

Contract No. 005-068

“Grassland Restoration and Retention Program”

Submitted by Ransom County, Wild Rice and Richland County Soil Conservation Districts

Principal Investigator: Chris Nannenga

Directives C & B

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share	
NRCS EQIP	\$375,000	
Producers	\$216,000	
EPA 319	\$ 75,000	
Soil Conservation District	<u>\$ 7,500</u>	
Subtotal Cash Cost Share		\$673,500
Soil Conservation District	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	
Subtotal In-kind Cost Share		\$ 15,000
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$250,000</u>	
Subtotal Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) dollars		<u>\$250,000</u>
Total Project Cost		\$938,500

Project Schedule – 5 years
Contract Date – 8/6/2015
Start Date – 8/6/2015
Completion Date – 6/30/2020

Project Deliverables:
Status Report: December 31, 2015 ✓
Status Report: June 30, 2016 ✓
Status Report: December 31, 2016 ✓
Status Report: June 30, 2017
Status Report: December 31, 2017
Status Report: June 30, 2018
Status Report: December 31, 2018
Status Report: June 30, 2019
Status Report: December 31, 2019
Final Report: June 30, 2020

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

The purpose of this project is to restore or retain 2,000 grassland acres (and associated wetlands) within Ransom, Sargent and Richland Counties. The funding would be used to provide cost share assistance for conservation practices. Approximately 20 producers would be involved in the project. Producers will be required to implement wildlife friendly haying habitat. Haying must be rotated through the entire acreage. Rotational grazing management plans will be required on land to be grazed. Only expiring CRP acres or cropland seeded to grassland will be eligible.

STATUS:

The application was for \$1,938,500 with \$1,000,000 to be used for land rental payments. The Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board did not support using OHF dollars for rental payments. It is the intent of this funding to assist in the implementation of conservation practices with no OHF dollars being used for rental payments. Contract has been fully executed.

12/31/2015 - Status Report received. The report states: 87.9 acres of cropland has been restored to grassland in Richland County as of this reporting period. 69.9 acres of cropland is scheduled to be restored to grassland in Ransom County in the spring of 2016. Best practices that were funded include: fencing, pasture/hayland planting, trough and tank, well for livestock use only

6/30/2016 - Status Report received. The report states: 407.9 acres of cropland have been restored to grasslands. 13,158 ft. of fencing, 2 tanks and 1 well have been installed to facilitate rotational grazing systems on these acres. Additional practices will be installed this summer.

12/31/2016 - Status Report received. The report states: 10,250 linear feet of fence was installed to develop a rotational grazing system on 160 acres. The area fenced was expiring CRP.

Updated: January 5, 2017