

20-11 - North Dakota Partners For Wildlife Project 2

Application Details

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 1:32 PM
Initially Submitted By: Terry Allbee
Last Submit Date: Mar 7, 2022 12:07 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
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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

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

Provide a diverse partnership through cost-share for wetland restorations/creations, grazing systems, cover crops and grass seeding to achieve natural resources and agricultural benefits.

Summary

Grant Request: \$1,016,500.00

Matching Funds: \$718,300.00

Total Project Costs: \$1,734,800.00

You must have at least 25% match

Percentage of Match: 41.41%

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 Restoration/Creation	\$37,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	\$70,000.00
Grazing Systems	\$900,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$1,510,000.00
Grass Restoration	\$18,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,200.00	\$34,800.00
Cover Crop	\$36,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	\$60,000.00
Contracted Services/Support	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Staffing	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$45,000.00
	\$1,016,500.00	\$38,600.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$664,700.00	\$1,734,800.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

Wetland restoration/creation cost-share will be based on \$1,250 per acre with a 40 acre goal. OHF would provide \$937.50 (75%) per acre and ND PFW would provide \$312.50 (25%) per acre. Any costs over \$1,250 per acre will be provided by ND PFW. These costs will include design, construction, materials, vegetation establishment and all associated costs necessary to complete the work. Payment will be based on actual costs of the construction activity. In addition to the cost-share, the Trust will provide an one-time incentive payment to landowner willing to restore/create wetlands at \$500 per acre rate. Grazing systems, including fencing and water developments, will follow the NRCS Office Tech Guide Allowable Cost, with the full funding rate determined by NRCS's practice scenario amount. Fencing will be provided to landowners at 60% cost-share payment based on 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 be responsible for providing the remaining 40% cost-share on both fence and water. The Trust and ND PFW will provide an additional 60% cost-share for components that would be classified as equipment, such as portable power supplies, portable water delivery systems, and/or other

unique practices, if deemed necessary, for the completion of the grazing system. The goal is 16,000 acres. Grass restoration will provide cost-share based on total seeding and management costs. The native/tame grass seed cost is estimated at \$100 per acre (OHF \$75/acre, Trust/\$15 and PFW \$10/acre). The ND PFW will fund any additional seed costs over \$100 per acre up to \$125 per acre. Landowners will provide \$45 per acre in match for seedbed preparation, seeding, and establishment management. The goal is to restore 240 acres of grassland. The majority of the landowners will be planting native, multi-species perennial grasses and/or introduced perennial and native mixes. The total OHF cost-share amount will follow the NRCS Field Office Tech Guide Allowable Costs. Cover crop treatment practices will provide cost-share for the costs of seed bed preparation, seeding, seed and management costs estimated at \$40 per acre. This would be split with OHF paying up to \$24 per acre (60%) for the actual cover crop seed and the landowner will provide up to \$16 per acre (40%) for seedbed preparation, seeding and management. The goal is to plant 1,500 acres of cover crops. Contracted services/support request is \$10,000 for any additionally required contracted services for items such as engineering, cultural resources, surveys, project promotion, marketing, specialized equipment rentals, soil testing, habitat assessments, partnership coordination meetings and for any additional delivery and/or program monitoring. Any contracted services request not utilized would be applied toward additional conservation practices. The Trust will provide a cash match of \$5,000 toward outreach, education, support, and workshops that help landowners receive information about technical assistance and the availability of the grant proposal activities. This grant proposal is requesting staffing funding of \$15,000 from OHF for this proposal. The remaining staffing costs will be provided by Trust in the amount of \$15,000 and ND PFW in the amount of \$15,000. All staffing costs will be based on actual time and benefits.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
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No files attached.

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$14,900.00	Partners For Fish and Wildlife	Cash
\$634,800.00	Landowners	Cash
\$15,000.00	Partners For Fish and Wildlife	In-Kind
\$38,600.00	NDNRT	Cash
\$15,000.00	NDNRT	In-Kind
\$718,300.00		

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*:

This proposal titled North Dakota Partners for Wildlife Project 2 (NDPWP2) brings together federal, state, non governmental organizations, and private landowners to help improve and conserve natural resources on privately owned land across North Dakota. With flexibility and common sense at it's core, this collaborative effort will offer cost-share on a range of practices including wetland restoration/creations, grazing systems, grassland restoration and cover crops. This is the second phase of this highly successful project with nearly all funds from the first project approved in September 2020 either spent or obligated. With the rapidly rising costs of grazing infrastructure, we believe that landowner interest in these programs will be of high demand for the foreseeable future. While the practices proposed here will be offered to landowners statewide, priority will be given to those acres of North Dakota with highest waterfowl production potential. These are areas of the state with higher wetland and grassland densities. If funded, this voluntary, landowner-based program will improve grazing management on at least 16,000 acres, restoration/creation 40 acres of wetlands, restore 240 acres of marginal cropland to grassland and improve soil health on 1,500 acres with diverse cover crop plantings. The project will be managed by the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (Trust). The Trust and US Fish and Wildlife Service's North Dakota Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (ND PFW) will work cooperatively to deliver these grant proposal activities. The funding request from OHF is \$1,016,500 with a total project cost of \$1,734,800.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

4 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 private property rights 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. The ND PFW Program has a long history of working closely with private landowners, providing financial and technical assistance through voluntary conservation efforts to restore, enhance and create wetland and grassland habitats on private land. The ND PFW Program works with private landowners through short-term (10 year) conservation agreements to foster partnerships on working lands that help conserve important wildlife habitat and provide economic benefits for North Dakota's farmers and ranchers and other private landowners. The ND PFW Program in North Dakota was established in 1987. The ND PFW Program is known nationwide as one of the leading Federal programs that promotes and implements voluntary, incentive-based community-based stewardship for fish and wildlife conservation.

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*:

Over the next four-year time frame, the goal of NDPWP2 program is to restore and enhance private agricultural property through voluntary wetland, grassland and soil conservation practices statewide. The NDPWP2 will provide landowners a ten-year partnership agreement with buyback provisions on wetland restorations, grass restorations, and grazing systems highlighting agreement terms and cost-share amounts. The NDPWP2 will provide a one-year agreement on cover crops. Wetland Restoration/Creation: The NDPWP2 will utilize ND PFW standards for wetland restoration and/or creation. ND PFW standards for wetland restorations follow, and in many cases exceed, NRCS Wetland Restoration Standards. Where required by ND State law, ND PFW will manage permitting from ND State Water Commission for construction and/or water appropriation. NDPWP2 will cost-share wetland construction and the Trust will provide a one-time incentive payment based on actual surface acres of water. The Trust will make incentive payment to the landowner upon confirmation that all requirements are completed. Grass Seeding: The NDPWP2 will adhere to ND PFW grass seeding specifications and/or USDA-NRCS planting specifications. We will encourage the use of no-till grass drills when possible. A combination of warm and cool season

grasses will be obtained from a reputable seed dealer with weed-free assurance. The grass seeding will have a restriction of no haying prior to July 15th, with preference to delays until August 1 ND's Primary Nesting Season. The cost-share is based on total seeding and management costs. Grazing Systems: The NDPWP2 will provide funding for grazing system developments that include livestock water and fencing. The developments will be cost-shared at a rate of 60% from the grant and 40% from landowners. Technical advice will be provided to applicants and supporting partners and developed in consultation with landowners. Landowners will select the fence type that will best meet their operation need. Cost-share rates will be adjusted to accommodate the different fence types that are based on USDA Tech Guide Allowable costs. The Trust and ND PFW will provide additional cost-share for components of the grazing system that are not allowable under OHF guidelines. Cover Crops: The purpose for cost-sharing cover crops is for grassland restoration and soil health benefits. Using cover crops one year prior to restoring native grasslands supports site preparation and landowner one year of grazing use to ensure a successful grass seeding. The NDPWP2 will require a minimum of 4 species, a maximum of 320 acres per year and per landowner. The cost-share will be for full growing season cover crops. NDPWP2 will provide cost-share for the cover crop seed and landowner will provide match with seed-bed preparation and seeding. If haying is the management action selected, there shall be no haying before July 15. All seed mixes follow NRCS specifications. This proposal is an innovative approach to bring partners together to prioritize natural resource restoration and enhancements on privately-owned lands across ND. The NDPWP2 will provide private landowners with an opportunity to combine multiple conservation practices in a manner that assists them with achieving their desired management outcomes. Many of the conservation practices that will be implemented through the NDPWP2 complement one another and can be delivered in a manner that is not burdensome for landowners. All project activities will be selected by interested landowners and certain activities may be more popular than others. Because of this, we are asking that this grant provide the flexibility to adjust acreage goals and transfer funding to the activities based on practice demand. The OHF funds and match will remain at the same levels. All participating landowners will be informed about public hunting access opportunities through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's PLOTS program.

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 NDPWP2 proposal. The NDPWP2 will be offered throughout the entire state of North Dakota, with priority given to projects with the highest densities of wetland acres. The Trust will develop site specific agreements with landowners which will include a map defining boundaries, the payments amount, ND PFW 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 NDPWP2 from our office located in Bismarck, ND. The Trust and/or ND PFW will provide technical assistance to landowners, including wetland restoration design and construction management, grazing system technical assistance, cover crop and grass seeding window dates, seed mix design and post management recommendations. The Trust will provide tracking and reporting of all participant agreements following grant guidelines. The ND PFW Program has a staff of six biologists working to deliver voluntary private land conservation projects across the state. The ND PFW program focuses on migratory bird habitat as well as species of decline or special concern by working with private landowners to restore wetlands and grasslands, and implement rotational grazing systems. The ND PFW Program private lands biologists, located throughout ND, will assist and help deliver NDPWP2 to landowners. ND PFW assistance with this proposal will include financial assistance and technical assistance that includes actions such as providing grass seeding dates, designing seed mixes, recommendations for managing the grass, surveying wetlands, wetland construction oversight, etc. Evaluation of success of the NDPWP2 is directly related to landowner's enrollment into the program. High landowner interest is the key to the NDPWP2 success. The acreage goal can only be achieved by the willingness of landowners to enroll into the NDPWP2. The Trust will monitor all NDPWP2 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 NDPWP2 will only be available to private landowners. The NDPWP2 is a completely voluntary project that will focus on increasing wildlife habitat, increasing agricultural productivity and improving soil health. It is our vision in this proposal that landowners will select options to fit their farming/ranching operational goals by providing a modest cost-share and that these activities will be retained long after the NDPWP2 agreement has ended.

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

Partial Funding*:

The Trust thanks the OHF Advisory Board for considering our NDPWP2 proposal. This request of \$1,016,500 of OHF funds with an additional \$718,300 in match is very important for participating landowners. The Trust also recognizes that there is a downturn in the agricultural economy where market prices and operating capital are lower than desired. The NDPWP2 along with Trust and ND PFW bring additional cash resources to landowners to progressively enhance their operation in a natural resource-friendly manner. If the OHF Advisory Board recommends a reduction in funding from the original proposal, this will result in a lower number of agreements with landowners, less number of acres achieved, and a reduction in the amount of cash and in-kind match available by the Trust, PFW, 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*:

This NDPWP2 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 NDPWP2 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*:

Yes

If Yes, Please Provide Copies in a Single File:

[ND PFW Support Letter and Map.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
1) Coordination Meetings	05/01/2022	12/31/2023
2) Promotion	05/01/2022	06/30/2025
3) Landowner Coordination	05/01/2022	04/30/2026
4) Progress and Budget Tracking	05/01/2022	04/30/2026

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

1) Coordination meetings with Trust and ND PFW staff. Discuss all delivery options, priorities, locations, details and funds available for NDPWP2. 2) Promotion of NDPWP2 with landowners & other conservation partners. 3) Provide one-on-one planning and technical assistance to landowners. Complete project management, expense documentation and project completion checkout. 4) Track the budget and obligation of grant and match. Complete all budget and progress reporting for NDPWP2.

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Cover Crops	1500	Acres
Grass Restoration/Seeding	240	Acres
Grazing Systems	16000	Acres
Wetland Restoration/Creation	40	Acres

Certification

Certification

Certification: Yes

Name: TERRY ALLBEE
First Name Last Name

Title: Business Manager/Biologist
Title

Date: 09/01/2020

Internal Application Number

#ID: 20-11

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
North Dakota Partners for Fish and Wildlife Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R6

September 1, 2020

Karlene Fine, Executive Director
North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: North Dakota Partners for Wildlife Project

Dear Ms. Fine:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's North Dakota Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program fully supports the North Dakota Partners for Wildlife Project (NDPWP) OHF grant proposal. The USFWS has a long history of working closely with private landowners, providing financial and technical assistance on voluntary conservation efforts to restore, enhance and create wetland and grassland habitat on private land. The ND PFW program works closely with private landowners to foster partnerships on working lands that help conserve important wildlife habitat and also provide economic benefits for North Dakota's farmers and ranchers and other private landowners. Our approach is simple: Engage willing partners through non-regulatory incentives to conserve fish and wildlife values on their property. The ND PFW program was established in 1987 and since that time has worked on more than 4,200 habitat projects with more than 3,200 North Dakota farmers, ranchers and other private landowners.

The ND PFW program stands ready to assist our partners at the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust in working with willing landowners to deliver the NDPWP across North Dakota. The ND PFW program is providing \$44,500 in cash and \$20,000 in in-kind match to assist with the delivery of the NDPWP. North Dakota PFW staff working throughout North Dakota have successfully worked alongside landowners, the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust and other conservation agencies and organizations to implement all of the conservation practices outlined in the NDPWP proposal. We know through experience that demand for these practices within the project area remains high and feel this project will be successful, if approved for funding.

Sincerely,

SCOTT MCLEOD Digitally signed by SCOTT MCLEOD
Date: 2020.09.01 14:56:34 -05'00'

Scott McLeod
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ND Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, State Coordinator

INTERIOR REGION 5 MISSOURI BASIN

KANSAS, MONTANA*, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA,
SOUTH DAKOTA

*PARTIAL

INTERIOR REGION 7 UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, WYOMING

NORTH DAKOTA PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE

