

November 20, 2019

Andrea Pfennig
Industrial Commission
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

RE: OHF Grant 011-118 Sheyenne River Water Trail Development
Request for Grant Payment and Close-out

Dear Ms. Pfennig:

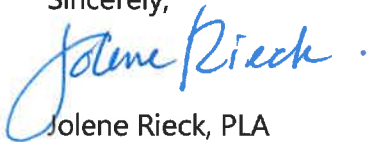
On behalf of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, we hereby request payment of the OHF Grant 011-118 in the amount of \$8,700.00. The project is 100 percent complete and is already deemed a success!

Attached are the progress reports for 2019, documentation of expenditures, donated labor, equipment and materials and financial calculations for your review. Please let us know if you need any other information to process this grant.

This project received the Regional Forester Honor Award from the United States Forest Service. This award demonstrates the commitment with multi-agency partnerships, private contributions and providing a new trail recreation opportunity – water trails! We are honored to have received an award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jolene Rieck, PLA
Chief of Planning and Programs

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. 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.

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 011-118	Report Date 11/04/2019	Period Covered by Report (7/1/19 to 11/04/19)
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Project Name
Sheyenne River Water Trail Development

Project Sponsor Name
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Rieck, Jolene	Responsible Official's Title Chief of Planning and Programs
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Project Sponsor Address
1600 E. Century Ave. Suite 3

City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58053	Telephone Number 701-328-5379
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Financial Update

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

	Funds Spent THIS Reporting Period*	Total Funds Spent to Date	Balance of Remaining Funds
Match Funding	\$17.44	\$17.44	\$0
In-kind Funding	\$3,070.74	\$8,109.30	\$0
OHF Funding	\$458.36	\$8,700.00	\$0
Total	\$3,529.10	\$16,826.74	\$0

Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension? /_/ Yes /X/ No

If yes, please explain:

*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.

Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:

(This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

FINAL REPORT

With continued efforts across agencies and public volunteers, the Sheyenne River Water Trail has been completed on the Sheyenne National Grassland. Envisioned from the North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the water trail provides access to many recreation opportunities in the area to include: canoeing, kayaking, boating, camping, hunting, and fishing. All four of the access sites provide information on proper hand launch and retrieval, dispersed camping on public lands by practicing a "leave no trace" guiding principle, water trail safety, and aquatic invasive species control. All aspects of the Sheyenne River Water Trail help to provide access to public lands and positive public lands stewardship.

Since the last report submitted, we completed the construction and implementation of the 4th and final information kiosk. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department finalized the 4th and final Hand-Launch site located on state land within the National Grassland Boundary. We also completed the construction of the final set of wood steps to the river bank.

All water trail signage has been implemented along the Sheyenne River Water Trail to include:

- *6 hand-launch access markers
- *8 camping markers
- *10 entering/leaving public lands markers
- *4 large information panels
- *4 large area maps

We greatly appreciate the ability to complete this project with the help of the Outdoor Heritage Fund and are excited to continue our efforts and better serve the recreational interests of the public.

The project has been well received by the local community with mention of the Sheyenne River Water Trail in the local newspaper. The project was also recognized by the U.S. Forest Service - Northern Region and received the 2019 Regional Forester Honor Award for providing outstanding benefits to the public.

This project has generated an immense amount of interest by a number of parties. As a result a larger effort has been conceptualized that will result in an approximately 100 mile long water trail that will include this project as one of its segments. Positive recognition has allowed the new multi-agency team behind the larger Sheyenne River Water Trail to initiate planning efforts and has been provided the opportunity to work with the National Parks Service. Over the next few years, the team will move towards implementing the project to reach nearly 100 river miles along the Sheyenne River with hopes of designating it as a National Water Trail System.

We would also like to note that during this reporting period, we have been able to conduct public outreach and agency coordination with the U.S Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Parks Service, North Dakota Parks and Recreation, North Dakota Game and Fish, and the Ransom County Park Board ranging from Valley City to Fargo, North Dakota.

We participated in the first annual River Festival held at Fort Ransom State Park in Fort Ransom, North Dakota. The event promoted recreation opportunities on public lands with a focus on canoeing, kayaking, and aquatic invasive species control. Attendees participated in a record setting canoe and kayak launch on the Sheyenne River with more than 100 registered boaters. Many families participated in youth activities at the park while the Forest Service operated an information booth to inform the public about the new Sheyenne River Water Trail.

*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.

Exhibit B

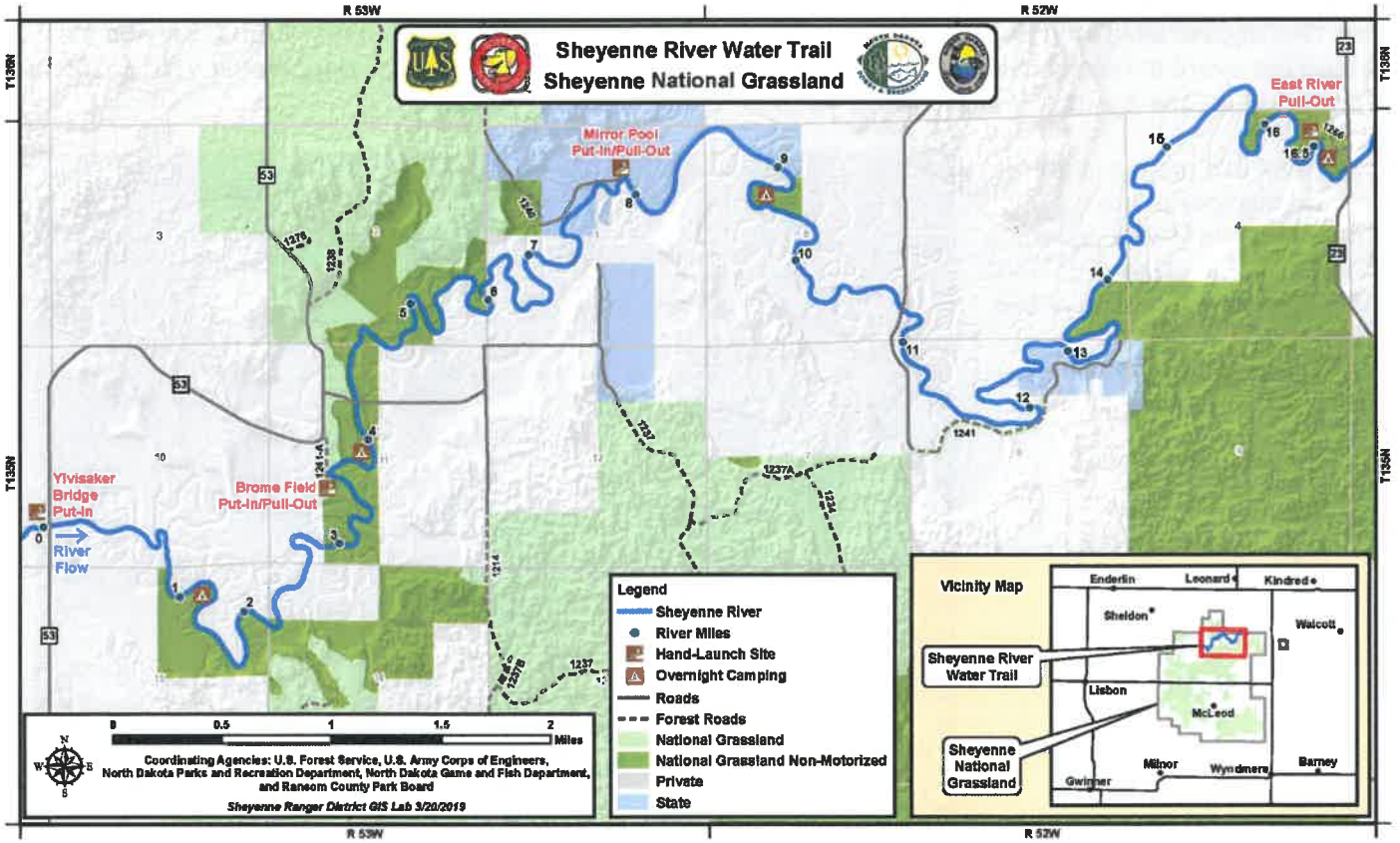
The North Dakota Game and Fish Department held an interagency field day at one of the Sheyenne River Water Trail access sites located on state land within the National Grassland Boundary. Forest Service staff attended the event to help showcase the Sheyenne River Water Trail and discuss opportunities for public lands management across agencies.

We feel that this project is an excellent example of how partnerships can lead to valuable outcomes for the citizens of North Dakota and the recreating public. We thank the Industrial Commission and the Outdoor Heritage Fund for your support.



*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.

Exhibit B



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Photos of work completed are welcome (If appropriate, please submit photos of key elements of the project completed or in progress during reporting period) Do not exceed five photos per project report.

This report was prepared pursuant to an agreement with the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, which partially funded the project through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Project participants, its subcontractors, and the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, or any person acting on its behalf, do not:

- (A) *Make any warranty or representation, express or implied, with respect to the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained in this report, or that the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this report may not infringe privately-owned rights; or*
- (B) *Assume any liabilities with respect to the use of, or for damages resulting from the use of, any information, apparatus, method or process disclosed in this report.*

Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Industrial Commission of North Dakota.

Signature of Responsible Official

Jolene Rieck, NODPD Chief of Planning & Programs

Regional Forester Honor Award Nomination

Award Category: Delivering Benefits to the Public

Program/Project Name: Sheyenne River Cooperative Water Trail (water trail)

Nominee: Sheyenne River Water Trail Development Team (please see team member list below)

Team Lead: Aaron Gaither, Recreation Management Specialist

Location: The Sheyenne River corridor through and adjacent to the Sheyenne National Grassland (see attached map)

Unit Contact: Casey Johnson, District Ranger (701-683-6801), casey.johnson@usda.gov

Nomination Statement: The water trail is a innovative and cooperative project that has created a unique recreational opportunity and enhanced recreational access. This project effectively responds to one of the primary needs in the ND State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and connects the public to the outdoors and valuable partnerships.

Project Summary: The water trail is a cooperative project that spans approximately 16.5 river miles and connects three public land ownerships to provide a unique semi-primitive water trail experience. The water trail includes four put in/take out locations located on county, state and NFS lands as well as four dispersed camping locations. The trail leverages existing features and was achievable due to the contributions of six partner entities ranging from local governments and state agencies to private cooperations and was made possible by numerous volunteers.

Project Description: The water trail was conceptualized after reviewing the ND SCORP. Through that review it was identified that opportunities for canoeing and kayaking are a primary weakness across the state. The Sheyenne Ranger district engaged partners about developing a semi-primitive watertrail that would capitalize on existing features to connect several public land locations. Through those communications, broad support was developed and a grant application was submitted to the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund. An \$8,700 grant was awarded.

The water trail includes the development of four put in/take out locations. Each put/in take out location includes a double panel kiosk that displays a water trail map and information panel. The information panels include information about public use opportunities, safety and considerate use information (e.g., pack in pack it out, mitigating the spread of aquatic invasive species, etc.).

A map and information brochure was also developed with copies available at each kiosk location and FS offices. The map is identical to what is displayed on the kiosk and is also available as an Avenza maps enabled PDF for mobile device applications. The information brochure goes into greater depth and describes parameters for camping, responsible water trail use (e.g., AIS mitigation), water safety considerations, a sign guide (i.e., what to look for while on the water trail to know when you are entering or leaving public land) and leave no trace principles. Lastly, signs were placed along the water trail to inform users of when they are entering and leaving public land, provide notice of take out locations as well as suggested dispersed camping locations. A copy of the map and information brochure is attached.

Outcomes: At the time of this nomination, project implementation is mostly complete. The only remaining aspects of the project to be completed is the hanging of the map and information panels at two of the four kiosks (two are done). All other aspects including kiosk installation and gravel maintenance at all four put in/take out locations, map and information brochure design and printing and river signage are complete.

Users have already been observed using the water trail and positive feedback from local partners, cooperators, NGOs is constant. The project has generated a considerable amount of interest and support. As a result of early project discussions the Sheyenne District Ranger was requested to present on water trails at the 2018 ND Trails Conference. The presentation was well received and generated further interest in the project and potential cross boundary expansion. That interest has resulted in a coordination group being established to design a much larger cooperative water trail that will start at Valley City ND and span more than 100 miles of the river. The cooperative includes multiple NGOs, State, Federal and Local government entities. The water trail will be one segment of the larger trail. The group has an ultimate goal of having the larger water trail recognized by the National Park Service as a formal water trail. The project has not only generated interest in the water trail but has also served as a mechanism to greatly increase the awareness about the Sheyenne National Grassland and the value of public lands. This has reached many of the surrounding communities and beyond.

The water trail required minimal investment of funds and has resulted in a large return. That return includes connecting the public to the outdoors, the associated recreation opportunities and the stewardship of public lands. It leveraged the the state of North Dakota's work in their SCORP and brought together many partners and volunteers. A notable aspect of the project that typifies the level of engagement and support it has generated is the fact that over 120 volunteer hours have been logged in its implementation which has not only reduced implementation costs, but more importantly developed project embasidors to communicate the opportunities it provides to a broad and diverse audience. An official grand opening event will be held sometime this fall to celebrate the water trail and honor our partners.

Team members:

Name	Title	Key Role
Aaron Gaither	Recreation Management Specialist (USDA Forest Service)	Project Implimentation Lead / volunteer coordination
Casey Johnson	District Ranger (USDA)	Project Initiator/Conceptualizer/Project Planning
Rodd Compson	Wildlife Resource Management Biolgist (ND Game and Fish Dept.)	Project partner/ cooperative water trail put in/take out location
Jolene Rieck	Chief of Planning & Programs (ND Parks and Recreation Dept.)	Project partner/ Outdoor Heritage Grant admin.
Tyler Modlin	Ransom County Park Board Representative	Project partner / cooperative water trail put in/take out location
Steve Dick	Chairman Ransom County ND Commission	Project partner / cooperative water trail put in/take out location
Ivan Hopkins	Superintendent (Ransom County Highway Dept.)	Project partner / volunteer support and in kind labor
Ron Hanson on behalf of Doosan Bobcat	Engineer (Doosan Bobcat)	Volunteer labor coordinator for Doosan Bobcat
Scott Tichy	Lead Park Ranger, Lake Ashtabula Project Office (US Army Corps of Engineers)	Water safety information and resources
ND Industrial Commission	ND Outdoor Heritage Fund	Project grant support and funding
Matthew Gardner	[previous] Chief of Grants, Trails and Planning (North Dakota Parsk and Recreation Dept.)	Project partner/ Outdoor Heritage Grant (OHF) writing
Greg Morel	[previous] DPG Trails Manager	OHF grant writing and project planning