

**Contract No. 002-022**  
**"Red River Riparian Project"**  
 Submitted by Red River Regional Council  
 Principal Investigator: Dawn Keeley/Cheryl Osowski^

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Revised^ Cost Share</b>
EPA Section 319	\$223,800	\$182,480^
Landowner	<u>\$114,594</u>	<u>\$226,325^</u>
Subtotal Cash Cost Share	\$338,394	\$408,805^
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$230,000</u>	<u>\$230,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$568,394	\$638,805^

Project Schedule – 24 months  
 Contract Date – 7/14/2014  
 Start Date – 7/17/2014  
 Completion Date – 6/30/2018\*\*

Project Deliverables:  
 Status Report: November 30, 2014 ✓  
 Status Report: November 30, 2015 ✓  
 Status Report: \* November 30, 2016\* ✓  
 Status Report: \*\* November 30, 2017\*\*  
 Final Report: June 30, 2018\*\*

**OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:**

This project will provide cost share to landowners for projects that will enhance riparian areas and improve water quality in the targeted watersheds of the Middle Sheyenne, Forest and Park Rivers.

Tasks for the project include:

- Provide technical support to develop a minimum of fifteen riparian management plans for targeted 303(d) listed streams.
- Provide financial support to facilitate the installation of 10 river miles of riparian restoration in targeted reaches of the Park River, Forest River, and Middle Sheyenne Rivers.
- Promote stewardship of riparian areas through outreach to local school and volunteer groups.
- Educate stakeholders, landowners, and local natural resource professionals on riparian practices.

**STATUS:**

With the award of \$230,000 were two stipulations -- any landowners receiving funding must provide a 40% match and the maximum amount of cash share dollars for each manure management system is \$175,000.

7/17/14 - Contract 002-022 - Executed

3/30/15 - Status report received. Report indicates: In early January 2015 Brent D. Wilde was employed by the Red River Regional Council as the Environmental Program Manager and will manage the Red River Riparian Program. The former program manager resigned in September 2014 following two months of medical leave. Without a full-time program manager temporarily, we have not allocated any of the OHF funds at this time to projects within our region. We have several projects that are completing the planning stage and are ready to launch and will be presenting projects to allocate OHF funds at our April Board of Directors meeting.

**11/25/15** - Status report received. Report indicates: The purchase and installation of two frost free watering tanks as part of a grazing management system to disperse use and keep cattle from watering in the Tolna Coulee. A no-cost extension has been requested and granted.

**3/31/16** - Status report received. Report indicates: Installation of water lines, electrical and windbreak panels. Work done to move cattle watering out of the Tolna Coulee - Landowners involved are Ross and Joey Messner.

**4/15/16** - Status report received. Report indicates: Phase 1 of Park River Snag & Clear (first 5 miles), Walsh County Water Resource District, acting as fiduciary for adjacent landowners who will be assessed for costs.

**4/30/16** - Status report received. Report indicates: Phase 2 of Park River Snag & Clear (next 4 miles), Walsh County Water Resource District, acting as fiduciary for adjacent landowners who will be assessed for costs.

**11/30/16** - Status report received. Report indicates:

The following information is a summary of all completed, on-going and future projects carried out under the current Outdoor Heritage Fund grant award, which was executed on July 14, 2014.

### **Completed Project**

#### **1. Ross Messner - Proper Livestock Grazing Management**

Various best management practices were utilized to implement responsible livestock grazing practices including, exclusionary fencing to limit grazing in a riparian area, off-channel watering, rotational grazing, and proper use of windbreaks. This project significantly aided in proper manure management, improvement of grazing and wildlife habitat, as well as water quality in the Sheyenne River Watershed.

### **On-going Projects**

Although no dollars were spent during this reporting period, significant progress was made on current projects, which include:

#### **1. Walsh County Water Resource District (WCWRD) Park River Debris Removal (Phase 2)**

Nine of fourteen miles have been completed in the WCWRD Park River debris removal project. This project is succeeding in maintaining navigable waters, stabilizing river banks, and minimizing in-stream erosion, resulting in maximum riparian function and enhanced water quality.

In October 2016, the cutting-edge unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) technology was utilized to assess the extent of storm damage within the Park River riparian corridor and final work to be completed in phase 2. All parties involved agree that the use of UAS technology significantly increases efficiency, effectiveness, and success of the Park River debris removal project.

Phase 2 of debris removal on the Park River will continue in December 2016 and be completed by spring of 2017. Preparation for the third and final phase of the Park River debris removal project has begun. Work is set to be executed in winter 2017/2018 and completed by spring of 2018.

## **2. City of Gratton Park River Debris Removal (Phase 1)**

In November 2016, UAS technology was also used in phase 1 of the Park River debris removal project to assess the extent of work to be completed. Due to project management and coordination with appropriate parties, the project is ready to be executed and completed in winter 2016/2017.

## **3. John Hovde - Proper Livestock Grazing Management**

Technical and financial assistance is being provided to cattle producer, John Hovde, to implement responsible grazing practices. Because overgrazing livestock in a riparian area causes bank instability, increased erosion and sedimentation, and intensifies nutrient pollution, the producer is limiting grazing within his riparian corridor by utilizing exclusionary fencing and an off-channel watering system.

## **4. Elmwood Native Prairie Restoration**

In coordination with the Grafton Parks and Recreation Department, restoration of native prairie within a riparian area is in progress at a historic site within the city of Grafton.

### **New Projects**

Two new projects have been prepared and are ready to be presented to the Red River Regional Council Board of Directors on December 15, 2016 for funding consideration with a total amount of \$26,262.00. These projects include:

#### **1. Carl Quam, Jr. - Partial System Manure Management Plan**

This plan will utilize cropland as a winter feeding area for Carl's cattle. A rotational schedule will be followed that allows for proper manure distribution by periodically moving feeding sites and portable windbreaks throughout the cropland. The partial system manure management plan will reduce manure accumulation near surface water and the need to spread.

#### **2. Ray Zajac - Prescribed Grazing Plan**

This plan will utilize a cell grazing method, in which the producer will rotate cattle throughout cells in order to ensure maintenance and improvement of vegetation by allowing for adequate recovery/rest periods during the growing season as well as meet the needs of the grazing animal and enhance wildlife habitat. Rotational grazing will also limit grazing within a riparian area, resulting in reduced erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient pollution.

Because of delays in completing the Park River debris removal project due to inadequate weather conditions in the winter of 2015/2016, a no-cost extension was requested. A no-cost extension has been requested and granted. Changes have been noted above as \*\*.

#### **Status Report - 12/9/2016**

Funding has been provided for an off-channel watering system that included approximately 1,300 ft of pipeline, a trough and waterer as well as materials and labor to seal a free flowing artesian well that was contaminating surface water with toxic artesian water which was adversely impacting the health of livestock, water quality and habitat of aquatic organisms.

^New staff has worked on a revised budget to reflect the 60/40% requirement of the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Changes have been noted above.

Update 12/12/2016