

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 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 12/31/18	Period Covered by Report (December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018)
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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) Kading, Kevin J.	Responsible Official's Title Private Lands Section Leader
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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 \$41,970.00 Other Project Sponsor's share \$30,796.00

In-kind Funding \$0

OHF Funding **Requested for Reimbursement** \$27,236.00

Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$69,206, with Other Project Sponsor's share \$100,102.00

Total Funds Spent to Date

Match Funding \$195,420.58

In-kind Funding \$0

OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$31,907.00

Total Funding Expended to Date \$227,327.58

Balance of Grant Funds

Match Funding \$1,004,579.42

In-kind Funding \$0

OHF Funding still to be Requested \$2,968,093

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 Pheasant Habitat Initiative is closely tied to the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The first quarter of 2018 was spent working on several programmatic issues with USDA program specifications. There was some information and outreach completed during this time period, but activity was light. Many of the programmatic issues had been worked through by the second quarter and the Department began to promote the program more. The following is a timeline of activities for the reporting period.

- December 2017 – Radio PSAs were completed by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and aired on four radio stations in the project area for a 5-day period. PSAs aired six-nine times a day on these stations and were timed with the mailing of the postcards. iHeartMedia suggested these stations had the best potential to reach the target audience. Radio stations included KCAD-FM, KLTC-AM, KFJR-AM and KBMR-AM.
- December 2017 – Private land biologist radio interview with KPOK-AM, Bowman, ND
- February 2018 – Two staff attended and sponsored a booth at the North Dakota Corn and Soybean Expo. This event drew in hundreds of producers from across the region. The Department provided handouts at the booth and took questions from interested producers. Approximately 12 producers expressed interest in CREP II at this event but unfortunately, most of them did not have land in the project area. Several producers commented on the need for more CRP for saline areas in the eastern portion of North Dakota.
- March 2018 – Two staff attended and sponsored a booth at the North Dakota Water Quality Conference. The goal was to promote CREP II and educate attendees about its role in water quality for North Dakota. Approximately 100+ attendees from various agencies and disciplines were represented, including state and federal agencies, soil conservation districts, extension agents, as well as teachers and students participating in River Watch water quality education programs.
- March 2018 – Two staff attended and provided a verbal update and handouts on CREP II to approximately 150 soil conservation district staff from around the state at the joint meeting of the North Dakota Conservation District Employees Association, North Dakota Forest Service and North Dakota Department of Health, Trees and Watersheds Workshop.
- April/May 2018 - Coordination with State FSA on the development of several 36.5" X 72.5" retractable banners to be displayed at county USDA service centers in the CREP II area. Banners to be used at landowner workshops, agricultural and sport shows, and other events to promote the program.
- A CREP promotional ad was placed in the May issue of North Dakota Outdoors. This is the official publication of the Department and it reaches approximately 75,000 people across the state.
- June 2018 - The Department generated a news release regarding the announcement of the USDA CRP signup as well as providing information about CREP II. The news releases reach approximately 75,000 people.
- June 2018 - A column titled "It goes hand in hand" was published in Prairie Adventures. This column is published in ten newspapers located across the state.
- June 2018 – 209.71-acre CREP contract signed in Slope County.
- July 2018 - INFORUM newspaper article titled "Voluntary CRP applications could boost grassland habitat". Approximately 50,000 readers. <http://www.inforum.com/sports/4473648-doug-leier-voluntary-crp-applications-could-boost-grassland-habitat>.
- July 2018 - ND Game and Fish Department guest speaker on KFJR radio, whose coverage area includes all of North Dakota, parts of Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, speaking about the CREP program workshops as well as other CRP opportunities. Approximately 100,000 listeners.
- July 2018 - Landowner workshop – Linton, ND. The workshop was held in conjunction with USDA-FSA and included a mailing to all landowners in the eligible CREP project area in Emmons County.

Approximately 600 letters were mailed, as well as a post on ND Game and Fish Department's Facebook site. The workshop was well attended with over 41 landowners in attendance.

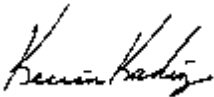
- August 2018 - Landowner workshop – Regent, ND. The workshop was held in conjunction with USDA-FSA and included a mailing to all landowners in the eligible CREP project area in Stark and Hettinger counties. Approximately 1,900 letters were mailed, as well as a post on ND Game and Fish Department's Facebook site. The workshop was well attended with over 75 in attendance.
- August 2018 – 62.65-acre CREP contract signed in Emmons County.
- August 2018 - USDA CRP Notice 849 provided dates for CREP offer processing deadlines. Deadlines for producers to sign up for CREP was August 17, 2018. September 7, 2018, for conservation plans to be returned to FSA from NRCS and September 28, 2018, for CRP-1 to be completed. This notice placed CREP on hold due to the expiring September 30, 2018 farm bill.
- Following the two landowner workshops, several producers indicated interest in the program, however, due to the August 17th deadline to sign up, many producers felt too pressured under the short time frame and elected to not sign up at that time. Many of those producers have expressed interest in signing up once CRP is authorized to reopen.
- September through November 30, 2018 (end of reporting period) – CREP program on hold due to lack of authority to reopen CRP in the farm bill.

Attachments:

- North Dakota CREP annual performance report.
- CREP annual assessment summary.
- Expenditure summary and matching funds documentation.
- Link to summary of 2017 PLOTS hunter and landowner survey: <https://gf.nd.gov/magazine/2018/aug-sep/plots-update>
- Link to human dimensions study: <https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2700&context=etd>

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.