

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, with higher priority given to projects that enhance conservation practices in this state by:

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

Directive B. Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Directive C. Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

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

Exemptions

Outdoor Heritage Fund grants may not be used to finance the following:

- 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.

NO CONSIDERATION:

In addition to those specific items in law that are ineligible for funding, in the absence of a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission, the following projects will NOT receive consideration for funding:

- A completed project or project commenced before the grant application is submitted;
- A feasibility or research study;
- Maintenance costs;
- A paving project for a road or parking lot;
- A swimming pool or aquatic park;
- Personal property that is not affixed to the land;
- Playground equipment, except that grant funds may be provided for up to 25% of the cost of the equipment not exceeding \$10,000 per project and all playground equipment grants may not exceed 5% of the total grants per year (see Budget Form for how this will be calculated);
- Staffing or outside consultants except for costs for staffing or an outside consultant to design and implement an approved project based on the documented need of the applicant and the expenditures may not exceed 5% of the grant to a grantee if the grant exceeds \$250,000 and expenditures may not exceed 10% of the grant to a grantee if the grant is \$250,000 or less (see Budget Form for how this will be calculated);

- A building except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project (see Budget Form for definition of comprehensive conservation plan and new or expanded recreational project); or
- A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of the project.

Application Deadline

Applications for this grant round cycle are due on **May 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. CT.** All information, including attachments, must be submitted by that date. See instructions below for submission information.

Instructions

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 or print it and mail it to the address noted in the next 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. 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: Tanner Gue, Biologist

Address: 2525 River Road

City: Bismarck

State: North Dakota

Zip Code: 58503

E-mail Address: tgue@ducks.org

Web Site Address: www.ducks.org

Phone: Office-701-355-3592 / Cell-701-595-6945

Fax # (if available)

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

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

Choose only one response

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

Directive B. Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Directive C. Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

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

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

Choose all that apply

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

X **Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

X **Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

O **Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

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

O State Agency

O Political Subdivision

O Tribal Entity

X Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

Project Name: Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project

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)

Over the past several years, some innovative producers in North Dakota have started testing new practices on their farms and ranches to build soil health, enhance productivity of croplands and grasslands, and increase operational sustainability. These practices include using cover crops between traditional cropping periods and integrating livestock grazing on those same cropland acres. Many of these producers have observed outstanding results on their farms and ranches, noting increased soil organic matter, increased nutrient availability, reduced soil compaction, increased water infiltration, enhanced water quality, and ultimately increased profitability of their cropland and grassland acres. The benefits of cover crops and livestock integration on cropland also include enhancement of existing wildlife habitat and an increase in the total acreage of habitat available to wildlife. At a scale larger than the farm and ranch, benefits of these practices include reduced flooding and sediment loads in neighboring creeks and local watersheds.

These success stories generate much interest from other producers across the state, as cover crops and livestock integration can be replicated on farms across North Dakota. However, there is a financial risk associated with implementing new agricultural practices. Many producers just can't afford that risk. Many North Dakota landowners cannot mitigate that associated risk because they have a complete lack of available conservation programs that assist with grazing infrastructure on cropland acres. The Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project (CCLIP) will fill that void by providing cost share for new cover crop implementation and grazing infrastructure necessary for livestock integration on cropland.

The primary goal of the CCLIP is to offer voluntary project options that provide landowners with the incentive needed to kick-start cover crops and livestock integration on cropland. The specific objectives that CCLIP proposes to use to achieve that goal include providing landowners with 60% cost share for fence and water infrastructure, 60% cost share for up to 2 years of cover crop seeding

costs, and technical assistance in project implementation. The CCLIP will consist of 5 year agreements and is requesting \$625,394.90 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) for a \$1,073,653.80 project.

It is expected that the CCLIP will help initiate cover crop and livestock integration practices on more than 5,280 acres of cropland in southeast North Dakota. By grazing cropland and increasing the rest recovery period on pasture, it is also expected that the CCLIP will enhance an additional 1,900 acres of grassland.

The CCLIP will bring together a diverse partnership. Through the CCLIP, OHF will aid implementation of livestock fencing, livestock water developments, and cover crop seeding costs. On-the-ground Ducks Unlimited (DU) biologists will provide outreach and technical assistance. Pulse USA staff will help landowners design cover crop seed mixes based on operational goals and may provide a discount on those mixes if landowners choose to procure them through Pulse USA. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD) may provide landowners interested in additional cost share or public access incentives through Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program.

Project Duration: 5 years

Amount of Grant request: \$625,394.90

Total Project Costs: \$1,073,653.80

A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required. Amount of Matching Funds: \$448,258.90

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

Landowners	\$416,929.90	(Cash/In-kind)
Ducks Unlimited	\$10,000.00	(In-kind)
	\$1,403.00	(Indirect)
Pulse USA	\$10,290.00	(In-kind)
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (NDNRT)	\$9,636.00	(Cash)

Source(s) of Matching Funds*

Please provide verification that these matching funds are available for your project. Note that effective as of July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose.

Landowners	\$416,929.90	(Cash/In-kind)
Ducks Unlimited	\$10,000.00	(In-kind)
	\$1,403.00	(Indirect)
Pulse USA	\$10,290.00	(In-kind)
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (NDNRT)	\$9,636.00	(Cash)

Certifications *

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

X I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted on Page 1 of this application.

Narrative

Organization Information

Ducks Unlimited (DU) conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. Established in 1937, DU and its partners have conserved more than 13 million acres of habitat across North America thanks to the generous contributions from more than a million supporters. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. Thanks to over 75 years of success, DU is recognized as the world's largest and most effective private waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization. DU is known for our ability to partner with private individuals, landowners, government agencies, scientific communities, industry leaders and other entities to successfully deliver collaborative conservation projects. DU is a grassroots and volunteer-based organization. Our 675,000 members are conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts who reside across the United States, Canada and Mexico, including over 6,300 members in North Dakota. DU's Great Plains Regional Office, located in Bismarck, ND, employs a multidisciplinary team of engineers, biologists, scientists, agronomists, real estate and administrative support personnel. Since 1984, DU and our partners have completed over 1,300 projects impacting more than 480,000 acres in North Dakota. DU is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers from across the country. For a full listing of DU's Board members, please visit: <http://www.ducks.org/aboutdu/board-of-directors/>

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. If your project includes tree/shrub/grass planting, please provide a planting plan describing the site design, planting methods, number of trees/shrubs by species and stock size, grass species and future maintenance. A statement certifying that the applicant will adhere to USDA-NRCS tree/shrub/grass planting specifications along with the name of the governmental entity designing the planting may be substituted for a planting plan. If your project includes Section 319 program funding, please provide, in detail, the specific best management practices that will be implemented and the specific projects for which you are seeking funding. Please note that if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

Project Background and Funding Urgency

Agricultural production in eastern North Dakota has experienced reduced diversity over the past few decades. Historically, this landscape was marked with small mixed-operator farms incorporating diverse cropping rotations and small herds of livestock. This area continues to transition to a landscape with less diverse crop rotations and annual conventional tillage practices. Livestock use and associated grassland acreage have continued to decline.

The primary result of decreased agricultural diversity at the scale of individual farms and ranches is degraded soil health. Soils in poor health have low organic content, reduced nutrient availability to

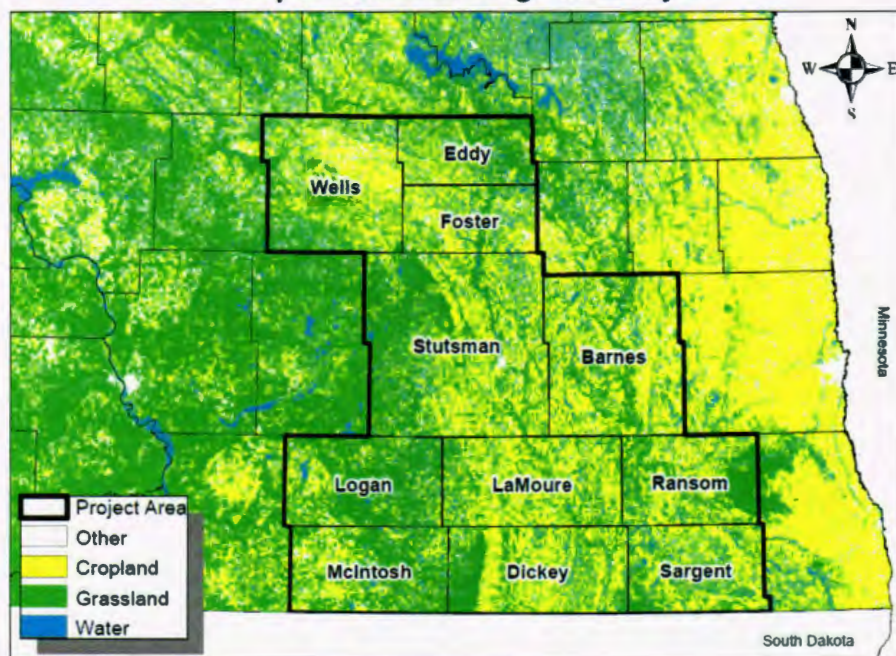
cash crops, increased soil compaction, reduced water infiltration, increased surface runoff and soil erosion, reduced water quality, and ultimately lead to reduced profitability of cropland and grassland acres.

Reduced soil health at the local farm and ranch scale can have implications at a much larger watershed scale. For example, results include increased surface runoff and flooding, which is frequently associated with increased sediment loads deposited into downstream aquatic environments. Increased runoff also carries fertilizers such as nitrogen and phosphorus, resulting in eutrophication of downstream environments.

The Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project (CCLIP) is a new opportunity developed to promote cover crops and livestock grazing on cropland as a management tool for improving soil health, water quality, grassland health, and wildlife habitat conservation. Diversification of cropland systems using cover crops can improve overall soil health and functionality by restoring organic matter, increasing aggregate development and porosity, reducing soil compaction, and increasing water infiltration. Importantly, integration of livestock on cropland further enhances soil health. Grazing stimulates plant root growth, urine and manure distributes carbon back to the soil, and the nutrient cycle process is strengthened. The intention of the CCLIP is not to treat symptoms of dysfunctional soils. Rather, practices adopted through the CCLIP will help restore soil functionality and provide long term benefits to producers' operations and local watersheds.

The CCLIP area (Figure 1) includes a portion of the Missouri Coteau physiographic region, where comparatively large expanses of grasslands remain and where livestock producers are common. The project area also includes a portion of the adjacent drift prairie region where row crop agriculture is prevalent yet mixed operations are still common. The entire project area is also within the Prairie Pothole Region, one of the most unique and important landscapes in North America.

Figure 1: The Cover Crop and Livestock Integration Project Area in southeast North Dakota.



Goals, Strategies and Benefits

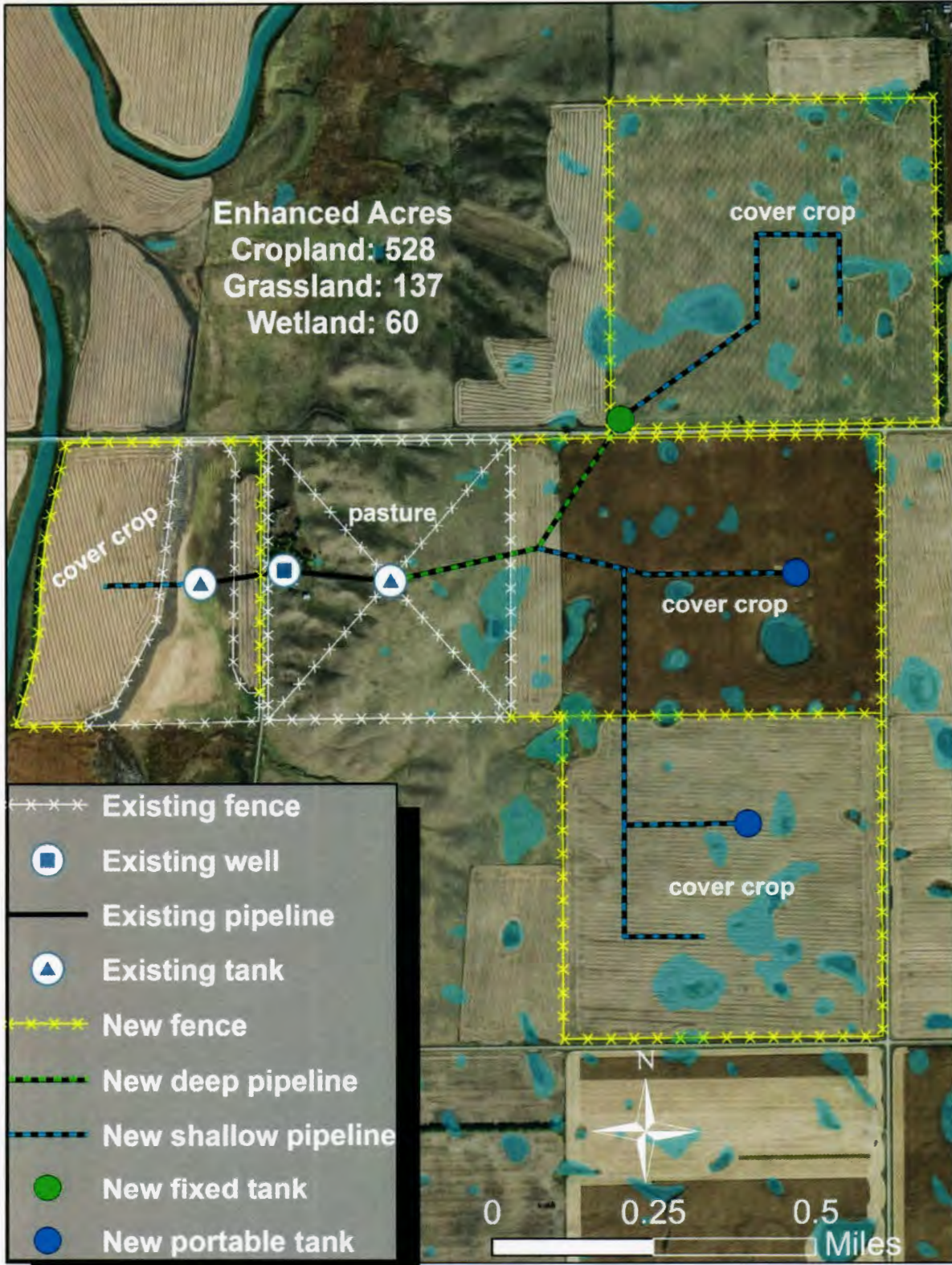
The primary goal of the CCLIP is to offer voluntary working lands options that provide interested landowners with the means necessary to introduce cover crops and livestock grazing. Project partners will work with farmers and ranchers to select cover crop mixes and grazing plans that address specific resource concerns and attain operational goals. By providing technical guidance and cost share for cover crop seeding costs and grazing infrastructure, the CCLIP will increase long-term operational resiliency and profitability while enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for sportsmen.

Producers interested in the CCLIP will have the opportunity to plant cover crops and develop grazing infrastructure. The CCLIP will provide up to 60% cost share on grazing infrastructure that consist of, but are not limited to fencing materials, windbreak panels, rural water hookups, well hole and casing, water tanks, solar and/or wind stations, electrical hookups, water pumps, and pipelines. The CCLIP will also provide up to 60% cost share for expenditures associated with cover crop seeding equal to as many as but no more than two years for each enrolled cropland acre. North Dakota producers enrolling in the CCLIP may also receive a discount on cover crop seed mixes from Pulse USA, should producers choose to order seed from Pulse USA. To ensure project success and equal participation, cost share assistance from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will be matched by the landowner and project partners at a minimum of 40%.

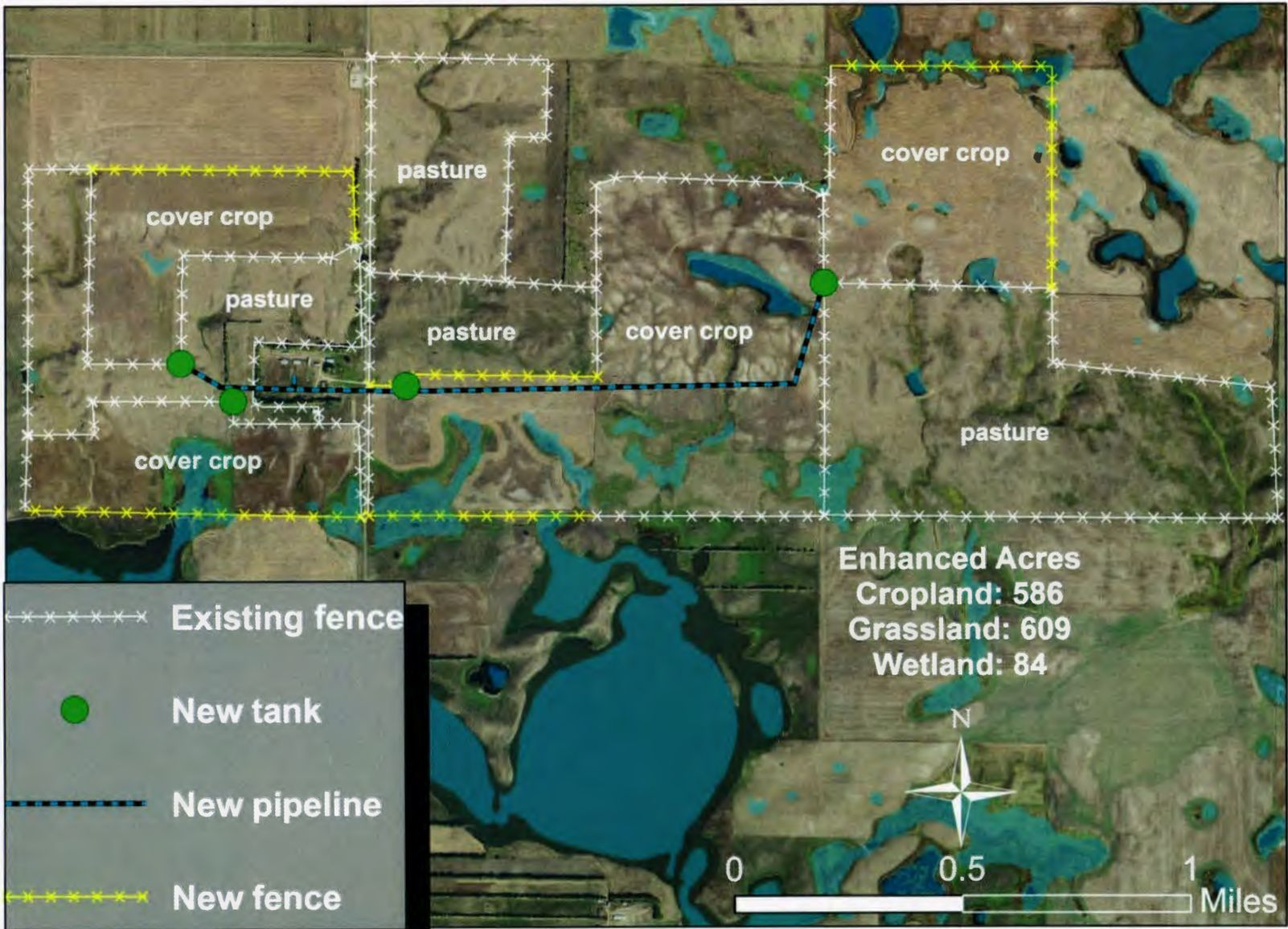
CCLIP partners will help producers develop grazing plans based on duration, rest recovery time, available crop residue, and cover crops. Grazing plans will require that producers integrate livestock on enrolled cropland acres at least twice within the 5-year agreement period. However, grazing plans will give producers the flexibility to adapt given changing resource conditions while maintaining their soil health goals. For example, grazing will only occur on fields that are planted to high residue crops or cover crops (soybeans, sunflowers, and silage crops are low residue crops and will not be aftermath grazed).

For most landowners in the area, the CCLIP is the only opportunity available that assists with cover crops *and* livestock integration on cropland. By providing long-lived grazing infrastructure on cropland, the likelihood that cover crop and livestock grazing practices will be continued after the life of the contract will greatly increase. Initial interest in the project area is overwhelmingly positive indicated by landowner-based Soil Conservation District boards' support and producers ready to enroll in the concept (Example 1, Example 2). Many landowners in the project area who are educating themselves on cover crops and the concept of soil health want to complete the cycle by integrating livestock. This is of high interest with producers in the project area and this proposal would provide the catalyst to elevate the concept and lead through success.

Example 1: Proposed Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project in Dickey County



Example 2: Proposed Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project in Stutsman County



Directives and Timeline

OHF Major Directive

(B) - Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching. This major directive will be achieved by providing producers with cost share and technical guidance on cover crops and grazing infrastructure. Grazing systems implemented through the CCLIP that increase stock density and facilitate whole plant community utilization will increase plant diversity and improve animal health. Ultimately, conservation practices promoted through the CCLIP will enhance farming and ranching operations.

OHF Additional Directives

(A) - Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen. This directive will be achieved by directing all producers in this project who are interested in additional cost share or public access incentives to the PLOTS program through the NDGFD. Producers who are already enrolled in PLOTS will be provided opportunities for additional enhancements (fire, woody removal) on their property. Program participation will be tracked and reported to OHF during grant period.

OHF Additional Directives

(C) - Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands. Cover crops seeded in the fall can provide important food and cover for wildlife in the winter, and may provide concealment for ground nesting birds in the spring. Livestock grazing on cropland will enhance existing grassland habitat for wildlife, as rest recovery periods on grasslands will increase. Wetlands and their functionality for wildlife will be conserved on enrolled acres, as wetlands will not be manipulated (burned, drained, filled) during the 5-year agreement.

All CCLIP agreements will be 5 years in length.

Management of Project – Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met.*

Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

DU will provide management, coordination, and administration for the CCLIP grant. DU conservation program biologists and agronomists as well as Pulse USA experts will work collaboratively to provide producers with program guidance and technical assistance in developing cover crop mixes and grazing systems. Cover crops and grazing systems on cropland and grassland will be reviewed yearly to monitor implementation and effectiveness in achieving soil and grassland health goals. Projects shall be funded on a first come first serve basis until funds expire and agreements will be 5 years in length. Grant funds will be distributed to participating producers as agreement items are completed and proper documentation is provided to DU.

DU biologists will coordinate the program from our office located in Bismarck, ND. Tanner Gue, North Dakota Biologist, and Jonas Davis, Manager of Conservation Programs in North Dakota, will serve as the program coordinators. Tanner and Jonas have a combined 15 years of experience in delivering conservation projects for DU. DU will provide tracking and reporting of all landowner agreements following grant deadlines.

Pulse USA's collaboration with DU biologists to provide technical assistance concentrating on cover crop seed mixes and livestock integration will be critical to the success of the CCLIP for several reasons. Pulse USA is a farmer owned seed and agricultural product company, based out of their office in Bismarck, that has been developing and promoting cover crop concepts for more than 10 years in North Dakota. Pulse USA's team of representatives are experts in cover crops and are well known in the farm and agronomic research community.

On-the-ground DU biologists will direct all producers in this project who are interested in additional cost share or public access incentives to the PLOTS program through the NDGFD. NDGFD will provide producers who are already enrolled in PLOTS with opportunities for additional enhancements (fire, woody removal) on their property.

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.

Success of the CCLIP will also be determined by quantifying total acreage of enhanced cropland and grassland. Increased water retention and infiltration is a sign of good soil health and is an observed benefit of cover crops and rotational grazing practices in the Northern Great Plains. Therefore, we will use water infiltration tests to monitor progress. Grazing cover crops and cash crop aftermath increases rest recovery periods on grazing pastures. Therefore, the number of rest recovery days on associated pastures may be a supplementary metric for determining progress and success of the CCLIP. Project progress will also be documented through monitoring photos.

An increase in production and a decrease in costly inputs (e.g., synthetic fertilizer, herbicide, pesticide) are also observed benefits of cover crops and livestock integration. This equates to an improved bottom line for producers. The most important measure of CCLIP success will be the level of satisfaction from participating producers.

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. Note that a minimum of 25% match funding is required.*

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. Effective July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose. 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.**

X 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.

By providing 60% cost share to producers for long-lived grazing infrastructure on cropland and pasture, there is a strong likelihood that conservation practices implemented and promoted through the CCLIP will be carried out by producers years beyond the 5-year agreement length. For example, water infrastructure partially provided by the OHF CCLIP will continue to provide producers with quality water for livestock for the lifespan of the water source. Perimeter fencing, such as barbed wire fence, can last up to 20 years. Additionally, by promoting crop aftermath and cover crop grazing, the CCLIP increases rest recovery days on pasturelands, thereby enhancing grassland health and wildlife habitat. The return on investment for the OHF CCLIP is high.

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

Partial funding would result in fewer producers having the opportunity to enhance their farming and ranching operations by improving soil health on cropland and grassland health on pasture. Partial funding would also reduce this project's capacity to minimize soil erosion and improve water quality in wetlands, streams and rivers in southeast North Dakota. Further, less habitat acres would be enhanced for wildlife but partial funding would also provide the opportunity to test assumptions and assist producers interested in implementing conservation practices today.

Partnership Recognition - If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? * Please note it is a requirement that there be signage at the location of the project acknowledging the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund if appropriate for your project.

- 1) The Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized as the major partner in the CCLIP.
- 2) The Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized when working with all producers.
- 3) The Outdoor Heritage Fund will be recognized during all project outreach efforts and on the Ducks Unlimited website and local and national press releases.
- 4) The Outdoor heritage fund will be recognized during local landowner workshops / field days that promote the project and soil health principles.

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. The Commission can set a limit on duration of an offer on each application or if there isn't a specific date indicated in the application for implementation of the project, then the applicant has until the next Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board regular meeting to sign the contract and get the project underway or the commitment for funding will be terminated and the applicant may resubmit for funding. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant. 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. *

All provisions of the contract will be met by Ducks Unlimited in accordance with the non-profit contract.

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

Revised: January 18, 2017

Budget Standard Form

Project Expense	OHF Request	Landowner's Match Share (Cash/In-Kind)	DU's Match Share (In-Kind)	DU's Match Share (Indirect)	Pulse USA's Match Share (In-Kind)	NDNRT's Match Share (Cash)	Total Each Project Expense
Cover Crop Cost-share	\$126,720.00	\$84,480.00	\$4,000.00	\$561.00	\$10,290.00	\$0.00	\$226,051.00
Livestock Fencing of Cropland	\$237,980.20	\$158,653.40	\$3,000.00	\$421.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400,054.60
Livestock Water Development	\$260,694.70	\$173,796.50	\$3,000.00	\$421.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$437,912.20
Livestock Windbreak Panels	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,636.00	\$9,636.00
Total Costs	\$625,394.90	\$416,929.90	\$10,000.00	\$1,403.00	\$10,290.00	\$9,636.00	\$1,073,653.80

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In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Cover crop practices
 - based on average planning rate of \$20/acre to achieve 5,280 acre goal
- Livestock integration practices
 - Fencing
 - boundary/cross fencing ranging from \$0.50/ft to \$1.80/ft dependent upon fence type (2 strand high tensile, 3 strand barbed, 4 strand barbed, and 5 strand barbed).
 - Water Development
 - costs provided by OHF will include water pipelines, watering facilities, water pumping stations, water wells, and rural water hookups.
 - Windbreak Shelter
 - Based on planning rate of \$35/foot to achieve 5,280 acre goal
- Staffing
 - Staffing funds will be utilized to provide program delivery assistance

Planning rates based on ND 319 Cost-Share Guidelines for BMPs updated June 2016

Foster County Soil Conservation District

April 27, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support by the Foster County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, increase cash crop productivity, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our goals in Foster County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,



Robert House, Chairman
Foster County SCD Board

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



Bob T House
Grace City, ND

Curtiss Klein
Carrington, ND

Sam Partlow
Carrington, ND

Cody Montgomery
Carrington, ND

Karl Hoppe
Carrington, ND

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

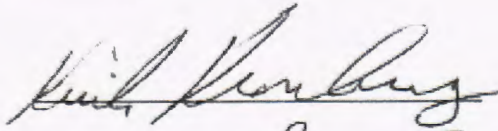
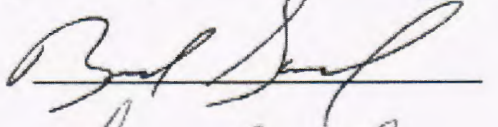
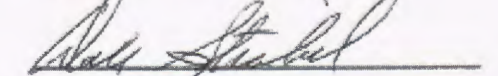
Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support by the James River Soil Conservation District Board of Dickey County for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Cattle Integration Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, increase cash crop productivity, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our goals in Dickey County.

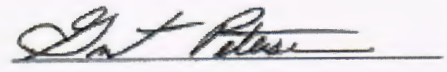

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate cattle on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

James River Soil Conservation District Board

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

Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support by the McIntosh County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, increase cash crop productivity, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our goals in McIntosh County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

On behalf of the board: Nancy Kay Betsch

Date: 4-26-17



Wild Rice Soil Conservation District
Sargent Co. North Dakota

WILD RICE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT • 8991 Hwy 32 • Forman ND 58032-9702

Web Page: www.wildricescd.com | Facebook: [WWW.facebook.com/WildRiceSCD](https://www.facebook.com/WildRiceSCD)

Dear Outdoor Heritage Funding Committee,

This is a letter from the Wild Rice Soil Conservation District (SCD) in support of the following objective: Keeping and/or getting cattle out of the farmstead/winter yard during the late fall and winter months through crop aftermath and/or cover crop grazing.

There is necessary infrastructure requirements that accompany this goal such as but not limited to the following: Boundary fence, water developments (Well, Tank, Pipeline, Waterer's, Rural water connection, Etc.), and potentially cross fencing.

An operation must also have adequate cover crop and/or crop aftermath forage available to be grazed to accomplish the outlined objective.

Having access to the financial ability or means to develop adequate infrastructure to allow cattle on cropland acres in late fall/over winter can open up many options for a producer and have a tremendous beneficial impact on a wide array of natural resource concerns.

Duayne Baldwin
Duayne Baldwin SCD Board Chairperson

4-13-17
Date



Stutsman County Soil Conservation District

1301 Business Loop East

701-252-2521 X 3

April 26, 2017

Karlene Fine, Executive Director
North Dakota Industrial Commission
AITN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

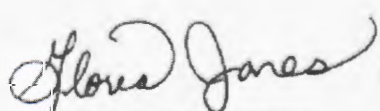
Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support by the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District Board for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. This project's primary objectives are to help producers enhance soil health, increase cash crop productivity, reduce feeding costs for cattle, and enhance grassland health. These goals align well with our goals in Stutsman County.

There are necessary costs associated with cover crop and livestock integration practices not limited to cover crop seed, boundary and cross fence, and water developments (wells, rural water connection, tanks, pipeline, etc).

Having financial assistance to introduce cover crop practices and develop adequate infrastructure to integrate livestock on cropland will be beneficial for producers in our area and for our natural resources.

Sincerely,

 Chairperson SCSCD

Gloria Jones, Chairperson
Stutsman County Soil Conservation District Board



2002 Northern Plains Drive

Bismarck, ND 58504

Phone: 888-530-0734

Fax: 701-530-1826

April 21, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support by Pulse USA for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal. We commend Ducks Unlimited for identifying a project that simultaneously serves farm producer interests and benefits a diverse group of North Dakota stakeholders.

Pulse USA is a farmer owner seed and agricultural product company. We have been on the forefront of cover crop development and promotion since 2007. We worked closely with Burleigh County Soil Conservation Service after the drought of 2006 to implement cover crop practices and education. Pulse USA's interest in cover crop has always been as a tool for the farmer to restore soil health, minimize long term input costs and create additional revenue streams for already working lands to benefit the farmer. Our team of representatives are well recognized by the farm community and the research community for their practical knowledge of cover crop objectives, mixes, benefits and agronomics. Advice that our team of highly qualified employees provide is based on knowledge and experience gained with our owner operators, education, and interactions with soil scientist, extension agents and other producers and researchers across the state and nation.

We are pleased to provide up to \$10,290 of in-kind staff support and technical assistance for this five year project dedicated to providing simple and flexible cover crop options that work for both the producer and wildlife. Pulse USA representatives will work closely with on-the-ground Ducks Unlimited biologists to help producers design specific cover crop seed mixes based on the producer's operational goals and needs. In addition, North Dakota producers enrolling in the Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project may be eligible to receive a discount on cover crop seed mixes if they chose to procure them through Pulse USA.

The Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project proposal has tremendous potential to deliver, through a broad-based partnership, additional working lands options for landowners that achieve "win-win" solutions for both North Dakota producers and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Duane Pool
Assistant General Manager, Pulse USA

"Changing Ag Concepts One Crop At A Time"

www.pulseusa.com



North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

PO BOX 325
MANDAN, ND 58554
www.ndglc.com or info@ndglc.com



April 19, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support from the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) in support of Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop and Livestock Integration Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal.

NDGLC is a grassroots group organized in 1996 to promote the health and sustainability of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands. Coalition members have a strong focus on managing for soil health and biodiversity to promote sustainable farming and ranching. NDGLC supports the "Cover Crop and Livestock Integration Project" as it seeks to provide financial assistance for North Dakota farmers and ranchers to introduce cover crop practices and develop grazing infrastructure necessary for livestock integration on cropland. This effort will help producers improve soil health, grassland health, grazing infrastructure and grazing systems. It is a core belief of ours that through voluntary actions, respect for private property rights, and education on the benefits of well-managed grazing resources, their goals are achievable.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Njos".

Chad Njos
NDGLC Chairman



United States Department of Agriculture

Nature Resources
Conservation Service

Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND
58507-1458

Voice: 701.530.2000
Fax: 855.813.7556

April 21, 2017

Tanner Gue
Ducks Unlimited Inc
2525 River Road
Bismarck, ND 58503

Dear Mr. Gue:

I have reviewed the Ducks Unlimited Cover Crop and Livestock Integration Project Outdoor Heritage Proposal. It fits very closely with the goals of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist private landowners and operators with voluntary conservation technical assistance and to address natural resource concerns of habitat degradation for wildlife, soil health and plant diversity in southeastern North Dakota.

The proposal meets the conservation needs of both crop and livestock producers on private lands. The project leverages resources through partners and participants to implement conservation technical and financial assistance on both crop and grassland.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist

NORTH DAKOTA
**NATURAL RESOURCES
TRUST**

Keith Trego
Executive Director
1605 East Capitol Avenue, Ste. 101
Bismarck, ND 58501-2102
(701) 223-8501
FAX: (701) 223-6937

May 1, 2017

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

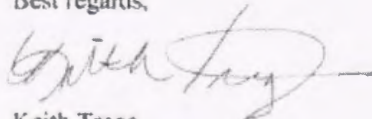
Dear Ms. Fine:

Please accept this letter of support for Ducks Unlimited's "Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project" Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal.

The Trust's mission is to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota. 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 and create dialogue. Along with its agricultural and conservation partners, the Trust advocates for recognition, appropriate development, and protection of North Dakota's unique natural resource values.

This grant proposal will be a critical component of providing technical and financial assistance to a growing population of landowners interested in enhancing soil and grassland health using cover crops and livestock integration on cropland. The funding and implementation of this grant will result in increased crop and livestock production, enhanced agricultural profitability, improved water quality as well as an increase in quality and quantity of wildlife habitat.

Best regards,



Keith Trego
Executive Director

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