



Request for Proposals (RFP)

Fund Name: Eldor and Stella Omdahl Environment and Conservation Fund (Omdahl Conservation Fund)

Purpose:

The Omdahl Conservation Fund, a component fund of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, is soliciting grant applications that will promote or preserve natural resources in the region served by Northwest Minnesota Foundation. This fund is created for charitable, educational and scientific programs, projects and activities that support or benefit environmental and conservation causes.

Request for Proposals Timeline:

Applications are open until November 1st, 2023 and will be considered on a competitive basis. Funding decisions will be made by November 30th, 2023.

Eligible Applicants / Geography:

501c3 non-profits located within the Northwest Minnesota Foundation service area that includes Red Lake Nation, White Earth Nation, and 12 counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake Falls, and Roseau).

Funding Available:

Total available funding is \$50,000. Maximum grant award up to \$25,000.

Eligible Expenses

Grants may fund new or existing programs, projects, collaborative work, capital projects, equipment, training, new or expanded staff, community engagement efforts, education, research, events, capacity building and other similar activities. Grants are meant to make a significant impact in the community that advance conservation and sustainability goals.

Ineligible Expenses

Grants cannot fund political activities, religious propagation, discriminatory practices, past operating debts, legal fees, or similar activities.

Competitive Process:

Applications are accepted through a competitive process.

Points will be awarded for:

- Projects that benefit any of the 12 counties or 2 tribal areas of Northwest Minnesota Foundation's service area (required),
- Environmental conservation focus,
- Partnerships, community participation or have broad community support,
- Specific organizations listed in the Omdahl Fund agreement (which include Wetlands, Pines to Prairie Audubon Sanctuary, The National Arbor Day Foundation, The Sierra Club, The Izaak Walton League of America, and The Nature Conservancy) will receive preference points but are not guaranteed funding in this competitive process.

Project Requirements:

- Share progress reports, media coverage, social media campaigns, and other relevant updates with NMF.
- Regular reports to donor and thank you or impact stories
- Grantees agree to attend a sharing meeting with other awardees

How to Apply:

- Step 1: Complete the application online using the link provided here: <https://form.jotform.com/232414738611150>
- Step 2: Applications will be reviewed by NMF for eligibility and program fit. At that time NMF may request a site visit, request clarifying information or provide grant guidance. For proposals that meet the program goals, the foundation will consider the application based on priority criteria.
- Step 3: All applications will be reviewed after November 1st, 2023, with final decision date no later than November 30th, 2023.

Review Process: NMF will review all completed applications. Applications may require review and approval from the NMF Board of Directors.

Contact

If you have any questions about the review process or need assistance, please Nate Dorr, Vice President for Advocacy by email (nated@nwmf.org), or Dawn Ganje, Director for Community Philanthropy by email (dawng@nwmf.org), or either by phone at 218-759-2057.