

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.

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	Report Date	Period Covered by Report (xx/xx/xx to xx/xx/xx)	
001-004	December 21, 2017	04/19/2015 to 01/01/2018	
Project Name Enhancing Grazing Lands & Wildlife Habitat (Phase 1)			
Project Sponsor Name Ducks Unlimited, Inc.			
Responsible Official (Last, First Middle)		Responsible Official's Title	
Davis, Jonas		Manager Conservation Programs – ND	
Project Sponsor Address 2525 River Road			
City	State	Zip Code	Telephone Number
Bismarck	ND	58503	701-355-3593
<u>Financial Update</u>			
Please provide the following information regarding the funding for your project based on the contract award:			
<u>Funds Spent this Reporting Period</u>			
(As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases)			
Match Funding \$			69,542.11
In-kind Funding \$			0.00
OHF Funding Requested for Reimbursement \$			287,750.52
Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$			357,292.63
<u>Total Funds Spent to Date</u>			
Match Funding \$			2,357,569.10
In-kind Funding \$			0.00
OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$			828,000.00
Total Funding Expended to Date \$			3,185,569.10
<u>Balance of Grant Funds</u>			
Match Funding \$			(238,319.10)
In-kind Funding \$			0.00
OHF Funding still to be Requested \$			0.00
Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$			0.00
Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension If yes, please explain			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:

(This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

With continued loss and acre reductions in Conservation Reserve Program lands and other grasslands, Ducks Unlimited DU), NRCS, ND Game and Fish Department (NDGFD), and the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) partnered together to offer landowners proper incentives and greater land use flexibility through working lands practices that benefit a producer's operation while positively impacting wildlife habitat. By working through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), OHF dollars provided additional incentives to more landowners interested in enhanced grazing and wildlife habitat incentives. With a project goal of enhancing 11,000 acres through working lands practices, the collaboration of EQIP and OHF funds conserved 15,271 acres. Implemented practices increased flexibility, management, and economic incentives that work for North Dakota producers while improving soil and water health, plant diversity, animal systems, and overall stewardship of the land. In addition, completed projects are also critical for migratory birds, upland and big game species, as well as many declining species of conservation concern.

Through the Prairie Pothole Wetland and Grassland Retention Program (PPWGRP), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has obligated 52 unique contracts for \$2,221,431 in 2016 under the EQIP funding pool. These 52 contracts covered 15,271 acres. Conservation practices that were cost shared under the program were, 645-Upland Wildlife Management, 644-Wetland Wildlife Management, 512-Pasture and Hayland plantings, 340-Cover Crops, 382-Cross Fence, 614-Water Facilities, 516 Pipelines, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 511- Forage Harvest Management and 327-Conservation Cover. The OHF funds were specifically allocated to 63 landowners influencing 4,671 of those acres through further incentives that increased length of benefits for enhanced habitat through the Upland and Wetland Management practices.

Of those OHF contracts, 20 landowners showed interest and were referred to NDGFD PLOTS biologists to discuss the program incentives and availability of funds. Of the 63 producers under contract, four were already enrolled in the PLOTS program. Two additional landowners that DU referred to NDGFD were accepted into the program providing 1,112 acres of increased public access for sportsman and other outdoor recreationists. While our goal of increasing public access on 2,500 acres was not fully realized, many new landowners learned about the program and may have future interest in other portions of their land outside of the program acres. While the project focused on working lands practices that enhance livestock operations, acquiring public access was challenging when cattle were integrated on these lands at the time of most hunting seasons.

Evaluation of practice implementation, infrastructure developments, and annual monitoring in 2016 and 2017 had a 100% success rate with management plan objectives met and full participation from contracted landowners. NRCS and DU staff worked together to ensure quality assurance of all on-the-ground practices under the program. Through continued relationship building between staff and local producers, conservation specialists can provide technical assistance to address future resource concerns and provide information on new programs that emerge. Many of which have now also shown interested in participating in new OHF programs like the Working Grasslands Partnership and the Cover Crop and Livestock Integration Program for additional land they own.

Reception of the program has been a tremendous success for North Dakota producers and the wildlife habitats those farm operations provide. With the assistance and partnership of OHF, the Enhanced Grazing Lands and Wildlife Habitat Project provided a spring board for partners to continue to find innovative ways to help with a farmer's bottom line while also improving habitat to support North Dakota's rich and storied outdoor heritage.

Exhibit B

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.



Vegetation monitoring of Upland Management practice under a prescribed grazing plan.



Cross fencing practice under a prescribed grazing plan to increase rest and recovery of vegetation.

Exhibit B

District BURKE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Agency USDA-NRCS
Assisted By C.J CERISE



A project where expired CRP is now under a rotational grazing plan and monitored annually for vegetation structure.

Signature of Responsible Official

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.