

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Improving water quality with rancher mentoring and outreach program

SPONSOR/SUBGRANTEE: North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
PO BOX 325
Mandan, ND 58554

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STATE: North Dakota WATERSHED: N/A

PROJECT TYPES	WATERBODY TYPES	NPS CATEGORY
<input type="checkbox"/> STAFFING & SUPPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> GROUNDWATER	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> WATERSHED	<input type="checkbox"/> LAKES/RESERVOIRS	<input type="checkbox"/> URBAN RUNOFF
<input type="checkbox"/> GROUNDWATER	<input type="checkbox"/> RIVERS	<input type="checkbox"/> SILVICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I&E	<input type="checkbox"/> STREAMS	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRUCTION
	<input type="checkbox"/> WETLANDS	<input type="checkbox"/> RESOURCE
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER	EXTRACTION
		<input type="checkbox"/> STOWAGE/LAND
		DISPOSAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> HYDRO
		MODIFICATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

PROJECT LOCATION: North Dakota

SUMMARIZATION OF MAJOR GOALS: Improving water quality and conserving natural resources with rancher mentor program and outreach activities including workshops, media, Leopold Conservation Award and field days.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition will continue to promote and support grazing and nutrient management education including one-on-one assistance, mentor training and raise public awareness with workshops, pasture walks, field tours and printed materials.

FY 2016 319 funds requested	\$ <u>201,200</u>
Match	\$ <u>232,600</u>
Total project cost	\$ <u>433,800</u>

Improving water quality with rancher mentoring and education outreach programs

A non-point source pollution management project

Submitted by:
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September 30, 2015

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Improving water quality with rancher mentoring and education outreach programs

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2.0_ STATEMENT OF NEED

2.1_

Private landowners control 10.3 million acres of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of rangeland. Hays and grasses covering these acres are indigestible by humans, but provide valuable forage for grazing animals. It is a benefit to mankind that animals can convert these forages into food, fiber, milk and wool.

However, poorly managed grazing land can result in contamination of surface and subsurface water.

"Recent research on the effects of fertilizer, manure, and urine on nitrogen cycling provides some interesting information. In pastures receiving 180 to 223 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer per acre, the nitrogen that was returned to the soil surface as urine or manure ranged from 138 pounds per acre for beef steers to 268 pounds per acre for dairy cows. In grass-clover pastures receiving no nitrogen fertilizer, the value was slightly less at 118 pounds per acre.

"Considering that a manure pile covers less than 1 square foot and a urine spot covers 4 to 7 square feet, it is interesting to note that the soil under each dairy cow manure pile or urine spot receives the equivalent of 500 to 1,000 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

"The nitrogen in urine is immediately available to the plants, and most plants are overwhelmed with the high concentration of this nutrient around a urine spot. Some of this nitrogen may be lost to the atmosphere. In contrast, the nitrogen in manure is released more slowly than the nitrogen in urine. The ability of plants to take up this much nitrogen is limited—they simply cannot use such heavy rates of nitrogen efficiently.

"Uncontrolled grazing presents other disadvantages, but the primary concern is the loss of vegetative cover due to frequent grazing, trampling, or grazing the plants too close to the soil. This often weakens root systems and exposes and compacts the soil. These degradations to soil quality can increase the soil erosion and nutrient losses from pastures and can, in turn, pollute surface waters."¹

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition understands the need for good grazing and land management practices and has through past activities realized the best tool to promote these practices is through one-on-one mentoring and public outreach.

Leading by example proves to be the most effective way to change common grazing practices and providing guidance and education in these areas has been determined to be strategic in protecting water quality on grasslands.

¹ North Carolina Farm *A*Syst; <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/grazing-livestock-and-water-quality.pdf>.

NDGLC mentors have determined the following items are the most sought after educational topics based on inquiries. These practices have proven to be successful and easily adapted changes in ranch management systems resulting in lowering water shed pollution by decreased use of chemicals, in turn lowering toxic runoff into watersheds; preventing topsoil erosion with good grazing practices; creating stable drought resistant farmlands with healthy soil systems allowing rainfall absorption rather than runoff; making use of all-inclusive cropland, grazing land, CRP in creating a balanced ranchland ecosystem with water quality a top priority.

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

Drawing from an existing multi-generational pool of ranchers, including many young couples and families who have agreed to participate in the mentoring program, the NDGLC mentoring network has the capacity to reach existing ranchers; new and emerging ranchers; and women/minority ranchers desiring to conserve and protect North Dakota's natural resources including water quality.

2.2_ PROJECT AUDIENCE

Project activities and one-on-one mentoring will be directed towards landowners/managers and ag producers. Complimentary activities will include mentor professional development and networking, public education events such as workshops and farm tours, pasture walks, and the recognition of a best practices ranch with an annual Leopold Conservation Award.

2.3_ MENTORING BROCHURE

(See Attachment A)

3.0_PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1_ GOALS

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY BY IMPROVING LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THROUGH PEER-TO-PEER MENTORING AND COMPLIMENTARY PROGRAMMING

Improving water quality, soil conservation and holistic management practices for North Dakota ranchers is a priority for the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition. Organized in 1996, founding member ranchers created a group of mentors with the sole purpose of promoting the health and sustainability of the state's 13.5 million acres of grazing land. The NDGLC mission has expanded to include proactive and regenerative land management of all agricultural and wildlife based land types.

In partnership with both government and non-government organizations, the NDGLC works to provide leadership and technical assistance to ranch managers through one-on-one mentoring, educational activities, field activities, securing specialists for workshops and professional development opportunities.

The focus of education will be holistic, sustainable resource management principals and a whole farm approach affecting change in how land stewards maintain the natural resource components of water, soil, grassland, cropland, livestock and wildlife all while achieving profitability and quality of life.

Activities include, but are not limited to peer-to-peer mentoring, a winter workshop, summer tour, winter tour, three pasture walks and a health-related education. Materials created for the purpose of networking and education will be a mentoring brochure; general information brochure; electronic newsletter and pertinent communications through Constant Contact as well as maintenance of the Web page at www.ndglc.com.

These activities will be coordinated and overseen by a part-time executive director position with administrative and bookkeeping assistance from a contract provider.

Target audience will primarily be farmers and ranchers with emphasis on couples and family participation. Also targeted will be support services such as ag lenders, government agencies, universities, extension and non-government service providers. Additional effort will be made to emphasize the soil-plant-animal-human health benefits of grass-based agriculture to a growing number of consumers interested in local food, healthy eating and humane treatment of livestock; as well as conservation of natural resources.

The primary avenue of water quality improvements will be peer-to-peer mentoring. In the past three years, the NDGLC has demonstrated the need for mentoring and has witnessed the transfer of knowledge from one generation to a new generation of farm and ranch families. This transfer of knowledge is critical to the succession of conservation efforts as a new crop of ranchers/farmers assume management duties on family farms. Young mentors, family and female mentors are equally important to the success of conservation

grazing practices as a number of ranches are being managed by first-time adults as a result of North Dakota's in-migration trend.

For years, North Dakota's population had been getting older as younger generations moved out of the state in search of work. In-migration has now impacted this trend making North Dakota younger since 1997. North Dakota Census numbers indicate that the state's population is undergoing a dramatic change. Reversing a long-term trend of people moving beyond our borders, North Dakota now has the highest rate of in-migration of any state. A strong economy, growing industries and a low unemployment rate have contributed to this population gain. Individuals that have migrated tend to be younger, typically in their 20s and 30s. (Cicha)

As a commitment to conservation in the state, the NDGLC has committed to presenting an annual Leopold Conservation Award to a North Dakota rancher or farmer.

As stated on its website at [www. http://leopoldconservationaward.org/](http://leopoldconservationaward.org/), "Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award Program honors landowners/managers across the U.S. for outstanding voluntary achievement in conservation practices that improve their bottom line and our environment. Our award recipients are ambassadors of natural resource management and its critical importance to the entire community of the United States."

The winner of this prestigious award will become a member with the NDGLC and share their success story in conservation through press, radio, internet video and national speaking events. North Dakota farmers and ranchers have earned national notoriety in good grazing and conservation practices. This award will legitimize the work of the NDGLC both locally and nationally.

Our Executive Director and Leopold Committee Chair will spend about 80 to 100 hours annually soliciting the donations and support required for the program and would be a necessary component of this grant.

To assist in providing the highest quality-mentoring program, NDGLC will coordinate workshops for mentors and financially support requests for continuing education opportunities.

3.2_OBJECTIVES – Improve water quality and conservation practices and awareness by:

1. Continue to develop a conservation grazing practices mentoring program including generational transfer of knowledge, match mentors to ranchers, and provide support for collaboration.
2. Maintain, further develop, and employ a strong peer-to-peer mentoring program.
3. Create materials, correspondence, networking and outreach to farmers, ranchers, general public and support service organizations.
4. Offer educational opportunities such as field tours, pasture walks, conferences and workshops.

5. Create public awareness of good conservation in North Dakota by facilitating the process of the Leopold Conservation Award.
6. Provide coordination and administrative assistance for entire water quality project.

Objective 1: Continue to develop a conservation grazing practices mentoring program including generational transfer of knowledge; match mentors to ranchers; and provide support for collaboration.

Task 1: PROJECT MANAGEMENT: Provide management, administrative support and technical assistance to a growing slate of NDGLC mentors and members with an Executive Director. This person would monitor mentor paid hours, mentor in-kind hours and provide oversight to education programs.

Product:

- Growing the mentor program by 20 percent in years two and three of the grant through selection and oversight of mentors from 20 to 24 to 30.
- Track stipends, reimbursements and payment of bills in conjunction with mentoring program in collaboration with bookkeeping support services
- Track hours and in-kind hours for the purpose of monitoring and increasing the mentor program contact hours by 10 percent in years two and three of this grant. Annually mentors have contributed 2,444 hours at \$20.
- Communicate to the administrative services provider any support services necessary to carry out the mentoring activities
- Communicate to the board, plan meetings, prepare agenda and supporting documents

ESTIMATED COST for three-year project: Executive director hours (250 hours annually x 3 years at \$40 per hour), travel, meeting expenses and supplies at \$500 per year. Approx. 150 hours per year in-kind @ \$40/hr.

319 funds = \$31,500

In-kind = \$18,000

TOTAL = \$49,500

Objective 2: Provide mentoring services to farmers, ranchers, general public, consumers, support organizations, and non-ag groups.

Task 1: MENTOR NETWORK: Maintain and further develop a strong peer-to-peer mentoring program.

Product:

- Mentor One-on-One Assistance: Mentors provide assistance for producers on topics outlined by the Coalition. These topics are reference above and in the mentor brochure (Appendix A)

- Increase the mentor program contact hours by 10 percent in years two and three of this grant. Annually mentors have contributed 2,444 hours at \$20 plus \$20 in-kind.
- Follow-up by mentors with mentees to promote full implementation of conservation practices. Documented by hard copy or electronic surveys and reports.
- Mentors speak at and attend professional development such as out-of-state workshops, speaking engagements and other continuing education opportunities as the board approves and report back to educate other mentors as requested

ESTIMATED COST for three-year project: Mentoring hours at \$40 with 50% paid and 50% in-kind; travel expenses. (Average of 1,500 hours per year). Additional mentoring funding from other sources.

319 funds = \$90,000
In-kind = \$90,000
TOTAL = \$180,000

Objective 3: Contract marketing & outreach specialist: Assist the executive director in creating materials, correspondence and networking to farmers, ranchers, the general public and support-service organizations for the purpose of education, collaboration and outreach. Services are contracted on an as-needed basis.

Task 1: Communicate executive director messages to the mentor network and NDGLC members on a regular basis. Create materials for outreach to service organizations and general public as well as internal documents.

Product:

- Communications, both internal and external
- Marketing and publication creation
- Public relations and media contacts
- Create educational publications, brochures, mailings, press releases, etc. to inform the public of mentoring activities, workshops, field days, etc.
- Create and maintain program information on the Website at www.ndglc.com
- Promote education opportunities such as workshops, field days, tours, conferences, both local and national, events and meetings of the board of directors through media and newsletters
- Communicate with board, mentors and general public
- Publish a quarterly electronic newsletter
- Create articles for trade magazines pertinent to new and innovative practices focused on improving water quality and conserving natural resources
- Assist in the planning and execution of field days, conferences, annual meeting and quarterly meeting providing reports, minutes, etc. to the board as requested.
- Create media and printed materials in accordance with Sand County Foundation to promote and publicize the annual award

ESTIMATED COST for three-year project: Contract hours per year for administrative work, graphic design, marketing, etc. plus minimal printing and office supplies.

319 funds = \$9,000

TOTAL = \$9,000

Objective 4: Offer education opportunities such as field tours, pasture walks, conferences and workshops.

Task 1: NDGLC executive director and administrative assistant will plan and execute educational activities for its mentors and members, producers, ag related stakeholders and partner organizations demonstrating best practices, holistic management and new and innovative ideas resulting in the improvement of water quality with a focus on grazing land, livestock, wildlife and cropland management. A one-time purchase of a projector, laptop, presentation remote, and simple mic/speakers system to be used for educational events is included in this budget item.

Product:

- Plan an annual winter workshop with national and local experts in grazing and land management, etc. (3)
- Plan an annual summer tour (3)
- Plan an annual winter tour (3)
- Hold three pasture walks annually (9)
- Plan one annual workshop with emphasis on engaging women, youth, consumers and/or non-ag groups in water quality, soil health and conservation practices. Average 50 participants per year. (3)

ESTIMATED COST for three-year project: This line item is for costs associated with planning events including facility and room rental, supplies, speaker fees, travel expenses, development of marketing materials for events, registration, etc. Other non-federal funds available for educational activities (\$6,200/year).

319 funds = \$47,930

In-kind = \$27,600

TOTAL = \$75,530

Objective 5: Reward good conservation practices and increase public awareness by facilitating the Leopold Conservation Award process in North Dakota.

Task 1: Implement the Sand County Foundation Leopold Conservation Award in accordance with the Foundation's guidelines and support.

Product:

- Provide stipend to board member or Sand County Foundation as coordinator of project
- Solicit partners and monetary contributions supporting the project cost of approximately \$40,000 per year.
- Facilitate the selection process, tour, and media outreach.

ESTIMATED COST for three-year project: Project manager hours plus expenses. In-kind contributions from volunteers (\$7,000 total) and sponsors to facilitate balance of project (\$30,000 x 3 years)

319 funds = \$12,000

In-kind = \$97,000

TOTAL = \$109,000

Objective 6: BOOKEEPING: Provide administrative support for the non-point source pollution management project.

Task 1: Provide bookkeeping services to the organization such as nonprofit status and IRS filing, check writing, tracking and filing payments for mentor hours, payroll, forms and additional duties upon request.

Product:

- Create reports to ND Department of Health on 319 activities
- Provide bookkeeping and accounting
- Provide support services for conferences and events

ESTIMATED COST for three year project: Contract services for bookkeeping, taxes, reporting at 110 hours annually (\$25 per hour = \$2,750 x 3 = \$8,250) plus office expenses at \$70 x 12 = \$840 annually)

319 funds = \$10,770

TOTAL = \$10,770

3.3_ MILESTONE TABLE (see attachment B)

3.4_ APPROPRIATENESS OF LEAD SPONSOR

NDGLC has been in operation since 1996 promoting the health and sustainability of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands. NDGLC believes that through actions and education on the values and multiple benefits of well-managed grazing resources that goals are achievable.

The NDGLC has established a grassroots based network of North Dakota grazing land managers who have agreed to provide guidance and council to interested personnel on grassland management. A board of directors, elected by the membership, leads this organization.

The mentors are considered leaders and innovators. Over the past three years mentors have had over 20 ranch visits, more than 600 hours in mentoring (includes in-kind and reimbursed hours); 50 speaking engagements; and attended 20+ conferences. The value of the in-kind to-date exceeds \$140,000. Currently there are 23 mentor ranchers/mentor families. There were more than 1,200 attendees at the 2014-15 conferences, field tours, etc. offered by the NDGLC.

The NDGLC will be heavily involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of this project. The group meets regularly to plan the workshops, field events, camps and other activities previously listed. These same producers will host some of the field events on their own farms and ranches, and be available to participants who may have questions or want more detailed information. A plan of work is developed and reviewed annually.

4.0_ COORDINATION PLAN

4.1_ COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC)

The Executive Director along with approval of the Board of Directors, will implement all activities of the project and will have the primary responsibility for project planning, contracting, coordination, implementation, financial assistance, and timely submission of project payment applications to North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition.

Support Services

NDGLC Board of Directors will contract (1 to 2 persons) for the creation of printed materials and distribution of information to media and public; administration/marketing/coordination services for all events and projects; assistance with grant writing and other administrative duties as deemed necessary to support the work of the grant.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Technical assistance will also be provided by NRCS staff in planning and implementing workshops and educational activities.

USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS)

Personnel from the USDA-ARS will provide technical assistance and instruction for project workshops, tours, demonstrations, watershed management training sessions, and submission of newsletter insert articles. These activities will be conducted in accordance with the agency's mission.

North Dakota State University (NDSU)

Dr. Kevin Sedivec will provide technical assistance for project workshops, tours, rangeland management training sessions. These activities will be conducted in accordance with the university's mission.

North Dakota Department of Health

Personnel will oversee section 319 funding, will serve in an advisory capacity for the ad hoc committee, and assist with planning and implementation of educational events when possible.

North Dakota Water Education Foundation

Personnel have expressed interest in publishing articles regarding the Southwest ND Water Education Project in the North Dakota Water magazine.

North Dakota Game & Fish (NDG&F)

Personnel have committed resources to assist with video production, technical assistance, conference planning and education resources.

Sand County Foundation (SCF)

This organization supports and assists with the development of the Leopold Conservation Award as per its standards of excellence in conservation.

North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA)

This organization is one of two major sponsors of the Leopold Conservation Award.

North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts (NDASCD)

This organization is one of two major sponsors of the Leopold Conservation Award.

4.2_ LOCAL SUPPORT

There is support for the project by the ND State Water Commission; NRCS; Dakota Prairies RC&D; ND State University Extension Service; ND Game and Fish, Natural Resources Trust, private landowners and ranchers and the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Letters of Support. (See Attachment D)

4.3_ COORDINATION AND LINKAGES

To our knowledge there is not another program in the State that provides one-on-one assistance for farmers/ranchers by farmers/ranchers. Experience gained by mentors of the NDGLC demonstrates the "whole" concept of land management and sharing information what the farmer/rancher (client) can achieve through these methods on their farms.

4.4_DUPPLICATION OF EFFORTS

Although agricultural education events are widespread and target many different groups, the NDGLC brings a unique approach to the table in terms of providing the opportunity for ranchers to interact and share with other ranchers in a one-on-one setting...in the pasture and in the classroom. This mentoring program has and continues to provide the integral added-value of planning and monitoring that follows workshop presentations and tour demonstrations. Therefore solidifying the ever-important activity of follow-through to make what happens in classroom actually happen in the field.

5.0_EVALUATION AND MONITORING PLAN

5.1_ EVALUATION CRITERIA

An outcome evaluation will be conducted throughout the project period, as activities are completed, to determine the effectiveness of the project and to determine that the project objectives are being met. The evaluation will also be used as an internal tool to determine if the educational activities being implemented through this project are effective in increasing public awareness on water quality issues with an emphasis on NPS issues. The following evaluation measures will be conducted for the products outlined in this proposal:

- a) Program Coordination: Hours spent on each activity are kept by executive director and support services.
- b) Outreach Information: Support staff will track number of newsletters, hits on the website, attendance at booths and conferences for each activity to indicate the degree of one-on-one contact with the general public, landowners and managers.
- c) Workshops, Field Events and Training opportunities: NDGLC staff will record the number of tours and workshops implemented, the date held, and the number of people in attendance.
- d) One-on-One Contacts: Each phone call is tracked and topic discussed. Hours and in-kind contributions are tracked by mentors. Observations and comments regarding management changes will be notated by the mentors.
- e) Workshop evaluations are provided at each event and recorded. Evaluation will be created for mentors to use with clients – either paper or online follow-up Survey Monkey.

The information obtained from the evaluation measures will be compiled by staff for reporting to the North Dakota State Health Department in annual and final reports.

6.0_ BUDGET (See Attachment C)

7.0_ SUPPORT (See Attachment D)

ATTACHMENT A



ND Grazing Lands Coalition
PO Box 325
Mandan, ND 58554

www.ndglc.com



North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

A member organization
dedicated to the
mentoring and guidance
of grazing land managers



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Feel free to contact these individuals to gain insight into their area of expertise.

Please remember that these individuals are donating their time to assist others. Respect their schedules and account for differing time zones.

For more information contact:

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North Dakota Rangeland Facts



Background

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) was organized in 1996 as a grassroots group promoting the health and sustainability of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands.

The NDGLC believes that through voluntary actions, respect for private property rights and education on the values and multiple benefits of well-managed grazing resources, these goals are achievable.

Through a cooperative effort, the coalition's goal is to provide local leadership, guidance, information and technical assistance to grassland managers. Given the appropriate tools and training, grassland managers will be better prepared to make cost-effective and environmentally sound decisions.



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

Rangelands:

Comprise about one-third, or 13.5 million acres, of the land area of North Dakota, including 10.3 million acres of privately owned.

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

Are primarily used for grazing cattle and sheep. Grass production is the basic goal of the rancher - maintenance or improvement of range resources is just as important as livestock husbandry.

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

Provide watershed protection and aid in recharging underground water supplies.

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

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

Values

Coalition members believe in:

- ⇒ Learning from the trials and experiences of peers.
- ⇒ Opening doors to grass management expertise.
- ⇒ Sharing alternatives and different perspectives.
- ⇒ Discovering common goals and objectives and
- ⇒ Generating new ideas.

Membership

Beginning in 2015, farmers and ranchers may now become members of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition for an annual \$30 fee.

Members will receive quarterly newsletters plus email notifications of pertinent events, legislation and other opportunities on a regular basis. Members may also attend field days and other workshops at a discounted rate.

Mentors

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

Mentors provide advice based on knowledge and experience gained on their own operations plus interaction with ranchers across the state. Since no two ranches are alike, what you may learn from these individuals may need to be adapted to your own goals, resources and management abilities.

See the list of mentors on the other side and their areas of expertise.

Topics:

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



To be added to the NDGLC mailing list, please complete this form and mail it to NDGLC, PO Box 325, Mandan, ND 58554. If you are not yet a member, please consider becoming one today with your \$30 donation.

My contact information is ☐ New ☐ An update or correction

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

County:

Email address:

Phone:

Yes - I want to be a member here is my donation \$

ATTACHMENT B

MILESTONE TABLE FOR NPS FARMER/RANCHER MENTORING PROGRAM

TASK/RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	OUTPUT	QTY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
OBJECTIVE 1: Continue to develop a conservation grazing practices mentoring program including generational transfer of knowledge; match mentors to ranchers and provide support for collaboration.			07/16	07/17	07/17	07/18	07/17	07/18	07/18	07/19				
Task 1 – Provide management, administrative support and technical assistance to mentors. Group 1, 2, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track hours, stipends, etc. Communicate to administrative services/book keeping Communication and coordination of mentors 	75 hrs per year												

Group 1 – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Group 2 – ND Grazing Lands Coalition

Group 3 – Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

Group 4 – ND State Health Department - Statewide Section 319 program management including oversight of local 319 planning and expenditures.

Group 5 – ND Game and Fish – advertising, video recording, technical support

MILESTONE TABLE FOR NPS FARMER/RANCHER MENTORING PROGRAM

TASK/RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	OUTPUT	QTY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3			
OBJECTIVE 2: Provide mentoring services to farmers, ranchers, general public, consumers, support organizations, and non-ag groups.			07/16	07/17	07/17	07/18	07/17	07/18	07/18	07/19				
Task 1 - Maintain and further develop a strong peer-to-peer mentoring program. Group 1, 2, 3, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-on-one Assistance to ranchers • Grow the mentor program • Provide opportunities for professional development 	75 hrs per year												

Group 1 – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Group 2 – ND Grazing Lands Coalition

Group 3 – Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

Group 4 – ND State Health Department - Statewide Section 319 program management including oversight of local 319 planning and expenditures.

Group 5 – ND Game and Fish – advertising, video recording, technical support

MILESTONE TABLE FOR NPS FARMER/RANCHER MENTORING PROGRAM

TASK/RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	OUTPUT	QTY	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
			07/16	07/17	07/17	07/18	07/18	07/19
OBJECTIVE 3: Marketing & Outreach: Create materials, correspondence and networking to farmers, ranchers, the general public and support service organizations for the purpose of education, collaboration and outreach. Hourly contract.								
Task 1 – Communicate to the mentor network and NDGLC members on a regular basis. Create materials for outreach to service organizations and general public. One to two contract persons as assistance to the program coordinator. Group 2, 5	• Create educational materials to inform the public	3						
	• Maintain Website							
	• Promote education opportunities							
	• Communicate to board, mentors, public	12						
	• Publish a quarterly newsletter	6-18						
	• Create articles for trade magazines	16						
	• Fulfill requests for speakers, etc. outside of one-on-one mentoring	24						

Group 1 – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Group 2 – ND Grazing Lands Coalition

Group 3 – Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

Group 4 – ND State Health Department - Statewide Section 319 program management including oversight of local 319 planning and expenditures.

Group 5 – ND Game and Fish – advertising, video recording, technical support

MILESTONE TABLE FOR NPS FARMER/RANCHER MENTORING PROGRAM

TASK/RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	OUTPUT	QTY	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
OBJECTIVE 4: Offer education opportunities such as field tours, pasture walks, conferences and workshops.			07/16	07/17	07/17	07/18	07/18	07/19
Task 1 – NDGLC will plan and execute educational activities for its mentors and members, producers, ag related stakeholders and partner organizations demonstrating best practices, holistic management and new and innovative ideas resulting in the improvement of water quality with a focus on grazing land, livestock, wildlife and cropland management. Group 1, 2, 3, 5	• Annual Winter Conference	3						
	• Annual summer tour	3						
	• Annual winter tour	3						
	• Three annual pasture walks	9						
	• Annual specific audience workshop	3						

TASK/RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	OUTPUT	QTY	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
OBJECTIVE 5: Reward good conservation practices and increase public awareness by facilitating the Leopold Conservation Award process in North Dakota.			07/16	07/17	07/17	07/18	07/18	07/19
Task 1 – Implement the Sand County Foundation Leopold Conservation Award in accordance with the foundation guidelines and support. Group 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5	• Provide stipend to board member and/or committee chair	80 to 100 hrs annually or 300 total						
	• Solicit partners							
	• Create media with Sand County							
	• Facilitate tour & outreach							

Group 1 – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Group 2 – ND Grazing Lands Coalition

Group 3 – Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

Group 4 – ND State Health Department - Statewide Section 319 program management including oversight of local 319 planning and expenditures.

Group 5 – ND Game and Fish – advertising, video recording, technical support

MILESTONE TABLE FOR NPS FARMER/RANCHER MENTORING PROGRAM

TASK/RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	OUTPUT	QTY	YEAR 1					YEAR 2					YEAR 3				
OBJECTIVE 6: Bookkeeping/reporting: Provide administrative support for the non-point source pollution management project.			07/16	07/17	07/17	07/18	07/18	07/19									
Task 1 – Provide bookkeeping services to the organization such as nonprofit status and IRS filing, check writing, tracking and filing payments for mentor hours, payroll, forms and additional duties upon request.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create reports to ND Dept. of Health on 319 activities • Provide bookkeeping and accounting • Provide support services for conferences and events 	110 hrs annually or total of 330 hrs total															

Group 1 – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Group 2 – ND Grazing Lands Coalition

Group 3 – Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

Group 4 – ND State Health Department - Statewide Section 319 program management including oversight of local 319 planning and expenditures.

Group 5 – ND Game and Fish – advertising, video recording, technical support

ATTACHMENT C

6.0_NPS RANCHERS MENTORING PROGRAM BUDGET TABLE – Part I

Part 1: Funding Sources	Estimated Cost FY 2016-17	Estimated Cost FY 2017-18	Estimated Cost FY 2018-19	TOTAL 3 years
EPA SECTION 319 FUNDS (FY2016)				
319 Funds Requested	\$72,590	\$65,305	\$63,305	\$201,200
Subtotal EPA 319 Funds	\$72,590	\$65,305	\$63,305	\$201,200
STATE/LOCAL MATCH				
NDGLC (FA and TA)	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$117,000
Other non-federal (FA and TA from Extension, program speakers, sponsorships, membership fees, conference registrations, etc.)				
	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$9,000
Conference registrations	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
Tour registrations	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$3,600
Natural Resources Trust	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$33,000	\$97,000
Leopold Award Sponsors				
Subtotal state/local matching funds	\$77,200	\$77,200	\$78,200	\$232,600
TOTAL BUDGET	\$149,790	\$142,505	\$141,505	\$433,800

6.0_NPS RANCHERS MENTORING PROGRAM BUDGET TABLE – Part II

Part 2: Section 319/Non-federal budget	Estimated costs FY 2016-17	Estimated costs FY 2017-18	Estimated costs FY 2018-19	319 Funding	Cash and in-kind match	TOTAL COSTS (July 1 2016 through June 30 2019)
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION: Objective 6						
1. Bookkeeping	\$1,125	\$1,125	\$1,125			\$3,375
2. Reporting	\$1,125	\$1,125	\$1,125			\$3,375
3. Phone/postage/misc	\$200	\$200	\$200			\$600
4. Office Rent/PO box rent	\$840	\$840	\$840			\$2,520
5. Mileage, meals, lodging	\$300	\$300	\$300			\$900
TOTAL	\$3,590	\$3,590	\$3,590	\$10,770	0	\$10,770
PRODUCT COST (Objectives 1-5)						
Objective 1 – Executive Director	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$31,500	\$ 18,000	\$49,500
• Travel/meetings/coordination						
Objective 2 – Mentoring Program	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$180,000
• (one-on-one, speaker fees, travel, etc)						
Objective 3 –Education/Outreach	\$3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$9,000	\$0	\$9,000
• Materials development, electronic outreach, etc)						
Objective 4 – Educational Activities	\$19,500	\$14,215	\$ 14,215	\$47,930	\$27,600	\$75,530
• Conferences, Tours, etc						
• Equipment purchase (\$3500 in yr 1)						
Objective 5 – Leopold Conservation Award	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$12,000	\$97,000	\$109,000
• Facilitate award process						
TOTAL	\$69,000	\$61,715	\$59,715	\$190,430	\$232,600	423,030
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$72,590	\$65,305	\$63,305	\$201,200	\$232,600	\$433,800

ATTACHMENT D



CENTRAL GRASSLANDS
RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Water Quality
918 East Divide Avenue, 4th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947

September 28, 2015

Dear Department of Health:

This letter is in support of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition's (NDGLC) application for EPA 319 water quality funding.

The NDGLC has a proven track record of engaging North Dakota livestock producers in grazing management, with the goal of improving both landscape and livestock production.

Their outreach and education focuses on sustainable resource management, and a whole farm approach in assisting producers maintain water, soil, grassland, cropland, livestock and wildlife.

Their peer mentoring infrastructure, as well as outreach activities which include workshops, tours, producer driven pasture walks, and a health-related summit, provide ample opportunity to present nutrient management concepts.

The NDGLC also has a strong producer base that attends their annual events and connects well with emerging issues in the beef cattle industry.

As part of NDSU Extension, I work with NDGLC in presenting current and relevant information to producers.

Their work in producer outreach and engagement is commendable.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Fara Ann Brummer
NDSU Area Extension Specialist, Livestock Systems



Keith Trego
Executive Director

1605 East Capitol Avenue, Ste. 101

Bismarck, ND 58501-2102

(701) 223-8501

FAX: (701) 223-6937

September 24, 2015

Mr. Greg Sandness
NPS Coordinator
ND Department of Health
Division of Water Quality
Gold Seal Center
918 East Divide Ave, 4th Floor
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-1947

Dear Mr. Sandness:

The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust is writing in support of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition's (NDGLC) 319 funding proposal to Improve NPS Water Quality by Improving Land Management Practices through Peer-to-Peer Mentoring and Complimentary Programming.

The health of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands is of utmost importance to the state's livestock industry. Well-managed grasslands provide stability for a historic and ongoing major component of the state's agricultural industry. Grasslands provide nesting and year round habitat for the state's grassland bird species, several of which are in serious decline. An often overlooked and underappreciated complimentary outcome of maintaining robust grasslands is the positive impact on the water quality of our wetlands, lakes, and streams. These important benefits accrue to all the state's citizens.

The NDGLC has a nearly 20-year history of private ranchers supporting their colleagues and their industry through mentoring, promotion of holistic land use practices, promotion of soil health and sustainable resource management. Their organization and its members have proven their effectiveness in providing broad educational outreach that is implemented and effective. Their efforts will undoubtedly improve the state's water quality while at the same time improving the overall management of all natural resources.

Best regards,

Keith Trego
Executive Director



Dakota Prairies Resource Conservation & Development

919 S. Seventh St., Suite 310
Bismarck ND 58504
Phone: 701-250-4222 or 701-226-8409 (cell)
Web site: www.ndrcd.org
Email: dakotaprairiesrcd@gmail.com

Sept. 23, 2015

North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Water Quality
918 E. Divide Ave., 4th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947

Dakota Prairies RC&D Council strongly supports the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition's (NDGLC) 2015 application for funds through the 319 Non-point Source Water Quality Program.

Dakota Prairies RC&D is the service organization for soil and water conservation districts in 10 North Dakota counties. Members also include county commissions and one Native American reservation, Standing Rock Sioux Nation.

Protection of our natural resources, especially soil and water, is a priority for our RC&D Council area that encompasses the counties of Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux.

Beginning in 2014, Dakota Prairies has partnered with Dakota West RC&D Area, which services soil conservation and other members in the eight counties of Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark. Dakota West also serves the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Dakota Prairies pledges to support and collaborate with NDGLC as it carries out its proposed work plan that includes continuing its innovative and successful peer-to-peer mentoring, a winter workshop, summer tour, winter tour, three pasture walks and a health-related summit.

Again, we support the application of NDGLC to improve NPS water quality by improving land management practices through peer-to-peer mentor and complimentary programming.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Davis
Executive Director



September 22, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as my concurrence and interest in the project sponsored by the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition with the goal of improving NPS water quality by improving land management practices through peer to peer mentoring and complimentary programming.

In partnership with Government and non-Government organizations, the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition will work to provide leadership and technical assistance to ranch managers through one-on-one mentoring, educational activities, field activities, securing specialists for workshops, and professional development opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Podoll".

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist



2015 Board of Directors

Darcee Weber, President, Valley City, ND
Annie Carlson, Vice Pres., Mercer, ND
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Les Miller, Sioux Falls, SD

September 23, 2015

ND Dept of Health
Division of Water Quality
918 East Divide Ave, 4th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947

Northern Plains Sustainable Ag supports the proposal presented by the ND Grazing Lands Coalition.

Northern Plains Sustainable Ag is a non-profit membership organization that focuses on education, research and advocacy for all aspects of organic and sustainable production and local food systems. We are based in LaMoure, N.D. and have a 36-year history of working with organic and sustainable growers through workshops, field days, annual Winter Conference and newsletters.

Our goal is to collaborate with like-minded organizations to continue to pool our resources. Through our outreach programs, we have witnessed first hand the increased interest in regenerative agriculture and sustainable environmental practices.

We look forward to our working partnership with the Grazing Coalition as we believe this is a great way to identify, reach and support sustainable-minded producers to bring enhanced methods of water quality, soil conservation and holistic management practices to the people who will benefit most from them.

This grant will help increase the tools needed to meet this growing agricultural demand.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edd Goerger", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Edd Goerger, Executive Director
Northern Plains Sustainable Ag



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

ND Department of Health
Division of Water Quality
918 East Divide Ave, 4th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947

24 September 2015

To whom it may concern,

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD) supports the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition's (NDGLC) application for funding through the 319 Non-point Source Water Quality funding. The NDGLC's mentor program is one of a kind and very effective. It has made its experts in grazing practices and holistic management very accessible to those in need of guidance in improving grazing and crop practices to improve soil health and water cycles. The workshops, tours, and pasture walks, have been effective teaching tools. These events allow others to see that holistic management practices can work to benefit everything from soil health to family health.

In North Dakota we have seen unprecedented pressures on grasslands, water quality, and soil health in recent times. The work that the NDGLC does through these funds is working to help reduce these pressures while helping to maintain and improve a critical habitat components for wildlife in North Dakota. For the reasons mentioned in this letter the North Dakota Game and Fish Department urges the North Dakota Department of Health to fund the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition's application for 319 Non-point Source Water Quality funding.

Sincerely,

Terry Steinwand
Director, North Dakota Game and Fish Department



September 26, 2015

ND Dept of Health
Division of Water Quality
918 East Divide Ave, 4th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947

The Long Ranch supports the proposal presented by the the ND Grazing Lands Coalition.

We farm and ranch near Berlin, N.D. and are members of several different organizations which support regenerative agriculture methods and sustainable environmental practices including the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition.

We look forward to the Coalition's educational field days and workshops. Our belief is that we can no longer continue to compromise soil and water quality at the rate in which we are. Change is long past due.

It is critical to educate and support sustainable-minded producers interested in improving water quality, soil health and holistic management practices, bringing this information to farmers and ranchers who will utilize it the most.

As a producer, this grant will help furnish the tools we are seeking by providing leadership and technical assistance through a mentoring program as well as providing educational workshops and trainings.

Richard and Susan Long