

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: *Western North Dakota Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS)*

Name of Organization: *North Dakota Game and Fish Department*

Federal Tax ID# *45-6002467*

Contact Person/Title: *Nate Harling, Habitat Program Manager – Private Lands*

Address: *100 N. Bismarck Expy*

City: *Bismarck*

State: *ND*

Zip Code: *58501*

E-mail Address: nharling@nd.gov

Web Site Address (If applicable): *gf.nd.gov*

Phone: *701-516-3079*

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)

For nearly 30 years, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department) has administered the Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program - the Department's flagship habitat and access program. This nationally recognized program offers habitat development and hunting access agreements to landowners willing to provide public walk-in hunting access. The PLOTS program enjoys strong support from the Governor's Office, the State Legislature, hunters and landowners, and the travel/hospitality industry.

Starting with Gov. John Hoeven, four consecutive governorships have set a goal of 1,000,000 acres for PLOTS enrollment. To achieve and maintain this goal, the Department

needs to combine a few key ingredients – staffing, spending authority, funding, and interested landowners with qualifying land.

Currently, the PLOTS program sits at approx. 861,000 acres. Staffing levels were increased two years ago and are sufficient to achieve the 1,000,000-acre goal. Spending authority was increased in the last two legislative sessions, and significant landowner interest has been generated by Department staff. The only missing ingredient is sufficient funding to further expand the program.

The focus area of this project is southwest North Dakota (all counties south and west of the Missouri River). These counties are highly desirable for the PLOTS program and typically include larger parcel sizes, many of which expand opportunities with adjacent public lands (United States Forest Service, ND Department of Trust Lands, Bureau of Land Management, etc.).

Hunters flock to southwest North Dakota with their bows, shotguns and rifles to pursue a variety of game species – Hungarian partridge, sharp-tailed grouse, ring-necked pheasants, wild turkey, ducks and Canada geese (in places), pronghorn, white-tailed and mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and occasionally moose.

This annual influx of hunters to the project area, coupled with an expanding population base driven largely by energy development, intensifies the public's appetite for more open land and elbow room.

The Department is seeking a four-year OHF grant with a combined value of \$2,100,000 (\$1,500,000 of OHF dollars plus \$600,000 of combined cash match). If fully awarded, the Department anticipates enrolling between 20,000 and 40,000 acres in agreements (paid upfront for 10- or 20-years). The Department anticipates enrolling a combination of 10- and 20-year agreements, totaling approx. 32,000 acres.

An Outdoor Heritage Fund grant would strengthen this partnership between hunters, landowners, and the Department by providing funding to offer longer-term access agreements in western North Dakota, where the best remaining native habitats and game populations are present. It would also help the Department make further progress toward the 1,000,000-acre goal with high-quality native habitats on western working lands.

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) recognizes the importance of PLOTS tracts and hunting opportunities as well. NDWF has committed \$100,000 to incentivize PLOTS enrollment in Dunn and McKenzie Counties – two highly-desirable areas with very few PLOTS tracts.

Partnerships with other organizations to incentivize PLOTS enrollment are ongoing and will be sought throughout the grant period, however, only NDWF was able to commit prior to the grant deadline.

Project Duration: *Four years*

Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.

The draw down schedule is difficult to project due to the unknown timing of the grant being authorized and total funding award (if any). Though enrollment could happen faster than the estimated timeline below, our best estimate for drawing down OHF funds is as follows:

July 2025 – June 2026 - 20%

July 2026 – June 2027 - 50%

July 2027 – June 2028 - 20%

July 2028 – June 2029 - 10%

Amount of Grant request: \$1,500,000

Total Project Costs: \$2,100,000

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

Amount of Matching Funds: \$600,000

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)
\$500,000	ND Game and Fish Dept.	Cash
\$100,000	ND Wildlife Federation	Cash

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)

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department) was established in 1930, guided by a mission to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.

The Department has 170 FTE employees, led by a Director and Deputy Director, as well as an eight-member advisory board that organizes public engagement.

The Department’s Private Land Initiative is the primary mechanism for applying this mission onto the private landscape of North Dakota.

The Private Lands Initiative has three main goals:

- *Conservation of habitats for fish and wildlife populations*
- *Provide landowners interested in wildlife conservation with cost share assistance for developing and protecting habitat*
- *Provide the public with opportunities to access fish and wildlife resources on private land. The primary goal is habitat development and hunting access through the Private Land Open To Sportsmen program*

PLOTS provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners for habitat protection, enhancement and development. Landowners accepting assistance through PLOTS agree to allow public access for walk-in hunting.

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.

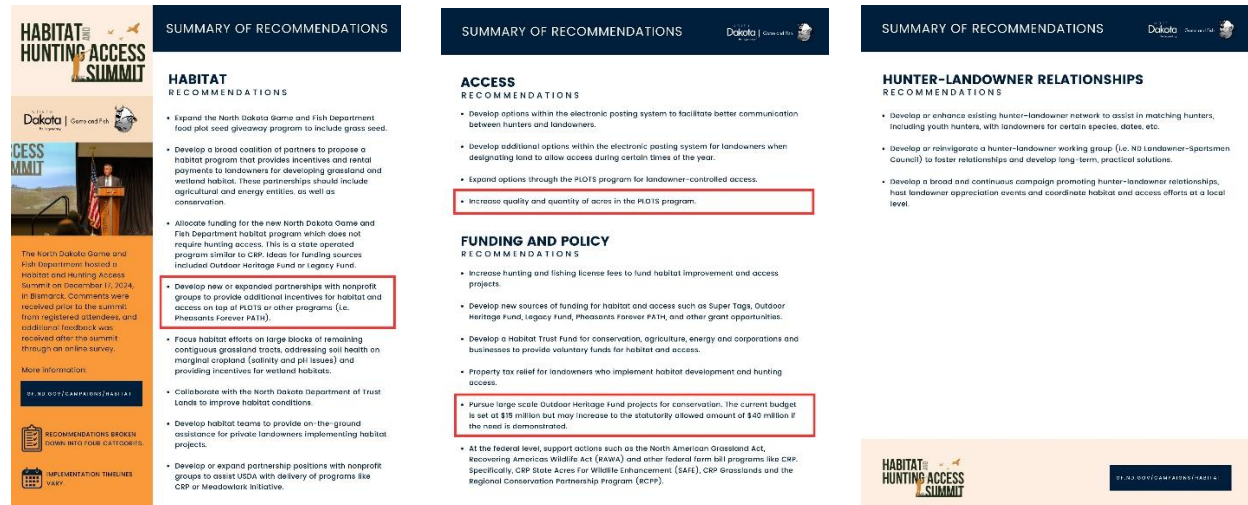
The purpose of this project is to formally implement public recommendations from the Habitat and Hunting Access Summit.

Habitat and Hunting Access Summit recommendations:

Another purpose for this project is to show the public that the Department is listening and engaged. Participant input and recommendations were sought after the inaugural Habitat and Hunting Access Summit, held in Bismarck on December 17, 2024. These recommendations

were summarized and categorized. Distilled from wide-ranging participant comments, three key recommendations stand out and relate to this project:

<https://gf.nd.gov/campaigns/habitat/habitat-hunting-access-summit/2024#recommendations>



Key recommendation #1

- Develop new or expanded partnerships with nonprofit groups to provide additional incentives for habitat and access on top of PLOTS or other programs (i.e. Pheasants Forever PATH).

This strategy is not new to the PLOTS program, but additional emphasis will be placed on cultivating new and improving existing partnerships by collaborating on mutually beneficial projects. Partnerships exist with many of the state’s conservation partners and chapters now who support or incentivize PLOTS acres associated with habitat and access tracts in their footprint, but more can always be done.

Key recommendation #2

- Increase quality and quantity of acres in the PLOTS program.

Improving quality and quantity of acres in the PLOTS program is a continuous goal for the PLOTS program. That said, PLOTS tracts are sometimes unfairly termed “high” or “low quality” based on an individual’s expectations on a given day. The Department does not necessarily expect a PLOTS tract to provide hunting opportunities for all species of wildlife. Biologists evaluate offers on a case-by-case basis during enrollment for the species likely to be present, the

hunting opportunities the tract would provide, and whether the location is accessible and desirable. If quality standards were not factored in, there would likely be many millions of acres in the PLOTS program. However, many offered acres provide insufficient hunting opportunities or are inaccessible, so they are not enrolled.

Private land biologists could enroll low-quality acres (by the millions), or exceptional acres (but far fewer of them) with the funding and spending authority available. The Department seeks balance, trying to thread the needle on the best combination of quality and quantity to satisfy public demand within the available budget.

Quality of acres:

Quality is typically viewed through the lens of what game species an individual is pursuing on a specific day. If the available PLOTS acres don't provide an opportunity for the specific game they desired to pursue on a given day, the Department receives criticism for enrolling such poor-quality tracts. However, there are often other opportunities on the same parcel of land that the critic hadn't considered.

Example: a tract of Morton County cropland near the Missouri River would likely disappoint individuals seeking standing cover for an opening day pheasant hunt in October, but those same individuals may not realize they could experience exceptional late season Canada goose hunting in December on the same tract of land.

Quantity of acres:

This funding, if awarded, would help the Department enroll between 20,000 and 40,000 acres in PLOTS for a substantial amount of time – a significant contribution toward enrolling and maintaining 1,000,000 acres in the PLOTS program.

The Department is experienced at generating landowner interest, enrolling quality lands, and monitoring agreements for compliance. Adding this funding to the PLOTS program would be easily absorbed programmatically and implemented immediately.

Key recommendation #3

- Pursue large scale Outdoor Heritage Fund projects for conservation. The current budget is set at \$15 million but may increase to the statutorily allowed amount of \$40 million if the need is demonstrated.

The Department is submitting this project application not only to show action on this recommendation, but also because there is a real need. The Department received a spending authority increase of \$5M for the upcoming biennium (7/1/25 – 6/30/27), with a plan to seek grant funding and leverage sportsman's license fees to multiply the impact the available dollars can have. Combined, this opportunity allows the Department to not only show the public that providing their recommendations was worth their time, but also to

demonstrate the positive impact OHF dollars have on North Dakota's hunters, landowners, travel and hospitality industries.

Is this project part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan? 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.

Though private land habitat programs and initiatives have existed within the Department for decades, the PLOTS program as we know it today was established in 1999. Through decades of effort and experience, the PLOTS program has grown into a large-scale, highly successful private land habitat and access program, patronized by tens of thousands of hunters annually.

The Private Lands Section includes 15 staff – one Section Leader, one Habitat Program Manager, one GIS specialist, and two Region Supervisors who oversee 10 field biologists who manage over 2,950 PLOTS program agreements containing over 861,000 acres.

Private Lands Section staff will fully manage this project from start to finish. Nate Harling, Habitat Program Manager – Private Lands will share grant administration responsibilities with Andrew Dinges, West Region Supervisor – Private Lands. Combined, Nate and Andrew have over 45 years of professional experience with the Department and other conservation organizations.

Andrew and his team of five PLI biologists will identify interested landowners and deliver PLOTS agreements through this grant. PLI biologists deliver PLOTS agreements on a daily basis (and they are very good at what they do). PLI biologists in the project area range between 7-28 years of professional experience. Andrew will also coordinate enrolled agreements with NDWF and ensure incentive payments are authorized.

Nate will co-manage the grant by completing grant reports, coordinating grant reimbursement, coordinating with NDWF and continuing to seek funding partners to expand partner incentives.

PLOTS enrollment occurs annually throughout the majority of the calendar year.

NDWF will issue incentive payments for applicable cover types directly to the landowner(s) when PLOTS enrollment is complete (in applicable counties). Incentive payment amounts and acreages will be included in all applicable grant reporting. Discussions with other interested funding partners are ongoing (but could not be formalized prior to the grant application deadline).

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.

PLOTS enrollment is managed through a custom in-house database that organizes landowner contact information, past/current/future payments, acreage, location, etc. and is sortable in countless ways. PLOTS tracts enrolled through this grant would receive a special program “unit type” and be easily pulled “on demand” for all reporting needs.

The Department would define success as spending all of the funding on quality PLOTS tracts that provide accessible public walk-in hunting opportunities in desirable hunting locations.

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
Access payments	\$1,500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$2,100,000
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$1,500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$2,100,000

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.

Though the cumulative match would be significant, the Department chose not to include staff time or administrative expenses as match due to administrative complexities this would cause within the Department. Without factoring in those costs, the cash ratio per entity in the project at 71.4% OHF funds (\$1,500,000), 23.8% NDGF (\$500,000) and 4.8% NDWF \$100,000).

All PLOTS agreements in all project area counties follow standardized payment rates. These rates correspond to hunting access for each cover type. There are no haying/grazing/cropping restrictions associated with these payments. Eligible cover types (and associated payments) in this project are limited to cropland/hayland (\$1/acre/year), rangeland (\$4/acre/year) and

range/woodlands (\$6/acre/year). All PLOTS payments will be subject to a 75% - 25% split with OHF and the Department, respectively.

Conservation partners have priority geographies and habitat types associated with their organizations and a desire to contribute to longer-term projects. For this grant, partner incentives only apply to native habitats (native grasslands, wetlands, riparian areas, woodlands and badlands). Partner incentives do not apply to cropland, hayland, CRP or other disturbed land cover types.

To date, NDWF is the only organization to formally commit to funding partner incentives for eligible lands in Dunn and McKenzie counties. NDWF will directly issue incentive payments of \$2/acre/year for 10-year agreements and \$4/acre/year for 20-year agreements (further incentivizing the longer-term commitment). The incentive payments are in addition to standard PLOTS rates (they do not offset any OHF/Department dollars).

Other organizations have been contacted and expressed interest in similar incentives in other counties in the project area. Those discussions will continue beyond the date of this application and may join in this endeavor after the grant application is submitted, further improving the OHF’s cash match ratio in this project.

Example 1: 10-year PLOTS (no partner incentive)

A landowner offers 1,280 acres for a 10-year PLOTS agreement in Grant County*. The offered lands include 160 acres of cropland, 960 acres of rangeland, and 160 acres of range/woodland.

*Grant County is not currently eligible for a partner incentive.

PLOTS payment:

100 acres cropland x \$1 x 10 years = \$1,000
 860 acres native rangeland x \$4 x 10 years = \$34,400
320 acres native range/woodland x \$6 x 10 years = \$19,200
Total upfront payment = \$54,600 (avg. \$4.27/acre/year)

OHF match %	NDGF match %	Partner match %
75%	25%	0%

Example 2: 10-year PLOTS (with partner incentive)

This scenario is identical to Example 1 other than a change in location to Dunn County, which is eligible for a partner incentive payment on native habitats.

A landowner offers 1,280 acres for a 10-year PLOTS agreement in Dunn County. The offered lands include 160 acres of cropland, 960 acres of native rangeland, and 160 acres of native range/woodland.

PLOTS payment:

100 acres cropland x \$1 x 10 years = \$1,000
860 acres native rangeland x \$4 x 10 years = \$34,400
320 acres native range/woodland x \$6 x 10 years = \$19,200
Total upfront payment = \$54,600

NDWF incentive payment:

100 acres cropland x \$0 x 10 years = \$0
860 acres native rangeland x \$2 x 10 years = \$17,200
320 acres native range/woodland x \$2 x 10 years = \$6,400
Total upfront payment = \$23,600

Payment Summary:

Total upfront payment = \$54,600 (avg. \$4.27/acre/year)
Total upfront payment = \$23,600 (avg. \$1.84/acre/year)
Grand Total Upfront Payment = \$78,200 (avg. \$6.11/acre/year)

OHF match %	NDGF match %	Partner match %
52.4%	17.4%	30.2%

Example 3: 20-year PLOTS (no partner incentive)

A landowner offers 1,280 acres for a 20-year PLOTS agreement in Grant County*. The offered lands include 160 acres of cropland, 960 acres of rangeland, and 160 acres of range/woodland.

*Grant County is not currently eligible for a partner incentive.

PLOTS payment:

100 acres cropland x \$1 x 20 years = \$2,000
860 acres native rangeland x \$4 x 20 years = \$68,800
320 acres native range/woodland x \$6 x 20 years = \$38,400
Total upfront payment = \$109,200 (avg. \$4.27/acre/year)

OHF match %	NDGF match %	Partner match %
75%	25%	0%

Example 4: 20-year PLOTS (with partner incentive)

This scenario is identical to Example 3 other than a change in location to Dunn County, which is eligible for a partner incentive payment on native habitats.

A landowner offers 1,280 acres for a 20-year PLOTS agreement in Dunn County. The offered lands include 160 acres of cropland, 960 acres of native rangeland, and 160 acres of native range/woodland.

PLOTS payment:

100 acres cropland x \$1 x 20 years = \$2,000
860 acres native rangeland x \$4 x 20 years = \$68,800
320 acres native range/woodland x \$6 x 20 years = \$38,400
Total upfront payment = \$109,200 (avg. \$4.27/acre/year)

NDWF incentive payment:

100 acres cropland x \$0 x 20 years = \$0
860 acres native rangeland x \$4 x 20 years = \$68,800
320 acres native range/woodland x \$4 x 20 years = \$25,600
Total upfront payment = \$94,400

Payment Summary:

Total upfront payment = \$109,200 (avg. \$4.27/acre/year)
Total upfront payment = \$94,400 (avg. \$3.68/acre/year)
Grand Total Upfront Payment = \$203,600 (avg. \$7.95/acre/year)

OHF match %	NDGF match %	Partner match %
40.2%	13.4%	46.4%

As you can see, partner incentives will make for competitive and compelling offers in this highly desirable project area.

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.

PLOTS agreements enrolled through this grant will endure 10-20 years. Long-standing PLOTS monitoring practices are in place to ensure agreement compliance throughout the life of the OHF PLOTS agreements, which will exceed the duration of the OHF grant. Because staff time and expenses are not part of this grant, additional funding will not be sought or needed for future management or monitoring.

Due to the length of these agreements, future program leaders will have ample time to plan, earmark funding, seek grants, or develop partnerships to address renewal agreements closer to the time.

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

If partial funding is awarded, fewer acres will be enrolled in the PLOTS program in the project area and less public benefit will be realized.

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 Department agrees to place signage on OHF-funded PLOTS tracts and provide recognition through various media channels?

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

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



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

4/17/2025

Director Williams,

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 North Dakota Game & Fish Department's Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant will improve wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, 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 **\$100,000** to the effort of expanding public hunting access and supporting 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. As part of this commitment, we also pledge to support this effort through:

- Ongoing communication and public outreach to promote the partnership's goals and outcomes;
- Technical support and coordination where applicable.

NDWF is proud to play a role in helping build a stronger, more connected conservation community. We look forward to working closely with the North Dakota Game & Fish Department 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