

**Contract No. 010-116**  
**“Planting For the Future: Tree Habitat Program”**  
 Submitted by North Dakota Petroleum Council Foundation  
 Primary Contact: Tessa Sandstrom  
 Directives: C & B

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>
ONEOK (cash)	\$39,000.00
North Dakota Petroleum Council (cash)	\$10,000.00
Landowner (In-kind or cash)	<u>\$39,250.00</u>
Subtotal Cash & In-kind) Cost Share	\$ 88,250.00
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$108,125.00</u>
Subtotal OHF funding	<u>\$108,125.00</u>
Total Project Cost	\$196,375.00

Project Schedule – 4 years  
 Contract Date – 1/5/2018  
 Start Date – 1/5/2018  
 Completion Date – December 31, 2021

Project Deliverables:  
 Status Report: August 1, 2018 ✓  
 Status Report: December 31, 2018 ✓  
 Status Report: August 1, 2019  
 Status Report: December 31, 2019 ✓  
 Status Report: August 1, 2020  
 Status Report: December 31, 2020 ✓  
 Status Report: August 1, 2021 ✓  
 Final Report: December 31, 2021 ✓

**OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:**

Provide funding for up to 30 tree planting projects (average project to be 2,000 trees) on private lands using private vendors throughout the State over the next four years. The goal is the planting of a total of 55,000 trees which will be monitored for up to two years to ensure survival and success of plantings (a minimum of 80% survival rate). The majority of the plantings are to be done using the scalping method. The plantings also include use of weed and moisture barriers (landowner will pay for 25 percent of the additional cost for the barrier).

**STATUS:**

Contract has been fully executed.

**Status Report – 8/1/18**

The North Dakota Petroleum Council, in cooperation with the Outdoor Heritage Fund, ONEOK, Whiting Oil and Gas and private landowners planted more than 58,000 trees in Burleigh, Kidder, Dickey, Morton, Mountrail, Emmons, Wells, Grant, Stark and Sheridan Counties. This surpasses the program’s goal of planting 55,000 trees over the course of three years. Eighteen landowners participated in the project and the average planting was approximately 3,200 trees. In partnership with industry partners, the OHF, and private landowners, we were able to plant trees for an average cost of \$1.25, allowing our dollars to go further than expected.

Although Planting for the Future met and surpassed its goals, funds remain to allow the program to plant more trees in the 2019 planting season. We have received another 22 applications for trees next year. The program will be working to raise additional funds from industry to help fund as many of these projects as possible in 2019.

Photos from some of the plantings are available in the full report and video about the project may be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/Vn3cajMlmKU>.

### **Status Report – 12/1/18**

All work was completed during the last reporting cycle, but the contract labor was not included in that report. This report includes those expenditures, as well as in-kind labor on behalf of the Responsible Official of this grant in planning for the 2019 planting cycle. This work included collecting applications, entering their information into the database, and assigning projects to project consultants.

### **Status Report – 12/1/19**

The North Dakota Petroleum Foundation, in cooperation with the Outdoor Heritage Fund, industry partners and private landowners, planted more than 30,000 trees in Burleigh, Dickey, Emmons, Hettinger, Kidder, Morton, and Mountrail Counties in May and June 2019.

In addition, a monitor was out to count trees for the 2018 planting season. Unfortunately, wet weather throughout much of the fall and early snows in October and November prevented monitors from reaching all projects. The monitor was able to check 9 of the 18 projects from that year. Attempts will be made to monitor the remaining projects in the spring of 2020.

Of the 9 projects totaling 25,550 trees, approximately 8,995 trees survived. Drought in 2018 and extreme wet weather for some areas in 2019 took a toll on several of the projects. Planting for the Future will work with landowners to discuss planting of replacement trees in 2020 or 2021.

The expenditures in this report include contract labor and program administration for 2019 plantings, planning for 2020 plantings and monitoring for half of the 2018 plantings.

The goal of this grant was to plant 55,000 trees over the three-year period of this grant. Over two planting cycles, Planting for the Future was able to plant 88,000 trees. Because of this, all grant funds have been expended, but the North Dakota Petroleum Foundation will continue filing reports in the third year of the grant to report on additional monitoring activities and work with landowners to replant trees to ensure stronger projects for habitat.

### **Status Report – 11/1/20**

Monitoring activity was limited last year (2019) as a result of very wet conditions throughout much of the late summer in central North Dakota, followed by substantial snow very early in the fall. These conditions, including an early freezing before Cedars went dormant, also affected the survival rate of some projects.

Because of the conditions that made many projects inaccessible last fall, monitoring had to be completed in the spring of 2020. All project inspections were completed in mid-October of 2020. Despite the difficult weather conditions, the projects that have been monitored in 2020 were considerable successes with an overall survival rate of 57%. According to the USDA, NRCS Tree Care and Management Guide, projects with a 50% survival rate or higher meet the definition of a successful tree planting for Wetland and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Projects that were planted in the spring of 2019 had far better moisture than those planted in 2018, which resulted in better survivability. Of the total number of projects counted, the overall survival rate was 65%. Two projects were not counted. One was not counted because the property was sold and another was not counted because, unfortunately, the contractor had not made it to the project with fabric and the area was overgrown, and the 1,500 trees that were planted were recorded as 0% survival. One issue that did impact survivability was the cool temperatures, excess rain and then early freeze that came in the fall/winter of 2020. According to Towner Nursery, trees had not gone dormant when colder temperatures hit, shocking many of them.

Offers will be made to landowners to order replacement trees this fall.

### **Status Report – 10/21**

Activities for this grant report period included replanting of trees on two projects in Kidder County that had seen some loss the previous year due to an early freeze in the fall of 2019 and deer pressure. The expenditures

in this report include the cost of replacement trees and contract labor and program administration for 2021 replanting. This included:

- 1700 Eastern Red Cedar
- 1650 Rocky Mountain Juniper
- 400 McDermand Pear
- 300 Woods Rose
- 450 Dogwood
- 500 False Indigo
- 500 Sumac
- 125 Buffaloberry

Monitoring of 2019 plantings will occur in September 2021 and a report will be included in the final grant report.

**December 2021**

The final monitoring has been completed and the results were provided.

This contract is now closed with a returned commitment of \$5,443.25.

Dated 1/4/2022