

# 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](mailto: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.**

<b>Project Name</b>	Planting for the Future
<b>Name of Organization</b>	North Dakota Petroleum Foundation
<b>Federal Tax ID#</b>	83-1389235
<b>Contact Person/Title</b>	Tessa Sandstrom, Director of Community Relations, North Dakota Petroleum Council
<b>Address</b>	100 W Broadway Avenue, Suite 200
<b>City</b>	Bismarck
<b>State</b>	ND
<b>Zip Code</b>	58501
<b>E-mail Address</b>	tsandstrom@ndoil.org
<b>Web Site Address</b> (Optional)	www.ndoilfoundation.org
<b>Phone</b>	701-223-6380 (NDPC Office); 701-837-4780 (Tessa's office)
<b>Fax #</b> (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 2017, the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC) founded the Planting for the Future program (the Program) with the goal of leveraging industry and landowner support for large-scale tree plantings for habitat. The Program’s goal was to plant 55,000 trees over a three-year period on private land throughout North Dakota. With the support of the Outdoor Heritage Fund, the NDPC met and exceeded that goal by planting 58,000 in Burleigh, Kidder, Dickey, Morton, Mountrail, Emmons, Wells, Grant, Stark and Sheridan Counties in its first year. This year, the Program will use the remaining funds from its Outdoor Heritage Fund grant to plant an additional 30,000 trees in Burleigh, Emmons, Hettinger, Kidder, Morton,

Mountrail and Stutsman Counties, bringing the Program’s estimated total to 88,000 trees in just two years.

The Program has proven both successful and popular. More than 40 landowners or conservation organizations have applied for trees so far, with 18 being approved and completed in 2018 and another 15 approved and planned for this spring. Fifteen projects remain on the waiting list with additional landowners having expressed interest in partnering in future years.

Given the success so far in the program, the NDPC plan to continue it for at least another three years with the goal of planting about 90,000 trees over the course of the grant period, or approximately 30,000 trees per year.

The program will be managed by the North Dakota Petroleum Foundation (the Foundation), which is a 501(c)(3) that was created by the NDPC in 2018 to operate and oversee the NDPC’s outreach and education programs, plans to continue this program in 2020 and beyond and is seeking support from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to continue planting more trees in its effort to further enhance the conservation heritage of North Dakota.

A video about the Program can be viewed here: <https://www.ndoilfoundation.org/planting-for-the-future/>.

**Project Duration:** January 2020-December 2023

**Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.**

This grant request is for projects completed from 2020 to 2023. Funding will be drawn down in May and June of each year, beginning the Spring of 2020 when tree orders are picked up and planting takes place. Some additional small draw-downs will be required in the fall of each year to plan and prepare for the next spring’s projects, as well as for monitoring expenses beginning in Fall of 2021.

**Amount of Grant request: \$ 88,650**

**Total Project Costs: \$224,650**

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

**Amount of Matching Funds: \$ 136,000**

***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
\$ 90,000	ND Petroleum Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect

\$ 15,000	ND Petroleum Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
\$ 5,000	ND Petroleum Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indirect
\$ 20,000	Participating landowners	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect
\$ 6,000	Participating landowners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect

**Certifications**

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

I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions 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 North Dakota Petroleum Foundation (the Foundation), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was founded by the North Dakota Petroleum Council in 2018 to support our state and the communities in which we operate. Its mission is to provide and support education and outreach opportunities related to the petroleum industry, develop and advance quality of life initiatives, and promote and enhance the conservation heritage of North Dakota. The Foundation works to achieve this mission through outreach programs, scholarships and education opportunities, and environmental stewardship programs.

The Foundation is supported by revenues from the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, as well as donations from the North Dakota Petroleum Council, the Foundation’s Board of Directors, industry companies and employees, grants from the Oil and Gas Research Council and Outdoor Heritage Fund, and others.

**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.*

Trees and forests are an important resource, providing watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and protection for crops, soil and livestock. Currently about 815,000 acres – or 1.8 percent – of North Dakota’s total land area is forested,<sup>1</sup> but annual mortality is on the rise. Inclement weather, flooding, invasive species and insects, and overmaturity of trees have impacted and continue to threaten existing forests.

About 70 percent of North Dakota’s forest land is privately owned, which emphasizes the importance of private landowners in the management of North Dakota’s forest resources. Through Planting for the Future, the Foundation and its partners will build and leverage relationships with landowners to aid in the planting of 90,000 trees on private land over the next three years. Fourteen landowners are currently on the Planting for the Future’s waiting list and others have expressed interest in applying in future years.

Although there are several tree planting initiatives in existence, this program will be unique in that it will leverage the North Dakota Public Service Commission’s Tree and Shrub Mitigation Program’s requirements for companies to replace trees and shrubs removed in the construction of infrastructure while involving landowners in the installation process. This will enable the Partnership to plant trees at an estimated average cost of \$2.50 each<sup>2</sup> compared to a higher rate of \$5 to \$8 each that other organizations, including the National Resource Conservation Service, must pay because they must also cover the cost of labor. The unique advantages of the Program will allow it to return more acreage to woodlands at a lower cost. The Foundation will also continue to look at ways to partner and cooperate with Soil Conservation Districts, NRCS and land owners in order to maximize efficiency and work together in order to get as many trees planted as possible.

Because the projects will be implemented in several counties, the specific trees, shrubs and planting methods used will be decided on a case-by-case basis with consideration to USDA guidelines for suitable species, each area’s unique geological and geographical attributes, as well as landowner preference. The species most commonly planted in 2018 and planned for

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<sup>1</sup> According to the USDA’s “Forests of North Dakota, 2017”, which is the most recent data available: [https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/ru/ru\\_fs149.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/ru/ru_fs149.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The average cost per tree for the 2018 planting cycle.

2019 included ponderosa pine, scotch pine, cedar, lilac, buffaloberry, caragana, chokecherry, juniper, plum, silverberry and willow because of their survivability and because they provide tremendous cover for wildlife.

Trees will be planted using either the knifing and fabric method or the scalping method, which is a mechanical process whereby the soil is peeled back in a wide, shallow furrow. Scalping preparation is more cost effective and has proven beneficial on agricultural areas because it reduces competition with other vegetation, improves moisture, and reduces insect predation on roots. A chemical additive for weed control will be applied the first year with additional applications contingent on necessity in following years. While this method is not often deployed, it has shown past success in private projects administered by one of the Program's consultants and has shown early success in projects completed in 2018. Continued development of this method may prove beneficial in advancing new practices that will aid in the planting of more trees at a lower cost and at a greater success rate. The more traditional knifing method requires the application of weed barrier and increases the cost of planting, but landowners are asked to share in 25 percent of the cost.

As in the last grant round, all projects will be monitored for up to two years to ensure the survival and success of plantings. The Program will strive to achieve an overall 80 percent survival rate and plant more or replace trees should we not meet that goal.

The Foundation will provide funds to support habitat contractors, the NDPC will contribute in-kind support from its staff to manage the program, and landowners interested in participating in the project are expected to contribute both cash and in-kind support equal to or greater than 25 percent of the total project costs.

**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.*

**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.*

Because the Foundation does not have any paid staff, the Program will be overseen and managed by NDPC staff, including Ron Ness, President of the NDPC and Executive Director of the Foundation, and Tessa Sandstrom, Community Relations Director for the NDPC. This support will be provided in-kind to the Foundation and the Program.<sup>3</sup>

Both Ness and Sandstrom have a long history of responsibly managing and executing other grant proposals through the Oil and Gas Research Council and the Outdoor Heritage Fund. While Ness will oversee the management of the Program, Sandstrom will administer the day-to-day tasks, including the collection of applications, project approvals, ordering of trees and

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<sup>3</sup> In-kind support from NDPC staff will be calculated at a rate of \$50 per hour salary equivalent.

materials, scheduling of projects, paying of bills, compiling of grant reports, and project monitoring, among others.

The Program will again retain outside contractors to provide consultation and planting services.

David Shockman will serve as a lead habitat consultant for projects deploying the scalping method. David is a farmer from Burleigh County and has served as an advisor and leader for several conservation groups. For the last 17 years, he has been involved in tree planting, averaging about 15,000 trees. These projects have enjoyed between a 70 and 80 percent success rate. In 2018, Shockman led several projects totaling 34,000 trees.

Dave Nehring will serve as a lead habitat consultant in all projects and will lead projects requiring the use of moisture and weed barrier. Dave is the owner of Habitat Unlimited in Bismarck, a company that specializes in custom planting strategies geared toward enhancing wildlife habitat on private land. Habitat Unlimited has been doing tree projects since 2005. They have planted over 55,000 trees since that time and installed more than 165,000 feet of barrier with survival rates over 90 percent. Many of these projects were done through the ND Forest Service's Living Snowfence program. ND Forest Service hired Habitat Unlimited to do all the Morton County Calendar Year 2010 Tree Project Plans when Morton County did not have a conservationist on staff. These plans were done using USDA guidelines for 19 landowners. Habitat Unlimited has invested in the equipment to ensure the highest success, such as no-till equipment, and refrigerated truck for tree storage.

Katrina Mickelsen will contract to monitor and report on projects. Katrina has bachelor's degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture from North Dakota State University. Prior to working full-time for the North Dakota National Guard, she worked for Prairie View Landscaping in Bismarck, and also has experience working for the Fargo Park Board and her family's greenhouse in Kenmare, ND.

### **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.*

To remain consistent with requirements entailed in the North Dakota Public Service Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Program, all tree plantings will be monitored for two years after being planted and achieve an 80 percent survival rate. An annual report will be filed with the NDPSC for projects under the auspices of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Program and all other projects' reports will also be provided within grant reports submitted to the Outdoor Heritage Fund for the Planting for the Future program.

## **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
Trees (1)	\$ 75,000	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 75,000
Supplies (2)	\$ 13,650	\$	\$	\$	\$ 6,000	\$ 19,650
Contractor Fees (3)	\$	\$ 90,000	\$	\$	\$	\$ 90,000
Operating Costs (4)	\$	\$	\$ 15,000	\$	\$	\$ 15,000
Admin/Marketing (5)	\$	\$	\$	\$ 5,000	\$	\$ 5,000
Other labor (6)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$ 88,650</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 26,000</b>	<b>\$</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.**

- 1) \$75,000 is requested in OHF funds for the purchase of trees over three years.
- 2) \$13,650 is requested for the purchase of supplies including fabric and pins. Participating landowners will provide some cost share for expenses, including 25% of the cost of fabric and pins, as well as other expenses incurred in land preparation and planting, including, but not limited to, gasoline, spray, flags, spray paint or other materials.
- 3) The Foundation will pay for contractors to design and implement each project, including site preparation for the planting of trees and monitoring throughout the duration of this grant period. Projects using scalping and chemical treatment will be carried out by David Shockman. Projects using fabric will be carried out by Dave Nehring of Habitat Unlimited. The rate is \$2,000 per project, including mileage, incidentals and use of equipment. In addition, a contractor will also be hired at a rate of \$100 per project including time and mileage to monitor and file a report on each project's progress and make recommendations as necessary for the overall success of the project. This program requires monitoring annually for up to two years and an overall 80 percent success rate.
- 4) Since the Foundation does not have staff, the NDPC will provide staff to operate the program at an estimated salary equivalent of \$50 per hour. This in-kind support will include the collection, filing and approval process of applications for trees; ordering of trees and materials; correspondence with contractors and applicants; and management of budget and grant, among other duties.
- 5) The Foundation has a small budget of \$5,000 for any administrative, printing and marketing or promotional costs, including, but not limited to, routine printing costs (e.g. copies), brochures, graphics, videos or photos, and promotional items.

**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.



We envision that this is a program that will continue for at least five to ten years and will have the potential to last even longer. The Foundation raises approximately \$20,000 each year from its Bakken Classic Fishing Derby that is dedicated to the Planting for the Future initiative. In addition, the unique situation that enabled ONEOK, Inc. to be a major partner last year is one that will likely continue in the future. The NDPSC often requires that two or more trees or shrubs be planted for every one that is removed during the construction of a pipeline. We anticipate that as infrastructure buildout continues, other companies will have trees or shrubs that will need to be planted as well. Furthermore, our member companies have foundations or budgets for philanthropy and are often looking for environmental projects that they can support. The Planting for the Future initiative would meet many of their requirements, enabling the continued implementation of the program. Already, the Foundation has received more than \$15,000 for projects in 2018 and 2019 and others have pledged to contribute for future programs.

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

The Foundation is prepared to continue building this program even if it does not secure grant funds, albeit at a smaller scale, and our ability to grow into an impactful, long-lasting program may be hindered without the OHF funding.

**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.***

The Foundation has and will continue to recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund through photos and videos shared on the Energy of North Dakota program’s website and social media channels. Currently, the Outdoor Heritage Fund logo is displayed on the Foundation website, Planting for the Future brochures and in any other promotional or educational materials distributed and shared. Because these projects are on private land, the Program does not plan to install signage.

**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:*



# 70%

**OF NORTH DAKOTA'S  
FOREST LAND IS  
PRIVATELY OWNED.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Trees and forests are an important resource, providing watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and protection for crops, soil, and livestock. Currently, about 815,000 acres – or 1.8 percent – of North Dakota's total land area is forested, but about 70 percent of North Dakota's forest land is privately owned, making landowners important partners in the management of North Dakota's forest resources.

Planting for the Future's goal is to bring private landowners, wildlife groups, and industry together to create large-scale tree and shrub plantings on private land that will serve as habitat for future generations. By sharing time and resources, the program planted 58,000 trees in 2018 with plans to plant another 120,000 over the next four years.

Planting for the Future is operated by the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC) and supported by funds from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, NDPC, ONEOK and other program sponsors.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The program is open to any conservation-minded landowners or organizations within the state of North Dakota who want to develop and improve habitat on their land. Projects will be tailored to meet the preferences and priorities of each landowner; however, projects must meet the following conditions:

- Project must be primarily built for habitat. Plantings that serve only as shelter or privacy for homes will not be accepted. Single-row tree rows or shelterbelts are not eligible.
- Project should consist of 600 trees or more. Exceptions may apply where multiple smaller plantings are within a reasonable distance from one another.
- Trees must stay in place for a minimum of ten years.
- Grazing is not permitted within the project borders. Any necessary fencing of the project is at the landowner's expense.
- The landowner must agree to provide labor, equipment and/or monetary support for the project.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Interested landowners or groups must submit a completed application, agree to the program's terms and agreements, and submit a map of the project. Applications are available online at

[NDOilFoundation.org/Planting-For-the-Future](https://NDOilFoundation.org/Planting-For-the-Future)

## **CONTACT**

- ☎ 701.223.6380
- ✉ [ndpc@ndoil.org](mailto:ndpc@ndoil.org)
- 🌐 [NDOilFoundation.org/Planting-For-the-Future](https://NDOilFoundation.org/Planting-For-the-Future)



# PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

SUPPORTED BY FUNDS FROM







## PLANTING METHODS

### NO-TILL KNIFING

No-till knifing is a mechanical process whereby the planter slices or “knifes” the earth (picture top right). A tree is deposited into the slice, and packing wheels close the furrow. After the trees have been planted, plastic may be laid over the trees using a barrier machine. No-till helps keep soil from losing moisture, and the fabric serves as a weed barrier and enhances moisture retention.



## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Participating landowners will receive trees at no cost. A tree specialist will offer help and advice in designing the project, provide the tree planting equipment, and supervise the planting of trees. In return, landowners are asked to provide in-kind and monetary assistance, including:

- Preparing the site with herbicide and mowing.
- Filing a locate request with North Dakota One Call.
- Providing at least seven workers to help with the planting of trees.
- Providing a tractor to pull tree planting equipment.
- Caring for the project, including watering, weeding, fertilization, chemical treatment and other maintenance as needed.
- Allowing contractor access to check on the project for up to four years.
- Tracking of time and resources spent on the project.

In addition, project owners who choose the no-till knifing planting method will be required to pay 25 percent of the total cost of fabric and other materials.



Volunteers ride on the back of the scalping planter and place trees.

### SCALPING

Scalping is a mechanical process whereby the soil is peeled back in a wide (30-36”), shallow (6-8”) furrow (pictured bottom right). Trees are then mechanically placed in a hole in the furrow and packed. Because scalping peels back the upper layer of soil where a large portion of annual weed seed bank resides, competition is controlled in the first growing season. Additional benefits include improved moisture, reduced pressure from certain root pathogens such as fungi, and reduced insect damage. Fabric is not used, but subsequent chemical treatments may be necessary.



**58,000**  
TREES PLANTED THROUGH  
PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE.

