## Instructions

Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at <a href="http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm">http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm</a> ) 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 <a href="http://outdoorheritage@nd.gov">outdoorheritage@nd.gov</a> 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.

	Ctat		or 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											
Re	ports and the	e Final Report	must be submitted as required in Contract.								
Contract Number 003-035		Report Date May 1, 2018									
Project Name			Dreiset Dhees II								
Wild Rice River R		a Riparian	Project Phase II								
Project Sponsor Name Wild Rice Soil Co		n District	di sa								
Responsible Official (L		ddle)	Responsible Official's Title								
Olson, Matthew F			Watershed Coordinator								
Project Sponsor Addre 8991 Hwy 32 Suit		NE (									
		Zip Code	Telephone Number								
Forman	ND	58032	(701) 724-3247 ext. 3								
<u>Funds Spent this Repo</u> (As appropriate please Match Funding \$65,00 In-kind Funding \$27,5 OHF Funding <b>Reques</b> Total Funding Exper	e provide cop 99.19 85.39 <b>ted for Rein</b>	nbursement \$	\$7,732.34								
<u>Total Funds Spent to I</u> Match Funding \$66,46 In-kind Funding \$28,99 OHF Funding Receive Total Funding Exper	1.98 99.95 d and Reque		oursement \$2,204.66 Received / \$7,732.34 Final Request								
Balance of Grant Fund Match Funding \$66,46 In-kind Funding \$28,99 OHF Funding still to be Total Funding to be	1.98 99.95 e Requested		105,398.93								
Do you anticipate need /_/ Yes	ding to reque /X/ No	st a grant exte	nsion If yes, please explain								

Work Completed during Period Covered by Report: (This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

The main purpose of this project was to meet the major directive B of the Outdoor Heritage Fund to maintain and/or improve water quality through installing vegetative buffers on riparian areas in Sargent County through our 10-year easement program. With poor water quality becoming an issue across many areas of the country, North Dakota, and our communities; many Soil Conservation Districts are utilizing the 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution program through the North Dakota Department of Health to help implement best management practices to improve farming and ranching operations impact on local watersheds.

Thanks to the funding opportunity created through the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnering with the Wild Rice River Restoration and Riparian Project (WRRRP); we were able to partner with 2 landowners to enroll 62.4 acres in 10-year easements with the Wild Rice Soil Conservation District. Of the 62.4 acres enrolled, grass species adapted to riparian areas were planted on 54.6 acres that were previously frequently inundated cropland. These acres are available for hay production but must remain in the grass community complex that was planted and/or established.

This partnership brought incredible match to funds spent by the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Of the total \$105,398.93 that were put into this project; the \$9,937.00 contributed by the Outdoor Heritage Fund adds up to less than 10% of the total project cost. The 319 NPS program was a major contributor to the program with \$63,253.36 allocated making up 60% of the funds which is the standard in that program. The remainder of funds to the project came from the Wild Rice Soil Conservation District (\$28,999.95 of In-Kind) and co-operating landowners (\$3,208.62) round out the remaining 30% of the funds utilized in the project.

As part of the WRRRRP project, water samples are collected and evaluated from April-November on the Shortfoot and Crooked Creek tributaries of the Wild Rice River. In the September 2017 issue of the North Dakota Water magazine, Jim Collins Jr. wrote an article about our project highlighting our project due to positive progress being made in reducing bacteria levels on Shortfoot Creek. Even though levels still exceed state standards for recreation, it is encouraging that levels are improving and our hope is that someday these waters could be removed from the list of impaired waters. I have included a copy of the article for you to include in your records.

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

Mit Ola

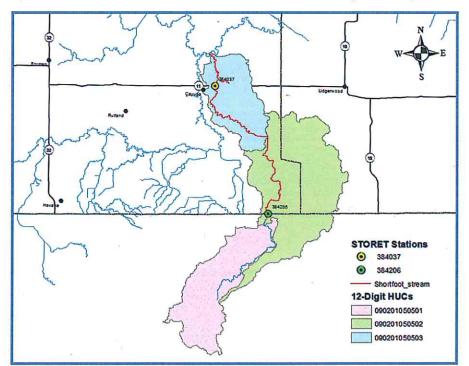
The project reports shall be provided to the Commission in both electronic and hard-copy formats with permission for unrestricted distribution. The electronic versions shall be in a suitable format for posting on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Commission website.



North Dakota Department of Health 🖓 Environmental Health Section

# Shortfoot Creek: Improving Water Quality

By Jim Collins, Jr., Environmental Scientist, North Dakota Department of Health



Shortfoot Creek watershed, sampling (STORET) locations and associated sub-watersheds in southeastern North Dakota.

#### **The Resource**

Shortfoot Creek is a 55,203-acre watershed located in Sargent county in southeastern North Dakota and Marshall County in northeastern South Dakota. It is a sub-watershed of the larger Western Wild Rice River watershed.

The dominant land use on the North Dakota side of the Shortfoot Creek watershed is row crop agriculture. According to the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS, 2007a) land survey data, approximately 53 percent of the land is active cropland, 9 percent is wetlands, 6 percent is water, 6 percent is grassland, and 26 percent is in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), pasture, woods, or open space. The dominant land use on the South Dakota side of the Shortfoot Creek watershed is also row crop agriculture, with 68.8 percent of the 9,814 acres of the watershed in corn (38.7 percent) and soybeans (31.1 percent) (NASS, 2007b). Another 6.1 percent is in other agricultural uses (e.g., small grains, alfalfa, and pastureland). The remaining acreage in the South Dakota portion of the watershed is wetlands (10.4 percent), grasslands (4.4 percent), and forest (2.1 percent).

#### **Assessment and Focus**

In 1999, the Wild Rice Soil Conservation District (SCD), along with the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), developed a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) to improve water quality and land use conditions within the Wild Rice River watershed. In 2010, the Wild Rice SCD worked with the NDDoH to refocus its efforts on the Shortfoot Creek sub-watershed. From assessment data, the SCD was able to determine the land use practices and potential sources of nonpoint source pollution (NPS) included: cropland erosion, degraded riparian areas, and livestock concentration areas in close proximity to the river. Efforts to address these NPS pollution sources in the Shortfoot Creek watershed were renewed again in 2014 and 2016.

#### The Goal

In 2014 and 2016, the project sponsors identified four major objectives that remained consistent with the original goal of restoring and maintaining the recreational use within the Shortfoot Creek watershed.

1. Target areas for reducing sediment. The naturally flat stream channels in the sub-watershed allow tillage and livestock grazing right to the water's edge, so the installation of longterm riparian and grass buffers will help prevent sediment, nutrient, and E. coli bacteria from reaching the streams. Cost-sharing assistance for best management practices (BMPs) and technical assistance for longterm planning will help improve these areas.



Livestock waste management containment pond and fencing.

- 2. Increase the index of biotic integrity (IBI) score for the specific reaches of the creek being addressed by the project to achieve a fair to good ranking (59-70 for fair and >70 for good).
- Evaluate progress, document trends in water quality and beneficial use conditions (e.g., nutrient/sediment and E. coli bacteria concentrations, riparian conditions, fish and macro invertebrate diversity, etc.) as BMPs are applied.
- Provide opportunities for producers and the public to increase their understanding of (1) NPS pollution related to agricultural production and potential cropping options and (2) the importance of slowing water runoff and enhancing infiltration using management systems to reduce the delivery of sediments

and nutrients to water bodies in southeastern North Dakota.

#### **Restoration Efforts**

The Wild Rice SCD has worked with local landowners to implement the following BMPs in the watershed: Cover Crop 2.906.34 acres Critical Area Planting 22.6 acres Fencing 12,331 feet Rural Water Hookup 1 **Trough and Tank** 8 Well (livestock only) 3 Manure Irrigation 1 system Portable Windbreaks 584 feet Waste Utilization 2,020 tons Well Decommission 3 474.80 acres **Riparian Easement Riparian Herb Cover** 69.7 acres Pipeline 9,917 feet Filter Strip 80 acres Pasture/Hay Planting 60 acres



Through the hard work of the SCD staff and cooperation of landowners to install BMPs in the sub-watershed, bacteria levels have started to show a decreasing trend according to sample results. While current levels still exceed state standards for recreation, project sponsors and the NDDoH are encouraged by the trend. It is possible that water quality can be improved enough in Shortfoot Creek for it to be removed from the 303(d) list of impaired waters.

#### **Future Efforts**

The SCD recently hired Matt Olson as the new watershed coordinator, replacing Trace Hanson who retired this past spring. Olson has an extensive background in working with producers to implement BMPs. With cost-share and technical assistance readily available, the key to continued project success will be producer interest throughout the watershed.

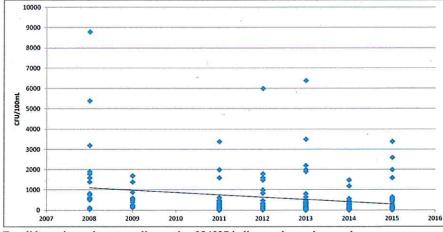
#### **Questions?**

For more information contact:

Matt Olson Wild Rice Soil Conservation District 8991 Highway 32 Forman, ND 58032-9702 701-724-3247 matt.olson@nd.nacdnet.net

Greg Sandness NPS Program Coordinator North Dakota Department of Health 918 E Divide Ave Bismarck, ND 58501-1947 701-328-5232 gsandnes@nd.gov

North Dakota Department of Health Environmental Health Section Gold Seal Center, 4th Floor 918 East Divide Ave. Bismarck, ND 58501-1947 701-328-5150 www.ndhealth.gov



E. coli bacteria results at sampling station 384037 indicate a decreasing trend.

North Dakota WATER | September 2017 13

## Contract 003-035: Wild Rice River Restoration & Riparian Project Phase II

## Grass Seeding Information

There were 3 different seedings covering the 2 easements covered in this grant. The first seeding was done spring of 2015 on the Dahlstrom easement. This was a highly diverse mix that was planted on 1.2 acres of the easement while the CRP acres adjacent to the north were also seeded with the same mix. Upon evaluation on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 it appears that the warm season grasses did not establish well on the easement. The Canada wildrye seems to have done best of the cool season grasses with some wheatgrass coming in as well. As for the forbs, the Maximillian sunflower and Canada milkvetch have established well. The seeding was done into a less than ideal seedbed and the mix has had difficulty establishing. Many annual weeds are present along with many of the non-native invasive grasses such as smooth bromegrass and Kentucky bluegrass.

The second seeding was the largest of the 3 seedings. It covered 40 acres across the south edge of the Brekke easement and was seeded in the fall window of 2016 to a mix of cool season grasses. In evaluating the seeding on May 8, 2018; there was a decent stand of grass present on the easement acres. There were very few of the forbs/legumes that were planted present on the easement. Some alfalfa from the adjacent field has begun to establish on the easement. On the high edges of the easement the wheatgrasses can be rowed after establishment. The lower areas have reverted to riparian species with reed canarygrass, American sloughgrass, and cattails revegetating the area thus outcompeting the seeded acres.

The last seeding was completed in the fall seeding window of 2017 and covered 13.4 acres along the north edge of the easement. This cool season grass mix was very similar to the previous mix except for trying some different forbs and removing the green needlegrass which had little success. After less than half a growing year the upper areas that were seeded look very good with grass rows evident from seeding. The lower areas didn't have as much seedbed preparation done due to seasonal flooding, so they look to be following the same trend as the south seeding.

In assessing the seedings done on these two easements, I feel like the fall seedings did better. Planting in August-September allows for extra time to do seedbed preparation and maximize acres to be seeded on areas that could be flooded in spring/summer. The cool season grasses establish faster allowing them to germinate prior to winter and maximize available growing seasons. In assessing forbs/legumes, it seems like Maximillian sunflower and Canada milkvetch did best for natives and alfalfa did well as an introduced legume. I have also attached copies of the seed mixes across the three plantings.

Notes/Remarks:

Date

atural Resources Conservation Service						1				October 200 Revised 3/25/1	
Yellow indicates required entry, blue optional entry.				FOR GRASS AN		EGUME SEEDING					
Section 14 Township 131 Range 54	Name:	Roger Brekke 680-0227			Acres:	101	ract / Field:	T1094 .	Date:	06/09/16	
	Address: 1314 Weyster St., Lisbon ND 58054					Planned Use: Filter Strip Design By: Trace Hanson					
Inset map here, then	County:	Sargent		MLRA 55B		Ecological Site: Loamy/Loamy Overflow		OR	Forage Suitability Group: Loam/Overflow		
resize.	Program:	EPA-319 Wa	lershed			Contract Number: 319-190 CIN :					
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		possible planting restrictions,									
	NDSU-EXT Set	No-Till Method - Seed into weed-free, standing stubble, without further seedbed preparation. Use of a non-selective herbicide application may be needed to control weeds (refer to NDSU-EXT Service for information). Excess residue (straw, chaff or forage) should be adequately spread over the field or removed to ensure good seed-soil contact at a depth of 1/4									
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	seeding.										
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		PLS Lbs./Ac		(3)X(4)		(5)X(8)	Pure Seed	Hard Seed		()	
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A Siender Wheatgrass Pryo	r, Primar	8.25	20.00%	1.65	40.0	66.0				0.0	
5 Western Wheatgrass Rode	an, Rosana	15.00	25.00%	3.75	40,0	150.0				0.0	
6 Western Yarrow Grea	at North,Commor	0.60	5.00%	0.03	40.0	1.2				0.0	
7 Lewis Flax App	ar	5.70	5.00%	0.29	40.0	11.4 .				0.0	
8 Green Needlegrass AC M	Mallard, Lodorm	11.25	16.00%	1.80	40.0	72.0				0.0	
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This practice meets FOTG Standards and Specifications:

Are the seeded species approved named varieties? If not, is the Origin within the states listed in the spec? Was the planting completed in the required seeding window? Enter date planting completed above. Does the seeded mix match what was planned? If not, are species seeded suited for site and meet specs?

**Certifying Official - NRCS** 

## PLANNING OR DATA SHEET FOR GRASS AND / OR LEGUME SEEDING

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				protection for late summer and late fall seedings, plant a companion crop. The companion crop may be seeded as a separate operation usually at an angle per																		
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### PLANNING OR DATA SHEET FOR GRASS AND / OR LEGUME SEEDING

Yellow Indicates r	required entry, blue o	optional entry		Name:	Dani Dahlstro	nn		Acres:	18.3	Tract / Field:	1133	Date:	03/09/15		
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Insert map here, then				County:	Sargent		MLRA <u>558</u>		Ecological Site: .oamy/Loamy Overflow		OR	Forage Sultabili	ty Group:		
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Switchgrass				Dacotah, Forestburg	4.50	12.00%	0.54	18.3	9.9				0.0		
Slender Whee	atgrass			Adanac, Pryor	5.50	10.00%	0.55	18.3	10.1				0.0		
Western Whe	atgrass			Rodan, Walsh	10.00	10.00%	1.00	18.3	18.3				0.0		
5 Sideoats Gra	ma			Killdeer, Pierre	7.50	11.00%	0.83	18.3	15.1				0.0		
6 Little Bluester	m			Badiands, Itasca	4.50	10.00%	0.45	18.3	8.2				0.0		
7 Big Bluestern				Sunnyview, Bison	7.50	12.00%	0.90	18.3	16.5				0.0		
e Purple prairie	clover			Bismarck	3.80	4.00%	0.15	18.3	2.8				0.0		
9 Black-eyed S				Common	0.80	2.00%	0.02	18.3	0.3				0.0		
o Canada Milky				Sunrise	4.00	4.00%	0.16	18.3	2.9				. 0,0		
1 Lewis Flax				Appar, Maple Grove	3.80	3.00%	0.11	18.3	2.1				0.0		
12 Maximillian S	unflower			Medicine Creek	1.00	3.00%	0.03	18.3	0.5				0.0		
13 Wild bergam		analda an		Common	0.90	3.00%	0.03	18.3	0.5				0.0		
A Blue Aster				Common	1.5	3.00%	0.05	18.3	0.8				0.0		
s Hoary Vervai	'n			Common	2.4	3.00%	0.07	18.3	1.3				0.0		
ALC: NOT STATE	100.00% Total Planned PLS Pounds = 103.0 Total Seeded PLS Pounds =												0%		
CERTIFICATION: Is the germ test date for all species within 12 months of when it was planted (not including the month of the test)?									Total PLS seeded (column 11) will be within +/- 10% of planned PLS (column 7).						
		•		f when it was planted (n not, is the Origin within t				This	practice meets FC	TG Stand	ards and Sp	pecifications:			
	• •			indow? Enter date plani						1					
and the second se		ch what was	planned? If not	, are species seeded su	ited for site an	nd meet specs	17		A				Date		
Notes/Remark	(5)						Certifying Official - NRCS								