

**Contract No. 011-127**  
**“NWTF Northern Plains Riparian Restoration Initiative”**

Submitted by National Wild Turkey Federation

Primary Contact: Collin Smith

Directive D, A, B, C

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	
Project Partners	\$345,061.00	
National Wild Turkey Federation	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>	
Subtotal Cash Cost Share		\$360,061.00
Project Partners & Landowners	<u>\$120,856.00</u>	
Subtotal In-Kind Cost Share		\$120,856.00
National Wild Turkey Federation	<u>\$ 20,419.00</u>	
Subtotal Indirect Cost Share		\$ 20,419.00
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$ 45,000.00</u>	
Subtotal OHF Funding		<u>\$ 45,000.00</u>
Total Project Cost		\$546,336.00

Project Schedule – 3 years  
 Contract Date – 6/22/2018  
 Start Date – 6/22/2018  
 Completion Date – ~~10/1/2021~~ 10/1/2023

Project Deliverables:  
 Status Report: October 1, 2018 ✓  
 Status Report: October 1, 2019 ✓  
 Status Report: October 1, 2020 ✓  
 Status Report: October 1, 2021\* ✓  
 Status Report: October 1, 2022\* ✓  
 Final Report: October 1, 2023\*

*\*denotes change from original contract*

**OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:**

Restoration of riparian areas in North Dakota. Activities may include planting native tree and shrub species, establishing riparian buffers, improving grazing infrastructure, and controlling invasive species. Approximately 9 projects will improve 2,700 riparian acres.

**STATUS:**

The contract has been approved and executed by all the parties.

**October 2018**

During the period from award notification on June 22, 2018 through September 19, 2018, NWTF staff prepared and sent out the 2018 NPRRI RFP, reviewed and ranked the received NPRRI applications and made awards. This entailed 45 hours of staff time to prepare the RFP including updating the 2018 applications, receiving, reviewing and ranking projects proposals, and make necessary follow up phone calls to garner additional information from applicants. The combined staff time and indirect match funding totaled \$1,872.82.

To date in the 2018 NPRRI cycle, two projects have been awarded support funding. Additional funding is still available and it is anticipated that another project or two may receive an award. Below is information related to the two projects that have received funding to date.

Glencoe Farms Riparian & Upland Enhancement Project

This project is located in the NW corner of Emmons County, ND and consists of restoring and improving 1,130 acres of private farmland through the creation of riparian grazing pastures. Project specifics entail the installation of cross fencing, a solar well and water pipeline, removal of invasive tree species such as Russian olive, and the implementation of a proper riparian grazing regime. The project objectives include improved health of the native riparian areas & woody areas as well as the general overall native plant/grass communities. Four partners will be assisting with the delivery of this project at an estimated total cost of \$91,056. The NWTF awarded \$5,000 in cash support of this project. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by late summer 2019.

#### Janke-James River Project

This project is located in LaMoure County, ND, approximately 4 miles SE of the town of LaMoure. The project takes place on private lands enrolled on the North Dakota Game & Fish Department's PLOTS program which are open to public hunting. The project consists of the re-contouring of a steep, highly eroded bank along the James River. High water and erosion is resulting in head cutting taking place along this section of river and topsoil and native grasses are being lost over time. The project aims to restore 4,364 feet of a 12ft steep bank along the James River by slope the bank back to a 3:1 slope and planting a native/introduced grass mix starting at the water's edge and ending 100 feet back. The slope will be stabilized with matting (V-Max and Coconut) on top of the grass seed. An additional 3,235 feet will have a 100 foot grass buffer planted but no additional earth work will be required. The project will have 5 project partners working together and estimate the project to cost approximately \$104,852.68. The NWTF's NPRRI has awarded \$2,000 in cash support, and the project is anticipated to be completed in late summer of 2019.

#### **October 2019**

During the period from October 1, 2018 through September 15, 2019, NWTF staff prepared and sent out the 2019 NPRRI request for proposals, reviewed and ranked the received NPRRI applications and made awards. Project site visits were also conducted as necessary in addition to performing project administrative activities. This entailed 58 hours of staff time which was spent on 2019 NPRRI application & RFP preparation, reviewing and ranking the received project proposals, and making follow up phone calls or site visits to garner additional information from applicants and to provide technical assistance. A total of five North Dakota riparian project proposals received awards through the NPRRI 2019 cycle. The combined NWTF staff time and indirect in-kind match funding totaled \$3,731.66.

To date, the following projects have been completed:

#### Janke-James River Project

This North Dakota Game & Fish Department project is located in LaMoure County, ND, approximately 4 miles SE of the town of LaMoure. The project takes place on private lands enrolled in the North Dakota Game & Fish Department's PLOTS program which are open to public hunting. The project consists of the re-contouring of a steep, highly eroded bank along the James River. High water and erosion is resulting in head cutting taking place along this section of river and topsoil and native grasses are being lost over time. The project aims to restore 4,364 feet of a 12ft steep bank along the James River by slope the bank back to a 3:1 slope and planting a native/introduced grass mix starting at the water's edge and ending 100 feet back. The slope will be stabilized with matting (V-Max and Coconut) on top of the grass seed. An additional 3,235 feet will have a 100-foot grass buffer planted but no additional earth work will be required. The project will have five project partners working together and estimate the project to cost approximately \$104,852.68. The NWTF's NPRRI has awarded \$2,000 in cash support, and the project is anticipated to be completed in late summer of 2019. The NPRRI award, including the OHF portion, supported the installation of stabilization material.

### Njos Alkali Creek Project

This U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife project is located in Bowman County, ND. The project takes place on private lands that are currently enrolled in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's PLOTS program. The project consists of the installation of fencing and water developments and removal of invasive grass to improve two miles of riparian grazing management, resulting in enhanced riparian communities, grasslands and water quality. This improved grazing system will affect 320 acres directly along Alkali Creek and enhance a total of 3,000 associated upland grasslands. Multiple wildlife species will benefit as these areas are rested from grazing and permitted to recover. This project will have 6 project partners working together and it is estimated that the project will cost approximately \$17,783.68. The NWTF's NPRRI has awarded \$3,000 in cash support, and the project is in completion stage now. The NPRRI award, including the OHF portion, supported the pipeline construction going to water developments.

Additional details and photos are available in the full report.

### **December 2020**

During the period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, NWTF staff prepared and sent out the 2020 NPRRI request for proposals, reviewed and ranked the received NPRRI applications and made awards. Project site visits were also conducted as necessary in addition to performing project administrative activities. This entailed 57.5 hours of staff time which was spent on 2020 NPRRI application & RFP preparation, reviewing and ranking the received project proposals, and making necessary follow up phone calls or site visits to garner additional information from applicants and to provide technical assistance. A total of three North Dakota riparian project proposals received awards through the NPRRI 2020 cycle. The combined NWTF staff time and indirect in-kind match funding totaled \$3,699.49.

A one-year extension has been requested and granted. Additional details and photos are available in the full report.

### **September 2021**

During this period from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, there was 102 acres of riparian habitat and an additional 435 upland acres of private farmland that were restored and improved through the creation of riparian grazing pastures in the NW corner of Emmons County, ND. Project specifics entail the installation of cross fencing, a solar well and water pipeline, removal of invasive tree species such as Russian olive, and the implementation of a proper riparian grazing regime. The project objectives include the overall health of the native riparian areas and woody areas as well as the general overall native plant/grass communities. This project had an estimated total cost of \$70,000 and the NWTF awarded \$6,500 in cash to support this project.

During this period, there was another riparian grazing management project that is located in Burleigh County, ND. It took place on state trust and NDGF lands and consisted of the installation of fencing, a well, and water takes to improve grazing management. The objectives of this project is to improve wildlife habitat and livestock grazing management on approximately 682 acres along Beaver Creek and the Missouri River. Five partners collaborated in the effort including NDGF, ND Trust Lands, Natural Resources Trust, a lessee private and NWTF, in addition to the support provided through OHF. The project had an estimated cost of \$35,000 and the NWTF's NPRRI had awarded \$8,000 in cash support. This project was completed in the summer of 2021.

Additional details and photos are available in full report.

## **August 2022**

An amendment has been made to the contract as the contractor has requested a no-cost extension be granted extending the contract to October 1, 2023. The reason for this extension is due to the project being delayed because of lingering supply chain issues resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

There were four projects completed during this period from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. Project 21ND02 took place on the U.S. Forest Service Sheyenne National Grassland in Richland County. The Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association partnered with the USFS and NDSU to modify the grazing management practices along Iron Creek in order to restore the riparian ecosystem. The goal of this project was to better manage cattle to impact the incised banks and then allow establishment of riparian vegetation during the rest period. Two riparian pastures were created by installing 2.5 miles of permanent electric fence and removing 3 miles of existing fence. NDSU will be studying the impacts of this riparian system as well as two other systems. This project is complete.

Project 21ND03 consisted of multiple landowners and had several outcome objectives. The USFWS was working with NRCS, NDGF, NDNRT, and private landowners to accomplish the following: 1) improve the Missouri River bottom woodlands and grasslands habitat on private and public land, 2) increase rest and recovery of grassland grazing on the private land in riparian woodlands, 3) increase wildlife quality on public lands through reduction in noxious weeds via grazing, 4) reduce cattle induced stress on woody seeding, 5) reduce direct contact of livestock to the Missouri River and painted woods lake. The work entailed the installation of cross fencing and water pipeline to better manage livestock to enhance the land and reduce potential negative impacts. This project is complete.

Project 20ND01 consisted of riparian grazing management in Emmons County, ND. This project took place on private lands and NDGF lands, and consisted of installation of fence, a well, water tanks, and pipeline to improve grazing management. This project will improve wildlife habitat and livestock grazing management on approximately 210 acres along Beaver Creek. Four partners collaborated in the effort including USFWS, NDGF, private landowner, and NWTF, in addition to the support provided through OHF. This will enhance riparian areas and woody draws through limited and properly timed grazing when the need occurs. This project was estimated to cost \$27,310. The NWTF's NPRRI has awarded \$2,500 in cash support for the project. This project was completed in summer of 2021.

Project 20ND02 was an invasive species removal project taking place on U.S. Forest Service lands on the Medora Ranger District of the Little Missouri National Grassland in Billings County. Rocky Mountain juniper encroachment across the Little Missouri NG has increased substantially over the last several decades. This has impacted many resources within Mike's Creek watershed on the Medora Ranger District. This project used mechanical treatments, including chainsaws and/or mastication, to reduce the amount of juniper within the watershed. There were five treatments totaling approximately 1,000 acres and the estimated cost for the project was approximately \$170,000. The NWTF's NPRRI had awarded up to \$12,000 in cash support. This project was selected for funding through the Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership program and has multiple partners involved. This project is completed.

Additional details and photos are available in full report.

Dated 11/2/2022