

OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number 014-154

Recipient North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Award Amount \$1,225,000.00

Total Project Costs \$2,282,649.89

Total OHF Funds Received \$1,225,000.00

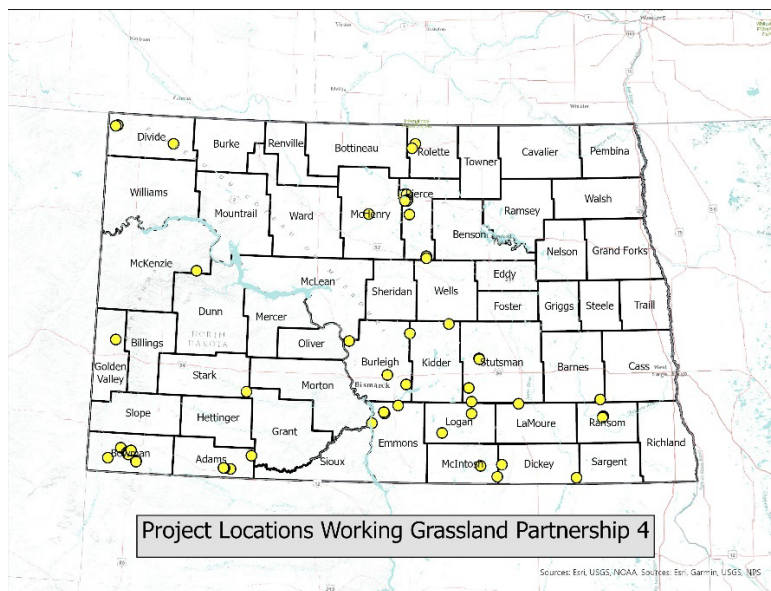


Goals of Project:

The Working Grassland Partnership 4 (WGP4) grant provided assistance to landowner with grazing developments on existing Conservation Reserve Program acres and on expiring Conservation Reserve Program acres. This assistance was provided in the form of cost-share for water and fencing developments across all of North Dakota. The partnership of North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (Trust), ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Ducks Unlimited, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife and landowners with Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) provided technical and financial assistance for grassland improvements. The grant provided cost-share for fence at 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 payment in the form of a one-time incentive of \$50 per acre for the expired CRP acres.

Work Accomplished:

The Trust coordinated the delivery of this grant through the grant submitting partners. The North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) and Trust started the grant in July 2019. Landowners were soon informed about the availability of the program. The first WGP4 landowner agreement was signed on October 30, 2019. A total of 41 landowner agreements were signed for a total of 21,264 acres. The breakout by ND counties, number of agreements and acres are as follows: Adams-2 (960), Barnes-1 (160 acres), Bowman-5 (6,096 acres), Burleigh-4 (1,399 acres), Dickey-2 (600 acres), Divide-2 (685 acres), Emmons-4 (4,686 acres), Golden Valley-1 (640 acres), Grant-1 (160 acres), Kidder-1 (720 acres), LaMoure-1 (240 acres), Logan-2 (423 acres), McHenry-1 (480 acres), McIntosh-2 (390 acres), McKenzie-1 (520 acres), Pierce-3 (1,040 acres), Ransom-1 (269 acres), Rolette-3 (542 acres), Stark-1 (400 acres), and Stutsman-3 (854 acres).



Project Results:

The total project costs were \$2,282,649.89. The OHF grant provided a total of \$1,225,00.00 in grant funds. OHF provided \$1,200,000.00 in cost-share developments for grazing systems, \$15,000 in contracted services, and \$10,000 in staffing. The grazing system cost-share was matched with 40% landowner portion. WGP4 exceeded all aspects of the grant, in addition, the Trust funded \$15,183.32 in grazing systems funds and \$18,320 in contracted services. Above the required amount. Trust additionally provided \$148,519 in lease payment to assist in the transition of expiring CRP acres. Provided match was \$8,519 above the required amount. The Trust and Partners provided staffing totaling \$55,237.97 of in-kind match to the grant.

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. There were ten WGP4 agreements totaling 3,044 acres that are enrolled in the PLOTS program.

Value to North Dakota:

The Working Grassland Partnership 4 grant was well received by landowners in North Dakota. The partnership created through the WGP4 grant enhanced agricultural operations in a working lands concept and helped support healthy wildlife communities. WGP4 meets the objectives of the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

The WGP4 program addressed OHF 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. WGP4 also addressed Directive C by supporting agricultural stewardship and improving water quality. The WGP4 program encouraged grazing management on all the agreement acres making it a working concept that was beneficial to livestock producing operations.