

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 006-090	Report Date 10/1/2016	Period Covered by Report 5/09/2016 to 9/30/2016
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Project Name
Working Grassland Partnership

Project Sponsor Name
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Allbee, Terry	Responsible Official's Title Business Manager/Biologist
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Project Sponsor Address
1605 E. Capitol Ave., Ste. 101

City Bismarck	State ND	Zip Code 58501-2102	Telephone Number 701-223-8501
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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 \$ 0.00

In-kind Funding \$ 5,000.00

OHF Funding **Requested for Reimbursement** \$0.00

Total Funding Expended for this Reporting Period \$5,000.00

Total Funds Spent to Date

Match Funding \$0.00

In-kind Funding \$5,000.00

OHF Funding Received and Requested for Reimbursement \$0.00

Total Funding Expended to Date \$0.00

Balance of Grant Funds

Match Funding \$225,000

In-kind Funding \$481,955

OHF Funding still to be Requested \$1,094,637.50

Total Funding to be Expended on this Project \$1,801,592.50

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)

Since the Working Grassland Partnership (WGP) grant was approved in spring of 2016 the Trust and partners have been working collectively to ensure that the program is successful. The bulk of the activity was spent finalizing all the detail of administration and program delivery. The Trust and partners held many smaller meetings about program delivery and partner coordination. Then the partnership held a larger coordination meeting at the ND Game and Fish Department to discuss the program detail. The meeting was attended by twenty-two representatives from six different organizations all learning more about WGP and having the opportunity to provide input to ensure program success. The WGP was also presented by webinar to all USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service county offices that are included in the WGP project area.

A WGP binder has been developed for all partners, which provides a checklist for all program activities from start to finish, promotional material, landowner eligibility requirements, example agreements and the WGP partners contact information.

The WGP agreements are currently being drafted and it is expected that many agreements will be signed before the end of 2016.

I've attached a revised budget based the ND Industrial Commission's stipulation there be a 60/40 cost sharing for development practices. The 40 percent will be match form landowners and partners.

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.

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Funds Available for Expiring CRP Grazing Developments

The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust and partners have successfully received Outdoor Heritage Fund grant funding for a proposal called the Working Grassland Partnership (WGP). "The Outdoor Heritage Fund advisory board is excited to offer funding to programs like the Working Grassland Partnership," says the board's chairman Jim Melchior. "These types of programs support landowner conservation practices while providing sportmen with access to private lands, allowing them to enjoy the benefits of such conservation practices."

WGP's primary focus is to provide landowners with funding assistance to install the infrastructure needed to transition expired or expiring U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts into healthy grazing grasslands. The program will promote livestock grazing for retaining and improving grassland habitat. A 60 percent cost-share grant will be available to assist landowners with installing livestock and grassland bird-friendly development practices including livestock watering systems and fencing, but it does require an approved grazing plan. The program's partners include the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Pheasants Forever, and Ducks Unlimited. In addition, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department will offer public access through the Private Land Open to Sportsmen, or PLOTS, program.

The WGP project area includes 31 counties (see figure 1) and focuses on grassland habitat that would benefit rare and declining grassland bird species. Last year, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department updated the State Wildlife Action Plan and the species of conservation priority for North Dakota. The newly updated plan has raised awareness of grassland loss by identifying some widely recognized species, including North Dakota's state bird, the Western meadowlark, as a species of conservation priority.

Projects that are set to expire from CRP this year and next year and allow public access will be given the highest priority in the WGP.

To receive more information about the WGP contact Terry Allbee with the Natural Resources Trust at 701-223-8501 or any farm bill specialist at designated USDA offices.



The primary focus of the Working Grassland Partnership is to provide landowners with funding assistance to install infrastructure such as livestock watering systems (pictured above) or fencing (pictured right) needed to transition expired or expiring CRP contracts into healthy grazing land.



Figure 1

WORKING GRASSLAND PARTNERSHIP

The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund have partnered to offer landowners the Working Grassland Partnership program.

How WGP Works
The Working Grassland Partnership (WGP) grant proposal will promote livestock grazing as a management tool for improving grassland bird conservation. WGP will provide landowners with voluntary options to help develop expiring CRP acres into a livestock grazing system that will also benefit grassland birds.

Outdoor Heritage Fund
OHF is a state grant program which provides grant funds for projects that include access to public and private lands for sportmen, implementation of best management practices for farming and ranching stewardship of the land and water, fish and wildlife habitat preservation, and development of parks and outdoor recreation areas.

Signature of Responsible Official

Terry Allbee 10-1-16

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.