

## **OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Project Number: 005-071

Recipient: Barnes County Soil Conservation District

Award Amount: \$200,000

Total Project Costs: \$332,414.57

Total OHF Funds Received: \$199,360.54



### **Goal of Project:**

The goal of our project was to reduce the amount of sedimentation originating from the Sheyenne River Watershed thereby restoring the aquatic life uses and maintaining the recreational uses of the Sheyenne River. By making contacts with producers and landowners we were able to offer both technical and financial assistance to improve soil health, lessen wind and water erosion, stabilize river and stream banks, enhance grazing systems, and encourage cover crop usage.

### **Work Accomplished:**

Throughout the duration of our Sedimentation Grant, we worked with 26 producers within Barnes County, implementing many Best Management Practices. We have installed over 109,000 feet of barbed wire, for border and cross fencing, and 4,270 feet of electric fencing. Livestock producers installed 13,414 feet of water pipeline and 10 watering troughs/tanks. Two spring developments were performed, two dugout watering facilities were dredged to improve utilization, one livestock well was dug and a solar tank was also implemented for a producer. More than 1,000 acres of cover crops were planted along with 334 acres of pasture grass plantings.

Throughout Barnes County, one riverbank stabilization was performed along the Sheyenne River south of Valley City. Two acres of erosion control were installed along Lake Ashtabula. A 2-acre grassed waterway was established to prevent further field erosion. We also wrote an amendment to our grant to fund the construction of a canoe launch at Barnes County SCD's Riparian Park south of Valley City.

### **Project Results:**

Because of our efforts, many producers received financial assistance to vastly improve the infrastructure of their cattle operations. By utilizing cross fencing and watering systems, they were able to graze their land more efficiently while keeping their cattle out of the lakes, rivers and streams. By working with them to improve their facilities, we were able to keep better cover in pastures and fields, thus reducing wind and water erosion. Having water available for their cattle in the pastures will help keep the animal's waste out of our rivers and streams. We were also able to reduce erosion along the Sheyenne River and Lake Ashtabula with several stabilization and erosion control projects.

### **Value to North Dakota:**

We feel that our Outdoor Heritage Fund grant has been a tremendous benefit to the producers of Barnes County. Thanks to our outreach and cost share opportunities, we were able to implement

many practices throughout the county to help reduce erosion, reduce contaminants within our waters and improve soil health. We feel that the practices that producers implemented have not only helped us today, but will continue to improve our lakes, rivers and streams into the future.