



LaMoure County
Soil Conservation District



Karlene Fine
Industrial Commission
State Capitol 14th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

April 29, 2019

Dear Karlene Fine,

Enclosed please find an Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application for the May 1st, 2019 deadline. This application was also e-mailed to the outdoorheritage@nd.gov address. I look forward to hearing from you and hope that all is well with this application.

Sincerely,

Robert (Bob) Flath,
Watershed Coordinator/District Technician

(701)320-0194





OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND GRANT APPLICATION
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION
 SFN 61465 (10-2018)

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Project Name Dickey/LaMoure Farmland Recovery Project | | |
| Name of Organization LaMoure County Soil Conservation District | | Federal Tax ID Number 45-0417669 |
| Contact Person/Title Bob Flath - District Technician/Watershed Coordinator | | |
| Address 211 S. Main, P.O. Box 278 | | |
| City LaMoure | State ND | ZIP Code 58458 |
| Email Address robert.flath@nd.nacdnet.net | Web Site Address (optional) | |
| Telephone Number (701)320-0194 | Fax Number | |
| List Names of Co-Applicants (if this is a joint proposal) James River Soil Conservation District (Dickey County) | | |

Major Directive (choose only one response)

Directive A: Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

Directive B: Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Directive C: Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

Directive D: Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Additional Directive (choose all that apply)

Directive A Directive B Directive C Directive D

Type of Agency

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

Abstract/Executive Summary

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

This projects objective is to offer a conclusive repair plan for cropland acres affected by adverse conditions causing salinity which is inhibiting the soils ability to produce. The past few decades have proven it is very clear that without intervention saline areas will become larger and more numerous.

In 5 years, the goal is to treat 400 acres of saline areas over an estimated 50 sites averaging 8 acres using the most proven approach. NDSU EXT has been testing treatment methods for several years. With their guidance it is planned to offer cost share to producers to utilize methods that have proven to be effective in reducing/controlling salinity. This in turn will return acres to production that have been inhibited for years. We will work closely and consult regularly with NDSU EXT specialists in pursuit of this goal. Soil Conservation District staff will provide oversight and compliance reviews. The Districts are preparing for 1/4 FTE at an estimated cost of \$14,500 annually to be provided to this project for up to 7 years. Areas that are planted in year 2 or 3 will require continued management beyond the 5 year plan with OHF.

The proposed plan will include a minimum involvement from the producer of 5 years. The project will provide two years of rental based on the NASS average rental rate. These initial two years are considered the establishment years. Cost share will also be provided to plant grass the first year and replant any needed areas the second, up to half of the area. Management for years one and two will include mowing/clipping with no removal of residue. A base seed mix developed by NDSU EXT is planned and total seed costs will approach approximately \$50/acre. A planting allowance of \$20/acre for tractor, fuel, and operator will also be provided. Clipping or mowing cost share will be based on \$20/acre. Dependent on how successful germination is in years one and two more replanting may be required, this would be the responsibility of the producer. After year two the area can be hayed or grazed for the remainder of the 5 years. After the 5th year each area will be evaluated with assistance from NDSU EXT and the producer to determine best use. An attempt at No Till planting is an option at this time as is continued haying or grazing. It could also be determined at this time that parts of these areas may be best left in permanent vegetation. Sacrificing some acres for the betterment of others may be required.

Project Duration

Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.
Since any costs incurred will take place in the first two years of any agreement it is planned that funds will be utilized within the first three years of the project while oversight will continue for the full five years and possibly up to eight years.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Amount of Grant Request \$105,270.00 | Total Project Costs Note: In-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds. \$256,360.00 | Amount of Matching Funds \$151,090.00 |
|---|--|--|

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 |
|-----------------|--|---|
| \$116,000.00 | Soil Conservation District wages-8 years 1/4 FTE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect |
| \$35,090.00 | Producers 25% match | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect |
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| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect |

Certifications
 I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.
 I certify that if awarded grant funding, none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions listed at the back of this form.

Narrative

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

The LaMoure County Soil Conservation District (SCD) will act as fiscal agent for this project. The James River Soil Conservation District (Dickey County) will assist with project oversight on acres within Dickey County. The LaMoure County SCD is made up of a board of 3 elected and 2 appointed officials whose purpose is to represent the producers of LaMoure County in the pursuit of Conservation. LaMoure County SCD staff consists of a District Manager and Watershed Coordinator/District Technician. Seasonal employees assist with tree planting and beginning this year will assist with developing an arboretum.

Purpose of Grant - Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project. Note: if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request. **(see additional notes below)**

The proposed plan will include a minimum involvement from the producer of 5 years. This project will provide two years of rental based on the NASS average rental rate. These initial two years are considered the establishment years. Cost share will also be available to plant grass the first year and replant any needed areas the second, up to half of the area. Management for years one and two will include mowing/clipping with no removal of residue. A base seed mix developed by NDSU EXT is planned and total seed costs will approach approximately \$50/acre, planting allowance is \$20/acre for tractor, fuel, and operator. Clipping or mowing cost share will be based on \$20/acre. Dependent on how successful germination is in years one and two more replant may be required, this would be the responsibility of the producer. Soil sampling will be utilized where needed to aid in determining treatment plan. After year two the area could be hayed or grazed for the remainder of the 5 years.

After the 5th year each area will be evaluated with assistance from NDSU and the producer to determine best use. An attempt at No Till planting is an option at this time as is continued haying or grazing. It could also be determined at this time that parts of these areas may be best left in permanent vegetation. Sacrificing some acres for the betterment of others may be required.

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

LaMoure and Dickey Counties

Is this project part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?

No Yes, If yes, provide copy of plan 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.

- For tree/shrub/grass plantings: provide a planting plan describing the site design, planting methods, number of trees/shrubs by species and stock size, grass species and future maintenance. A statement certifying that the applicant will adhere to USDA-NRCS tree/shrub/grass planting specifications along with the name of the governmental entity designing the planting may be substituted for a planting plan.
- For projects including Section 319 funding: provide in detail the specific best management practices that will be implemented and the specific projects for which you are seeking funding.
- For projects including fencing: A minimum cost share of 40% by the recipient is preferred. Include detailed information on the type of fencing to be installed, whether funding is requested for boundary fencing, new or replacement of existing fencing, and/or cross fencing.

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

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

A database developed by the ND Department of Health for tracking Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be used to track the sites involved with this project. This same database also has the ability to develop contracts and payment applications for cost share allocation.

LaMoure County SCD has been very active in recent years pursuing several grant opportunities. Bob Flath, Watershed Coordinator/District Technician, has been with the SCD for over 20 years. He has conducted program management through the 319 program alone involving several million dollars. Bob also has experience with your organization as he completed the LaMoure County Memorial Park Streambank Restoration Project (004-051). Bob also manages the ND 319 BMP-Team which provides engineering assistance to producers across the state for conservation practices. LaMoure County SCD also works annually with the ND Statewide Conservation Tree Planting Initiative, a project funded by your organization, through the ND Association of Conservation Districts.

LaMoure County SCD staff is more than capable of managing this project.

Evaluation - Describe your plan to document progress and results.

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

The database being utilized to develop contracts and payment applications can also develop maps of field locations being treated through this project. The database will also track and create reports showing expenditures over time.

Improved cropland acreage can be measured through certified acres reported by the producer to the Farm Service Agency.

Photo-point monitoring will also be utilized to track success in the field.

Financial Information

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

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

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

| Project Expense | OHF Request | Applicant's Match Share (Cash) | Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind) | Applicant's Match Share (Indirect) | Other Project Sponsor's Share | Total Each Project Expense |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Soil Testing | \$3,750.00 | \$1,250.00 | | | | \$5,000.00 |
| LaMoure County Land rental | \$28,290.00 | \$9,430.00 | | | | \$37,720.00 |
| Dickey County Land Rental | \$29,730.00 | \$9,910.00 | | | | \$39,640.00 |
| Planting costs | \$31,500.00 | \$10,500.00 | | | | \$42,000.00 |
| Mowing/Clipping | \$12,000.00 | \$4,000.00 | | | | \$16,000.00 |
| 1/4 Full Time Employee | | | | | \$116,000.00 | \$116,000.00 |
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| Total Costs | \$105,270.00 | \$35,090.00 | | | \$116,000.00 | \$256,360.00 |

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.

Total sites being proposed is 50 with an average size of 8 acres totaling 400 acres.

Soil Sampling - 50 fields at \$100/ea = \$5,000
 LaMoure County land rent (2 years X 200ac) - 400 acres at \$94.30/ac = \$37,720
 Dickey County land rent (2 years X 200ac) - 400 acres at \$99.10/ac = \$39,640
 Planting costs - 400 acres at \$70/ac = \$28,000
 Re-plant costs year two - 200 acres at \$70/ac = \$14,000
 Mowing/Clipping costs year one - 400 acres at \$20/ac = \$8,000
 Mowing/Clipping costs year two - 400 acres at \$20/ac = \$8,000

Total costs to be shared by ND OHF at 75% - \$140,360

Total OHF funds requested - \$140,360 X 75% = \$105,270

Producers 25% share - \$140,360 X 25% = \$35,090

1/4 FTE paid by Districts - \$14,500/year X 8 years = \$116,000

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.

Program management throughout the project and beyond will be funded through the Soil Conservation Districts in LaMoure and Dickey Counties. Some 319 funds are currently being utilized in specific areas and will continue to be utilized whenever possible by both counties.

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

Simply reducing the number of acres that are planned would be the simplest fix for this issue. If reduction is due to other issues such as individual practices within the project being cut then there will need to be a reevaluation of the project. Other funding sources are available to a small area within LaMoure County through the 319 program. A smaller pilot project may be pursued in this project area depending on the success of this application.

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.

Any areas utilized as demonstration sites would be signed and advertised locally. OHF signage would be added to these sites. OHF would also be listed as project sponsor on any mailings, advertisements, and in any publications.

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:

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.

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.

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

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.