

## 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. 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 013-141	Report Date 10/31/2020	Period Covered by Report 01/01/2020-09/30/2020
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Project Name  
**Central Coteau Prairie Management Toolbox**

Project Sponsor Name  
**Audubon Dakota**

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) <b>Johnson, Marshall</b>	Responsible Official's Title <b>V.P., Executive Director</b>
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Project Sponsor Address  
**2315 University Drive North, Suite 15**

City Fargo	State ND	Zip Code 58102	Telephone Number 701-298-3373
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#### Financial Update

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

	<b>Funds Spent THIS Reporting Period*</b>	<b>Total Funds Spent to Date</b>	<b>Balance of Remaining Funds</b>
Match Funding	\$7,013.56	\$7,013.56	\$ 351,919.44
In-kind Funding	\$25,634.78	\$39,781.86	\$ 10,071.04
OHF Funding	\$25,664.24	\$ 42,567.27	\$ 487,306.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 58,312.58</b>	<b>\$ 89,362.69</b>	<b>\$ 849,297.21</b>

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

If yes, please explain:

Enrolled landowners have experienced weather-related delays in project completion due to an unusually wet fall of 2019 and spring of 2020. Additionally, new landowner enrollment has taken longer than anticipated and will increase the timeframe of planning and completing new projects

\*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)

Since receiving the OHF grant award for the Central Coteau Prairie Management Toolbox, Audubon Dakota has continued to cooperate with Ducks Unlimited and Burleigh, Sheridan, and Mclean County Soil Conservation Districts to identify landowners that would benefit from the Toolbox program. Time has also been spent finalizing the design for the landowner brochures.

Three projects were funded during the report period that included the installation of 60,945 feet of cross fencing, 23,550 feet of water pipeline, and four water tanks. This grazing infrastructure will benefit management on 3,360 acres of priority habitat within the Missouri Coteau mixed-grass prairies, allowing for the incorporation of additional paddocks into pre-existing grazing systems and the use of cattle to stimulate native plant growth. Additionally, three landowners have expressed interest in restoration projects and five in grazing infrastructure projects for 2021. An Audubon Dakota range ecologist and partner biologists are in the process of solidifying those plans and agreements.

For one 470-acre project, the management goals are focused on protecting waterfowl nesting habitat, therefore the new fencing functions to exclude cattle from sensitive wetland areas. Another project that impacts management on 850 acres will be additionally managed under Audubon Conservation Ranching Initiative standards and will be incorporated into a habitat management plan that is third party audited to become certified as bird-friendly land.

To determine the true bird-friendliness of the acres impacted by this Toolbox program, baseline avian surveys were conducted by an Audubon Dakota range ecologist on two project areas; nine transects spanning 2,890 acres. Six of the ten Audubon Dakotas' priority grassland bird species were recorded at both sites: Western Meadowlark, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Northern Pintail, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Additionally, 21 species of water birds were recorded utilizing the prairie potholes and surrounding habitat, including Black Tern, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Wilson's Phalarope, and Forster's Tern. These results confirm that project areas already provide important breeding habitat for grassland and water birds, which will benefit from the 10-year term protection per the Toolbox agreement. Avian survey data will be further analyzed, shared with landowners, and used as a baseline with which to compare future survey results against to measure the effectiveness of using adaptive, planned grazing systems to manage grassland bird habitat.

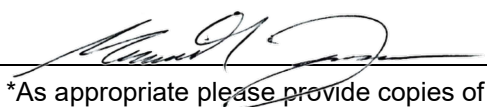
Photos of work completed are welcome (If appropriate, please submit photos of key elements of the project completed or in progress during reporting period) Do not exceed five photos per project report.

*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:*

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Signature of Responsible Official



\*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.



Ducks Unlimited tank. Photo: NAS





Ducks Unlimited Tank. Photo: NAS





Ducks Unlimited Fencing. Photo: NAS