

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



Instructions

After completing the form, applications and supporting documentation may be submitted by e-mail to 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: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Ranchland Enhancement

Name of Organization: North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Federal Tax ID# [23-7071000](#)

Contact Person/Title:

Cara Greger, Western ND Conservation Coordinator,
John Bradley, Executive Director

Address:

PO Box 1091, Bismarck, ND 58502
1605 E. Capitol Ave, Suite 102, Bismarck, ND 58501

E-mail Address:

cgreger.ndwf@gmail.com,
jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com

Web Site Address:

<https://www.northdakotawildlife.org/>

Phone:

Cara Greger: 320-808-4897
John Bradley: 701-390-7196

List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal: North Dakota Pheasants Forever

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)

The North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Rangeland Enhancement (NDPFP) aims to partner with North Dakota private landowners to conduct prescribed burns to manage fuel loadings, improve rangeland forage, and demonstrate the positive impacts of prescribed fire on the landscape.

After a large wildfire in the Medora area in April 2021, many landowners see a need for managing fuel loads to prevent the next large-scale wildfire. Ranchers also saw how the forage was rejuvenated because creeping cedars and the encroaching Rocky Mountain junipers were set back. Grasses and wildflowers, high value forage, were able to thrive. Many landowners and Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) have not used fire as a tool to manage their land and now have a desire do so, but lack the appropriate training.

It is widely accepted among grassland ecologists that the interactions between climate, fire and grazing, were the primary processes which shaped the highly diverse and resilient native prairies of the Great Plains. As settlement advanced into the Great Plains, massive areas were cultivated, bison were extirpated, and fire was suppressed from the landscape.

Modern day native grasslands in the Northern Great Plains are threatened by invasive grasses and unchecked expansion of woody brush. Over time this invasion leads to a loss of diversity impacting the grasslands function and reducing opportunities for pollinators and other native species. This loss of diversity, resiliency, and ecological functions impacts ranchers forage quantity and quality.

New companies located in North Dakota are helping to change that by training, planning and conducting prescribed burns. With the help of their labor and eagerness to participate, landowners can be better prepared and have more defensible space when large-scale wildfires hit, while improving their rangeland. With an increased awareness of the threats of Kentucky bluegrass, high level fire research by North Dakota State University, and well attended fire workshops and symposiums the demand for prescribed fire within landowner circles has risen.

The NDPFP will utilize the knowledge and practical experience of partner organizations, who have been running prescribed burn programs for over 30 years, as well as the advice of the North Dakota Prescribed Fire Cooperative, and knowledgeable individuals, to design, prep and execute effective prescribed burns on private lands. The NDPFP acreage goal is based on landowner interest of 1500 acres. This grant proposal meets two major directives. NDPFP offers landowners a way to accomplish high complexity burns and train VFDs to do effective and safe prescribed burns to create defensible space. Landowners willing to have prescribed burns conducted on their land will be brought into the program. Agreements will be made to allow fire management activities to be conducted and to execute a successful burn on their land. Monitoring will be done on the site to show the results of the prescribed burn. All burn activities are cost-shared at 100 percent. The landowner will be required to not convert the land from grasslands or their current state for the "Term" of 5 years.

Liability: The participating landowner is liable for the burn. The participating landowner will start the test fire as the crew and burn boss assist and then take over after the fire has started. Special event insurance or specific prescribed burn insurance can be purchased by the landowner to insure them against any unexpected events.

Project participants: North Dakota Wildlife Federation, North Dakota Landowners, North Dakota Pheasants Forever, ND Natural Resources Trust, NDSU Extension Service, ND Game and Fish Department, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited.

Project Duration: 5 years

Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.

The project dollars will be spent over the next five years ending in June 2029. In years one and two, NDWF and ND Pheasants Forever (PF) will work with partners (landowners, VFDs, contractors, agencies, and conservation groups) to develop plans, and prep units. In years three through five most prescribed burns will be executed. NDWF and PF will guide and monitor this process. When projects are completed, NDWF will complete final documentation and submission to OHF.

Amount of Grant request: \$200,000

Total Project Costs: \$275,000

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

Amount of Matching Funds: \$75,000

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) |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| \$40,000 | Landowners time and equipment | In-Kind and Cash |
| \$10,000 | NDWF staff time | In-Kind |
| \$10,000 | Pheasants Forever | In-Kind |
| \$10,000 | Volunteer Fire Departments | In-Kind |
| \$5,000 | NDWF | Cash |

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 North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) is a grassroots organization, which protects and enhances North Dakota’s wildlife, habitat, access, and sporting heritage. Since 1935, NDWF has advocated for the conservation of wildlife, habitat, and access for North Dakota’s hunters, anglers, and other outdoor users. NDWF has a storied history of uniting local wildlife clubs, hunters and

anglers, farmers and ranchers, and other outdoor enthusiasts on conservation issues around the state.

NDWF is governed by a board of directors and has two full-time staff members, John Bradley and Cara Greger who will deliver this grant. NDWF has traditionally depended on memberships, donations, grants, and a variety of other fundraising activities for its annual operating expenses and on the ground projects. NDWF has been the recipient of three large bequests to fund wildlife and habitat conservation in North Dakota. These estates, in addition to the in-kind donations from the landowner and our partners, are the primary source of match to this grant proposal.

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.

The North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program (NDPFP) looks to provide funding and technical support to private landowners in North Dakota who want to implement prescribed fire into their management toolbox. The project will utilize Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) dollars to increase the landowners conservation impact on the ground. Over the five years of the NDPFP, NDWF will promote the benefits of the Outdoor Heritage Fund by helping private landowner’s plan, administer and implement projects that fit two of the directives of OHF. The money will be distributed on a first come, first served basis for projects that fit the OHF directives. NDPFP will prioritize landowners who are signed up with NRCS in Practice 314 for woody encroachment removal. The goal of the program is to create a funding pool that allows landowners who cannot achieve their prescribed burning goals on their own the ability to hire professionals to plan, prepare, and execute complex prescribed burns. Funding from OHF will allow a greater complexity of projects to be completed and will be an introduction of numerous landowners across the state to the Outdoor Heritage Fund. If successful, the NDPFP will have a broader spectrum of projects and participants for future grant rounds.

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

If yes, provide a copy with the application.

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.

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation will provide management, coordination, and administration to the North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program. NDWF staff will work collectively to provide landowners in the western half of the state (west of Missouri River) and outside organizations with the needed information to assist program participants. Pheasants Forever will work with landowners East of the Missouri River to sign them up and help find contractors to plan and execute the burns. Pheasants Forever will also work to involve Volunteer Fire Departments in the prescribed burns.

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation will complete all program coordination from our office located in Bismarck, ND. John Bradley, Executive Director and Cara Greger, Western North Dakota Conservation Coordinator, will serve as the program coordinators. NDWF staff have years of experience administering and executing grants, including youth shooting sports grants and affiliate program grants. NDWF will provide tracking and reporting for all project agreements following grant guidelines.

All OHF grant funds will be paid as agreements once development activities are completed and proper documentation of the completed project is supplied to NDWF. Funding will be provided through continuous enrollment, meaning there will be no batching period and funding stops when the funds are spent. If any prioritization is required to determine the best projects, NDWF staff and grant partners will provide that oversight, utilizing input from outside experts as needed.

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.

Planning -- The essential element of the North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program will be planning. NDWF and Pheasants Forever will work closely with landowners and conservation organizations on a contract that clearly formulate objectives and deliverables with a corresponding budget.

Administration and Monitoring – NDWF and Pheasants Forever will check in frequently with landowners, contractors, and the conservation organization to ensure that projects are completed on time and within the contracted budget. Photos and site visits will take place to ensure that projects have been completed to the contracted standards.

Communication – NDWF will have clear lines of communication with the partners executing the contract. In addition, NDWF will provide a final evaluation and expenditure report to the Outdoor Heritage Fund Board. NDWF will also share successful projects with the media, interested partners, and 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 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Burn Plan writing | \$10,000 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$5,000 | \$15,000 |
| Burn Break Preparation | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$40,000 | \$40,000 |
| Execution of the prescribed burn | \$142,500 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$142,500 |
| Monitoring | \$20,000 | \$5,000 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$25,000 |
| Education & Outreach | \$7,500 | \$ | \$20,000 | \$ | \$5,000 | \$32,500 |
| Staffing | \$20,000 | | | | | \$20,000 |
| Total Costs | \$200,000 | \$5,000 | \$20,000 | \$ | \$50,000 | \$275,000 |

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.

Burn Plan writing: Site visit is \$40/hour, mileage \$.67/mile; Office hours \$40/hour for 1500 acres depending on the size of the burn units could be 10-15 burn units.

Burn Break Preparation: To contract the work costs are \$2400/ acre in some cases. We are having private landowners provide the preparation work for the burn breaks by mowing, cutting, or moving vegetation from the edge of the prescribed burn boundaries that are determined in the burn plan writing phase.

Execution of the prescribed burn: The rates from contractors vary, but the estimated rate is \$75/ acre for prescribed burns or pile burns. Using this estimate, the cost comes to \$112, 500. Volunteer Fire Departments that participate will also be compensated for their equipment and staff time. \$30,000.

Monitoring the prescribed burn work:

Contracted Services/Support – This grant proposal is requesting \$20,000 for any additionally required contracted services for items such as engineering, cultural resources, surveys, specialized equipment rentals, soil testing, habitat assessments, partnership coordination meetings, and for any additional delivery and/or program monitoring. If contracted services request is not utilized during the grant period for these services, the funds would be used for additional prescribed burn acres. The NDWF and Pheasants Forever will provide a cash match of \$5,000 toward contracted services and/or outreach, education, support, and workshops that help landowners receive information about technical assistance and the availability of the grant proposal activities.

Staffing – This grant proposal requests \$20,000 of staffing funding for the NDWF and ND Pheasants Forever from OHF. Additional staffing costs will be provided by NDWF and ND Pheasants Forever and be considered in-kind match based on actual costs of NDWF and ND Pheasants Forever staff salary and travel. Staffing activities includes NDWF and ND Pheasants Forever time to complete program promotion and outreach, meeting with landowners, providing technical assistance,

completing landowner agreements, partnering with state, federal, local, and nongovernmental organizations, processing payments, providing agreement monitoring, and completing all grant administration.

With this grant proposal offering a suite of three different activities to interested landowners, we are asking that this grant provide the flexibility to adjust acreage goals and transfer funding to the activities based on practice demand. The OHF funds and match will remain at the same levels.

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.

This program has great interest from local landowners who want to use prescribed burning to improve their rangeland. If the projects from this grant round prove successful, NDWF expects greater interest from additional organizations to implement similar projects that utilize the Outdoor Heritage Fund. NDWF will look for further opportunities to connect landowners to funding opportunities to help with costs and technical details of prescribed burning.

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

Portions of the project could proceed with limited OHF funding. The opportunities identified by the North Dakota Wildlife Federation's cooperators have exceeded the funds that the North Dakota Wildlife Federation has allocated for these types of projects. The North Dakota Wildlife Federation is also limited to what counties we can pay for habitat improvement projects with our restricted estate dollars. Full funding would allow us to work outside of Dunn and McKenzie counties. Additionally, one of the goals of this project is to increase awareness of the Outdoor Heritage Fund with landowners in western North Dakota. If funds are limited, the Federation would be forced to reduce the number of landowners we could engage with.

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.

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation will recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund in the project negotiation phase with landowners, NDWF would also publicize OHF projects in our quarterly newsletter, Flickertales.

Additionally, the Federation will use their Facebook and Instagram platforms to both advertise the program's availability and tout its successes, noting the key role played by OHF.

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:

References for Juniper Encroachment and Prescribed Burning:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/north-dakota/nrcs-helps-slow-green-wave-of-encroaching>

[Resiliency of Native Mixed-Grass Rangelands and Crested Wheatgrass Pasture Lands to Spring Wildfire - ScienceDirect](#)

[Patch Burn Grazing Shows Benefits | Vice President for NDSU Agriculture | NDSU](#)

[Patch-Burn Grazing in Southwestern North Dakota - Assessing Above- and Belowground Rangeland Ecosystem Responses.pdf \(ndsu.edu\)](#)

[Patch-Burning Buffers Forage Resources and Livestock Performance to Mitigate Drought in the Northern Great Plains \(sciencedirectassets.com\)](#)

[Dirac Twidwell–INTVU Working Lands for Wildlife <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHmgPsmkSc8>](#)

<https://gpfirescience.org/resources/benefits-of-rangeland-prescribed-burning/>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/greatPlainsFramework.pdf>

<https://gf.nd.gov/publications/548>

https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/bitstream/handle/10365/33222/Beckers%2C%20Jesse%20Miles_Natural%20Resources%20Management%20MS_2007.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

March 22, 2024

To: North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board

Subject: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for rangeland enhancement (NDPFP)

North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board,

We are writing to support the grant being applied for by North Dakota Wildlife Federation and North Dakota Pheasants Forever. After ranching in the badlands for over 50 years we have realized that the Rocky Mountain junipers and Creeping Cedars are really encroaching on the rangeland. After reviewing the proposal, we feel prescribed burns would reduce fire hazards, create training opportunities for local fire departments, and most of all would improve the rangeland for cattle and wildlife. With this grant the North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program would partner with North Dakota private landowners and local fire departments to conduct prescribed burns that would help manage fuel loadings, improve the rangeland and demonstrate how fire can help the range.

Sincerely,



Ted and Kay Tescher

Medora, ND

March 22, 2024

To: North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board

Subject: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for rangeland enhancement (NDPFP)

North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board,

I am writing regarding the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund grant being applied for by North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) with the co-applicants of North Dakota Pheasants Forever (NDPF).

Upon reviewing and being briefed on the proposal, we support the mission and core technical values which provide private landowners and Volunteer Fire Departments with support and funding to use prescribed burning to reduce fire hazards, create training opportunities, and allow departments and landowners the opportunity to improve their rangeland for cattle and wildlife. The North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Rangeland Enhancement (NDPFP) aims to partner with North Dakota private landowners to conduct prescribed burns to manage fuel loadings, improve rangeland forage, and demonstrate the positive impacts of prescribed fire on the landscape.

I have been working with NRCS, Forest Service, and NDWF on Rocky Mountain Juniper removal projects and see a need to also use prescribed burning as a tool to improve my ranch for my cattle operation.

My ranching operation supports this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allan Richard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Allan Richard, Richard Ranch and owner of Dryland Enterprises, LLC of Belfield, ND

Pete Kronberg

Rancher, Forbes ND

April 17, 2024

To: North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board

Subject: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for rangeland enhancement (NDPFP)

North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board,

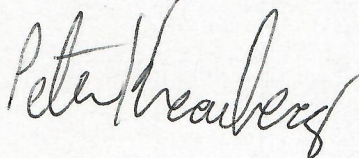
I am writing regarding the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund grant being applied for by North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) with the co-applicant of North Dakota Pheasants Forever (NDPF).

My experience with prescribed fire is limited to the last couple years. That said, the results have been extraordinary, and the lessons learned have been surprising. Invasive Kentucky Blue was suppressed and no Kentucky Blue in the burns managed to set seed during the year. The native grasses grew tall enough to lose a horse in. The tallest grasses found measured 8 ft 9 in. From an ecological perspective this response is excellent. From a ranching perspective, production at that scale is impossible to beat. Working with controlled fire has also taught me a great deal about how fire behaves. I now have a substantially better understanding of how to fight and protect against grassland fires.

This proposal can help create an ecologically functional and wildly productive North Dakota landscape. Educating ranchers and fire departments with field experience will improve North Dakota's ability to both fight and mitigate wildfires in the future. For these reasons, I support this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Pete Kronberg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Kronberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

April 21, 2024

NDSU

HETTINGER
RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

To: North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board

Subject: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for rangeland enhancement (NDPFP)

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board,

I am writing regarding the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund grant concerning The North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Rangeland Enhancement (NDPFP) being prepared by North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) with the co-applicant of North Dakota Pheasants Forever (NDPF). Given the objectives of the proposal, I am writing to provide my support for the activities associated with the grant proposal. For roughly the past eight years we have been conducting research concerning patch-burn grazing in southwest North Dakota. This practice combines two critical disturbances essential for the long-term maintenance of grasslands, prescribed fire and grazing, which when combined are intended to mimic historic patterns where fires would rejuvenate grassland stands and the bison herds would graze recently burned areas to take advantage of the highly nutritious regrowth. Our research has shown this practice can benefit producers by providing highly nutritious forage for livestock and a forage bank that is available for times of drought. Furthermore, our work has found that PBG can benefit pollinators, provide cover for ducks, gamebirds, and grassland birds including the upland sandpiper.

Many of our remaining grasslands be it native or planted are heavily invaded by non-native grasses including Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome. Previous research in North Dakota and elsewhere has suggested the importance of prescribed fire and grazing as a means to help limit invasion. Despite the potential benefits associated with prescribed fire, many landowners are reluctant to try prescribed fire for one reason or another. Furthermore, landowners and managers often lack the knowledge, equipment, or skill set needed to safely conduct prescribed fire, and that is where this program can work to improve this disconnect. By including and working along side local fire departments, this work will help expand statewide efforts to once again reintroduce prescribed fire onto our grassland landscape.

It is with stakeholders, grasslands, and wildlife populations in mind that I cast my support for this project and feel it would make a valuable contribution to the long-term wellbeing of our remaining grassland acres. Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing this program in action in western North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ben Geaumont, PhD, Rangeland Ecologist, Hettinger Research Extension Center

BEACH VOLUNTEER

Fire Department

BOX 607
BEACH, NORTH DAKOTA 58621

April 23, 2024

To: North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board

Subject: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Rangeland Enhancement (NDPFP)

North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board,

I am writing regarding the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund grant being applied for by North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) with the co-applicants of North Dakota Pheasants Forever (NDPF).

Upon reviewing and being briefed on the proposal, we support the mission and core values which provide private landowners and Volunteer Fire Departments, with support and funding, to use prescribed burning to reduce fire hazards, create training opportunities and allow departments and landowners the opportunity to improve their rangeland for cattle and wildlife.

The ND Prescribed Fire Program for Rangeland Enhancement (NDPFP) aims to partner with ND private landowners to conduct prescribed burns to manage fuel loadings, improve rangeland forage and demonstrate the positive impacts of prescribed fire on the landscape.

Our department, Beach Volunteer Fire Department, supports this proposal.

Sincerely,

 chief

WE ARE "SONS - O - BEACH"
ORGANIZED IN 1912



Billings County Rural Fire Protection District
Po Box 597, Belfield ND, 58622
Chief Shockley 701-690-0041

April 17, 2024

To: North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board
Subject: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for rangeland enhancement (NDPFP)

North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board,

I am writing regarding the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund grant being applied for by North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) with the co-applicants of North Dakota Pheasants Forever (NDPF). Upon reviewing and being briefed on the proposal, we support the mission and core technical values which provide private landowners and Volunteer Fire Departments with support and funding to use prescribed burning to reduce fire hazards, create training opportunities, and allow departments and landowners the opportunity to improve their rangeland for cattle and wildlife. The North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Rangeland Enhancement (NDPFP) aims to partner with North Dakota private landowners to conduct prescribed burns to manage fuel loadings, improve rangeland forage, and demonstrate the positive impacts of prescribed fire on the landscape. Our department supports this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle Shockley".

Kyle Shockley, Fire Chief



Emily C. Spolyar
ND State Coordinator

espolyar@pheasantsforever.org (517)250-2440

PO Box 7403
Bismarck, ND 58507

April 11, 2024

To: North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board

Subject: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for rangeland enhancement (NDPFP)

North Dakota Heritage Fund Advisory Board,

I am writing regarding the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund grant being applied for by North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) with the co-applicants of North Dakota Pheasants Forever (NDPF).

Upon reviewing and being briefed on the proposal, we support the mission and core technical values which provide private landowners and Volunteer Fire Departments with support and funding to use prescribed burning to reduce fire hazards, create training opportunities, and allow departments and landowners the opportunity to improve their rangeland for cattle and wildlife. The North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Rangeland Enhancement (NDPFP) aims to partner with North Dakota private landowners to conduct prescribed burns to manage fuel loadings, improve rangeland forage, and demonstrate the positive impacts of prescribed fire on the landscape.

In an [NDSU article](#) from Kevin Sedivec, the following benefits of Rx fire were noted:

“Fire not only can be used to manipulate the grazing patterns of livestock, but it also can be used to control invasive grasses,” he says. “Introduced cool-season grasses are North and South Dakota’s No. 1 problem in negatively impacting the forage value, wildlife habitat quality, hydrology, nutrient cycling and the scenic beauty of our rangelands.

“Fire, in combination with grazing, is the best tool we have available to combat the invasion of exotic cool-season grasses and undesirable woody encroachment,” he notes. “We will not stop the invasion of Kentucky bluegrass (better known as our lawn grass), smooth brome grass, crested wheatgrass or woody encroachment onto native range without fire.”

As an organization dedicated to helping implement sound conservation practices on the landscape, Pheasants Forever would like to express our support for NDWF’s Rx Fire funding program through the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Respectfully,

Emily Spolyar
Pheasants Forever ND State Coordinator

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education, and land management policies and programs.

April 26th, 2024

To: North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board
Subject: North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for rangeland enhancement (NDPFP)

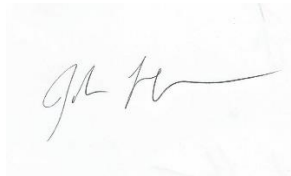
Dear Advisory Board,

Audubon Great Plains supports the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) and North Dakota Pheasants Forever (NDPF) grant application entitled North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Rangeland Enhancement.

We wholeheartedly support the goals of this proposed program to provide landowners and volunteer fire departments with support—both technical and financial—to broaden the use of prescribed fire for the benefit of rangelands, wildlife, and the humans who depend on those rangelands for their livelihood and enjoyment.

Audubon Great Plains, a regional office of the National Audubon Society, works to conserve birds and the habitats that birds need for today and tomorrow. In the Great Plains, one of our key concerns is the degradation of habitats and how this impacts wildlife populations. Our grasslands are already highly threatened by conversion to row crop agriculture. We must use the most effective tools possible to keep the grasslands we still have healthy. Prescribed fire is necessary to this end. As a founding member of the North Dakota Prescribed Fire Coop, Audubon Great Plains is pleased to see the continuation of this work on private land expanded across the state to tackle urgent issues that impact forage quality and quantity such as encroaching trees and invasive grasses.

Sincerely,



Josh Lefers
Director of Conservation, Audubon Great Plains