

OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number: 009-109

Recipient: North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Award Amount: \$67,500

Total Project Costs: \$165,961.61

Total OHF Funds Received: \$67,500



Goal of Project:

To partner with landowners interested in seeding cropland to grassland by providing cost-share assistance. The program targeted lower productive cropland acres that will enhance wildlife species in North Dakota. The Grassland Restoration grant offered up to \$60 per acre of Outdoor Heritage Funds and up to \$15 per acre of ND Natural Resources Trust funds for the grass seed costs. The landowner provided \$45 per acre for seedbed preparation, establishment and grassland management.

Work Accomplished:

The Grassland Restoration grant worked with 18 different landowners in 14 different counties. The grass seeding work was completed in two years. The grass was seeded in spring of 2018 and 2019. The grant proposal estimated the total time frame for grant completion at 3 to 5 years. The grant had a goal of restoring 1,125 acres of grassland and 1,642.46 acres were restored.

Project Results:

The total project of \$165,961.61 helped restore grassland on 1,642.46 acres. The Outdoor Heritage Fund provided \$67,500 in grass seed costs, ND Natural Resources Trust provided \$19,354.42 in grass seed costs, landowner provided \$73,910.70 in seeding preparation, establishment and management costs, and ND Natural Resources Trust provided \$5,196.49 in-kind costs for grant delivery.

All landowners were informed about public access through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program. The Grassland Restoration grant had 5 landowners enroll 391.70 acres into the PLOTS program.

Value to North Dakota:

The Grassland Restoration grant helped establish grassland habitat in North Dakota. This was completed through a partnership effort with landowners, federal, state, and non-governmental organizations. The 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan prioritized conservation action of restoring grassland habitat as the number one action item to assist wildlife species that are grassland dependent. The combination of providing wildlife habitat and enhancing agricultural operations in a working lands concept is beneficial to North Dakota.