

Contract No. 015-158
Grand Forks Area Prairie Management Toolbox Phase II
Submitted by Audubon Dakota
Primary Contact: Marshall Johnson
Directives C, A, B

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share
Landowners	\$124,486.00
Subtotal Cash Cost Share	\$124,486.00
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$78,730.00</u>
Subtotal OHF Funding	<u>\$78,730.00</u>
Total Project Cost	\$203,216.00

Project Schedule: 2 years
Contract Date: 2/1/2020
Start Date: 2/1/2020
Completion Date: ~~10/31/2021~~ 10/31/2022

<u>Project Deliverables</u>	
Status Report:	May 31, 2020 ✓
Status Report:	October 31, 2020 ✓
Status Report:	May 31, 2021 ✓
Status Report:	October 31, 2021* ✓
Status Report:	May 31, 2022* ✓
Final Report:	October 31, 2022*

**denotes changes to original contract*

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

This objective of this project, as proposed, was to provide financial and technical assistance to conserve the unique alkaline grassland ecosystem through conservation practices, such as invasive species removal, and support grazing infrastructure on 6,500 acres across four counties-Grand Forks, Eddy, Foster, and Nelson. **Only the grazing infrastructure portion of the project was approved. A 40% cost share is required for participating landowners. OHF funds may not be used for invasive species control/removal.

STATUS:

The contract has been partially executed.
The contract has been executed by both parties.

May 2020

The project took effect during the winter of 2020. As a result, project work of grazing infrastructure installation could not begin until conditions permitted. The Audubon Dakota Range Ecologist has spent the months since award promoting the program to Grand Forks County area landowners to identify interested parties.

November 2020

Audubon Dakota Range Ecologist has partnered with NRCS, Partners for Fish & Wildlife, and ND Game & Fish staff to promote the project and identify interested landowners. An 11-acre grazing infrastructure project is underway to install multi-species livestock fencing and water pipeline, which is expected to be completed in the summer of 2021. Four additional landowners with a combined 900 acres have expressed interest in the program as well.

June 2021

A grazing infrastructure project was completed with the installation of 1,350 feet of perimeter fencing on 3 acres and 500 feet of bored pipeline. An additional 2,790 feet of fencing will be completed this summer to impact a total of 11 acres of multispecies grazing habitat.

A no-cost extension has been requested due to delays associated with Covid. The request has been granted.

October 2021

During the grant period, Audubon Dakota Range Ecologist, Juli Bosmoe, has continued partnering with NRCS, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and North Dakota Game and Fish to conduct program outreach and connect with interested landowners.

One landowner, Thomas Brooks, enrolled in the program and has completed his project impacting 203 acres. This grazing infrastructure project included a 1,200 gallon tire tank, well, pump, 11,474.4 feet of perimeter fence, and 2,821.2 feet of cross fencing.

Audubon Dakota received a higher volume of program inquiries during the summer of 2021 for cost-share related to water development. Worrisome drought conditions resulted in more producers re-imagining water access for livestock. Five additional landowners have been enrolled in the program for water development and fencing projects covering 1,711 acres. To date, 97% of remaining grant funds have been committed to these upcoming projects.

May 2022

During the reporting period, five fencing and water development projects funded through the Grand Forks Area Prairie Management Toolbox were completed. These projects totaled 26,857 feet of fence and 16,000 feet of pipeline for livestock on 1,297 acres. The range ecologist has also developed habitat management plans for the four landowners.

One project that was previously contracted will no longer be developed due to the producer selling the property, so the eastern North Dakota range ecologist continues to utilize valuable partnerships with NRCS field staff in the project counties, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and ND Game & Fish to reach out to producers needing cost-share assistance during the 2022 growing season.

Dated 8/8/2022