

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 003-047	Report Date 8/3/2016	Period Covered by Report April 2016-July 2016	
Project Name Working Wetlands in North Dakota			
Project Sponsor Name Delta Waterfowl			
Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Devney, John, L.		Responsible Official's Title Vice President, U.S. Policy	
Project Sponsor Address 1312 Basin Ave			
City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58504	Telephone Number 701-222-8857 EXT 218
Financial Update			
Please provide the following information regarding the funding for your project based on the contract award:			
<u>Funds Spent this Reporting Period</u>			
(As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases)			
Match Funding \$0			
In-kind Funding \$0			
OHF Funding Requested for Reimbursement \$0			
Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$0			
<u>Total Funds Spent to Date</u>			
Match Funding \$688,539.89			
In-kind Funding \$30,371.29			
OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$349,349.51			
Total Funding Expended to Date \$1,068,260.69			
<u>Balance of Grant Funds</u>			
Match Funding \$2,754,159.56			
In-kind Funding \$39,628.71			
OHF Funding still to be Requested \$1,400,000			
Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$5,262,048.96			
Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension If yes, please explain			
/ / Yes /_X/ No			
Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:			

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

The pilot project is well underway with 124 individual agreements and encompassing 4,815.4 acres. NRCS will conduct field visits and status reviews on project wetlands post-harvest (late fall) to ensure all project wetlands are in alignment with program terms. Payments will be made to producers after this NRCS review.

Additionally, faculty and graduate students at NDSU have finished their analysis of the surveys received to date. The following will capture a brief summary of some of the key points gleaned from the surveys received to date.

- Average age was 47.2 years old with a range of 25 to 69 years old.
- They most commonly raised crops included soybeans, wheat, corn, barley, and oil seeds. Ranchers with cow/calf herds are included.
- The average farm size amongst respondents is 3,711 acres with 1,452 acres owned and 2,220 acres rented.
- Very large farms (more than \$500,000 or more) made up 45.5% of participants, with large family farms (\$250,000-\$499,000) adding an additional 27.3%; farms generating less than \$250,000 made up 27.3%.
- Farm group membership was diverse amongst respondents with 76.5% noting membership in Farmer's Union, 32.4% in Farm Bureau, 20.6% in Grain Growers and 5.9% in Stockman's Association.
- The average number of wetlands reported by producers was 96 with nearly three-fourths being less than two acres in size.

Participants noted the key determinants in their decision making when considering participation in conservation programs. The factors that ranked the highest include:

- Level of payment/incentive
- That the payment is guaranteed
- Contract length
- Those factors likely to impact farmland quality (soil quality, erosion control and weed pressure).

Financial incentives ranked as the most important factor identified by respondents, and were important to motivate participation in the Working Wetlands Program specifically; with most farmers identifying payment levels as the highest motivator. Environmental benefits, attractive program attributes and education were also mentioned. It should be noted that all participants agreed that they would not have enrolled in the program if they were not allowed to continue to farm their wetlands when possible.

Participants were apt to agree that producer participation in the development of wetland conservation programs is very important, that the promotion of healthy ecosystems is part of their responsibility as a steward of the land and that the terms of the Working Wetlands Project are a good fit for their land in the long run (68.6% agreed).

These results are preliminary and a complete report will be provided when all the data is received and analyzed by NDSU.

Exhibit B

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
John L. Devney, Vice President U.S. Policy

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.