

4189 - Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project - Phase II

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	3515-Outdoor Heritage Fund September 2020 - Round 17	Initial Submit Date:	Aug 31, 2020 1:59 PM
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	Sep 2, 2020 5:00 PM	Initially Submitted By:	Rachel Bush
Program Area:	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Last Submit Date:	
Status:	Under Review	Last Submitted By:	
Stage:	Final Application		

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

Name: Ms. Rachel Middle Name
Salutation First Name

Bush
Last Name

Title: State Coordinator

Email*: rbush@pheasantsforever.org

Address*: 220 E. Rosser Ave.
PO Box 7403
Pheasants Forever
Bismarck North Dakota
City State/Province

58502
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (701) 403-4853 Ext.
Phone
####

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Pheasants Forever

Organization Type*: Out-of-State Non-Profit

Tax Id: 41-1429149

Organization Website:: <https://www.pheasantsforever.org/>

Address*: 1783 Buerkle Circle

St. Paul Minnesota
City State/Province

55110-____
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-403-4853 Ext.
####

Fax:: ### ### ####

Benefactor:

Fax: ###-###-####

Vendor ID:

Comments:

PeopleSoft

Supplier ID:

Comments::

Location Code:

**SAM.gov Entity
ID:**

**SAM.gov
Name:**

**SAM.gov Entity
ID Expiration
Date:**

State Issued ID:

Category #:

Year Begin:

Year Closed:

NCES#:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

Improve the overall health and vigor of grasslands, soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat through improved grazing management in southwest North Dakota.

Summary

Grant Request: \$223,900.00

Matching Funds: \$173,284.00

Total Project Costs: \$397,184.00

You must have at least 25% match

Percentage of Match: 43.63%

Project Expenses

Project Expense Description	OHF Request	Match Share (Cash)	Match Share (In-Kind)	Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Grazing Improvement Practices	\$216,000.00	\$144,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$360,000.00
Project Partnership Signs	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Contracted Cultural Resource Reviews	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00
Project Management, Coordination & Delivery	\$0.00	\$17,784.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,500.00	\$29,284.00
	\$223,900.00	\$161,784.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,500.00	\$397,184.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

Grazing Improvement Practices: \$216,000 is requested in OHF grant funds to implement grazing systems on 6000 acres within the project area. For planning purposes we estimate installation of a grazing system to be \$60.00 per acre. Practices installed may include fence, pipeline, watering facilities, wells, pumps, or rural water hook-up. While we use \$60/ac as a planning rate for grazing infrastructure this grant will reimburse landowners a cost-share based on the 2020 NRCS EQIP payment rate for completed practices. Landowners will provide the remaining match (cash or in-kind) with a value of \$144,000.

Project Partnership Signs: \$400 is requested to cover the cost of project partnership signs. Signs are estimated to cost \$40 each and be installed on projects that have high public visibility.

Contracted Cultural Resource Reviews: \$7,500 in contracted services is requested from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to cover the cost of resource professionals needed to completed on-site cultural resource reviews. Contracted services for a pedestrian review cost \$1,500 and costs would advance depending on findings. If contracted services are not needed, we request that these funds be used to place additional grazing infrastructure on the landscape.

Project Management, Coordination & Delivery: Pheasants Forever is providing \$17,784 in staffing cost as match to cover the management, coordination and delivery of this grant. Our partners at USFWS are providing \$11,500 as in-kind match toward the delivery of this grant.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$144,000.00	Cooperating Landowners	Cash
\$17,784.00	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Cash
\$11,500.00	US Fish and Wildlife Service	In-Kind
\$173,284.00		

In-Kind

In-Kind Total:

Description

Directives

Major Directive*: Directive B
Choose One

Additional Directive: Directive C
Choose All That Apply

Type of Agency*: Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation
Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

The Outdoor Heritage Fund, Pheasants Forever (PF) and partners have successfully supported ranchers throughout southwest North Dakota with our first Southwest North Dakota Grazing Lands Improvement Project (SWGLIP). Due to this success and remaining landowner interest PF is proposing a phase II project that will continue to improve, maintain and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, and animal systems by supporting practices of stewardship that enhance farming and ranching. A phase II project will allow us, as partners, to continue to support the iconic landscapes, people and wildlife of southwest North Dakota. The short-grass prairie, badlands and riparian areas of the southwest are home to a number of species, including the long-billed curlew, burrowing owl, and our state bird the western meadowlark, which are listed as species of conservation priority in the ND State Wildlife Action Plan. The grasslands, badlands and riparian areas of southwest North Dakota also support some of our most sought after game species; the ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, mule deer, and turkey. Alongside those wildlife species is the one species that today allows these iconic landscapes to persist, *Bos taurus*, domestic cattle. While PF's logo contains the pheasant our mission states we are "dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements". Without a prosperous and sustainable livestock industry, the habitat necessary to support these wildlife species would be diminished.

Improved management of grassland resources and riparian areas improves wildlife habitat for a plethora of both game and non-game wildlife species. The objective of SWGLIP Phase II is to carry on improvements to the overall health and vigor of grasslands, soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat by working with ranchers interested in increasing the overall sustainability of their operation. This project aims to work with livestock producers to assist with the installation of grazing systems to promote rotational grazing that encompasses short periods of exposure followed by long periods of rest, aiding in the regeneration of those landscapes. The SWGLIP Phase II will work to promote access for sportsmen and women on private lands.

This project will be accomplished by assisting with the installation of grazing systems on private lands. Grazing system development may include fencing, pipelines, wells, pumps and watering facilities. By working with private landowners to improve grassland management this project will address Directive B by supporting practices that increase stewardship; farming, ranching, and wildlife will benefit.

We will assist with the installation of five to ten grazing systems, improving management of approximately 6,000 acres. We anticipate project duration to be 4 years. To implement the SWGLIP Phase II we respectfully request \$223,900 from the ND OHF for a total project cost of \$397,184.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

We expect this project will take four years to complete. We anticipate landowners will experience delays related to completing the practices delivered through this project due to limited contractor availability.

Narrative

Narrative

Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, current programs and activities. Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement.

Organization Information*:

Pheasants Forever (PF) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs. Formed in 1982 in response to declining pheasant populations, PF has over 126,000 members and 740 chapters across North America. The board of directors includes the President/CEO and 16 volunteers from across the country. One key to PF's success has been the model of empowering local chapters to decide how funds are raised and invested to impact the Pheasants Forever mission. North Dakota is currently home to 28 Pheasants Forever chapters, 200 volunteers and more than 3,700 members. Pheasants Forever chapters hold annual fundraising events, support statewide partnerships and programs, work on habitat projects, and promote the recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters. North Dakota Pheasants Forever has been awarded five OHF grants, addressing marginal cropland acres through precision technology (OHF GR14), assisting landowners in addressing salt impacted soils (OHF GR13), establishing rotational grazing systems (OHF GR9), creating habitat through our youth pollinator habitat program (OHF GR5) and our pollinator habitat partnership (OHF GR2) in cooperation with USDA. Pheasants Forever has longstanding local partnerships and programs that assist landowners, provide quality habitat, improve hunter access and engage youth, young adults and women in conservation. Pheasants Forever's tagline is "The Habitat Organization" and we bring a unique model and mission that empowers local people to impact local habitat for pheasants and other wildlife in meaningful ways across North Dakota.

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.

If your project involves an extenuating circumstance to exempted activities please explain.

Purpose of Grant*:

The goal of the Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project Phase II is to build upon the successes of Phase I. Phase II will continue to improve the health and vigor of grasslands in southwest North Dakota, improve grazing distribution, increase rest and recovery, increase biodiversity, improve wildlife habitat and provide support grass-based agriculture in North Dakota. The project area for Phase II mirrors Phase I and encompass Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Slope, Sioux and Stark Counties.

These counties are located within the Missouri Slope and Badlands ecoregions of North Dakota. These ecoregions are also characterized by riparian areas along the numerous rivers, streams and creeks found throughout the landscape. Large tracts of grassland remain within the project area, with livestock production being a predominant land use. These Missouri Slope and Badlands ecoregions are home to numerous non-game species identified as species of conservation priority, with 39 and 32 species identified respectively, including Upland Sandpipers, Burrowing Owls, Monarch Butterflies, and Chestnut-collard Longspurs, in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The Missouri Slope and Badlands ecoregions are also home to many of North Dakota's highly sought economically important game species, such as ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose and big-horn sheep.

Unmanaged grazing of grasslands, riparian areas and badlands can have detrimental effects on plant communities, soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat. The Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project Phase II will provide cost-share assistance to producers within the project area to install grazing infrastructure, such as fencing, pipelines and watering facilities that allow for improved grazing management. Fence type will be determined by the needs of the cooperator and may include boundary fence, barbed or electric. No cost-share will be used to replace existing boundary fence.

In an effort to maximize public benefits of Outdoor Heritage Fund projects, address additional directives, while simultaneously allowing for landowner preference, participants in this project will be provided with information on the Private Lands Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program available through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. If producers express an interest in learning more about additional opportunities available through the PLOTS program they will be referred to the appropriate PLI Biologist. For those participants that are not interested in PLOTS they will be asked if they are interested in receiving signs through the Landowner-Sportsman Council that read "Walk In Hunters Welcome" or "Ask Before You Enter". These signs are viewed as more welcoming to sportsmen and women, and offer an alternative to "No Trespassing" or "No Hunting" signs. There is no cost to the landowner for these signs.

The Missouri Slope and Badlands ecoregions of North Dakota encompass some of the most iconic landscapes of North Dakota. Livestock along with some of North Dakota's most notable wildlife, like elk, deer, antelope and pheasants, have been and continue to be an integral part of these landscapes. Part of ensuring these iconic landscapes persist is to ensure that livestock operators remain on the landscape and have the opportunity to continually improve their overall operation. Voluntary incentive based conservation has been and will continue to be a successful practice for the rancher, the livestock, soil health, water quality and wildlife. However, interest from livestock producers in southwest North Dakota to install grazing infrastructure continues to exceed available funding. We anticipate this project will take four years to fully implement. This project does not include Section 319 program funding.

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

Counties*:

Adams,Billings,Bowman,Dunn,Golden Valley,Grant,Hettinger,McKenzie,Mercer,Morton,Oliver,Sioux,Slope,Stark

Is This Project Part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?* No

If Yes, Please Provide Copy of Plan:

Does Your Project Involve an Extenuating Circumstance?* No

Please Explain:

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.

Management of Project*:

Pheasants Forever will provide management, coordination and administration of the Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project Phase II. Pheasants Forever will provide coordination at the local level with partners and participants, which will include program contract development, practice design, technical standard checklists (fence, pipelines, cultural resource review), and submission of payment applications.

Rachel Bush, North Dakota State Coordinator, will be the project lead, overseeing the management of this grant. Rachel has been employed with Pheasants Forever since 2011. As State Coordinator, Rachel is responsible for grant writing and reporting, developing partnerships, coordinating with staff, chapters and volunteers and overseeing contracts enrolled in Pheasants Forever programs. Rachel oversees all Pheasants Forever's Outdoor Heritage Fund contracts with the Industrial Commission.

USFWS - Partners for Fish and Wildlife: The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program (PFW) has six biologists spread across the state, three of which work in the SWGLIP Phase II project area. These three biologists will refer interested landowner to Pheasants Forever for consideration for funding. Where appropriate, the PFW program will provide technical assistance to help implement the conservation practices. When working with these landowners, the PFW program can provide additional funding in order to stretch all of the conservation dollars. These funds will be to provide additional conservation and will also require a landowner contribution that is consistent with the requirements outlined in this proposal. The PFW program has been in existence since 1987 and has worked with landowners to complete over 3,900 conservation projects on privately owned land in North Dakota that have helped restore, enhance and establish more than 440,000 acres of wetland and grassland habitat. The partnership provides a "one stop shop" through a team of in-the-field partners for landowners to work with from beginning to end. Private lands delivery partners help promote and work directly with landowners. All grant funds will be paid as agreements and development activities are completed and proper documentation is supplied to Pheasants Forever.

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.

Sustainability*:

Operators participating in this project will sign a project contract indicating they will maintain the installed practices on the land for a minimum of 10 years. Random spot checks and coordination through partners will be completed to ensure practices are maintained for the contract lifespan. The goal of a grazing system is not only to improve the health of the land, but to increase the sustainability of ranching. By helping producers build healthier soils, improve plant diversity and increase periods of rest they will increase the resilience of their operation. Resilience will help producers better manage their operations in the highly variable and ever-changing climate of North Dakota. With the financial investment and increase sustainability the project creates we believe these practices will remain on the landscape far beyond the ten year agreement period.

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

Partial Funding*:

If the project is partially funded, the number of acres, grazing systems and subsequent practices installed through this project will be reduced. Reduced funding will decrease the number of operators in southwest North Dakota that will be able participate in this program opportunity.

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

Partnership Recognition*:

The Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized when working with producers and in contract documents in both text and logo form. Pheasant Forever will highlight this opportunity and project success, acknowledging the Outdoor Heritage Fund, through its network of over 4,000 members. Pheasants Forever will work with local media contacts to highlight successful projects completed through the Outdoor Heritage Fund and share successes across our social media platforms. For projects that are located in areas that allow public visibility Pheasants Forever will work with the project participant to install signs that recognize the partnership with the OHF.

Do you have any supporting documents, such as maps or letters of support that you would like to provide? If so, please provide them in a single file.

Supporting Documents*: Yes

If Yes, Please Provide Copies in a Single File: Letters of Support - SWGLIP II.pdf

Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization. Sample Contract

Can You Meet All the Provisions of the Sample Contract?* Yes

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

Provisions Unable to Meet:

Tasks

Tasks

Task	Start Date	Completion Date
Create Application Form	12/01/2020	12/31/2020
Create Project Contract & Checklist	12/01/2020	12/31/2020
Deliver Program	12/01/2020	12/31/2024
Promote Program Opportunity	12/01/2020	12/31/2020

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Acres Enhanced	6000.000	acres
Grazing Systems Improved	5.000	each

Certification

Certification

Certification:

Name: Rachel Bush
First Name Last Name

Title: ND State Coordinator
Title

Date: 08/31/2020

Internal Application Number

#/ID:

Industrial Commission Action

Industrial Commission Action

Date of Commission meeting*:

Did the Commission approve funding?*

If Yes, what is the approved funding level?:

Are there any contingencies?*

If Yes, what are the contingencies?:

Minutes:

August 28, 2020

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

RE: Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project – Phase II

Dear Ms. Fine:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's North Dakota Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program fully supports phase II of Pheasants Forever's Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal for the Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project (SWGLIP – II). Much like Pheasants Forever the USFWS has a long history of working with private landowners, providing financial and technical assistance on voluntary conservation efforts. The ND PFW program works closely with private landowners to foster partnerships on working lands that help conserve important wildlife habitat while simultaneously assisting North Dakota's farmers and ranchers become more sustainable. Our approach is very simple: engage willing partners through non-regulatory incentives to conserve fish and wildlife values on their property. The ND PFW program was established in 1987 and since that time has worked on over 3,900 projects and impacted over 440,000 acres.

The ND PFW program stands ready to assist our partners at Pheasants Forever in working with willing landowners within southwest North Dakota. The ND PFW program is providing \$11,500 in in-kind match to assist with the delivery of the SWGLIP –II. North Dakota PFW staff working within the SWGLIP project area have successfully worked alongside landowners and Pheasants Forever to implement the grazing improvement practices outlined in the SWGLIP – II proposal. We know through experience that demand for these practices within the project area remains high and feel this project will be successful, if approved for funding.

Sincerely,

SCOTT MCLEOD  Digitally signed by SCOTT
MCLEOD
Date: 2020.08.31 13:34:41 -05'00'

Scott McLeod
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ND Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, State Coordinator



North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

Promoting the health and regeneration of North Dakota's grasslands.

August 31, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Karlene Fine,

Please accept this letter of support by the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition for the “Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project – Phase II” proposal submitted by Pheasants Forever. Phase I of this project allowed Pheasants Forever and the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund to successfully partner with livestock producers in southwestern North Dakota to improve grazing management on their lands.

As a grassroots organization dedicated to promoting the health and sustainability of North Dakota's grasslands, our members have a strong focus on managing for soil health and biodiversity to promote sustainable farming and ranching. The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition supports the “Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project – Phase II” as it seeks to continue working with livestock producers to assist with the installation of grazing systems that encompasses short periods of exposure followed by long periods of rest, aiding in the regeneration of our treasured grasslands.

Our coalition members believe in discovering common goals and generating new ideas. As such, we appreciate and recognize the opportunity the Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project – Phase II offers for Pheasants Forever and agricultural producers to work together towards a common goal of healthy and sustainable grasslands. We also commend Pheasants Forever for allowing us the opportunity to review and comment on the proposal. We feel that by allowing for an agricultural producer's perspective and input a stronger proposal is in front of you today.

Respectfully,

Jerry Doan, Chairman
North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

