

North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant application
Dec. 1, 2013

Name of Organization: *North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition*

Federal Tax ID#: *45-0455411*

Contact Person/Title: *Joshua Dukart, Project Coordinator/Field Representative*

Address: *FARRMS – 301 5th Avenue SE*

City: *Medina*

State: *North Dakota*

Zip Code: *58467*

E-mail Address: *joshua_dukart@yahoo.com*

Web Site Address: www.ndglc.com

Phone: *701-870-1184*

MAJOR Directive:

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;

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.

Additional Directive: Choose all that apply

- 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.

Type of 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

Implementing a Holistic Approach to Rangeland Management and Land Conservation through Mentoring and Education

Abstract/Executive Summary.

North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) members believe that good land stewardship can only be achieved through education – with a focus on up-and-coming young landowners/operators and existing managers looking to make positive changes. If funded, this project would provide three years of education/information outreach and activities geared towards the ND Outdoors Heritage Fund directives B and C, in particular education and mentoring activities with a focus on the transfer of knowledge to a new generation of farmers and ranchers.

While education may not be a primary goal of the Outdoor Heritage Fund, the NDGLC is asking for a minuscule amount of the total funds authorized for the next biennium to educate and mentor, insuring the successful achievement of Outdoor Heritage Fund directives B and C; and perhaps even A and D indirectly. Although NDGLC does not pay landowners directly for conservation practices, these practices and their associated management on the land are a direct result of the educational process. To the point that land managers will implement positive changes across the landscape, regardless of financial assistance, is the proof that progress can be made and ensured long term on an even greater number of acres than a financial assistance program alone. Financial assistance programs typically have an ending date, whereas educational benefit will last indefinitely. If successful with our

current proposal, the coalition would be seeking additional future funds to provide grants/incentives to farmers and ranchers to implement practices derived from education with the assistance and follow-up of appropriate mentors.

Offerings would be available through one-on-one mentoring, phone calls, farm visits, workshops, tours, pasture walks, conferences, and hands-on youth camps.

Total Outdoors Heritage Fund grant request is \$430,818.

Total project cost is ~~\$538,354~~. **\$ 636,187**

Total in-kind match is \$107,533

Total cash match is \$97,836

Source(s) of Matching In-Kind Funds

- 319 grant funds
- Farmer/Rancher mentoring hours
- FARRMS
- Project manager
- Other partners (information, education support, advertising, sponsorships, etc.)
 - Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society
 - North Dakota Organic Advisory Council
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - USDA Agricultural Research Station (ARS)
 - North Dakota State University
 - North Dakota State University Extension
 - North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts

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 ND Grazing Land Coalition (NDGLC) is a grassroots organization formed in 1996 to promote health and sustainability of the state's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands. Grazing land encompasses any land supporting plants suitable for harvest by grazing animals or wildlife managed primarily through grazing management including rangeland, grassland, native prairie, pastureland, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, hay land and grazed cropland.

Its executive board is comprised of individuals representing commodity, conservation and professional groups. The coalition provides local leadership, guidance, information and technical assistance to grassland managers to make cost-effective and environmentally sound decisions surrounding rangeland management, forage and natural habitat for domestic animals and wildlife. NDGLC employs a project manager and contracts FARRMS as a fiscal agent providing physical office space and administrative support.

Members focus on managing soil health and systems biodiversity as a key to regenerative farming and ranching. They implement and demonstrate new technologies improving soil health, productivity and profitability, reducing input costs, and integrating livestock and crops in a whole farm systems approach. They work through barriers that exist when transitioning to new technology, and are willing to assist other producers in making those improvements both as mentors and volunteers.

This organization currently has 28 mentor farmer/ranchers working with landowners providing these educational and/or demonstrational activities through workshops, field events and one-on-one training opportunities. Midway of a three-year project, a database of 300+ landowners/managers has been used to promote workshops and opportunities for one-on-one mentoring by experienced holistic managers.

Since July 2012, mentors contributed more than \$17,000 in in-kind hours. Also during that window of time, more than 880 farmers and ranchers participated in the education offerings demonstrating a desire for information on improving farming/ranching practices on land that provides forage for domestic livestock and wildlife as well as aesthetic and recreation values.

Purpose of Grant – Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program

Providing dollars for conservation projects addresses only one of the many issues facing land management as identified by the four directives of the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Changing minds ultimately changes the way we view our natural resources and stewardship practices. This can only be accomplished through education and mentoring. The NDGLC has identified the need for this type of information. Where youth – the future landowners – are involved, conservation agriculture education is nearly nonexistent.

It is imperative at this critical period in agriculture, when land is transitioning from one generation to the next, that we raise the bar on maintaining and rejuvenating soil and water health protecting our state's greatest natural resource.

This country is poised for an agricultural land management turning point. "As the U.S. farm population has dwindled, the average age of farmers continues to rise. In fact, about sixty percent of the farmers in this country are 55 years old or older (Bureau of Labor Statistics). The average age of a principal operator of a farm has increased from 54 years old in 1997 to 57 years old in 2007. (USDA, 2007 Census of Agriculture). The percentage of principle farm operators 65 years or older has increased almost 10 percent since 1969, as shown in the graphic to the right. The graying of the farm population has led to concerns about the long-term health of family farms as an American institution.

Farm production expenses average \$109,359 per year per farm. Clearly, many farms that meet the U.S. Census' definition would not produce sufficient income to meet farm family living expenses. In fact, fewer than 1 in 4 of the farms in this country produce gross revenues in excess of \$50,000."¹

However, a new wave of beginning farmers, and young men and women interested in farming, are approaching systems management in a new holistic manner. There is increased interest in returning to the family farm, purchasing those farms/ranches and becoming the next generation of agriculturists with a new view of land management. Rather than mine the land they wish to steward their resources

¹ SOURCE: <http://www.epa.gov/oecaagct/ag101/demographics.html>. Ag 101 provides a brief overview of American agriculture.

to improve and regenerate soil and water health; restore wildlife habitat and reduce agricultural inputs thereby lessening the cost of raising crops and livestock making it lucrative to farm regardless of size and scale. These farmers are bringing families to rural communities, children to local schools and a new kind of economic development.

The NDGLC proposes to fill a definite gap in available training and education for both new and transitioning farming and ranching operations by coupling seasoned farmers and ranchers with a new generation of landowners and those managers looking to make changes towards sustainable management.

The goal of this three-year project is to educate, encourage and support these young, new, and transitioning farmers to improve land management – restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and other practices of stewardship enhancing farming and ranching at the same time preserving, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands as per Outdoor Heritage Fund directives B and C. The coalition does not rule out directives A and D are outcomes of a mentoring program but cannot at this time guarantee that those objectives will be carried out in full.

Not only are landowners/managers changing, but unstable weather patterns and rain events are affecting all North Dakota residents and changing the way we farm. Heavy downpours have caused erosion and flooding in all areas of the state. Precious moisture is not captured in subsoil and/or replenishing aquifers but traveling to major rivers and flowing out of the area taking with it nutrients and topsoil.

According to the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/greatplains.html#ref1>, more than 70% of the Great Plains' land area is used for agriculture.² The region's economy is historically heavily dependent on crops, including corn, wheat, barley, hay, and cotton. If extreme heat events and droughts become more frequent and temperatures continue to increase, the suitability of the Great Plains region for growing particular crops may change. Additionally, livestock are likely to face increased risk from heat stress and disease.

The threats to regional agriculture include the following:

- Northward spread of pests that previously could not survive the cooler northern climate (due to warmer winters and earlier springs)
- Potential increases in weed species due to more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, high temperatures, and changes in precipitation
- Decreases in soil moisture and water availability

In addition, periodic droughts have affected the Great Plains. Combined with poor agricultural land management, drought can have catastrophic effects. One prominent example was the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Farmers in the 1920s routinely removed native grasses, which had been stabilizing the soil and reducing erosion. With the grasses gone, a long-term drought caused an estimated 100 million acres of topsoil to blow away across the country.²

² [USGCRP \(2009\). *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States*](#). Karl, T.R., J. M. Melillo, and T. C. Peterson (eds.). United States Global Change Research Program. Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, USA.

Although land management practices have improved since the Dust Bowl, stressors associated with climate change will need to be considered in order to prepare for the future. The combination of the projected warming temperatures and continued pressures on water and land resources could have negative impacts on regional agriculture.²

Climate change and current land practices affect vulnerable populations also. Older people living in rural areas and Native Americans living on reservations may be especially vulnerable to some of the impacts of climate change. Their opportunities to relocate or change their livelihoods may be limited and they may have difficulty coping with impacts on water resources, agriculture, and ecosystems.²

There are 65 Native American tribes located in the Great Plains. Native Americans are sensitive to decreased crop reliability, reduced quality of rangelands, and the potential for water shortages. Given the boundaries of the reservations, some tribes may be limited in their ability to adapt.³

The NDGLC mentoring program has funding until June 2015, or until the current grant is expended. This request would allow NDGLC to continue the established mentoring program, workshops and education outreach.

A small percentage of the Outdoor Heritage Fund to fund ongoing education opportunities and mentoring will equip a new generation of farmers devoted to preserving North Dakota's number one industry – agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers who care about land stewardship will learn about:

- improved nutrient management,
- pest management,
- grazing management for expired CRP
- cover cropping,
- grass finishing livestock,
- using livestock as management tools and
- attracting wildlife on grazing lands

It is common knowledge that farmers and ranchers have precious little time to seek out information about farming and ranching best practices pertaining to land and water management. An Outdoor Heritage Fund grant would allow the NDGLC network to continue promoting and implementing grazing and nutrient management education including one-on-one assistance and mentorship training assisting producers in making management changes to their operations that ultimately improves soil, water and wildlife quality as per the four directives.

³ [USGCRP \(2009\). *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States*](#). Karl, T.R., J. M. Melillo, and T. C. Peterson (eds.). United States Global Change Research Program. Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, USA.

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.

The NDGLC will compensate a program coordinator and office and recordkeeping support. The board will oversee this position and fiscal responsibility. The coordinator's duties will include, but not be limited to:

- Assisting the board of directors in carrying out the goals and objectives of the NDGLC
- Speaking on behalf of the organization upon request at informational and educational settings
- Working with farmers and ranchers to create business plans, transitional projects, management plans and monitoring techniques
- Acting as master of ceremonies and facilitator on pasture walks, tours, workshops, etc.
- Suggesting speakers, topics and coordinate workshops and educational youth camps
- Matching mentors to requests for information, follow-up on recording in-kind and reimbursable hours for mentors
- Sharing expertise and referral to expertise outside of local knowledge if applicable
- Assisting mentors in preparing and developing presentations
- Determining opportunities for mentor's training, personal development, workshops, etc. and match mentors to those education opportunities
- Conducting farm and ranch visits and coordinate and record mentor visits
- Working with FARRMS on fiscal goals and objectives, reporting, marketing, other duties as deemed necessary to carry out this grant's obligations

NDGLC will provide a network of mentors who are North Dakota producer/ranchers and members of the NDGLC to assist producers on topics outlined by the coalition. One-on-one assistance will be by telephone or in person with individual(s). Topics for one-on-one assistance include but are not limited to:

- Goal setting/decision making
- Monitoring and record keeping
- Fencing
- Economics of grazing management
- Cropland aftermath grazing
- Grazing management/rotations
- Livestock movement
- Water development/placement; complementary grazing
- Using livestock as a management tool
- Grazing land wildlife
- Pest management
- Grazing irrigated pasture
- Grazing management for expired CRP
- Cover crops
- Grass finishing
- Winter grazing strategies

The NDGLC coordinator will coordinate, schedule and oversee two youth camps annually in late summer and during the beginning of the school year promoted to youth through statewide 4-H and FFA networks. There will also be a minimum of 2 workshops, conferences, and/or tours planned and marketed statewide each year. Monthly outreach will be in the form of email newsletters, articles to local papers, press releases and/or the NDGLC webpage. A coordinator will allow for flexibility in determining the types of information requested by the actual landowners.

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

Progress will be document by recording and reporting

- Number of attendees at workshops
- Number of requests for additional information
- Number of youth receiving education at day camps
- Number of mentors attending personal development and sharing that information at workshops and speaking engagements
- Number of mentor/mentee hours documented
- Annual farm/ranch visits

Financial Information

Project Expense (3 years)	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Other Project Sponsor's Share
Project Coordinator Personnel and fringe	\$29,000	\$10,268	\$19,333	\$
Travel/food/lodging	\$600	\$600	\$400	\$
Supplies	\$1,200	\$	\$800	\$
Administrative (financial, recordkeeping, data collection)	\$19,000	\$9,668	\$	\$
Youth Camp (2 per season = 6 total)	\$8,675	\$	\$3,000	\$
Outreach/marketing (newsletter, press release, etc.)	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$1,000	\$
Field tours/workshops	\$90,000	27,000	\$3,000	
Mentors (one-on-one)	\$60,000	21,450	\$30,000	
Project coordinator (one-on-one)	\$75,000	26,250	\$50,000	
Total Project Costs	\$430,818	\$97,836	\$107,533	\$

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.

These education opportunities will be ongoing as grant and other funds become available. Conference fees and book/video sales are an additional source of income. The coalition will pursue future memberships as another avenue of funding.

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

NDGLC is dedicated to the education of grazing land and holistic management practices and will continue to be available for mentoring and educational presentations and trainings regardless of the amount of funding awarded and/or available from other sources.

Feel free to contact these individuals to gain insight into their area of expertise. Please remember that these individuals are donating their time to assist others improve their grazing management. Respect their schedules and account for differing time zones.

KEITH BARTHOLOMAY
14618 57th St. S
Sheldon, ND 58068
(p) 701.882.3460
(e) kbarth@ndglc.com
Topic # 3,4,5,6,14,15

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(e) wberry@wil.midco.net
Topic # 1,2,4,6,10,11,17

CHESTER BRANDT
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Hebron, ND 58638
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(e) jbrandt@westrv.com
Topic # 3,5,6,7,8,11

PAUL BROWN
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Topic # 2,3,6,10,14,15,17

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Topic # 2,3,4,6,7,8

LANCE GARTNER
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Topic # 1,3,6,7,10,15,17

JOSH HEINRICH
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Topic # 13

MYRON LICK
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(e) mglick@westrv.com
Topic # 1-12, 16

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Topic # 6,8,15

JEFF BLEES
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(e) jblees@dakotacommunitybank.com
Topic # 2,4

GABE BROWN
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Topic # 1-4, 6-8, 10,11,14,15,17

NICK RUSORANCH
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Topic # 3,8,16,17

JOE FRITZ
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Topic # 1,3,6,11

GENE GOVEN
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Topic # 1-8,10-12,15,17

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Topic # 13

BRIAN MADDOCK
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Topic # 3,4,7,8

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Topic # 2,3,8,12,13,16,17

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Topic # 1,3,6,7,8,11

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Topic # 2,6,8,11

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Topic # 1,2,3,7,10,11

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CHAD NJOS
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Topic # 1,2,3,6,7,8,10,15,17

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Topic # 3,8,14,15

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Topic # 1,2,5,6,7,10,15

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Address goes here



For more information contact:
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Field Representative
joshua_dukart@yahoo.com
701.870.1184



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

www.ndglc.com

Background

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) is a grassroots group organized in 1996 to promote the health and sustainability of North Dakota's 13.6 million acres of grazing lands. The NDGLC believes that through voluntary actions, respect for private property rights, and education on the value and multiple benefits of well managed grazing resources, their goals are achievable.

An executive board composed of individuals and representatives from commodity, conservation and professional groups lead this partnership. Through a cooperative effort, the coalition's goal is to provide local leadership, guidance, information, and technical assistance to grassland managers. Given the appropriate tools and training, grassland managers will be better prepared to make cost-effective and environmentally sound decisions.

Grazing land is a collective term for land which supports plants suitable for harvest by grazing animals managed primarily through grazing management. This could include rangeland, grassland, native prairie, pastureland, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, hayland and grazed cropland.

Values

Coalition members believe in: learning from the trials and experiences of peers; opening doors to grass management expertise; sharing alternatives and different perspectives; discovering common goals and objectives and generating new ideas.

Mentors

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition has established a grassroots based network of North Dakota grazing land managers who have agreed to provide guidance and counsel to interested ranchers and agency personnel on grassland management.

Advice the mentors provide is based upon knowledge and experience gained on their operations and the interaction they have with other ranchers across the State. No two ranches are a like. Therefore, you need to adapt what you may learn from these individuals to your own goals, resources and management abilities.

TOPICS:

- 1• Goal Setting/Decision Making
- 2• Monitoring & Record Keeping
- 3• Fencing
- 4• Economics of Grazing Management
- 5• Cropland Aftermath Grazing
- 6• Grazing Management/Rotations
- 7• Livestock Movement
- 8• Water Development/Placement
- 9• Complementary Grazing
- 10• Livestock as a Management Tool
- 11• Grazing Lands for Wildlife
- 12• Pest Management
- 13• Grazing Irrigated Pasture
- 14• Grazing Management for Expired CRP
- 15• Cover Crops
- 16• Grass Finishing
- 17• Winter Grazing Strategies

North Dakota Rangeland Facts

Rangelands comprise about one-third, or 13.6 million acres, of the land area of North Dakota, including 10.3 million acres of privately owned.

Rangelands provide the principal source for forage for domestic livestock and wildlife in North Dakota.

Rangelands provide essential habitat for many kinds of wildlife, including both game and non-game species.

Rangelands provide watershed protection and aid in recharging underground water supplies.

Rangelands enhance aesthetic and recreational values, including vast open spaces for personal pleasure.

Rangeland vegetation of North Dakota developed under centuries of grazing use by native herbivores (plant eaters) prior to settlement.

Grazing with cattle and sheep is the primary use of North Dakota rangelands. Grass production is the basic goal of the rancher - maintenance or improvement of range resources is just as important as livestock husbandry.

Resource Link:

NDSU Central Grasslands Research Extension Center's Range Manager's Forum website link:
www.ng.ndsu.nodak.edu/staff/eb/Forum/dscln.htm

All programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

To be added to the mailing list please fill out the below information and send to address on back of form
 At this time there is no membership fee, however, donations are always welcome and can be sent at the same time

NEW UPDATE DONATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 County: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Email Address: _____

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Central National Technology Support Center
501 W. Felix, Building 23
Fort Worth, TX 761115

November 25, 2013

Outdoor Heritage Fund
State Capitol – 14th Floor
600 E Boulevard Ave.
Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to recommend the North Dakota Grazinglands Coalition (NDGLC) be considered for the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant to continue their outstanding work of their mentoring program. The producer to producer mentoring program has been instrumental in promoting conservation on private grazing lands.

The NDGLC has a tremendous track record of successful workshops, tours, and pasture walks for grazingland producers that have provided remarkable producer support at the local level. We have been involved with this particular coalition for over 10 years and they, like many other coalitions, are the grass roots partners our agency relies on to apply our conservation programs.

Please consider the NDGLC for the grant to further their commitment in providing educational opportunities for North Dakota producers. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call or email Kim Stine at 817-509-3318 kimberli.stine@ftw.usda.gov or myself Charles Stanley at 817-509-3282 charles.stanley@ftw.usda.gov.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CR Stanley".

Charles R. Stanley
Rangeland Management Specialist
USDA/NRCS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kimberli Stine".

Kimberli Stine
National GLC Coordinator
USDA/NRCS

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Keith Trego
Executive Director

1605 East Capitol Avenue, Ste. 101

Bismarck, ND 58501-2102

(701) 223-8501

FAX: (701) 223-6957

November 25, 2013

Karlene Fine, Executive Director
North Dakota Industrial Commission.
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Ms. Fine:

The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust mission is to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota. We are writing in support of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition, "Implementing a Holistic Approach to Rangeland Management through Mentoring & Education" grant proposal for Outdoor Heritage Funds.

From its inception, the Trust has played a role as facilitator between agricultural and conservation interests. In addition to facilitating and funding sound, on-the-ground conservation of natural resources, our goal is to identify common issues, create dialogue, and resolve conflicts. Along with its agricultural and conservation partners, the Trust advocates for recognition, appropriate development, and protection of North Dakota's unique natural resource values. We promote productive use of private agricultural lands and private property rights that result in long-term enhancement and protection of private lands.

Consistent with the Trust mission, the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition grant proposal will be the critical component of providing mentoring education to the land management process. The grant proposal will also focus on connecting youth with the land and our management effect on it. The Coalition will provide support for land managers that want to transition to a

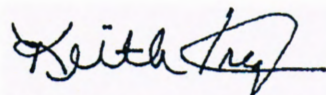
"Dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, restoration and management of wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota."

Ms. Karlene Fine
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November 25, 2013

holistically managed soil health model. This will include, but is not limited to tours, workshops, school presentations, planning and facilitating transitions, and providing monitoring guidance. The Coalition program does not pay for specific practices on the land or provide incentives for a particular land use, but it does provide much needed guidance in transitioning to grass-based management models and enhancement of existing grass-based models. The information/ education aspects of the Coalition proposal complements incentive-based conservation grant proposals submitted by other organizations for Outdoor Heritage Funds.

We are happy to provide our endorsement of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition grant proposal and look forward toward its future opportunities and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Trego". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Keith Trego
Executive Director



301 Fifth Ave. SE, Medina, ND 58467

PHONE: 701-486-3569 • WWW.FARRMS.ORG • EMAIL: INFO@FARRMS.ORG

Dec. 1, 2013

Karlene Fine, Executive Director
North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Ms. Fine:

As a nonprofit organization, FARRMS mission is to further the sustainability of thriving farms and rural communities. Our goal is to educate and promote diversified farms and regenerate local foods systems as economic development tools in rural communities.

We are writing in support of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition grant proposal for Outdoor Heritage Funds to continue one-on-one mentoring and youth education opportunities creating better stewards of the land so vital to food production. You can't eat oil.

Our organization was created to educate farmers in sustainable forward-thinking practices and support out-of-the-box agricultural business enterprises. We believe the key to preserving and conserving our finite natural resources for future generations is hinged on moving people to action by way of education and example.

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition goals and mission aligns closely with FARRMS and we fully support in any way we can, in-kind, advice, etc., the work of the NDGLC.

Please give careful consideration to the NDGLC grant request as an integral part of your directives to conserve and preserve our natural resources for food production, recreation and healthy soil and water for generations to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information. Thank you for your time. We grow farmers.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue B. Balcom".

Sue B. Balcom, Executive Director
FARRMS (The Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resource Management and Sustainability)

November 26, 2013

Outdoor Heritage Fund
State Capitol - 14th Floor
600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

To Whom It May Concern:

The North Dakota Grazing Coalition is currently applying for grant funding through the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund to continue their mentoring work with land managers concerning regenerative grazing management. Their focus is whole ecosystem health with an emphasis on soil health as the foundation.

My husband and I have gained great benefit from the mentoring services that the ND Grazing Lands Coalition offers. We are writing this letter in support of the grant request they are currently submitting. We have utilized their mentoring services to help us install an intense rotational grazing system on our land. This system has helped increase the productivity on our land and improve our soil health. Josh Dukart and the Grazing Coalition members have inspired us to be excellent managers of the land and to step outside the norm and try some new management practices.

This is a grassroots organization that is working extremely hard to not only improve our natural resources, but to put sustainability back in agriculture. My husband and I strongly support the ND Grazing Lands Coalition request for grant funding through the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund. Please consider them for funding.

Sincerely,



Donnie and Trisha Feiring
Feiring's Cattle Company
Beach, ND

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 917
Baker, MT 59313
(406) 778-2238 x. 3

November 22, 2013

Outdoor Heritage Fund
State Capitol-14th Floor
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board:

I am pleased to be able to write a letter in support of the grant funding for the **North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (GLCI)**.

I have had several opportunities to work with many members of the Mentoring Program as a private landowner in North Dakota as well as in my capacity as District Conservationist for NRCS in Montana. This mentoring program has created a network of people fully engaged in promoting the wise use of natural resources. Everyone I have worked with has been passionate about what they do and have the experience on the ground to back them up. Consequently, they are highly regarded in the communities in which they work. It is an excellent tool for getting conservation on the ground.

Their focus on whole ecosystem health is win-win for everyone in North Dakota. This approach benefits the producers by making their land more productive and therefore more profitable. A more productive, sustainable landscape provides cleaner water and air, benefitting wildlife and human populations. NDGLCI has done an outstanding job of education and they continue to add and raise the bar.

I am in full support of the efforts of the NDGLCI as they seek funding to support their program. These efforts are making a difference and need to continue to provide resource education to move all landscapes in a positive direction toward sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann K. Fischer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ann K. Fischer
Bowman County producer
District Conservationist, NRCS

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 104, Bismarck, ND 58503-0585

Phone 701-328-9718 — FAX 701-328-9721

November 25, 2013

Mr. Joshua Dukart
Coordinator/Field Representative
North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

Dear Mr. Dukart:

I write in support of the Mentoring and Education work with Land Managers concerning Regenerative Grazing Management sponsored by the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition.

The whole ecosystem with an emphasis on soil health will benefit North Dakota Land Managers.

Sincerely,

Scott Hochhalter
Soil Conservation Specialist
NDSU Extension Service

Southwest District Office

2718 Gateway Ave. #104
Bismarck, ND 58503

November 29, 2013

Outdoor Heritage Fund
State Capitol – 4th Floor
600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

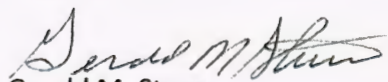
Grant Review Committee;

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support on behalf of the North Dakota State University Extension Service for the North Dakota Grazing Land Coalition grant application to the Outdoor Heritage Fund: Implementing a Holistic Approach to Rangeland Management through Mentoring & Education.

Grazing Management is a critical area of educational need in North Dakota. The one-on-one mentoring program to ranch managers, the knowledge and producer involvement initiated and delivered through workshops, tours, and schools to youth and adult audiences plays a vital role in addressing this educational need of providing land management education. As an active partner in providing these educational experiences, NDSU Extension fully supports these educational efforts and is engaged with the North Dakota Grazing Land Coalition in promoting and partnering in these educational efforts. As a result of these positive contributions to agriculture in North Dakota, NDSU Extension is in full support of this grant submission.

We appreciate your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,



Gerald M. Sturn
Southwest District Director
North Dakota State University Extension Service