

19-05 - North Dakota Petroleum Foundation Planting for the Future

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: Sep 1, 2021 3:44 PM
Initially Submitted By: Tessa Sandstrom
Last Submit Date: Sep 7, 2021 12:04 PM
Last Submitted By: Tessa Sandstrom

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes
Type: External User
Name: Salutation Tessa Middle Name Sandstrom
First Name Last Name
Title: Executive Director
Email*: info@ndpetroleumfoundation.org
Address*: P.O. Box 7233

Bismarck North Dakota 58507
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
Phone*: 701-557-3972 Ext.
Phone

Fax: ### ### #####
Comments:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved
Name*: North Dakota Petroleum Foundation
Organization Type*: In-State Non-Profit
Tax Id:
Organization Website:

Address*:

P.O. Box 7233

Bismarck North Dakota 58507-____
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*:

701-557-3972 Ext.
#####

Fax:

#####

Benefactor:

Vendor ID:

PeopleSoft Supplier ID:

Comments:

Budget

Objective of Grant

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This grant will help support Planting for the Future, a habitat, and conservation program that provides trees and shrubs for large-scale planting projects to private landowners, city and county parks, and others interested in building habitats for the future.

Summary

Grant Request:	\$371,000.00
Matching Funds:	\$361,500.00
Total Project Costs:	\$732,500.00
You must have at least 25% match	
Percentage of Match:	49.35%

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
Trees	\$210,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$210,000.00
Fabric & Staples	\$161,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54,000.00	\$215,000.00
Contracting and Consulting	\$0.00	\$165,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$165,000.00
Operating and Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Other Project Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00
In-Kind Labor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
	\$371,000.00	\$165,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$196,500.00	\$732,500.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

Trees
 The estimate is based on 70,000 trees per year for three years. The average cost of trees in 2021 was \$1.00 per tree. The Foundation would request OHF funds for the purchase of trees over the three years proposed in the grant.

Fabric and Staples
 Fabric and staples cost approximately \$100 per 500 feet. OHF will cover 75% of the cost with the landowner paying the remaining 25%.

Contracting and Consulting
 The Foundation will pay for contractors to design and implement each project, including site preparation for the planting of trees and monitoring throughout the duration of this grant period. Contractors are paid \$65 per hour for consultations and \$500 per project, plus expenses for mile, loaded mile, and equipment (trailer, planter, and tractor) usage. The average cost per project in 2021 was \$2,000, which was used to estimate expenses for this grant. Contracting fees are also included for monitoring and filing of reports on each project's progress. Compensation is \$100 per project, plus mileage.

Operating and Administration:
 Since the Foundation does not have staff, the NDPC will provide staff to operate the program at an estimated salary equivalent of \$50 per hour. This in-kind support will include the collection, filing and approval process of applications for trees; ordering of trees and materials; correspondence with contractors and applicants; and management of budget and grant, among other duties.

Other Project Costs
 Includes landowner expenses incurred in land preparation and planting, including, but not limited to, use of personal equipment, gasoline, spray, flags, spray paint or other materials.

In-Kind Labor
 Includes the in-kind volunteer labor (\$15 per hour) to prepare land and plant trees.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
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No files attached.

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$165,000.00	Applicant	Cash
\$54,000.00	Landowner (or Project Sponsor when applicable)	Cash
\$15,000.00	ND Petroleum Council	In-Kind
\$37,500.00	Landowner	Cash
\$90,000.00	Landowner	In-Kind
\$361,500.00		

Description

Directives

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

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

In 2017, the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC) founded the Planting for the Future program (the Program) with the goal of leveraging industry and landowner support for large-scale tree plantings for habitat. The Program's goal was to plant 55,000 trees over a three-year period on private land throughout North Dakota. With the support of the Outdoor Heritage Fund, the NDPC met and exceeded that goal by planting 58,000 in Burleigh, Kidder, Dickey, Morton, Mountrail, Emmons, Wells, Grant, Stark and Sheridan Counties in its first year.

The Program was transferred to the North Dakota Petroleum Foundation (the Foundation), newly-formed 501(c)(3) nonprofit, in fall of 2018. The Foundation has continued to operate the Program since. To date, forty-four landowners or conservation organizations have participated in the program. More than 134,000 trees have been planted throughout Burleigh, Dickey, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Richland, Sheridan, Stark, Stutsman, and Wells Counties. There are currently 26 applications on file for the 2022 planting season, and several landowners are planning to apply for projects in 2023.

Because of the popularity of the program, the NDPF is on track to expend all of its previous grant funds ahead of schedule and is seeking another grant to accommodate the majority of these 26 projects in 2022, as well as projects for the 2023 and 2024 planting seasons. The Foundation expects to plant approximately 70,000 trees and/or complete 25 projects per year for the next three years at a total project cost of about \$732,500.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

January 2022-December 2026

Plantings will occur in the spring of 2022, 2023, and 2024. Monitoring will be the Fall of 2023 and the last year of monitoring (for 2024 plantings) will be the fall of 2026.

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 Petroleum Foundation (the Foundation), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was founded by the North Dakota Petroleum Council in 2018 to support our state and the communities in which we operate. Its mission is to provide and support education and outreach opportunities related to the petroleum industry, develop and advance quality of life initiatives, and promote and enhance the conservation heritage of North Dakota. The Foundation works to achieve this mission through outreach programs, scholarships and education opportunities, and environmental stewardship programs.

The Foundation is supported by revenues from the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, as well as donations from the North Dakota Petroleum Council, the Foundation's Board of Directors, industry companies and employees, and grants from the Oil and Gas Research Council and Outdoor Heritage Fund.

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*:

Through Planting for the Future, the Foundation and its partners will build and leverage relationships with landowners to aid in the planting of 210,000 trees on private land over the next three years. Twenty-six landowners are currently on the Planting for the Future’s list for 2022 and others have expressed interest in applying in future years.

Although there are several tree planting initiatives in existence, this program will be unique in that it will leverage the North Dakota Public Service Commission’s Tree and Shrub Mitigation Program’s requirements for companies to replace trees and shrubs removed in the construction of infrastructure while involving landowners in the installation process. In addition, with demands for trees throughout the state being very high, many landowners must wait several years before their project is chosen or approved and others are sometimes prohibited by the cost. Since our program utilizes volunteer labor, landowners who are willing to put in the preparatory work and organize volunteers can complete their projects faster and at a minimal cost. In addition, the voluntary nature of the program allows the Foundation to keep costs at just \$2.50 per tree, which means the completion of more projects and planting of more trees.

Because the projects will be implemented in several counties, the specific trees, shrubs and planting methods used will be decided on a case-by-case basis with consideration to USDA guidelines for suitable species, each area’s unique geological and geographical attributes, as well as landowner preference. The species most commonly planted since 2018 included ponderosa pine, scotch pine, cedar, lilac, buffaloberry, juniper, silverberry and willow because of their survivability and because they provide tremendous cover for wildlife.

Trees will be planted each spring using either the knifing and fabric method or the scalping method, which is a mechanical process whereby the soil is peeled back in a wide, shallow furrow. Scalping preparation is more cost-effective and has proven beneficial on agricultural areas because it reduces competition with other vegetation, improves moisture, and reduces insect predation on roots. A chemical additive for weed control will be applied the first year with additional applications contingent on necessity in the following years. The planting method is determined by the landowner’s preference and climate and soil conditions. The scalping method has been successful in areas that typically experience more moisture, such as the central pothole region of the state, but fabric is often recommended in the western, more arid parts of the state.

As in the last grant round, all projects will be monitored for up to two years after the planting year to ensure the survival and success of plantings. The Program will strive to achieve an overall 50 percent survival rate, which, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide, is considered a successful tree planting for wetland and upland wildlife habitat. The Foundation will replant trees on a project if the survival rate is below 50 percent or if the landowner requests, regardless of the survival rate.

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*:

Because the Foundation does not have any paid staff, the Program will be overseen and managed by NDPC staff, including Ron Ness, President of the NDPC and CEO of the Foundation, and Tessa Sandstrom, Executive Director for the Foundation. This support will be provided in-kind to the Foundation and the Program.

Both Ness and Sandstrom have a long history of responsibly managing and executing other grant proposals through the Oil and Gas Research Council and the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Sandstrom will oversee the management and administration of the Program, including the collection of applications and project approvals each fall; ordering of trees and materials in the late fall or winter; scheduling of projects in the spring; project monitoring in the fall, and other administrative duties (billing, budgeting, and grant reports, etc.) as needed.

The Program will again retain outside contractors to provide consultation and planting services. Contractors include:

Ryan Odenbach will serve as a lead habitat consultant. Odenbach has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geology and Technology from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. He has more than 23 years experience in conservation and environment, including four years as the Water Quality Coordinator

for the Red Lake Watershed District in Thief River Falls, Minnesota; 16 years as the Watershed Coordinator/Projects Manager for the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District; and three years with Vertex Resource Services in Watford City. Odenbach recently started his own company, Oden Environmental, providing environmental services.

Dave Shockman serves as a lead habitat consultant, for projects deploying the scalping method. David is a farmer from Burleigh County and has served as an advisor and leader for several conservation groups. For the last 20 years, he has been involved in tree planting, and has helped plant more than 60,000 trees for the Foundation, with many projects seeing a 70 and 80 percent success rate.

Dave Nehring will provide support for project and program consultation on a limited basis. Dave is the owner of Habitat Unlimited in Bismarck, a company that specializes in custom planting strategies geared toward enhancing wildlife habitat on private land.

Katrina Mickelsen will contract to monitor and report on projects. Katrina has bachelor's degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture from North Dakota State University. Prior to working full-time for the North Dakota National Guard, she worked for Prairie View Landscaping in Bismarck, and also has experience working for the Fargo Park Board and her family's greenhouse in Kenmare, ND.

Jody Sommer will provide planting and fabric application services as needed. Sommer is the Dakota Chapter Pheasants Forever President and has completed several of his own projects and has helped the Foundation complete Planting for the Future projects over the past two years.

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 Program has continued to grow both in size and popularity with industry and landowners. Even without advertising or publicity, the Program receives more applications for trees each year from both returning and new landowners. Because of this success, Planting for the Future has become one of the Foundation's most popular programs, and it is expected to remain an important component of the Foundation's goals and priorities for many years to come.

In terms of funding, the Program continues to see participation from industry companies seeking projects to meet PSC Tree and Shrub Mitigation requirements. In addition, the Foundation raises approximately \$20,000 each year from its Bakken Classic Fishing Derby. Furthermore, NDPC member companies have foundations or budgets for philanthropy and are often looking for environmental projects that they can support. The Planting for the Future initiative would meet many of their requirements, enabling the continued implementation of the program. This level of support is expected to increase as more companies further develop ESG policies and procedures.

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

Partial Funding*:

The Foundation is prepared to continue building this program even if it does not secure grant funds, albeit at a smaller scale, and our ability to grow into an impactful, long-lasting program may be hindered without the OHF funding.

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 Foundation has and will continue to recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund through photos and videos shared on the Foundation's website and social media channels. Currently, the Outdoor Heritage Fund logo is displayed on the Foundation website, Planting for the Future brochures, and in any other promotional or educational materials distributed and shared. Because these projects are on private land, the Program does not plan to install signage.

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:

[PFTF Letters of Support.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
Consultation	09/01/2021	10/31/2021
Order Trees & Supplies	12/01/2021	03/31/2022
Project Follow-up (forms, in-kind, etc.)	06/15/2022	07/15/2022
Project Monitoring	09/01/2023	10/15/2023
Review Applications	08/01/2021	08/31/2021
Schedule and complete plantings	04/24/2022	06/04/2022

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

Tasks performed annually: The NDPF will solicit applications from landowners and review with project consultants. Upon acceptance, consultant will meet with the landowner to discuss project, make recommendations, etc. The NDPF will order trees and fabric in early December with allowance for changes through March. Projects will be scheduled and completed each spring (dates dependent upon spring thaw). Projects are monitored in the fall following the planting year.

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Linear Feet Planted (estimate)	1575000.000	Linear Feet
Projects Completed	75.000	Projects
Survivability	50.000	percent
Trees Planted	210000.000	individual trees

Certification

Certification

Certification: Yes

Name: Tessa Sandstrom
First Name Last Name

Title: Executive Director
Title

Date: 09/01/2021

Internal Application Number

#/ID:

August 23, 2021

Outdoor Heritage Fund
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Letter of Support
ND Petroleum Foundation
Planting for the Future Program

To Whom it May Concern:

I wanted to express my support for the Planting for the Future Program that is provided by the ND Petroleum Council. Many programs provided to plant wildlife enhancement have several layers of red tape that can make it difficult for a property owners to agree to and to apply for.

This program is very streamlined, easy to understand and apply for, and provides un-matched grant percentages to the property owner.

My father was an applicant that received his trees in 2020, and after seeing its success, I currently have an application in for a planting in 2022. As a third-generation farmer in North Dakota with young children, it saddens me to see so many trees and shelter belts being removed from our landscape. Our wildlife in North Dakota truly is a wonder and I believe this program is greatly needed to help protect what we have left. I encourage you to support this program in any way that you can.

Sincerely,



Thomas Klabunde

Wade & Cindy Williamson
PO Box 239
Parshall, ND 58770

August 25, 2021

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

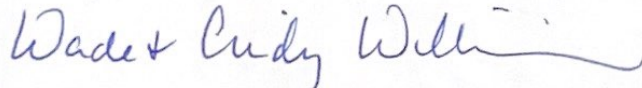
To Whom It May Concern:

We had the privilege of working with Tessa Sandstrom of the North Dakota Petroleum Council this spring. We did a tree planting utilizing the Planting for the Future Program. The process was very easy and enjoyable for us. We had a few young volunteers helping and it was fun to see them start to understand the importance of conservation.

We are strong advocates of wildlife conservation and have done many projects over the years with the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service utilizing such programs as CRP and EQIP. The Planting for the Future Program has provided another avenue of funding for us and hope it will be available for a very long time. Mountrail County is one of the largest oil producing counties in the state we are thrilled to see some of the funding return to us!

Thank you for supporting the Planting for the Future Program and being a part of something that will last for generations for both wildlife and people to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Wade & Cindy Williamson

August 30, 2021

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund
600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Hello,

I'm Andrew Mittleider of Tappen, ND. This past year I applied for trees and had the opportunity to work with Planting for The Future. It was and is an exciting time and program!

I enjoyed the time spent planning, prepping, planting and dreaming about the positive impacts this will have for the surrounding wildlife. Not only will it benefit nature, but the next generation as well.

I fully support Planting For The Future and hope to see it grow. Just like the trees that have been planted, it's worth the effort.

Thank you for the opportunities. They are greatly appreciated now, and In the future.

Andrew Mittleider

September 1, 2021

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund
600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

To Whom This May Concern:

I will start by introducing myself, my name is Jody Sommer and I am the Dakota Chapter Pheasants Forever President. I have been our chapter president for the past 6 years and have had the opportunity/privilege to be involved and help with several tree projects that have been sponsored by the ND Petroleum Foundation. I can speak on a firsthand basis the importance of the Planting for The Future Program.

I have personally witnessed tree's that were planted three and four years ago that are already providing habitat and shelter for wildlife. In addition to providing habitat and shelter they also prove as a food source for wildlife which is vital during some of our ND winters. Trees also serve as a defense against soil erosion and have ability to provide shade not only to wildlife but livestock as well.

I would like to share a story from about 5 years ago. It was a cold winter day as my wife and I were driving down a prairie trail on our property. At the time I was looking to see if wildlife was using the unharvested wheat bales we had left for them. In the side of the ditch we saw a couple pheasant in which my wife who is not a hunter or spends very little time in the country said those pheasant sure do look cold and miserable. As we continued to drive a little further she now witnessed pheasant that were huddles together under a grove of Ponderosa Pine in which her comment was they look much more comfortable. She continued by saying I always thought the countless hours you spend advocating for and developing habitat was kind of silly, I no longer think that as I can see just what a difference tree's and habitat provide for the survivability of wildlife.

With that I would like to close as I can't express the importance of trees to our ND landscape. The ND Petroleum Foundation has been so very instrumental in providing landowner's the opportunity to plant trees that may have never been planted if it were not for the Planting for the Future Program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jody Sommer