

## 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](mailto: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.

### 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 003-040	Report Date 12/31/17	Period Covered by Report (December 1, 2016 to November 30, 2017)
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Project Name  
**North Dakota Pheasant Habitat Initiative**

Project Sponsor Name  
**North Dakota Game and Fish Department**

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) <b>Kading, Kevin J.</b>	Responsible Official's Title <b>Private Lands Section Leader</b>
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Project Sponsor Address  
**100 N. Bismarck Expressway**

City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58501	Telephone Number 701-328-6371
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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

(As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases)

Match Funding \$153,450.58 Other Project Sponsor's share \$1,922.00

In-kind Funding \$0

OHF Funding **Requested for Reimbursement** \$4,671.00

Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$158,121.58, with other Project Sponsor's share \$160,043.58

#### Total Funds Spent to Date

Match Funding \$153,450.58

In-kind Funding \$0

OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$4,671.00

Total Funding Expended to Date \$158,121.58

#### Balance of Grant Funds

Match Funding \$1,046,549.42

In-kind Funding \$0

OHF Funding still to be Requested \$2,995,329

Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$4,200,000 (\$3M OHF, \$1.2M applicant's match. Does not include additional funding from USDA-CREP, which is approximately \$24M)

Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension    If yes, please explain  
 Yes     No

Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:

(This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's (Department) Pheasant Habitat Initiative (NDPHI) is tied directly to the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program. On December 5, 2016, former Governor Jack Dalrymple signed an Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation and the State of North Dakota, which allocated 20,000 acres of CREP to the North Dakota Riparian Project. The agreement was signed by USDA on January 18, 2017, but several delays resulted in the program not being fully implemented in 2017 as planned.

On January 24, 2017, the Department and USDA conducted a joint training for staff and partners to kick off the program. Throughout spring 2017, Department developed a website page (<https://gf.nd.gov/plots/landowner/crep>), fact sheets, generated news releases (<https://gf.nd.gov/index.php/news/1615>), ND OUTDOORS articles (<https://gf.nd.gov/magazine/2017/may/habitat-projects> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qay2GEOm47o>), interviews with media (<http://www.myndnow.com/news/bismarck-news/land-conservation-to-develop-wildlife-habitats/698329670>), as well as other information presented to various groups and partners.

In May 2017, the Department and USDA signed the first two CREP contracts in Emmons County. The grass cover on these two contracts was planted in May 2017, (Figure 1) enrolled into the Department's PLOTS program (Figure 2) and were utilized by the public for walk in hunting in the fall of 2017 (Figure 3). Other producers submitted offers but as spring approached, drought conditions and emergency declarations took priority for USDA offices. The Department and USDA did not actively seek participants for the program during the summer of 2017. USDA staff, who are responsible for developing CREP contracts, were heavily involved with drought-related activities and producers were busy trying to deal with dry conditions. The Department promoted the program in November 2017 with over 5,000 postcards (Figure 4) mailed to producers and several radio ads airing over a five-day period in the project area. Since this time, there are new offers awaiting approval at USDA with several other inquiries.

At the time of this report, \$4,671.00 of OHF funds have been spent and \$153,450.58 in matching funds has been spent by the Department. The high amount of matching funds is due to the two CREP contracts enrolling adjacent non-CREP acres into PLOTS and implementing additional habitat and public access payments on those acres. A total of 46.71 acres of CREP along with 265.0 acres of adjacent land have been enrolled in PLOTS for a total of 311.3 acres of public access for a period of 10 years. In addition to the OHF and matching funds from the Department, USDA provided \$1,922.00 in annual rental payments for the 46.71 acres of CREP.



Figure 1. Newly established CREP grass planting, Emmons County, July 2017.



Figure 2 and 3. Established CREP grass planting, Emmons County.



attention
Private Landowners:

NEW Riparian Habitat Program Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program. Participants establish riparian buffers, filter strips, native grasses and forbs to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. North Dakota Game and Fish offers additional financial resources to landowners who voluntarily enroll land into CREP. Offered land must be in the CREP project boundary.

USDA provides the following payments:

- Cost-share payments of up to 50 percent of cost to install the approved conservation practice.
- Cost-share payments for certain management activities.
- A one-time signing incentive payment payment of \$75 - \$150 per acre for certain practices.
- An annual soil rental payment.
- An annual soil rental rate incentive payment of 10-40 percent for certain practices.

North Dakota Game and Fish provides the following payments:

- A one-time incentive payment of \$100 per CREP acre enrolled.
- A cost-share payment of up to 50 percent of cost to install the approved conservation practice.
- Cost-share payments for certain management activities.
- An annual payment for land enrolled in the Private Land Open To Sportsmen program.

**CONTACT INFORMATION – For detailed information on CREP, contact a private land biologist in your area:**

- BISMARCK DISTRICT OFFICE  
Phone: 701-527-3764  
CREP counties: Burleigh, Emmons, Morton and Oliver  
Contact: Levi Jacobson – ljacobson@nd.gov
- DICKINSON DISTRICT OFFICE  
Phone: 701-227-7431  
CREP counties: Bowman, Golden Valley, Slope and Stark  
Contact: Curtis Francis – cyfrancis@nd.gov  
CREP counties: Adams, Grant, Hettinger and Sioux  
Contact: Jaden Honeyman – jhoneyman@nd.gov
- LAKE ILO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
Phone: 701-588-8110  
CREP counties: Billings and Dunn  
Contact: Todd Gallion – todd.gallion@fws.gov
- RIVERDALE DISTRICT OFFICE  
Phone: 701-654-7475  
CREP counties: Mercer  
Contact: Ryan Huber – rhuber@nd.gov
- WILLISTON DISTRICT OFFICE  
701-774-4320  
CREP counties: McKenzie  
Contact: Todd Buckley – tbuckley@nd.gov

CREP II RIPARIAN PROJECT AREA

Visit the NDGFD website at [gf.nd.gov/plots/landowner/crep](http://gf.nd.gov/plots/landowner/crep)

Figure 4. Example of postcard mailed to producers in November 2017.

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

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.