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](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. 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.

### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Number</th>
<th>Report Date</th>
<th>Period Covered by Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>006-087</td>
<td>5/6/2020</td>
<td>(05/01/2019-04/30/2020)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Project Name
North Dakota Hen House Project II

#### Project Sponsor Name
Delta Waterfowl Foundation

#### Responsible Official (Last, First Middle)
Chouinard, Matthew D

#### Responsible Official's Title
Senior Waterfowl Programs and Delta Marsh Property Manager

#### Project Sponsor Address
1412 Basin Ave

#### City
Bismarck

#### State
ND

#### Zip Code
58504

#### Telephone Number
701-222-8857 (ext. 5209)

### Financial Update
Please provide the following information regarding the funding for your project based on the contract award:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds Spent THIS Reporting Period*</th>
<th>Total Funds Spent to Date</th>
<th>Balance of Remaining Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match Funding</td>
<td>2,973.95</td>
<td>9,805.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Funding</td>
<td>465.00</td>
<td>1,845.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHF Funding</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>26,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,438.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,650.85</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension? **/_/ Yes  /_/ No**

If yes, please explain:

*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.*
Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:
(This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

This grant report covers Delta Waterfowl activities on North Dakota Hen House Project II from 5/1/2019 to 4/30/2020. This project consists of 200 Hen Houses (HH) that were first available to nesting ducks in 2017 as part of the OHF/Delta Waterfowl Grant 006-087 partnership.

In August 2019, after the nesting season was complete, Delta Waterfowl began securing flax straw and other necessary materials for winter field work. Contactors began visiting Hen Houses in January 2020, as soon as wetland ice was safe for travel. Winter weather is always challenging for Hen House field work, but the most difficult issue this year was a result of heavy rain and snowstorms in fall 2019. These storms made harvest very difficult for North Dakota farmers and many fields still had standing crop in March and April 2020. Project contractors attempted to visit all 200 Hen Houses, but 19 were located in wetlands surrounded by unharvested crop or were flooded. Contractors were unable to visit and evaluate these Hen Houses or perform maintenance, so this work will have to wait until wetlands are accessible and water levels recede. If necessary, these Hen Houses will be replaced in the upcoming winter. Currently, at least 181 of the 200 project Hen Houses are available to nesting hens in the 2020 breeding season (some of the 19 inaccessible Hen Houses are also likely to be suitable for nest attempts).

![Figure 1. A contractor maintains a Hen House near Woodworth, North Dakota. This Hen House was occupied in 2019](image)

During the maintenance visits, contractors removed old nest remains (Figure 1; eggs, eggshells, feathers, etc.), replaced grass nesting material, and repaired (replaced if necessary) damage to the Hen Houses. Maintenance of all North Dakota Hen Houses was completed by the end of April 2020. While refurbishing each HH, contractors also documented evidence of nest(s) during the previous breeding season. This information was submitted to Delta Waterfowl staff, entered into a database, and evaluated to determine usage rate (percentage of Hen Houses used during a nesting season).

Overall usage rate for Woodworth and Carrington area Hen Houses was 35% in 2019, providing a good boost to the local mallard population. The usage rate was a slight increase from 2018 (31%), likely a response by nesting hens to better wetland habitat conditions in 2020. However, many wetlands still had below average water levels which promoted expansion of vegetation in wetlands (e.g., cattails, bulrush, etc.). Hen Houses in dry wetlands or surrounded by emergent vegetation typically have very low usage rates.

*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.*
The good news is that the fall storms also recharged the wetlands in the Woodworth area and will provide good habitat for hens and their broods in 2020. Delta Waterfowl staff and/or contractors will inspect a sample of the Hen Houses in spring 2020 to get an early look at the success of project HHs. Usage rates and estimated duck production for 2020 will be provided in the 2021 project report.

Delta Waterfowl sincerely appreciates the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, OHF program staff, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts and others that supported this project.

Figure 2. Delta staff photographer Ben Peterson checking a Hen House near Woodworth, ND.

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.

This report was prepared pursuant to an agreement with the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, which partially funded the project through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Project participants, its subcontractors, and the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, or any person acting on its behalf, do not:

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(B) Assume any liabilities with respect to the use of, or for damages resulting from the use of, any information, apparatus, method or process disclosed in this report.

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Signature of Responsible Official

*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.