

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Improving Water Quality with Rancher Mentoring and Outreach II

SPONSOR/SUBGRANTEE: ND Grazing Lands Coalition
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STATE: North Dakota WATERSHED: Statewide Project

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

Continuation Project: Yes. See summary of accomplishments in Appendix A.

PROJECT LOCATION: North Dakota

SUMMARIZATION OF MAJOR GOALS: Improving water quality and conserving natural resources by enhancing land management practices through peer-to-peer mentoring and complementary programming.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition will continue to promote and support holistic land management that enhances water quality and resource conservation through a rancher mentor program, educational opportunities, public awareness via the Leopold Conservation Award, and information sharing and networking.

FY 2019 319 Funds Requested	\$ <u>227,160</u>
Match	\$ <u>197,200</u>
Total Project Cost	\$ <u>424,360</u>

Improving Water Quality with
Rancher Mentoring and Outreach II
A non-point source pollution management project

Submitted by:
North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
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Bismarck, ND 58502

October 1, 2018

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Improving Water Quality with Rancher Mentoring and Outreach II

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2.0 STATEMENT OF NEED

2.1 Project Water Quality Benefits

Private landowners manage 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, and milk.

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 (NDGLC) understands the need for responsible grazing and sound land management practices to not only produce healthy livestock, but to also ensure efficient use of livestock manure by maintaining a vegetative community on grazing lands that can effectively recycle nutrients. Through past activities, NDGLC has realized the best tool to promote sound land management is through one-on-one mentoring and outreach.

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

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

Based on inquiries, NDGLC mentors have determined the following management practices are the most sought after educational topics. These practices are proven to be successful and easily adapted into ranch management systems resulting in lowering watershed 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, and 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 wildlife land
- Pest management
- Grazing irrigated pasture
- Grazing management for expired CRP
- Cover crops
- Grass finishing
- Winter grazing strategies

2.2 Project Audience

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 start-up ranchers, and women/minority ranchers desiring to conserve and protect North Dakota's natural resources, including water quality.

Project activities will be directed toward landowners/managers and ag producers. The core activity will be the one-on-one rancher mentor program. Complementary activities will include education opportunities, such as a winter workshop, summer tour, and pasture walks; the North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award; and information sharing and networking.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Goals

Improving water quality and conserving natural resources by enhancing land management practices through peer-to-peer mentoring and complementary programming.

Improving water quality, soil conservation, and holistic management practices for North Dakota ranchers is a priority for the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC). Organized in 1996, founding member ranchers created a group of mentors with the purpose of promoting the health and sustainability of the state's 13.5 million acres of grazing land. NDGLC's work 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, NDGLC will work to provide leadership and technical assistance to ranch managers through one-on-one mentoring, educational opportunities, the North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award, and information sharing.

The focus of NDGLC's education and promotion efforts is holistic sustainable resource management principles and a whole farm and ranch 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.

The 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.

Annual activities will include, but are not limited to, peer-to-peer mentoring; education opportunities such as a winter workshop, summer tour, and pasture walks; the North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award; and information sharing and networking.

The primary avenue for water quality improvements will be peer-to-peer mentoring. Over several years, NDGLC has demonstrated the success of mentoring, witnessing the transfer of knowledge from one generation of farm and ranch families to the next generation. This knowledge transfer is critical to the success of conservation efforts as a new crop of ranchers/farmers assume management duties on family farms. Young mentors, family members, and female mentors are equally important to the success of conservation grazing practices as an increased number of ranches are being managed by young adults because of North Dakota's in-migration trend.

As part of its commitment to conservation in the state, NDGLC has partnered with two other North Dakota organizations to present the annual North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award to a rancher or farmer. As stated on its website, "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 of NDGLC and share their success story in conservation in a variety of ways, such as media, video, articles, and state and national speaking events. North Dakota farmers and ranchers have earned national renown in good grazing and conservation practices. Participation in this award will continue to highlight the work of NDGLC both locally and nationally.

To assist in providing the highest quality-mentoring program, NDGLC will coordinate workshops for mentors and financially support requests for continuing education opportunities. In addition, a variety of print and electronic materials will be created and/or updated for networking and information sharing, such as a mentoring brochure, general information brochure, regular electronic newsletter and other communications, and website (www.ndglc.com).

NDGLC activities will be coordinated and overseen by a part-time contract executive director, which will include administrative and bookkeeping assistance, under the oversight of the board of directors.

3.2 Objectives

Improve water quality and conservation practices and awareness as follows:

1. Further develop a strong peer-to-peer conservation grazing practices mentoring program that includes collaboration and the generational transfer of knowledge.
2. Offer educational opportunities, such as field tours, pasture walks, conferences, and workshops.
3. Create public awareness of good conservation stewardship in North Dakota by partnering on the annual Leopold Conservation Award.
4. Provide information sharing and networking about good land management practices through promotional materials, networking, and outreach to farmers, ranchers, general public, and support service organizations.
5. Provide administrative management for all aspects of the project.

Objective 1: Further develop a strong peer-to-peer conservation grazing practices **mentorship program** that includes the generational transfer of knowledge and collaboration.

Task 1: Engagement and growth of the **mentor network**.

Strategies/Products

- Provide one-on-one assistance by mentors for producers on topics determined by NDGLC (see mentor brochure – Appendix B)

- Increase mentor contact hours by 10 percent annually (mentors have contributed approximately 2,000 hours each year and reached about 3,400 people between Sept. 2017 and Sept. 2018)
- Engage mentors in follow-up activities with mentees to promote the full implementation of conservation practices (documented by hard copy or electronic surveys and reports)
- Provide and support mentors continuing education and professional development, such as out-of-state workshops, training, and other opportunities as approved by NDGLC
- Offer opportunities for mentors to report on knowledge gained through professional development to educate other mentors and enhance collaboration

Estimated Cost

Mentors (up to 35) at \$80/hour (each reimbursed hour is matched with one in-kind hour) plus travel expenses

319 funds = \$120,000

In-kind = \$120,000

Total = \$240,000

Task 2: Management and technical assistance for the mentor network through **program coordination.**

Strategies/Products

- Track stipends, reimbursements, and bill payment related to mentor network
- Monitor mentor hours to meet project goal of increasing contact hours
- Increase percentage of mentors reporting contact hours by three percent annually (current reporting is approximately 50 percent)
- Grow the mentor program by two per year (29 current mentors)
- Improve communication with mentors
- Enhance website content to promote mentors
- Reintroduce the mentoring network to the state of North Dakota
- Create strategies to encourage additional mentees, including the next generation of producers
- Keep NDGLC Board apprised of mentor network activities through regular meetings and communication

Estimated Cost

Part-time executive director at \$60/hour

319 funds = \$28,800

Total = \$28,800

Objective 2: Offer **educational opportunities**, such as field tours, pasture walks, conferences, and workshops.

Task 3: Provision of **educational activities** for NDGLC mentors and members, as well as producers, stakeholders, and partner organizations, that demonstrate best practices in holistic management that result in the improvement of water quality with a focus on grazing land, livestock, wildlife, and cropland.

Strategies/Products

- Plan an annual winter workshop with national and local experts in grazing and land management (host two during project with average attendance of 100-150)
- Plan an annual summer tour (host two during project with average attendance of 80-120)
- Host or co-host other educational events, such as pasture walks, grazing school, holistic management courses, field tours, and workshops on subjects that promote agriculture stewardship, such as marketing and animal and soil health

Estimated Cost

Executive director at \$60/hour; educational event costs (e.g., facility rental, supplies, speaker fees, travel expenses, marketing, working lunches, meals with keynote speakers, etc.); cash match from registration fees

319 funds = \$43,800

Cash = \$10,000

TOTAL = \$53,800

Objective 3: Create public awareness of good conservation stewardship in North Dakota by partnering on the annual **Leopold Conservation Award**.

Task 4: Implementation of the annual **North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award** in coordination with the Sand County Foundation and other North Dakota partners.

Strategies/Products

- Enhance the relevance and recognition of the award
- Develop a North Dakota partner agreement that clarifies roles, increases efficiency, and enhances partner participation
- Research and implement best practices of other states
- Review the partnership agreement with Sand County Foundation and clarify roles and identify potential ways to increase efficiency
- Solicit sponsors and contributions of approximately \$30,000 per year
- Facilitate the selection process, tour, and media outreach

Estimated Cost

Executive director at \$60/hour; in-kind from Leopold Award sponsors/partners, and volunteer board members/mentors

319 funds = \$7,200

In-kind = \$67,200
TOTAL = \$74,400

Objective 4: Provide **information sharing and networking** about good land management practices through promotional materials, networking, and outreach to farmers, ranchers, general public, and support service organizations.

Task 5: Communication of best practices in grazing land management by serving as a source of information and a clearinghouse regarding land management practices.

Strategies/Products

- Promote the mentor program, educational opportunities, and Leopold Conservation Award through internal and external communication, including but not limited to brochures, mailings, publications, news releases, emails, social media, website, videos, etc.
- Expand the informational content on the website (www.ndglc.com)
- Publish a quarterly electronic newsletter
- Maintain and improve communication with NDGLC stakeholders, including but not limited to board, mentors, members, partners, media, and public
- Create articles for and/or advertise in trade magazines pertinent to new and innovative practices focused on improving water quality and conserving natural resources
- Participate in meetings with other conservation and ag-related groups, including attending the National Grazing Lands Convention

Estimated Cost

Executive director at \$60/hour

319 funds = \$10,080
TOTAL = \$10,080

Objective 5: Provide **administrative support** for all aspects of the project.

Task 6: Administration and bookkeeping services to support the operations of NDGLC and this project.

Strategies/Products

- Prepare and submit required grant project reports to the North Dakota Department of Health
- Provide bookkeeping and financial services for the project
- Provide support services for the mentor program, educational opportunities, Leopold Conservation Award, and information sharing and networking

Estimated Cost

Administrative services at \$60/hour; office expenses

319 funds = \$17,280
TOTAL = \$17,280

3.3 Milestone Table

See Attachment C.

3.4 Appropriateness of Lead Sponsor

NDGLC has been in operation since 1996 promoting the health and regeneration of North Dakota's grasslands. NDGLC believes that through actions and education on the values and multiple benefits of well-managed grazing resources, that goals outlined in this project are achievable.

NDGLC has established a grassroots-based network of North Dakota grazing land managers who have agreed to provide guidance and counsel to interested personnel on grassland management. These mentors are considered leaders and innovators. A board of directors, elected by the membership, leads this organization. An executive director oversees day-to-day operations.

NDGLC board members and mentors will be heavily involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of this project. The board has adopted a new strategic plan to guide its operations and will develop a work plan to guide its work each year.

4.0 Coordination Plan

4.1 Cooperating Organizations

North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

The NDGLC executive director, working with the board of directors and mentors, will implement all activities of the project and will have the primary responsibility for project planning, contracting, coordination, implementation, communication, event planning, marketing, grant writing, financial and administrative assistance, and timely submission of project payment applications.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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

USDA Agriculture Research Service (USDA-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)

NDSU Extension and experiment station professionals will provide technical assistance for project workshops, tours, and rangeland management training sessions. These activities will be conducted in accordance with the university's mission.

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Personnel will oversee Section 319 funding and assist with planning and implementation of educational events when possible.

North Dakota Water Education Foundation (WEF)

Personnel have expressed interest in publishing relevant articles in the *North Dakota Water* magazine.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

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

Sand County Foundation

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

North Dakota Stockmen's Association

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

North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts

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

Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

Personnel provide technical assistance and support for project workshop, tours, and rangeland management training sessions, as well as house NDGLC materials and equipment.

4.2 Local Support

Letters of support from the following entities are included as Attachment D: National Resources Conservation Service, Dakota Prairies Resource Conservation and Development, North Dakota State University Extension, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, North Dakota State Water Commission, a private landowner/rancher, and the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

4.3 Coordination and Linkages

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

4.4 Duplication of Efforts

Although agricultural education events are widespread and target many different groups, NDGLC brings a unique approach in terms of providing the opportunity for ranchers to interact and share with other ranchers in a one-on-one setting – in the pasture, in the field, and in the classroom. This mentoring program provides 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

As activities are completed, outcome evaluations will be used 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 non-point solution issues.

The following evaluation measures will be conducted for the products outlined in this proposal:

- 1) One-on-One Mentor Contacts: Each phone call is tracked, along with the topic discussed. Hours and in-kind contributions are tracked by mentors. Observations and comments regarding management changes will be notated by the mentors.
- 2) Educational Opportunities: Registration for workshops and other events will be recorded. Evaluations will be prepared for each event, either paper or electronic, and results will be reviewed to improve future activities.
- 3) Leopold Conversation Award: The new partner agreement will be evaluated for efficiency, as will the selection process. Communication regarding the awardee will be tracked.
- 3) Information Sharing: The number of newsletters circulated, visits to the website, and contacts on Facebook will be tracked, along with media mentions and other communication and networking activities.

The information obtained from the evaluation measures will be compiled for reporting to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality in annual and final reports.

6.0 BUDGET

See Attachment D.

ATTACHMENT A

SUMMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR RANCHER MENTORING AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

Since October 1, 2016, NDGLC has increased awareness about good grazing practices by increasing the number of mentors, mentor contact hours, and attendees at field trips and conferences. Outreach through winter conferences, summer field trips, partnerships with other organizations, social media, brochures, and speaking engagements has brought national renown to this organization's conservation efforts focused on soil health and water quality. Development of the education programming, mentoring hours, and outreach focused on appropriate management of livestock, wildlife, grazing lands, and cropland to improve soil health and water quality have exceeded expectations.

ATTACHMENT B



North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

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

www.ndglc.com

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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.

Contact:

contact@ndglc.com
701-355-4458



North Dakota Rangeland Facts

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.



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.

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



WE ARE A MEMBER SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION. Join the NDGLC today, please complete this form and mail it to NDGLC, PO Box 325, Mandan, ND 58554. Or, visit www.ndglc.com and become a member online.

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 annual \$30 membership (check #) plus an additional donation of \$
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$

ATTACHMENT C

MILESTONE TABLE FOR RANCHER MENTORING AND OUTREACH PROGRAM II

TASK/RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	OUTPUT	QTY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2			
Objective 1: Mentorship program.			7/19		6/20		7/20		6/21	
Task 1 – Engagement and growth of the mentor network . Group 1, 2	-One-on-one assistance -Increase contact hours -Professional development	Contact hrs/yr= 3400 producers reached per yr				2200				2420
Task 2 – Management and technical assistance for the mentor network through program coordination . Group 1, 4	-Track mentor hours, etc. -Increase mentor reporting -Increase number of mentors	No. of mentors= 2 new mentors/yr				31				33
Objective 2: Educational opportunities.										
Task 3 - Provision of educational activities Group 1, 2, 3, 5 Objective 3: Leopold Conservation Award.	-Winter workshop -Summer workshop -Other education activities	Attendance= 3 major events/yr				450-600				450-600
Task 4 – Implementation of the annual North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award Group 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	-Develop partner agreement -Solicit sponsors -Select winner	1 award/yr				1				1

Group 1 – [ND Grazing Lands Coalition](#)

Group 2 – [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

Group 3 – [Burleigh County Soil Conservation District](#)

Group 4 – [ND Department of Environmental Quality](#)- Statewide Section 319 program management including oversight of local 319 planning and expenditures

Group 5 – [ND Game and Fish Department](#) – advertising, video recording, technical support

Group 6 – [ND Stockmen's Association](#) – Leopold Conservation Award partner

Group 7 – [ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts](#) – Leopold Conservation Award partner

MILESTONE TABLE FOR RANCHER MENTORING AND OUTREACH PROGRAM II

TASK/RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	OUTPUT	QTY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2			
Objective 4: Information sharing and networking.			10/19		9/20		10/20		9/21	
Task 5 – Communication of best practices in grazing land management Group 1, 5	-Website -Facebook -Newsletter	Newsletters 672 in outreach list	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Objective 5: Provide administrative support.										
Task 6 – Administration and bookkeeping services to support the project Group 1	-Grant reports -Bookkeeping -Financial management	Quarterly reimbursement reports	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Group 1 – ND Grazing Lands Coalition

Group 2 – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Group 3 – Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

Group 4 – ND Department of Environmental Quality- Statewide Section 319 program management including oversight of local 319 planning and expenditures

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

Group 6 – ND Stockmen’s Association – Leopold Conservation Award partner

Group 7 – ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts – Leopold Conservation Award partner

ATTACHMENT D

6.0 RANCHER MENTORING AND OUTREACH PROGRAM II
BUDGET TABLE – Part I

Part 1: Funding Sources	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	TOTAL 2 Years
EPA SECTION 319 FUNDS (FY2019)			
319 Funds Requested (FA)	\$113,580	\$113,580	\$227,160
Subtotal	\$113,580	\$113,580	\$227,160
STATE/LOCAL MATCH			
NDGLC (TA)	\$63,600	\$63,600	\$127,200
Education Event Registration Fees (FA)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Leopold Award Sponsors/Partners (FA)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
Subtotal	\$98,600	\$98,600	\$197,200
TOTAL BUDGET	\$212,180	\$212,180	\$424,360

FA: Financial Assistance
TA: Technical Assistance

6.0 RANCHERS MENTORING PROGRAM
BUDGET TABLE – Part II

Section 319/Non-federal budget	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	319 Funding	Cash/In-Kind Match	TOTAL COSTS
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION: Objective 5					
*Bookkeeping, reporting, office expenses	\$8,640	\$8,640	\$17,280	\$0	\$17,280
Subtotal	\$8,640	\$8,640	\$17,280	\$0	\$17,280
PRODUCT COST: Objectives 1-4					
Objective 1 – Mentor Program					
*Program coordination	\$14,400	\$14,400	\$28,800	\$0	\$28,800
*Mentor network	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$240,000
Objective 2 – Educational Opportunities					
*Workshops	\$21,900	\$21,900	\$43,800	\$10,000	\$53,800
Objective 3 – Leopold Conservation Award					
*Coordination	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$7,200	\$67,200	\$74,400
Objective 4 – Information Sharing					
*Communication	\$5,040	\$5,040	\$10,080	\$0	\$10,080
Subtotal	\$104,940	\$104,940	\$209,880	\$197,200	\$407,080
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$113,580	\$113,580	\$227,160	\$197,200	\$424,360

ATTACHMENT E



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. 17, 2018

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) 2018 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 serves 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 under its new 319 grant application.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan L. Davis".

Susan L. Davis
Executive Director

The Programs and Services of Dakota Prairies RC&D are Provided on An Equal Opportunity Basis.



September 13, 2018

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



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

September 19, 2018

Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND
58502-1458

Voice 701.530.2000
Fax 855-813-7556

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 black ink that reads "Mary E. Podoll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender



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

September 11, 2018

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 more than 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

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



CENTRAL GRASSLANDS
RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

September 24, 2018

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

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 range and soil health, 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 Central Grasslands Research Extension Center and NDSU Extension, I work with NDGLC in presenting current and relevant information to producers, as well collaborated on rancher based projects. Their work in producer outreach and engagement is commendable.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Sedivec'.

Kevin Sedivec, PhD
NDSU Extension Rangeland Specialist;
Interim Director, Central Grasslands Research and Extension Center

North Dakota State University
CENTRAL GRASSLANDS RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER
4824 48th Ave SE | Streeter ND 58483 | 701.424.3606 | Fax 701.424.3616
www.ag.ndsu.edu/CentralGrasslandsREC

NDSU is an EO/AA university.

September 24, 2018

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

To Whom It May Concern:

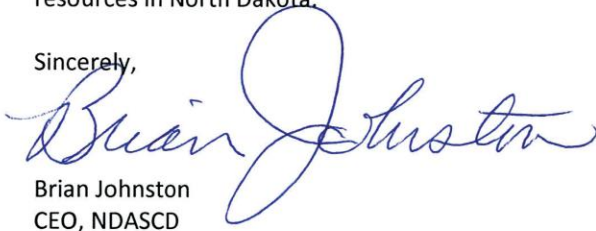
It is an honor to write a letter of support for the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition's (NDGLC) for funding through the 319 Non-point Source Water Quality Program. The North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts (NDASCD) supports NDGLC's proposal as the funding will guide NDGLC's efforts in improving water quality, which aligns with NDASCD's purpose of furthering the widespread application of sound and practical soil and water conservation practices in North Dakota.

NDASCD has partnered with NDGLC and the North Dakota Stockmen's Association in establishing and implementing the North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award®, which recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspiration of other landowners through their example, and helping the public understand the vital role private landowners can and do play in conservation success. This is an important effort in public promotion soil and water conservation. The award presented each year at the NDASCD annual conference.

I have also seen first-hand how NDGLC has been a leader in educating producers on land and water stewardship practices in North Dakota for the last 20 years. Through the mentoring network, they have provided the leadership to help producers across North Dakota implement holistic management practices, thus improve water quality and soil health. Overall, NDGLC has brought a regenerative view to farming and ranching in North Dakota.

NDASCD supports NDGLC's proposal to improve non-point source water quality as their organization has proven to be effective in educational outreach and improving the overall management of natural resources in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Johnston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Johnston" clearly legible.

Brian Johnston
CEO, NDASCD

NORTH DAKOTA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

"Variety in Hunting and Fishing"

GOVERNOR, Doug Burgum

DIRECTOR, Terry Steinwand

DEPUTY, Scott A. Peterson

*100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-5095*

Phone: (701) 328-6300

FAX: (701) 328-6352

September 28, 2018

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

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 NDGFD urges the North Dakota Department of Health to fund the NDGLC's application for 319 Non-point Source Water Quality Funding.

Sincerely,



Terry Steinwand
Director



North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE, DEPT 770 • BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505-0850
(701) 328-2750 • TTY 1-800-366-6888 or 711 • FAX (701) 328-3696 • <http://swc.nd.gov>

September 28, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

The North Dakota State Water Commission supports the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition's (NDGLC) application for funding through the 319 Non-point Source Water Quality funding program. Part of the State Water Commission's vision is that "Present and future generations of North Dakotans will enjoy an adequate supply of good quality water for people, agriculture, industry, and fish and wildlife..." Through NDGLC's mentoring network, it is an effective partner in improving water quality, which assists in advancing the State Water Commission's vision.

NDGLC strives to improve quality of life and implement regenerative agriculture and holistic management practices in North Dakota. These holistic management practices strengthen North Dakota by improving and managing water resources throughout the state to not only benefit the people of North Dakota, but animal agriculture, and wildlife as well.

For these reasons, the State Water Commission is providing this letter of support for NDGLC's application and would encourage the ND Department of Health to fund its proposal.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fridgen
Director, Planning and Education Division
ND State Water Commission

DOUG BURGUM, GOVERNOR
CHAIRMAN

GARLAND ERBELE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER-SECRETARY