

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



Instructions

After completing the form, applications and supporting documentation may be submitted by e-mail to 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: Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems

Name of Organization: Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Federal Tax ID#: 13-5643799

Contact Person/Title: Dane Buysse / Regional Biologist

Address: 2525 River Road

City: Bismarck

State: North Dakota

Zip Code: 58503

E-mail Address: dbuysse@ducks.org

Web Site Address: www.ducks.org

Phone: Office:701-355-3584 / Cell: 701-425-4852

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)

Virtual fencing is a relatively new technology that provides GPS tracking and leverages animal behavior to manage cattle movement. Livestock are fitted with smart collars that communicate animal locations relative to a virtually mapped paddock via radio and/or cellular tower to a web-based application on your phone and/or computer. The “Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems” (SLATE) project proposal aims to collaborate with private landowners to utilize virtual fence technology for enhanced grazing management to improve wildlife habitat and reduce impacts to ecologically sensitive areas.

An idea once dreamed about by livestock producers, virtual fence is now available commercially across the United States and allows ranchers to virtually fence anywhere. Winding riparian corridors, wetland fringe habitat, important wildlife migration corridors, and rough, inaccessible badland terrain can all be fenced virtually from your fingertips. Combined with virtual fence technology's ability to provide ranchers with uninterrupted contact with the herd, the SLATE partnership in support of this effort has incredible potential to facilitate grassland habitat management on adjacent public lands, which depends on partnerships with private land ranchers. Partnering with ranchers across North Dakota, SLATE seeks to assist producers in adopting virtual fence technology to benefit rangelands, wetlands, and wildlife on private and publicly accessible lands. Virtual fence technology can also play a vital role on ranches who have recently had their infrastructure impacted by wildfires. By reducing the upfront costs of adopting virtual fence technology, ranching operations will have the opportunity to implement this new technology with reduced financial risk. SLATE will facilitate adoption of innovative grazing infrastructure practices in partnership with a diverse group of stakeholders that allow agricultural producers and conservation practitioners alike to fully realize the benefits of virtual fence on the North Dakota landscape.

OHF's SLATE will be the catalyst for effective grazing management with virtual fence systems at expansive scales. SLATE will provide up to 75% cost share for approved virtual fence startup practices, 75% cost share for approved water system improvements, and 60% cost share for approved traditional fence infrastructure. Cost share assistance from OHF will be matched by the landowner and partners at a minimum of 25% for virtual fence and water systems, while being matched at a minimum of 40% for traditional fencing. Landowners enrolling in SLATE will require that producers rotationally graze livestock on enrolled acres and maintain perennial grass cover for the 10-year agreement term.

Private landowners enrolling in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's (NDGFD) Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program will receive a 15% additional non-match cost-share incentive from NDGFD upon enrollment in PLOTS to utilize virtual fence collars and other grazing infrastructure for wildlife habitat enhancement. North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) will also provide a 10% non-match cost-share incentive for landowners in Dunn and McKenzie Counties.

Over the period of 5 years, SLATE will partner with at least 12 private landowners to enhance grazing management on 5,760 acres.

Project Duration: 5 Years

Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.

2026: 10% OHF funding spent as implementation of SLATE begins. Landowner outreach, coordination with partners, and project planning. Project funds begin to be spent as initial landowners begin to install virtual fence systems

2027: Additional 30% of funding spent as landowners continue to better understand virtual fence systems and realize the potential. Outreach, coordination with partners, site visits, and additional project planning with new producers.

2028: Additional 30% of funding spent and landowner projects from 2026 have implemented all improvements. The majority of the funding will be spent by next year.

2029: Additional 25% of funding reimbursements for practices as continue to be installed. Project reporting and landowner projects fully functioning as grazing systems.

2030: Remaining 5% of funding spent out as all projects and final reporting completed. DU biologists and partners continue to work with landowners to assist with virtual fence systems and evaluate projects effectiveness.

Amount of Grant request: \$505,327.29

Total Project Costs: \$720,584.87

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

Amount of Matching Funds: \$ 215,257.58 (30%)

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) |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| \$30,000.00 | Ducks Unlimited | In-Kind |
| \$2,500.00 | Ducks Unlimited | Cash |
| \$182,757.58 | Landowners | Cash |
| \$215,257.58 | Total Match | |

Certifications

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

X 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)

Ducks Unlimited (DU) conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. Established in 1937, DU and its partners have conserved more than 19 million acres of habitat across North America thanks to the generous contributions from more than a million supporters. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. Thanks to 88 years of success, DU is recognized as the world's largest and most effective private waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization. DU is known for our ability to partner with private individuals, landowners, government agencies, scientific communities, industry leaders and other entities to successfully deliver collaborative conservation projects. DU is a grassroots and volunteer-based organization. Our 750,000 members are conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts who reside across the United States, Canada and Mexico, including over 4,600 members in North Dakota. DU's Great Plains Regional Office, located in Bismarck, ND, employs a multidisciplinary team of engineers, biologists, scientists, agronomists, real estate and administrative support personnel. Since 1984, DU and our partners have completed over 1,900 projects impacting more than 575,000 acres in North Dakota. DU is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers from across the country. For a full listing of DU's Board members, please visit: <https://www.ducks.org/about-ducks-unlimited/du-leadership>.

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.

For tree/shrub/grass plantings: provide a planting plan describing the site design, planting methods, number of trees/shrubs by species and stock size, grass species and future maintenance. A statement certifying that the applicant will adhere to USDA-NRCS tree/shrub/grass planting specifications along with the name of the governmental entity designing the planting may be substituted for a planting plan.

For projects including Section 319 funding: provide in detail the specific best management practices that will be implemented and the specific projects for which you are seeking funding.

For projects including fencing: A minimum cost share of 40% by the recipient is preferred. Include detailed information on the type of fencing to be installed, whether funding is requested for boundary fencing, new or replacement of existing fencing, and/or cross fencing.

Ranching and the management of grassland resources using grazing animals is deeply embedded in the development of North Dakota’s grassland ecosystem. Our diverse prairie landscape and grassland species evolved under the hooves of millions of grazing animals, which yielded deep layers of productive organic matter utilized for farming and ranching

today. For generations, we have tried to mimic this grazing scenario through the use of physical fences to contain livestock within specified areas. Cross fencing, for example, is an incredibly simple tool used to improve grazing efficiency, lengthen grassland rest recovery periods, and target positive animal impact to areas that need it, while deterring livestock from potentially negatively impacting other sensitive areas. Innovative ranchers, conservation practitioners, and others continue to develop ways to physically limit livestock to specified areas through various types of fencing concepts for the benefit of the herd, the soil, the grassland resource, wildlife, and people. Physical fence works very well. The concept is proven. However, it is not always appropriate, cost-effective, or feasible to construct in some types of terrain.

Virtual fence technology is an advancement in the livestock industry that will significantly move the needle for herd management and grassland management across a broad geography in North Dakota. This invisible fence system allows farmers and ranchers to monitor and manage cattle movement. Livestock are fitted with smart collars that communicate animal locations relative to a virtually mapped paddock via radio and/or cellular tower to a web-based application on your phone and/or computer. Collars on each adult animal provide auditory and electrical cues depending on its location relative to the virtual fence paddock. Virtual fence is based on the foundational concepts and proven benefits of physical fence, but it can be implemented in unprecedented and advantageous ways.

For example, fencing and effective grazing management for the herd, grass utilization, grassland species diversity, and wildlife are no longer limited by rough terrain or inaccessible areas that were difficult to manage in the past, but solely by the availability of water resources for cattle. Virtual fence can also be used to effectively improve water quality by easily excluding grazing pressure from sensitive waterways, other riparian areas, or wetland edge habitat. Using this technology to manage grazing in this kind of difficult terrain and habitat may also come with considerable financial benefits for producers and conservation professionals, as the cost to construct and consistently repair physical fence in these areas is consistently high. Reducing the amount of physical fence in these kinds of habitats will also reduce potential wildlife impacts by reducing the need for multiple physical cross fences within pastures.

Another powerful tool of virtual fences is the ability for producers to observe individual livestock locations and grazing pressure mapping in real time from almost any location. Uninterrupted contact with the herd and spatial data allows our ranching partners to make timely and informed grazing management decisions based on livestock use patterns or attend to sick or distressed animals quickly. This all affords our ranching partners with an incredible advantage for maximizing operational efficiency on private lands but also facilitates effective grazing management on publicly accessible grasslands as well. Virtual fence technology fits well with holistic grazing strategies that can strengthen grazing partnerships between public land managers and private landowners while improving habitat conditions on

the private-public land interface in North Dakota. These kinds of data capabilities may also improve engagement and interest from future generations of ranchers.

Ranching partners are strongly interested in implementing virtual fence technology. Unfortunately, the first year of startup costs creates an entry-level barrier that has limited implementation on many ranches. This SLATE proposal aims to reduce the upfront costs of adopting virtual fence technology so that ranching operations will have the opportunity to implement this new technology with reduced financial risk. SLATE project partners will work directly with landowners to design grazing systems that address specific resource concerns and achieve operational goals. SLATE will provide up to 75% cost-share for approved Virtual Fence year one startup costs, 75% cost share for approved water system improvements, and 60% cost share for approved traditional fence infrastructure. Cost share assistance from OHF will be matched by the landowner and partners at a minimum of 25% for virtual fence start up and water systems, while being matched at a minimum of 40% for traditional fencing infrastructure. Landowners enrolling in SLATE will require that producers rotationally graze livestock on enrolled acres and maintain perennial grassland cover for the 10-year agreement term. By providing technical guidance and cost-share for virtual fence startup fees and other necessary grazing infrastructure, SLATE will facilitate producers in adopting virtual fence technology for the enhancement of North Dakota's grasslands, stewardship of wildlife habitat, and engagement of future generations of ranchers. Over the period of 5 years, SLATE expects to partner with private landowners on at least 12 different projects to enhance grazing management on 5,760 acres in North Dakota.

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.

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.

DU will provide management, coordination, and administration of SLATE. DU conservation program biologists and agronomists and virtual fence company experts will work collaboratively to provide producers with program guidance and technical assistance when implementing virtual fence practices and grazing system infrastructure. The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) will also provide technical assistance through their mentoring network in the development of rotational grazing technical assistance and practice implementation expertise. DU biologists and agronomists will develop site specific agreements with landowners, which include a map defining boundaries, the payment amount, and landowner match contributions. All agreements will be signed and dated by the landowner and

DU. Projects will be funded on a first come first serve basis until funds expire and agreements will be 10 years in length. Funding will be available statewide to private landowners with priority given to projects which include public access. Grant funds will be distributed to participating producers as agreement items are completed and proper documentation is provided to DU. DU biologists will coordinate the program from our office located in Bismarck, ND. Dane Buysse, Regional Biologist in North Dakota, will serve as the program coordinator. Dane has more than 11 years of experience in delivering conservation projects for DU. DU will provide tracking and progress reporting of all landowner agreements according to grant deadlines. Maintaining good communication with agreement participants and partners is important to DU. On-the-ground DU biologists, agronomists, and other conservation partners will direct all producers in this project who are interested in additional cost share or public access incentives to the PLOTS program through the NDGFD. NDGFD will provide technical assistance when signing parcels up for PLOTS. NDGFD biologists may also provide additional opportunities for habitat enhancements and non-match cost-share up to an additional 15% if enrolled in SLATE.

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.

Success of SLATE will be determined by the total acreage of enhanced grasslands and wetlands. The experience and level of satisfaction from participating producers will also be utilized to determine project success. By collaborating with landowners and virtual fence manufacturers we will seek to include future generations in conversations to increase awareness and a desire for enhancing grassland production through livestock grazing management. We also hope to enroll additional acres into the PLOTS program so that the public can also enjoy the benefits of virtual rotational grazing management and understand the role livestock play in improving habitat for wildlife populations.

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) | Other Project Sponsor's Share | Total Each Project Expense |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Virtual Fence Infrastructure | \$320,368.50 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$106,789.50 | \$427,158.00 |
| Grazing Infrastructure | \$167,458.79 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$75,968.08 | \$243,426.87 |
| Cultural Reviews | \$7,500.00 | \$2,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Staff Time | \$10,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$30,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$40,000.00 |
| Total Costs | \$505,327.29 | \$2,500.00 | \$30,000.00 | \$182,757.58 | \$720,584.87 |

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.

Virtual Fence Grazing Infrastructure - ND OHF will provide 75% cost-share for virtual fence systems Startup Year One to support rotational grazing practices. Virtual Fence will follow the NRCS Field Office Tech Guide Allowable Cost; the full funding rate will be determined by NRCS's practice scenario amounts for "Virtual Fence, Startup Year One". All virtual fence cost-share will be paid based on a rate per animal/collar. Landowners and partners will provide the remaining 25% of Startup Year One expenses. Landowners will be responsible for all virtual fence fees in subsequent years of the agreement. This OHF grant proposal is requesting \$320,368.50 for Startup Year One and landowners/partners will provide at least \$75,968.08 in match.

Grazing Infrastructure - ND OHF will provide 75% cost-share for water developments to support rotational grazing systems and 60% cost-share for traditional cross fencing and perimeter fence to support rotational grazing systems as required by virtual fence companies' policies and NRCS specifications. Water Developments will follow the NRCS Field Office Tech Guide Allowable Cost; the full funding rate will be determined by NRCS's practice scenario amount. This grant will use 75% cost-share of these rates for agreement development but will pay on actual costs. Landowners and partners will provide the remaining 25% cost-share. Fencing will follow the NRCS Field Office Tech Guide Allowable Cost; the full funding rate will be determined by NRCS's practice scenario amount. All fencing cost-share will be paid based on a rate per foot of fence and type of fence installed. Landowners and partners will provide the remaining 40% cost-share. This OHF grant proposal is requesting \$167,458.79 in grazing infrastructure and landowners/partners will provide \$75,968.08 in match.

For landowners enrolled in SLATE, NDGFD will provide an additional 15% non-match cost-share (up to a total of \$75,000) for grazing infrastructure to landowners who also enroll in the PLOTS program for a minimum of 5 years during the SLATE project agreement (10 years). SLATE's cost share for traditional and virtual grazing infrastructure will be available to landowners throughout the state of North Dakota regardless of their enrollment in NDGFD's PLOTS program.

NDWF will provide 10% non-match cost-share up to \$50,000.00 for infrastructure improvements to landowners enrolled in SLATE in Dunn and McKenzie counties only.

HALTER will provide up to \$10,000.00 non-match cost-share towards HALTER infrastructure costs for any individual ranch receiving funding through the SLATE project, up to a total amount of \$100,000.00.

Contracted Services – This proposal requests \$7,500.00 for required contracted services such as cultural reviews and surveys. If the contracted services request funding is not utilized for such, the funds will be utilized for additional infrastructure.

Staffing - Project Delivery will consist of actual time spent by DU biologists and agronomists who will meet with landowners to provide technical assistance, complete landowner agreements, partner with state, federal, local, and nongovernmental organizations, process payments, provide agreement monitoring, and complete all grant administration. Ducks Unlimited staffing costs include staff time, benefits and travel. This OHF grant proposal is requesting only \$10,000 in OHF funds and Ducks Unlimited is providing at least \$30,000.00 of in-kind match.

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.

Virtual Fence Technology has been available for a decade. Virtual fence systems continue to add financial and logistical value to individual operations, provide peace of mind for ranchers, pique the interest of young producers, and drastically reduce labor costs. Interest and desire to use this technology from agricultural producers across the state is very strong, but startup costs create an entry-level barrier and stifles implementation. OHF's SLATE will help remove that barrier and facilitate effective grazing management at expansive scales in North Dakota. We strongly believe that SLATE's approach to working collaboratively with ranchers and industry professionals will lead to the adoption of this technology for generations to come.

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

Ducks Unlimited and partners thank the OHF Advisory Board and North Dakota Industrial Commission for strongly considering full support of the SLATE proposal. Partial funding would result in fewer producers having the opportunity to manage their herd with virtual fence technology and implement grazing infrastructure improvements. Fewer habitat acres would be enhanced for wildlife. If the proposal receives partial funding, this will also reduce the amount of cash and in-kind match available by Ducks Unlimited, partners, and landowners. The number of projects and acres enhanced would also be reduced. However, SLATE is still possible with partial funding.

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.

SLATE will provide OHF partnership and funding recognition in the following ways. 1) SLATE will include the OHF logo on all landowner agreements. 2) OHF will also be mentioned as a partner and funding source in all discussions with landowners in the delivery of this project. 3) All SLATE distributed information for outreach and/or media will identify OHF as a partner and funding source. Examples of such outreach and media include but are not limited to landowner workshops, landowner field days, national DU press releases, and the DU website. 4) Presentations or discussions with partners and/or other organizations will also acknowledge OHF as a partner and funding source.

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

- Equipment usage showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment)
- 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 ndicgrants@nd.gov.

Revised: November 4, 2019, April 12, 2023



Great Plains Regional Office
2525 River Road
Bismarck, ND 58503-9011
(701) 355-3500 • Fax (701) 355-3575
www.ducks.org

April 29, 2025

North Dakota Industrial Commission
Attn: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members,

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is excited to be the lead partner in the “*Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems*” proposal being submitted to the Outdoor Heritage Fund. This effort combines technical and financial assistance for innovative grazing strategies that utilize virtual fence technology to improve soil function and grassland health for our farmers and ranchers, wildlife, and people of North Dakota. As outlined in the proposal, our organization will contribute at least \$20,000.00 in in-kind contributions from our experienced conservation program team to deliver this program and provide technical assistance to partnering landowners.

Our organization is excited about this opportunity, and we are glad to be part of a broad coalition of partners in this proposal that will use proven models of success for voluntary conservation practices. This effort will use modern virtual fence technology alongside traditional grazing improvements to enhance grazing systems on private and publicly accessible lands across North Dakota.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

388EEF42029C41D
Johann Walker
Director of Operations
Great Plains Region



April 30, 2025

Ducks Unlimited Inc.
Mr. Dane Buysse – Regional Biologist
2525 River Road
Bismarck, ND 58503

RE: Ducks Unlimited: Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE)

Dear Mr. Buysse:

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's (Department) mission is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use. The Department's Private Land Initiative (PLI) is the mechanism for delivering the mission onto the private landscape. A main component of PLI includes the Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program, which creates or enhances habitat on private lands and provides public access for walk-in hunting.

Working lands are a vital part of the PLOTS program and are enjoyed by thousands of hunters each year. Enhancing grazing infrastructure offers tangible benefits for ranchers, such as dependable water sources, while pasture cross-fencing has been shown to create a diverse mosaic of habitat structures that support wildlife. Virtual fencing systems present an innovative opportunity for landowners to strategically manage grasslands, enhance wildlife movement, and protect sensitive areas from disturbance.

As you engage with producers on the SLATE initiative, we encourage you to inform landowners about opportunities for additional habitat development and available incentives for public walk-in hunting access through the PLOTS program. Please direct interested producers to the Department's private lands staff for more information.

We are pleased to endorse the Ducks Unlimited Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) proposal, including a 15% non-match cost-share incentive, up to \$75,000, for virtual fencing and traditional grazing improvements. This incentive is available to producers who commit to enrolling in the PLOTS program for a minimum of five years. The Department looks forward to working with landowners who implement virtual fencing on PLOTS-enrolled lands.

Sincerely,

Jeb Williams
Director

Governor
Kelly Armstrong

Director
Jeb Williams

Deputy Director
Scott A. Peterson



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

4/25/2025

North Dakota Industrial Commission

ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program

600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405

Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

On behalf of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF), I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment in support of our shared efforts to advance conservation, increase public access to outdoor recreation, and promote ethical stewardship of North Dakota's natural resources.

The Duck's Unlimited Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant will improve wildlife habitat, and to support long-term sustainable land use across these priority landscapes. Upon approval of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant, the North Dakota Wildlife Federation will contribute **\$50,000** to the effort of expanding the adoption of virtual fencing and habitat conservation efforts in **Dunn and McKenzie Counties**. This contribution reflects NDWF's mission to advocate for the conservation of wildlife, habitat, and access for North Dakota's hunters, anglers, and other outdoor users.

NDWF is proud to play a role in helping build a stronger, more connected conservation community. We look forward to working closely with Ducks Unlimited and other stakeholders to ensure the success of this program.

Please consider this letter as a formal statement of our intent to contribute funds and partner in good faith toward the long-term success of this effort. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact John Bradley, Executive Director, at 701-390-7196] or jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kerry Whipp

Kerry Whipp
President
North Dakota Wildlife Federation

April 29, 2025

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

Halter is excited to be a supporting partner in the *Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems* (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited, as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology.

Halter is a global leader in virtual fencing technology for grazing management. Founded in 2016, we currently have over 330,000 collars deployed on cattle worldwide. Our mission is to lift the productivity and sustainability of pasture-based systems. By enabling producers to manage grazing remotely through solar-powered, GPS-enabled collars, Halter's technology replaces traditional fencing and allows for precise, adaptive livestock movement. This drives improvements in pasture health, animal performance, and operational efficiency.

Much like how our collars treat every cow as an individual, adapting to their behavior, our approach with ranchers is just as personalized. When working with producers, we ensure each one receives the level of support they need to be successful throughout their entire journey with Halter. We are extremely proud of the product we have built, but know that this doesn't mean anything to a producer if they don't receive the level of support they need to succeed., whether that means one onboarding session or five. Our goal is to bring every rancher to the same level of confidence and competence, no matter where they start. We pride ourselves on this high-touch, relationship-driven model of support.

We feel especially mission-aligned with Ducks Unlimited and the goals of the SLATE program, which is why we are excited to commit this level of support. Like Ducks Unlimited, Halter is deeply committed to protecting wildlife habitat, bringing back grasslands, improving the productivity and resilience of working lands, and supporting the communities that steward them. We believe regenerative grazing is a key lever to achieve these outcomes, one that benefits ecosystems, livestock, and producers alike. The SLATE initiative offers a powerful platform to demonstrate how innovative tools like virtual fencing can unlock these shared goals at scale.

To support the SLATE project, Halter is proud to provide up to \$10,000 toward Halter infrastructure costs for any individual ranch receiving funding through the SLATE program, up to a total of \$100,000. This support is intended to reduce barriers for producers adopting virtual fencing technology and to accelerate the impact of the program across North Dakota.

This effort will utilize thoroughly tested technology to enhance grazing systems on private and publicly accessible land. We are eager to continue to build capacity and support for regenerative grazing practices across North Dakota.

Sincerely,

The Halter Partnerships Team

Theo Beaumont -theo.beaumont@halterhq.com

Emily Pfaller - emily.pfaller@halterhq.com

April 25, 2025

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

Vence was founded to improve the affordability and availability of sustainable animal protein, a need that's growing alongside the world population. Vence is a virtual fencing livestock management system for cattle. Our tool controls cattle movement, manage grazing, create virtual fences to dictate grazing behavior, and monitor animal location and movement. Vence supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology.

Vence was founded in 2017 and has been running full scale since 2022 after Merck Animal Health's acquisition of the company. We currently run 60,000 collars across the United states all on beef cattle. When a rancher comes on board with Vence they get top of the line customer service with our rancher success representatives. Our rancher success reps play a key role in helping onboard ranchers. This starts with pre collaring training, so the producer is up to speed on how to operate our system as well as their grazing plan. They will also be working hand in hand together when they train their cows. This process takes roughly 5-7 days post collaring, so the animals understand the collar ques. We also run our product off LORAWAN technology (low radio frequency) towers. These towers cover anywhere from 5,000-20,000 acres and leave a small footprint. Our goal is to reach as many ranches as possible, so they are educated on our product as well as determining if we are a better fit then the old traditional ways of fencing. Virtual fencing is changing the way ranchers manage their cattle and getting support from OHF and a broad partnership will pave a pivotal path for our ranchers moving forward. |

Sincerely,
Ty Roseberry
Senior Territory Manager - Vence



April 29, 2025

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

Gallagher Animal Management supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology.

Gallagher is a privately owned New Zealand based company operating globally with 86 years of experience in fencing and containment solutions for a range of domesticated and wild animal species. eShepherd, Gallaghers innovative virtual fencing solution, has been available in New Zealand and Australia for three years and the USA and Canada since January 2024. Over that time, we have grown from 3 to over 200 customers in north America alone.

eShepherd is proving to be exceptionally versatile with customers in almost every state and province of the USA and Canada respectively. From 10 to over 1,000 neckbands; under very intensive grazing management with 5 or more pasture changes per day; to extensive containment situations where fence quality is poor; in all seasons including winter at -25oF.

Gallagher employs about 1,400 people internationally, 50 of which are dedicated to the eShepherd product. We have global eShepherd support infrastructure able to address enquiries and customer issues 24/7. Our customers tell us that the eShepherd web and mobile apps are intuitive and we release updates and enhancements every week or two.

The Customer Success team take new customers through a thorough onboarding process ensuring that cows are trained and adapt to virtual fencing, but their ranchers and farmers also need time to understand how to get the most from their virtual fencing investment. As an agriculture company working in technology, Gallagher understands the challenges faced when managing cattle in challenging rural environments.

We look forward to working with you and landowners to adopt virtual fence systems for enhanced rotational grazing practices.

Best regards, Sharl Liebergreen
Director, Sales, eShepherd
+1 816 714 9534
Sharl.liebergreen@gallagher.com



4/29/2025

Ducks Unlimited-Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems
Dane Buysse

Dear Dane,

Nofence is excited to express our support for the Ducks Unlimited grant proposal to provide opportunities for interested parties to participate and assist producers in acquiring virtual fencing technology, and promote rotational grazing best practices within the ranching community. We believe that combining rangeland rotational grazing and virtual fencing can have significant benefits for the health of rangeland ecosystems, as well as for the profitability and sustainability of ranching operations.

Nofence is the first virtual fence company and has a strong track record of providing industry leading products that are both proven and effective across many aspects where the need for virtual fencing exists worldwide. Our ten plus years in the virtual fencing sector and 150,000 collars deployed worldwide provides a proven platform for producers that enjoy the benefit of time management, while enhancing soil health and implementing more effective grazing strategies. Our team works with producers providing them key product technical support to ensure operational success and maximize the value from utilizing Nofence's technology. Our commitment is that we are with our customers every step of the way to achieve the highest level of user satisfaction and animal welfare.

Virtual fencing technology has the potential to enhance the effectiveness of rotational grazing by enabling ranchers to more precisely control the movement of their livestock. Cattle, sheep, and goats can be directed to specific areas of a pasture or moved between pastures without the need for physical fences, which enhances grazing efficiency and saves time for producers. This allows for more flexible and adaptable grazing management and can help reduce the cost and labor associated with traditional fencing. Additionally, ranchers can manage water resources, protect riparian areas, and control the spread of invasive plant species. Finally, rotational grazing using virtual fencing can help optimize the use of available forage, allow used pastures to rest and reduce the need for costly inputs like fertilizers and herbicides.

We appreciate your support of sustainable agriculture and conservation and look forward to the opportunity to collaborate through this grant opportunity.

Sincerely,

Larry Hafer
NoFence, USA



North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

April 23, 2025

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

Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

Please accept this letter of support by the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) for Ducks Unlimited's "Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems" (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal.

NDGLC is a grassroots group organized in 1996 to promote the health and sustainability of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands. Coalition members have a strong focus on managing soil health and biodiversity to promote sustainable farming and ranching. NDGLC supports the "Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems" proposal as it seeks to provide financial assistance for North Dakota farmers and ranchers to implement virtual fence technology and develop grazing infrastructure necessary for livestock grazing systems. This innovative concept will help producers better understand the potential and capabilities of technology within grazing systems. It is a core belief of ours that through voluntary actions, respect for private property rights, and education on the benefits of well-managed grazing resources, their goals are achievable.

Again, we are happy to support this important effort that promotes sustainable farming and ranching in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Jay Reiser
NDGLC Chairman



PO Box 1091 • Bismarck, ND 58502 • contact@ndglc.com • 701-355-4458



**916 E Interstate Ave, #6
Bismarck ND 58503
701-250-4518, Ext. 3**



April 25, 2025

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

As a Soil Conservation District, it is our mission to further the widespread application of sound soil and water conservation practices. The Burleigh County Soil Conservation District Board supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology. Virtual fence technology is of interest to ranchers in our county for a variety of reasons, but new technology and the upfront costs are a barrier to entry at this point in time.

The implementation of traditional rotational grazing infrastructure has provided benefits for both wildlife and agricultural producers in our county and continues to see high demand. A recent topic of discussion and growing interest is around the potential for virtual fence technology to manage livestock movements, enhance winter grazing opportunities, provide peace of mind knowing livestock whereabouts and potential for youth to find their niche in the ranching operation. This once dreamed of technology is now available to producers for a variety of livestock ranging from sheep and goats to cattle.

Providing producers with financial assistance to integrate this new technology into their operations will be an incredible opportunity for OHF to make an impactful contribution to ensure future generations will enjoy healthy grasslands and abundant wildlife resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Oswald".

Burleigh County SCD

April 25, 2025

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

As a Soil Conservation District, it is our mission to further the widespread application of sound soil and water conservation practices. The Stutsman County Soil Conservation District Board supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology. Virtual fence technology is of interest to ranchers in our county for a variety of reasons, but new technology and the upfront costs are a barrier to entry at this point in time.

The implementation of traditional rotational grazing infrastructure has provided benefits for both wildlife and agricultural producers in our county and continues to see high demand. A recent topic of discussion and growing interest is around the potential for virtual fence technology to manage livestock movements, enhance winter grazing opportunities, provide peace of mind knowing livestock whereabouts and potential for youth to find their niche in the ranching operation. This once dreamed of technology is now available to producers for a variety of livestock ranging from sheep and goats to cattle.

Providing producers with financial assistance to integrate this new technology into their operations will be an incredible opportunity for OHF to make an impactful contribution to ensure future generations will enjoy healthy grasslands and abundant wildlife resources.

Sincerely,



Stutsman County SCD



James River Soil Conservation District

51 North First Street
P.O. Box 190
Ellendale, ND 58436

April 28, 2025

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

As a Soil Conservation District, it is our mission to further the widespread application of sound soil and water conservation practices. The James River Soil Conservation District Board supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology. Virtual fence technology is of interest to ranchers in our county for a variety of reasons, but new technology and the upfront costs are a barrier to entry at this point in time.

The implementation of traditional rotational grazing infrastructure has provided benefits for both wildlife and agricultural producers in our county and continues to see high demand. A recent topic of discussion and growing interest is around the potential for virtual fence technology to manage livestock movements, enhance winter grazing opportunities, provide peace of mind knowing livestock whereabouts and potential for youth to find their niche in the ranching operation. This once dreamed of technology is now available to producers for a variety of livestock ranging from sheep and goats to cattle.

Providing producers with financial assistance to integrate this new technology into their operations will be an incredible opportunity for OHF to make an impactful contribution to ensure future generations will enjoy healthy grasslands and abundant wildlife resources.

Sincerely,

James River SCD Board of Supervisors

April 25th, 2025

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

As a Soil Conservation District, it is our mission to further the widespread application of sound soil and water conservation practices. The Pierce County Soil Conservation District Board supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology. Virtual fence technology is of interest to ranchers in our county for a variety of reasons, but new technology and the upfront costs are a barrier to entry at this point in time.

The implementation of traditional rotational grazing infrastructure has provided benefits for both wildlife and agricultural producers in our county and continues to see high demand. A recent topic of discussion and growing interest is around the potential for virtual fence technology to manage livestock movements, enhance winter grazing opportunities, provide peace of mind knowing livestock whereabouts and potential for youth to find their niche in the ranching operation. This once dreamed of technology is now available to producers for a variety of livestock ranging from sheep and goats to cattle.

Providing producers with financial assistance to integrate this new technology into their operations will be an incredible opportunity for OHF to make an impactful contribution to ensure future generations will enjoy healthy grasslands and abundant wildlife resources.

Sincerely,

Darles Hager 4/25/2025
Dalle Hager
Pierce County SCD *Chairman*

April 23, 2025

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

As a Soil Conservation District, it is our mission to further the widespread application of sound soil and water conservation practices. The North Central Soil Conservation District Board supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology. Virtual fence technology is of interest to ranchers in our county for a variety of reasons, but new technology and the upfront costs are a barrier to entry at this point in time.

The implementation of traditional rotational grazing infrastructure has provided benefits for both wildlife and agricultural producers in our county and continues to see high demand. A recent topic of discussion and growing interest is around the potential for virtual fence technology to manage livestock movements, enhance winter grazing opportunities, provide peace of mind knowing livestock whereabouts and potential for youth to find their niche in the ranching operation. This once dreamed of technology is now available to producers for a variety of livestock ranging from sheep and goats to cattle.

Providing producers with financial assistance to integrate this new technology into their operations will be an incredible opportunity for OHF to make an impactful contribution to ensure future generations will enjoy healthy grasslands and abundant wildlife resources.

Sincerely,



Donna Grann

North Central SCD Board (Chairperson)

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

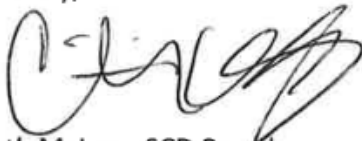
Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Members:

As a Soil Conservation District, it is our mission to further the widespread application of sound soil and water conservation practices. The South McLean Soil Conservation District Board supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology. Virtual fence technology is of interest to ranchers in our county for a variety of reasons, but new technology and the upfront costs are a barrier to entry at this point in time.

We have implemented local watershed improvement projects over the past decade with a focus on improving water quality in our local streams. Funding for virtual fence will provide producers along those watersheds with the opportunity to virtually fence out waterways. The implementation of traditional rotational grazing infrastructure has provided benefits for both wildlife and agricultural producers in our county and continues to see high demand. A recent topic of discussion and growing interest is around the potential for virtual fence technology to manage livestock movements, enhance winter grazing opportunities, provide peace of mind knowing livestock whereabouts and potential for youth to find their niche in ranching operations.

Providing producers with financial assistance to integrate this new technology into their operations will be an incredible opportunity for OHF to make an impactful contribution to ensure future generations will enjoy healthy grasslands and abundant wildlife resources.

Sincerely,



South McLean SCD Board

6720 Hwy 200
Carrington, ND 58421-8701

Phone: 701-652-2551 Ext. 3
www.fosterscd.com

Foster County Soil Conservation District

April 25, 2025

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

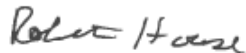
Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund-Advisory Board Members:

As a Soil Conservation District, it is our mission to further the widespread application of sound soil and water conservation practices. The Foster County Soil Conservation District Board supports the Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems (SLATE) Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal by Ducks Unlimited as it seeks to partner with producers in utilizing virtual livestock fence technology. Virtual fence technology is of interest to ranchers in our county for a variety of reasons, but new technology and the upfront costs are a barrier to entry at this point in time.

The implementation of traditional rotational grazing infrastructure has provided benefits for both wildlife and agricultural producers in our county and continues to see high demand. A recent topic of discussion and growing interest is around the potential for virtual fence technology to manage livestock movements, enhance winter grazing opportunities, provide peace of mind knowing livestock whereabouts and potential for youth to find their niche in the ranching operation. This once dreamed of technology is now available to producers for a variety of livestock ranging from sheep and goats to cattle.

Providing producers with financial assistance to integrate this new technology into their operations will be an incredible opportunity for OHF to make an impactful contribution to ensure future generations will enjoy healthy grasslands and abundant wildlife resources.

Sincerely,



Robert House, Chairman
Foster County SCD Board

*Working together to Conserve for our
Future TODAY!!!!*



Bob T House
Grace City, ND

Curtiss Klein
Carrington, ND

Sam Partlow
Carrington, ND

Cody Montgomery
Carrington, ND

Karl Hoppe
Carrington, ND