

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 001-005	Report Date 5/6/2020	Period Covered by Report (05/01/2019-04/30/2020)
----------------------------	-------------------------	---

Project Name
North Dakota Hen House Project I

Project Sponsor Name
Delta Waterfowl Foundation

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Chouinard, Matthew D	Responsible Official's Title Senior Waterfowl Programs and Delta Marsh Property Manager
--	---

Project Sponsor Address
1412 Basin Ave

City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58504	Telephone Number 701-222-8857 (ext. 5209)
------------------	-------------	-------------------	--

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	101.12	680.01	0.00
In-kind Funding	180.00	4,181.52	0.00
OHF Funding	1,860.54	22,532.07	11,467.93
Total			

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)

This grant report covers Delta Waterfowl activities on North Dakota Hen House Project I from 5/1/2019 to 4/30/2020. This project consists of 122 Hen Houses (HH) that were first available to nesting ducks in 2015 as part of the OHF/Delta Waterfowl Grant 001-005 partnership.

To prepare for annual maintenance of the project HHs, Delta Waterfowl began securing flax straw and other necessary materials in October 2019. Maintenance is critical to the success of nest structure programs, ensuring all HHs are ready for nesting ducks when they return from wintering sites. Maintenance typically begins as soon as wetland ice is safe for travel, which facilitates easy access to the nest structures. Winter temperatures and weather are variable and the 2019/2020 winter was no exception, but the project contractors continued their efforts into early April to ensure all HHs were maintained and evaluated (Fig. 1). All 122 HHs were ready for nesting hens at the start of the 2020 nesting season.



Figure 1. A contractor maintains a Hen House near Woodworth, North Dakota. Fresh flax straw ensures the structure is ready for nesting hens.

During their visit to each Hen House, contractors documented evidence of a nest(s) during the previous breeding season. This information is submitted to Delta Waterfowl staff, entered into a database, and evaluated to determine usage rate (percentage of Hen Houses used during a nesting season). Overall usage rate for Woodworth and Carrington area nest structures was 35% in 2019, a slight increase from 2018 (31%). Based on nest success determined from previous Hen House research in ND (85%), we estimate that 370 ducklings hatched in 2019 as part of this project.

Though water levels were higher in 2019, many wetlands were still drier than normal allowing cattail and other vegetation to encroach upon nest structures (F. Hen Houses that are surrounded by vegetation have much lower usage rates than those in open water. On a positive note, wetlands in our project area appear to be in great shape and we anticipate better usage rates during the 2020 nesting season.

Delta Waterfowl staff and/or contractors will begin inspecting a sample of the Hen Houses in May 2020 to get an early look at the success of project HHs. Usage rates and estimated duck production for 2020 will be provided in the 2021 project report.



Figure 2. Low water results in cattail encroachment around a Hen House.

*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.

Delta Waterfowl sincerely appreciates the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, OHF program staff, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts and others that supported this project.



Figure 2. Mallard hen nesting in a Hen House near Woodworth, ND.

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