

# Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



## Instructions

After completing the form, applications and supporting documentation may be submitted by e-mail to [ndicgrants@nd.gov](mailto:ndicgrants@nd.gov). It is preferred that only electronic copies are submitted.

You are not limited to the spacing provided, except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. If you need additional space, please indicate that on the application form, answer the question on a separate page, and include with your submission.

The application and all attachments must be received by the application deadline. You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications prior to the deadline for staff review in order ensure that proposals will be complete when submitted on deadline date.** Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding.

**Please review the back of this form to determine project eligibility, definitions, budget criteria, and statutory requirements.**

Project Name	NDSF – Tree Planting
Name of Organization	North Dakota State Fair
Federal Tax ID#	45-6013410
Contact Person/Title	Daryl Fry / Contracts & Events Coordinator
Address	PO Box 1796
City	Minot
State	ND
Zip Code	58702-1796
E-mail Address	Daryl@ndstatefair.com
Web Site Address (If applicable)	ndstatefair.com
Phone	701.857.7620 ex 803

List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal

**MAJOR Directive:**

Choose only one response

- Directive A.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

**Additional Directive:**

Choose all that apply

- Directive A.**
- Directive B.**
- Directive C.**
- Directive D.**

**Type of organization:**

- State Agency**
- Political Subdivision
- Tribal Entity
- Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

**Abstract/Executive Summary.**

Summarize the project, including its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants. (no more than 500 words)

*The North Dakota State Fair seeks to remove dead & dying trees across the NDSF Fairgrounds and replace them with additional trees, placing them in areas to provide additional shelter and windbreaks in camping areas.*

**Project Duration:** *The project will start and be completed in the Fall of 2025.*

**Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.**

*If approved, funding would be drawn down as construction is completed.*

**Amount of Grant request: \$100,000.00**

**Total Project Costs: \$125,000.00**

Note: in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds.

**Amount of Matching Funds: \$ 25,000.00**

**A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required.** Indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash. Please provide verification that these matching funds are available for your project. Note that effective as of July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose.

Amount of Match	Funding Source	Type of Match (Cash, In-kind or Indirect)
\$25,000.00	NDSF Assn.	Cash
\$		
\$		
\$		
\$		
\$		

**Certifications**

I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted in the back of this application.

## **Narrative**

### **Organization Information – Briefly summarize your organization’s history, mission, current programs and activities.**

Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement. (no more than 300 words)

*The 1<sup>st</sup> official North Dakota State Fair was hosted in 1966. The NDSF Association was created for the purpose of conducting an annual North Dakota state fair and for the purpose of exhibiting at such fair the agricultural, stockbreeding, horticultural, mining, mechanical, industrial and other products and resources of North Dakota. The State Fair Association consists of three members from each county in the state chosen for one-year terms. One member from each county is selected by the county fair board, the second by the board of county commissioners, and the third by the county agent. The board of directors, which manages the affairs of the North Dakota State Fair Association, consists of nine members elected to staggered three-year terms from the association membership.*

*The Board of Directors employs a Fair Manager to administer the State Fair. The State Fair Association is headquartered at the North Dakota State Fair Grounds in Minot and sponsors an annual State Fair to exhibit and promote the agricultural, horticultural, industrial, mechanical, mining, poultry, stockbreeding, and other products and resources of North Dakota, and to provide a variety of entertainment and other amusements for fair visitors.*

*The association cooperates in year-round promotion of 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and agricultural and industrial enhancements in order to provide a venue and event which showcases the achievements of those agencies and industries for North Dakota.*

*2023 set an all-time record attendance for the annual NDSF event with 356,354 people attending.*

### **Purpose of Grant – 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.

Is this project part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?  Yes  No

If yes, provide a copy with the application.

*Note: Projects involving buildings and infrastructure will only be considered if part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Please refer to the "Definitions" section at the back of the form for more details.*

*The NDSF staff have identified several dead and dying trees which need removal. Upon the removal of these designated trees, the NDSF would like to plant twice as many trees as those being removed. New trees will be placed along the Minot Riverwalk and in proximity to the NDSF Camping lots in an effort to provide shade, windbreaks, and aesthetics.*

*Because the NDSF is a state agency and as part of the relationship with the ND Game & Fish, all buildings adhere to the guidance of the Statewide Wildlife Action Plan. Please see the attached synopsis sheet.*

**Management of Project – 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.

*The North Dakota State Fair has experienced staff, which works cooperatively and efficiently to achieve desired results. The NDSF Construction Management Team is composed of experienced electrical, plumbing, and construction backgrounds. The NDSF Construction Management Team will be acting in a General Contractor role, coordinating tree removal with contractors and planting trees with new ones.*

**Evaluation – Describe your plan to document progress and results.**

Please be specific on the methods you will utilize to measure success. Note that regular reporting, final evaluation and expenditure reports will be required for every grant awarded.

*The NDSF Construction Management Team has established a timeline for project completion. Reports for the project will produced and documented by various members of the NDSF Construction Management Team on a weekly basis until complete. Financials, reports, and on-site visits will be reviewed at this weekly meeting. Success will be determined by meeting the Construction Management Team's timeline.*

**Financial Information**

**Project Budget – Use the table below to provide an itemized list of project expenses and describe the matching funds being utilized for this project.**

Indicate if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. **A minimum of 25% match funding is required.** An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Certain values have been identified for in-kind services as detailed under “Budget Information” at the back of this form. Refer to that section and utilize these values in identifying your matching funds. **NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded. Supporting documentation for project expenses, including bids, must be included or application will be considered incomplete.**

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Tree Removal	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$	\$	\$	\$62,500
Tree Planting	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$	\$	\$	\$62,500
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

Note: Costs for seeding, fencing, pipelines, wells, and cover crops cannot exceed NRCS Field Office Tech Guide without justification. Projects involving perimeter fencing must follow NRCS eligibility standards.

**Budget Narrative – Use the space below to provide additional detail regarding project expenses.**

**Sustainability – 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.

*The NDSF fairgrounds and camping lots are owned by the State of North Dakota and maintained by the North Dakota State Fair Association in perpetuity.*

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

*The North Dakota State Fair Association is asking for support of this project to a degree that the committee determines. This project will achieve completion by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 if funding is approved. This project will most likely be tabled until funding for tree replacement becomes available.*

**Partnership Recognition - 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.**

*The North Dakota State Fair Association and the Outdoor Heritage Fund would determine how to recognize the partnership mutually. Social Media posts, media outlets, and signage acknowledging funding sources would be upon the determination of all groups.*

**Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>.**

Can you meet all the provisions of the sample contract?  Yes  No

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:

## **ABOUT OHF:**

The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations, with higher priority given to projects that enhance **conservation** practices in this state by:

**Directive A.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

**Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

**Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

**Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

## **EXEMPTIONS**

Outdoor Heritage Fund grants may not be used to finance the following:

- Litigation;
- Lobbying activities;
- Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code.

OHF funds may not be used, except after a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission, to finance:

- A completed project or project commenced before the grant application is submitted;
- A feasibility or research study;
- Maintenance costs;
- A paving project for a road or parking lot;
- A swimming pool or aquatic park;
- Personal property that is not affixed to the land;
- Playground equipment, except that grant funds may be provided for up to 25% of the cost of the equipment not exceeding \$10,000 per project and all playground equipment grants may not exceed 5% of the total grants per year (see Definitions/Clarifications for how this will be calculated);
- Staffing or outside consultants except for costs for staffing or an outside consultant to design and implement an approved project based on the documented need of the applicant and the expenditures may not exceed 5% of the grant to a grantee if the grant exceeds \$250,000 and expenditures may not exceed 10% of the grant to a grantee if the grant is \$250,000 or less (see Definitions/Clarifications for how this will be calculated);
- A building except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project (see Definitions/Clarifications for definition of comprehensive conservation plan and new or expanded recreational project); or
- A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of the project.

The goal of the Industrial Commission is that at a minimum 15% of the funding received for a biennium will be given priority for recreation projects that meet Directive D.

The following projects are not eligible for funding, unless there is a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission include:

- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor ice rinks,
- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor athletic courts and sports fields,
- Other substantially similar facilities.
- Infrastructure that is not part of a comprehensive conservation plan.
- Projects not meeting a minimum funding request of \$2,500.

## Budget Information

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Permanent Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment)
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example, the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program, please use those rates and note your source.

### **Definitions/Clarifications:**

**Building** - Defined as "A structure with a roof either with walls or without walls and is attached to the ground in a permanent nature."

**Comprehensive Conservation Plan** - Defined as "A detailed plan that has been formally adopted by the governing board which includes goals and objectives--both short and long term, must show how this building will enhance the overall conservation goals of the project and the protection or preservation of wildlife and fish habitat or natural areas." This does not need to be a complex multi-page document. It could be included as a part of the application or be an attachment.

**New and Expanded Recreational Project** means that the proposed building cannot be a replacement of a current building. The proposed building must also be related to either a new or expanded recreational project--either an expansion in land or an expansion of an existing building or in the opportunities for recreation at the project site.

**Playground equipment calculation** - Only the actual costs of the playground equipment (a bid or invoice showing the amount of the equipment costs must be provided) - cannot include freight or installation or surface materials or removal of old equipment, etc.

**Staffing/Outside Consultants Costs** - If you are requesting OHF funding for staffing or for an outside consultant, you must provide information in your application on the need for OHF funding to cover these costs. For example, if you are an entity that has engineering staff you must explain why you don't have sufficient staff to do the work or if specific expertise is needed or whatever the reason is for your entity to retain an outside consultant. If it is a request for reimbursement for staff time then a written explanation is required in the application of why OHF funding is needed to pay for the costs of that staff member(s) time. **The budget form must reflect on a separate line item the specific amount that is being requested for staffing and/or the hiring of an outside consultant.** This separate line item will then be used to make the calculation of 5% or 10% as outlined in the law. Note that the calculation will be made on the grant less the costs for the consultant or staff.

**Maintenance** - Activities that preserve or keep infrastructure in a given existing condition, including repairs. Repair means to restore to sound condition after damage, to renew or refresh; except repairs due to damage caused by Acts of God.

## Scoring of Grants

**Oral Presentation.** Please note that you will be given an opportunity to make a ten-minute Oral Presentation at a meeting of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board. These presentations are strongly encouraged.

**Open Record.** Please note that your application and any attachments will be open records as defined by law and will be posted on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund website.

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking form that will be used by the Board is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> .

## **Awarding of Grants**

All decisions on requests will be reported to applicants no later than 30 days after Industrial Commission consideration. The Commission can set a limit on duration of an offer on each application or if there isn't a specific date indicated in the application for implementation of the project, then the applicant has until the next Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board regular meeting to sign the contract and get the project underway or the commitment for funding will be terminated and the applicant may resubmit for funding. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.

## **Responsibility of Recipient**

The recipient of any grant from the Industrial Commission must use the funds awarded for the specific purpose described in the grant application and in accordance with the contract. The recipient cannot use any of the funds for the purposes stated under Exemptions on the first page of this application.

If you have any questions about the application, the Commission can be reached at 701-328-3722 or [outdoorheritage@nd.gov](mailto:outdoorheritage@nd.gov).

Revised: November 4, 2019, April 12, 2023

# NORTH DAKOTA STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

2015

## SYNOPSIS

February 2016



This is a summary of the 2015 North Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The SWAP is a comprehensive document and this synopsis should not be used to replace the SWAP.

### **WHAT IS NORTH DAKOTA'S STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN?**

The 2015 North Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan replaces the 2005 North Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as the principle document for safeguarding rare and declining fish and wildlife species in North Dakota. This newer second "edition" not only has a different name, but has been revised to include new information generated by State Wildlife Grant (SWG) studies conducted over the past 10 years. Examples include, but are not limited to, changes to the species of conservation priority list, focus areas, range/distribution maps, threats and management actions.

The SWAP is built upon eight essential elements, with an overall focus on the "species of greatest conservation need," or as we have labeled them, "species of conservation priority." The eight elements include: (1) information on the distribution and abundance of wildlife species, including low and declining populations; (2) descriptions of locations and relative condition of key habitats and community types; (3) problems affecting species and priority research or survey efforts needed; (4) conservation actions needed to conserve the identified

species; (5) plans for monitoring species and the effectiveness of conservation actions; (6) plans for reviewing the plan; (7) coordinating with federal, state and local agencies and Tribal government on the development and implementation of the plan; (8) and involve broad public participation.

The number of species of conservation priority increased from 100 under the old plan to 115 in the current SWAP. While 20 new species were added to the list, five species were removed. The current list includes 47 birds, two amphibians, nine reptiles, 21 mammals, 22 fish, 10 freshwater mussels and four insects. It is important to recognize that species of conservation priority often depend on several habitat types or landscape components for survival. The key to ensuring their long-term survival is to maintain diverse grasslands, wetlands, woodlands, rivers and streams. These habitats cannot be reduced to certain isolated areas, but must occur over a broad landscape.

Completion of the SWAP marks the 10-year anniversary of the first dedicated program for rare and declining fish and wildlife species in North Dakota. Although substantial progress was made in the past decade, considerable work remains. As North Dakota is experiencing widespread habitat threats and challenges, the SWAP will serve as an important tool in dealing with these issues.

Furthermore, preventing species

from becoming listed as federally threatened or endangered is important. A listing has the potential to influence how public and private land is managed and used. The cost of protection or restoration of a listed species is far greater than preventing its decline in the first place. From an ecological perspective, loss of a seemingly insignificant species can cause other animals to decline, or vanish. Such declines are hard to predict as many relationships are not yet well understood. Even so, animals that live in North Dakota are part of the state's legacy, and many people believe the demise of any species is tragic.

### **SPECIES OF CONSERVATION PRIORITY**

Once a species was designated as a SCP they were placed in one of three Levels. The levels were designated as a way to prioritize funding for SWG projects. The levels are defined as follows:

- **Level I:** Species in decline and receive little or no monetary support or conservation efforts. North Dakota Game and Fish Department has a clear obligation to use SWG funding to implement conservation actions that directly benefit these species. Level I species are those having a:
  - high level of conservation priority because of declining status either here or across their range –OR–
  - high rate of occurrence in North Dakota constituting the core of the species breeding range (i.e. "responsibility" species), but are at-risk range wide

– Level II: North Dakota Game and Fish Department will use SWG funding to implement conservation actions to benefit these species if SWG funding for Level I species is sufficient of conservation needs have been met. Level II species are those having a:

- moderate level of conservation priority –OR–
- high level of conservation priority, but a substantial level of non-SWG funding is available to them

• Level III: North Dakota's species having a moderate level of conservation priority, but are believed to be

peripheral or nonbreeding in North Dakota.

The important message to remember is regardless of level assignment, all species on the list are of concern for various reasons and there is an urgency to sustain them on North Dakota's landscape.



Chestnut-collared longspur



Short-horned lizard



Monarch butterfly

BIRDS	LEVEL	BIRDS (con't.)	LEVEL	INSECTS	LEVEL
American Avocet	II	Upland Sandpiper	II	Dakota Skipper	II
American Bittern	I	Western Meadowlark	II	Poweshiek Skipperling	II
American Kestrel	II	Whooping Crane	III	Monarch Butterfly	I
American White Pelican	II	Willet	II	Regal Fritillary	I
Baird's Sparrow	I	Wilson's Phalarope	I	<b>FISH</b>	
Bald Eagle	II	Yellow Rail	I	Blacknose Shiner	III
Black Tern	I	<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		Blue Sucker	I
Black-billed Cuckoo	I	Canadian Toad	I	Burbot	II
Bobolink	II	Plains Spadefoot	I	Carmine Shiner	III
Brewer's Sparrow	III	<b>REPTILES</b>		Chestnut Lamprey	III
Burrowing Owl	II	False Map Turtle	III	Finescale Dace	III
Canvasback	II	Northern Prairie Skink	III	Flathead Chub	II
Chestnut-collared Longspur	I	Plains Hog-nosed Snake	I	Hornyhead Chub	III
Dickcissel	II	Sagebrush Lizard	III	Largescale Stoneroller	III
Ferruginous Hawk	I	Short-horned Lizard	II	Logperch	III
Franklin's Gull	I	Smooth Green Snake	I	Northern Pearl Dace	I
Golden Eagle	II	Smooth Softshell	III	Northern Redbelly Dace	II
Grasshopper Sparrow	I	Snapping Turtle	II	Paddlefish	II
Greater Prairie Chicken	II	Spiny Softshell	III	Pallid Sturgeon	II
Greater Sage-grouse	I	<b>MAMMALS</b>		Pugnose Shiner	III
Horned Grebe	I	American Marten	II	River Darter	III
Lark Bunting	I	Arctic Shrew	III	Sicklefin Chub	I
Le Conte's Sparrow	II	Big Brown Bat	I	Silver Chub	II
Least Tern (Interior)	II	Black-footed Ferret	II	Silver Lamprey	III
Lesser Scaup	II	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	I	Sturgeon Chub	I
Loggerhead Shrike	II	Eastern Spotted Skunk	III	Trout-perch	II
Long-billed Curlew	I	Gray Fox	III	Yellow Bullhead	III
Marbled Godwit	I	Hispid Pocket Mouse	III	<b>MUSSELS</b>	
McCown's Longspur	III	Little Brown Bat	I	Black Sandshell	II
Nelson's Sparrow	I	Long-eared Bat	III	Creek Heelsplitter	I
Northern Harrier	II	Long-legged Bat	III	Creeper	III
Northern Pintail	II	Merriam's Shrew	III	Deertoe	III
Peregrine Falcon	III	Northern Long-eared Bat	I	Fragile Papershell	III
Piping Plover	II	Plains Pocket Mouse	III	Mapleleaf	III
Prairie Falcon	II	Pygmy Shrew	II	Pink Heelsplitter	II
Red-headed Woodpecker	I	Richardson's Ground Squirrel	II	Pink Papershell	I
Red Knot (Rufa)	III	River Otter	II	Threeridge	II
Sharp-tailed Grouse	II	Sagebrush Vole	III	Wabash Pigtoe	II
Short-eared Owl	II	Swift Fox	II		
Sprague's Pipit	I	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	I		
Swainson's Hawk	I	Western Small-footed Bat	III		

## HABITAT

North Dakota's natural habitat was predominantly prairie. Over the past 150-plus years, the landscape has changed dramatically. Although tracts of native prairie still exist in many areas, they are traversed by a road nearly every mile. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the prairie and wetlands have been plowed or drained. Numerous tree shelterbelts were planted to help reduce erosion and protect farmsteads, which provides habitat for some species, but may interfere with the lifecycle of others, such as grassland nesting birds. Several large reservoirs were constructed, including Lake Sakakawea, which altered the natural flooding cycle of the Missouri River, North Dakota's largest riparian system. The landscape described by many early explorers and pioneers has changed considerably. North Dakota is not the vast expanse of treeless prairie it once was. There is, however, great potential to protect, conserve and enhance what remains and restore what was lost.



Nine landscape components encompassing the major habitat types of North Dakota were identified in the SWAP. There are a variety of grassland habitat types, including native or uncultivated land, and planted grasslands. The major grassland landscape components are **Tallgrass Prairie (Red River Valley)**, **Eastern Mixed-grass Prairie (Drift Prairie)**, **Mixed-grass Prairie (Missouri Coteau)**, and **Western Mixed-grass/Short-grass Prairie (Missouri Slope)**. In addition, **Planted or Tame Grassland**, has been identified as a major grassland landscape component. These grasslands are located across

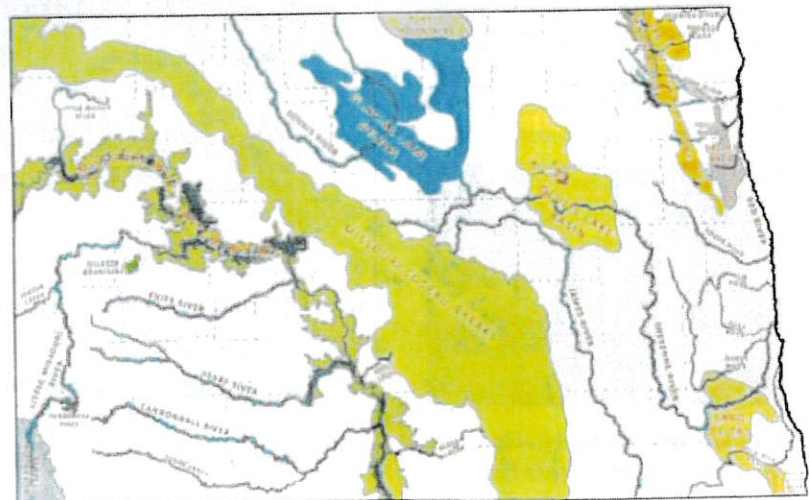
the state. The other major landscape components are **Wetlands and Lakes; Rivers, Streams and Riparian; Badlands; and Upland Forest**.



In some cases there was sufficient information or reason to identify focus areas within a particular landscape component. Focus areas typically exhibited unique or easily identifiable differences in vegetation, soils, topography, hydrology or land use. Focus areas are highly variable in size and often represent an area of native vegetation or a natural community type rare to North Dakota. A total of 21 focus areas were identified. Note that no specific focus areas were identified within the wetlands and lakes and badlands landscapes, but that does not imply these are not important habitats. More than one million wetlands are scattered across North Dakota and all wetland types are important for wildlife and hydrophyte plants, water storage and water quality. Wetlands are included as a key component within identified focus areas.

## CONSERVATION ACTIONS

There are various reasons why a particular species may be declining or at-risk. Threats impacting species are wide-ranging, including but not limited to direct conversion of habitat (e.g. from urban, cropland, or energy development), invasive or detrimental plants and noxious weeds, fire or fire suppression, wetland consolidation, or even anthropomorphic related, such as noise and light pollution. The SWAP provides detailed description of threats and conservation



Focus areas

actions for each of the major landscape components and species specific management recommendations. The focus must remain on solutions to preventing species from becoming federally threatened or endangered. There are five recurrent conservation actions identified throughout all major landscape components that will make this happen.

**1. Offer incentives and programs to protect, enhance, and restore habitat.**

The majority of land in North Dakota is held in private ownership. There are numerous federal, state and local programs to provide landowners, with cost-sharing assistance to protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitat. This is the primary mechanism for ensuring long-term conservation of SCP and other wildlife in North Dakota. North Dakota Game and Fish Department staff will work with partners to ensure programs are fully encompassing the needs to conserve SCP and expand programs where necessary, particularly farm bill programs, such as the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and pollinator habitat programs.

**2. Urge ecologically responsible ordinances and suitable reclamation standards.**

Increasing demand for urban, energy and utility development is heightening the need to minimize impacts to SCP and other wildlife. Although environmental review is provided by federal and state agencies, the recommendations are often unheeded. Ecologically sound ordinances and reclamation standards must be strengthened and utilized.



**3. Promote and support holistic grazing and work with grass-based agricultural groups.**

The majority of the SCP are grassland dependent. The key to maintaining grassland as an integral part of the North Dakota landscape is to ensure grassland ranching persists. Furthermore, prairies evolved with grazing by large ungulates and cattle grazing is a beneficial tool to maintain native vegetation, particularly if applied in a holistic manner.



**4. Use best management practices or ecological site descriptions.**

Experts in various fields have developed best management practices for a particular habitat component. The Natural Resources Conservation Services has developed ecological site descriptions, which describe the composition and ecological

function of a historic plant community, and use a state and transition model to help managers understand



how plant communities will respond to changes in management. These valuable tools should be employed when restoring or managing native communities. Additionally, managers should consider implications of climate change when planning and implementing a management practice.

**5. Public education and outreach.**

The key to successful implementation of wildlife conservation for public use and enjoyment depends upon their awareness, understanding and appreciation of these resources. Ecological services provide values to the public that they are likely unaware of in their daily lives.

**Where to find more information...**

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN**  
<http://gf.nd.gov/wildlife/swap>

**SPECIES OF CONSERVATION PRIORITY**  
<http://gf.nd.gov/wildlife/scp>

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS**  
<http://gf.nd.gov/wildlife/swg>

Contact the SWAP authors:

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