

**Contract No. 003-035**  
**“Wild Rice River Restoration & Riparian Project Phase II”**  
 Submitted by Wild Rice Soil Conservation District  
 Principal Investigator: Trace Hanson  
 Directives: B & C

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	
EPA Section 319 Funds, ND Dept. of Health, & Landowners	\$19,875	
Subtotal Cash Cost Share		\$19,875
Landowner	<u>\$ 3,313</u>	
Subtotal In-kind Cost Share		\$ 3,313
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$ 9,937</u>	
Total Project Cost		\$33,125

Project Schedule – 4 years	Project Deliverables:
Contract Date – 12/12/2014	Status Report: January 1, 2015 ✓
Start Date –	Status Report: January 1, 2016 ✓
Completion Date – 12/31/2018	Status Report: January 1, 2017 ✓
	Status Report: January 1, 2018
	Final Report: December 31, 2018 ✓

**OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:**

This project will provide cost share to landowners to improve, maintain and restore water quality, and soil conditions through best management practices. The best practice being utilized Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology. Tasks for the project include the establishment of vegetative riparian buffer zones.

**STATUS:**

Contract has been executed.

3/3/2015 - Status report was received. At this time there are 100.4 river riparian buffers acres in best management planning stage. Implementation of these areas will be spring 2015.

7/2015 - Status report was received. Map was presented showing the easement that was entered into with a landowner. It was indicated that the best management practice that is being conducted is Riparian Easement (On Cropland). The landowner will plant a strip of perennial native species vegetation along the edge of the stream to trap sediment and other pollutants from runoff. Minimum width of 100 to 300 feet. Once the grasses are established mowing or haying is required to keep grass vigor. This is an easement filed by the Wild Rice Soil Conservation District, for a buffer of grass on the east side of the Wild Rice River located at SE of SE 13-131-53. This easement will be monitored by the Wild Rice Soil Conservation District through the life of the contract. This easement expires 9/30/2024. This contracted land is adjacent to CRP acres.

1/2016 - Annual status report was received. Map was presented showing the 6.4 acres of grass easement along the Wild Rice River, Sargent County, ND. The best management practice is Riparian Easement (On Cropland)

1/2017 - Annual status report was received. It states: There are 56.0 acres under contract. The landowners have the option of payment in 2017, or the option of split payments for fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

5/2018 – Final report was received. It states in part: Thanks to the funding opportunity created through the OHF partnering with the Wild Rice River Restoration and Riparian Project, we were able to partner with 2 landowners to enroll 62.4 acres in 10 year easements with the Wild Rice Soil Conservation District (SCD.) 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.

OHF funds contributed less than 10% of the total \$105,398.93 put into the project. Other project partners included 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution (\$63253.36,) Wild Rice SCD (\$28,999.95 in-kind,) and landowners (\$3,208.62.)

Water samples were collected and evaluated from April-November on the Shortfoot and Crooked Creek tributaries of the Wild Rice River. The North Dakota Water magazine wrote an article about the project, a copy is available in the full report. While bacteria levels still exceed state standards for recreation, levels are improving and hopefully these waters will be removed from the list of impaired waters in the future.

A report on the types of grasses planted and analysis of performance was provided. This is included in the final report on the website. Overall, fall seeding performed better. Maximillian sunflower and Canadian Milkvetch did best for native species and alfalfa did well as an introduced legume.

This contract is now closed.

Updated 5/8/2018