

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations to:

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

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;

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

Directive D. Conserve natural 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:

- A. Litigation;
- B. Lobbying activities;
- C. 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;
- D. The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- E. 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.

Application Deadline

Applications for the first grant round cycle are due on **December 2, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. CST.** All information, including attachments, must be submitted by that date. See instructions below for submission information.

Instructions

It is our intent to have this form available on line. However, until that on-line form is available we are asking that you submit your application as a Word document. Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>) to your computer and provide the information as requested. You are not limited to the spacing provided except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. After completing the application, save it and attach it to an e-mail and send it to outdoorheritage@nd.gov. Then submit the Word document as noted in the following paragraph.

Attachments in support of your application may be sent by mail to North Dakota Industrial Commission, ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program, State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405, Bismarck, ND 58505 or by e-mail to outdoorheritage@nd.gov . The application and all attachments must be received or postmarked by the application deadline. You will be sent a confirmation by e-mail of receipt of your application.

You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. Early submission is appreciated and encouraged to allow adequate time to review your application and ensure that all required information has been included. Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding. Any item noted with an * is required.

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 tentatively scheduled for the week of January 13, 2014. 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.

Name of Organization * Ducks Unlimited, Inc

Federal Tax ID# * 13-5643799

Contact Person/Title * Blake Vander Vorst, Senior Agronomist

Address * 2525 River Road

City * Bismarck

State * North Dakota

Zip Code * 58503-9011

E-mail Address * bvandervorst@ducks.org

Web Site Address (Optional) www.wintercereals.us www.ducks.org

Phone * 701-355-3500 or direct 701-355-3531

Fax # (if available) 701-355-3512

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

MAJOR Directive: (select the Directive that best describes your grant request)*

Choose only one response

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

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Additional Directive: (select the directives that also apply to the grant application purpose)*

Choose all that apply

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

Type of organization: (select the category that describes your organization)*

State Agency

Political Subdivision

Tribal Entity

Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, as described in United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501 (c))

Project Name* Winter Cereals Sustainability in Action

Abstract/Executive Summary. An Executive Summary of the project stating its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants.* (no more than 500 words)

Winter Cereals Sustainability in Action (WCSIA) is a cutting-edge collaboration among private industry, farm and conservation organizations, farmers and academia. WCSIA promotes winter wheat to growers as an integrated cropping system using no-till seeding systems that benefit soil, water and wildlife.

By planting winter wheat, growers are able to spread their risk and workload, increase potential revenue and plant cover crops following winter wheat. Winter wheat can also help manage weed resistance and attain better performance in salt-affected soils. The winter wheat acreage trend (Graph 1.) has increased since 1999, which has been attributed to the increase in yield (Graph 2.) and corresponding profitability of winter wheat as a result of field demonstrations, research, education, technical assistance and promotion through the WCSIA initiative.

Literature indicates that mulch cover and greater tillage of no-till systems reduce water erosion, improving surface water quality by reducing the loss of suspended and dissolved loads. No-till can further reduce sedimentation for winter wheat from an estimated 1.0 tons/acre/year for conventional till to an estimated 0.2 tons/acre/year, an 80% reduction. Within the Northern Great Plains, phosphorus losses for winter wheat (0.4 lb/acre) are estimated to be only greater than losses for hay crops, and significantly lower than corn silage, 4.8 lb/acre, and sorghum, 2.7 lb/acre. Reduced tillage, low pesticide requirements, and the maintenance of a crop residue cover on the soil surface make stubbled-in winter wheat production one of the most environmentally friendly cropping options.

DU research conducted in Canada and the U.S. found that ducks nesting in fall-seeded winter cereals such as winter wheat are 24 times more productive than those nesting in spring-sown cereals. New data from South Dakota showed that when winter wheat is available, pheasants will readily use it and indicate survival rates of pheasant nests in winter wheat were similar to those in idle grasslands. This supports wildlife habitat on private lands (Directive C).

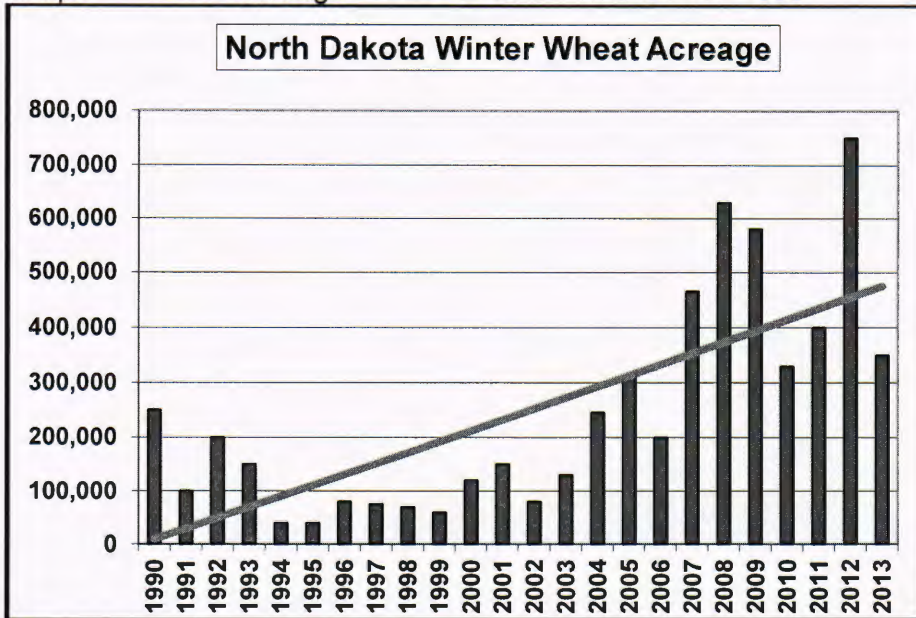
The requested \$600,000 per year (\$3,000,000 total) in OHF funds would support outreach and education in ND. Demonstrations (12/year) and research in winter wheat help educate >1,000 growers/year about Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are essential to profitability and long-term adoption of winter wheat by ND growers. WCSIA will expand the program to include southwest North Dakota (ND).

WCSIA underwrites university research to develop new winter wheat varieties that are better-quality, more cold-tolerant and higher-yielding to stand up to the demanding ND growing conditions. This enhances farming practices and bottom-line productivity for growers (Directive B). ND Farm & Ranch Business Management data from 2004 to 2010 shows winter wheat was the most profitable crop in the western regions of the state and very competitive west of the Red River Valley.

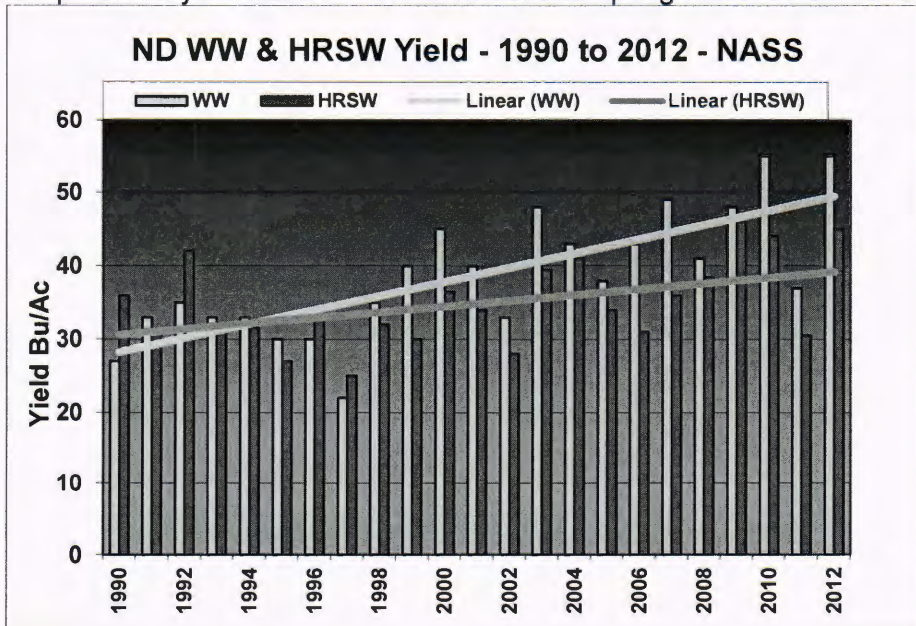
Summary of Objectives and Expected Results:

1. Promote profitable agricultural practices that reduce sedimentation, pesticide transport and nutrient transport associated with crop production
2. Increase secure nesting habitat in cropland for ground-nesting birds
3. Increase planted acreage of winter wheat using no-till seeding
 - a. Conduct 12 field demonstrations/year to help increase grower profitability
 - b. Provide educational and technical assistance to growers/agronomists
 - c. Support winter wheat variety development and conduct agronomic research
 - d. Include southwest ND

Graph 1: The ND acreage seeded to winter wheat since 1990.



Graph 2: ND yield trend for winter wheat and spring wheat since 1990.



Amount of Grant request: \$600,000 per year for 5 years or \$3,000,000 total

Total Project Costs: \$7,500,000

(Note that in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds)

Amount of Matching Funds: \$900,000 per year for 5 years or \$4,500,000 total

If applicable

Please indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash.

Source(s) of Matching Funds:

If applicable

Ducks Unlimited – cash, in-kind and indirects: \$1,500,000 total - confirmed

Bayer CropScience - cash: \$1,500,000 total - confirmed

***Ag Corporation - cash: \$1,500,000 total - proposed**

*Presentation to Ag Corporation December 2, 2013

Additional Non-cash or in-kind supporters include NDSU Extension and Research, North Dakota Grain Growers Association, local crop input suppliers and crop consultants who participate in WCSIA activities.

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 on Page 1 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, Inc. is dedicated to conserving North America’s continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 13 million acres, thanks to more than a million supporters across the continent. Our mission is to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl and other wildlife. These habitats also benefit people by filtering pollutants from our water, replenishing groundwater supplies and increasing flood storage capacity during storm events. DU is regarded among the scientific and conservation community as a world leader in wetlands conservation.

Ducks Unlimited has invested \$22 million in private dollars to conserve almost 442,000 acres in North Dakota. DU’s Great Plains Regional Office opened in Bismarck in 1984 and employs engineers, biologists and other scientists, economists and agronomists throughout a seven-state region. Staff works with farmers and ranchers to develop water and grassland projects beneficial to both

agriculture and wildlife. Agronomists work with growers in the Prairie Pothole Region to enhance the profitability and uptake of winter wheat, which provides secure nesting cover for ducks in cropped landscapes, reduces soil erosion and sedimentation, and reduces pesticide and nutrient transport. DU has 46 employees in North Dakota, the heart of one of the world's best waterfowl nesting grounds.

DU has 6,720 members in North Dakota who in 2012 alone raised almost \$600,000 at 51 North Dakota events for DU's conservation work.

For more information on our work, visit www.ducks.org.

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. Please 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.

Goals:

1. To increase the acreage of winter wheat or winter cereals in ND to 2 to 3 million acres by 2028 with an intermediary objective of 1.2 million acres by 2018
2. To promote the use and adoption of no-till and reduced-till seeding systems in conjunction with the inclusion of winter wheat in the crop rotation
3. Include southwest ND in the WCSIA initiative
4. Increase the rate of development of improved winter wheat varieties

Strategies:

1. Establish BMP field demonstrations on growers' land and hold educational tours
2. Partner with NDSU Extension and Research, Bayer CropScience, wheat organizations, local ag suppliers, soil conservation districts and NRCS to effectively reach and educate growers
3. Secure matching funds from private industry and other conservation partners
4. Employ agronomists to implement the demonstrations, education and technical assistance to growers and agronomists
5. Utilize media to promote the benefits of winter wheat and the proper application of BMP's on a timely basis
6. Work with growers to document their sustainability success with involvement in the Field To Market organization (<http://www.fieldtomarket.org/>)

Benefits:

1. Increase in the use of no-till and reduced-till seeding systems to maintain and enhance ND's soil and water resources
2. Increase winter wheat profitability for growers that will also allow them to spread their workload, give them a much needed management tool in their fight against weed resistance and provide a crop that can be harvested early enough to allow seeding of a cover crop
3. Increase in secure nesting habitat for ground nesting birds such as ducks and pheasants on private land
4. Extend the WCSIA program to benefit southwest ND growers and natural resources

Implementation and Funding:

1. The WCSIA program was established in 2009. Implementation would be immediate as it is an ongoing initiative. The addition of the southwest portion of the state to the WCSIA initiative would start in mid-2014.
2. Bayer CropScience has graciously provided funding for the WCSIA initiative since 2009. Bayer and DU have each committed to provide \$300,000 per year toward the five-year OHF grant through 2018. With a majority of the initiative startup costs in place, the program can expand its area of impact while lowering its overall budget from \$2 million/year to \$1.5 million/year. The OHF funding is needed to replace the reduced corporate investment. On December 2, 2013, DU will present a proposal to another agricultural corporation to become a partner in the WCSIA with a \$300,000 commitment from 2014 through 2018.
3. The WCSIA project is innovative in that growers, wheat organizations, private industry, universities and conservation organizations are working together for the common benefit of agriculture, conservation and wildlife. It is not always easy to find common ground for an initiative that can benefit all three areas of interest.

Management of Project – Provide a description of how the 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's Senior Agronomist, Blake Vander Vorst, will provide leadership and management for the project. He will be committed full time to the WCSIA initiative. He has developed and led the DU agronomy program since it was initiated in 1999 and developed and managed the WCSIA component since its inception 2009. A good share of the increase in winter wheat profitability and acreage can be attributed to these efforts and the great collaboration developed with growers, universities and industry. Annual meetings are held with the sponsoring partners to assess the status and make modifications if necessary. The WCSIA project will also continue to seek the guidance and assistance of the ND Grain Growers and the ND Wheat Commission, NDSU, private industry, crop consultants and growers. DU will also provide its financial management staff to monitor expenditures to comply with state requirements.

Mr. Vander Vorst's background:

Grew up on a diversified farm in south central ND, has farmed and owns farmland
Area Agronomist for the NDSU Extension Service in two regions of ND
Executive Secretary for the ND State Soil Conservation Committee
Owner and President of AGvantage Consulting
Senior Agronomist Ducks Unlimited working with growers on winter wheat production
Area Resource Conservationist for NRCS

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

How will you tell if the project is successful? 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.

1. Acreage of winter wheat planted will be documented using USDA-NASS reporting, this will also provide a strong correlation to the extent of no-till seeding of winter wheat, which is necessary for consistent survival, and the Field-to-Market calculator will be used to help document conservation achievements of individual growers
2. Number of demonstration trials established along with tour attendance

3. Number of educational presentations with grower, agronomists and industry attendance
4. Number of growers provided technical assistance and associated acres
5. DU and sponsoring partners will evaluate accomplishments and project status on an annual basis

Financial Information

ATTACHMENT: Project Budget – Using the standard project budget format that is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> , please include a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting.*

The project budget should identify all matching funds, funding sources and indicate whether the matching funds are in the form of cash or in-kind services. As noted on the standard project budget format, certain values have been identified for in-kind services. Please utilize these values in identifying your matching funds. **NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded.**

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

Sustainability – Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. *

Include information on the sustainability of this project after all the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund has been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Upon completion of the granting period or prior to the OHF grant expiration, the WCSIA project will evaluate the status and accomplishments and determine if the current direction is still productive or if changes are necessary. If continuation or additional activities are deemed necessary, alternative funding from other sources and/or a renewed request to the OHF fund would be considered.

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

Each reduction in funding will reduce the geographic area served by WCSIA in ND. The priority would be to maintain current project areas and to then add southwest ND. So, the first reduction would eliminate expansion to southwest ND. Any further reductions would then cause additional areas to be eliminated. Currently there are three ND areas or regions. (Map attached)

Scoring of Grants

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking sheet(s) 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. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant. Please note the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> that set forth the general provisions that will be included in any contract issued by the North Dakota Industrial Commission. Please indicate if you can meet all the provisions of the sample contract. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be. *

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 or have trouble submitting the application, please contact Karlene Fine at 701-328-3722 or kfine@nd.gov

Budget Standard Form

Please use the table below to provide a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting and if there are any matching funds being utilized to fund this project. Please note 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. Match can come from any source (i.e. private sources, State and Federal funding, Tribal funding, etc.) Note match funding is not required but an application will be scored higher if match funding is provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Please feel free to add columns and rows as needed. Please include narrative to fully explain the proposed budget. Note that NO INDIRECT COSTS will be funded from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

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
Variety Development and Research	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$	\$1,600,000
Outreach, Education & Communication	\$3,000,000	\$	\$1,500,000	\$	\$1,400,000
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Project Costs	\$3,000,000	\$	\$1,500,000	\$	\$3,000,000

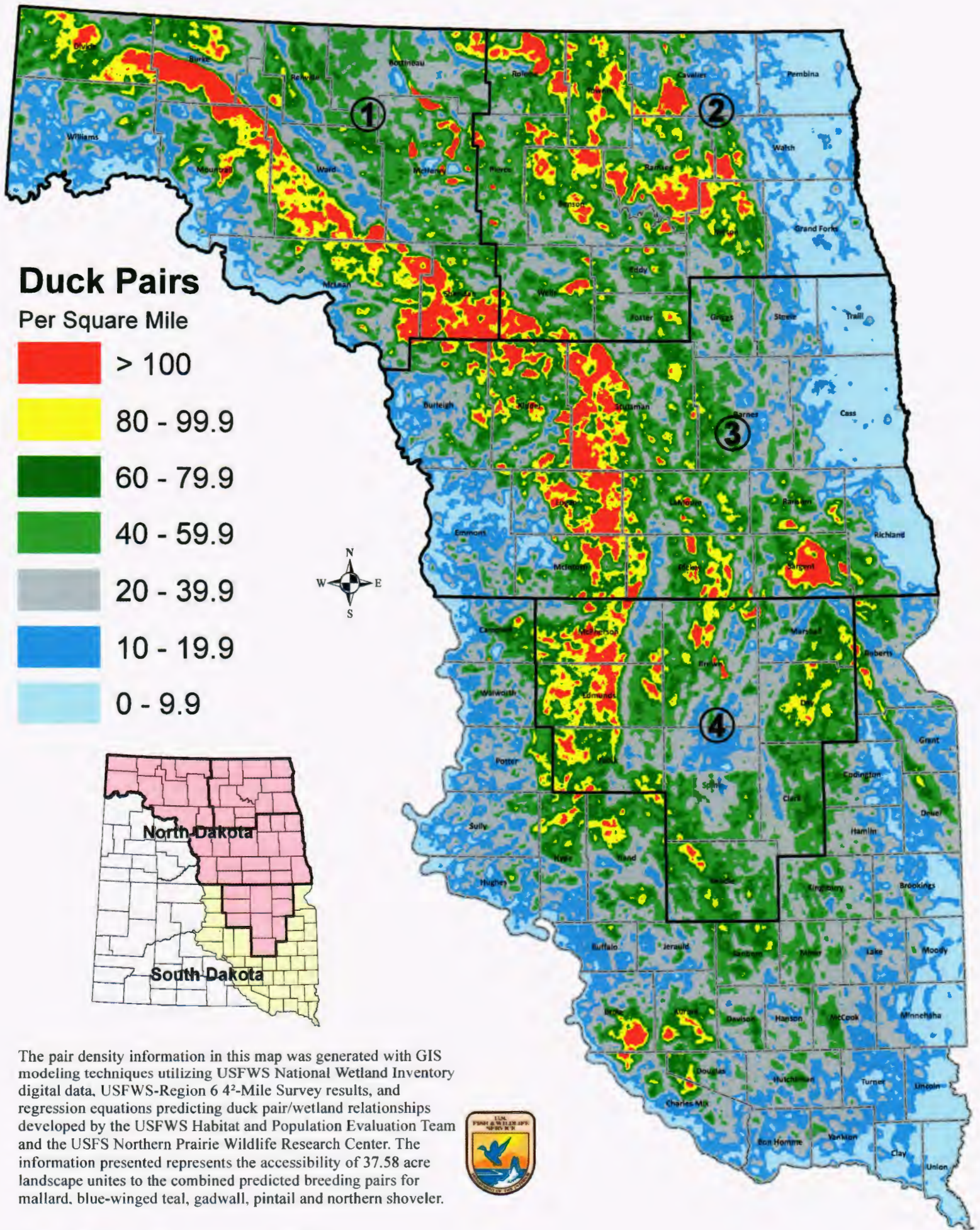
Funding:	Total	North Dakota	South Dakota
Matching fund - cash from 2014 to 2018			
Bayer CropScience	\$1,500,000	\$600,000	\$900,000
Ag Corporation - proposed	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Matching fund - cash, in-kind, indirects			
Ducks Unlimited	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	-none-
Grants			
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	-none-
Total	\$7,500,000	\$6,100,000	\$1,400,000
Budget detail:			
Variety Development	\$1,100,000	\$500,000	\$600,000
Ag Research	500,000	\$400,000	\$100,000
Outreach and Education (O&E)	\$5,900,000	\$5,200,000	\$700,000
Demonstrations			
Education			
Technical assistance			
Expansion grants (contract for program delivery in SW ND)			
Communications (winter wheat promotion through newsletter, radio and print ads, booths, etc.)			
Match:			
OHF funds will only be used for the ND portion of the WCSIA Outreach and Education line item which includes demonstrations on growers land, education, technical assistance (4 agronomists), expansion grants and communications.			
<p>\$5.2 million of the 5-year O&E line item is for ND. The \$3.0 million OHF funds will be 58% of that total.</p> <p>OHF funds will only be 40% of the total WCSIA program budget (\$7.5 million) when research and South Dakota O&E activities are included.</p>			

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
- Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost.
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

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

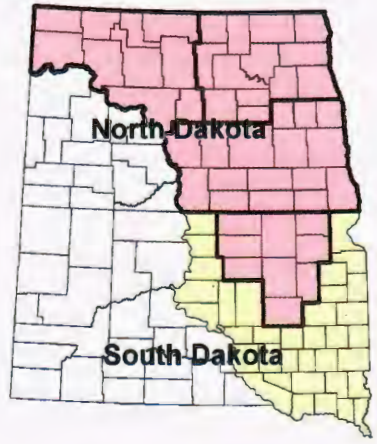
Approved by OHF Advisory Board: October 17, 2013
Approved by Industrial Commission: October 22, 2013



Duck Pairs

Per Square Mile

- > 100
- 80 - 99.9
- 60 - 79.9
- 40 - 59.9
- 20 - 39.9
- 10 - 19.9
- 0 - 9.9



The pair density information in this map was generated with GIS modeling techniques utilizing USFWS National Wetland Inventory digital data, USFWS-Region 6 4²-Mile Survey results, and regression equations predicting duck pair/wetland relationships developed by the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team and the USFS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. The information presented represents the accessibility of 37.58 acre landscape unites to the combined predicted breeding pairs for mallard, blue-winged teal, gadwall, pintail and northern shoveler.

