

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 12/31/16	Period Covered by Report (12/31/15 to 12/31/16)	
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	
Project Sponsor Address 100 N. Bismarck Expressway			
City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58501	Telephone Number 701-328-6371
<u>Financial Update</u>			
Please provide the following information regarding the funding for your project based on the contract award:			
<u>Funds Spent this Reporting Period</u>			
(As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases)			
Match Funding \$0			
In-kind Funding \$0			
OHF Funding Requested for Reimbursement \$0			
Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$0			
<u>Total Funds Spent to Date</u>			
Match Funding \$0			
In-kind Funding \$0			
OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$0			
Total Funding Expended to Date \$0			
<u>Balance of Grant Funds</u>			
Match Funding \$0			
In-kind Funding \$0			
OHF Funding still to be Requested \$0			
Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$0			
Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension If yes, please explain			
/ / Yes /X/ 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). At the time of this report, North Dakota was at Stage 5 of 6 of the CREP proposal process. On December 5, 2016, former Governor Jack Dalrymple signed the Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation and the State of North Dakota. The signing of this agreement was the final step in the development and approval process; the State and FSA will soon announce the program and make it available to producers in the project area.

CREP proposal development and approval process:

1. State partners identify natural resource concerns, identify solid State funding commitment and draft a written proposal
2. National CREP review team reviews and provides comments-negotiations continue
3. State partners develop draft CREP agreement language
4. After full consensus is achieved a final CREP agreement is prepared (NEPA process triggered, USDA State Technical Committee review)
5. Final agreement is signed by USDA Secretary of Agriculture and Governor
6. Partners announce CREP sign up

Consultation and coordination timeline:

After several months of discussions with USDA-FSA the Department and Carlson McCain, Inc. published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Assessment for the CREP project and made it available for public comment on October 31, 2016. The NOA was published for three days with a 30-day public comment period. USDA-FSA did not receive any comments. A Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were signed on December 6, 2016.

Department staff met with USDA staff on December 13, 2016 to develop guidelines and procedures for the CREP. USDA-FSA will amend the Agricultural Resource Conservation Program (2-CRP – Revision 5) - also known as the CRP handbook - to incorporate these new guidelines and procedures. Additional training with Department and USDA staff will take place in January 2017 with an expected program rollout soon after. After program rollout, the Department and USDA will coordinate promotion, mailings, workshops and other outreach efforts for the project.

At the time of this report, no funds or match for the OHF grant have been spent. The Department has spent \$14,500 on the final completion of the Environmental Assessment and \$104.58 for the Notice of Availability; however, these funds are used as state match for the CREP and not match for the OHF grant. Now that the program is soon to be announced, it is expected the OHF funds and match will expended during the next reporting period. Furthermore, annual CREP reports or surveys have not been compiled; they will begin after the program is being fully administered. Copies of the NOA, EA and FONSI are available upon request from the Department.

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.