

Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2025 Application Package | Memo



To: Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair, Build Kansas Advisory Committee
Chardae Caine, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shauna Wake, Office of the Kansas State Treasurer

From: Jason Fizell, Interim Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2025-093-GP

Date: June 17, 2025

Attached, please find an application made to the Build Kansas Fund by the Ducks Unlimited, Inc. The application packet includes the following items:

- Coversheet – provides a high-level overview of the application including a unique identification number, page 1 of 13 of the Build Kansas Fund Application Package.
- Build Kansas Fund Application – includes information submitted with the Build Kansas Fund Application, pages 2-8. Page 8 provides the table of funding sources and zip codes served by the project.
- Attachments – executive summary and project map images, pages 9-13.

Project Overview

The Ducks Unlimited, Inc. seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Interior for funding available through the WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects program for their Tamarisk Removal and Riverine Wetland Restoration project which includes removing invasive tamarisk and Russian olive trees to restore riparian habitats, improving water availability, and enhancing wildlife and grazing lands along the Arkansas River.

This opportunity is a discretionary BIL program with a local match requirement of 25% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$793,633.33 from the Build Kansas Fund, and is providing a local match of \$39,700.00. This request has the potential to unlock \$2,500,000.00 in federal funds, for a total project cost of \$3,333,333.33.

The deadline is to be determined and this Build Kansas Fund application was received on February 12, 2025.

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on May 28, 2025 following a successful completeness check. The Steering Committee **RECOMMENDS APPROVAL** of Build Kansas Funding to the Build Kansas Advisory Committee for final advice.

Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2025

Application Package | Coversheet



Build Kansas Fund Application Number	2025-093-GP
Applicant Name	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Application Date Received	2/12/2025
Project Name	Tamarisk Removal and Riverine Wetland Restoration along the Arkansas River Channel from John Reservoir, Colorado to Wichita, Kansas
Project Description	Remove invasive tamarisk and Russian olive trees to restore riparian habitats, improve water availability, and enhance wildlife and grazing lands along the Arkansas River.
Entity Type	Non-Profit
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	Great Plains Development, Inc.
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Water
BIL Program	WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
Application Type	Implementation
BIL Application Deadline	Paused - TBD
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$793,633.33
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	BIL Application Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Build Kansas Fund Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (Brief Description): Provided general and BKF Application support.
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$793,633.33 will unlock \$2,500,000.00 in federal BIL funding, and In-Kind match contributions of \$39,700.00 for a total project cost of \$3,333,333.33.
Steering Committee Funding Recommendation	5/28/2025 Recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>
Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation	6/17/2025 Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>

Title	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	02/12/2025
	by Aaron Deters in Build Kansas Fund Application	id. 49644309
	adeters@ducks.org	

Original Submission	02/27/2025
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Score	n/a
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Part 1: Applicant Information

The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
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Project Name:	Tamarisk Removal and Riverine Wetland Restoration along the Arkansas River Channel from John Martin Reservoir, Colorado to Wichita, Kansas
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Entity type:	Non-Profit
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Applicant Contact Name:	Aaron Deters
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Applicant Contact Position/Title:	Community Engagement Coordinator
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Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+17859910609
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Applicant Contact Email Address:	adeters@ducks.org
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Applicant Contact Address:	11714 222nd Rd
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Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	
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Applicant Contact City:	Holton
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Applicant Contact State:	Kansas
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Applicant Contact Zip Code:	66436
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Is the Project
Contact the same as
the Applicant
Contact?

Yes

Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

Certify that you are
pursuing a Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law
(BIL) funding
opportunity for which
your entity is eligible:

Yes

Certify that the
Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law
(BIL) funding
opportunity you are
pursuing has a
required non-federal
match component:

Yes

What is the primary
county that the
project will occur in?

Hamilton County

The Build Kansas Fund is intended to support Kansas-based infrastructure projects. Please provide a list of all the zip codes this project will be located in, along with an estimated percent [%] of the project located in that zip code. For example, if seeking funding for road infrastructure, provide a rough percent of the roads expected in each zip code:

[Zip Code Percentage.xlsx](#)

Part 3: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - Grant Application Information
Please Note: This information is related to the federal Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity to which you will apply. This is
NOT information for the Build Kansas Match Fund.

Please enter the
Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law
(BIL) funding
opportunity title that
the entity is applying
for:

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

What is the funding
agency for this
Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law
(BIL) funding
opportunity?

U.S. Department of Interior

What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity?	15.507
What is the federal application due date for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity?	3/11/2025
Application Type:	Implementation
What is the federal fiscal year for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity?	2025
Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity:	\$2,500,000.00 for a total project cost of \$3,333,333.33
Enter the total project cost:	\$3,333,333.33
Enter the required non-federal match percentage:	25%
<p>Part 4: Build Kansas Fund - Match Application Information Beginning in July 2024 and moving forward, eligible applicants are expected to contribute a portion of the non-Federal match requirement. This contribution can be in the form of cash and/or in-kind contributions. The goal is to demonstrate the applicant's commitment to the project. The contribution should be significant enough relative to the Build Kansas Fund request. For a local public entity, 5% of the non-federal match is a good guideline, but not a requirement. See Build Kansas Fund Program Guidance for exceptions and more information.</p>	

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$793,633.33 for a total project cost of \$3,333,333.33

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: 00

Enter the estimated value of the non-federal in-kind match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: \$39,700.00 for a total project cost of \$3,333,333.33

Expected breakdown of funding sources to support the project: Enter the funding source and projected amount from each source to support this project:

[Kansas+DOT+table_V2.xlsx](#)

Part 5: Build Kansas Fund - Means Test and Eligible Applicant Match

What other available funding sources that are currently planned to go unused by your entity will be leveraged for this project? N/A

Will any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies will be used for the non-federal match? N/A

What other sources of in-kind match will be leveraged for this project? Please list and include the actual or estimated value of each. See personnel section under Table 2 budget.

What other funding sources (local, federal, or non-federal) will be used for this match?

N/A

Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project:

We have not identified other funding sources in this application because the proposed work is designed to be directly complementary to our existing initiatives that are already heavily supported by partners across the region. This synergistic approach allows us to maximize the impact of both the currently funded projects and the work proposed here, avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring a streamlined, efficient use of resources.

Part 6: Additional Information

Please upload a draft or final version of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) program grant application associated with this request OR an executive summary providing an overview of the project:

[BKF_Project_Zip_Codes.xlsx](#)

[BKF_Executive_Summary_for_BIL.pdf](#)

Provide any additional information about this project not covered in previous sections of this application (optional):

N/A

Part 7: Terms and Conditions

Understanding of Fund Release Requirements:

checked

Understanding of Use of Funds:

checked

Understanding of Reporting Requirements:

checked

Authority to Make Grant Application:

checked

Persons and Titles:
The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.

Aaron
Deters

Position/Title:

Community Engagement Coordinator, Ducks Unlimited, Inc

Additional:	Trevor Ahring
Position/Title:	Civil Engineer, Groundwater Management District #3
Additional:	Libby Albers
Position/Title:	Executive Director, KS Alliance for Wetlands and Streams
Additional:	Matt Hough
Position/Title:	Manager of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited

Source	Amount	% of project
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$793,633.33	23.8%
Eligible Applicant Cash Match	-	
Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value)	\$39,700.00	1.2%
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$2,500,000.00	75%
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)	-	
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 3,333,333.33	100.00%

Kansas Zip Code	% of Project	Kansas Zip Code	% of Project
67016	1.66%	67526	1.66%
67020	1.66%	67529	1.66%
67030	1.66%	67530	1.66%
67054	1.66%	67543	1.66%
67101	1.66%	67545	1.66%
67108	1.66%	67547	1.66%
67135	1.66%	67550	1.66%
67147	1.66%	67552	1.66%
67202	1.66%	67561	1.66%
67203	1.66%	67563	1.66%
67204	1.66%	67567	1.66%
67205	1.66%	67573	1.66%
67208	1.66%	67576	1.66%
67209	1.66%	67579	1.66%
67210	1.66%	67801	1.66%
67211	1.66%	67834	1.66%
67212	1.66%	67835	1.66%
67213	1.66%	67836	1.66%
67214	1.66%	67838	1.66%
67215	1.66%	67841	1.66%
67216	1.66%	67842	1.66%
67217	1.66%	67846	1.66%
67218	1.66%	67851	1.66%
67219	1.66%	67853	1.66%
67221	1.66%	67857	1.66%
67501	1.66%	67860	1.66%
67502	1.66%	67868	1.66%
67505	1.66%	67876	1.66%
67512	1.66%	67878	1.66%
67524	1.66%	67882	1.66%
Total Project in Kansas			100.00%

Tamarisk Removal and Riverine Wetland Restoration along the Arkansas River Channel from John Martin Reservoir, Colorado to Wichita, Kansas

Submitted by: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

In partnership with: Bureau of Reclamation - WaterSmart Grant “Environmental Water Resources Projects”
Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3
Upper Arkansas River Watershed Group

Lead Contact: Aaron Deters, Regional Biologist, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Email: adeters@ducks.org; Cell: 785-991-0609

Scope of Work

Background

Tamarisk is an evergreen shrub/tree native to Eurasia and Africa that was originally brought to Kansas for windbreaks, erosion control, ornamentals, and wildlife plantings. It has since naturalized and become a significant invasive species in riparian habitats in the Southwestern United States, including the Arkansas River basin in Kansas. It is deep-rooted, has debris with high salt content, and is dry and flammable while being very fire-resistant. These characteristics have allowed the species to out-compete most native riparian species in arid climates. This project will remove about 1,432 acres of medium-to-thick density tamarisk along the Arkansas River in Kansas. Areas where tamarisk is removed will be reseeded with native vegetation to restore wetland habitat for migratory birds. This will reduce annual water use by riparian vegetation by an estimated 773 acre-ft (AF) per year based on an evapotranspiration (ET) reduction of 0.54 AF/acre of ground with >60% tamarisk canopy cover (Tamarisk Coalition, 2009). This is over 225 Olympic swimming pools of water savings per year or enough water for over 2,000 households domestic water use per year. This will improve wildlife habitat throughout the channel and increase the amount of water available for use by surface water users located downstream of any work. This work also increases forage availability to the ranchers that are dependent on these private lands by increasing native grass availability by removing these trees. A local dairy has been contracted to remove the trees who converts them to wood chips for cattle bedding, and this waste is later recycled for cropland fertilizer. Tamarisk and Russian Olive trees are identified in the Kansas Water Plan as invasive species of greatest concern, and this project will work toward removing those species.

Project Map



Project Activities

The river infrastructure restoration activities include the targeted removal of tamarisk, Russian olive, and other invasive trees that are encroaching along the Arkansas River and its tributaries. Removal involves the use of mechanical and chemical control measures for invasive trees, and other restoration techniques such as burning and grazing management associated with wetlands and uplands. Each project location receives comprehensive land management plans and technical assistance. Management plans include prescribed grazing, mechanical and chemical invasive plant control, and prescribed burning. Local contractors will be hired to perform mechanical and chemical invasive plant control. An estimate of \$1,342/acre is being used for this project. This is the NRCS standard payment of \$1,042/acre for brush removal plus an additional \$300/acre for native vegetation seeding.

River infrastructure restoration will also restore natural river wetlands along the Arkansas River through shallow excavations of river scars. These sloughs will provide ideal wildlife habitat conditions by exposing water that will provide seasonal wetland habitat. In addition, these sloughs will increase habitat connectivity across the river corridor as well as increase river complexity and increasing flood storage capacity. These wetlands will also increase groundwater recharge to the river alluvium and improve water quality. This work will restore approximately 60,011 linear feet of slough habitats or 11.4 miles of slough based on an average width of 30 ft for a cost of \$16.66 per linear foot.



Figure 1. A heavily invaded Tamarisk stand along the Arkansas River in Hamilton County.



Figure 2. A site immediately following the removal of Tamarisk and re-seeding.



Figure 3. Tamarisk removal site following grassland re-establishment.

Project Timeline

This project is an extension of work currently being conducted by Ducks Unlimited (DU) along the Arkansas River channel, so there is not expected to be a rollout period where less work is done, and project work is expected to be finished to roughly equal extents each year. The project timeline is detailed below:

- October 2025: Project initiation
- September 2026: Removal of invasive species from 286 wetland acres with heavy tree infestation.
- September 2027: Removal of invasive species from cumulative 573 wetland acres with heavy tree infestation.
- September 2028: Removal of invasive species from cumulative 859 wetland acres with heavy tree infestation. Complete wetland restoration work on 20,003 linear ft.
- September 2029: Removal of invasive species from cumulative 1,146 wetland acres with heavy tree infestation. Complete wetland restoration on cumulative 40,007 linear ft.
- September 2030: Removal of invasive species from cumulative 1,432 wetland acres with heavy tree infestation. Complete wetland restoration on cumulative 60,011 linear ft.

Project Budget and Narrative

See Table 1 for a breakdown of Federal funding being sought and non-Federal matching sources. See Table 2 for a detailed project budget. Please note that the budget detailed below only pertains to the portion of the project located in Kansas.

Table 1. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

Funding Sources	Amount
Non-Federal Entities	
1. Build Kansas Fund	\$793,633.33
2. Ducks Unlimited	\$24,870.00
3. Upper Arkansas River Watershed Group	\$6,030.00
4. Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management Dist. 3	\$8,800.00
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$833,333.33
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$2,500,000.00

Table 2. Detailed project budget

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	Recipient Funding	Reclamation Funding	Build Kansas Funding	Total Cost
In-Kind Contribution	\$39,700			\$39,700
Invasive Species Removal and Reseeding		\$1,399,945.95	\$522,000.72	\$1,921,946.67
River Wetland Restoration		\$728,367.39	\$271,632.61	\$1,000,000
Administrative Costs		\$371,686.66		\$371,686.66
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$39,700	\$2,500,000	\$793,633.33	\$3,333,333.33