

OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number: 002-030

Recipient: South McLean County SCD

Award Amount: \$138,000

Total Project Costs: \$264,064.15

Total OHF Funds Received: \$137,150.10



Goal of Project:

1. To encourage, facilitate, and guide crop and livestock producers operating in the Turtle Creek watershed to adopt conservation practices that, 1) mitigate the potentially devastating impact of animal feeding operations on the 38.2 square miles of aquatic ecosystems located within the Turtle Creek watershed, 2) create additional non-aquatic habitat in addition to improving water quality of surface waters in the watershed, or 3) preserve the integrity of existing or newly established riparian ecosystems within the Turtle Creek Watershed.

2. To raise public awareness regarding the complimentary relationship between wildlife, water quality, and the future of our hunting and fishing traditions in McLean and surrounding counties. Public outreach is a critical to recruiting participants for our cost-share program and for creating a culture of stewardship surrounding our lakes, streams, and wetlands in the Turtle Creek Watershed.

Work Accomplished:

- Cover Crop 143.7 acres planted
- Alternative Power Source (Livestock Watering) two units
- Fencing (Barbed): 71,689.06 linear ft
- Fencing (Multiple Wire Electric): 13,776 linear ft
- Fencing (Single Wire Electric): 5,673 linear ft
- Livestock Exclusion Fencing: 4,345 linear ft
- Pasture/Hayland Planting: 14 acres planted
- Trough/Tank: 13 tanks installed
- Livestock Well: 2 wells drilled
- Upland Tree Planting
- Weed Control For Established Trees (Weed Barrier): 3,774.93linear ft;
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt: 3,930.86 linear ft.

Project Results:

The primary goal of the Turtle Creek Watershed Project Water & Habitat Initiative (Project) was to restore the beneficial use of recreation to fully supporting for Turtle Creek and its tributaries. This would be achieved through nutrient management, grazing management, improved handling of livestock waste, and educational efforts. The primary goals of the Project were not fully achieved in the defined Project time-frame for this final report; however, progress was made in all facets of the Project, as funds were adequately spent on BMPs for, cropland management, grazing management, livestock manure management, and upland tree planting. The Project was successful in implementing the state's NPS

management program by: 1) promoting voluntary adoption of BMPs; 2) providing financial and technical assistance to implement BMPs; 3) disseminating information on the project and solutions to identified NPS pollution impacts; and 4) evaluating progress toward meeting NPS pollutant reduction goals.

Value to North Dakota:

The BMPs installed were designed for the improvement or maintenance of soil health in grazing areas, minimizing manure runoff and degradation of confined grazing areas, and overall protection of water quality in Turtle Creek and hydrologically connected surface waters & wetlands for the benefit of both local residents and native wildlife habitat. Although the primary goals of the Project were not fully achieved in the defined Project time-frame, the Project aided in addressing non-point source pollution throughout the watershed by building and expanding partnerships, gaining a better understanding of producer and landowner needs in the watershed, planning and implementing conservation practices and other BMPs, provided information on new equipment, different management issues, and/or BMP options in the watershed, as well as other educational topics and resources. Going forward, the successes of this Project will be used to create additional value to the state of North Dakota by carrying forward into Phase II of the Project plan and establishing a focused effort within the watershed to further achieve the water quality and wildlife habitat goals of the the Turtle Creek Watershed Project. The South McLean County Soil Conservation Districts goal for 2020 is to conduct producer one-on-one's within the watershed community and zero in on producer needs, BMP interests, more direct landowner/producer feedback to determine specific practices they are willing and able to implement to help reduce the E. coli and nutrient concentrations in the creek. This type of direct feedback is not only needed to reassess the level of interest in the watershed, but it is also important to help ensure greater success during the next phase.