

Contract No. 009-109
“Water Storage and Grass Seeding”

Submitted by North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Primary Contact: Terry Allbee

Directives: C & B

The Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board and subsequently the Industrial Commission limited this project to the Grass Seeding portion of the project. The numbers stated below reflect the funding for the Grass Seeding.

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share	
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (cash)	<u>\$16,875.00</u>	
Subtotal Cash Cost Share		\$ 16,875.00
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (In-Kind)	\$ 5,000.00	
Landowner (In-Kind)	<u>\$ 50,625.00</u>	
Subtotal		\$ 55,625.00
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$ 67,500</u>	
Subtotal OHF funding		<u>\$ 67,500.00</u>
Total Project Cost		\$140,000.00

Project Schedule – 5 years
Contract Date – 8/19/2017
Start Date – 8/1/2017
Completion Date – 8/1/2022

Project Deliverables:
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
Status Report: June 30, 2020
Status Report: December 31, 2020
Status Report: June 30, 2021
Status Report: December 31, 2021
Final Report: ~~August 1, 2022~~ August 2019 ✓

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

Purpose of this project as originally submitted was to restore wetlands and grasslands. This project builds on the previously successful Outdoor Heritage Fund grant titled “Water Storage Piggyback.” Assist landowners with a one-time water storage incentive and cost-share for seeding cropland acres to grass with priority given to acres that have the characteristic of annual agricultural cropping inputs with low or no crop productivity. Goal is to restore 700 surface acres of wetlands and to seed 1,125 acres to grass. Landowners will be provided information on the PLOTS program offered by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust had requested \$292,500 with \$225,000 of that amount to be used for wetland incentives. The Board/Commission did not provide the \$292,500 but provided the \$67,500 requested for the grass seeding component of this project.

STATUS:

A contract has been partially executed and forwarded to the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust for their consideration.

The contract has been fully executed.

12/31/2017

Status Report received. It states in part: The kick-off to promote the Water Storage and Grass Seeding (WGR) program yielded a few contracts that are waiting on spring planting conditions, so no funding was able to be put on the ground so far. We are working on raising awareness of available funding as landowners are making decisions on the best use of their acreage.

6/30/2018

Status Report received. It states: The Grass Seeding program has entered into four agreements with landowners in Nelson, Mountrail, McKenzie, and Divide. Three of the agreements were completed within this status reporting period. Those three landowners seeded 495.40 acres to grassland. None of the contracts to date have enrolled in PLOTS; it's unknown if that's because there wasn't program availability, or it was the landowner's decision. The Outdoor Heritage Fund was acknowledged on the contracts and throughout the promotional and acceptance of the program. The Trust is working with landowners and other partners to obligate the remaining grass seeding funds into agreements. The Trust anticipates having all agreements signed and all grass seeded by mid-2019.

12/31/2018

Status Report received. It states in part: Two projects have been completed in Divide and Stutsman Counties. A total of 75.7 acres were seeded. We have entered into one additional agreement for 111.3 acres in Grant county. It is anticipated that all projects will be completed by the end of 2019.

Pictures are available in the full report.

8/19/2019

Status Report received. It states in part: In the spring of 2019, the Trust worked with 13 landowners to provide cost share for grass seed on 1,071.36 acres. The Trust provided an additional \$1,983.53 in cash match to fulfill the agreements with landowners. The proposal, which was approved in 2017 had a goal of seeding 1,125 acres in a 3-5 years. The Trust exceeded the goals by seeding 1,642.26 acres with 18 landowners in less than two years.

Goal		Achieved	
Acres	Timeframe	Acres	Timeframe
1,125	3-5 years	1,642.46	2 years

Goal was exceeded by 517.46 acres, 1-3 years ahead of schedule. A final summary report has been provided that provides information about the overall program, and the number of acres enrolled in PLOTS (5 landowners enrolled 391.7 acres.) This contract is now closed.

Updated 8/19/2019