

# 4042 - Bakken Development and Working Lands Program II

## Application Details

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b>	3515-Outdoor Heritage Fund September 2020 - Round 17	<b>Initial Submit Date:</b>	Sep 1, 2020 9:57 AM
<b>Funding Opportunity Due Date:</b>	Sep 2, 2020 5:00 PM	<b>Initially Submitted By:</b>	Jesse Beckers
<b>Program Area:</b>	Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>Last Submit Date:</b>	Sep 8, 2020 5:19 PM
<b>Status:</b>	Under Review	<b>Last Submitted By:</b>	Jesse Beckers
<b>Stage:</b>	Final Application		

## Contact Information

### Primary Contact Information

<b>Active User*:</b>	Yes
<b>Type:</b>	External User
<b>Name:</b>	Salutation Jesse Middle Name First Name
	Beckers Last Name
<b>Title:</b>	Energy Program Manager
<b>Email*:</b>	jesse@naturalresourcestrust.com
<b>Address*:</b>	1605 East Capitol Avenue Suite 101
	Bismarck North Dakota City State/Province
	58501 Postal Code/Zip
<b>Phone*:</b>	701-223-8501 Ext. Phone ### ### #####
<b>Fax:</b>	### ### #####

### Organization Information

<b>Status*:</b>	Approved
<b>Name*:</b>	North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
<b>Organization Type*:</b>	In-State Non-Profit
<b>Tax Id:</b>	363512179
<b>Organization Website::</b>	http://www.ndnrt.com
<b>Address*:</b>	1605 E Capitol Ave Suite 101
	Bismarck North Dakota City State/Province
	58501-2102 Postal Code/Zip
<b>Phone*:</b>	(701) 223-8501 Ext. ### ### #####
<b>Fax::</b>	(701) 223-6937 ### ### #####

**Comments:**

**Benefactor:**

**Vendor ID:**

**PeopleSoft  
Supplier ID:**

**Comments::**

**Location Code:**

**SAM.gov Entity ID:** 061907148

**SAM.gov Name:**

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust Inc

**SAM.gov Entity ID Expiration Date:** 03/06/2021

**State Issued ID:**

**Category #:**

**Year Begin:**

**Year Closed:**

**NCES#:**

## Budget

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***Objective of Grant***

**Objective of Grant:**

Provide landowners and ranchers the opportunity to diversify and improve their grazing operations, improve vegetation management, improve soil health, and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

***Summary***

<b>Grant Request:</b>	\$3,337,100.00
<b>Matching Funds:</b>	\$3,053,283.00
<b>Total Project Costs:</b>	\$6,390,383.00
<b>You must have at least 25% match</b>	
<b>Percentage of Match:</b>	47.78%

**Project Expenses**

<b>Project Expense Description</b>	<b>OHF Request</b>	<b>Match Share (Cash)</b>	<b>Match Share (In-Kind)</b>	<b>Match Share (Indirect)</b>	<b>Other Project Sponsor's Share</b>	<b>Total Each Project Expense</b>
Native Grass Seeding	\$75,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$165,000.00
Grassland Establishment Incentive Payment	\$60,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$120,000.00
Tame Grass Seeding	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$95,000.00
Grassland Fence and Water	\$660,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$440,000.00	\$1,115,000.00
Cover Crop Seeding	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$50,000.00
Agriculture/Energy	\$120,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$230,000.00
NDFS National Grasslands Range Improvements	\$1,410,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,365,283.00	\$2,775,383.00
Energy Site Agricultural Restoration	\$750,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
North Dakota Parks and Recreation	\$87,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58,000.00	\$145,000.00
Contracted Services	\$95,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$115,000.00
Staffing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$80,000.00
	<b>\$3,337,100.00</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,903,283.00</b>	<b>\$6,390,383.00</b>

**Budget Narrative**

**Budget Narrative:**

**Working Agricultural Developments**

-OHF will provide 60% cost-share of tame and native grass/forb seed with emphasis on native species, water developments, fencing (primarily cross fencing but will include boundary fence and wildlife friendly fence), and cover crop seed.

-Grassland Establishment Incentive Payments will be available to producers for the length of time to establish a native grass/forb stand, not to exceed 3 years. This incentive is available to landowners who have cropland and desire a land use change to native grassland. The incentive payment rate is \$40/ac and is based on the non-irrigated cropland average rental rate for counties within the scope of the project. Payments will be applied to landowner following signed agreement.

-Agriculture/Energy will include range and grazing system enhancements and best management practices for soil stability and wildlife benefits. Juniper removal to increase grazing land availability and function. OHF grant will provide 60% cost-share for recommended best management practices.

**US Forest Service/Grazing Associations**

Vegetation management, range improvements, wildlife projects, juniper removal.

**Energy Site Agricultural Restoration**

Restoration will be completed with landowners to enhance agricultural systems. Non-cash match may also be available from industry to complete the desired earth moving activities. NDDMR is plugging abandoned wells and removing on-site infrastructure. CARES Act funding is not available for contamination off-site and no responsible party exists. OHF and NDDMR funding will provide soil restoration options to the landowner. Restoration will be coordinated by the Trust.

**ND Parks and Recreation Department**

The Crow Flies High State Recreation Project contains a number of projects that have been identified to enhance a recreational site in western North Dakota to provide greater access to trails and Lake Sakakawea and a greater understanding of the cultural and historical significance of the area. The Three Affiliated Tribes and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department will coordinate the project. OHF funds will be used for trails and signs.

**Contracted Services**

Contracted Services will include industry professionals and private consultants with experience in reclamation and earth moving activities, soil health assessments, and grazing practices. All projects will be reviewed by State Historical Society of North Dakota for cultural resources and North Dakota State Historical and Preservation Office approval. If the project requires an on-the-ground cultural review that activity will be outsourced.

All project activities will be selected by interested landowners and certain activities may be more popular than others. Because of this we are asking that this grant provide the flexibility to adjust acreage goals and transfer funding to the activities in which landowners are most interested in participating. The OHF funds and match will remain at the same levels.

***Bid Attachments***

<b>Description</b>	<b>File Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Upload Date</b>
Partnership with US Forest Service and western grazing associations that outline proposed projects and activities	Dakota Prairie Grasslands.pdf	pdf	4 MB	09/08/2020 05:00 PM
ND Parks and Recreation projects and associated benefits	ND Parks Partnership.pdf	pdf	225 KB	09/08/2020 05:02 PM

**Match Funding**

<b>Match Amount</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Match Type</b>
\$75,000.00	North Dakota Natural Resources Trust	Cash
\$75,000.00	North Dakota Natural Resources Trust	In-Kind
\$488,645.00	United States Forest Service	Cash
\$256,000.00	United States Forest Service	In-Kind
\$210,000.00	McKenzie Country Grazing Association	Cash
\$65,523.00	McKenzie County Grazing Association	In-Kind
\$75,215.00	Medora Grazing Association	Cash
\$45,000.00	Medora Grazing Association	In-Kind
\$90,250.00	Little Missouri Grazing Association	Cash
\$50,000.00	Little Missouri Grazing Association	In-Kind
\$12,000.00	Cedar River Cooperative Grazing Association	Cash
\$7,650.00	Cedar River Cooperative Grazing Association	In-Kind
\$20,000.00	National Wild Turkey Federation	Cash
\$45,000.00	United States Forest Service Partners	Cash
\$50,000.00	North Dakota Game and Fish Department	Cash
\$750,000.00	North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources	Cash
\$100,000.00	North Dakota Wildlife Federation	Cash
\$20,000.00	North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition	In-Kind
\$39,500.00	North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department	Cash
\$18,000.00	North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department	In-Kind
\$555,000.00	Landowners	In-Kind
\$5,000.00	Mercer County Soil Conservation District	In-Kind
<b>\$3,052,783.00</b>		

***In-Kind***

**In-Kind Total:** \$75,000.00

**Description**

***Directives***

**Major Directive\*:** Directive B  
Choose One

**Additional Directive:** Directive A, Directive C, Directive D  
Choose All That Apply

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

***Abstract/Executive Summary***

**Abstract/Executive Summary\*:**

In partnership with the Outdoor Heritage Fund, the BDWLP II will benefit a broad base of stakeholders, including both surface and mineral owners, energy companies, conservationists, political subdivisions, state and federal agencies and the at-large public within oil producing counties, counties west of the Missouri River, also including Three Affiliated Tribes and Standing Rock Sioux Tribal lands. The primary goal is to restore scattered parcels of marginal or degraded farmland to productive grasslands. As part of this project soil health will be improved and the grassland ecosystem and the agricultural economy will be enhanced throughout the region. Recreational opportunities will also be expanded.

BDWLP II will provide cost-share to support project goals and in some cases, to support stewardship practices that enhance farming and ranching through use of a Grassland Enhancement Incentive Payment (GEIP) which will be based on county NASS rates. GEIP will be available on acres where cropland is being converted to native grassland and is intended to provide a base level of compensation over the time it will take the practice to mature to be agriculturally usable. Once habitat improvement projects are established, generally by year three, and the practice has matured to provide the planned agricultural use, the GEIP will be eliminated.

By working with landowners and energy developers the Trust and our delivery partners will seek to identify additional funding from a network of government and non-government entities. With the guidance of local Soil Conservation Districts and the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition, the BDWLP II will address key soil resource and habitat concerns by enhancing and increasing the quantity and quality of grassland cover by supporting the use of rotational grazing systems and modern grassland seeding practices. In addition, the project will support sustainable agriculture systems and improved soil health using cover crops as additional forage for livestock. These practices can prove particularly valuable in drought prone areas.

Through funding from the CARES Act, the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources will be reclaiming and plugging abandoned well sites throughout the project area. Following the removal of infrastructure, the Trust will work with the landowner to restore surrounding land to where it is usable for grassland agriculture and provide a benefit to wildlife. This is a unique opportunity for the Trust, NDDMR, and OHF to collaborate with landowners in the Bakken.

Crow Flies High State Recreation Area is approximately 253 acres of state land located two miles west of New Town in Mountrail County and is managed under the authority of North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) in cooperation with the Three Affiliated Tribes (TAT). NDPRD and TAT propose improvements to trails, and other visitor accommodations which will enhance visitor experience of this remarkably scenic site.

### ***Project Duration***

#### **Project Duration\*:**

Projects will be identified and implemented within five (5) years of project initiation. Funding from the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources will be committed within three (3) years of project initiation.

## **Narrative**

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### ***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 Trust was created in 1986 and was originally called the North Dakota Wetlands Trust until 2000. The Trust's mission is to preserve, restore, manage, and enhance wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota. The Trust achieves this mission by partnering with agricultural and conservation organizations to promote productive use of private agricultural lands and private property rights that result in enhancement and protection of private lands, to effectively use North Dakota's public lands both for agriculture and recreation, to promote good land use along urban river corridors, and to enhance the state's significant water resources. The Trust helps shape the landscape through its programs and does its best to help shape both public attitude and public policy to support natural resource protection.

The Trust is managed by a six-member board of directors. Three of the directors are appointed by the governor of North Dakota, one by the National Audubon Society, one by the National Wildlife Federation, and one by the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director is an ex-officio member. The Trust has an Executive Director and four staff members.

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, its goal is to identify common issues, create dialogue, and resolve conflicts.

**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 BDWLP II is intended to meet the surplus demand of BDWLP I and will continue to provide a major opportunity to engage surface owners and oil and gas companies with conservation practices and provide public access opportunities in areas impacted by energy development. At the time of this application, all dollars from the BDWLP I grant have been obligated including 61 landowner contracts resulting in 1,480 acres of tame grass, 1,945 acres of cover crops, and 2,175 acres of native grass plantings. Since June 2020, all new agreement requests for grazing systems have been declined due to lack of funding. The Trust receives new requests on a weekly basis demonstrating that the need for BDWLP II is critical to continue providing these services to landowners.

**Goals, Strategies, and Benefits:** The goals of the BDWLP II for the region are to: 1) create and enhance working agricultural lands and wildlife habitat throughout the oil producing counties, and in some cases adjacent counties, and throughout the broader landscape; 2) coordinate and facilitate energy site reclamation with landowners to enhance wildlife and agricultural benefits; and 3) enhance ND Parks and Recreation public areas within Three Affiliated Tribes lands.

1. Working agricultural developments. This strategy would provide grassland development and enhancement costs on land within the Bakken and adjacent counties. This will encourage landowners to enroll small irregular parcels into grassland habitat and incorporate landscape-level tracts with grazing development practices or other enhancements. The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition and local Soil Conservation Districts will assist landowners in managing these acres and adjacent grasslands while providing best management practice guidelines for livestock grazing. Fencing will be used for new or enhanced rotational grazing systems, as well as fencing for crops (including cover crops) to enhance soil health and rest native grassland pastures. Cost share will be 60/40 between the grant and landowner, and fences will adhere to current NRCS cost share rates. Grass, both native and tame, and cover crops will be designed by natural resources professionals and the landowner. Ag energy sites include those within energy development areas and may include all the above practices to encourage and enhance grazing systems.

2. By providing grazing system infrastructure for these grasslands, producers will have the opportunity to increase the size and efficiency of their grazing operation. Following the installation of infrastructure and implantation of practices we believe that the likelihood that grass remains after the life of the contract will greatly increase since that grazing land will be fully integrated into the livestock producers' operations. Working agricultural developments also includes lands within the North Dakota National Grasslands under the US Forest Service.

3. Energy site reclamation with landowners. Bringing together diverse partnerships will provide opportunities for sites to be restored and benefit the producer through establishing additional livestock forage and land management options, as well as habitat for grassland species. These areas also have the potential to provide public access for hunting, birding, or other recreational opportunities.

4. ND Parks and Recreation Department. Communities would benefit through the development of State Parks and Recreation Areas and outdoor education opportunities. The ND Parks and Recreation State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2018-2022) shows that 88% of households in Divide, Williams, and McKenzie counties, for example, view outdoor recreation as important and 49% of providers report demand exceeds supply. Improvement of these sites will include trail development, fence, picnic tables, interpretive signs, and vegetation management. However, OHF funds will be used for trail development and signage.

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

**Counties\*:**

Adams,Billings,Bottineau,Bowman,Burke,Divide,Dunn,Golden Valley,Grant,Hettinger,McHenry,McKenzie,McLean,Mercer,Morton,Mountrail,Oliver,Renville,Sioux,Slope,Stark,Ward,Williams

**Is This Project Part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?\***  Yes  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\*:**

The Trust will provide management, coordination, and administration to the BDWLP II grant. The applicants will work collectively to provide landowners with program information to assist program participants.

The Trust will complete all program coordination from our office located in Bismarck, ND. Brenda Newton, Administrative Assistant/Conservation Specialist, Terry Allbee, Biologist/Business Manager, Eric Rosenquist, Conservation Program Coordinator, and Jesse Beckers, Energy Program Manager, will serve as the program coordinators. Trust staff has a combined 45 years of experience and strong track record in delivering similar conservation projects. The Trust will provide tracking and reporting for all project agreements following grant guidelines.

Most direct contacts with landowners will be done by county SCD's, ND Grazing Lands Coalition, as well as promotion by other partners including the Department of Mineral Resources and North Dakota Petroleum Council members. NRCS staff, NDGFD private lands biologists, USFWS Partners Program biologists and U.S. Forest Service staff will also promote projects and work directly with landowners.

As these professionals work with landowners and communities, agricultural infrastructure development options, conservation habitat, and NDGFD PLOTS agreements will be promoted. All grant funds will be paid as agreements and development activities are completed and proper documentation is supplied to the Trust. BDWLP II funding will be provided through continuous enrollment, meaning there will be no batching period and funding stops when the funds are spent. If any evaluation is required to determine the best projects the BAG, in concert with local SCD's, will provide that oversight, utilizing input from other partners as needed. Through the partnership development phase of this grant, numerous projects have already been identified.

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\*:**

BDWLP II is an expansion of the original BDWLP I, and the landowner interest in the program has expanded across the oil producing counties. This project has reached and exceeded our goals both in the number of partners included (both agency and NGO) and acres enhanced through funding provided by OHF. All dollars provided in BDWLP I have been committed to projects and landowners, but the demand for the program and services provided has increased. Partners in BDWLP I have increased their investment in BDWLP II, and new partners have been included in this proposal.

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

**Partial Funding\*:**

Portions of the project could proceed with limited OHF funding. However, the landscape needs and opportunities identified by partners and the interest from landowners has exceeded the original grant, and the Outdoor Heritage Fund can continue this unique partnership and accomplishments.

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 BDWLP II will recognize the OHF partnership in as many opportunities as possible. Those will include, but not be limited to, all interactions with landowners and coordination meetings. The OHF funding will also be recognized in any outreach material both published and electronically like partner web pages. We will use social media in all forms to both advertise the program's availability and tout its successes, noting the key role played by OH funding. Where applicable, signs or other visual material will be placed on site to inform the public of the use of OH funding. The OHF logo will also be included on all agreement materials.

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:** ATTACHMENTS COMBINED.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

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**Tasks**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Contractor coordination	01/01/2021	12/29/2023
Energy site restoration	01/01/2021	12/29/2023
Partner correspondence	09/01/2020	12/30/2022
Promotion to landowners	01/01/2021	12/30/2022

**Description of Tasks**

**Please Describe Tasks:**

1. Contractors will be needed throughout the life of the project to complete soil testing, archaeological reviews, and earth moving activities.
2. Complete site assessments in coordination with NDDMR and landowners.
3. Constant communications with partners on status of activities, outreach to SCD's, and report writing to OHF.
4. Landowner workshops, shop talks, postcard mailings through SCD's, magazine articles, and convention attendance to promote program and the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

## Deliverables

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### ***Deliverables***

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit of Measurement, if applicable</b>
Cover Crop	1250.000	Acres
Energy Site Reclamation	100.000	Acres
Grazing Systems	18000.000	Acres
Native Grass	1500.000	Acres
Tame Grass	1900.000	Acres

## Certification

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### ***Certification***

**Certification:** Yes

**Name:** Jesse Beckers  
First Name Last Name

**Title:** Energy Program Coordinator  
Title

**Date:** 08/31/2020

### ***Internal Application Number***

**#/ID:**

## Industrial Commission Action

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### ***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:**