

OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number 011-128

Recipient North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Award Amount \$2,170,000

Total Project Costs \$3,845,000

Total OHF Funds Received \$2,092,935.33



Goals of Project:

The Bakken Development and Working Lands Program (BDWLP) grant promoted grass seeding, livestock grazing improvements, energy site reclamation, urban nature/interpretive site developments and improvements, and cover crops to improve soil health. The grant brought together the partnership of North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (Trust), Dunn County Soil Conservation District, Badlands Advisory Group (BAG), Dunn County Commission, ND Game and Fish Department, ND Petroleum Council, ND Department of Mineral Resources, US Forest Service, McKenzie County Grazing Association, ND Wildlife Federation, NP Resources LLC, City of Watford City, Pheasants Forever, Vision West ND, and landowners with the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) to provide the financial assistance for land improvements, grazing systems, community development, and reclamation. The development cost-share for fence was 60% of total fence rate per foot and water developments at 60% of documented costs. Landowners provided the remaining 40% cost-share. The Trust provided a cash match in the form of a one-time incentive for newly planted native grassland acres.

Work Accomplished:

The Trust coordinated the delivery of this grant through the grant submitting partners, but mostly through western Soil Conservation Districts. The first BDWLP landowner agreement was signed on April 18, 2019. A total of 64 landowner agreements were signed for the BDWLP grant for a total of 32,513 acres of improved grassland management including grazing system infrastructure (water pipeline, water tanks, cross fence), grass seedings, and cover crops. The below table shows the breakdown of counties, agreements, and acres impacted in western North Dakota.

County	Agreements	Acres	County	Agreements	Acres
Adams	3	406	McKenzie	10	7,612
Bottineau	3	682	McLean	3	1,290
Bowman	1	1,354	Mercer	12	2,732
Divide	2	1,390	Mountrail	1	320
Dunn	8	1,597	Slope	4	492
Golden Valley	6	10,444	Stark	3	556
Hettinger	1	160	Ward	3	1,634
McHenry	4	1,364	Williams	1	480

The Trust also developed relationships and delivery programs with the US Forest Service and ND Department of Mineral Resources as part of the BDWLP grant. OHF provided cost share with the Forest Service to deliver grazing lands improvements on the Little Missouri National Grasslands in partnership with Grazing Associations. The partnership established new grasslands, reclaimed oil and gas well sites, removed juniper from grazing lands, and implemented grazing infrastructure improvements (water

pipeline, water tanks, cross fence). As stated in their final report, "Over the four years of work the Bakken Working Lands Grant has accomplished work on 61 projects for total costs of \$1,639,019 utilizing \$482,500 OHF funds and \$1,116,519 in matching funds (cash and in-kind). These projects complete all of the work in the grant." For the full US Forest Service report see Attachment 1.

After securing funding from OHF and the ND Department of Mineral Resources, the Trust contracted with Terracon to complete reclamation of abandoned oil and gas sites and pipelines, as well as roads to those locations. The majority of funds were spent to enhance lands and grazing opportunities on the US Fish and Wildlife Services' Beaver Lake Waterfowl Production Area. This was a complex cleanup effort that removed contaminated soil and materials to replant with native vegetation. Unusable to ranchers prior to this effort, the entire complex will now be managed to utilize rotational cattle grazing for grassland rejuvenation. For the full Terracon report on the BDWLP program see Attachment 2.

To further enhance the BDWLP program, the Trust partnered with the cities of Watford City and Dunn Center to develop recreational areas for the citizens and visitors to those areas. This effort was included to enhance the Governor's Main Street Initiative and each project has been fully completed as proposed.

Project Results:

The total project costs were \$4,420,026.85. The OHF grant provided a total of \$2,092,935.33 in grant funds, while the Trust and our partners contributed \$2,320,093.48 in cost-share and in-kind match for grazing systems on private and Forest Service Lands, community developments, reclamation, and grass seedings. This amount of cost share far exceeded our original match estimate of \$1,692,700.00. All landowners were made aware of the public access availability of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program, with two landowners committing to participating in the program.

Value to North Dakota:

The BDWLP program addressed OHF Major Directive B by improving, maintaining, and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, and animal systems, and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching. BDWLP also addressed Directive's A, C, and D bringing every directive together into one project.

Instructions

Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>) to your computer and provide the information as requested. You are not limited to the spacing provided. After completing the report, save it and attach it to an e-mail and send it to outdoorheritage@nd.gov AND print it and mail it to: North Dakota Industrial Commission, ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program, State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405, Bismarck, ND 58505. If you are unable to scan attachments, mail them with your paper copy of the report. You will be sent a confirmation by e-mail of receipt of your report and attachments. The project reports shall be provided to the Commission in both electronic and hard-copy formats with permission for unrestricted distribution. The electronic versions shall be in a suitable format for posting on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Commission website.

Outdoor Heritage Fund Status and Final Report Form/Guidelines

This report is used to show progress of grant projects funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Status Reports and the Final Report must be submitted as required in Contract.

Contract Number 011-128	Report Date 10/01/2023	Period Covered by Report (12-01-22 to 10/01/23)
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Project Name
Bakken Development and Working Lands Program

Project Sponsor Name
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Beckers, Jesse M	Responsible Official's Title Energy Program Manager
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Project Sponsor Address
1605 E Capitol Ave, Suite 101

City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58501	Telephone Number 701-223-8501
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Financial Update

Please provide the following information regarding the funding for your project based on the contract award:

	Funds Spent THIS Reporting Period*	Total Funds Spent to Date	Balance of Remaining Funds
Match Funding	\$24,896.95	\$1,437,420.31	-\$659,420.31
In-kind Funding	\$144,311.01	\$713,465.21	\$56,923.78
OHF Funding	\$205,694.87	\$2,092,935.33	\$77,064.67
Total	\$374,902.83	\$4,243,820.85	(\$525,431.86)

Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension? /_/_ Yes No

If yes, please explain:

*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.

Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:
 (This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

Best Management Practices

For this reporting period we will highlight the progress of work completed on the Little Missouri National Grasslands, Energy Sites, and on the Watford City Urban and Nature Interpretive Sites. There are currently 64 signed contracts for practices that are completed or being implemented at this time, with one grazing agreement being reimbursed during this reporting period. All contracts have been signed and all remaining dollars for land improvements have been committed. Therefore, no further contracts are being accepted as part of BDWLP. We are requesting \$205,694.87 in reimbursement for grazing systems and the urban area project. Completed grazing contracts for this reporting period total 235 acres of private lands with increased the efficiency of their grazing systems and improved grassland health through fencing and water developments. This contract includes 2,382 feet of four-wire cross fence, 2,650 feet of water pipeline, and two water tanks.



The US Forest Service and grazing association partners, NRCS, and National Wild Turkey Federation completed their proposed work under the terms of the BDWLP. Over the four years of work the Bakken Working Lands Grant has accomplished work on 61 projects for total costs of \$1,639,019 utilizing \$482,500 OHF funds and \$1,116,519 in matching funds (cash and in-kind).

Figure 1: Completed pipeline for the McKenzie County Grazing Association

Energy Site Reclamation

Beaver Lake Waterfowl Production Area is located in Burke County, approximately 4 miles SW of Lignite, ND. In partnership with the ND Department of Mineral Resources and Terracon, site study and restoration are



being completed. The Trust and Terracon completed a pollinator seeding around the public parking area and final site evaluations of reclaimed sites were completed. The area has already been utilized for hunting, birding, and kayaking. We are requesting \$0.00 in reimbursement from OHF for work completed by Terracon, and the final reimbursement from DMR was received totaling \$94,128.92.



Beaver Lake Waterfowl Production Area

An Outdoor Heritage Fund Project In Partnership With:

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
 North Dakota Oil & Gas Division
 United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 Pheasants Forever
 Ducks Unlimited

Coordinated By: Terracon Consultants, Inc.
 Constructed By: BAHA Petroleum Services



Figure 2: Completed parking lot and pollinator plot on Beaver Lake WPA.

*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.

Urban Nature/Interpretive Sites

Attached (Attachment 1) to this submission is a report completed by Watford City on the completed project for their urban/nature interpretive site.

Summary

Thanks to the OHF Advisory Board and our partners, the Bakken Development and Working Lands Program continues to have a tremendous impact on the landscape and communities in western North Dakota. The dollars spent and committed this reporting period continue to show the impact the BDWLP is having on providing access to new areas of the western prairie and providing outreach and opportunities to communities within the Bakken.

Photos of work completed are welcome (If appropriate, please submit photos of key elements of the project completed or in progress during reporting period) Do not exceed five photos per project report.

This report was prepared pursuant to an agreement with the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, which partially funded the project through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Project participants, its subcontractors, and the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, or any person acting on its behalf, do not:

- (A) Make any warranty or representation, express or implied, with respect to the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained in this report, or that the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this report may not infringe privately-owned rights; or*
- (B) Assume any liabilities with respect to the use of, or for damages resulting from the use of, any information, apparatus, method or process disclosed in this report.*

Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Industrial Commission of North Dakota.

Signature of Responsible Official





Watford City, North Dakota FINAL report to the NRT – OHF
Long X Visitor Center Trailhead and connection to the McKenzie County Heritage Park
Completed fall of 2023

[WATCH HERE - LONG X Visitor Center Renovation & Trailhead project](#)

The Long X Visitor Center was constructed by the community in 2003. From 2003 – 2023 it served as:

1. Pioneer Museum
2. Long X Bottle Shop – community owned non-profit off sale retail liquor store
3. Long X Visitor Center

Upon completion of the newly constructed, climate-controlled McKenzie County Heritage Park Museum and North Dakota Oil Museum at the Heritage Park, .75 miles west of the Long X Visitor Center, there was a need for a non-motorized trail to connect the two facilities. There was also a need to establish the trailhead and its brand (historic Reynold’s Cattle Company Long X brand) at the Visitor Center, on the historic northern OLD WEST CATTLE TRAIL. This grant provided Watford City the funding to accomplish both of those community priorities.

We hope in the future to apply for another round of grant funding to:

1. beautify and install user comforts such as trees, shade, picnic tables to this existing .75 mile trail and
2. provide between 2 and 3 miles of connectivity that will be needed as future county, state, and federal highway projects are completed to provide non-motorized access from this trailhead at the Long X Visitor Center to the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the CCC Camp Ground.

Thank you for supporting our community in this project. The Natural Resources Trust Fund and their staff were wonderful to work with. We hope you will get a chance to visit our community and enjoy this project first hand. It will be a featured project at the 2024 Governor’s Main Street Summit in Watford City August 27-29.

[REGISTER HERE - https://www.nd.gov/living-nd/main-street-nd/take-action/main-street-summit](https://www.nd.gov/living-nd/main-street-nd/take-action/main-street-summit)



Highlighted above - non-motorized trail connecting McKenzie Co Heritage Park on the left (west) to Long X Visitor Center on right (east).

Attachment 1



The east end of the .75 mile trail that connects the Long X Visitor Center to the McKenzie County Heritage Park



Long X Visitor Center from point of trailhead on both sides of Main Street with LONG X branded gateway sign and looking north at the trailhead with native prairie landscaping highlighting species of grasses and wildflowers

Attachment 1



Attachment 1



On the east side of Main Street, the WC brand on our gateway sign. The gateway signs were designed and built by a local business and project partner in town, Jones Contractors. The trailhead gateway signs lean into and represent our core industries of agriculture (with the branding) and energy with the construction utilizing industrial construction materials and welding craftsmanship.

The following images are of the cover deck signage at the trailhead that create a self-guided experience explaining our history, heritage, and our beautiful and bountiful natural resources.



From the Land... THE ETERNAL AGRARIAN

Our Roots in Agriculture

Over 100 million acres of land in McKean County, TN are used for the U.S. government and support for the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. government and its departments and agencies, McKean County supports over 100,000 jobs and 100,000 acres of land. McKean County is a major source of food and fiber for the U.S. and the world. McKean County is a major source of food and fiber for the U.S. and the world. McKean County is a major source of food and fiber for the U.S. and the world.

McKean County's Agriculture at a glance...

- 1st in North Dakota in soybean production
- 1st in North Dakota in corn production
- 1st in North Dakota in wheat production
- 1st in North Dakota in cotton production
- 1st in North Dakota in sorghum production
- 1st in North Dakota in alfalfa production
- 1st in North Dakota in hay production
- 1st in North Dakota in tobacco production
- 1st in North Dakota in livestock production
- 1st in North Dakota in poultry production
- 1st in North Dakota in aquaculture production
- 1st in North Dakota in horticulture production
- 1st in North Dakota in forestry production
- 1st in North Dakota in mining production
- 1st in North Dakota in energy production
- 1st in North Dakota in manufacturing production
- 1st in North Dakota in construction production
- 1st in North Dakota in transportation production
- 1st in North Dakota in information production
- 1st in North Dakota in arts and recreation production
- 1st in North Dakota in health care production
- 1st in North Dakota in education production
- 1st in North Dakota in social services production
- 1st in North Dakota in public administration production
- 1st in North Dakota in defense production
- 1st in North Dakota in aerospace production
- 1st in North Dakota in nuclear production
- 1st in North Dakota in space production
- 1st in North Dakota in defense production
- 1st in North Dakota in aerospace production
- 1st in North Dakota in nuclear production
- 1st in North Dakota in space production

From the Shale... THE INNOVATORS & RISK TAKERS

The Rise to U.S. Energy Independence

McKean County has been a leading force in the shale gas revolution. The first shale gas well in McKean County was drilled in 2005. McKean County has been a leading force in the shale gas revolution. The first shale gas well in McKean County was drilled in 2005. McKean County has been a leading force in the shale gas revolution. The first shale gas well in McKean County was drilled in 2005.

Our Contribution Toward the Rise of U.S. Energy Independence:

- In 2009 McKean County led the shale gas revolution with 17.8 million barrels of production.
- From 2009 to present, McKean County has led the shale gas revolution with 17.8 million barrels of production.
- In 2011, the energy industry in McKean County reported nearly 2000 jobs in the shale gas industry.
- In 2012, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2013, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2014, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2015, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2016, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2017, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2018, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2019, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2020, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2021, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.
- In 2022, North Dakota reported a record high of 1.1 million barrels of production.

Celebrating our National Grasslands, Prairies & Wildflowers

This illustration depicts a lush prairie landscape under a bright sky with a rainbow. The foreground is filled with a variety of colorful wildflowers in shades of purple, yellow, and red. The middle ground shows rolling green hills and a small white building with a red roof. The background features a clear blue sky with soft clouds.

Celebrating Our Native Grasses

This illustration shows a variety of native grasses and plants. On the left, there are tall, thin stalks of grass. In the center, there are dense clumps of grass with different textures and colors, including green, brown, and purple. On the right, there are more tall stalks of grass. The background is a soft, hazy landscape.