

**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 001-016	Report Date 11/30/2016	Period Covered by Report (12/1/15—11/30/2016)
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Project Name  
**Natural Resource Stewardship in North Dakota's Parks Preserves and Natural Areas**

Project Sponsor Name  
**North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department**

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) <b>Duttenhefner, Kathleen Grace</b>	Responsible Official's Title <b>Natural Resource Division Coordinator</b>
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Project Sponsor Address  
**1600 East Century Ave. Suite 3**

City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58503	Telephone Number 701-328-5370
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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**

Cash Match Funding	\$	6,719.10
In-kind Match Funding	\$	7,193.51
Other Sponsors Funding	\$	-
OHF Funding	\$	8,265.50
OHF Funding Requested for Reimbursement	\$	8,265.50
Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period	\$	<b>22,178.11</b>

**Total Funds Spent to Date**

Cash Match Funding	\$	10,192.65
In-kind Match Funding	\$	58,189.76
Other Sponsors Funding	\$	15,059.00
OHF Funding	\$	54,900.05
OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement (includes above request)	\$	54,900.05
Total Funding Expended to Date	\$	<b>138,341.46</b>

**Balance of Grant Funds**

Match Cash Funding (proposed \$40185.00)	\$	29,992.35
In-kind Match Funding (proposed \$57683.10)	\$	(506.66)
Other Sponsors Funding (proposed \$15,000)	\$	(59.00)
OHF Funding still to be Requested (granted \$129,000)	\$	74,099.95
Total Funding to be Expended on this Project (Proposed \$241,868.10)	\$	<b>103,526.64</b>

Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:

## Project Goals

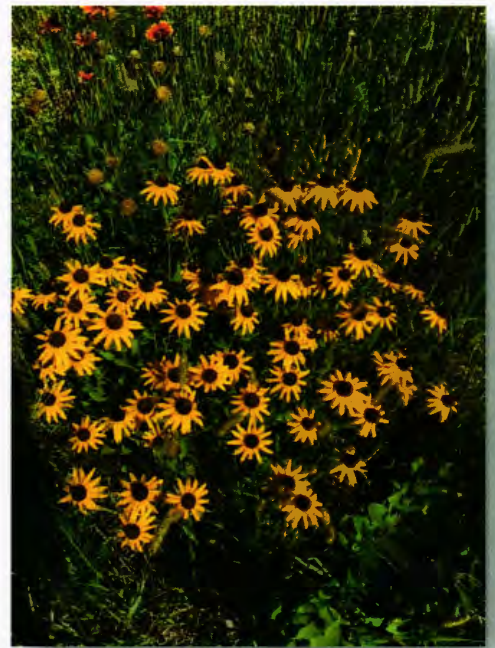
- A. Conserve and enhance existing prairies, woodlands, tree and shrub plantings, within parklands, preserves and natural areas to maximize biodiversity of plant and animal species.
- B. To provide direction, technical assistance and funding for natural resource activities that are integral to and integrated within parklands, preserves, and natural area uses.
- C. Effective control and eradication of noxious weeds and invasive species on parklands, preserves, and natural areas.

## Native Prairie Restoration and Enhancements: Strategies and Best Management Practices

A multi-site approximately 109 acres total, long term, collaborative project with specific goals to restore, enhance, and sustain healthy, diverse and sustainable native prairie thus enhancing the biodiversity on parklands, preserves and natural areas.

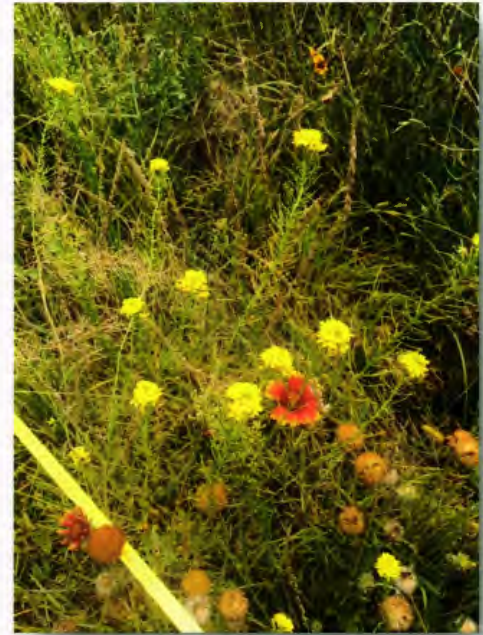
### Tasks Completed: December 2015 – November 2016:

- a) Updated/Created Prairie Restoration Plans for:
  - **Bottineau Country Archery Site** – W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie - .43 acres
  - **Cross Ranch State Park** - W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie – Cottonwood Meadow North Prairie - .80 acres.
  - **Cross Ranch State Park** - W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie – Cottonwood Meadow South Prairie - .70 acres.
  - **Devils Lake State Park** - W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie – Grahams Island Prairie Enhancement – 11 acres
  - **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park** – W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie- Stables Prairie - 1.33 acres
  - **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park** – W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie- Keller Prairie – 2 tracts – 44.9 acres
  - **Fort Stevenson State Park** –W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie- Pollinator Plot - .56 acres
  - **Fort Stevenson State Park** –W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie- Visitor Center - .96 acres
  - **Fort Stevenson State Park** –W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie- Nelson Prairie - 5.6 acres
  - **Icelandic State Park** – Sand Bluestem Prairie – Tract 1 Prairie – 10 acres



FALSP - Stables Prairie

- ***Icelandic State Park*** – Sand Bluestem Prairie– Tract 2 Prairie – 2.3 acres
- ***Icelandic State Park*** – Sand Bluestem Prairie– Tract 3 Prairie – 6.2 acres
- ***Lake Sakakawea State Park*** - W. Wheatgrass-Green Needlegrass Mixedgrass Prairie – JT North Prairie- 6.0 acres
- ***Turtle River State Park*** – Big Bluestem Tallgrass Prairie – Haul Road Tract -.57 acres
- ***Turtle River State Park*** – Big Bluestem Tallgrass Prairie – Big Bluestem Tallgrass Prairie – East 12.7 acres
- ***Turtle River State Park*** – Big Bluestem Tallgrass Prairie – Big Bluestem Tallgrass Prairie – West 5.4 acres



*CRSP Prairie Restoration North Tract*

b) Sites seeded, inter-seeded or hand plants:

- ***Bottineau Country Archery Site*** – Seeded Fall 2016
- ***Fort Stevenson State Park*** – Visitor Center site - Seeded Spring 2016
- ***Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park*** -Stables Prairie Site –Hand plants - Milkweed plants- Summer 2016

c) Sites visits – Restoration monitoring:



*FSSP Visitor Center Tract*

- ***Cross Ranch State Park*** - Cottonwood Meadow North Prairie – 2.5 hours
- ***Cross Ranch State Park*** - Cottonwood Meadow South Prairie – 2.5 hours
- ***Devils Lake State Park*** - Grahams Island Prairie Enhancement – 4.5 hours
- ***Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park*** –Stables Prairie – 2.5 hours ***Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park*** – Keller Prairie – 2 tracts – 6.0 hours
- ***Fort Stevenson State Park*** – Visitor Center 2 hours
- ***Fort Stevenson State Park*** – Nelson Prairie site visit – 2 hours
- ***Lake Sakakawea State Park*** - JT North Prairie-site visit 2 hours

d) Weed Control: Mowing and Chemical Application:

- **Cross Ranch State Park** - Cottonwood Meadow North Prairie 3 hours mowing and spraying
- **Cross Ranch State Park** - Cottonwood Meadow South Prairie 3 hours mowing and spraying
- **Devils Lake State Park** - Grahams Island Prairie Enhancement 3 hours mowing and spraying
- **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park** –Stables Prairie 8 hours mowing and spot spraying
- **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park** – Keller Prairie – 2 tracts – 30 hours mowing and spot spraying
- **Fort Stevenson State Park** –Nelson Prairie – 2 hours spot spraying
- **Icelandic State Park** – Sand Bluestem Prairie – 1-hour invasive species removal
- **Icelandic State Park** – Sand Bluestem Prairie– 5 hours spot spraying and invasive species removal



## **Woodlands – Tree and Shrub Plantings Strategies and Best Management Practices:**

A multi-site, long term, collaborative project with a specific goal to increase woodland and tree row habitat acres and biodiversity on parklands, preserves and natural areas. The project purpose is to create and maintain a mosaic of woodland habitats through the planting of a diverse selection of native trees and shrubs. The woodland creation and tree and shrub plantings strategies and best management practices will include the use of a variety of practices ranging from site preparation, planting and monitoring. Partnered with ND Forest Service grant to assist with the Flood Recovery tree and shrub replacements at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Cross Ranch State Park and the Missouri Natural Area to replace the hundreds that were lost to flood and are still be lost on an annual basis.

### **Tasks Completed: December 2015 – November 2016:**

#### a) Spring – Summer 2016

- Hazardous tree removal in 2011 flood impacted areas continued in the spring of 2016 utilizing biological technicians and park staff.
- Bare root trees and shrubs were planted at 7 state parks and natural areas by biological technicians and park staff. Majority of tree plantings had fabric installed and were mulched. Protective deer fence was removed. Augers were utilized at several state park and natural areas for tree plantings.
- In the summer – fall of 2016 tree and shrub plantings were mulched, watered and weeded as necessary and as staff time will allow.
- Additional containerized trees were purchased and planted at FALSP and CRSP.
- Throughout the months April – June 2016, biological technicians and park staff spent 240 hours removing high risk trees and planting trees and shrubs.



*Cross Ranch State Park*

*2016 Tree and shrub order – Lincoln Oakes Nursery*

Missouri River Natural Area	170 trees and shrubs
Fort Lincoln State Park	538 trees and shrubs
Cross Ranch State Park	483 trees and shrubs
Fort Stevenson State Park	190 trees and shrubs
Lewis and Clark State Park	680 trees and shrubs
Fort Ransom State Park	175 trees and shrubs
Turtle River State Park	129 trees and shrubs

## Fall 2016

- Deer fence, tree bark protectors and stakes were installed and utilized as necessary. Complexes were also weeded.
- Tree and shrub planting complexes survival assessments were conducted at both CRSP and FALSP. As these complexes were existing, assessments were conducted on all trees and shrubs survival not just what was planted in the spring of 2016.
- Trees and shrubs plantings will continue in spring 2017.
- Level 1 visual tree risk assessments were conducted at FALSP and CRSP. The Level 1 assessment is a visual assessment from a specified perspective of an individual tree or population of trees near specified targets to identify obvious defects or specified conditions. This limited visual assessment is typically focuses on identifying trees with imminent and/or probable likelihood of failure. At Cross Ranch State Park, 43 trees were identified for removal this fall-winter 2016. Species flagged for removal varied from cottonwoods, green ash to boxelders. At Fort Lincoln State Park, 49 trees were identified for removal this fall-winter 2016. Species flagged for removal varied from cottonwoods, green ash to boxelders. Staff logged in over 80 hours conducting assessments and flagging trees and both state parks. Tree risk databases will be updated during the winter of 2017.
- Tree and shrub complexes maintenance including watering, weeding and mulching continued throughout the fall of 2016. More mulch will be necessary on many sites in 2017.
- Biological technicians, park staff, and volunteers were utilized to put deer fence up at FALSP and CRSP.
- Throughout the months of September – October 2016, biological technicians spent 330 hours removing high risk trees, weeding trees and installing deer fence.



*FALSP Tree Plantings*

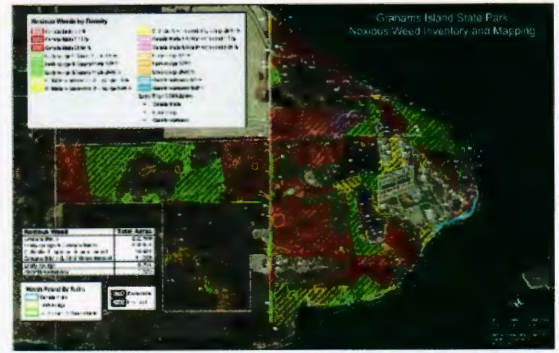


*University of Mary Volunteer Day*

**Noxious Weed and Invasive Species Control Strategies and Best Management Practices:** A multi-site, long term, collaborative project with specific goals to control noxious weeds as required by state law; reduce nonnative invasive plants; continue the implementation an integrated pest management system to reduce the use of chemical controls. The noxious weeds of primary concern include leafy spurge, Canada thistle, and wormwood. To date, all noxious weeds within major parks have been inventoried and mapped.

**Tasks Completed: December 2015 – November 2016:**

- a) Biologist and biological technicians treated noxious weeds with appropriate control methods at all state park and several natural areas. Biological technicians spent approximately 1200 hours spraying weeds, treating over 1377 acres of infestations.
- b) Followed standard reporting protocol as determined by ND Department of Agriculture.
- c) Regular updates to Noxious Weed maps.
- d) Noxious Weed Analysis Completed.



**Natural Areas Registry** A cooperative program with the *ND Geological Survey*. The Natural Areas Registry Program is citizen-based conservation program that currently has 54 landowners involved in voluntary protection of their significant natural areas. This project is a multi-site, long term, collaborative project with a specific goal to encourage conservation of important natural lands in private and public ownership. No site assessments were conducted in 2016.

**Natural Heritage Inventory** - A cooperative program with NatureServe, a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to provide the scientific basis for effective conservation action. The North Dakota Natural Heritage Program identifies the state's most significant natural areas through a comprehensive inventory of rare plant and animal species, exemplary natural communities, special geological features, and significant natural areas.

The biological conservation database is being utilized on a regular basis to conduct environmental reviews. This is a NatureServe web-based program which requires a substantial annual maintenance and support fee. Grant partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service a funded 2016 Western Prairie Fringed Surveys. No Outdoor Heritage Funds were utilized to accomplish these tasks.

**Tasks Completed: December 2015 – June 2016:**

- a) Western prairie fringed orchid surveys conducted.
- b) 2016 Western prairie fringed orchid field report review.

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.

Signature of Responsible Official

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cathy D. [unclear]", is written over the signature line.

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.