

# 20-10 - Grazing Resiliency in the Bakken (GRB) II

## Application Details

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**Funding Opportunity:** 19205-Outdoor Heritage Fund March 2022 - Round 20  
**Funding Opportunity Due Date:** Mar 1, 2022 11:59 PM  
**Program Area:** Outdoor Heritage Fund  
**Status:** Under Review  
**Stage:** Final Application

**Initial Submit Date:** Mar 1, 2022 12:57 PM  
**Initially Submitted By:** Jesse Beckers  
**Last Submit Date:**  
**Last Submitted By:**

## Contact Information

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### Primary Contact Information

**Active User\*:** Yes

**Type:** External User

**Name:** Salutation Jesse Middle Name Beckers  
First Name Last Name

**Title:** Energy Program Manager

**Email\*:** [jesse@naturalresourcestrust.com](mailto:jesse@naturalresourcestrust.com)

**Address\*:** 1605 East Capitol Avenue  
Suite 101  
  
Bismarck North Dakota 58501  
City State/Province 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 58501-2102  
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

**Phone\*:** (701) 223-8501 Ext.  
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**Fax:** (701) 223-6937  
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NCES#:

Restricted Indirect Cost Rate: 0.0%

Unrestricted Indirect Cost Rate: 0.0%

## Budget

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### Objective of Grant

#### Objective of Grant:

Provide landowners and ranchers the opportunity to increase their water supplies, implement fencing for rotational grazing systems, and implement cover crops to provide current and future drought resiliency.

#### Summary

Grant Request: \$1,970,000.00

Matching Funds: \$1,310,000.00

Total Project Costs: \$3,280,000.00

**You must have at least 25% match**

Percentage of Match: 39.94%

#### 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 | \$1,800,000.00        | \$30,000.00        | \$0.00                | \$0.00                 | \$1,200,000.00                | \$3,030,000.00             |
| Cover Crops                                 | \$60,000.00           | \$0.00             | \$0.00                | \$0.00                 | \$40,000.00                   | \$100,000.00               |
| Cultural Review                             | \$25,000.00           | \$0.00             | \$0.00                | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                        | \$25,000.00                |
| Contracted Services                         | \$60,000.00           | \$0.00             | \$0.00                | \$0.00                 | \$15,000.00                   | \$75,000.00                |
| Staffing                                    | \$25,000.00           | \$0.00             | \$25,000.00           | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                        | \$50,000.00                |
|   | <b>\$1,970,000.00</b> | <b>\$30,000.00</b> | <b>\$25,000.00</b>    | <b>\$0.00</b>          | <b>\$1,255,000.00</b>         | <b>\$3,280,000.00</b>      |

#### Budget Narrative

##### Budget Narrative:

Grazing Systems - Water and fence developments support request is \$1,800,000 and will follow the NRCS Office Tech Guidelines for Allowable Cost, with the full funding rate determined by the NRCS practice scenario amount. 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 \$30,000 for components that would be classified as equipment, such as portable power supplies, portable water delivery systems, and/or other unique grazing system practices. Cover Crops - The cover crop will be a minimum of 4 species and a maximum of 300 acres per contract. This will be a season long cover crop seeding. If haying is the management selected there shall be no haying before July 15 of each calendar year. The estimated cost per acre will be \$40. The proposal would provide up to \$24 per acre for actual cover crop seed cost and \$16 per acre will be provided as match by landowner for seedbed preparation, seeding and management. Cultural Review - Cultural Review request is \$25,000. All projects will be reviewed by

the 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 \$25,000 (20 reviews @ \$1,250). Any cultural review services not utilized for the described components above will be applied toward additional grazing systems or cover crops. Contracted Services - Agreements with the Trust would allow SCD's to be reimbursed for contracted services 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 based on actual time. Estimated overall costs are \$45,000 of OHF (75%) and \$15,000 of SCD In-kind (25%). The remaining \$20,000 will be utilized for funding promotional, marketing, and individual contractors to deliver GRB II. Any contracted services not utilized for the described components above will be applied toward additional grazing systems or cover crops. Staffing - The grant proposal requests \$25,000 in OHF funds for staffing costs for delivery. The Trust will provide an equal amount of \$25,000. As the Trust work with landowners and producers in delivering the GRB II, 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. All staffing costs will be based on actual costs of time and benefits.

**Bid Attachments**

| Description        | File Name | Type | Size | Upload Date |
|--------------------|-----------|------|------|-------------|
| No files attached. |           |      |      |             |

**Match Funding**

| Match Amount          | Funding Source                       | Match Type |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| \$30,000.00           | North Dakota Natural Resources Trust | Cash       |
| \$25,000.00           | North Dakota Natural Resources Trust | In-Kind    |
| \$15,000.00           | Contracted Services                  | In-Kind    |
| \$1,240,000.00        | Landowners                           | In-Kind    |
| <b>\$1,310,000.00</b> |                                      |            |

**Description**

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**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\*:**

In August 2021, the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust was awarded OHF funding to support the objectives of the Grazing Resiliency in the Bakken Program. Included in these objectives was support for the development of conservation based grazing systems. Since the inception of the GRB program, the funding available for these practices has been fully subscribed. As of February 17, 2022, the majority of the GRB counties are in a moderate to extreme drought (NDSU Drought Monitor). Since 2020, drought conditions in North Dakota has motivated landowners to adopt more resilient drought adapted practices which often includes incorporating cross fencing, water developments, and cover crops to support rotational grazing practices. This program provides an

opportunity to continue on the successes of the Bakken Development and Working Lands Program (BDWLP) and the first iteration of GRB. GRB II will provide assistance for rotational grazing and other range management practices with landowners 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 SCD's and other conservation partners, landowners wishing to implement management practices to make their range more resilient will be offered grazing management assistance in the form of grazing management and technical assistance needed to effectively implement these practices. Funding from the GRB II program will be used to provide cost share support for fencing, water developments, and cover crops. Over the course of this grant, we anticipate servicing at least 60 landowners and impacting tens of 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

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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 I & II and GRB I, previously approved by the OHF Advisory Board, were intended to meet the surplus demand for range improvements in western North Dakota. GRB II will continue to provide a major opportunity to engage surface owners and oil and gas companies operating in western North Dakota with conservation practices. Due to the dry fall of 2020, drought conditions through 2021, and expected drought conditions in western North Dakota in 2022, all OHF dollars for grassland fence and water practices in the GRB I grant have been obligated. All funds for cover crops in BDWLP II have also been obligated due to high demand. The Trust and our delivery partners are consistently receiving new requests for water and fence cost share and cover crops for the upcoming 2022 growing season, demonstrating that the need for additional funding for these activities is critical during this time of weather condition uncertainty. 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. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also provides opportunities to improve grazing systems through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), but the projects that are covered by BDWLP and GRB often do not qualify for EQIP funding. 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 through EQIP. 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 and for grazing development and cover crop 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), 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 through aftermath grazing 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, as well as maximize the effectiveness of the added fence and water systems.

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 and other conservation partners. Landowners will be informed about practices offered by the GRB II as well as other programs that offer agricultural infrastructure development options, conservation wildlife habitat, cover crops, grass plantings, and NDGFD PLOTS opportunities. Funding for cover crops is requested as part of this grant since all other BDWLP cover crop funds have been obligated, however grass seeding cost share is still available through BDWLP II. All grant funds will be paid as agreements and development activities are completed and proper documentation is supplied to the Trust. GRB 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 prioritization is required to determine the best projects, local SCD's 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 II is an expansion of the grazing systems portion of GRB I, and the cover crop portion of 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 GRB I have been committed to projects and landowners, but the demand for the program and services provided has continued. 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 in GRB I for grazing systems, and Bakken II for cover crops, 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 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, such as 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

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**Tasks**

| Task   | Start Date | Completion Date |
|--|------------|-----------------|
| Administer grant and coordinate with SCD's and other delivery partners to implement agreements | 04/01/2022 | 03/31/2025      |
| Communicate with OHF representative and complete semi-annual reports                           | 04/01/2022 | 03/31/2027      |
| Complete final documentation and submission to OHF   | 01/01/2027 | 03/31/2027      |
| OHF Promotion  | 04/01/2022 | 03/31/2027      |

**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

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**Deliverables**

| Deliverable     | Quantity | Unit of Measurement, if applicable |
|-----------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Cover Crop      | 2500     | Acres                              |
| Feet of Fencing | 75000    | Feet                               |
| Grazing Systems | 35000    | Acres                              |
| Water Pipeline  | 50000    | Feet                               |
| Water Tanks     | 50       |                                    |
| Water Wells     | 25       |                                    |

## Certification

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### *Certification*

**Certification:** Yes  
**Name:** Jesse Beckers  
First Name Last Name  
**Title:** Energy Program Manager  
Title  
**Date:** 03/01/2022

### *Internal Application Number*

#ID: 20-10

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# Grazing Resiliency in the Bakken II Eligible Counties Map

