

11180 - Grazing Resiliency in the Bakken (GRB)

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	7583-Outdoor Heritage Fund May 2021 - Round 18	Initial Submit Date:	May 3, 2021 6:14 PM
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	May 3, 2021 11:59 PM	Initially Submitted By:	Jesse Beckers
Program Area:	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Last Submit Date:	May 12, 2021 2:39 PM
Status:	Under Review	Last Submitted By:	Brenda Newton
Stage:	Final Application		

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

Name: Salutation Jesse Middle Name
First Name
Beckers
Last Name

Title: Energy Program Manager

Email*: jesse@naturalresourcestrust.com

Address*: 1605 East Capitol Avenue
Suite 101

Bismarck North Dakota
City State/Province

58501
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-223-8501 Ext.
Phone
###-###-####

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

Comments:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Organization Type*: In-State Non-Profit

Tax Id:

Organization Website: <http://www.ndnrt.com>

Address*: 1605 E Capitol Ave
Suite 101

Bismarck North Dakota
City State/Province

58501-2102
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (701) 223-8501 Ext.
###-###-####

Fax: (701) 223-6937
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Benefactor:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

Provide landowners and ranchers the opportunity to increase their water supplies to livestock and implement fencing for rotational grazing systems providing future drought resiliency.

Summary

Grant Request:	\$1,290,000.00
Matching Funds:	\$860,000.00
Total Project Costs:	\$2,150,000.00
You must have at least 25% match	
Percentage of Match:	40.0%

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 Systems - Grassland Fence and Water	\$1,200,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800,000.00	\$2,020,000.00
Staffing	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Contracted Services	\$22,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$32,500.00
Cultural Review	\$47,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,500.00
	\$1,290,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$804,000.00	\$2,150,000.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

Grazing Systems

Water and fence developments support request is \$1,200,000 and will follow the NRCS Office Tech Guidelines for Allowable Cost. Fencing will be provided to landowners at 60% cost-share payment based on NRCS cost-share payment rates. The water developments will use these rates for agreement development but will pay 60% cost-share based on actual costs. The landowners will provide the remaining 40% cost-share on both fence and water. The Trust will provide additional cost-share in the amount of \$20,000 for components that would be classified as equipment, such as portable power supplies, portable water delivery systems, and/or other unique grazing system practices.

Staffing

The grant proposal requests \$20,000 in OHF funds for staffing costs in coordinating the completion of cultural resource requests and grant administration. As the Trust and our partners work with landowners and producers in delivering the GRB it is important for all involved to be aware of all approved OHF grants available and inform landowners of the opportunity and direct them to appropriate entities depending on their resource concern.

Contracted Services

Agreements with the Trust would allow SCD's to be reimbursed for contracted services up to 75% for coordinating with landowners to view their property, offer technical assistance, discuss contractual arrangements, and monitor the sites. SCD's will provide 25% in-kind for this service to landowners. Estimated overall costs are \$12,000 of OHF (75%) and \$4,000 of SCD In-kind (25%).

An additional \$10,500 for contracted services of OHF and \$6,000 of Trust cash match will be utilized for outreach, education, support, and workshops that help landowners receive information about technical assistance and the availability of the grant proposal activities.

The estimated amounts for each contracted service will vary and may be adjusted from the original estimate. Any contracted services not utilized for the described components above will be applied toward additional grazing systems.

Cultural Review

Cultural review support request is \$47,500 and includes industry professionals and private consultants with experience in 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. Each pedestrian review cost is \$1,250 and costs would advance depending on findings. Estimated cost of \$12,500 (10 reviews @ \$1,250).

An estimated 10 landowners will be requesting water development projects within the boundaries of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. The Tribal Historic and Preservation Office requires on-the-ground archeological review of all surface disturbances. Each tribal review costs \$3,500 per site. Estimated cost of \$35,000 (10 reviews @ \$3,500).

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$26,000.00	North Dakota Natural Resources Trust	Cash
\$30,000.00	North Dakota Natural Resources Trust	In-Kind
\$800,000.00	Landowners	Cash
\$4,000.00	Soil Conservation Districts	In-Kind
\$860,000.00		

Description

Directives

Major Directive*:	Directive B Choose One
Additional Directive:	Directive A, Directive C Choose All That Apply
Type of Agency*:	Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

The Bakken Development and Working Lands Program II (BDWLP II), which was approved by the OHF Advisory Board in the Fall in 2020 and became active in the winter of 2021, was intended to meet the surplus demand of the Bakken Development and Working Lands Program. BDWLP II has continued 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.

Due to the dry fall of 2020 and expected drought conditions in western North Dakota in 2021, all \$660,000 OHF and \$15,000 Trust dollars from Grassland Fence and Water category in the BDWLP II grant have been obligated. As of April 29, 2021, severe drought conditions persisted throughout 83% of North Dakota and has motivated landowners to adopt more resilient drought adapted practices which often includes incorporating cross fencing and water developments to support rotational grazing practices.

The GRB program provides a unique opportunity to introduce the conservation and livestock value of rotational grazing and other range management practices to new audiences throughout western ND. Rotational grazing practices have long been known to support healthy rest intervals for grasslands, promote healthy livestock, and provide grass structures for a variety of endemic species.

With the assistance of a network of local SCDs and other conservation partners, landowners wishing to implement management practices to make their range more resilient to drought will be offered grazing management assistance in the form of grazing management plans as well as technical assistance needed to effectively implement these practices. Funding from the GRB program will be used to provide cost share support for practices such as, but not limited to, cross fencing and water developments. Over the course of this grant, we anticipate servicing at least 50 landowners and impacting thousands of acres.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

The project is expected to have funds obligated and work beginning and/or finished within the first three years of the grant. The final two years of the grant will consist of finishing work on obligated contracts and final reports.

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 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 Trust and our delivery partners receive new requests on a daily basis for water and fence cost share, demonstrating that the need for additional funding for grazing systems is critical during this time of weather condition uncertainty. According to our NRCS/SCD partners, there are currently 125 landowners waiting for water development and fencing cost share. The State Water Commission provides a great opportunity for many landowners through their Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program, and provides benefits limited to drilling a new well and/or extending existing pipelines. However, many landowners need infrastructure such as water tanks or new water pipelines. Furthermore, the State Water Commission doesn't include grazing system components such as fencing for drought relief, and landowners must have been denied a previous application through another state conservation program to qualify, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Through our network of partners, the Trust can relate the benefits of grassland conservation and provide the tools for landowners to engage in conservation during periods of low precipitation.

Goals, Strategies, and Benefits: The goal of the GRB Program is to create and enhance working agricultural lands and wildlife habitat throughout the oil producing counties, and in some cases adjacent counties, as throughout the broader landscape.

1. This project will provide cost-share for grazing development costs on land within the project area. The local SCD's and other delivery partners will assist landowners in managing these acres and adjacent grasslands while providing best management practice guidelines for livestock grazing. Water developments may include well developments (rehabilitation of existing wells included), construction of stock dams and dugouts, water supply on state or federal lands, water pipelines, water tanks, and electric or solar power supply to operate wells. 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.

2. By providing a grazing plan to landowners, SCD's and other partners will have the opportunity to provide technical assistance to landowners through this program and others available in North Dakota. Following the installation of infrastructure and implantation of practices, landowners will be better prepared with a resilient grazing system during uncertain weather conditions, such as drought.

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?* 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 GRB 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. Landowners will be informed about practices offered by the GRB as well as agricultural infrastructure development options, conservation wildlife habitat, cover crops, grass plantings, and NDGFD PLOTS opportunities. Funding for cover crops and grass plantings is still available through Bakken II. All grant funds will be paid as agreements and development activities are completed and proper documentation is supplied to the Trust. GRB funding will be provided through continuous enrollment, meaning there will be no batching period and funding stops when the funds are spent. If any prioritization is required to determine the best projects, local SCDs and other delivery partners will provide that oversight, utilizing input as needed. As stated previously, numerous projects are anxiously waiting the approval of this funding.

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*:

GRB is an expansion of the grazing systems portion of the BDWLP II, and the landowner interest in the program has exceeded current funding capacities across the oil producing counties. All grazing systems dollars provided in BDWLP II have been committed to projects and landowners, but the demand for the program and services provided has increased. It is well established that producers with comprehensive grazing plans are better positioned to effectively manage unplanned events, such as drought. It is also well known that rotational grazing has positive impacts on the grasslands and the wildlife species that depend on it and once these systems are in place they can be sustained for many years.

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 grant amount allocated in Bakken II for grazing systems, 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 GRB 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: County Map.jpg

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
Administer grant and coordinate with SCD's and other delivery partners to implement agreements	07/01/2021	06/30/2024
Communicate with OHF representative and complete semi-annual reports	07/01/2021	06/30/2026
Complete final documentation and submission to OHF	01/01/2026	06/30/2026
OHF Promotion	07/01/2021	06/30/2026

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

1. Utilize expertise of SCD personnel and other partners to deliver water development and grazing system projects
2. Communicate with delivery partners and write reports to OHF
3. Advertise OHF through landowner agreements, magazine articles, and landowner workshops

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Feet of Fencing	60000.000	Feet
Grazing Systems	25000.000	Acres
Water Pipeline	40000.000	Feet
Water Tanks	40.000	
Water Wells	20.000	

Certification

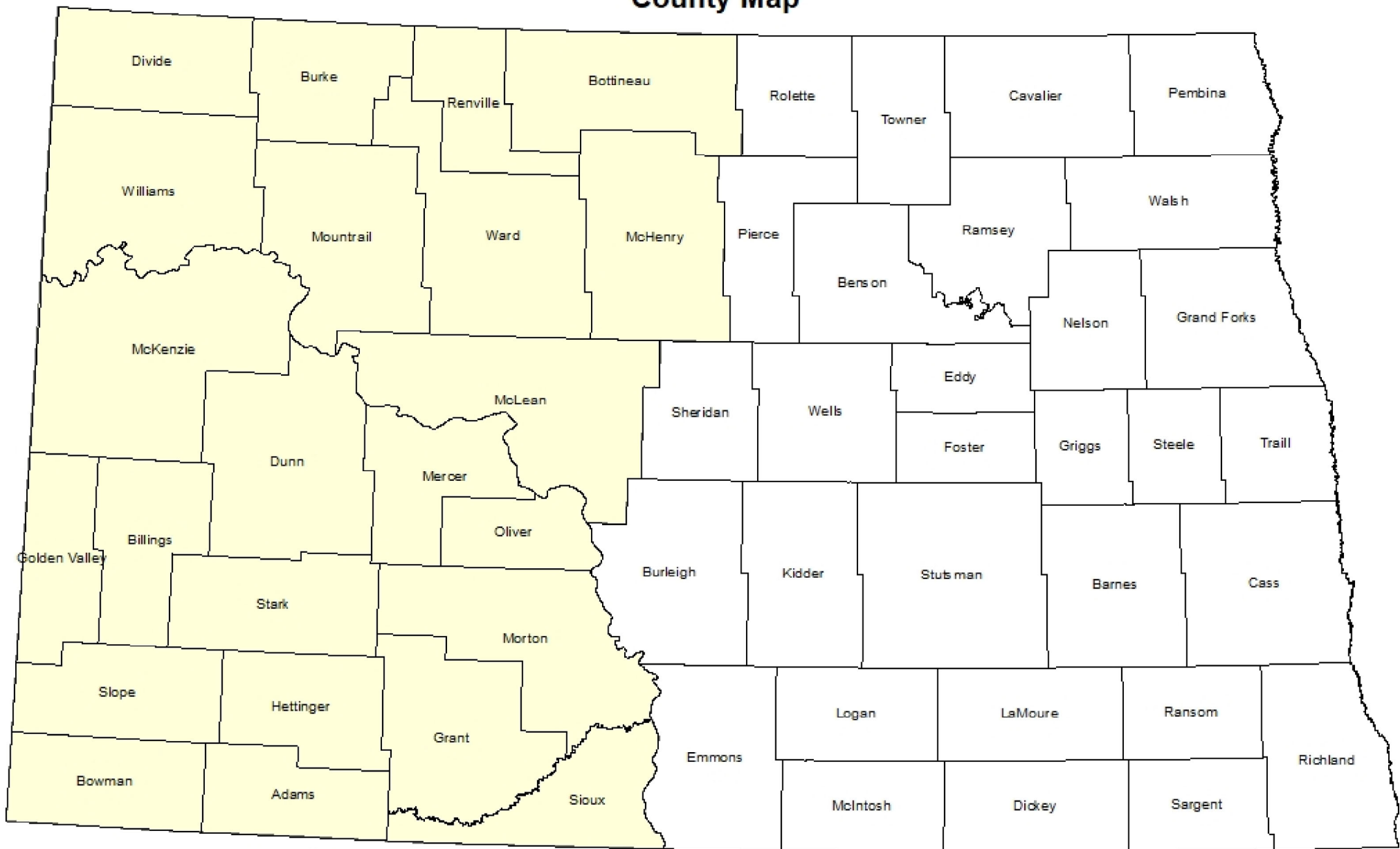
Certification

Certification: Yes
Name: Jesse Beckers
First Name Last Name
Title: Energy Program Manager
Title
Date: 05/03/2021

Internal Application Number

#/ID: 18-21

Grazing Resiliency in the Bakken County Map



 GRB Counties