

Contract No. 013-144
North Central Soil Health & Habitat
 Submitted by Pheasants Forever
 Primary Contact: Rachel Bush
 Directives B, C

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share
Pheasants Forever	\$201,125.00 \$43,625.00
Participating Landowners	<u>\$ 35,000.00</u>
Subtotal Cash Cost Share	\$236,125.00 \$78,625.00
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$ 52,500.00</u>
Subtotal OHF Funding	<u>\$ 52,500.00</u>
Total Project Cost	\$288,625.00 \$131,125.00

Project Schedule: 3 years

Contract Date: 1/9/2019

Start Date: 12/28/2018

Completion Date: ~~12/31/2021~~ 12/31/2022

Project Deliverables

Status Report:	July 31, 2019 ✓
Status Report:	December 31, 2019 ✓
Status Report:	July 31, 2020 ✓
Status Report:	December 31, 2020 ✓
Status Report:	July 31, 2021 ✓
Status Report:	December 31, 2021
Status Report:	July 31, 2022*
Final Report:	December 31, 2022*

**Denotes change to original contract.*

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

This objective of this project is to work with 10-20 growers over 3 years to impact 3,250 grower designated salt impacted acres from annual crop production and establish deep rooted salt tolerant perennial vegetation. The use of cover crops on adjacent acres will be an additional practice to further promote soil health and salinity management. Workshops will also be held.

STATUS:

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

July 2019

After the contract between the North Dakota Industrial Commission and Pheasants Forever was finalized, Pheasants Forever staff began the development of the North Central Soil Health & Habitat promotion page, application and contract. These documents have been shared with our partners to help gain awareness about the program opportunity. Due to the late wet spring we opted to delay a grower meeting until spring planting was complete. On June 19, 2019 Pheasants Forever presented the NC Soil Health & Habitat program to growers in Minot, North Dakota. Other groups in attendance, included Unilever, Minot Milling and representatives from Farmers Business Network.

Completed Activities To Date – By The Numbers

Applications/Contracts:	0/0
Grower Meetings/Attendees:	1/15
Planned/Completed Cover Crop Acres:	0/0
Planned/Completed Perennial Cover Acres:	0/0
Education Workshops Hosted/Workshop Attendees:	0/0

December 2019

After the grower meeting was held, follow-up landowner contacts and farm visits occurred. Of the 15 growers that attended the meeting in June, we received contact information from nine farmers. We followed up with phone calls and program materials to all growers that we received contact information for. Follow-up site visits were conducted for

three growers, and all expressed an interest in the program. After site visits were completed all three growers signed applications, with two proceeding to the contract phase.

Completed Activities To Date – By The Numbers

Applications/Contracts:	3/2
Grower Meetings/Attendees:	1/15
Planned/ Completed Cover Crop Acres:	0/308
Planned/Completed Perennial Cover Acres:	90/0
Education Workshops Hosted/Workshop Attendees:	0/0

Additional details available in the full report.

July 2020

Pheasants Forever has worked throughout this latest reporting period to coordinate with our partner in this grant to identify additional growers that have an interested in working with both the partner and PF. Identifying growers that are interested/willing to work with our partner has been difficult. Due to this difficulty, we have been unable to identify additional interested participants at this time.

We currently have one grower with a signed contract that planned to plant 40 acres of perennial cover. However, due to time constraints the grower was unable to complete the 40 acre perennial planting that was scheduled.

Pheasants Forever plans to request a budget modification that will allow us to deliver the acre goals in this grant, without the continued support of the partner for incentive payments.

*A budget modification has been approved. Details of the modification are listed at the top of the document.

December 2020

Within the grant reporting period Pheasants Forever advertised and hired a staff dedicated to working within this grant project area. Our new staff member started on November 30th and has quickly went to work making connections within the area. We worked to update the North Central Soil Health & Habitat promotional flyer to include the most up-to-date program information as well as staff contact information. During this reporting period groundwork has been completed for a contract resulting in 40 acres of perennial cover, however payments have not yet been made on this contract.

While we are still behind where we would like to be in the delivery of this grant, we hope that by having a dedicated staff within the project area, we can begin to deliver on the ground results at the pace we originally intended.

August 2021

New staff joining in December 2020 in the northwest/north central area of the State and was able to recruit and deliver 81.5 acres of perennial grass cover. With the continued staff presence in the project area, promotion efforts of this project have increased. A no cost extension has been requested and granted due to the drought.

December 2021

No further landowner interested, applications or contracts were garnered since the last reporting period. Pheasants Forever, regrettably is submitting a final report for OHF grant 013-144 and returning \$48,889.26 in grant funds. We have had limited interest in the program developed with this funding. A variety of factors, we believe contributed to the limited interested. First, the withdraw of an important partner, removing the annual incentive payment combined with other program opportunities, such as the Conservation Reserve Program, that offer greater cost-share rates, becoming available to area landowners. Pheasants Forever considered an extension to allow for full delivery of this grant, but the primary staff tasked with delivering this grant is leaving Pheasants Forever at the end of 2021. Onboarding a new staff, and fully delivering this grant within a year is not attainable.

This contract is now closed with a returned commitment of \$48,889.26.

Dated 1/20/2022