



NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

For

SAGE GROUSE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

**Nevada Conservation Districts Program and
The State Conservation Commission Competitive
Sage grouse Program FY26**

This Notice of Funding Opportunity contains instructions and the required format for projects to be considered and selected for funding. The application proposal template provided in this package is the only format that will be accepted and considered for funding.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:
April 30th, 2026, 11:00pm Total available \$75,000.

NOTE: Awarded funds must be obligated by June 1, 2026
Release Date March 20, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Melany Aten, Conservation Districts Program Manager
Telephone: 775-625-0901
Email: convprogram@dnr.nv.gov

Conservation District Sage grouse Grant Application Proposal Process and Instructions

1. Background and Description of Program Grant

When the Nevada Legislature passed SB45 during the 2015 Legislative Session, the Nevada Conservation Districts Program (NCDP) was awarded a competitive grant program. Additionally, the State Conservation Commission (SCC) adopted regulations (R113-15) that became effective on December 21, 2015. With the statute changed and the regulations now in place, the SCC has the authority to provide specific legislatively appropriated funding, and other qualifying funding, to qualifying Nevada Conservation Districts (Districts).

Objectives: The stated objective of the Sage grouse Competitive Grant Program is to assist qualifying Conservation Districts to develop and implement projects that benefit Sage grouse populations and their habitats.

Application proposals can be for either Bi-state Sage grouse (a Distinct Population Segment of the Greater Sage grouse), or the Greater Sage grouse. Through the work of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP) and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT), a Greater Sage grouse Management Categorization Map has been developed and is available on at sagebrusheco.nv.gov, under “Resources” then “Maps.” If you need assistance with this GIS layer contact Melany Aten at Maten@dcnr.nv.gov.

We encourage Conservation Districts to contact your area respective NCDP Conservation Specialist for assistance in filling out the application proposal template.

2. Grant and Award Information:

Application Proposal Performance Goals:

The goal of this funding is to implement projects with measurable results that benefit Sage grouse and their habitat.

Applicant Eligibility:

- Nevada Conservation Districts, which are currently in good standing, under NAC 548.110.
- Nevada Conservation Districts which have demonstrated past ability to complete similar projects in a reasonable manner.
- Nevada Conservation Districts which have the resources to track grant projects and administer grant money.
- Nevada Conservation Districts which have State mapped Sage grouse habitat categories where the project would benefit Sage grouse.

We encourage outside agencies and nonprofit partners to work with their eligible Conservation Districts to apply.

Anticipated Start Date:

The anticipated start of any project under this grant is after award, but no later than June 1, 2026. This funding opportunity is for projects that already have necessary clearances and are currently “shovel ready.” The grant funding **must be committed** no later than June 1, 2026. The funding agreement must be signed by both NCDP Program Manager and successful Conservation District prior to commencement of any project work. Work may continue past June 30th, 2026, date with the committed and awarded funds matching project timeframes negotiated and outlined in the Funding Agreement with the NCDP Program Manager upon award.

Matching Funds:

Districts providing matching funds will receive additional “Score Points” when their application proposal is considered by the SCC.

Matching funds will be allowed in a variety of ways:

- The match may include verifiable cash on hand dedicated to the project.
- Verifiable contributions from other entities.
- Documented in-kind goods, services or labor.
- If volunteers are used, labor contributions should be calculated using the most recent independentsector.org value for volunteer time, which at the time of this funding announcement was \$30.86 per hour for Nevada (last updated in 2024)
- Applicants should use local rates for other in-kind valuations of contributions (equipment operators, equipment use, and professional salaries).
- The match is to be explained in the application proposal and listed on the budget attachment

Award Information:

- The available funds for 2026 are \$75,000.00
- The final number of awards will depend on the quality and quantity of applications received. The SCC will review and rank application proposals and award funds to one or more Conservation Districts.
- Per the Nevada Open Meeting and Public Records Laws, all application proposals and information provided to the NCDP Program Manager and SCC are available for public view including at the SCC meeting.

Award Process:

Submitted applications will be reviewed by the NCDP Program Manager for completeness. All the complete application proposals will go through a review and scoring process by the NCDP Program Manager or a designee and then provided to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 548. The SCC will review scoring and deliberate on all eligible applications presented at a public commission meeting in May 2026, after the grant closing date. At this meeting, it is expected the SCC will make decisions regarding which applications receive funding, the amount they will receive and direct NCDP staff for any specific negotiations required. All SCC decisions are considered final unless the SCC chooses to re-visit an issue later. All decisions will be made by action of the SCC.

Funding Agreement:

Successful Conservation Districts will be notified for final negotiations prior to signing a required award and performance document known as the “Funding Agreement.” The NCDP Program Manager will work with the authorized individual listed on the Conservation Districts application proposal template. The Funding Agreement will include details regarding beginning and end dates, monitoring schedules, reporting and any other information deemed necessary by the SCC or NCDP Program Manager. This Agreement will then be signed by both parties.

3. Application and Submission Information:

This Notice of Funding Opportunity includes all information, documents, and electronic addresses needed to submit an application. Applications must be submitted on the Application Proposal Template provided.

NOTE: More than one application can be submitted by a qualifying Conservation District, however, if multiple applications are submitted, the applications must be ranked by that Conservation District in order of priority for funding.

Application Proposal (Attachment A)

- Attachment A is the application proposal template to be used when developing and submitting the application proposal. This template must be fully completed.
- Include a statement of scalability or flexibility of your project.
- Permits and landowner permission letters must be included in the final submission, if necessary.
- Maps must be included in the final submission and MUST clearly show the State Sage grouse habitat category.

Budget Detail (Attachment B)

- The Budget Proposal Template included may be limiting. If preferred, applicants can attach a Budget Proposal Excel document with all budgetary categories included in the Budget Proposal Template.
- Show estimated or quoted costs by category necessary to complete projected activities. Estimated costs should be described in sufficient detail so they may be reviewed and deemed reasonable.
- Include a description of any cost share (cash, in-kind, etc.) listed. Lump sum costs are not acceptable in any category, without a detailed breakdown of how the cost was determined.
- A maximum of fifteen percent (15%) of the project cost can be requested to cover administrative or indirect costs if it is described in the Budget Detail and deemed reasonable to the project being proposed.

Note: Reporting must include receipts for purchases made under the grant. They need to be clearly identified in the category of spending in relation to the budget book submitted.

Submission Dates and Times:

The deadline for submission of applications is **April 30th, 2026, by 11:00pm**. Applications must be received by NCDP Program Manager prior to the posted deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for award and excluded from the applications provided to the SCC.

Application Submission Process:

The NCDP Program Manager prefers the application proposals to be submitted by email, but they may be hand-delivered, or delivered by a carrier service. Regardless of method of submission, all applications must be received by NCDP Program Manager prior to the submission deadline to be considered for funding.

- Email to NCDP Program Manager convprogram@dcnr.nv.gov
- Mailing Address:
Conservation District Program:
3275 Fountain Way, Winnemucca, NV 89445
- Hand delivered to:
ATT: Conservation District Program:
3275 Fountain Way, Winnemucca, NV 89445

4. Application Review and Scoring Process

First level screening will be completed to determine if each Conservation District applicant meets the basic eligibility requirements. NCDP Program Manager staff or a designee and the SETT will use a scoring system, detailed below, to evaluate each application proposal received. The NCDP Program Manager or the SCC reserves the right to reject application proposals that do not meet the requirements of this Notice of Funding Opportunity or are deemed incomplete. Awards may only be made to responsive, responsible Conservation District applicants submitting application proposals that conform to the announcement guidelines and consider the evaluation factors listed below, within available funding limits.

The evaluation process will be comprised of the following screening levels and will use the following Scoring Criteria.

First Level Screening --Basic Eligibility:

Application proposals will be screened by NCDP Program Manager, and or designee, to ensure that applications meet eligibility requirements. Depending on the specifics of the project, screening may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Nevada Conservation District is currently in Good Standing,
- 2) Application Proposal template was utilized and completed.
- 3) Application was submitted on time by the deadline posted.
- 4) All necessary permits and permissions were included.
- 5) All necessary and required maps were included.
- 6) The Conservation District minutes or draft minutes showing the approval of the final application with an action item and vote recorded.

Application proposals must satisfy basic eligibility screening requirements to move to second level evaluations.

Second Level Evaluation – Scoring Criteria Project Merit Review:

Scoring Rubric:

The following scoring rubric will be used by the NCDP Program Manager and or their designee and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team. The scores will be provided to the State Conservation Commission for final review to decide on awards of funding. Applicants are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible on their project.

Scoring Criteria	Max Score	Top Scoring Criteria
Sage grouse Benefits (60pts)		
Project mapped in or connecting State Sage grouse habitat categories.	15	Greater value “priority” habitat will receive more points than similar projects in mapped “general” or “other” habitat. Connectivity to habitat categories increasing overall benefits across a larger footprint will receive more points.
Address a limiting factor of the respective habitat type or Sage grouse population.	10	Identifies limiting factors with expert knowledge. Addresses the limiting factor with impacts and measurable results using a proven method of addressing the limiting factor. Peer review research or expert knowledge is included.
Umbrella effect of the proposed project.	5	Project provides an umbrella effect with projected habitat enhancements and improvements. Detailed description of identified installments and their measurable outcomes to show additional benefits.
Outlined in the narrative HOW the application proposal will directly benefit Sage grouse.	10	The narrative focused on Sage grouse benefits and details the how, what, when, where and why of the proposed benefits. The project expects measurable outcomes and details how reporting will be completed to show HOW it will help.
Does the project show work tied to another project to compound the benefits to Sage grouse in the area.	10	Project is part of a larger footprint with either long term or larger connectivity to address more acres or address more limiting factors. These compounding factors are identified and shown.

Information about long-term benefits to Sage grouse, or includes information about how the project will be managed for long-term benefits.	10	Project addresses limiting factor in the long term and lays out information or a plan to provide support, and habitat enhancement for long-term success on the site. The information should include relevant long-term management practices, strategies, or goals.
Proposal Overview (40pts)		
Was the project understandable with appropriate timelines and milestones.	5	The project provided a good understanding of the Sage grouse limiting factors, how they would be addressed both in short term and long term, provided measurable quantifiable units of success with a management and monitoring plan. Timeline matches the “shovel-ready” funding concept.
Is there a measurable unit or quantifiable unit to be reported on which can reflect the success.	10	The project details the measurable units to be addressed and provides a method for measuring completion and success throughout the project, at completion and in the future.
The project has a clearly outlined area of work.	10	The maps and narrative provide a description of the location. Photos and other detailed reports or inventories are included to show justification for the project and measurable units for reporting. The proposed area includes acreage, miles, or unit of measure.
The applicant included key partners and experts to provide the best coordination and input on project development, design and implementation.	5	The project includes experts with knowledge and expertise specific to the project and or Sage grouse. This includes the details in addressing limiting factors, experts in design, experts in field work, or certified industry leaders. Partners listed are participating and engaged in phases of the project. Points will not be awarded for just naming a list of partners without context.
The budget narrative provided information on flexibility and scalability under partial funding options.	10	The budget narrative included a scalable description detailing where the project plan has flexibility.
Budget Overview (40pts)		
Reasonable budget for the work being proposed.	15	The expenses appear reasonable for the proposed work being done. The costs outlined match the work proposed.
Match provided. Higher match values will earn higher points.	10	Match provided by in-kind or cash was provided with details and descriptions. The match was reasonable and relevant to the work being proposed on the project. The match increased the values to Sage grouse.
The budget provided reasonable details on all expenses. Expenses are described sufficiently in detail.	15	The budget narrative provided detailed explanation of expenses, qualities, needs and associated costs. Quotes or bids were included. Specialized work was provided with detailed quotes or description of work to be completed.

Application Award Process:

If the results of all pre-award reviews and clearances are satisfactory, NCDP Program Manager will provide the application proposal to the SCC for consideration and approval at a public meeting. If NCDP Program Manager determines an application proposal is not satisfactory for funding consideration, the

reasons why will be provided to the SCC and to the applicant. Decisions made by the SCC supersede any ranking process and are final.

Award Notices:

A Notice of Award will be provided to the individual designated on the front sheet of the application proposal. The project designee, based on the authority provided by the District Board, and reflected in the minutes of a properly noticed District Board meeting where the authority was delegated, will work with NCDP Program Manager to negotiate an Agreement for the application proposal. This may include changes to the application proposal, budget, monitoring plan, regular reporting dates, or other information as specified by the SCC.

END NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY GUIDELINES

Attachment A
Conservation Districts Program
Competitive Sage grouse Grant – 2026

APPLICATION PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Do not start work on the proposed grant project without prior approval from the Conservation District Program and an executed Agreement.

Instructions: A complete and detailed Application Proposal must be submitted, including the Budget Detail, Attachment B, or an Excel Budget as described in the Budget directions. Please use the electronic version if possible. Those sections that may need greater detail will expand as you type so there is no need to limit your explanations. We encourage the Budget Detail to be as detailed as necessary to explain planned expenditures.

Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Conservation District Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Project Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Project Manager Name and Contact Information:

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Contact Phone Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Other contact information for District as necessary: Click or tap here to enter text.

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

1. Overview of Project:

Overview: Give a short overview of the project and how this proposal will benefit Sage grouse populations with a measurable indicator.

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

Overview and Purpose Description:

Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Scope of Work:

Describe how the project will be conducted. The scope of work must contain enough detail to show the development of the project. Clearly describe the techniques, procedures, and methodologies to be used; the data collection, analysis, the expected project goals and/or outcomes; and the procedures for evaluating project effectiveness, including appropriate performance goals, This should be in correlation with the monitoring section outlined below.

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

Scope of Work Description:
Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Monitoring and Reporting Outline:

The monitoring and reporting should correspond with the proposed timeline in Question 4. Please describe how monitoring will take place throughout the project and how reporting will be completed. The reporting should include measurable indicators and information about how the applicant will evaluate their success.

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

Monitoring and Reporting Outline Description:
Click or tap here to enter text.

4. Description of Application Proposal Timelines:

The application proposal must include a detailed project timeline/schedule. The application proposal timeline must be supported by a narrative description of each of the activities to be undertaken. The schedule should include proposed work, reporting, major tasks, monitoring, and application proposal milestones. The following table may be used to summarize the project schedule.

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

Activity / Milestone / Task	Planned Start Date	Planned Completion Date
Click or tap here to enter text.		
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Click or tap here to enter text.		
Click or tap here to enter text.		

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

Timeline Narrative: This narrative is not mandatory, anything duplicative can be skipped or referenced to the section where it is described.
Click or tap here to enter text.

5. Partners Involved in the Project:

Details about which Partners will be working on this project and what their role will be in the proposed activities. Describe their responsibilities and the amount of time each will dedicate to the project. Note: These are not contractors or those being paid through the project proposal.

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

Partners:
Click or tap here to enter text.

6. Scalability or Flexibility in Project Proposal:

Details about what parts of the proposal are flexible or scalable in funding amount. What work can still be done at a measurable and beneficial level with less funding and what is the threshold for the lowest amount to still do beneficial work. Identify areas of flexibility and estimated or known amounts of funding that can still meet the project goals.

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

Description of Project Scalability or Flexibility:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Attachments Required for a Complete Application

1. Certification of NEPA Readiness and Required Permits/Permissions:

District applicants are responsible for determining if their project requires NEPA clearances and any other State or Federal permitting. If such permitting is required, the applicant must provide proof of project readiness and appropriate planning and clearance documents. Landowner permission and access must also be provided in writing.

2. Maps and Description of Area of Work and Map Showing Sage grouse Priority Habitat:

An adequate map of the application proposal area is required with the application.

- Maps must include the project proposal title, date the map was created, scale bar, and a north arrow. It must also include property ownership and contact information about where the project is taking place (this can be on a companion sheet), have sufficient reference points (highways, county lines, specific creeks and watersheds) and be at a scale that someone not familiar with the area will know where the project is located.
- Map showing Greater Sage grouse or Bi-State Sage grouse habitat categories the project should be located within or connected to the State priority, general or other mapped habitats categories. If you need help with this map please reach out the Melany Aten Maten@dcnr.nv.gov or to your regional NCDP staff person.
- If applicable show connectivity to previous projects or partner projects.

Attachment B
 Conservation Districts Program
 Competitive Sage grouse Grant – 2026

BUDGET DETAIL

Instructions: You can use this worksheet to show details of the estimated costs. If you prefer working in Excel, you can provide an Excel workbook attached to the application but ensure all categories of spending are accounted for in your worksheet. Be sure to provide enough information that costs can be analyzed for reasonableness as compared to costs or work of similar size and scope. You are welcome to insert additional rows as needed. Use the Narrative boxes as necessary to explain each cost category.

Conservation District: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Project Manager Contact Name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

District Treasurer’s Contact Information: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Project Title: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

*Text Boxes will expand as you type into them. If they do not, please feel free to type outside the box.

A) Personnel				
The cost of paying staff who will work on the grant, please include their benefits and insurance in a rate per hour. Include NCDP staff time as match, if applicable. Include volunteer time as match at \$30.86/ hour if applicable.				
Name or Position Title	Hours	Pay per Hour	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
A) PERSONNEL COST TOTAL:			\$	\$
Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.				

B) Travel				
The cost of travel to and from the site, on the site, and for project-specific activities. Travel rate is at \$0.725/mile (1/1/2026).				
Description	Miles	Per diem rate	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
B) TRAVEL COST TOTAL:			\$	\$
Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.				

C) Supplies				
The cost of materials and supplies used directly on this project, such as seed, plugs, fuel, rock material, fencing, office supplies, etc. Explain the details and purpose in the Narrative box below.				
Item	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
C) SUPPLIES COST TOTAL:			\$	\$
Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.				

D) Equipment				
The cost of equipment purchased/rented or matching rate for equipment used. Please include name or description of equipment. ***No significant equipment can be purchased with SCC Grant funds according to the Nevada Administrative Code.				
Equipment Name or Description	Miles or Hours	Cost per mile or day	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
Click or tap here to enter text.				
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Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
Click or tap here to enter text.				
D) EQUIPMENT COST TOTAL:			\$	\$
Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.				

E) Contractual			
The cost of contracted services. Provide contractor information. Provide quotes for work if a contractor or professional is being retained or hired for the project or a portion of the project. Explain the details and purpose of the costs in the Narrative box..			
Contractor Name, Type, etc.	Cost	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
Click or tap here to enter text.			
Click or tap here to enter text.			
Click or tap here to enter text.			
Click or tap here to enter text.			
E) CONTRACTUAL COST TOTAL:		\$	\$
Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.			

F) Indirect Costs		
Costs that cannot be readily identified and charged to a particular project, such as building rent, utilities, miscellaneous office supplies for meetings, etc. Indirect Cost Rate cannot exceed 15% of DIRECT cost total. Use the Narrative box below to explain how you calculated your indirect costs. NOTE: (this cannot exceed 15% of the total per regulation)		
Rate to be used on this Grant (%):	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Indirect Costs	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
Click or tap here to enter text.		
Click or tap here to enter text.		
F) TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS:	\$	\$
Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.		

TOTAL BUDGET FOR PROPOSAL

TOTALS The sum of Direct, Match and Indirect Costs applicable to this agreement.		
Total Project Costs	Matching Funds (if applicable)	SCC Grant Funds
TOTAL COSTS:	\$	\$
A. Personnel		
B. Travel		
C. Supplies		
D. Equipment		
E. Contractual		
F. Other		
G. INDIRECT Total		
TOTAL all lines above	\$	\$
Narrative only necessary is applicant needs to explain expenses or add clarity.		

SIGANTURE PAGE

Signature of Designated Conservation District Supervisor

Name & Title of Person Submitting the Application Proposal and Budget

Date

Date of Conservation District Board's meeting minutes where approval of the application is reflected (Please attach a copy of these minutes, even if still in draft.)
