

4033 - Red River Basin Wildlife and Water Quality Enhancement Pilot Program

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	3515-Outdoor Heritage Fund September 2020 - Round 17	Initial Submit Date:	Aug 31, 2020 12:58 PM
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	Sep 2, 2020 5:00 PM	Initially Submitted By:	Kevin Kading
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: Salutation Kevin J
First Name Middle Name

Kading
Last Name

Title: Private Lands Section Leader

Email*: kkading@nd.gov

Address*: 100 N. Bismarck Expressway

Bismarck North Dakota
City State/Province

58501
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-328-6371 Ext.
Phone
####

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Organization Type*: State Government

Tax Id: 45-6002467

Organization Website:: https://gf.nd.gov/

Address*: 100 N. Bismarck Expressway

Bismarck North Dakota
City State/Province

58501-4095
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-527-1081 Ext.
####

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

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

Benefactor:

Comments:

Vendor ID:

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:

To increase wildlife and pollinator habitat and reduce potential nonpoint sources of pollutants impairing water quality in the Red River Valley. A secondary objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach and determine if expansion to other counties in the Red River Valley is warranted.

Summary

Grant Request:	\$270,000.00
Matching Funds:	\$1,043,400.00
Total Project Costs:	\$1,313,400.00
You must have at least 25% match	
Percentage of Match:	79.44%

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
* OHF Cost shared practices	\$270,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450,000.00
** Producer Management Agreements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$275,000.00	\$0.00	\$275,000.00	\$550,000.00
*** Watershed Coordinator Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$271,400.00	\$271,400.00
**** SCD Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00
	\$270,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$275,000.00	\$0.00	\$588,400.00	\$1,313,400.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

OHF funds will only be used to cost share the following practices:

Conservation Cover, Critical Area Planting, Filter Strip, Grassed Waterway, Pollinator Habitat, Forage & Biomass Planting, Range Planting, Riparian Forest Buffer and Riparian Herbaceous Cover.

* The budget for the OHF assistance is based on 3,000 acres of habitat being established at an estimated average cost of \$150/acre. The cost share ratio is 60/40.

** Costs for Producer Management Agreements will be supported with other state and federal funds available through the ND Game and Fish Department and ND Department of Environmental Quality. The cost share ratio is 50/50. Management Agreements can only be developed for the following practices: Conservation Cover, Pollinator Habitat, Riparian Forest Buffer and Riparian Herbaceous Cover.

***Watershed coordinator assistance is donated services provided by the coordinators currently located in the counties involved in the Program. The budget is based on seven coordinators donating approximately 15% of their time to provide planning assistance to producers interested in enrolling in the Program.

****The SCD budget is based on the value of 175 total hours of donated time by the seven participating soil conservation district boards to review and approve OHF cost share agreements and Management Agreements developed in their districts.

Policies and requirements described in the ND NPS Pollution Management Program Best Management Practice Cost Share Guidelines will be followed when developing OHF cost share agreements. These OHF agreements can be 1-5 years in length and must be approved by the participating soil conservation district board.

Documentation of actual practice costs must be provided to the SCD and compliance with the practice specifications must be confirmed by the watershed coordinators before cost share assistance can be requested. The requests for OHF cost share assistance will be submitted to the ND Game and Fish Department for processing.

The SCDs will also have the option to provide cost share assistance for Management Agreements that partially compensate participating producers for management changes and maintenance of the practices on the eligible acres. Cost share for the Management Agreements will be supported at a 50/50 cost share ratio using Section 319 funds available through NDDEQ & Private Land Habitat and Access Improvement funds available through ND Game and Fish Department. These agreements can be up to 5 years in length. Cost share will be based on 50% of the most current rental rates in the County Rents and Prices publication distributed by the ND Department of Trust Lands. Participating SCD will be responsible for the approval of the agreements and submission to the ND Game and Fish Department for processing. The BMP Tracker database will be used to develop producer agreements and track the practice type, amount, cost and location as well as produce reports.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Match Funding

Match Amount Funding Source	Match Type
\$275,000.00 North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Department of Environmental Quality	Cash
\$275,000.00 Producer	In-Kind
\$180,000.00 Producer	In-Kind
\$271,400.00 NDDEQ/SCDs	In-Kind
\$42,000.00 SCD	In-Kind
\$1,043,400.00	

In-Kind

In-Kind Total:

Description

Directives

- Major Directive*:** Directive C
Choose One
- Additional Directive:** Directive B
Choose All That Apply
- Type of Agency*:** State Agency
Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

The primary objectives of the Program are to increase wildlife habitat and reduce potential nonpoint sources of pollutants impairing water quality in the project area. This will be accomplished through a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to establish perennial vegetation on marginally productive cropland acres. An additional objective of the program is to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach and determine if expansion to other counties in the Red River Valley is warranted. Program oversight and management will be provided jointly by the ND Game and Fish Dept and NDDEQ. The SCDs and Section 319 watershed coordinators involved in the Program will be responsible for the development, approval and management of the cost share agreements with participating producers. Delivery of the program will be accomplished through existing watershed coordinators in the counties involved in the program.

The Program period will be 5 years in length to allow time to complete planned tasks and achieve Program goals of establishing 3,000 acres of wildlife habitat and estimated field-edge load reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment of 8,500 lbs., 1,000 lbs. and 2,500 tons, respectively. A fully subscribed project is expected to reach an estimated 150 participants and total \$1,313,400.00 including OHF and matching funds.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

The Program period will be 5 years in length to allow time to complete the planned tasks and achieve the Program goals.

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*:

The ND Game and Fish Department, created in 1930, has the public trust responsibility for managing the state's fish and wildlife resources. The mission for the Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained consumptive and nonconsumptive use. The Department's Private Land Initiative (PLI), located within the Wildlife Division, is the primary mechanism for delivering the Department's mission on to private lands. The PLI has three main goals: 1) Conservation of habitats for fish and wildlife populations; 2) Provide landowners interested in wildlife conservation with cost-share assistance for developing and protecting wildlife and fisheries habitat; 3) Provide the public with opportunities to access fish and wildlife resources on private land, which is delivered through the Private Lands Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program.

The ND Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has primacy for environmental programs in North Dakota. The Department mission is to conserve and protect the quality of North Dakota's air, land, and water resources following science and the law. Improvement and protection of the water resources in the state is largely accomplished under the Division of Water Quality, which includes the Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program. The NPS Program mission is to implement a voluntary, incentive-based program that restores and protects the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters where beneficial uses are threatened or impaired due to nonpoint sources of pollution. NPS Program delivery is accomplished through a coordinated effort with local, state and federal agencies as well as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to implement projects that address water quality impacts associated with nonpoint source pollution (e.g., sediment, nutrients, E. coli bacteria) delivered to surface waters by runoff or leached downward into groundwater.

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*:

Wildlife and water, two of North Dakota's most important natural resources, provide countless hours of recreational benefits and the foundation for many economic opportunities across the state. These resources are vulnerable to a variety of natural and anthropogenic actions, which makes them reliant on responsible management to ensure long term sustainability for future generations. With most of the Red River Valley dedicated to agricultural production, efforts to improve and protect water quality and wildlife habitat must involve agricultural producers and must be compatible with their operations. Establishing perennial vegetation on unprofitable cropland acres through the five-year grant period will benefit wildlife, pollinators and water quality. Vegetative filters will reduce or prevent the transport of sediments and nutrients to nearby rivers and lakes by eliminating tillage and nutrient applications on areas experiencing salinity issues; frequent flooding; and/or severe erosion.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's State Wildlife Action Plan and Monarch Butterfly and Native Pollinator Strategy identify actions needed and management recommendations for species of conservation priority and pollinators. Practices implemented through this project will benefit species identified in these plans as well as other species. Studies have shown that habitat containing floral resources, within areas of intensive agriculture, serve as important nesting and foraging sources for pollinators, including native bees. Connecting small, isolated patches of habitat and buffering existing patches of habitat has been shown to benefit pollinators by reducing exposure to pesticide drift and neonicotinoids. These same patches of habitat will also attract North Dakota's state bird, the western meadowlark, which has become uncommon in the Red River Valley. White-tailed deer have experienced population declines due to lack of fawning habitat resulting in a decrease of available licenses ranging from 50%-80% since 2010 in Red River Valley deer hunting units. Research conducted in North and South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota indicate that increases in the patchwork of habitat, such as grasslands, wetlands, and forested riparian areas in a fawn's home range will create cover patterns that will maximize a fawn's ability to conceal themselves from predators and reduce movement between isolated cover habitats, resulting in a higher fawn survival rate.

Marginally productive cropland in the uplands and along riparian areas is the primary focus of the Program. Within the project area there are approximately 1,900 miles of streams and 11 lakes that have water quality impairments. Many of these impairments are caused by excess nutrients and sediments being delivered from multiple sources. The Program period will be five years in length to allow time to complete the planned tasks and achieve the Program goals of establishing 3,000 acres of wildlife habitat and achieving estimated load reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment of 8,500 lbs., 1,000 lbs. and 2,500 tons, respectively. The potential number of marginal acres in the project area could be quite large. To narrow the focus to areas that have dual benefits, the "prioritize, target and measure" application (PTMApp) model will be used to provide direction for Program delivery. The PTMApp will be used to develop priority maps and identify locations for practices and discuss feasible alternatives with the producers. The PTMApp maps will serve as a planning tool to aid participating producers with decisions on practices that may work for their operation.

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

Counties*: Cass, Grand Forks, Griggs, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Walsh

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*:

Program delivery will be accomplished through existing Section 319 watershed project staff in the counties involved in the Program. Local watershed coordinators will provide one-on-one planning assistance to producers to review practice options, schedule practice implementation; verify practice completion and process cost share payments. The NPS Program BMP Tracker database will be used by the coordinators to develop cost share agreements with producers; document the type, cost and amount of practices implemented, and develop reports on applied practices. Approximately 15% of the coordinators time will be committed to the Program. Participating SCD Boards will be responsible for the review and approval of the producer agreements developed by the watershed coordinators.

Administration and oversight of the Program will be accomplished jointly by the ND Game and Fish Department and NDDEQ. Both agencies have extensive experience and the systems for managing state and federal grants. The ND Game and Fish Department will hold the contract with the Industrial Commission; manage the OHF funds; and issue cost share payments to the SCDs for applied practices. The SCDs Boards will be responsible for approving producer agreements and distribution of the cost share payments to the producers. The NDDEQ will assist the SCDs in managing the databases used to track expenditures and producer contracts and oversee the development and implementation of producer agreements. The NDDEQ will also be responsible for the administration of Section 319 funding committed to the Program. Additional support will come from the North Dakota Soybean Growers and the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust. Each organization will disseminate Program information to their membership through their communications network to promote the availability of the Program. North Dakota Game and Fish Department and NDDEQ will provide Program information through existing media and communications.

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*:

The primary purposes of the Program are to increase wildlife and pollinator habitat and reduce potential impacts to water quality in the Red River Valley. As a pilot program, a secondary objective will be to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach and determine if expansion is warranted. If feedback is positive, additional OHF funding as well as other state/federal funds will likely be solicited to expand the Program to other counties in the Red River Valley and continue support for eligible practices. Additional funding from other sources (e.g. Section 319, USDA) will also need to be requested to support staffing and outreach. Conversely, if the participation in the Program is minimal, continued OHF funding would not be pursued for practice implementation. Instead, funding may be solicited from other state or federal sources to evaluate successes and failures to identify alternatives for improving wildlife habitat and water quality in the Red River Valley.

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

Partial Funding*:

If partial funding is awarded to the Program, the number of eligible practices and/or the number of counties involved in the program will need to be pared down. The extent of the reduction will be dependent on the amount of funds awarded. To maintain a viable program, the reductions in scale versus services will need to be balanced to ensure adequate assistance is maintained at the county level to maximize the cumulative benefits realized through a greater concentration of applied practices. When possible, support from alternative funding sources will also be solicited.

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 OHF partnership will be recognized in as many opportunities as possible. This will include, but not be limited to, all interactions with landowners and coordination meetings. The OHF funding will also be recognized in outreach materials both published and electronic. Social media in all forms will also be used to advertise the Program and tout the successes supported by the OHF. Where applicable, signs or other visual material will be placed on site to inform the public of the project and support provided by 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: RRBWQ_attachments.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
1. Startup meeting to review project goals and objectives with local watershed coordinators.	01/01/2021	03/31/2021
2. Provide outreach materials and provide technical support to the watershed coordinators.	01/01/2021	01/01/2026
3. Utilize PTMApp to identify priorities in the counties.	01/01/2021	01/01/2026
4. Develop cost share agreements with producers in the priority areas and other sites.	01/01/2021	01/01/2026
5. Verify practice implementation and submit cost share assistance requests to the ND Game and Fish.	01/01/2021	01/01/2026
6. Issue cost share payments to SCD for distribution to producers.	01/01/2021	01/01/2026
7. Seek input from producers as well as SCDs in participating and adjacent counties.	01/01/2025	01/01/2026

Description of Tasks**Please Describe Tasks:**

The first order of business will be a startup meeting with local coordinators and SCDs. Outreach material will be developed. PTMApp will be used to help identify priorities in the participating counties. Coordinators will develop agreements and verify practices are implemented. Once verified, requests for cost share will be submitted to NDGF to issue payments. During the final program year, we will seek input from producers and SCDs to explore possible expansion of the project.

Deliverables**Deliverables**

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Nitrogen reduction	8500.000	Estimated reductions (lbs) of nitrogen.
Phosphorus reduction	1000.000	Estimated reductions (lbs) of Phosphorus.
Producer contacts	150.000	Estimated number of producers contacted and assisted.
Sediment reduction	2500.000	Estimated reductions (tons) of sediment.
Wildlife habitat acres	3000.000	Estimated wildlife habitat acres that will be restored or established is 3,000 acres.

Certification**Certification**

Certification: Yes

Name: Kevin Kading
First Name Last Name

Title: Private Lands Section Leader
Title

Date: 08/13/2020

Internal Application Number

#/ID:

Industrial Commission Action

Industrial Commission Action

Date of Commission meeting*:

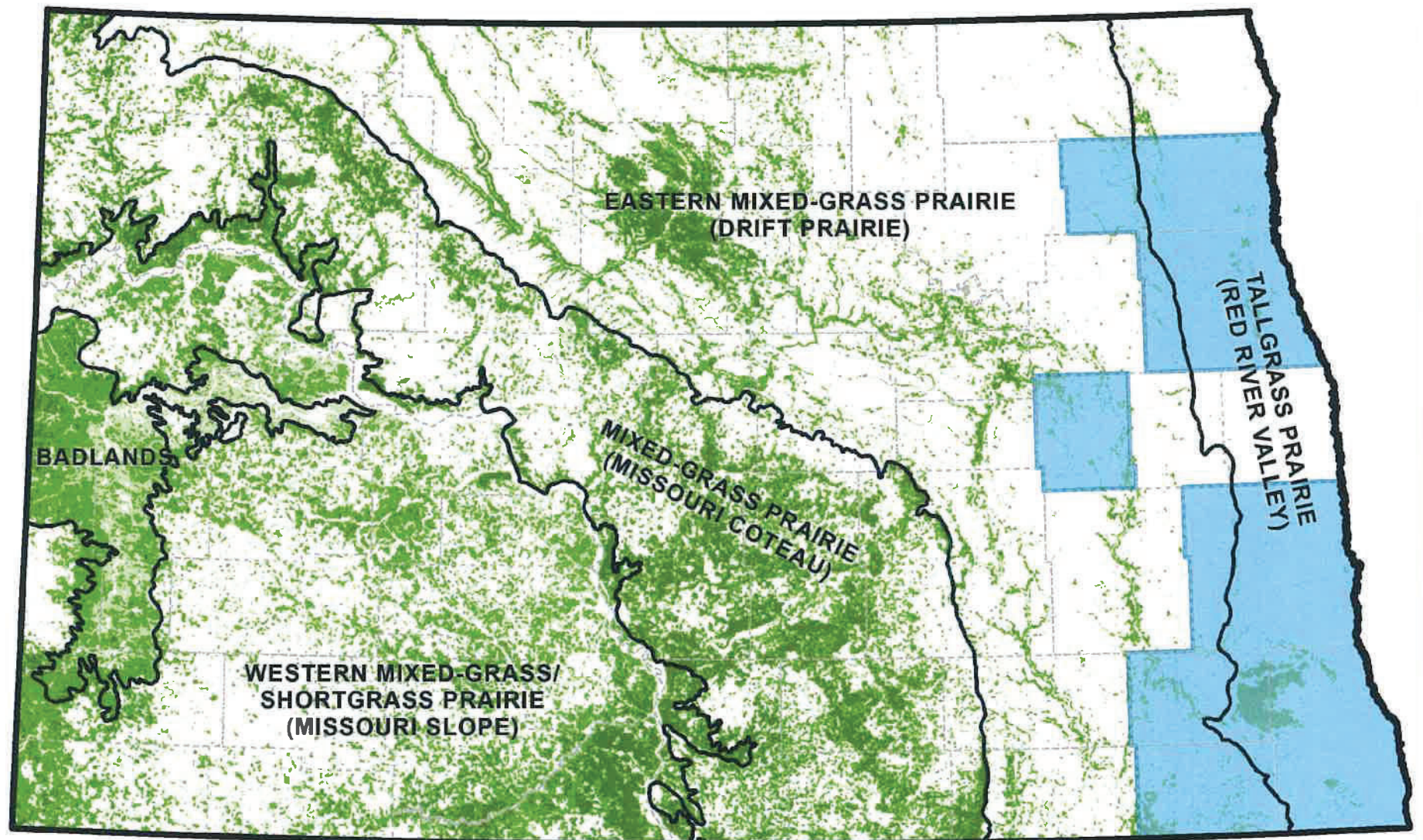
**Did the Commission approve
funding?***

**If Yes, what is the approved
funding level?:**

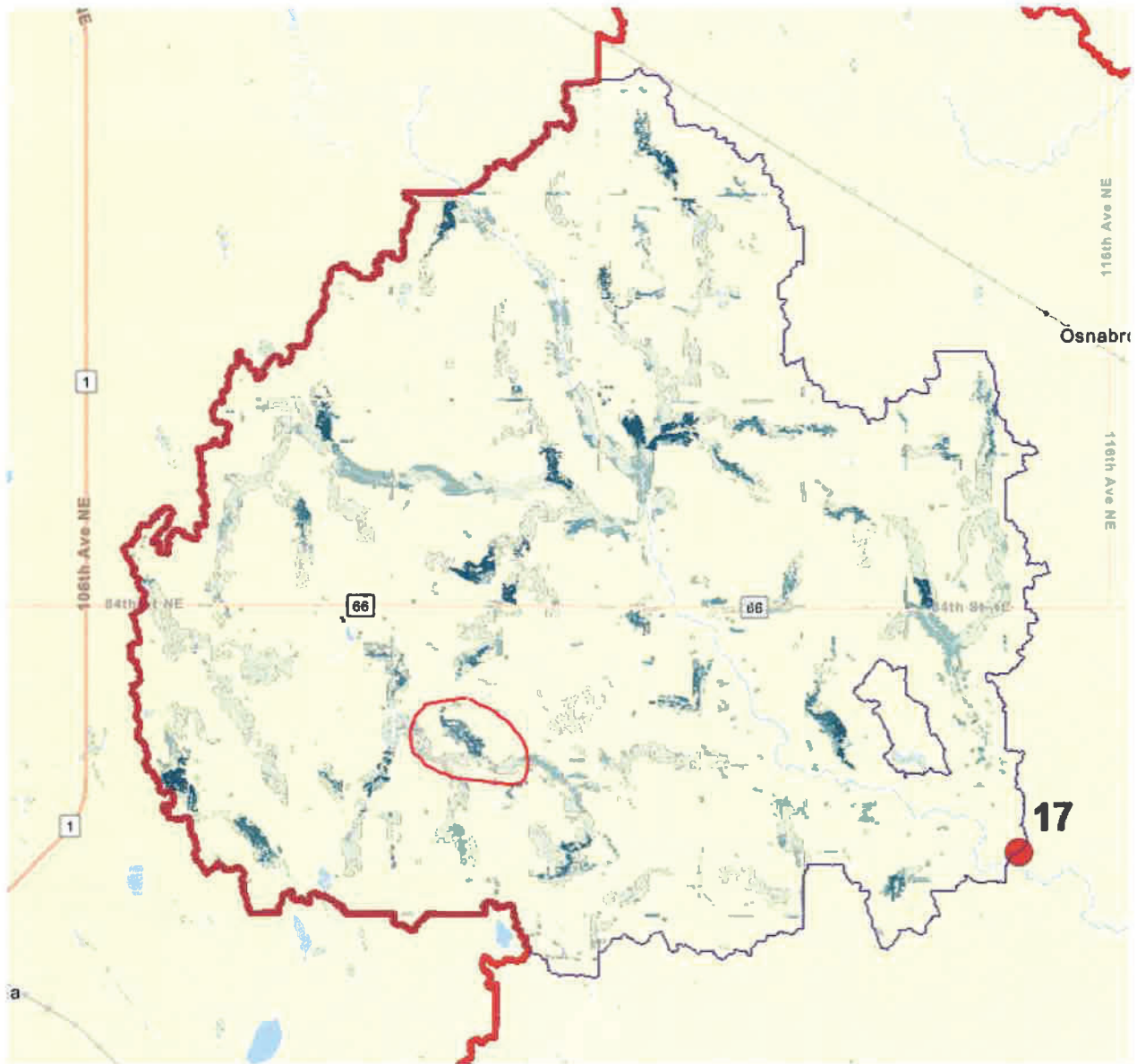
Are there any contingencies?*

**If Yes, what are the
contingencies?:**

Minutes:



Example of a PTMApp watershed-scale map showing potential priority areas for the implementation of perennial vegetation to reduce sediment and nutrient transport to nearby waterbodies. NOTE: The area that is circled is the location of the field shown on the PTMApp field-scale priority map.



PTMApp field-scale map showing potential sites for the implementation of vegetative practices to reduce the export of sediment and nutrients from the field. These maps will be used during the planning process with the producers to evaluate current management on the site to determine if there is a need for additional vegetative buffers and also if there are unproductive areas within the PTMApp priority site that should be focused on for habitat establishment.





North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
4852 Rocking Horse Circle South, Fargo, ND 58104
(701) 566-9300 | www.ndsoygrowers.com

August 20, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Fine:

The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) mission is creating partnerships to proactively improve the profitability and representation of all North Dakota soybean growers and to develop quality community leaders.

In that spirit, we seek out opportunities and new partnerships that serve not only the business goals of our members, but also our sustainability goals. NDSGA members constantly strive to improve the health of their soil, enhance water quality, improve wildlife habitat and in general demonstrate good land stewardship.

In that context we are pleased to join the ND Game and Fish Department, the ND Department of Environmental Quality and the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust as a partner in full support of the Red River Basin Wildlife and Water Quality Enhancement Pilot Program OHF Proposal.

Agricultural and conservation interests are intertwined across our North Dakota landscape. We are excited by the opportunities this project offers our NDSGA members. Working together, we can balance profitable agriculture with our shared environmental goals, to the benefit of our farm families, our consumers and our North Dakota way of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Ericson".

Joe Ericson
President, NDSGA



NORTH DAKOTA
**NATURAL RESOURCES
TRUST**

Keith Trego
Executive Director

1605 East Capitol Avenue, Ste. 101

Bismarck, ND 58501-2102

(701) 223-8501

FAX: (701) 223-6937

August 26, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Fine:

The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust's (NDNRT) mission is to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota.

From its inception, the Trust has played a role as facilitator between agricultural and conservation interests. In addition to facilitating and funding sound, on-the-ground conservation of natural resources, our goal is to identify common issues, create dialogue, and resolve conflicts. Along with its agricultural and conservation partners, the Trust advocates for recognition, appropriate development, and protection of North Dakota's unique natural resource values.

Agricultural/conservation partnerships are the logical way to work together for our shared goals of profitable agriculture, healthy soil, clean air and water and abundant wildlife. By working together we can accomplish all this and more.

We are pleased to join the ND Game & Fish Department and the ND Department of Environmental Quality in full support of the Red River Basin Wildlife and Water Quality Enhancement Pilot Program OHF Proposal.

Sincerely,



Keith Trego, Executive Director