

19-04-Working Grassland Partnership 5

Application Details

Funding Opportunity: 14877-Outdoor Heritage Fund May 2021 - Round 19
Funding Opportunity Due Date: Sep 2, 2021 11:59 PM
Program Area: Outdoor Heritage Fund
Status: Under Review
Stage: Final Application

Initial Submit Date: Aug 31, 2021 1:55 PM
Initially Submitted By: Terry Allbee
Last Submit Date: Sep 3, 2021 12:19 PM
Last Submitted By: Terry Allbee

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: yes
Type: External User
Name: Salutation Terry Middle Name Allbee
First Name Last Name
Title: Business Manager
Email*: terry@naturalresourcestrust.com
Address*: 1605 E Capitol Ave
Suite 101
Bismarck North Dakota 58501
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
Phone*: (701) 223-8501 Ext.
Phone

Fax: (701) 223-6937

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 58501-2102
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

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

Fax: (701) 223-6937
#####

Benefactor:

Vendor ID:

PeopleSoft Supplier ID:

Comments:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

WGP5 will provide financial and technical assistance to North Dakota landowners as they transition expired or expiring CRP acres into working grasslands. WGP5 will benefit soil health, declining grassland bird populations and agricultural productivity.

Summary

Grant Request:	\$985,000.00
Matching Funds:	\$872,500.00
Total Project Costs:	\$1,857,500.00
You must have at least 25% match	
Percentage of Match:	46.97%

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	\$960,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$640,000.00	\$1,610,000.00
Habitat Lease	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$140,000.00
Contracted Services/Support	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
Project Delivery	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$82,500.00
	\$985,000.00	\$162,500.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$660,000.00	\$1,857,500.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

Grazing Systems will consist of installing fencing and water developments on private property to be managed by livestock grazing. Fencing will follow the NRCS Office Tech Guide Allowable Cost; the full funding rate will be determined by NRCS's practice scenario amount. The grant will provide landowners a 60% cost-share payment. All fencing cost-share will be paid based on a rate per foot of fence and type of fence installed. Landowners will provide the remaining 40% cost-share. Water Developments will follow the NRCS Office Tech Guide Allowable Cost; the full funding rate will be determined by NRCS's practice scenario amount. The OHF grant will use 60% cost-share of these rates for agreement development, but will pay based on actual costs. The landowners will provide the remaining 40% cost-share. The OHF grant proposal is requesting \$960,000 in grazing developments and landowners will provide \$640,000 in match. The Trust will provide up to \$10,000 at a 60% cost-share for water developments that would not be eligible for cost-share by OHF. These may include portable equipment, portable power supply or other equipment costs.

Habitat Lease consists of a lease payment to the landowner for all CRP acres expiring in 2021 and 2022. The lease rate will be \$5.00 per acre per year, so landowners will receive a \$50/acre one-time payment for the 10 year agreement. Lease payments will be on expired/expiring CRP acres only. The Trust will provide \$140,000 in lease payments.

Contracted Services/Support will consist of services for items such as engineering, cultural resources, surveys, specialized equipment rentals, soil testing, habitat assessments, marketing through North Dakota Conservation District Employees Association's ND Conservation Partnership and Delivery Initiative, partnership coordination meetings and for any additional delivery and/or program monitoring. If Contracted Services funds are not utilized during the grant period for these services, the funds would be used for additional conservation practices identified in the proposal. The grant proposal is requesting \$12,500 of OHF funds. The OHF funds will be used for cultural reviews, marketing and project implementation. The Trust will provide \$12,500 in cash match for these and all other services listed.

Project Delivery will consist of actual time to complete program promotion and outreach, meeting with landowners, providing technical assistance, completing landowner agreements, partnering with state, federal, local, and nongovernmental organizations, processing payments, providing agreement monitoring, and completing all grant administration. The Trust staffing costs include staff time, benefits, and travel. The partners will provide staffing through in-kind contributions. DU is providing \$10,000 of in-kind match. The USFWS Partners for Wildlife Program is providing \$10,000 of in-kind match. The grant proposal is requesting \$12,500 in OHF funds and Trust/Partners are providing \$70,000 of in-kind match.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
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No files attached.

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$162,500.00	ND Natural Resources Trust	Cash
\$50,000.00	ND Natural Resources Trust	In-Kind
\$640,000.00	Landowners and Other Partners	Cash
\$10,000.00	Partners For Wildlife	In-Kind
\$10,000.00	Ducks Unlimited	In-Kind
\$872,500.00		

Description

Directives

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

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

North Dakota's wildlife populations have been the beneficiary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) authorized through federal Farm Bills since the mid-1980s. Currently, there are 1.2 million acres of CRP enrolled in North Dakota. In the next two years over a half-million acres of CRP are set to expire, making this one of the highest two-year total of expiring acres since CRP has been in existence. As many CRP contracts are set to expire, landowners are determining their options for these acres. These options could include re-enrollment back into CRP, crop production and grassland production. It may possibly be true that many of the acres will be re-enrolled back into CRP, but many landowners will choose to transition the expired CRP acres into agricultural production. This grant application would assist landowners wanting to transition those CRP acres into working grassland production. The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust and partners propose to assist landowners in this transition by offering a one-time lease payment, cost-sharing of fencing and cost-sharing water developments necessary for livestock grazing. The Working Grassland Partnership 5 (WGP5) grant proposal is a new phase of the Working Grassland Partnership (WGP) applications previously supported by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board and North Dakota Industrial Commission. The Trust and partners appreciated the past support. All past WGP grant funds have all been obligated and the interest in WGP continues to increase.

The WGP 5 will be offered statewide. In 2021 over 130,000 acres of CRP are expiring and in 2022 over 380,000 acres of CRP will expire in North Dakota. The top seven counties of expiring CRP include: Hettinger, Bottineau, Stutsman, Walsh, Rolette, Adams, and Nelson. In Adams and Hettinger Counties a combined total of 50,000 acres will be expiring.

We think the drought of 2021 will influence the decision that landowners will make to incorporate expiring/expired CRP acres into grazing acres. Many ranches are very interested in developing reliable water sources, increasing rangeland management, being part of the solution of declining grassland bird populations, partnering on cost-share of infrastructure development and receiving technical assistance. This grant proposal combines the unique opportunity to improve soil and water management, benefit the conservation of wildlife species and provide a working lands concept for livestock producers.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

5 Years

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: 1) promote the productive use of private agricultural lands that result in the enhancement and protection of private lands; 2) effectively use North Dakota's public lands both for agriculture and recreation; 3) promote good land use planning along urban river corridors, and 4) 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.

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*:

Statewide, there will be over 500,000 acres expiring from the CRP in 2021 and 2022. Landowners will have to make a decision on retaining the CRP as grass cover or converting the land back to cropland. This proposal aims to assist landowners who want to transition these acres to working grasslands.

The 2021 drought has negatively impacted rangeland production across North Dakota. This, coupled with past grassland conversion, impacted pasture availability as producers attempt to secure additional grazing acres.

Using expired CRP for grazing has proven to be a beneficial option for grazing operators, landowners (including absentee landowners) and wildlife. If livestock producers can connect with CRP acreage landowners, retention of these grasslands for grazing/haying is agreeable depending on CRP landowner interests and values. Developing a grazing plan for expired CRP acres promotes the building of strong relationships with the CRP landowner. Without understanding the livestock grazing alternative, CRP landowners may gravitate back to planting crops out of expediency or feeling like there are no other options.

As a result of past WGP successful grants, there is a collective partnership of agencies and organizations familiar with how WGP works and are willing to guide landowners exploring their options on how to transition expired CRP acres into working grasslands. These federal, state and non profit organizations working with private landowners will be a critical part of getting the message out about WGP5.

WGP5 will focus on retaining grasslands from expiring 2021 and 2022 CRP contracts with landowners. The fate of many of the 2021 expiring acres is being decided right now. The goal of this grant is to provide options to landowners looking to retain these acres in grassland. By providing 60% cost-share on livestock and bird-friendly developments, the grant has a goal of signing agreements on over 16,000 acres.

This proposal is asking for OHF to provide funding for grazing system developments that include livestock water and fencing. The Trust will also provide a habitat lease only on acres expired from CRP. This would be a one-time, upfront payment that would be issued when a WGP5 agreement is signed. The habitat lease will serve as an additional incentive to keep these acres in grassland. Technical advice, such as grazing plans, will be provided by the co-applicants and supporting partners. Landowners are also informed about possible NDGFD PLOTS payments on land in and around the WGP5 program acres.

The WGP5 aims to build on the success of previous WGP grants. These have enhanced grassland productivity and condition, water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat for grassland birds. Equally valuable, this will improve the sustainability and profitability of many existing livestock operations. By supporting grazing infrastructure we believe these former CRP acres will transition into working, bird-friendly grazing lands for long-term livestock operations.

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 the WGP5 proposal. WGP5 will be offered throughout the entire state of North Dakota. The Trust will develop site specific agreements with landowners which will include a map defining boundaries, the payments amount, matching funds, landowner contributions and the Trust matching funds. All agreements will be signed and dated by the landowner and the Trust.

The Trust's staff will coordinate the WGP5 program from our office located in Bismarck, ND. The Trust will monitor all WGP5 agreements. Evaluations and

progress reports will be completed. The Trust's programs are structured to be flexible and accommodating to agreement participants. Maintaining good communication with agreement participants and the partners is important to the Trust.

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 WGP5 will be a voluntary option available for only private landowners in North Dakota. When the partnership of OHF, conservation organizations and private landowners is achieved through working lands conservation it is a win for every citizen of the state. WGP5 will help preserve our ranching heritage and ND's natural resources. We believe that many of these cost-shared developments will remain in place for many years after the life of this project.

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

Partial Funding*:

The Trust thanks the OHF Advisory Board and North Dakota Industrial Commission for their past support of Working Grassland Partnership grant proposals and the consideration of this WGP5 proposal. If the proposal receives partial funding, this will lower the number of agreements with landowners, resulting in less acres achieved, and reduces in the amount of cash and in-kind match available by the Trust, partners and landowners.

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*:

WGP5 will provide OHF recognition on all landowner agreements by including OHF logo on top of agreements and all discussions with landowners in the delivery of this project will identify OHF as a funding source. If any signs are placed at project locations, it will include the OHF logo. All WGP5 distributed information for outreach and/or media will identify OHF as a funding source. Also all presentations or discussions to partners and/or other organizations will acknowledge OHF as a funding source.

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
1) Coordination Meetings	11/01/2021	06/30/2023
2) Promotion	11/01/2021	06/30/2023
3) Landowner Coordination	11/01/2021	06/30/2025
4) Progress and Budget Tracking	11/01/2021	06/30/2026

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

- 1) Coordination meetings of conservation partners and Trust staff. Discuss all delivery options, priorities, and fund available.
- 2) Promotion and marketing of WGP5.
- 3) Landowner visits by phone and on property to determine development locations. Provide technical assistance, check on progress and assist in payments.
- 4) Track the grant progress of grant funds obligated and grant funds spent. Complete scheduled status reports to NDIC. Complete final report to NDIC.

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Grazing Systems	16000.000	Acres

Certification

Certification

Certification:

Name: Terry Allbee
First Name Last Name

Title: Business Manager/Biologist
Title

Date: 08/31/2021

Internal Application Number

#/ID:
