



**Walsh County Three Rivers
Soil Conservation District**

Sarah Johnston
District Manager
13351 Hwy 17 W
Park River, ND 58270
(701) 284-7363

September 27, 2018

North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol, 14th Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Commissioners,

The Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District respectfully submits this application for OHF funding in the amount of \$135,000 for the Walsh Windbreak Initiative (WWI) Program. This program addresses agroforestry concerns by increasing the total number of trees on the landscape, through windbreak renovations, new windbreak plantings, and wildlife habitat tree and shrub plantings. Implementation of the WWI program will allow for renewal of windbreak resources that will in turn benefit soils, water quality, plant diversity, and support other practices of stewardship that enhance farming and ranching (Directive B), and enhance habitat on private and public lands for white-tailed deer and other wildlife species (Directive C).

For many years Walsh County has been experiencing a net loss of trees due to disease, drought, floods, and other stressors. Most recently, we have had widespread damage due to severe storms, affecting over 131 farmsteads and 133 miles of windbreaks. In addition to miles of damaged trees, we are experiencing dust storms that are carrying away valuable topsoil at a rate that is unsustainable for the future of agriculture in our area. Sites studied by NDSU in Walsh County in 2009 showed over a 50% loss in historic topsoil depths since 1960, and has significantly affected the productivity index on these soils.

Windbreaks serve a very valuable purpose in our county, and therefore, the SCD and local workgroup members have prioritized this resource to bring additional funds into the county. In the WWI, the SCD will be working more closely with the ND Forest Service to learn assessment methods that will allow the SCD to roll out the WWI program to Walsh County landowners, scheduled to take place from 2019-2022.

We look forward to presenting more information on our proposed program. Please find the application, and letters of support enclosed.

Sincerely,

Sarah B. Johnston

Enc(s)

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



Instructions

After completing the form, applications and supporting documentation may be submitted by mail to North Dakota Industrial Commission, ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program, State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405, Bismarck, ND 58505 or by e-mail to outdoorheritage@nd.gov. It is preferred that both a hard copy and electronic copy are submitted.

You are not limited to the spacing provided, except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. If you need additional space, please indicate that on the application form, answer the question on a separate page, and include with your submission.

The application and all attachments must be received or postmarked by the application deadline. You will be sent a confirmation by e-mail of receipt of your application. You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications prior to the deadline for staff review in order ensure that proposals will be complete when submitted on deadline date.** Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding.

Please review the back of this form to determine project eligibility, definitions, budget criteria, and statutory requirements.

Project Name: Walsh Windbreak Initiative (WWI)

Name of Organization: Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District

Federal Tax ID# 45-6002509

Contact Person/Title: Sarah Johnston, District Manager

Address: 13351 Hwy 17 W

City: Park River

State: N.D.

Zip Code: 58270

E-mail Address: walshcounty319@polarcomm.com

Web Site Address (Optional)

Phone: (701) 284-7363

Fax # (if available)

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 organization:

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)

In recent years significant damage has occurred to windbreaks in Walsh County. During one severe thunderstorm in 2016, 133 miles of field windbreaks and 131 farmsteads received damage extensive enough to be seen on aerial imagery provided by NRCS. It is a major concern of the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District (SCD) and Local Workgroup members that windbreaks may continue to be removed without replacement, resulting in an overall reduction of trees on the landscape. Walsh County has lost over 50% of topsoil since 1960 at studied locations in the county, and cover crop and no-till farming are not yet well adopted practices in the area. Since the dustbowl years, windbreaks have been the main means of reducing stress on crops and reducing soil erosion and continue to do so even

90 years later. The condition of our soil, water, and wildlife habitat resources may worsen if there are less trees to provide services in our agroecosystem.

In 2016, the SCD and Local Workgroup members submitted an application for special EQIP funding for Walsh County Windbreaks, and the \$115,250 program received funding that was quickly awarded to eight landowners in Walsh County. Each month we receive requests from two or more landowners looking for renovation funding, or funding to plant new windbreaks. Walsh County wants to set a good example for landowners on the importance of replacing damaged windbreaks, and natural resource team comprised of partners operating in our county are united in this effort.

We seek OHF funding to offer landowners 60% cost share towards windbreak renovation and support landowners in their efforts to restore functioning windbreaks to the area. Projects will be designed by SCD staff trained by ND Forest Service staff in the methods of windbreak renovation planning. In addition, funding will be used for cost share of new tree plantings in either a new windbreak or habitat type of planting. The SCD staff in Walsh County are looking forward to working with the ND Forest Service to enhance our skills in an effort to expand the local level of support to address agroforestry concerns. In addition, we will continue to work with NRCS and NDSU Extension Service to bring the very best resources to landowners so that they may address resource concerns that will affect future generations.

Project Duration: January 1, 2019- July 31, 2022

Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.

The WWI will kick off in January 2019 and technical assessments will take place thereafter. From December 2019 until July 2022 projects will be implemented. Reimbursements begin as soon as projects are completed, likely beginning in fall 2021, with final project reimbursements being submitted to OHF prior to July 31, 2022.

Amount of Grant request: \$ 135,000

Total Project Costs: \$ 234,334

Note: in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds.

Amount of Matching Funds: \$99,334

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
\$ 16,000	Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indirect
\$ 83,334	Walsh County Landowners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect

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 – 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)

The early years of conservation in Walsh County were overseen by two district offices- the Three Rivers Soil Conservation District office established in 1939, and the Walsh County Soil Conservation District office established in 1943. The offices later combined in 2000 and also combined names. The primary mission of the Walsh County Three Rivers SCD (SCD) is to protect and conserve natural resources. We partner with landowners and agencies to improve the environment, including improvements in soil quality, water quality, and energy conservation, for future generations in Walsh County. The District participates in the RCPP 49th Parallel “How Far North Can We Grow?” Cover Crop Project, and recently received EPA 319 funding for the Park River Watershed Project.

The Board of Supervisors is comprised of five supervisors: Jay Skorheim, Julius Wangler, Justin Zahradka, Linda Osowski, and Brian Kadlec. Julius Wangler also serves as the Area I Representative with the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

The SCD has three permanent staff: Sarah Johnston, District Manager; Evan Freeman, District Watershed Technician; and Katrina Haugen, Office Assistant. Additional staff are hired to help permanent staff carryout seasonal tree planting activities, water sampling, and other field work duties.

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.

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.

Is this project part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan? Yes No
If yes, provide a copy with the application.

Note: Projects involving buildings and infrastructure 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.

Goals: The Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District is seeking additional technical and financial assistance for rural landowners to increase the number of windbreaks and forested areas in the county. Windbreaks can reduce wind stress on crops, reduce velocity on bare soil to help soil in place, and provide habitat for wildlife.

Facts about Walsh County:

- In areas of Walsh County, NDSU found that over 50% of topsoil has been lost since 1960¹. The Local Work Group, comprised of FSA, NRCS, Extension, SCD, and other partners, emphasizes that the replanting of removed windbreaks is essential to preventing soil erosion in this county.
- Cover crops and no-till farming are not widely adapted practices in our county. As a result, landowners rely on field windbreaks to protect cropland. Walsh County is 2nd in the state for production of sugar beets². Edible beans and potatoes are other low residue crops raised in the county.
- Forested areas, including field windbreaks and farmstead windbreaks, have recently been identified as critical habitat for white-tailed deer in Walsh County³.

1. B. Montgomery. 2015. Evaluating dynamic soil change in the Barnes soil series across eastern North Dakota. Graduate Thesis. NDSU. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing. www.proquest.com, 522 pp.
2. USDA. 2016. North Dakota Agricultural Statistics 2016. Report No. 85. Northern Plains Region, North Dakota Field Office, Fargo, ND. 133p.
3. Sternhagen, K. 2016. An Evaluation of Life History Parameters and Management of White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in the Red River Valley of Northeastern North Dakota. Study No. C-VIII. Report. North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck, N.D. 83 p.

Over the past two years, severe storms have damaged trees in windbreaks that were already in decline due to old age. During the June 17, 2016 storm, field and farmstead windbreaks were damaged, some severely, in several areas of Eastern Walsh County. A total of approximately 133 miles of field windbreaks and 131 farmsteads have been identified as having some level of damage in this one storm alone. This identification took place using GIS and 2016 USDA aerial photography. Subsequent storms since then has yielded additional damage in other areas of the county.

Riparian areas have also been affected by tree losses due to disease, storm damage, and sometimes clearing for farmland, and this reduction in wooded acres affects available wildlife habitat. Technical and financial assistance would provide the implementation of riparian tree plantings and upland tree plantings for habitat purposes.

Strategies: During the past three years, we have worked closely with NRCS and NDFS to address windbreak concerns in Walsh County. After the storms of 2016, the need became more urgent and every attempt was made to increase technical and financial assistance provided to landowners. As part of the response effort, the Local Workgroup (comprised of NRCS, SCD, FSA, Extension, and other members) submitted an application for additional NRCS funds, and that pool of money was quickly dedicated to projects through EQIP. During that same period of time, the SCD referred landowners to the NDFS Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative funded by OHF, and they also assisted in the responding to the needs of landowners. Despite these efforts, it remains clear that Walsh County has an overwhelming need of additional technical and financial assistance, of which the Soil Conservation District seeks to facilitate in this new initiative.

The Walsh Windbreak Initiative (WWI) will address landowner needs by allowing readily available funding and trained staff to provide windbreak assessments to landowners. The North Dakota Forest Service has offered to train our staff and work closely with us in the windbreak assessment process. We will grow our existing relationship with the ND Forest Service as they provide us expertise in forestry best management practices, following their guidelines that have produced excellent renovation projects in our county to date.

In addition to offering assistance in windbreak renovations, we would also like to include brand new shelterbelt plantings and wildlife habitat plantings in this cost share program. By increasing the number of living trees on the landscape we hope to reduce the net loss of total treed acres. Each landowner who is interested in planting a wildlife planting will receive a plan designed for the species of wildlife he/she is managing, and practices will center around tree and shrub installation. Deer habitat is limited in our area, and deer are relying on shelterbelts, abandoned farmsteads, and narrow riparian corridors for habitat. We will seek out areas for forested buffer plantings near natural watercourses, ravines, other locations frequented by deer. Restoring woody browse to heavily utilized areas, such as riparian areas, will increase the opportunities for deer to find winter browse that meets their nutritional needs. Turkeys may also benefit from some of the same species of trees and shrubs that deer utilize.

Benefits:

Resource concerns to be addressed through this initiative include:

- Wind erosion on cropland and soil loss
- Habitat for several species of wildlife that depend of trees/shrubs for shelter and food source
- Energy conservation
- Livestock protection
- Water quality

Work Activities:

Tree planting and windbreak renovation best management practices will be completed based on technical standards utilized by the ND Forest Service in the *Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative* funded by OHF. Each tree planting plan will be documented on the USDA NRCS as-planted ND-CPA-4 form and provided as part of the reimbursement materials submitted. In-kind values will be based on USDA cost share standardized rates for individual practices.

Best Management Practices & Cost Shared Activities	
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Tree row removal, machine planting, hand planting, weed barrier installation, chemical/mechanical weed control, thinning, coppicing, tree tube installation.
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	When appropriate, exclusion fencing for livestock or wildlife, erosion control measures, or herbaceous seeding between rows may be cost shared if deemed necessary by the technical planner.
Wildlife Tree & Shrub Planting	

Timetable:

January 2019-July 2019- Program kick off and landowners apply for technical assistance.

July 2019-August 2019- Assessments are completed by SCD staff after being provided training with ND Forest Service staff on proper windbreak renovation assessment methods.

September 2019-October 2019- Landowners review assessment plans and apply formally for cost share prior to October 31.

November 2019- SCD Board reviews all applications and conducts ranking of projects. Landowners are awarded contracts and begin renovation work.

Subsequent applications can be taken if not all funds are committed by November 2019.

December 2019-February 2022- Renovations take place, planting plans are drafted by SCD, and projects are inspected after completion of project, prior to cost share reimbursement.

Reimbursements begin as soon as projects are completed, likely beginning in fall 2021, with final project reimbursements being submitted to OHF prior to July 31, 2022.

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 day to day planning with landowners in the Walsh Windbreaks Initiative will be the responsibility of District Manager, Sarah Johnston; and Office Assistant, Katrina Haugen. Johnston is an NDSU graduate with a B.S. in Natural Resources Management (2010), and a M.S. in Range Science (2017) where she studied bottomland forest regeneration along the Sheyenne River in eastern N.D. As a former watershed coordinator, Johnston has worked closely with landowners in restoring and managing riparian areas, as well as making recommendations to landowners in tree establishment. She has collaborated with other agencies to establish partnerships which have increased outreach in several areas of natural resource management, including soil conservation and harmful algae blooms (HABs). She has 6 years of experience contracting practices with landowners and has managed two 319 grant programs in the county. In September 2018, Johnston attended courses in the first level of the NRCS Certified Conservation Planner program.

Haugen recently joined the District, bringing with her prior knowledge in program management and accounting that will be utilized in the implementation of this initiative. In her spare time she teaches hunters' safety and has an appreciation for forestry. Haugen will complete the Windbreak Technology Course offered in September 2018 in Jamestown.

Additional program support will be provided on an as needed basis by SCD watershed technician Evan Freeman, who joined the District in June 2018. Freeman holds a B.S. from UND in Fisheries and Wildlife Management (2006). Freeman has experience working in wildlife in Utah, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Florida.

The program will be managed by the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District using a project approval process involving the SCD Board of Supervisors. Interested landowners will submit applications due by the application date, and the board will score applications accordingly. The District requires 50% non-refundable down payment towards conservation tree stock and commitment

to a planting contract prior to trees being ordered. A maintenance agreement will be required from all landowners. If trees have already been removed from the site prior to the project being approved, the removal costs will not be considered. In this situation, however, establishment of replacement trees could be considered by the SCD board.

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.

Accomplishments will be reported based on the number of landowners contacted during outreach, applications for cost share received, and linear feet of windbreaks renovated. Farmstead windbreaks and wildlife habitat plantings will be measured in acres. Before and after photos of each site will be provided whenever possible.

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	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
Project Reimbursements ¹	\$ 125,000	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 125,000
Landowner cash or In Kind ²	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 83,334	\$ 83,334
SCD Staff	\$ 10,000		\$ 16,000			\$ 26,000
Total Costs	\$ 135,000	\$	\$ 16,000	\$	\$ 83,334	\$ 234,334

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.

Projects will be reimbursed on 60% of actual costs incurred by the landowner on eligible best management practices contracted with the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District. The landowner is responsible for 40% of the project costs and can use in-kind towards their share of the project. Work completed by the landowner will be valued based on NRCS standardized rates.

We are seeking consideration of staffing costs for this project in the amount of \$10,000 for program administration. We applied to the State Soil Conservation Committee's "Soil Conservation District Assistance Program" for \$40,000 (maximum) in funding and received \$30,000 in grant funds this biennium to pay for staff time providing technical assistance, leaving \$10,000 in unmet need. Time spent on visiting landowners and writing technical plans for the Walsh Windbreak Initiative would be tracked accordingly, and timesheets provided to OHF for programmatic delivery.

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.

The project will be maintained through proper care by the landowner outlined in the conservation plan or renovation plan. Site checks will be conducted by the Soil Conservation District immediately after planting, end of the first season, in year 3, and in year 5, and thereafter through year 10 for the lifespan of the practices. This level of monitoring will allow for measurement of success after the planting. It will allow our agency the opportunity to follow up with landowners as the trees establish and maintenance plans are implemented.

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

Full funding of this project will allow it to move forward quickly and will allow for all qualified projects to be funded without delay. Partial funding will limit the number of landowners who will receive assistance and slow the progress of the district's goal to provide landowners with additional windbreak opportunities. Currently the SCD refers two landowners per month to a renovation program hoping that the applicant receives technical and financial assistance necessary. If funded, we can ensure that the landowners we are assessing have an additional chance at cost share funding if one of the other cost share sources is limited in the number of applications accepted.

In addition, funding in the amount of \$10,000 for project administration costs will allow for the SCD to focus on providing technical support on this valuable initiative. If the \$10,000 for staff is not received, we would continue to implement the program.

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.*

Signage will be posted at the most feasible location, such as the roadside end of replaced windbreaks. The condition of signage will be included in the contract.

Considerable mention of OHF funding will be made in articles in our newsletters, our Facebook page, and at our annual meeting.

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? X Yes No

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

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.

Revised: September 14, 2018



NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE

"Enhancing the Quality of Life Through Forestry"

September 20, 2018

North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol, 14th Floor
600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Commissioners,

The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) is pleased to provide a letter of support for the Walsh Windbreak Initiative. Windbreaks are an important component of many agricultural systems and can improve rural life in the northern plains. For example, field windbreaks reduce soil erosion during years of drought, reduce water evaporation from adjacent cropland, and increase crop yields. Similarly, some plantings are designed to stabilize streambanks, filter water runoff from adjacent agricultural lands, provide wildlife habitat, protect stretches of highway prone to severe snow accumulation, provide wind protection for livestock, or protect farmsteads and rural homes from snow and wind. Although many windbreaks occur in areas where the historical vegetation type was prairie, these resources are critical for the present needs of rural residents that live in the current agricultural landscape.

Tree plantings of the northern plains are exposed to numerous pests and environmental conditions that hinder planting success, reduce their effectiveness, and limit long-term survival. Deterioration of tree plantings is often incited by drought, flooding, frosts, inadequate spacing, weed competition, herbicide exposure, defoliating insects, and foliar diseases. The NDFS has received and addressed over 700 requests for assistance from landowners through the OHF-funded Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative, since its inception in 2015, which have resulted in over 200 completed and active windbreak projects. However, the statewide nature of the NDFS Initiative does not allow staff to concentrate their attention on areas of concentrated damage to windbreaks, such as Walsh County. The proposed program will allow NDFS and Soil Conservation District staff to leverage their resources and address concerted windbreak renovation needs in northeast North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Derek Lowstuter

NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

2718 Gateway Ave. Suite 304, Bismarck, ND 58503
701- 328-9715 ——— bruce.schmidt@ndsu.edu

September 25, 2018

Sarah Johnston
District Manager
Walsh County Three Rivers
Soil Conservation District
13351 Hwy. 17 W.
Park River, ND 58270

Dear Sarah,

Please accept this letter as my support for funding request from the Outdoor Heritage Fund for the Walsh SCD Windbreak Initiative. The Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District request for additional technical and financial assistance for rural landowners to increase the number of windbreaks and forested areas is a much needed conservation program.

I understand that the windbreak renovation projects will be designed by Walsh County Three Rivers SCD staff trained by ND Forest Service staff to restore functioning windbreak in the area. In addition, funding will be used for cost share of new tree plantings in either a new windbreak or habitat type of planting.

The Windbreak initiative program would benefit landowners and the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District in their effort to expand and address agroforestry concerns.

Sincerely,



Bruce Schmidt
Extension Program Leader
Soil Conservation and Watershed
Leadership Development
2718 Gateway Ave. Suite 304
Bismarck, ND 58503
Bruce.schmidt@ndsu.edu

September 18, 2018

To: Outdoor Heritage Fund

Re: Letter of Support for Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District Application

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to fully support the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District application to the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Our older well established shelterbelts, in eastern Walsh County, were damaged a few years ago by several high velocity wind storms that effectively shattered many of our older shelterbelts; that have been in place since the 1960s or earlier to protect our soils. The loss of these shelterbelts has been responsible for huge dust storms the past few years in the Red River Valley to rival the dust bowl years. As is stated in the application, we have lost large amounts of soil in the past 50 years that we can't continue to lose. If we keep losing the topsoil at this rate we will soon lose the most productive topsoil, in the world, that we have in Walsh County; not to mention the quality of life that will be impacted by all this blowing topsoil.

We have one of the most proactive and dedicated group of board members and staff a soil conservation district can have, and they were one of the pioneers in northeastern North Dakota in the use of cover crops. We are considered a leader state wide in this effort. The district does not lack the drive, passion or expertise. What holds them back is always funding. It is much cheaper just to push the trees into a pile and clear the land for more crop and leave the soil unprotected. We have still not gotten the use of cover crops to the point of adoption that we can afford to farm without trees. Couple this with crops like sugarbeets, potatoes and edible beans and it is not hard to understand the spring dirt storms.

This grant proposes to put our shelterbelts back in place, provide habitat for wildlife and birds, reduce wind erosion, dust storms and leave our children the rich topsoil that we have enjoyed in Walsh County since it was founded. I can't possibly think of a project that would more likely meet the definition for heritage. I one day would like my grandchildren to live in this great community and enjoy the blessings that have been bestowed upon this land. We can still accomplish this goal if we act now. The only thing we lack is funding to make this dream possible. I pledge to walk side by side with the board to accomplish this goal, as I have in past. If you have any questions I can be reached at 701-284-6248.

Sincerely



Brad Brummond
NDSU Extension Agent/Walsh County

North Dakota State University

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE | WALSH COUNTY

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