

**Contract No. 005-074**  
 “North Dakota Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative”  
 Submitted by North Dakota Forest Service  
 Principal Investigator: Tom Claeys  
 Directives B & C

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	
Landowners (cash/in-kind)	\$1,440,000	
Landowners	<u>\$ 360,000</u>	
Subtotal Cost Share		\$1,800,000
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$1,800,000</u>	
Subtotal Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) dollars		<u>\$1,800,000</u>
Total Project Cost		\$3,600,000

Project Schedule – 5 years  
 Contract Date – 7/15/2015  
 Start Date – 7/15/2015  
 Completion Date – 6/30/2020  
*\*Denotes change from original contract.*

Project Deliverables:  
 Status Report: June 30, 2016 ✓  
 Status Report: June 30, 2017 ✓  
 Status Report: June 30, 2018 ✓  
 Status Report: June 30, 2019 ✓  
 Status Report: June 30, 2020\* ✓  
 Status Report: June 30, 2021\* ✓  
 Final Report: June 30, 2022\*

**OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:**

The purpose of this project is to: 1) Ensure that windbreaks remain a part of North Dakota’s conservation heritage and viable part of the agricultural landscape; 2) Reduce the number of windbreaks destroyed by offering incentives to replace dead/deteriorating windbreaks; 3) Incorporate species diversity and select species most suitable for the site to mitigate future losses due to abiotic factors or insect and disease issues; 4) Provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to help achieve their conservation goals; 5) Administer a simple, effective, statewide cost-share program that leverages landowner’s match with a source of grant funds for a variety of windbreak renovation practices.

**STATUS:**

Contract has been executed.

**June 30, 2016**

On July 15, 2015, North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) received a grant from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund for \$1,800,000 to support this initiative. 100% of this money will be distributed to North Dakota landowners to support windbreak renovation projects. Each windbreak renovation project will follow a written windbreak renovation plan utilizing best management practices.

Technical Assistance

NDFS staff and partners offer technical assistance to interested landowners in the form of an on-site windbreak assessment and a written windbreak renovation plan. Renovation plans utilize a variety of forestry best management practices to meet the landowner’s goals in restoring the functionality of the windbreak.

Requests for assistance are received through an online questionnaire. This questionnaire asks the landowner to answer a few simple questions including landowner contact information and the location of the windbreak in need of renovation. Questionnaires are grouped into “pools” based on the date that the document was received. NDFS is currently accepting questionnaires for the 3<sup>rd</sup> pool -- this pool will close on August 15, 2016 and assistance will be provided in the fall of 2016. Questionnaires received after August 15<sup>th</sup> will receive technical assistance in the spring of 2017. As of June 9<sup>th</sup> NDFS has received 282 requests for windbreak renovation planning assistance statewide.

#### Financial Assistance

Following the windbreak assessment and written renovation plan, NDFS staff assist landowners with applying for cost share assistance to implement the windbreak renovation project. There is no deadline to apply and applications are accepted on a continual basis. Landowners have a minimum of two full years to complete their renovation project and apply for reimbursement. As of June 9<sup>th</sup> NDFS has awarded grants totaling \$309,306 to 60 landowners statewide, and three of the projects have been completed. (Photos are posted on the website under status report.)

#### **April 5, 2017**

The North Dakota Forest Service has requested and been granted a no-cost two year extension for this project. As a result of reduced staffing additional time is needed to work with landowners and to provide the technical assistance required under the program. There continues to be considerable interest in the program but with the reduced staffing it will take the North Dakota Forest Service longer to work with the interested parties.

#### **June 30, 2017**

##### Technical Assistance

The NDFS is currently accepting questionnaires for the 4<sup>th</sup> pool -- this pool officially closed on April 30, 2017. However, a few requests submitted since then are close to other requested site locations and will be scheduled concurrently with previous assistance requests. Assistance will be provided as our currently reduced staff is able to provide it. Questionnaires received after August 15, 2017 will receive technical assistance in 2018. As of June 30, 2017, NDFS has received 593 total requests for windbreak renovation planning assistance statewide.

##### Financial Assistance

As of June 30, 2017 NDFS has awarded grants total \$824,791.25 to 156 landowners statewide, and 27 of those projects have been completed. The completed projects provide direct protection to 20 rural farmsteads and 180 acres of farmland.

#### **June 30, 2018**

##### Technical Assistance

NDFS staff and partners offer technical assistance to interested landowners in the form of an on-site windbreak assessment and a written windbreak renovation plan. Renovation plans utilize a variety of forestry best management practices to meet the landowner’s goals in restoring the functionality of the windbreak. Requests for assistance are received through an online questionnaire. This questionnaire asks the landowner to answer a few simple questions including landowner contact information and the location of the windbreak in need of renovation. Questionnaires are grouped into “pools” based on the date that the document was received. NDFS is currently accepting questionnaires for the 5<sup>th</sup> pool – this pool officially closed on April 30, 2018. However, the few requests submitted since then are close to other requested site locations and will be scheduled concurrently with previous assistance requests.

Assistance will be provided as our currently reduced staff are able to provide it. Questionnaires received after August 15, 2018 will receive technical assistance in 2019. As of June 30, 2018, NDFS has received over 680 total requests for windbreak renovation planning assistance statewide.

#### Financial Assistance

Following the windbreak assessment and written renovation plan, NDFS staff assist landowners with applying for cost share assistance to implement the windbreak renovation project. There is no deadline to apply and applications are accepted on a continual basis. Landowners have a minimum of two full years to complete their renovation project and apply for reimbursement.

As of June 30, 2018, NDFS has awarded grants totaling \$1,134,452.51 to 214 projects statewide, and 74 of these projects have been completed. The completed projects provide direct protection to 61 rural farmsteads and 490 acres of farmland.

#### **June 2019**

##### Technical Assistance

NDFS is currently accepting questionnaires for requesting assistance during the 2019 field season. The current batching period officially closed on April 30, 2019. However, requests submitted after this batching period date will be addressed as staff time allows and weather permits.

##### Financial Assistance

As of June 30, 2019, NDFS has awarded grants totaling \$1,380,408 to 268 projects statewide, and 136 of these projects have been completed. The completed projects provide direct protection to 107 rural farmsteads and 895 acres of farmland. Since the beginning of the project, 2.32 miles of roads have been protected.

#### **June 2020**

##### Technical Assistance

NDFS is currently accepting questionnaires for requesting assistance during the 2020 field season. Staff continually provide technical assistance. The batching period for financial assistance closed on April 30, 2019, so that the projects could be evaluated, and grant funds committed for field season 2019 (tree removal) and planting season 2020. Requests submitted since then have been addressed as staff time allows and weather permits.

##### Financial Assistance

As of June 30, 2020, NDFS has awarded grants totaling \$1,586,818 to 305 projects statewide, and 197 of these projects have been completed. The completed projects provide direct protection to 162 rural farmsteads and 1138.7 acres of farmland. Since the beginning of the project, 4.44 miles of roads have been protected.

#### **June 2021**

##### Technical Assistance

As of June 30, 2021, NDFS has received over 820 total requests for windbreak renovation planning assistance statewide.

##### Financial Assistance

As of June 30, 2021, NDFS has awarded grants totaling \$1,688,691.53 to 323 projects statewide, and 247 of these projects have been completed. The completed projects provide direct protection to 205 rural farmsteads, 4.64 road miles protected, and 1,215.37 acres of farmland.

Updated: June 25, 2021