

Contract No. 006-088
“Alkali Lake Habitat Enhancement”
 Submitted by Audubon Dakota
 Principal Investigator: Marshall Johnson
 Directives B & C

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share
Audubon Dakota (cash)	\$88,825
Audubon Dakota (EQIP grant)	\$71,391
Partners for Wildlife	\$13,775
Audubon Dakota (EQIP)	\$15,630
Private Ranching Cooperators	<u>\$ 3,638</u>
Subtotal Cash Cost Share	\$193,259
Audubon Dakota (in-kind)	<u>\$25,000</u>
Subtotal In-kind Cost Share	\$ 25,000
*Unknown	<u>\$71,888</u>
	\$ 71,888
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$135,169</u>
Total Project Cost	<u>\$135,169</u> \$425,316

Project Schedule – 12 months
 Contract Date – 3/22/2016
 Start Date – 1/1/2016
 Completion Date – December 31, 2016

Project Deliverables:
 Status Report: June 30, 2016 ✓
 Final Report: December 31, 2016 ✓

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

Implementation of a prescribed grazing system on the Audubon’s Edward M. Brigham III Alkali Lake Ranch/use cattle in a managed rotational system to increase nesting, brooding and feeding cover for grassland birds, and create more hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities. Involves 1,000 acres of grassland and wetland habitat.

STATUS:

Contract 006-088 has been executed. The project as submitted requested \$207,057. The Commission’s award is for \$135,169 which reflects a 60/40 cost share--with the ag producer or applicant providing the 40% cost share. *The applicant has indicated that they will not be changing the proposed project but will seek additional funding in the amount of \$71,888 from other sources and through cost savings. The applicant has indicated that one of the cost saving measures would be changing the 4-barb wire fencing to 1-wire fencing for the internal fencing (fencing costs ranging from \$2.30 per foot to \$2.45 per foot).

The Status/Final Report has been received. It states:

Since awarded the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant, Audubon Dakota has been steadily planning for and implementing the construction of the grazing system, which is the main component of the "Alkali Lake Habitat Enhancement" project.

As planned, Audubon Dakota hired a contractor, a local Jamestown, ND cattle rancher, to coordinate and implement the installation of the fencing system for the project. Installation of the fencing system began July 6th, 2016, and is expected to be completed by the end of the 2016.

The installation includes 28 miles of boundary and cross fencing, which will comprise the first phase's 15 cell grazing system. Included in the initial installation process are the establishments of numerous water facilities. In total, there will be 1 central water source, which will provide water to 6 general water facilities, and 2 solar water facilities when phase one is complete. The main water facility and general facilities have been implemented.

Once the fencing system is complete, it is expected that cattle will be placed immediately on the Brigham Alkali Lake Sanctuary which will commence habitat management after 30 years of idle land management practices. To monitor the success of the grazing, Audubon Dakota staff will implement the Native Prairie Adaptive Management monitoring program (created by the USFWS) in the summer of 2017 to determine grassland health in response to the new management. Additionally, staff and volunteers will focus on avian monitoring to document bird species responses to the grazing regime during spring (migration and nesting) and summer (brooding) months.

Audubon Dakota is expecting to spend an additional \$60,000 on this project in the Spring of 2017. The final Outdoor Heritage Fund payment has been made on this project based on their expenditures to date. This contract is now closed.

Dated 12/12/2016