

## 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 005-073	Report Date 10/24/2018	Period Covered by Report 09/8/2015 – 10/31/2018 FINAL REPORT	
Project Name Homme Dam Watershed 319 Project			
Project Sponsor Name Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District			
Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Johnston, Sarah Braaten		Responsible Official's Title District Manager	
Project Sponsor Address 13351 Hwy 17 W			
City Park River	State ND	Zip Code 58270	Telephone Number (701) 284-7363
<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> SCD Match Funding \$75,063 319 Funds \$145,100 In-kind Funding \$ 1,915.72 OHF Funding Received and Requested for Past Reimbursement \$4,789.30 Total Funding Expended \$226,868.02			
<u>Balance of Grant Funds</u> Match Funding 319 \$ 0 In-kind Funding \$ 0 OHF Funding still to be Requested \$ 55,626.42 Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$ 55,626.42			
Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, please explain	



The Homme Dam Watershed 319 Project's purpose was to restore water quality for the beneficial uses of recreation and aquatic life at the Homme Dam Reservoir by working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs). Riparian vegetation cover, prescribed grazing systems, riparian forest buffers, and streambank/shoreline stabilizations are examples of BMPs the program promoted, especially with landowners in priority areas along waterways. A total of thirty-nine landowners were consulted with during the course of the Homme Dam watershed program. Eighteen landowners requested conservation plans and options were discussed for BMP implementation on cropland and rangeland. Landowner outreach was directed towards land immediately upland of riparian areas within the project area to maximize benefits to water quality. Both cropland and rangeland were areas that received much attention through outreach and education, and OHF cost share opportunities were promoted directly to landowners.

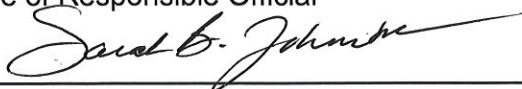
Two landowners participated in tree and shrub projects that utilized OHF cost share. Tree and shrub plantings were completed on a landowner's newly acquired cropland overlooking a small tributary of the S. Branch of the Park River on a high priority area of the Homme Dam Watershed. The landowner sought to establish trees for deer habitat, provide cover, and reduce soil erosion to benefit water quality. The first planting was completed in May 2017 and was designed by the Walsh Co. Three Rivers SCD. The planting consisted of 945 shrubs, comprised of caragana, hawthorn, juneberry, cotoneaster, and highbush cranberry. Total length of all rows equaled 0.65 miles. In 2018, a second planting was completed at the site, adding additional species for diversity, including bur oak, rocky mountain juniper, eastern red cedar, and caragana. These four rows of trees and shrubs were situated on the upland area adjacent to existing riparian forest. The planting's purpose was to expand current forested acres for deer habitat. Each row is approximately 260 feet in length, for a total of 0.2 miles. Seedlings were planted on June 18, with fabric installed on June 25, 2018. In total, 0.85 miles of trees were placed where wildlife and water quality will greatly benefit from them.

The third planting was installed west of Edinburg, ND. This landowner desired to convert former pastureland into white-tailed deer habitat. Historically, this land was season long grazed in the past, which limited the number of trees and shrubs growing in the location. He established shrubs and trees to the site in 2017, which would add benefits of soil stabilization and increased water quality. The upland acreage bordered hillslope ravines where many deer would travel. One side is characterized by a steep cut hillside over a small tributary of the S. Branch of the Park River. Over a dozen tree and shrub species were utilized out of the 128 trees and shrubs planted, many of which could provide a food source for wildlife through berries and nuts, or serve as pollinator forage.

In addition to tree plantings, work involving cover crops, rotation grazing plans, and grade stabilizations were explored by landowners thanks to the work of this program facilitating direct contact with landowners. While many practices explored by producers did not get implemented during the project period, the personal contact and relationship building that took place during the time frame of this project may lead to conservation being implemented under better circumstances for the producer. For instance, in September 2016, over 300 acres of cover crops were scheduled to be implemented. Planting these cover crops was not possible due to the saturated conditions. Over 30 inches of rain fell within the Homme Dam Watershed between June and September 2016. Two proposed projects, which involved stabilizing ravine gullies leading to waterways, were pursued, however one was funded using 319 funds and the other was not advanced further by the landowner due to total cost of the project. The watershed coordinator worked with NRCS and ND Game & Fish Save Our Lakes coordinator to visit six livestock producers who had riparian areas that were grazed in hopes of incorporating off-channel water developments, however, we continue to work on getting landowners to implement these types of practices in this watershed.

The tree planting projects funded by OHF have direct and positive impacts on water quality within the watershed. Specifically, these projects help mitigate soil erosion and nutrient loading that is causing harmful algae blooms (HABs) and sedimentation in the Homme Dam reservoir. The public's use of Homme Dam is significantly impacted due to harmful algae blooms in the summer, and because of this, all conservation partners should continue to work in this impaired watershed.

Signature of Responsible Official



10/30/18

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.