

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 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.

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 001-005	Report Date 4/30/2018	Period Covered by Report (5/1/2017 to 4/30/2018)
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Project Name
North Dakota Hen House Project I

Project Sponsor Name
Delta Waterfowl Foundation

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Chouinard, Matthew D	Responsible Official's Title Senior Waterfowl Programs Manager
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Project Sponsor Address
1312 Basin Ave

City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58504	Telephone Number 701-222-8857 (ext. 209)
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Financial Update

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

Funds Spent this Reporting Period

(As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases)

Match Funding \$ 237.55

In-kind Funding \$ 412.50

OHF Funding **Requested for Reimbursement** \$1,860.54

Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$ 2,510.54

Total Funds Spent to Date

Match Funding \$ 341.34

In-kind Funding \$ 3619.02

OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$18,760.99

Total Funding Expended to Date \$ 22,721.35

Balance of Grant Funds

Match Funding \$

In-kind Funding \$

OHF Funding still to be Requested \$15,239.01

Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$37,400

Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension If yes, please explain

Yes No

Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:

(This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

This grant report covers Delta Waterfowl activities on North Dakota Hen House Project I from 5/1/2017 to 4/30/2018. Prior to the 2017 waterfowl nesting season, there were 122 Hen Houses (HH) available for nesting ducks as part of OHF Grant 001-005. Wetland habitat was in decent shape in early spring 2017, but most of North Dakota experienced a prolonged drought through spring and summer and the HH project area was no exception. In early June 2017, Delta Waterfowl staff inspected the accessible Hen Houses and found most to be in great shape and sustained very little damage during the spring thaw. Though some Hen Houses were occupied by mallards, most wetlands near Woodworth had low water levels and many were completely dry. Delta staff had concerns that the dry conditions would have an impact on breeding pairs and occupancy rates of Hen Houses. However, periodic droughts are good for future wetland productivity.



Figure 1. Photo taken in March 2018 during winter maintenance. This Hen House was successfully nested in by two hens during the 2017 nesting season.

Preparation for winter maintenance of our project Hen Houses began in October 2017. With Delta staff assistance, contractors picked up flax straw bales in Carrington, ND from the NDSU Ag Research Extension Center. Flax straw is used for the Hen House exterior because it is very durable. The bales were transported to the Woodworth area for maintenance of the nest structures in later winter.

Extremely cold temperatures in January 2018 delayed field work until February, but contractors were able to maintain all of the nest structures by mid-April. Maintenance is typically conducted from December through March, beginning as soon as wetland ice is safe for travel, facilitating easy access to the nest structures. However, temperatures can vary greatly each year and most wetlands were completely frozen well into April. During the maintenance visits, contractors remove old nest remains (Figure 1; eggs, eggshells, feathers, etc.), replace grass nesting material, and repair any damage to the Hen Houses. For each structure, contractors document evidence of nest(s) during the previous breeding season. This information is submitted to Delta Waterfowl staff, entered into a database, and evaluated to determine usage rate (percentage of Hen Houses used during a nesting season).

Of the 122 Hen Houses found to be in suitable condition for use by ducks, contractors were able to definitively determine the presence or absence of a nest in 104 and found evidence of 39 nest attempts by ducks. Despite the dry conditions, usage rates of the OHF Hen Houses continue to improve, increasing from 30% in 2016 to 37% in 2017 (use was 15% in 2015). Considering the dry conditions, the usage rate in 2018 was very good and bodes well for future years. Over time, we suspect usage rates in the Woodworth area could exceed 50%.

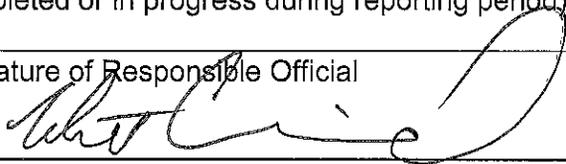
Exhibit B

Based on previous research on nest success in North Dakota Hen Houses (86%), we estimate that 350 mallard ducklings were hatched in OHF nest structures in 2017.

Over the next couple months, Delta Waterfowl staff and/or contractors will visually inspect a sample of the Hen Houses to determine if any additional damage occurred during spring thaw. Usage rates and estimated duck production for 2018 will be provided in the April 2019 project report. Delta Waterfowl sincerely appreciates the Outdoor Heritage Fund, program staff, and the support of this project by the State of North Dakota.

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.

Signature of Responsible Official



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.