

11092 - Wildlife and Livestock Dams - Wetlands Creation, Restoration and Enhancement

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	7583-Outdoor Heritage Fund May 2021 - Round 18	Initial Submit Date:	May 3, 2021 3:50 PM
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	May 3, 2021 11:59 PM	Initially Submitted By:	Rick Warhurst
Program Area:	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Last Submit Date:	May 12, 2021 11:59 AM
Status:	Under Review	Last Submitted By:	Rick Warhurst
Stage:	Final Application		

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

Name: Salutation Rick Middle Name
First Name
Warhurst
Last Name

Title:

Email*: rick@naturalresourcestrust.com

Address*: 1605 E. Capitol Ave., Ste. 101

Bismarck North Dakota
City State/Province

58501
Postal Code/Zip

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

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
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Comments:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

The objective of this project is for the OHF and the ND Natural Resources Trust to cooperate with private landowners to create, enhance and restore wetland habitat in North Dakota for the benefit of wildlife populations and livestock production. 20 wetlands covering 112 acres will be improved.

Summary

Grant Request: \$250,000.00

Matching Funds: \$245,000.00

Total Project Costs: \$495,000.00

You must have at least 25% match

Percentage of Match: 49.49%

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
Wetland Creation	\$225,000.00	\$112,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$112,500.00	\$450,000.00
Contracted Services/Support	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
Staffing	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
	\$250,000.00	\$122,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$112,500.00	\$495,000.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

Wetland Creations, Wetland Dam Repairs and Wetland Restorations: These funds will pay for the construction of new, small wetland creations, repair of existing dams on wetland creations and restoration of wetlands with earthen plugs placed in drain ditches throughout North Dakota. The payments will be to contractors for dirt work to construct earthen dams across water drainages, install primary spillways/water control structures and develop emergency spillways (OHF 50%/Trust 25%/Other Match 25%).

Contracted Services: Engineering design of wetland creations and dam repairs is important to ensure proper design of the projects, to ensure long life of the structure and to ensure each project wetland functions in desired manner. The Trust will contract for these services, so that engineering standards are used in the project design. The Trust will consult with the State Historical Society for SHPO review and approval and if outside cultural resources field reviews are necessary, then a cultural review company will be hired to complete the reviews.

Staffing/Delivery: The grant application is requesting \$10,000.00 of OHF support for staffing/deliver and the ND Natural Resources Trust will provide \$10,000.00 of in-kind match over the Program duration. The administration of the Wildlife and Livestock Dams (WLD) Program is based on actual staff time, benefits, and travel to deliver WLD Program agreements. This includes promotion and outreach, meeting with landowners, meeting with partners, processing payments, and agreement monitoring.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$122,500.00	ND Natural Resources Trust	Cash
\$10,000.00	ND Natural Resources Trust	In-Kind
\$112,500.00	Landowners and Other Partners	Cash
\$245,000.00		

Description

Directives

Major Directive*: Directive C
Choose One

Additional Directive: Directive A, Directive B
Choose All That Apply

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

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

North Dakota's wetlands are among the most biologically productive biome systems on earth. The 2015 North Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), prepared by the ND Game and Fish Department, provides a conservation strategy for specific conservation habitats. Specifically, the conservation habitat of wetlands was identified in SWAP with suggested conservation actions that include incentives and programs that restore and enhance wetlands. Obligate wetland migratory bird species such as waterfowl-including mallards and Northern pintails; shorebirds-including willets and avocets; wading birds-including long-billed curlews and American bitterns; and marsh birds-including black terns and horned grebes (all listed in SWAP) will use this program's project wetlands for production, brood-rearing and during migration. Resident wildlife species including ring-necked pheasants, white-tailed deer, mule deer and Pronghorn antelope will also use the created, restored and enhanced habitats resulting from this program.

During the past twelve months most of North Dakota has experienced serious drought conditions. The availability of water to agriculture producers and landowners has declined. The ND Natural Resources Trust (Trust) and conservation partners have received numerous requests from landowners seeking assistance in creating small dams, repairing existing dams on their land or restoring drained wetlands. This grant proposal will provide a partnership between the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Trust and landowners to complete these new wetlands or repair small, nonfunctional dams for wildlife and livestock benefits.

During 2018-2020, OHF, Trust and landowners cooperatively completed the "Livestock and Wildlife Dams-Wetland Creation and Enhancement " project. Fourteen (14) wetlands were created or enhanced covering 72.78 surface acres. These projects were completed in seven ND counties and involved seven private land owners and two public agency land owners. Interest remains high to develop wetlands. This proposed project will assist landowners with approximately 20 wetland dam creations, dam repairs and drain ditch plugs throughout the state. This project will impact approximately 112 surface acres of wetland habitat (Mean = 5.6 acres). The OHF grant will provide 50% or \$225,000 cost-share assistance for wetland construction with the remaining cost-share supplied by the Trust 25% or \$112,500 and other project cooperators including landowners 25% or \$112,500.

The Trust requests \$15,000 from OHF for Contracted Services including Engineering Design/Construction Management/Cultural Resources Survey. The Trust will match this with \$10,000. The Trust will offer \$10,000 of In-kind Staffing and Delivery Services and requests \$10,000 from OHF as match. This project will supply vital wetland habitat for numerous wildlife species, provide a stable water source for livestock producers, improve water quality and accommodate water storage.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

This project will begin working with landowners immediately, if funded. The outreach and landowner communication concerning this project have already been initiated and will be accelerated, if the project is approved. The project will be completed in four years, though our desire is to complete the project in two years. Trust agreements with landowners for the project sites will be for a minimum of ten years. Interest is high in wetland development, especially in western North Dakota.

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 North Dakota Natural Resources 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 the productive use of private agricultural lands and to support 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 planning 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 resources 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 five staff.

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 goal of this project is to assist landowners create, enhance and restore approximately 20 wetlands covering 112 surface acres located throughout the state. These wetland developments will supply vital habitat for numerous wildlife species. Obligate wetland migratory bird species including waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds and marsh birds will use these project wetlands for production, brood-rearing and during migration. Resident wildlife species including ring-necked pheasants, white-tailed deer, mule deer and Pronghorn antelope will also use the wetlands. Other wildlife species such as frogs, salamanders, turtles and snakes will live in or near these wetlands. Pollinator species such as native bees and butterflies will also use these important project wetlands.

The wetlands developed by this project will provide a stable source of livestock water, provide water storage, improve water quality as well as supplying vital wildlife habitat. When functional the 20 wetlands developed by this project will facilitate the enhancement of surrounding grassland habitat of approximately 6,000 acres through implementation of managed grazing systems.

The Trust seeks to develop and enhance wetlands in landscapes dominated by grassland used for grazing. These wetlands supply waterfowl breeding pair and brood-rearing habitat that is interspersed in excellent nesting cover and significantly enhances the biodiversity of plants and animals in these grasslands. The ponds also provide vital water sources for livestock production, improve water quality and help retain ranchers and the ranching lifestyle on the North Dakota landscape.

Project development activities will include; the construction of new dams and emergency spillways, repair of existing, nonfunctional dams and emergency spillways, installation of primary spillways and water control structures, and the earthen plugging of drain ditches. With professional project design and management these wetland creations should have a lifespan of 25 plus years.

This project addresses OHF Directive C and will develop, enhance, conserve and restore wildlife habitat on private lands. It also addresses Directive B by improving and restoring water quality and supports other practices of land stewardship to enhance farming and ranching. Several of the proposed wetland sites occur on public land and Directive A would be addressed; to provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen. All private landowners on which wetlands are developed will be encouraged to enroll the area in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Public Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) Program.

Over a dozen landowners from numerous North Dakota counties have contacted the Trust expressing the desire for wetland creations or repairs on their land and the list is growing as weather conditions become drier. These land owners have expressed interest in cooperating with OHF and the Trust to develop and enhance wetland habitat on their property. Most of the wetlands to be created or enhanced will be small and can be developed without professional engineering design. However, a few sites might have large watersheds or need a ND State Water Commission conditional water permit and would therefore require professional Engineering Design. Contracted Services for Engineering Design/Construction Management/Cultural Resources Survey totaling \$30,000 is included in the Project Budget.

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

Counties*: Statewide

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 oversee and coordinate all activities associated with this project proposal. Wetlands will be developed on 20 private land sites with a few possibly on public land. The Trust will develop site specific agreements with landowners which will include a map defining project boundaries, proposed construction activities, the cost-share estimates and the responsibility of each landowner and the Trust. All agreements will be signed and dated by the landowner and the Trust. In addition, all project agreements will have the OHF logo at the header of the agreement and all landowners will be informed about OHF funding as part of the project.

The Trust's staff will coordinate the wetland development project from our office located in Bismarck. Rick Warhurst, Biologist, will serve as the Program Coordinator. Rick has over 30 years of experience in delivering wetland conservation projects throughout the Dakotas. The Trust will coordinate with landowners and partners to ensure that the OHF funds are spent effectively. The Trust will provide all tracking and reporting of all participant agreements following grant guidelines.

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*:

This proposal represents landowners who have contacted the Trust or other conservation partners about their interest in wetland creations and wetland structure repairs on their property.

Many of these wetland projects need repair because of inadequate construction design and not necessarily any fault of the landowners. With updated wetland creation designs that include properly sized primary spillways and emergency spillways the projects completed in this proposal will have a long life span. The project participants will manage their property to ensure that the integrity of the structures developed is properly maintained. These landowners will agree to provide the annual maintenance of the installed structures to maintain the integrity and proper function of the project.

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

Partial Funding*:

The Trust would like to thank OHF Advisory Board for the consideration of this proposal. This wetland development project brings 50% matching funds from Trust, conservation partners and landowners to assist in wetland creations, enhancements and restorations. If OHF does not recommend full funding, then a smaller portion of the proposed project sites will be completed and matching funds will be reduced proportionally.

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 Trust will place signage at each project site recognizing the OHF as a partner in the project. Any news releases, publications, and Trust website information will include OHF recognition.

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*: No

If Yes, Please Provide Copies in a Single File:

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
Engineering and Construction Management	07/01/2021	10/31/2025
Promotion	07/01/2021	07/01/2025
Status Report and Final Reporting	07/01/2021	12/31/2025
Wetland Creations, Enhancements and Restorations Construction	07/01/2021	12/31/2025

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

- 1) Coordination with partners on grant requirements and details.
- 2) Promotion of grant with landowners.
- 3) Engineering and construction management.
- 4) Wetland Creations, Enhancements and Restorations Construction
- 5) Track the budget and obligation of grant and match. Complete all budget and progress reporting.

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Unit of Measurement, if Quantity applicable
Wetland Creations, Dam Repairs, Enhancements and Restorations	112.000 Acres

Certification

Certification

Certification: Yes

Name: Rick Warhurst
First Name Last Name

Title: North American Wetland Conservation Act/ND Action Group Coordinator
Title

Date: 05/03/2021

Internal Application Number

#/ID: 18-22
