

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 003-045	Report Date November 1, 2015	Period Covered by Report 01/02/2015 to 04/30/15 financials 01/02/2015 to 6/30/15 work completed – final
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Project Name
Brown Ranch Habitat Enhancement through Prescribed Grazing

Project Sponsor Name
The Nature Conservancy

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Hoff, Eric	Responsible Official's Title Sheyenne Delta Land Steward
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Project Sponsor Address 7290 146th Avenue SE Milnor, ND 58060	701 439-0841
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City	State	Zip Code	Telephone Number
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Financial Update

Please provide the following information regarding the funding for your project based on the contract award:

We will submit financial reports and request reimbursement in January 2016. See July 16, 2015 email for details.

Funds Spent this Reporting Period

(As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases)

Match Funding \$

In-kind Funding \$

OHF Funding Requested for Reimbursement \$

Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$

Total Funds Spent to Date

Match Funding \$

In-kind Funding \$

OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$

Total Funding Expended to Date \$

Balance of Grant Funds

Match Funding \$

In-kind Funding \$

OHF Funding still to be Requested \$

Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$

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 purpose of this project was to bring reliable water sources to The Nature Conservancy's Brown Ranch for its grazing program with the ultimate goal of improving its grazing management in order to improve on the ground habitat for wildlife. In addition to habitat improvement this project was also aimed at providing a sustainable and reliable grazing source for local ranchers.

All materials (pump, solar panels, trailer and water tanks) were purchased in early spring and installed in late May and early June, as the grazing season got under way. A few modifications were made to the trailer to prevent cattle from destroying any components of the solar set up. These modifications included a metal panel welded to the trailer and screw-in spikes to prevent the trailer from being moved accidentally (see exhibit A below). The same style of cattle panel was placed inside of each tank to provide a visual barrier to prevent cattle from jumping into the tank and destroying the tank liners (exhibit B).

With tanks in place and functioning properly, portable cross fence was used to focus grazing on specific areas at predetermined times to achieve desired results of decreasing non-native cool season grasses and promoting a heterogeneous habitat structure. Pastures were carefully monitored and cattle were moved as often as every 3 days.

This project has been a success in its first year of implementation. Without the solar pumping unit and tanks, grazing would not have taken place in the fall due to a complete lack of surface water. Not being able to graze in the fall would have hampered management goals to create heterogeneous habitat and could have resulted in lost income for the local rancher who leases Brown Ranch. It was also successful by reaching the above stated goal of providing a sustainable and reliable water source for cattle. The biggest success of the project is providing better habitat for wildlife by better managing native prairie. Without water sources in place, targeting areas of non-native cool season grasses was nearly impossible. Now, with one or more water sources, a large pasture can be split into smaller units to focus management activities like grazing to better achieve goals of exotic cool season grass reduction and creating heterogeneous habitat structure.

The value of this project can be seen in several different ways. The most obvious of these values is the use of the land for production of cattle by a local rancher. Another value of this project will likely be seen in the long term as habitat improves and hunting opportunities improve. There is also the intrinsic value in the conservation of native tall grass prairie. It conserves a landscape that people can enjoy not just for hunting or ranching values, but for the sake of something beautiful and inspiring.

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, thank you for your support of this project.

Exhibit A



The solar trailer without protection



The solar trailer with protective paneling around it



All controls protected by panels



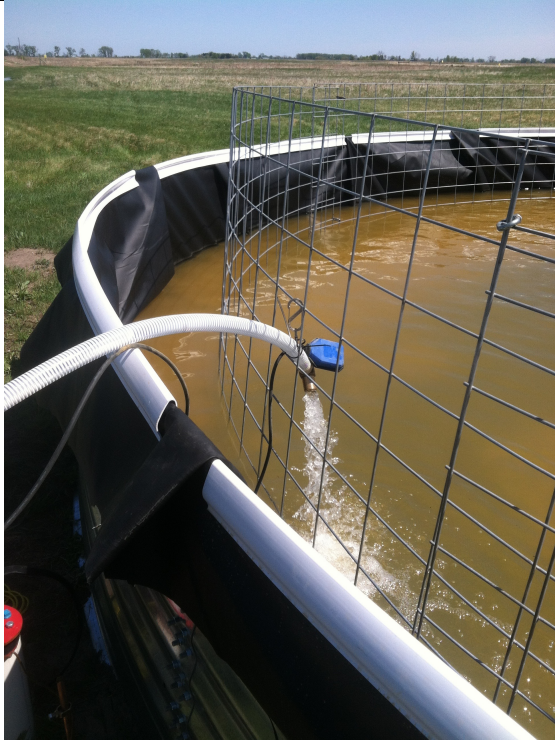
Protecting the well and hoses

Exhibit B



Tank layout and assembly

Fully assembled



Assembled and being filled for the first time

Visual deterrent doing its job

Exhibit C



This photo shows a pasture where part of it was grazed in the spring and part of it was not grazed at all. If you look closely, you can see taller grass in the foreground and an area of shorter grass in the mid-ground with taller grass in the background. This is a great example of heterogeneous habitat that has been created by installing better water sources with the NDOHF grant.

*All photos by Eric Hoff, The Nature Conservancy

Signature of Responsible Official

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Hoff". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a rectangular box.

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.