



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Rothschild Estate Conservation Projects - Guidelines for Proposals

Overview

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) is soliciting proposals for conservation projects supported by the Rothschild Estate. Funding will support on-the-ground efforts that benefit crane and waterfowl habitat, species conservation, and outdoor access across North Dakota.

Geographic Focus

Eligible projects must benefit cranes and crane habitat (utilization of crane thunderstorm map preferred).

Project Priorities

NDWF seeks proposals that advance practical, collaborative conservation outcomes benefiting cranes and the habitats they rely upon throughout North Dakota. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate clear ecological benefits, support long-term habitat resilience, and contribute to the conservation of migratory and breeding crane populations. Eligible project types include, but are not limited to:

- Wetland restoration, enhancement, or protection projects that improve nesting, brood-rearing, staging, or migratory stopover habitat for cranes
- Grassland restoration and management practices that maintain open landscapes and reduce habitat fragmentation near key wetland complexes
- Grazing infrastructure supporting rotational or regenerative grazing systems that improve grassland structure and wetland health beneficial to cranes and other grassland wildlife
- Woody encroachment removal to restore open prairie and wetland visibility important for crane use and predator detection
- Native grass and forb seedings that enhance upland nesting and foraging habitat. NDWF will pay for the seed, but the landowner (or other partner) must cover planting expenses.
- Land acquisition, wetland and grassland conservation easements, or other permanent conservation measures that protect important crane habitat and associated migratory corridors
- Water management or hydrology improvement projects that sustain seasonal wetlands and shallow water habitats used by cranes

Projects that leverage additional funding, engage landowners or conservation partners, and align with NDWF's mission to conserve wildlife, habitat, and access are strongly encouraged.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants may include private landowners, conservation organizations, Tribal Nations, state and federal agencies, land trusts, and other qualified entities. Partnerships are encouraged.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals should be concise and include:

- Project description and objectives
- Location and acreage (if applicable)
- Expected conservation outcomes
- Project timeline
- Budget and funding request
- Partners involved (if any)

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the North Dakota Wildlife Federation's staff based on conservation impact, feasibility, alignment with NDWF priorities, and benefit to wildlife, habitat, and outdoor access.

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