of livestock. North Dakota continues to transition to a landscape with less diverse crop rotations and annual conventional tillage practices. Livestock use and associated grassland acreage have continued to decline.

The primary result of decreased agricultural diversity at the scale of individual farms and ranches is degraded soil health. Soils in poor health have low organic content, reduced nutrient availability to cash crops, increased soil compaction, reduced water infiltration, increased surface runoff and soil erosion, reduced water quality, and ultimately lead to reduced profitability of cropland and grassland acres.

Reduced soil health at the local farm and ranch scale can have implications at a much larger watershed scale. For example, results include increased surface runoff and flooding, which is frequently associated with increased sediment loads deposited into downstream aquatic

environments. Increased runoff also carries fertilizers such as nitrogen and phosphorus, resulting in eutrophication of downstream environments.

In May 2017, Ducks Unlimited (DU), other partners, and landowners collaboratively submitted an Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) grant called the “Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project” (CCLIP). It was approved in August 2017. CCLIP was a new opportunity developed to promote cover crops and livestock grazing on cropland as a management tool for improving soil health, water quality, grassland health, and wildlife habitat conservation. Diversification of cropland systems using cover crops can improve overall soil health and functionality by restoring organic matter, increasing aggregate development and porosity, reducing soil compaction, and increasing water infiltration. Importantly, integration of livestock on cropland further enhances soil health. Grazing stimulates plant root growth, urine and manure distributes carbon back to the soil, and the nutrient cycle process is strengthened. The intention of CCLIP was not to treat symptoms of dysfunctional soils. Rather, practices adopted through CCLIP restore soil functionality and provide long term benefits to producers’ operations, local watersheds, and wildlife.

We initiated the first phase of CCLIP an area of southeast North Dakota where we had proven interest from landowners in trying cover crops and livestock integration practices (Figure 1).

The OHF’s CCLIP is an unquestionable success. In less than 1 year, we have begun 13 different projects that will enhance soil health and wildlife habitat on more than 3,620 cropland acres, 3,699 grassland acres and 580 wetland acres. At this moment, DU biologists and partners are finalizing agreement details with more than 12 additional landowners interested in the program. The CCLIP concept has proven to be so effective in getting farmers and ranchers started using important soil health practices that DU biologists regularly receive calls from interested landowners who are not in the current CCLIP area. In fact, more than 20 different farmers and ranchers are waiting to try cover crops and livestock grazing on cropland if we can advance CCLIP to their counties (Figure 2).

The CCLIP Phase II will build on the initial success of Phase I to help regenerate soil functionality, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Importantly, these practices also improve productivity and profitability on cropland and grassland acres, thereby enhancing the sustainability of agricultural operations in North Dakota. The CCLIP II area (Figure 2) includes the Missouri Coteau physiographic region, where comparatively large expanses of grasslands remain and where livestock producers are common. The project area also includes the adjacent drift prairie region where row crop agriculture is prevalent, yet mixed operations are still common. The entire project area is also within the Prairie Pothole Region, one of the most unique and important landscapes in North America. If necessary, up to 10% of CCLIP II funds may be used outside of the primary project area within the state of North Dakota.

Figure 1: Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project I Area (with project locations)

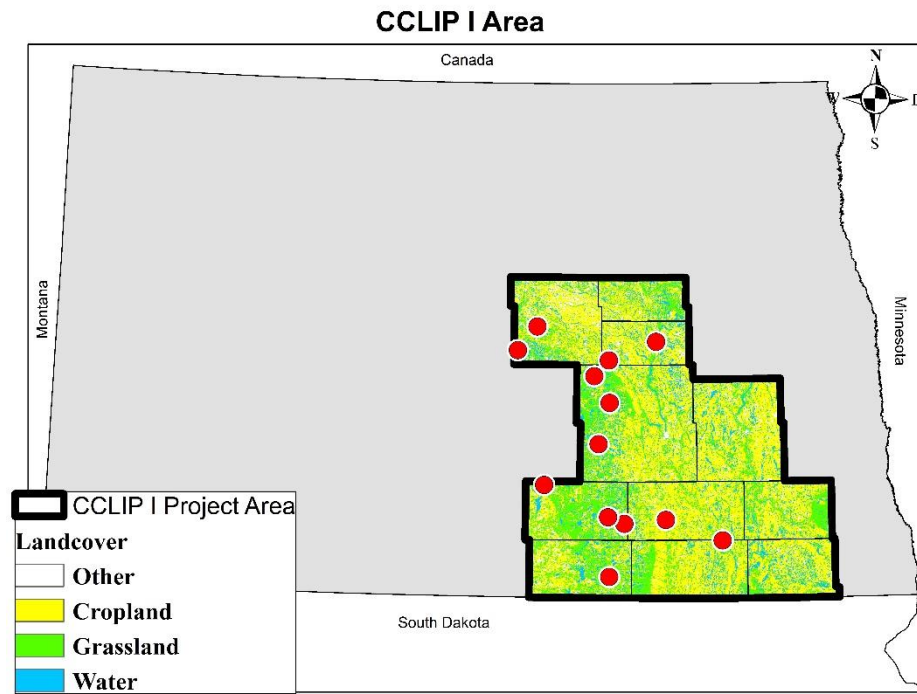
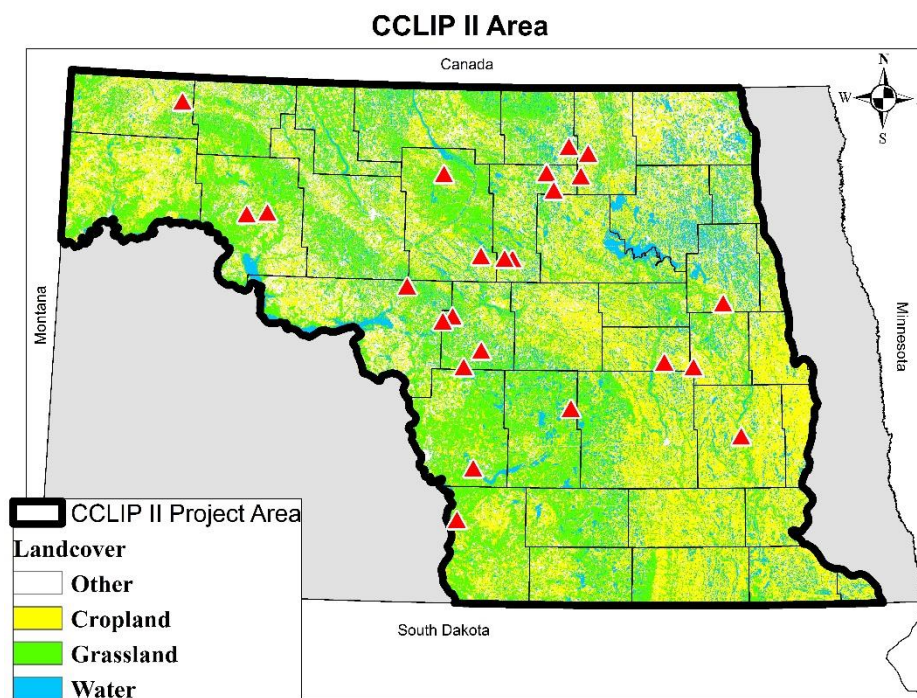


Figure 2: Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II Area (with locations of future projects)



## Goals, Strategies and Benefits

The primary goal of CCLIP II is to offer voluntary working lands options that provide interested landowners with the means necessary to introduce cover crops and livestock grazing. Project partners will work with farmers and ranchers to select cover crop mixes and grazing plans that address specific resource concerns and achieve operational goals. By providing technical guidance and cost share for cover crop seeding costs and grazing infrastructure, CCLIP II will increase long-term operational resiliency and profitability while enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for sportsmen.

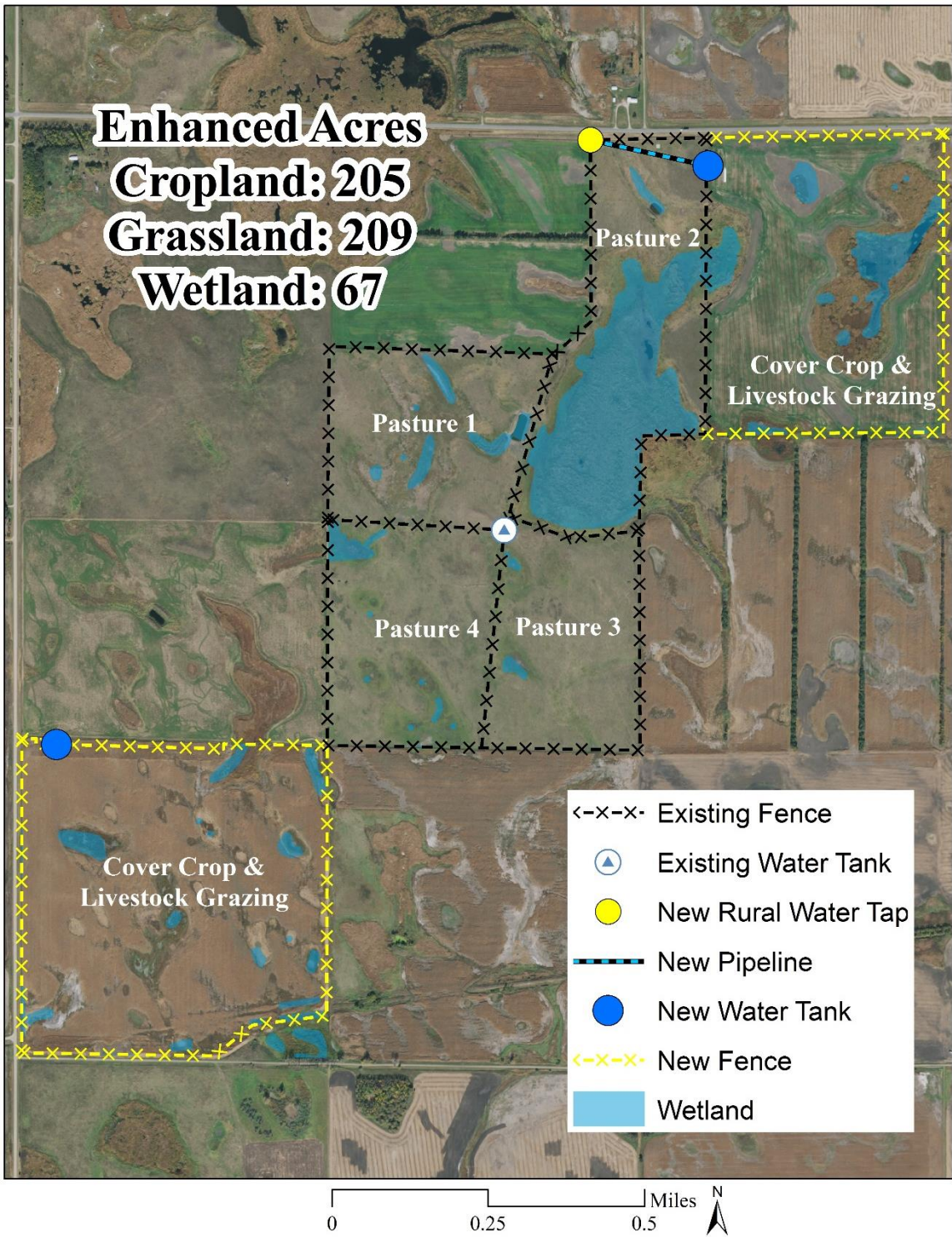
Producers interested in CCLIP II will have the opportunity to plant cover crops and develop grazing infrastructure. CCLIP II will provide up to 60% cost share on grazing infrastructure that consist of, but are not limited to fencing materials, windbreak panels, rural water hookups, well hole and casing, water tanks, solar and/or wind stations, electrical hookups, water pumps, and pipelines. CCLIP II will also provide up to 60% cost share for expenditures associated with cover crop seeding equal to as many as but no more than two years for each enrolled cropland acre. North Dakota producers enrolling in CCLIP II may also receive a discount on cover crop seed mixes from Pulse USA, should producers choose to order seed from Pulse USA. To ensure project success and equal participation, cost share assistance from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will be matched by the landowner and project partners at a minimum of 40%.

CCLIP II partners will help producers develop grazing plans based on duration, rest recovery time, available crop residue, and cover crops. Grazing plans will require that producers integrate livestock on enrolled cropland acres at least twice within the 5-year agreement period. However, grazing plans will give producers the flexibility to adapt given changing resource conditions while maintaining their soil health goals. For example, grazing will only occur on fields that are planted to high residue crops or cover crops (soybeans, sunflowers, and silage crops are low residue crops and will not be aftermath grazed).

For most landowners in the area, CCLIP II is the only opportunity available that assists with cover crops *and* livestock integration on cropland. By providing long-lived grazing infrastructure on cropland, the likelihood that cover crop and livestock grazing practices will be continued after the life of the contract will greatly increase. Proven interest in the project area is overwhelmingly positive indicated by landowner-based Soil Conservation District boards' support and producers ready to enroll in the concept (enclosed support letters, Figure 1, Figure 2). Many landowners in the project area who are educating themselves on cover crops and the concept of soil health want to complete the cycle by integrating livestock. This is of high interest to producers in North Dakota and CCLIP II will build on the success of CCLIP I, providing the catalyst to elevate the concept to a broader geography and lead through success.

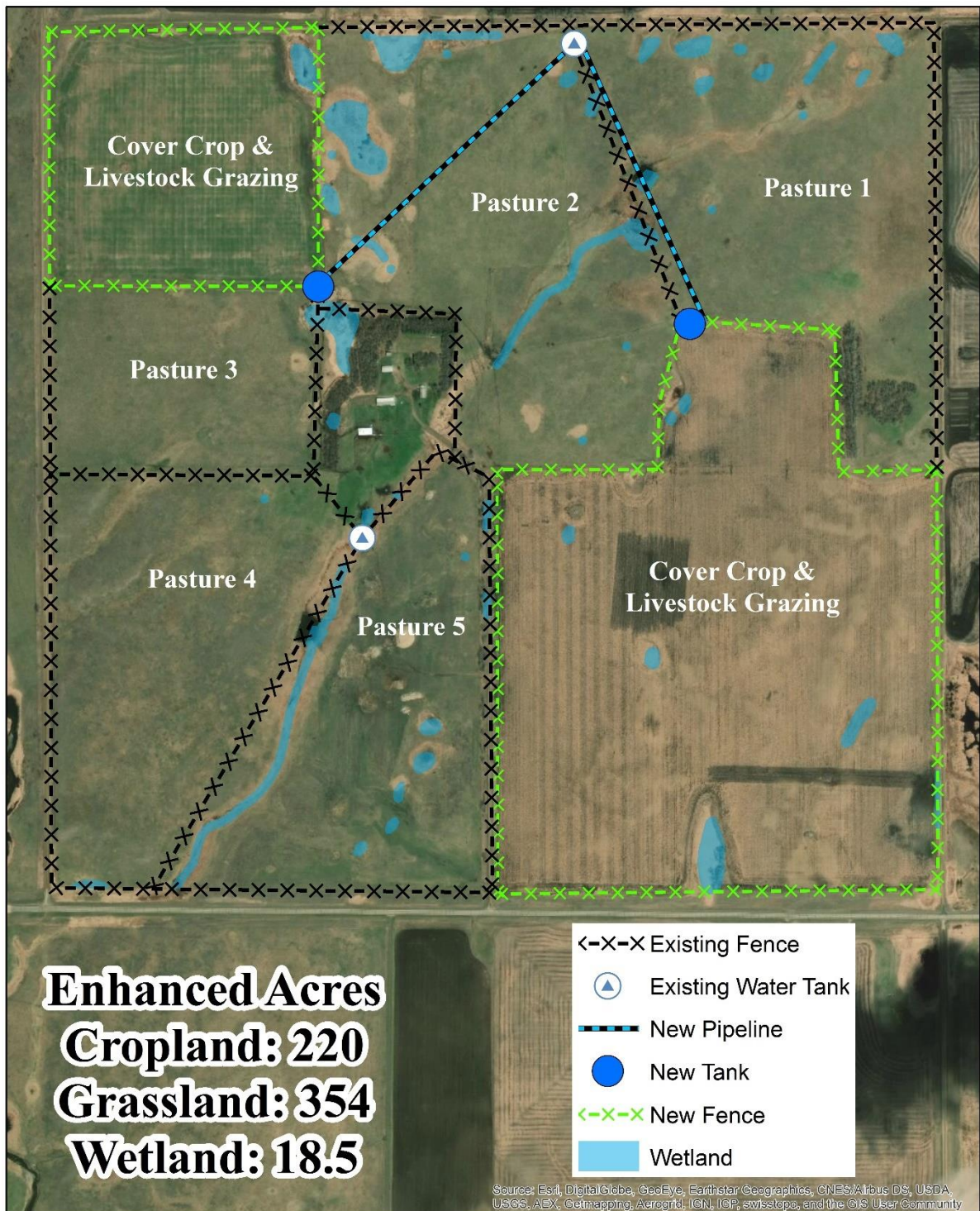


Example 1: Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project in Dickey County





Example 2: Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project in Foster County



## 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 producers with cost share and technical guidance on cover crops and grazing infrastructure. Grazing systems implemented through CCLIP II that increase stock density and facilitate whole plant community utilization will increase plant diversity and improve animal health. Ultimately, conservation practices promoted through CCLIP II will enhance farming and ranching operations.

### 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.

This directive will be achieved by directing all producers in this project who are interested in additional cost share or public access incentives to the Private Lands Open to Sportsman (PLOTS) program through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD). Producers who are already enrolled in PLOTS will be provided opportunities for additional enhancements (fire, woody removal) on their property. Program participation will be tracked and reported to OHF during grant period.

### OHF Additional Directives

(C) - Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands.

Cover crops seeded in the fall can provide important food and cover for wildlife in the winter and may provide concealment for ground nesting birds in the spring. Livestock grazing on cropland will enhance existing grassland habitat for wildlife, as rest recovery periods on grasslands will increase. Wetlands and their functionality for wildlife will be conserved on enrolled acres, as wetlands will not be manipulated (burned, drained, filled) during the 5-year agreement.

All CCLIP II agreements will be 5 years in length.

Is this project part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?  Yes  No

**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.**

DU will provide management, coordination, and administration for CCLIP II grant. DU conservation program biologists and agronomists as well as Pulse USA and Millborn Seeds experts will work collaboratively to provide producers with program guidance and technical assistance in developing cover crop mixes and grazing systems. The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) will also provide technical assistance through their mentoring network in the development of cover crop mixes and rotational grazing plans. Cover crops and grazing systems on cropland and grassland will be reviewed yearly to monitor implementation and effectiveness in achieving soil and grassland health goals. Projects shall be funded on a

first come first serve basis until funds expire and agreements will be 5 years in length. Grant funds will be distributed to participating producers as agreement items are completed and proper documentation is provided to DU.

DU biologists will coordinate the program from our office located in Bismarck, ND. Tanner Gue, North Dakota Biologist, and Jonas Davis, Manager of Conservation Programs in North Dakota, will serve as the program coordinators. Tanner and Jonas have a combined 17 years of experience in delivering conservation projects for DU. DU will provide tracking and reporting of all landowner agreements following grant deadlines.

Pulse USA and Millborn Seed's collaboration with DU biologists and agronomists to provide technical assistance concentrating on cover crop seed mixes and livestock integration will continue to be critical to the success of CCLIP II. Pulse USA is a farmer owned seed and agricultural product company that has been developing and promoting cover crop concepts for more than 10 years across the Midwest and North Dakota. Millborn Seeds has a team of specialists in the areas of cover crop and forage who have been collaborating with farmers and ranchers across the Midwest and North Dakota for 30 years. Both Pulse USA and Millborn Seed's team of representatives are experts in cover crops and are well known in the farm and agronomic research community.

On-the-ground DU biologists, PF biologists, and other partner biologists will direct all producers in this project who are interested in additional cost share or public access incentives to the PLOTS program through the NDGFD. NDGFD will provide producers who are already enrolled in PLOTS with opportunities for additional enhancements (fire, woody removal) on their property.

### **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.

Success of the CCLIP will be determined by quantifying total acreage of enhanced cropland and grassland. Increased water retention and infiltration is a sign of good soil health and is an observed benefit of cover crops and rotational grazing practices in the Northern Great Plains. Therefore, we will use water infiltration tests to monitor progress. Grazing cover crops and cash crop aftermath increases rest recovery periods on grazing pastures. Therefore, the number of rest recovery days on associated pastures may be a supplementary metric for determining progress and success of the CCLIP. Project progress will also be documented through monitoring photos.

An increase in production and a decrease in costly inputs (e.g., synthetic fertilizer, herbicide, pesticide) are also observed benefits of cover crops and livestock integration. This equates to an improved bottom line for producers. The most important measure of CCLIP success will be the level of satisfaction from participating producers.

## Financial Information

### Project Budget – Use the table below 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. Supporting documentation for project expenses, including bids, must be included or application will be considered incomplete.**

Project Expense	OHF Request	Landowner's Match Share (Cash/In-Kind)	DU's Match Share (In-Kind)	DU's Match Share (Indirect)	Millborn Seeds Match Share (Cash)	NDNRT's Match Share (Cash)	Total Each Project Expense
Cover Crop Cost Share	\$253,440.00	\$168,960.00	\$4,000.00	\$561.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$426,961.00
Livestock Fence/Water Development on Cropland	\$997,349.80	\$664,899.84	\$6,000.00	\$842.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,669,091.64
Livestock Windbreak Panels	\$0.00	\$12,848.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,636.00	\$9,636.00	\$32,120.00
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$1,250,789.80</b>	<b>\$846,707.84</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,403.00</b>	<b>\$9,636.00</b>	<b>\$9,636.00</b>	<b>\$2,128,172.64</b>

Note: Costs for seeding, fencing, pipelines, wells, and cover crops cannot exceed NRCS Field Office Tech Guide without justification. Projects involving perimeter fencing must follow NRCS eligibility standards.

### Budget Narrative – Use the space below to provide additional detail regarding project expenses.

- Cover crop practices
  - based on average planning rate of \$20/acre to achieve 10,560 acre goal
- Livestock integration practices
  - Fencing
    - boundary/cross fencing ranging from \$0.50/ft to \$2.00/ft dependent upon fence type (1 or 2 strand high tensile, 3 strand barbed, 4 strand barbed, 5 strand barbed, and woven wire).
  - Water Development
    - costs provided by OHF will include water pipelines, watering facilities, water pumping stations, water wells, and rural water hookups.
  - Windbreak Shelter
    - Based on planning rate of \$35/foot to achieve 10,560 acre goal

*Planning rates based on the June 2016 North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program's Cost-Share Guidelines for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Best Management Practices (319 program)*



**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.

By providing 60% cost share to producers for long-lived grazing infrastructure on cropland, there is a strong likelihood that conservation practices implemented and promoted through CCLIP II will be carried out by producers many years beyond the 5-year agreement length. For example, water infrastructure partially provided by the OHF CCLIP II will continue to provide producers with quality water for livestock for the lifespan of the water source. Perimeter fencing, such as barbed wire fence, can last up to 20 years. Additionally, by promoting crop aftermath and cover crop grazing, the CCLIP II increases rest recovery days on pasturelands, thereby enhancing grassland health and wildlife habitat. As in the first phase of CCLIP, the return on investment for the OHF CCLIP II is high.

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

Partial funding would result in fewer producers having the opportunity to enhance their farming and ranching operations by improving soil health on cropland and grassland health on pasture. Partial funding would also reduce this project’s capacity to minimize soil erosion and improve water quality in wetlands, streams and rivers in southeast North Dakota. Further, less habitat acres would be enhanced for wildlife, but partial funding would also provide the opportunity to test assumptions and assist producers interested in implementing conservation practices today.

**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.***

- 1) The Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized as the major partner in the CCLIP II.
- 2) The Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized when working with all farmers and ranchers interested in CCLIP II.
- 3) The Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized during all project outreach efforts and on the Ducks Unlimited website and local and national press releases.
- 4) The Outdoor heritage fund will be recognized during local landowner workshops / field days that promote the project and soil health principles.
- 5) With permission from landowners enrolled in the program, signage that acknowledges use of OHF funding will be placed at CCLIP II project locations.

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





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

August 29, 2018

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 have reviewed the Ducks Unlimited Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project 2 proposal. It fits very closely with the goals of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist private landowners and operators with voluntary conservation technical assistance and to address natural resource concerns of habitat degradation for wildlife, soil health, and plant diversity in North Dakota.

The proposal meets the conservation needs of both crop and livestock producers on private lands. The project leverages resources through partners and participants to implement conservation technical and financial assistance on both crop and grassland.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODOLL  
State Conservationist

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender

# 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*

September 17, 2018

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Mr. Tanner Gue - Biologist  
2525 River Road  
Bismarck, ND 58503

RE: Ducks Unlimited Cover Crops & Livestock Integration Project

Dear Mr. Gue:

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 non consumptive use. The Department's Private Land Initiative is the mechanism for delivering the mission to the private landscape. A main component of PLI includes the Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program, which creates or enhances habitat on private lands and provides public access for walk-in hunting.

We believe the Cover Crops & Livestock Integration Project grant proposal provides benefits to wildlife, livestock, soil health producers, and those who enjoy the outdoors. Producers in this project who are interested in additional public access incentives may be considered for the Department's PLOTS program and producers who are already enrolled in PLOTS will be made aware of opportunities through this project.

We are pleased to provide our endorsement of the Ducks Unlimited Cover Crops & Livestock Integration Project grant proposal and look forward toward its future opportunities and accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Terry Steinwand  
Director



## North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition



*Healthy Grazing Lands – A Natural Resource*

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August 10, 2018

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 "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" 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 "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project" as it seeks to provide financial assistance for North Dakota farmers and ranchers to introduce cover crop practices and develop grazing infrastructure necessary for livestock integration on cropland. This effort will help producers improve soil health, grassland health, grazing infrastructure and grazing systems. 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.

Again, we are happy to support this important effort that promotes sustainable farming and ranching in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Chad Njos  
NDGLC Chairman



2002 Northern Plains Drive Bismarck, ND 58504

Phone: 701-530-0734

Fax: 701-530-1826

September 17, 2018

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 Pulse USA for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIP II) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project simultaneously serves farm producer interests and benefits a diverse group of North Dakota stakeholders. The first phase of CCLIP was a resounding success. CCLIP II aims to build on that success.

Pulse USA is a farmer owned agricultural seed and product company. We have been on the forefront of cover crop development and promotion since 2007. We worked closely with Burleigh County Soil Conservation Service after the drought of 2006 to implement cover crop practices and education. Pulse USA's interest in cover crops has always been as a tool for the farmer to restore soil health, minimize long term input costs and create additional revenue streams for already working lands to benefit the farmer. Our team of representatives are well recognized by the farm community and the research community for their practical knowledge of cover crop objectives, mixes, benefits and agronomics. Advice that our team of highly qualified employees provide is based on knowledge and experience gained with our owner operators, education, and interactions with soil scientists, extension agents and other producers and researchers across the state and nation.

We are very pleased to provide in-kind staff support and technical assistance for this project dedicated to providing simple and flexible options that work for both the producer and wildlife. Pulse USA representatives will work closely with on-the-ground Ducks Unlimited biologists to help producers design specific cover crop seed mixes based on the producer's operational goals and needs. In addition, North Dakota producers enrolled in the Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project may also receive a discount on Pulse USA cover crop seed mixes if they chose to procure them through Pulse USA.

As with the first phase of the project, CCLIP II has tremendous potential to deliver, through a broad-based partnership, additional working lands options for landowners that achieve "win-win" solutions for both North Dakota producers and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Emily Paul  
Sales and Product Development Director, Pulse USA

**"Changing Ag Concepts One Crop At A Time"**  
[www.pulseusa.com](http://www.pulseusa.com)



September, 4 2018

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 Millborn Seeds, Inc. for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. We commend Ducks Unlimited for developing a project that brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to benefit North Dakota farmers, ranchers, the general public, and our natural resources.

Our roots run deep in farming, agriculture, and in the overall respect for the landscape. We opened our doors in 1987 and continue to walk alongside farmers, ranchers, and landowners across thousands of acres across the Midwest. A team of Specialists in the areas of Forage, Cover Crops, Conservation, Wildlife, Turf, and Commercial intelligently formulate custom seed mixes to help producers achieve their goals.

We are very pleased and excited to provide \$10,000 for this project that provides simple and flexible options that work for both the producer and wildlife.

The Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II will deliver additional working lands options for North Dakota farmers and ranchers that achieve "win-win" solutions for both North Dakota producers and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Matt Fenske  
President – Millborn Seeds, Inc.





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

September 19, 2018

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:

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. Please accept this letter of support for Ducks Unlimited's second phase of the "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal.

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 and create dialogue. 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's mission, this grant proposal will be the critical component of providing technical and financial assistance to a growing population of landowners interested in enhancing soil and grassland health using cover crops and livestock integration on cropland. This will provide increased livestock production, cropland production, as well as an increase in quality and quantity of wildlife habitat.

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."*



Rachel Bush, ND State Coordinator  
Pheasants Forever, Inc.  
PO Box 3935  
Dickinson, ND 58602  
701.403.4853  
[rbush@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:rbush@pheasantsforever.org)

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

September 10, 2018

ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board

Dear Chairman Melchior:

Please accept this as a letter of support for the proposal submitted by Ducks Unlimited for the second phase of the Cover Crops and Livestock Integration Project (CCLIP II). No one can argue the value of soil to North Dakota. There are five soil health principals that pave that pathway for North Dakota to not only maintain the soils that are vital to our success as a state, but to regenerate our soils, ensuring future generations of North Dakotans can prosper as those in the past have. CCLIP I and II are designed to help farmers and ranchers get started using all five of the important soil health practices to restore the health of their soil and maintain on-farm profitability.

Based on work Pheasants Forever is doing within the CCLIP II project area, we know that CCLIP II practices are in demand by producers. Our staff within the project area work one-on-one with producers to evaluate profitability of conservation practices on revenue-negative acres. One of the most profitable options for revenue-negative acres is to find alternative working land options that require fewer inputs than row crops may require. Integrating cover crops for livestock forage has been shown to increase profitability on revenue-negative acres and if CCLIP II is successfully funded, Pheasants Forever will undoubtedly evaluate this new opportunity when exploring options alongside the producers we work with.

Pheasants Forever supports efforts that offer working lands solutions to our farmers and ranchers that provide benefits to soil, water and wildlife now and into the future.

With Regard,

Rachel Bush  
ND State Coordinator  
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education, and land management policies and programs.

BURLEIGH COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
916 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE, SUITE 6  
BISMARCK, ND 58503-0548  
PHONE 250-4518, EXT. 3  
Fax 855-561-7866  
www.bcsd.com

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September 6, 2018

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

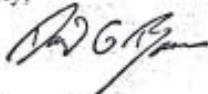
Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support by the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIP2) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, reduce input costs for cash crop production, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our natural resource concerns and conservation goals in Burleigh County.

Helping producers begin innovative soil health conservation practices like the use of cover crops and livestock integration on cropland come with associated costs not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,



David Bauer, Chair  
Burleigh County SCD Board

District Supervisors

David Bauer  
Regan

Tyler Lang  
Sterling

Jeremy Saeman  
Wing

Dave Carpenter  
Moffit

Seth Williams  
Wing

All programs and services of the Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age or handicap.



JAMES RIVER  
SOIL CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT



July 12, 2018

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

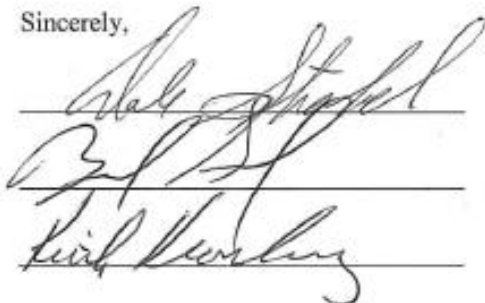
Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support by the James River Soil Conservation District Board of Dickey County for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIP2) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are; to help producers enhance soil health, reduce input costs for cash crop production, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our natural resource concerns and conservation goals in Dickey County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices but are not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate cattle on cropland. This will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in black ink are stacked vertically over three horizontal lines. The signatures are cursive and difficult to read.Two handwritten signatures in blue ink are stacked vertically over two horizontal lines. The signatures are cursive and difficult to read.

James River Soil Conservation District Board



September 10, 2018

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 Eddy County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIP II) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, reduce input costs for cash crop production, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our natural resource concerns and conservation goals in Eddy County. This Program fits in very well with the some of the services that the Eddy County SCD already has available to its producers such as a cover crop interseeder and portable corral system.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connections, tanks, pipeline, etc.).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,



Eddy County SCD Board

Shannon Anderson, District Manager



August 22, 2018

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:

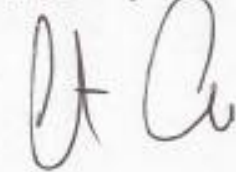

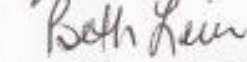
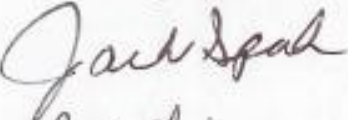
Please accept this letter of support by the Kidder County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIP2) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, reduce input costs for cash crop production, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our natural resource concerns and conservation goals in Kidder County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Kidder County SCD Board



August 21, 2018

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 LaMoure County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIP II) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, reduce input costs for cash crop production, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our natural resource concerns and conservation goals in LaMoure County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

LaMoure County SCD Board

*Christof Just - chairman*

August 10, 2018

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 McIntosh County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIP II) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, reduce input costs for cash crop production, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our natural resource concerns and conservation goals in McIntosh County.

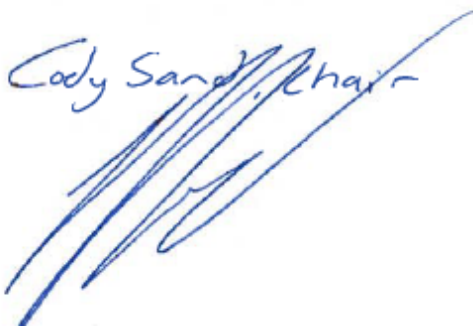
Helping producers begin innovative soil health conservation practices like the use of cover crops and livestock integration on cropland come with associated costs not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

McIntosh County SCD Board

Cody Sandberg, Chair



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 West McLean County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, increase cash crop productivity, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our goals in McLean County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Hauf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Acting Chairman

West McLean County SCD Board

August 10, 2018

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 Mountrail County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, increase cash crop productivity, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our goals in Mountrail County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,



Pam Germundson  
District Manager  
Mountrail Soil Conservation District  
PO Box 715  
Stanley, ND 58784

*Nelson  
County*



*Soil Conservation  
District*

*Korrey Tweed, District Manager  
PO Box 249 - Lakota ND 58344 Phone 701-247-2514 Ext. 3*

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August 22, 2018

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 Nelson County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIPII) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, reduce input costs for cash crop production, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our natural resource concerns and conservation goals in Nelson County.

Helping producers begin innovative soil health conservation practices like the use of cover crops and livestock integration on cropland come with associated costs not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Nelson County SCD Board

**Darren Fougner**

**Scott Sand**

**Kevin Landeis**

**Delbert Schindele**

**Alison Tweed**





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## TOWNER COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**Carie M. Moore**  
Dist. Manager

1200 Highway 281 S  
Cando, ND 58324  
701-968-4457 x 3

[carie.moore@nd.nacdnet.net](mailto:carie.moore@nd.nacdnet.net)

### Outdoor Heritage Fund

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

#### Board of Supervisors

##### Towner County

Kirk Larson  
Bruce Teubner  
Sharla Henderson  
Marty Amble  
Karl Solberg

Dear Ms. Fine:

September 24, 2018

Please accept this letter of support by the Towner County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" (CCLIP2) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, reduce input costs for cash crop production, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our natural resource concerns and conservation goals in Towner County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc.). We have discussed a couple changes we would like to see in the program and we assured they would be looked at and considered.

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Towner County SCD Board

August 10, 2018

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 Sheridan County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project II" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, increase cash crop productivity, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our goals in Sheridan County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,



Kevin Korus, Chairman

Sheridan County SCD Board

## **ABOUT OHF:**

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:

- 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 defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code.

OHF funds may not be used, except after a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission, to finance:

- 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 Definitions/Clarifications 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 Definitions/Clarifications 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 Definitions/Clarifications 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.

The goal of the Industrial Commission is that at a minimum 15% of the funding received for a biennium will be given priority for recreation projects that meet Directive D.

The following projects are not eligible for funding, unless there is a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission include:

- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor ice rinks,
- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor athletic courts and sports fields,
- Other substantially similar facilities.
- Infrastructure that is not part of a comprehensive conservation plan.
- Projects not meeting a minimum funding request of \$2,500.

## **Budget Information**

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Permanent Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment)
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example, the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program, please use those rates and note your source.

## **Definitions/Clarifications:**

Building - Defined as "A structure with a roof either with walls or without walls and is attached to the ground in a permanent nature."

Comprehensive Conservation Plan - Defined as "A detailed plan that has been formally adopted by the governing board which includes goals and objectives--both short and long term, must show how this building will enhance the overall conservation goals of the project and the protection or preservation of wildlife and fish habitat or natural areas." This does not need to be a complex multi-page document. It could be included as a part of the application or be an attachment.

New and Expanded Recreational Project means that the proposed building cannot be a replacement of a current building. The proposed building must also be related to either a new or expanded

recreational project--either an expansion in land or an expansion of an existing building or in the opportunities for recreation at the project site.

Playground equipment calculation - Only the actual costs of the playground equipment (a bid or invoice showing the amount of the equipment costs must be provided) - cannot include freight or installation or surface materials or removal of old equipment, etc.

Staffing/Outside Consultants Costs - If you are requesting OHF funding for staffing or for an outside consultant, you must provide information in your application on the need for OHF funding to cover these costs. For example, if you are an entity that has engineering staff you must explain why you don't have sufficient staff to do the work or if specific expertise is needed or whatever the reason is for your entity to retain an outside consultant. If it is a request for reimbursement for staff time then a written explanation is required in the application of why OHF funding is needed to pay for the costs of that staff member(s)' time. **The budget form must reflect on a separate line item the specific amount that is being requested for staffing and/or the hiring of an outside consultant.** This separate line item will then be used to make the calculation of 5% or 10% as outlined in the law. Note that the calculation will be made on the grant less the costs for the consultant or staff.

## Scoring of Grants

**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.

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking form 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.

## 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 Andrea Pfennig at 701-328-3786 or [apfennig@nd.gov](mailto:apfennig@nd.gov).

Revised: September 14, 2018