

OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number: 010-116

Recipient: North Dakota Petroleum Council

Award Amount: 108,125.00

Total Project Costs: \$228,825.31

Total OHF Funds Received: \$102,681.75



Goal of Project:

The goal of the Planting for the Future Program was to plant 55,000 trees on private land over three years.

Work Accomplished:

The North Dakota Petroleum Council met and surpassed that goal, planting more than 84,000 trees in just two years, which included 54,000 in the spring of 2018 and 30,000 in the spring of 2019.

Project Results:

Despite challenging and unpredictable weather, projects fared well. Despite dry conditions in 2018, the program saw an overall survival rate of 61 percent, which includes replants. The NRCS considers any habitat project that is at or above 50 percent to be a success.

Twenty-nineteen was a better year for planting, though 2020 was moderately dry and 2021 saw even worse drought conditions. Despite this, starting out with solid moisture allowed 2019 projects to succeed with an overall program survival rate of 65.4% (not including replants, which would not be monitored until next year).

Value to North Dakota:

Trees and forests are an important resource, providing watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and protection for crops, soil and livestock. Currently about 800,000 acres – or 1.8% – of North Dakota's total land area is forested, but annual mortality is on the rise. Inclement weather, flooding, invasive species and insects, and overmaturity of trees have impacted and continue to threaten existing forests. About 70% of North Dakota's forest land is privately owned, which emphasizes the importance of private landowners in the management of North Dakota's forest resources. This program has helped identify landowners who are willing to plant trees to help replace those that are dying or decayed and improve wildlife habitat.