

Contract No. 017-169
“North Dakota Conservation Forage Program”

Submitted by Audubon Dakota
 Primary Contact: Sarah Hewitt
 Directives B and C

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share
Enrolled Landowners-Cost Share	\$2,078,871.00
Subtotal Cash Cost Share	\$2,078,871.00
Delta Waterfowl	\$50,000.00
Audubon Dakota	\$250,000.00
Enrolled Landowners-Site Prep/Seeding	\$810,000.00
Subtotal In-kind Cost Share	\$1,110,000.00
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$6,918,306.00</u>
Subtotal OHF funding	<u>\$6,918,306.00</u>
<u>Total Project Cost</u>	\$10,107,177.00

Project Schedule – 4 years

Contract Date – 2/2/2021

Start Date – 2/2/2021

Completion Date – ~~1/31/2025~~ **1/31/2026**

Project Deliverables

Status Report: 7/31/2021 ✓

Status Report: 1/31/2022 ✓

Status Report: 7/31/2022 ✓

Status Report: 1/31/2023

Status Report: 7/31/2023

Status Report: 1/31/2024

Status Report: 7/31/2024

Status Report: 1/31/2025*

Status Report: 7/31/2025*

Final Report: 1/31/2026*

**Denotes amendment to original contract*

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

Enroll approximately 18,000 acres of private lands over a four-year project period to improve soil health, forage quality, and wildlife habitat by integrating grazing and/or haying land management techniques.

STATUS:

Contract has been executed by both parties.

July 2021

CFP open enrollment began on June 7, 2021 and closed on August 6, 2021. Audubon set a goal to select projects by the end of August 2021.

January 2022

Twelve projects were selected and Audubon Dakota is drafting landowner agreements to prepare for 2022 seedings. A second CFP enrollment period began on 11/15/21 and runs through 02/22. An October CFP partner meeting was held to share program updates and a CFP Best Practices guide. Communications include: press releases and articles, a story in Future Farmer magazine, a radio interview, emails, social media posts, and distribution of an FAQ sheet, flyer, and CFP vs. CRP document.

July 2022

Audubon Dakota has enrolled 21 projects into the Conservation Forage Program, partnering with 19 different landowners. 11 projects have been fully seeded with native grass and forb mixes across 1,304 acres, with an additional 707 acres expected to be restored in fall 2022. The current enrolled counties and project acres are listed in attachment. Additionally, Audubon Dakota and partners continue to widely promote CFP and OHF funding through digital ad campaigns and direct to landowner mailers.

October 2022

Audubon Dakota has requested a no-cost extension, bringing the new end to 1/31/2026. It was found that most of the first year of the grant period was needed to be dedicated to planning the program's structure in preparation for a successful launch in summer 2021. The extension is believed to allow for broader promotion and continued landowner enrollment to reach the program's acreage goals.

Dated: 10/25/22