

# Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



## Instructions

After completing the form, applications and supporting documentation may be submitted by e-mail to [ndicgrants@nd.gov](mailto:ndicgrants@nd.gov). It is preferred that only electronic copies are submitted.

You are not limited to the spacing provided, except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. If you need additional space, please indicate that on the application form, answer the question on a separate page, and include with your submission.

The application and all attachments must be received by the application deadline. You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications prior to the deadline for staff review in order ensure that proposals will be complete when submitted on deadline date.** Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding.

**Please review the back of this form to determine project eligibility, definitions, budget criteria, and statutory requirements.**

Project Name: Turkeys enhancing water quality and wildlife habitat

Name of Organization: National Wild Turkey Federation

Federal Tax ID#: 57-0564993

Contact Person/Title: Clayton Lenk – NWTF District Biologist

Address: 770 Augusta Rd.

City: Edgefield

State: SC

Zip Code: 29824

E-mail Address: [clenk@nwtf.net](mailto:clenk@nwtf.net)

Web Site Address (If applicable): <https://www.nwtf.org/>

Phone: 218-821-0079

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

*Please contact the following in regards to agreements and finances:*

*Tara Moon – Director of Conservation Administration, Grants and Planning, [tmoon@nwtf.net](mailto:tmoon@nwtf.net), O:803-637-7507, C:706-840-4219*

**MAJOR Directive:**

Choose only one response

- Directive A.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

**Additional Directive:**

Choose all that apply

- Directive A.**
- Directive B.**
- Directive C.**
- Directive D.**

**Type of organization:**

- State Agency
- Political Subdivision
- Tribal Entity
- Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

**Abstract/Executive Summary.**

Summarize the project, including its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants. (no more than 500 words)

In North Dakota, the wild turkey is an often overlooked and undervalued species that doesn't get the same headline attention as other big game. However, the wild turkey is one of North Dakota's greatest conservation successes and has huntable populations as a result. In fact, North Dakota has one of the highest turkey hunter success rates in the country of roughly 45-50%. This is all due to the habitat work and conservation efforts that takes place on public land and even more so on private lands in the state. In recent years, population declines are being recorded throughout a lot of the southern and midwestern states. Recent population estimates in ND show a stable or slightly increasing population. With recent droughts and long winters, quality habitat is the main factor that will help these birds make it through repeated adverse conditions and keep the healthy population stable. The wild turkey has an extensive usage of habitat types that allow countless other wildlife

species to benefit from managing for this magnificent bird. So much so that the wild turkey is often considered an icon of diverse and well managed habitat.

Throughout the Great Plains of the United States, it is estimated that less than 1.5% of the overall landscape is of riparian nature, yet over 70% of wildlife species use these riparian areas in at least some capacity during their life cycle. Riparian habitat as well as the adjacent upland areas are critical to the survival of fish and wildlife species in the Plains but also have significant water conservation benefits to all things downstream. People are also a benefactor of quality habitat in these areas whether it be from recreational opportunities, more efficient livestock practices, cleaner drinking water, among others.

The primary objectives of this grant will be to conserve and/or enhance roughly 1,500-acres of fish and wildlife habitat across North Dakota. The habitat types we would be helping conserve/enhance would include riparian areas and upland areas suitable to support wild turkeys or that have a clear water conservation impact. Over the course of four-years, NWTF will work with our membership base and local chapters to find potential projects and then collaborate with our numerous conservation partners to help leverage dollars and implement projects on the ground. The NWTF has internal focal landscapes that largely encompass the North Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan. These areas would be given priority for project funding and consideration.

The National Wild Turkey Federation’s (NWTF) mission is the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage. With our mission in mind, we approach conservation through our “four shared values” which are healthy forests and wildlife habitat, clean water, robust recreational opportunities, and resilient communities. By positively impacting riparian and upland habitats in North Dakota, we would implement all four of our shared values across the state.

**Project Duration:** Four-years

**Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.**

**Amount of Grant request: \$200,000**

**Total Project Costs: \$356,913**

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

**Amount of Matching Funds: \$156,913**

**A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required.** Indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash. Please provide verification that these matching funds are available for your project. Note that effective as of July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose.

Amount of Match	Funding Source	Type of Match (Cash, In-kind or Indirect)
\$44,000 for contracted services	Project Partners	Cash and In-kind
\$53,333 for supplies	Project Partners	Cash and In-Kind

\$30,000	NWTF District Biologist staff time and travel	In-Kind
\$29,580	NWTF Indirect	Indirect
\$		
\$		

**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 in the back of this application.

**Narrative**

**Organization Information – Briefly summarize your organization’s history, mission, current programs and activities.**

Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement. (no more than 300 words)

The mission of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is that we are dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage. The NWTF has over 230,000 members with over 1,200 local chapters representing all 50 states. Founded in 1973, the NWTF has invested over half a billion dollars into wildlife conservation and has conserved or enhanced over 22 million acres of critical wildlife habitat. The organization continues to drive wildlife conservation, forest resiliency and robust recreational opportunities throughout the U.S. by working across boundaries on a landscape scale. The organization is governed by an 18-member National board of directors. The NWTF has recently started a Co-CEO structure where one CEO leads the marketing and fundraising side of the organization while the other focuses on conservation and business support. Volunteers work directly with field staff on projects and events. NWTF programs include our Hunting Heritage Super Fund which is used to deliver mission related objectives at the state level. This includes outreach and education programs such as JAKES, Women in the Outdoors, and Wheelin’ sportsmen and can also be applied to research projects, used to complete conservation work, among many other mission centric activities. The NWTF has also created landscape-level initiatives like the Waterways for Wildlife (W4W) Initiative which has provided \$392,000 over the last two-years to help conserve over 10,484 acres and 116.8 stream miles.

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

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project. Note: if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

For tree/shrub/grass plantings: 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.

For projects including Section 319 funding: provide in detail the specific best management practices that will be implemented and the specific projects for which you are seeking funding.

For projects including fencing: A minimum cost share of 40% by the recipient is preferred. Include detailed information on the type of fencing to be installed, whether funding is requested for boundary fencing, new or replacement of existing fencing, and/or cross fencing.

This grant will overlap with NWTF's Waterways for Wildlife (W4W) Initiative which is an internal program created and designed by staff to advance conservation, restoration, and enhancement of riparian areas throughout the Great Plains. This new initiative was built on the success of the Northern Plains Riparian Restoration Initiative (NPRRI) which helped conserve/enhance over 83,000 acres, over 14,000 of which in ND, since 2006. The program uses established networks of conservation professionals and volunteers to help identify projects on both private and public lands. The program works with public and private land managers to provide technical assistance in identifying, designing, and implement the on the ground projects. The W4W program provides financial assistance through an application process at no less than 3:1 (75:25) match from partners and often exceeds 14:1. The North Dakota Game and Fish have also identified the importance of conserving and enhancing riparian habitat for fisheries by the creation of their "Save Our Lakes" program. This program helped private landowners in priority watersheds with conservation practices and limited agricultural practices to increase water quality in downstream fisheries. The program was ran by the fisheries department but has since been repurposed under the private lands section of the department.

This grant could potentially fund some W4W projects that occur in ND but it will also encompass areas that are not directly in riparian areas that wouldn't qualify for W4W but still provide wildlife and or water quality benefits in upland habitats.

Goals – The overarching goal of this grant is to expand on our previous work conserving/enhancing riparian areas across the state while also conserving/enhancing upland areas that have a habitat or water quality benefit. Doing so would help reverse the downward trend of riparian and upland habitat quality and quantity across the state. Through the efforts implemented by this grant there will be more native habitat on the landscape, more diverse habitat, less erosion, and increased water quality in North Dakota. We are currently planning on conserving/enhancing 1,000 acres of riparian habitat and 500 acres of upland habitat. Riparian habitat would be considered everything from the water to the edges of the adjacent uplands where there are clear vegetative breaks. Upland habitat would include meadows, grasslands, forests, or savanna type habitats. The practices that will help us achieve those goals will vary based on location and by landowner preference. Those practices may include, but not

limited to; Tree and shrub establishment (612), Forest Stand Improvement (666), Conservation Cover (327), Brush Management (314), Fence (382), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Stream and Shoreline Protection (580), Livestock Pipeline (516), Watering Facility (614), among others.

Strategies – Interest in voluntary conservation of these proposed habitat improvement projects are projected to be very strong by ND landowners. Through existing networks of conservation professionals and volunteers, projects would be identified and reviewed for compatibility for receiving these funds. Potential projects would be screened by the NWTF District Biologist and would be reviewed based on criteria such as project merit, water quality benefits, benefits to wildlife, longevity of project work, size of project, and if the project falls within our internal focal landscapes which largely overlap focus areas identified within the State Wildlife Action Plan. NWTF will prioritize projects that have the greatest impact on turkeys. NWTF staff will also coordinate with partners, landowners, and volunteers to meet and often exceed grant match requirements. The NWTF chapter system in North Dakota consists of 17 active chapters representing over 1,400 members.

Benefits – There is no question that projects accomplished by NWTF have a multitude of benefits no matter where they are in the country. These ultimately tie to our four shared values of water quality, forest health and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and resilient communities. The projects that NWTF is seeking to implement using these funds will aim to hit at least two of these values and more where applicable.

Some of the projects accomplished through this funding would likely be highlighted in NWTF's nationally distributed magazine "Turkey Call" which is sent out bi-monthly to over 230,000 members across the United States and several other countries. Project articles are also written specifically for our website which would be searchable by state. Funding sources, partners, and project work details all get highlighted through both of these avenues which would give OHF and ND good representation to a nationwide audience.

Timelines – Historically through the NPRRI program, formal requests for proposals were sent out in the March/April timeframe of each year through riparian conservation networks with applications due in June. Through this round of grant funding, formal requests would still be made annually but would likely occur in the fall/winter months so project work could begin first thing in the spring for shovel ready projects. This would allow project managers to work on applications and get project details during what are typically slow months as far as on the ground implementation goes. Since projects don't always fall into designated timelines, eligible projects could still come in throughout the year and would be reviewed on an individual basis after the initial round of funding has taken place and if budgets allow. NWTF will remain in close contact with the project manager throughout implementation to ensure timelines are in order and that work is going as planned. Upon project completion, either NWTF staff or a trusted conservation representative would evaluate the completed project to ensure it meets all project specifications. Successful applicants are given one year to completed project work but may be granted an extension if extenuating circumstances exist. The project leaders and land managers would be responsible for any future maintenance or repair of the site should it be needed.

Need for project and funding urgency – Downward trends in both riparian and upland habitat across the state call for action. Riparian areas specifically are often small and occur with major watercourses or flashy waterways that are especially vulnerable to negative impacts. These habitat areas across the state and across the plains states for that matter have been heavily declined by human-directed activities such as infrastructure and dam construction, development/sprawl, incompatible agricultural

practices, etc.. The decline of these habitats has been happening at an alarming rate and the impact on water quality and wildlife has not yet been quantified.

New project or replacing expiring funding – These funds would in-part replace the OHF grant that NWTF received in 2018 to do riparian centric work but will build off of that success to also include upland habitats that have a wildlife or water conservation tie to it. Aside from OHF funds, the NWTF only has one other source of funding in ND and those are our member generated “Super Funds”. These funds are used for a variety of things and not just conservation projects and are determined by the NWTF State Chapters Board of Directors. Thus, limiting the amount of funds that can be applied towards on the ground conservation.

Is this project part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?  Yes  No

If yes, provide a copy with the application. ND State Wildlife Action Plan

*Note: Projects involving buildings and infrastructure will only be considered if part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Please refer to the “Definitions” section at the back of the form for more details.*

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

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

This grants administration and program management will be overseen by NWTF staff. Individual projects receiving funds from this grant are overseen and administered through their project leaders in coordination with NWTF. Project leaders will be state and/or federal agency staff responsible for those public lands, or in the case of private lands projects, staff responsible for working with private landowners that are enrolled in recognized long-term conservation programs. Although a request for project proposals will go out annually on a set timeline, individual project timelines may vary. However, projects will be given one-year to complete project work unless an extension is granted for extenuating circumstances. NWTF staff will maintain communication with individual project leaders throughout the project phases to monitor implementation timelines and get status updates. Individual project leaders background info will vary depending on agency and location of projects that will come in so that info is not available at this time but will be disclosed as requested when projects are determined. NWTF staff currently overseeing conservation implementation in ND, District Biologist – Clayton Lenk, has been involved in wildlife and habitat management on both public and private lands since 2014 through local and state government and also with a non-government conservation organization.

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

Please be specific on the methods you will utilize to measure success. Note that regular reporting, final evaluation and expenditure reports will be required for every grant awarded.

Project work will likely focus on improving grazing infrastructure and improving grazing management. Additional project work may include tree and shrub establishment, brush management, timber stand improvement, conservation cover, and other wildlife and water conservation related best management practices. NRCS practice codes will be used to identify practices that are implemented and practice standards will be referenced during the technical portion of the project proposal review. Projects delivered successfully will result in improved or created fish and wildlife habitat, improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, and oftentimes will enhance productivity of the lands owned and managed by farmers or ranchers. BMP implementation and follow up monitoring will be beneficial in

determining overall project success. Technical assistance is provided to project managers as needed throughout the project. Project completion review and reports will be completed for each individual project. Before and after photos and project shapefiles for mapping will also be required of individual projects. Post-project monitoring and follow up maintenance will be the responsibility of the individual project leader and the project team which may include private landowners.

## Financial Information

### Project Budget – Use the table below to provide an itemized list of project expenses and describe the matching funds being utilized for this project.

Indicate if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. **A minimum of 25% match funding is required.** An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Certain values have been identified for in-kind services as detailed under “Budget Information” at the back of this form. Refer to that section and utilize these values in identifying your matching funds. **NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded. Supporting documentation for project expenses, including bids, must be included or application will be considered incomplete.**

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Contracted Services	\$120,000	\$	\$	\$	\$40,000	\$160,000
Other Services (in-kind)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$4,000	\$4,000
Supplies	\$80,000	\$	\$	\$	\$53,333	\$133,333
Operating Costs	\$	\$	\$30,000	\$29,580	\$	\$59,580
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$29,580</b>	<b>\$97,333</b>	<b>\$356,913</b>

Note: Costs for seeding, fencing, pipelines, wells, and cover crops cannot exceed NRCS Field Office Tech Guide without justification. Projects involving perimeter fencing must follow NRCS eligibility standards.

### Budget Narrative – Use the space below to provide additional detail regarding project expenses.

All costs will not exceed USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP cost-share rates.

Contracted Services – this category is for work that will not be completed by partners. Not to exceed (NTE) 75% of total project labor costs paid by the grant. This category will encompass costs to implement the “on the ground work” including things like re-sloping of banks, installing pipelines, drilling of wells, fencing not installed by the landowner, tree planting, etc.. This category will typically be paid directly to the contractor for work provided.

Other Services – this will include in-kind labor/equipment usage of partners. This portion will apply to the 25% project match provided by partners. This amount is an estimate and may be exceeded.



Supplies – NTE 60% of total supplies costs paid by the grant. This will include things such as water tanks, pipeline, well pumps, fence, posts, seed, trees, etc.. Cash or in-kind provided by partners for materials and supplies will cover remaining 40%.

Operating Costs – Waived indirect of federally approved 14.79% on grant amount. NWTF District Biologist staff time and travel budgeted up to \$10,000/year will be in-kind

Projects will not have identified costs until they start coming in and the planning process starts. Landowner interest will ultimately dictate how much funding is spent on each practice and habitat type.

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

Include information on the sustainability of this project after OHF funds have been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Projects will be designed and planned for long-term success. However, additional management or follow up management/maintenance may be necessary in some cases. Projects such as invasive species removal, watering, or follow up herbicide or controlled burn treatment of established native are a few examples. All future management or maintenance on the site will be the responsibility, both technically and financially, of the land management agency and/or the private landowner that receives the project funding.

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

If partial funding is received, project work and program priorities would remain the same but would reduce the acreage impact during those funding years as a result.

**Partnership Recognition - If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? \* *There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate.***

Project work completed by NWTF has signage erected and would note OHF as a contributing partner. OHF would also receive recognition through NWTF media outlets when highlighting specific partnerships or projects. This is done via our website, social media platforms, and our nationally distributed "Turkey Call" magazine.

**Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>.**

Can you meet all the provisions of the sample contract?  Yes  No

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:

**ABOUT OHF:**

The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations, with higher priority given to projects that enhance **conservation** practices in this state by:

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

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

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

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

## **EXEMPTIONS**

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

- Litigation;
- Lobbying activities;
- Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code.

OHF funds may not be used, except after a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission, to finance:

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

definition of comprehensive conservation plan and new or expanded recreational project); or

- A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of the project.

The goal of the Industrial Commission is that at a minimum 15% of the funding received for a biennium will be given priority for recreation projects that meet Directive D.

The following projects are not eligible for funding, unless there is a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission include:

- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor ice rinks,
- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor athletic courts and sports fields,
- Other substantially similar facilities.
- Infrastructure that is not part of a comprehensive conservation plan.
- Projects not meeting a minimum funding request of \$2,500.

## **Budget Information**

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

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Permanent Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment)
- 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.

## **Definitions/Clarifications:**

Building - Defined as "A structure with a roof either with walls or without walls and is attached to the ground in a permanent nature."

Comprehensive Conservation Plan - Defined as "A detailed plan that has been formally adopted by the governing board which includes goals and objectives--both short and long term, must show how this building will enhance the overall conservation goals of the project and the protection or preservation of wildlife and fish habitat or natural areas." This does not need to be a complex multi-page document. It could be included as a part of the application or be an attachment.

New and Expanded Recreational Project means that the proposed building cannot be a replacement of a current building. The proposed building must also be related to either a new or expanded recreational project--either an expansion in land or an expansion of an existing building or in the opportunities for recreation at the project site.

Playground equipment calculation - Only the actual costs of the playground equipment (a bid or invoice showing the amount of the equipment costs must be provided) - cannot include freight or installation or surface materials or removal of old equipment, etc.

Staffing/Outside Consultants Costs - If you are requesting OHF funding for staffing or for an outside consultant, you must provide information in your application on the need for OHF funding to cover these costs. For example, if you are an entity that has engineering staff you must explain why you don't have sufficient staff to do the work or if specific expertise is needed or whatever the reason is for your entity to retain an outside consultant. If it is a request for reimbursement for staff time then a written explanation is required in the application of why OHF funding is needed to pay for the costs of that staff member(s)' time. **The budget form must reflect on a separate line item the specific amount that is being requested for staffing and/or the hiring of an outside consultant.** This separate line item will then be used to make the calculation of 5% or 10% as outlined in the law. Note that the calculation will be made on the grant less the costs for the consultant or staff.

Maintenance – Activities that preserve or keep infrastructure in a given existing condition, including repairs. Repair means to restore to sound condition after damage, to renew or refresh; except repairs due to damage caused by Acts of God.

## Scoring of Grants

**Oral Presentation.** Please note that you will be given an opportunity to make a ten-minute Oral Presentation at a meeting of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board. These presentations are strongly encouraged.

**Open Record.** Please note that your application and any attachments will be open records as defined by law and will be posted on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund website.

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking form that will be used by the Board is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> .

## Awarding of Grants

All decisions on requests will be reported to applicants no later than 30 days after Industrial Commission consideration. The Commission can set a limit on duration of an offer on each application or if there isn't a specific date indicated in the application for implementation of the project, then the applicant has until the next Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board regular meeting to sign the contract and get the project underway or the commitment for funding will be terminated and the applicant may resubmit for funding. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.

## Responsibility of Recipient

The recipient of any grant from the Industrial Commission must use the funds awarded for the specific purpose described in the grant application and in accordance with the contract. The recipient cannot use any of the funds for the purposes stated under Exemptions on the first page of this application.

If you have any questions about the application, the Commission can be reached at 701-328-3722 or [outdoorheritage@nd.gov](mailto:outdoorheritage@nd.gov).

Revised: November 4, 2019, April 12, 2023

# HABITAT MATTERS



## WHAT'S BEEN LOST

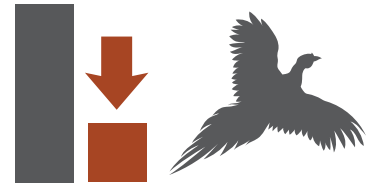


Has been converted.

**DEER LICENSES**  
**55% decrease**  
SINCE 2007



**Pheasant Harvest**  
900K DOWN TO 300K



**66% decrease**  
CRP ACRES



Of the nearly 5 million natural wetland acres, 60% have been converted or lost.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE



**Economic Value**

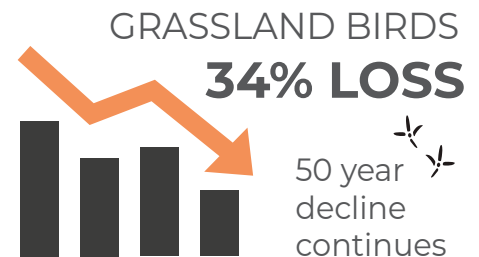
of hunting to North Dakota's economy



**WATER QUALITY**



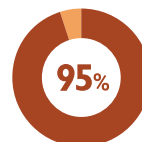
**LOSS OF HUNTING HERITAGE**



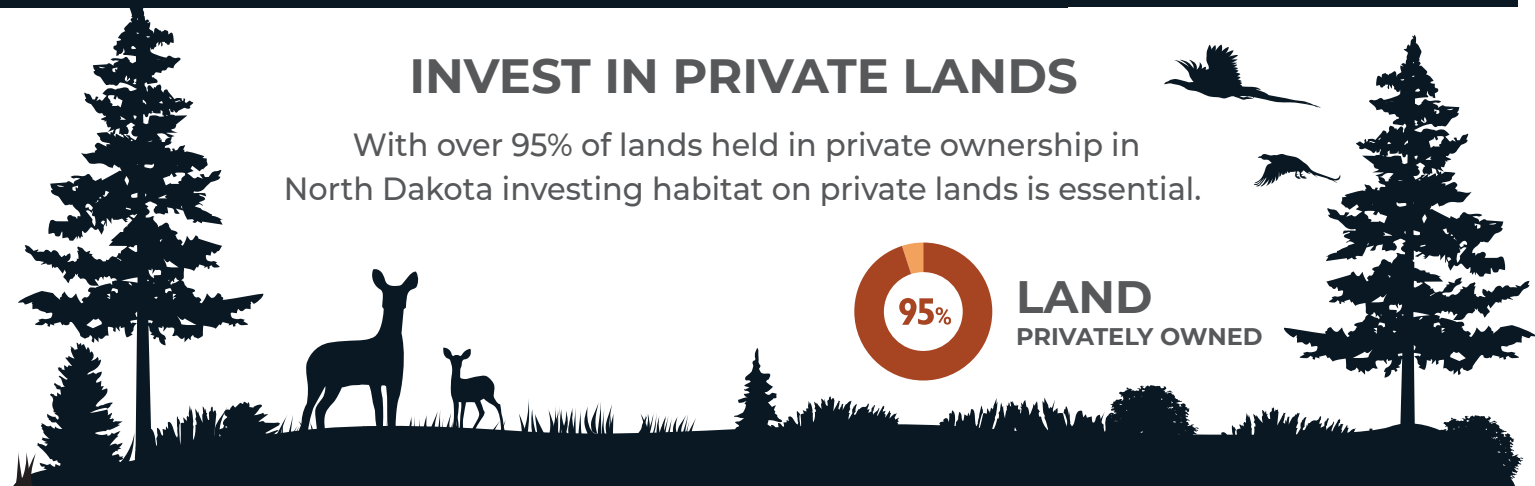
## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

### INVEST IN PRIVATE LANDS

With over 95% of lands held in private ownership in North Dakota investing habitat on private lands is essential.

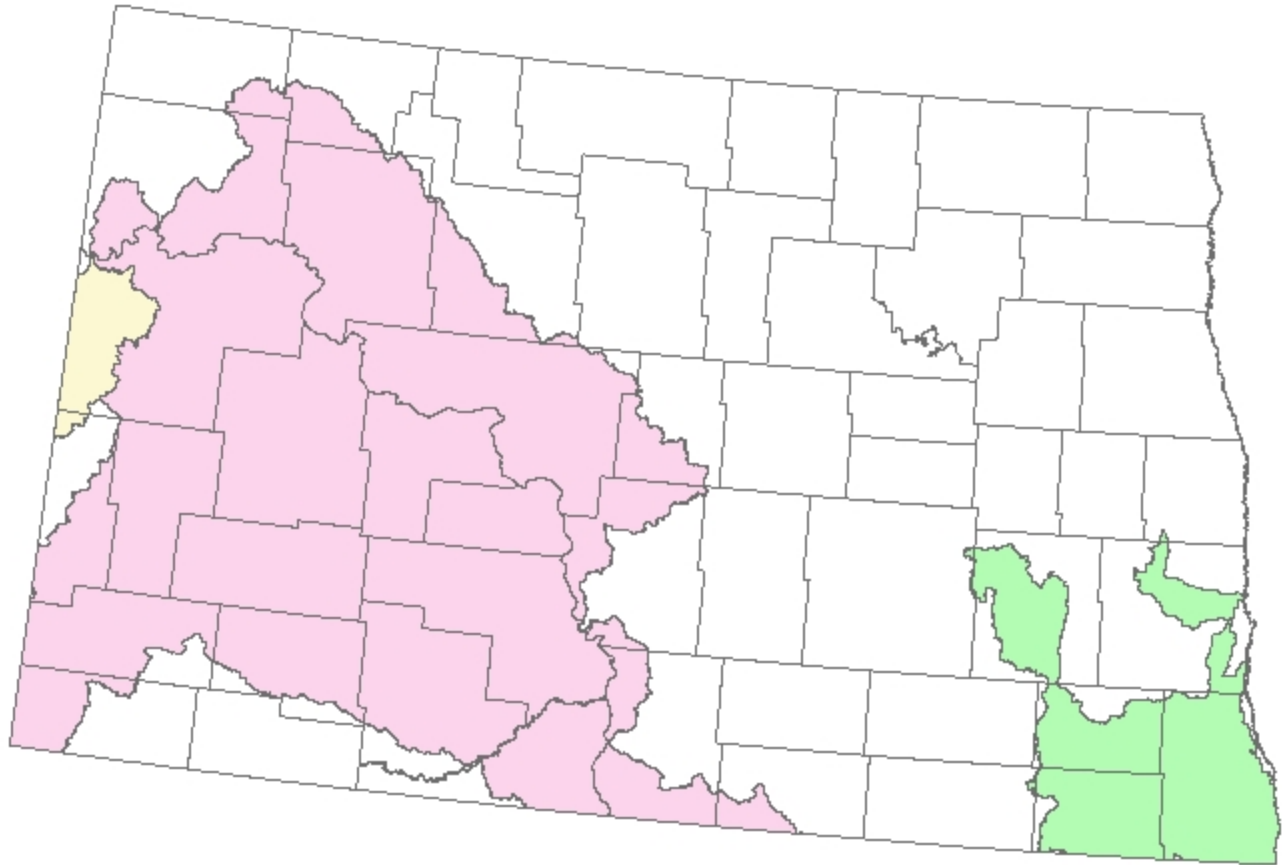


**LAND**  
PRIVATELY OWNED


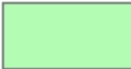
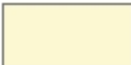




North Dakota



## Legend

-  Little Missouri / Western Dakota
-  Red River
-  Yellowstone

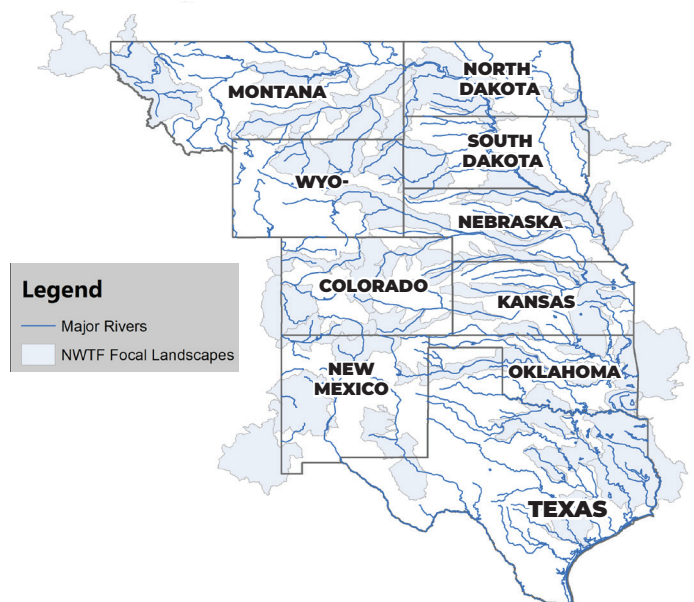
# Waterways for Wildlife

An NWTF Conservation Initiative

The Waterways for Wildlife Initiative is a comprehensive, landscape-level effort developed by the National Wild Turkey Federation to address critically urgent conservation needs in riparian ecosystems along rivers and streams in the Great Plains of the United States. This ambitious initiative is designed to continue our efforts addressing declining riparian health in America's Big Six of Wildlife Conservation, specifically America's Great Open Spaces and America's Western Wildlands. In the arid plains of the American West, riparian areas are a natural magnet for wild turkeys and hundreds of other species of wildlife. Many of these important wildlife habitats, however, are in poor condition due to a variety of causes. To address critical conservation issues, the NWTF is partnering with landowners, governmental agencies, and other conservation organizations to restore these vitally important ecosystems across the landscape. Over the next 10 years, the NWTF will improve 75,000 acres of wildlife habitat along 1,500 linear miles of waterways in the Great Plains landscape.

## What are "Riparian Areas" and why are they so important?

Commonly referred to as riparian corridors or zones, riparian areas are natural ecosystems located along the banks of rivers, streams, creeks, or any other water network. While riparian areas make up less than 1.5 percent of the entire landscape in the Great Plains, more than 70 percent of all plains wildlife species depend on these ecosystems for water, food, cover, roosting, nesting and as travel corridors. Often described as "ribbons of life," riparian areas support deciduous trees and shrubs in an otherwise arid and open grassland environment. Additionally, these areas provide roosting and nesting for birds, and food, cover and travel ways for a variety of animals. Riparian areas are also important for fish and other aquatic species, as they help control erosion and filter excess nutrients from surface runoff that can adversely affect spawning and rearing areas. They also serve to control flooding, improve water quality, provide for community water supply demands and recharge underground aquifers. These functions are vitally important to the people who live on the landscape, for production agriculture, the support of local economies, jobs, hunting, fishing and in providing high quality wildlife habitats. Additionally, riparian areas provide important opportunities for family camping, hiking and bird-watching.



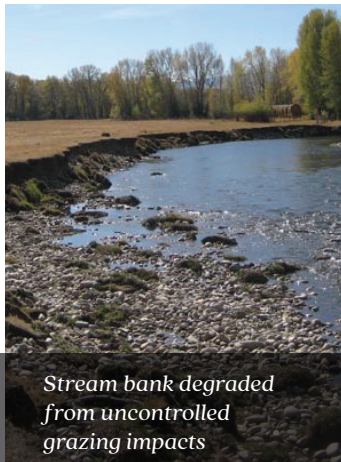




## The Conservation Need

Riparian ecosystems are naturally diverse systems subject to frequent periods of flooding and drought. These natural disturbances serve to create new seed beds and remove biomass ultimately “setting back” plant succession, and providing nutrients to riparian plant communities which maintains a productive ecosystem that benefits wildlife species. However, many changes have occurred in the Great Plains that have disrupted this natural cycle and impacted the health of these vital communities.

Land use changes (including altered hydrology), increased water demands to meet human needs, invasive species and livestock use are some of the many factors that can affect riparian ecosystem function and diminish wildlife habitat.



*Stream bank degraded from uncontrolled grazing impacts*



*Healthy riparian area*



*Spring source protected by fencing to maintain stream flow*

## Strategies

Through Waterways for Wildlife, the NWTF will develop partnerships with other conservation groups, landowners and governmental agencies to develop and implement riparian enhancement projects across this landscape. Projects will focus in America's Great Open Spaces and America's Western Wildlands and will include:

- Fencing riparian areas to assist landowners in managing livestock access
- Planting of trees, shrubs and native grasses along riparian areas
- Removing invasive plant species that compete with important native species
- Work with others to address needed research and provide outreach and education on riparian best management practices
- Partner with others for acquisitions and easements when applicable

## Financial Need

The NWTF seeks to raise \$10 million in private funding over a 10-year period and leverage \$40 million in matching funds to establish the \$50 million Waterways for Wildlife Initiative.

**To learn more, please visit [NWTF.org](http://NWTF.org).**

## A Plan for Action

The NWTF is addressing the many pressing challenges in riparian areas by creating the Waterways for Wildlife Initiative. The purpose of this program is to improve the health and vigor of riparian areas on at least 75,000 acres. This ambitious plan will enhance riparian plant communities along 1,500 linear miles of rivers and streams in the American Great Plains, stretching from North Dakota to South Texas.

