



TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

4180 HIGHWAY 281
P.O. BOX 900
BELCOURT, NORTH DAKOTA 58316

(701) 477-2600
FAX: (701) 477-6836

December 2, 2013

Karlene Fine
Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
North Dakota Industrial Commission
State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505
outdoorheritage@nd.gov

Dear Ms. Fine:

On behalf of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (the Tribe), I am pleased to submit for your deepest consideration this request for \$508,600 in 2014, to establish an innovative and ongoing government-to-government collaboration and partnership between the Tribe and the State of North Dakota, to establish and operate the proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund**.

Turtle Mountain Chippewa lands on and off-reservation in Rolette County include about 84,500 acres of some the most beautiful and unique natural landscapes and diverse environments in North Dakota and the northern plains. These diverse and dynamic ecosystems and the abundant plants and wildlife they support are the foundation of our Turtle Mountain Chippewa culture and history -- and of the hope and resolve which we share with the State of North Dakota for the health, well-being and sustainability of our future.

With our proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund**, we will build the capacity of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa government, community, and youth to understand, protect, conserve, restore, manage, share and sustain our natural heritage – our forests, woodlands and grasslands, our lakes, wetlands and creeks, and all the rich and abundant web of creatures they support in this unique region.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and the State of North Dakota have much to share and learn from one another to safeguard the lands and waters we all cherish. Our proposed government-to-government partnership to establish and operate the proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** is an important step we can take together.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

Sincerely,

Richard W. McCloud, Chairman
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Application

to the

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund

to establish the

Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund



December 1, 2013

Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund
December 1, 2013

COVER INFORMATION

Name of Organization	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
Federal Tax ID#	45-0223071
Contact Person/Title	Lyle Poitra, Coordinator, TMCOHF
Address	4180 Hwy 281, PO Box 900
City	Belcourt
State	North Dakota
Zip Code	58316
E-mail Address	<u>lylepoitra1@yahoo.com</u>
Web Site Address	www.tmbci.net
Phone	701-550-2423

PRIMARY DIRECTIVE

The Primary Directive addressed by this Application to establish the **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** is Directive C : to develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands.

The proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** will also address the other three Directives, as discussed below.

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Tribal Entity

PROJECT NAME Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund

ABSTRACT/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (the Tribe) proposes a multi-year government-to-government partnership with the State of North Dakota's Outdoor Heritage Fund to establish and operate a new, innovative, complementary and on-going **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund**, to facilitate, guide, leverage and manage critically-needed investments into opportunities to enhance culturally-grounded management, restoration and stewardship of Tribal lands, waters, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, prime agricultural resources, and outdoor parks and recreation.

First year costs (2014) will total \$ 700,290 -- including \$508,600 from the State of North Dakota and at least \$ 191,690 in Turtle Mountain Chippewa in-kind contributions.

The overall Goal of the proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** is to build the capacity of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa government, community, and youth to understand, protect, conserve, restore, manage, share and sustain our natural heritage –the diverse and dynamic ecosystems which are the foundation of our Turtle Mountain Chippewa culture, history and sustainable future.

We will do this by establishing and strengthening external and internal partnerships; by leveraging resources; and by engaging our youth through hands-on culturally-grounded experiential education, mentoring, internships, and career-oriented employment opportunities in natural resources stewardship.

Major outcomes and benefits will include:

1. an estimated 30 locally-conceived and implemented projects in habitat restoration and conservation; improved access to outdoor recreation opportunities; and public education to strengthen community understanding and support for tribal policies and governance to ensure the long-term health and viability of our natural heritage;
2. strengthened capacity of at least 150 of our youth for stewardship and leadership as the heart of the sustainability of our culture, community, environment, and heritage;
3. engagement of at least 20 community partners in planning, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating **Outdoor Heritage** projects; and
4. bringing our whole community into the process as stakeholders, stewards and monitors with "ownership" of **Outdoor Heritage** conservation, enhancement, management and related governance initiatives.

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST:	\$ 508,600
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 700,290
AMOUNT OF MATCHING FUNDS	\$ 191,690
SOURCE(S) OF MATCHING FUNDS	Tribal departments, programs and community

CERTIFICATIONS

- I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.
- I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted on Page 1 of this application.

NARRATIVE

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (the Tribe) -- the Applicant Organization in this request -- is a federally recognized Indian tribe with some 25,000 enrolled members, 8,497 of whom live on or adjacent to the Tribe's 86,989 acres of tribal and individual allotted trust lands in the center of Rolette County, North Dakota. Although the Chippewa, Cree and Michif peoples comprising the Tribe have lived, hunted and gathered in the *Miikinoock Kijews* (Turtle Mountains) region for centuries, their present reservation was only established in 1884, after a painful and protracted process of successive forced cessions of land to the federal government during the 19th century.

The Tribe is governed by an eight-member elected Tribal Council and elected Chairman of the Tribal Council, under the guidance of the Tribe's Constitution. The Tribal Council and Chairman oversee and lead the operations of several dozen departments and programs, which are funded through grants, contracts and cooperative agreements with private, state and federal agencies. The Tribe's Mission is to be a sovereign community in the heart of North America, comprised of a people in harmony with our unique traditions and culture; and to achieve self-sufficiency, financial independence and a healthy lifestyle through the knowledge and education of our most important asset – our people. Our specific primary Goal is to strengthen the interdependent wholeness and health of our youth, families, community, lands and natural resources.

PURPOSE OF GRANT

“ In the end, we will only conserve what we love, we will only love what we understand, we will only understand what we are taught ...” -- Baba Dioum, Senegal

Overview

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (the Tribe) proposes a new innovative multi-year government-to-government partnership with the State of North Dakota’s Outdoor Heritage Fund to establish and operate a complementary, on-going **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund**, which will facilitate, guide, leverage and manage critically-needed targeted investments into opportunities to enhance culturally-grounded management, restoration and stewardship of Tribal lands, waters, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, prime agricultural resources, and outdoor parks and recreation.

The Turtle Mountains have been the heart of our Chippewa, Cree and Michif homelands for centuries. The landscapes and resources of the Turtle Mountains shaped the rugged independence and sense of community that define the Turtle Mountain Chippewa. These mountains have long supported abundant and diverse native plant, fish and wildlife species, including nuts, berries, tubers, and medicinal herbs, edible fish, bird and mammal species. Tribal members traditionally depended on these plants and animals, as well as cultivated staple crops, for their sustenance, medicines, and well-being. Learning from and honoring these relationships is at the heart of fundamental Turtle Mountain Chippewa values and teachings of respect, integrity, courage, humility, honesty, service, and stewardship – and of individual and community well-being. This weave of cultural and natural heritages has given us our sense of identity and cultural continuity, creativity and vitality.

Over the past several generations, the multi-generational transmission of many cultural knowledge and teachings -- including how to learn about, respect, identify, manage, conserve, harvest, prepare and share these plants and animals -- have greatly diminished. This is due to multiple factors: the establishment of the reservation system, oppression by traders and missionaries, the effects of Indian boarding schools, federal relocation policy, and others – which have forced gradual acculturation into mainstream society perceptions, diets, economy and lifestyles.

Much of the knowledge and skills linked to key cultural elements such as ceremonies, identity and sense of place, respect and reverence for the natural world, traditional plant and animal knowledge, music, dance, and craftsmanship are disappearing due to declining numbers of knowledgeable elders and practitioners and the disassociation of youth. As traditional cultural and ecological knowledge and practices have declined, the health and well-being of the people, and of the plants and animal communities on the Tribe’s homelands, have also suffered.

Turtle Mountain youth especially have been affected by this loss of cultural teachings, values and strength. As generations of chronic poverty and social distress take their toll, more and more youth are at risk of negative and destructive patterns of behavior, including poor school attendance, violence, delinquency, and substance abuse.

Our elders say that we must embrace life and positive actions, not dwell on the negative. Our youth tell us that they do not have enough positive strengthening activities – especially in winter; and not enough arts and cultural and outdoor activities, or whole family recreation. Our lands and waters cry out for effective community education and engagement in protecting, managing, conserving and fostering growth and stewardship of our natural resources, our traditional plant and animal teachers and foods and medicines. We have heard these voices.

The Tribe's cultural sites, parks, wild lands, lakes and streams are gifts inherited from the ancestors -- places that offer refuge from the demands of daily life, that renew spirits and enrich memories. They also are working lands that have fed and sustained the community for generations. We take pride in these places; we share responsibility to care for them for the generations to come. Yet we are losing touch with too many of the places and values that we treasure. Our farms, ranches and forests, the pristine qualities of our lakes and wetlands, the diversity, health and abundance of our wildlife and other resources are disappearing due to growing population pressures and changing land uses. Our families spend less time together on the land. Despite ongoing conservation efforts, our lands continue to fragment, many of our lakes and streams are endangered by pollution, and we are losing our connection to the wild places we grew up with and cherish. And our youth spend far less time outdoors running and playing, fishing and hunting, and connecting to the natural world as we and our ancestors did.

The well-being of our human community is profoundly affected by the health of our natural environment. Contamination and other disturbances of our natural environment are reflected in our well-being. The Tribe's foremost environmental concern is the impact of deteriorating water quality on all aspects of environmental and community health. Contributing factors include our rapidly increasing population dispersed on a small land base; water resources vulnerable to contamination from agricultural and residential land uses due to shallow aquifers and porous soils; and, often, the lack of awareness of these relationships by policy-makers, planners, and community members.

We are focusing our proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** especially on engaging our youth (over 40 % of our people are younger than 20), particularly on the estimated 2000 or so of our youth between the ages of 15 and 24, so that they may gain and strengthen the tools, skills, knowledge and hope they need to cherish and sustain their natural heritage in years to come.

Turtle Mountain tribal community, culture, values, and governance have always been grounded in respect for our “outdoor heritage” – for the Earth, for the lands, waters, plants and wildlife whose health and well-being are inextricably interwoven with the health and well-being of our community and of our future. Our proposed collaborative and educational partnership with the State of North Dakota promises to strengthen not only our own outdoor heritage, but also to enhance understanding of our neighbors’ and friends’ outdoor heritage throughout the region.

Goals, Strategies, Benefits and Timetable

The overall Goal of the proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** is to build the capacity of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa government, community, and especially our youth to understand, protect, conserve, restore, manage, share and sustain our natural heritage – our forests, woodlands and grasslands, our lakes, wetlands and creeks, and all the rich and abundant web of creatures they support -- altogether comprising diverse and dynamic ecosystems which are unique to this region and the foundation of our Turtle Mountain Chippewa culture, history and sustainable future.

Our Strategies include:

1. Establishing and strengthening external and internal partnerships, with the State of North Dakota, with state and federal natural resources agencies (i.e. USDA NRCS, Bureau of Indian Affairs, North Dakota Game & Fish, etc.), with outside private organizations and foundations; and also among our principal tribal and community agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources, Tribal Environmental Protection, Turtle Mountain Heritage Center, Turtle Mountain Community College, Turtle Mountain Youth Council, public schools, and others;
2. Leveraging resources by providing, monitoring and evaluating small (\$5,000 to \$20,000 maximum) incremental targeted grants requiring matching funds to specific projects conducted by community-based and tribal organizations and individuals – especially college and high school students -- to strengthen and support their assumption of responsibility for natural heritage stewardship, as well as to enable them to identify and access additional resources from outside agencies that require cash matches (for example, the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program), programs of the USGS, USEPA, BIA and others;
3. Focusing especially on engaging our youth through hands-on experiential education, mentoring, internships, and career-oriented employment opportunities in planning, conducting, monitoring and evaluating diverse culturally-grounded initiatives in land, water and wildlife habitat protection and restoration, through partnerships with our schools, Heritage Center and other tribal departments, Youth Council, and related Youth leadership programs.

Major outcomes and benefits of the proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** in 2014, its first year of establishment and operation, will include:

1. The availability of modest seed funds to leverage additional resources for an estimated 30 projects (averaging \$15,000 each in **Outdoor Heritage Funds**) in (a) wildlife habitat restoration, conservation and enhancement; (b) enhancement and improved access to fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities; and (c) outreach and public education to strengthen community understanding and support for tribal plans, policies, programs and governance that will ensure the long-term health and viability of our diverse native plant and animal communities, of our wetlands, lakes, streams, and riparian areas, and of our woodlands, forests and grasslands.
2. Strengthening and focusing the stewardship and leadership capacity of at least 150 of our youth (an average of 5 each for 30 projects), as the heart of the sustainability of our culture, community, environment, and heritage.
3. Engaging at least twenty (20) local community partners – in addition to our primary partners at the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Departments, Heritage Center, Tribal College, and Youth Council -- in planning, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating **Outdoor Heritage** projects
4. Through intensive community education and engagement, bringing our whole community into the process as stakeholders, stewards and monitors with “ownership” of **Outdoor Heritage** conservation, enhancement, management, and related governance initiatives.

2014 TIMETABLE

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan2015
Grant Award		x											
Finalize partner technical support, selection criteria, policies and procedures	xxxxxxx												
Hire the TMCOHF Coordinator; announce availability of funds			x									x	
Applications received and screened	xx												
Applications reviewed by the Board, grants awarded (2-4 grants per month)				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Project planning and design, coordination, and mentoring	xx												
Monthly written progress reports					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bimonthly partner evaluation meetings						x		x		x		x	
Photo and video-documentations	xx												
Annual Report to ND OHF													x

Description of Turtle Mountain Chippewa Lands, Waters, Plants and Wildlife

Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribal lands on and off-reservation in Rolette County include about 84,500 acres of some the most beautiful and unique natural landscapes and diverse environments on the northern plains. The climate is semi-arid continental, characterized by long cold winters; short, warm summers; large annual and daily temperature changes; erratic distribution of precipitation; and nearly continuous air movement. The Turtle Mountain region is covered by remnants of the Wisconsin glaciations, which melted at the end of the last Ice Age some 12,000 years ago. The receding glaciers created an elevated terrain of rolling “turtle back” hills and scooped-out lakes, resulting in an area of scenic beauty unequaled in the state or region.

In the Turtle Mountains, the underlying Tongue River Formation is covered by some 200-300 of glacial till and outwash in hilly areas, and of glacial lake deposits in more level areas. Soils are formed mainly in this glacial drift, and are mostly very deep fine sandy loams to silt loams to silty clays, classified by the USDA to be "prime farmland".

The drainage pattern is poorly integrated, with most runoff collecting in some 6,000 deep depressions ("prairie potholes"), ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Water percolates through these coarse sediments to collect in shallow aquifers to the south of the Turtle Mountains; these shallow aquifers are the principal source of drinking water for the Tribe.

Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribal land uses include: an estimated 43,300 acres of forest, woodland, and shrub or grass deciduous cover (60%); some 22,000 acres of agricultural uses (26%) including about 14,200 acres of grazing lands and 7,600 acres of dry-farmed crop lands; about 8,400 acres of lakes, ponds and wetlands (10%); and about 3,400 acres of commercial, municipal, and residential uses (4%).

Forest, woodland and shrub species include quaking aspen and bur oak as the dominant trees. Other species growing in scattered areas throughout the Turtle Mountains include green ash, black ash, common chokecherry, golden currant, American hazelnut, paper birch, red-osier dogwood, American high-bush cranberry, hawthorn, raspberry, box elder, Saskatoon serviceberry, staghorn sumac, silver buffaloberry, and common snowberry. In the bottomlands, dominant trees include American elm, green ash, box elder, and various willows. Less common are cottonwood, common choke cherry, and red osier dogwood. Sedges, rushes, cat-tails, bull-rushes and grasses predominate in wetlands.

Wildlife habitat diversity on Tribal lands is enhanced by the numerous wetlands, ponds and lakes that serve many birds, migratory waterfowl, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fishes including : bald eagles, gray partridge, ruffed grouse, mourning doves, white pelicans; herons and grebes; hawks (marsh, red-tailed); red-wing blackbirds; swallows; loons, and many species of ducks (coots, teal, canvas-back, mallards, northern shoveler, merganser, and ruddy) and wild geese; red fox, lynx, weasels, moose, white-tailed deer, elk, muskrat, mink, raccoon, badger, cottontail rabbit, white-tailed jack-rabbit – as well as occasional sightings of wolves, bears and mountain lions; garter snakes and wood frogs; and also, northern pike, walleye, blue gill, smallmouth bass, crappie, trout, bullhead and perch.

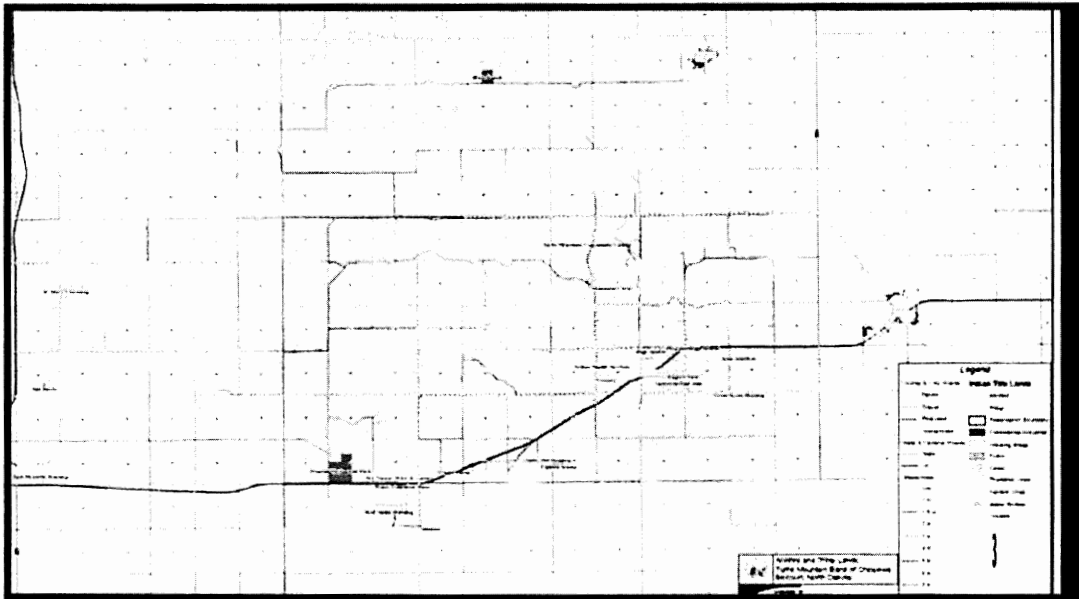
ENGAGEMENT WITH ALL FOUR DIRECTIVES

The following narrative discusses briefly how the proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** will engage with each of the four Directives of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund.

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

Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribal lands in Rolette County include a checkerboard of individual allotted lands (pink on the map below); and tribal trust lands (green) – interspersed with non-Indian owned fee lands (white). This creates a jurisdictional tangle, with State and County codes and laws governing non-tribal lands, and Federal and Tribal laws governing the Tribe’s lands.

**Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribal Lands – On and Off-Reservation, Rolette County
Pink = Individual Allotted; Green = Tribal Trust**



This tangle makes consistent natural resources protection, conservation, restoration and management more problematic than in many areas with less-complex multiple jurisdictions. As the lead entity, the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribal government seeks to clarify and streamline natural resource jurisdiction, management and enforcement issues on all lands within the exterior boundaries of the reservation, and on all tribal lands outside of the reservation.

This requires extensive education and confidence-building with tribal members who have individual allotted lands, as well as focused and exemplary resources management code development and enforcement on those tribal trust lands over which the Tribe has full authority.

Some specific projects which would be enabled and funded with leverage made available by mini-grants from our proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** include:

1. Outreach and education to policy-makers, department staff; farmers and ranchers; land owners and users; and members of the general public, to gain understanding, support, acceptance, and participation in identifying and developing opportunities on tribal trust and individual allotted lands – as well as on scattered parcels owned by non-Indians – for habitat restoration and carefully defined and monitored public access to improved fishing and hunting areas;
2. Review, assessment, strengthening and enforcement of existing internal Tribal policies, procedures and regulations – including guidance for all land use decisions; and
3. Research, identification, and incorporation of the best available management practices (BMPs) in targeting and developing specific lakes for improved access by sportsmen.

Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund mini-grants would be used to leverage larger grants from the BIA, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development, the US Environmental Protection Agency; and others.

Directive B. Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Surface water quality in many Tribal wetlands is impaired due to agricultural runoff, including chemicals applied to croplands, and livestock manure from confined feeding operations and insufficiently managed grazing. Excess nutrients (including nitrogen and phosphorus) washing into Tribal lakes and wetlands encourages algal blooms, leading in turn to widespread low oxygen levels in the waters, and in some cases, resulting in fish kills.

Several privately owned ranches with winter feeding operations and large manure piles on Tribal lands have been observed within close proximity of creeks and wetlands, and without best management practices (BMPs) to prevent manure from being mobilized and distributed by runoff. Similarly, several farms owned by non-tribal members, are located on tribal lands, and contribute excess fertilizers as well as perhaps also pesticides to water resource pollution.

Waters affected include but not limited to – Belcourt Lake, Ox Creek, Gordon Lake, Wheaton Lake, Wolf Creek, Snake Creek, Howard Lake/Johnson Lake, and Upper Big Coulee Subwatersheds

Some specific water quality concerns include observations and measurements of high levels of *chlorophyll a* at the Belcourt Lake, Ox Creek and Long Lake subwatersheds; frequent low *Dissolved oxygen* levels at Belcourt Lake, Gordon Lake, Jarvis Lake, Wheaton Lake, Indian Creek, Ox Creek, and Wolf Creek; high *Nitrogen and Phosphorus* levels at all lake monitoring stations.

All of these indicate excessive plant and algal growth, as a result of nutrient enrichment caused by runoff from agriculture (fertilizers), and animal waste from rangeland areas.

Specific projects which would be enabled and funded with leverage made available by mini-grants from our proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** include:

1. Outreach and education to policy-makers, department staff; farmers and ranchers; land owners and users; and members of the general public, to gain understanding, support, acceptance, and participation in rigorous monitoring and protection of Tribal waters;
2. Review, assessment, strengthening and enforcement of existing internal Tribal policies, procedures and regulations – including provisions of agricultural leases, and guidance for all land use decisions; and
3. Research and application of the best available management practices (BMPs) to livestock and crop production on Tribal lands, individual allotted lands, and lands leased owned by non-Tribal members within Turtle Mountain watersheds, in order to reduce or eliminate the escape of excess nutrients (manures and fertilizers) and chemical contaminants (pesticide and herbicide residues) into Tribal waters.
4. Expand the wetlands water quality monitoring and sampling system in order to pinpoint sources of pollutants, to understand better the conditions of presently unmonitored wetlands, and to inform decisions about where to use which best land use management practices (BMPs). In this case, a particular emphasis would be on encouraging high school and college classes and students to design and conduct their own monitoring and sampling projects, under mentorships by the **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund's** network of professional advisors and partners.

Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund mini-grants would be used to leverage larger grants from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development, the US Environmental Protection Agency; and others.

Directive C. Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands

The opportunities for mini-grants addressing this Directive are similar to those outlined for Directive A., and similarly include –

1. carefully designed and delivered culturally appropriate public outreach and education;
2. assessment and strengthening of Tribal policies, procedures, codes and regulations, and comprehensive plans providing for area- or sub-watershed-wide multi-agency integrated or coordinated stewardship of natural resources; and
3. research, identification, and incorporation of the best available management practices (BMPs) in targeting and developing specific habitat areas for improved access by sportsmen and by outdoor recreation enthusiasts alike.

Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund mini-grants would be used to leverage larger grants from the BIA, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development, the US Environmental Protection Agency; and others.

Directive D. Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

The Department of Natural Resources of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (<http://tmdnr.webs.com/>) manages the wildlife and fish, bison, parks and recreation, agricultural, and other natural and cultural resources on Turtle Mountain tribal lands to the optimum benefit of the Turtle Mountain community, now and for future generations. The Department maintains a full-time staff of 10 individuals; and partners with local training programs such as Summer Youth, Adult Workforce Training, and Experience Works to assist with projects during the summer months.

In 2010, the Department established the 1,313 acre ***Ogimaa Giizhig*** (SkyChief) Recreation Park as a joint venture between the Department of Natural Resources, Turtle Mountain Tribal Council, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Tribal Tourism Department, and Pathways to Prosperity. The park is the Tribe's primary outdoor cultural and environmental literacy classroom and facility. It encompasses two lakes; and includes opportunities for fishing, walking and nature trails, swimming and water sports, individual and group picnic facilities, and wildlife viewing opportunities -- as these may be developed carefully within the context of an integrated stewardship and management plan.

The **Ojibmaa Giizhig** Recreation Park would benefit enormously from individuals and groups from the Turtle Mountain community taking responsibility for one or another of the many attributes of the Park which need focused attention and care. **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** mini-grants could include but would not not be limited to --

1. Intensified multi-agency integrated resource management planning;
2. public outreach and education with an especial emphasis on intergenerational culturally-grounded whole family and youth camps and activities;
3. lake and wetland water quality monitoring; and
4. lake, wetland, and surrounding forest culturally-important plant, wildlife and fish habitat conservation, enhancement and educational interpretation.

MANAGEMENT OF PROJECT

The **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund (TMCOHF)** will be overseen by the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Natural Resources Board, established by the Tribal Council to provide leadership and policy direction to all natural resources initiatives. The Natural Resources Board is headed by Lyle Morin, who has thirty years experience managing the Bureau of Indian Affairs Natural Resources Branch at Turtle Mountain.

The Board will engage Lyle Poitra to serve as TMCOHF Coordinator. Mr. Poitra has worked for thirty years in the Turtle Mountain community planning, develop, and evaluate diverse youth, natural resources, economic and cultural development initiatives for the Tribe, College and community-based organizations, including the College's Anishinabe Cultural Center and the Tribe's Youth Wellness Center. Mr. Poitra excels especially at coordinating, developing, and maintaining the diverse and respectful collaborations and partnerships essential to the success these initiatives.

We anticipate that the first round of **North Dakota Outdoor Heritage** funds will be available in early spring, 2014. Prior to that time, after formal notification of grant award if any, the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Natural Resources Board will finalize **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund (TMCOHF)** partner advisory and technical support group (drawing especially from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Departments, Heritage Center, Tribal College, and Youth Council); project eligibility; and selection criteria, policies and procedures; and will share these with our lead partners and prospective community-based applicants, so that we can initiate projects as soon as outdoor conditions are favorable.

Within a month of receipt of funds, the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Natural Resources Board will hire the TMCOHF Coordinator and announce the availability of seed grants. Local applicants will include Tribal programs and departments, community-based organizations, and individuals including motivated college and high school youth.

Applicants will be required to provide at least 25% cash or in-kind matches for their requests. The Coordinator and technical advisory group members will work with each successful applicant to identify and secure additional project matching funds from appropriate agencies (eg, USDA-NRCS, US-EPA, US Fish and Wildlife; also, youth and whole family strengthening and mentoring programs within the community).

As applications come in, they will be screened by the Coordinator for sufficiency and adherence to basic eligibility criteria, and reviewed by the Board on a monthly basis. The Coordinator will notify successful local applicants, and will facilitate project planning and design, coordination, and mentoring relationships with the most appropriate community partners.

The **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** will require monthly written progress reports from all funded participants. The Coordinator and Natural Resources Board will review these as they are received, with technical partners as appropriate, to assess and provide for any needed technical support or project design refinements.

The Coordinator and Natural Resources Board will compile all final progress reports from local projects into an Annual Report to the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund. The Annual Report will be supplemented by photo and video-documentations to highlight the accomplishments and participants in local projects.

EVALUATION

The Turtle Mountain Natural Resources Board and Outdoor Heritage Fund Coordinator will convene and facilitate bimonthly evaluation meetings of key technical partners (including the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Departments, Heritage Center, Tribal College, and Youth Council). These meetings will be the primary vehicle for sharing, monitoring and assessing reports, information and data on progress made by every local project funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as well as performance of the **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** as a whole.

Information coming in from TMCOHF grantees and support agencies will be assessed and as changing circumstances and new information may indicate – as we learn more clearly what is working, for whom, and why; who has accomplished what stewardship activities and at what cost; and also, what is not working – the Natural Resources Board, Outdoor Heritage Fund Coordinator, and key partners will identify, agree on and set in motion appropriate actions to refine and improve all aspects of performance and process.

Major Performance Measures will include:

- the successful establishment, staffing and operations of the **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund**
- the amount of funds leveraged and resources mobilized for the implementation of individual **Outdoor Heritage projects** ;
- the number of agencies, organizations and individuals that participate in communication and coordination activities with each **Outdoor Heritage project**, and that enter into formal written inter/ intra-organizational agreements to improve coordination, collaboration and resource mobilization to accomplish **Outdoor Heritage** goals ;
- the number of individuals (adults and youth) who receive mentoring, training and capacity-building in natural resources stewardship, wildlife habitat restoration and management, and related fields through the funded **Outdoor Heritage** projects ;
- the number of natural resources stewardship, wildlife habitat restoration and management, and related activities that are planned, conducted successfully, documented and evaluated;
- the number of our youth who engage directly in natural resources stewardship, wildlife habitat restoration and management, and related activities.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

 O

I certify that a project budget will be sent to the Commission

SUSTAINABILITY

Our Turtle Mountain Chippewa community and government share common goals, strategies and responsibilities to protect, preserve, restore and enhance our lands, waters, plants, wildlife, and natural resources vital to our traditional cultural values and lifeways. We are fully committed to planning, developing, and implementing appropriate projects, programs, policies, and ordinances that provide for the full protection, stewardship and maintenance of all our scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

In partnership with the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, and local partners and allies, we will be able to strengthen our community and tribal government education, participation, and capacities to identify and integrate conservation design, creative planning, supportive zoning, and other resource management and use strategies that will –

- maintain the unique scenic and natural beauty of our Tribal lands;
- conserve and restore watershed health, water quality, plant diversity and agricultural productivity;
- protect and restore our culturally-important plants and animals and their habitats; and
- provide four-season outdoor parks and recreational opportunities for community members and visitors alike.

The Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribal Council will enact policies, ordinances, appropriations linked to non-renewable resources activities (e.g., gas tax and others), and expanded technical and financial partnerships with outside public and private agencies including but not limited to the North Dakota and federal Fish and Wildlife Service; the USDA-NRCS, Rural Development, and others; the US-EPA; outdoor recreation and conservation-oriented organizations and foundations, in order to continue support for our Tribal Outdoor Heritage Fund’s management, public education, and local project sponsorship after all funding from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund has been expended.

IF LESS FUNDING IS AVAILABLE THAN REQUESTED.

If less funding is available than requested, we will reduce the size of the proposed **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund** re-granting pool proportionately, and scale back management allocations accordingly.

Turtle Mountain Chippewa Outdoor Heritage Fund (TMCOHF)
Proposed 2014 Budget requested from North Dakota OHF

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Cash Match	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Other Sponsors Share
TMCOHF Coordinator: 100% annual salary and fringe	\$ 50,000	\$	\$	\$
Clerical support 50% time salary and fringe	\$	\$	\$ 15,000	\$
Tribal Partner (Natural Resources, EPA) four (4) staff dedicated time, 25% salary and fringe	\$	\$	\$ 48,000	\$
Community volunteer time on projects, estimated at minimum of 100 hours per project @ \$15 x 30 projects	\$	\$	\$ 45,000	\$
Office supplies @ \$100/month x 12	\$ 1,200	\$	\$	\$
Operating supplies to facilitate Youth participation (tools, educational materials, etc)	\$ 5,000	\$	\$ 5,000	\$
Local travel for Coordinator, Youth participants, 400 miles/month @ \$.50/mile x 12	\$ 2,400	\$	\$	\$
Office rent and utilities @ \$200/month x 12	\$	\$	\$ 2,400	\$
TMCOHF re-granting pool for 30 projects averaging \$15,000 each	\$ 450,000	\$	\$	\$
Tribal indirect costs @ 15%	\$	\$	\$ 76,290	\$
Total Project Costs	\$ 508,600	\$	\$ 191,690	\$