Contract No. 006-090
“Working Grassland Partnership”
Submitted by North Dakota Natural Resources Trust and
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever
Principal Investigator: Terry Allbee
Directives B, A & C

PARTICIPANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Cost Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ND Natural Resources Trust</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partners for Fish &amp; Wildlife</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal Cash Cost Share</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pheasants Forever (in-kind)</td>
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<td>Ducks Unlimited (in-kind)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landowners (in-kind)</td>
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<td>Subtotal In-kind Cost Share</td>
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<tr>
<td>ND Natural Resources Trust (in-kind)</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota Industrial Commission</td>
<td>$1,097,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>$1,467,250</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*In addition, Game and Fish Department PLOTS is providing a $240,000 non-match

Total Project Cost: $1,467,250

**$1,467,250**

**$1,094,637.50**

**$2,079,562.50**

Project Schedule – 10 years
Project Deliverables:
Contract Date – 5/9/2016
Status Report: October 1, 2016
Status Report: April 1, 2017
Start Date – 5/9/2016
Status Report: October 1, 2017
Status Report: April 1, 2018
Status Report: April 1, 2019
Status Report: October 1, 2019
Status Report: April 1, 2020
Status Report: October 1, 2020
Status Report: April 1, 2021
Completion Date – April 1, 2026
Status Report: April 1, 2022
Status Report: April 1, 2023
Status Report: April 1, 2024
Status Report: April 1, 2025
Final Report: April 1, 2026

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:
Provide land development assistance to landowners interested in livestock fencing and livestock water development on SAFE and adjacent acres with a project area focus that is important for grassland birds with declining populations (funding for fencing costs and water development costs). Funding is included for project staff.

STATUS:
The Industrial Commission approved the funding with the stipulation that there will be a 60/40% cost sharing for the implementation of the livestock and grassland bird friendly development practices.
With that stipulation the project costs as outlined above will be revised. Contract 006-090 has been executed by the applicant and the three co-applicants.

**October 1, 2016**

Status Report states that since the Working Grassland Partnership (WGP) grant was approved in spring of 2016 the Trust and partners have been working collectively to ensure that the program is successful. The bulk of the activity was spent finalizing all the detail of administration and program delivery. The Trust and partners held many smaller meetings about program delivery and partner coordination. Then the partnership held a larger coordination meeting at the ND Game and Fish Department to discuss the program detail. The meeting was attended by twenty-two representatives from six different organizations all learning more about WGP and having the opportunity to provide input to ensure program success. The WGP was also presented by webinar to all USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service county offices that are included in the WGP project area.

A WGP binder has been developed for all partners, which provides a checklist for all program activities from start to finish, promotional material, landowner eligibility requirements, example agreements and the WGP partners contact information.

The WGP agreements are currently being drafted and it is expected that many agreements will be signed before the end of 2016.

A revised budget has been developed based on the ND Industrial Commission’s stipulation there be a 60/40 cost sharing for development practices. The 40 percent will be match from landowners and partners. (The revised budget is reflected above by strikeovers.)
April 1, 2017
Status Report states that since the last report on 10/01/2016 the Working Partnership has worked to continue partnership delivery coordination and landowner agreements. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department hosted a partnership coordination meeting on March 21. The meeting was attended by over twenty people representing North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and American Bird Conservancy. The meeting discussed the delivery approach with landowners, review of agreement for consistency, and promotional opportunities.

The OHF Working Grassland Partnership (WGP) has 11 signed agreements covering 2,510.70 acres (copies of the agreements are available in the Commission files). The WGP has obligated $330,739.10 of OHF cost-share (60%) with $220,492.73 in landowner cost-share (40%). The WGP has paid out $28,388.46 in livestock and bird friendly development practices to date. The Trust has provided habitat lease payments to 2017 expiring CRP contracts for 1,678.70 acres in the amount of $83,935. All agreement holders have been informed about public access options.

WGP activity has increased substantially since the start of 2017 and landowner interest is strong. There is also a great team of organizations that are working daily to deliver the program. It’s exciting that a number of the existing WGP agreements have partnered with other existing programs like Watershed Coordinators, EQIP, and PF to leverage OHF funding even more than expected.

All WGP program details are available to anyone on the NDNRT website www.ndnrt.com. Copies of the articles in the Farm and Ranch Management (February 2017 and AgWeek) are included in the status report that is posted on the OHF website.

October 2017
Currently, OHF Working Grassland Partnership (WGP) has 33 signed agreements covering 14,899.50 acres of expiring CRP and adjacent grasslands. The WGP has obligated through this agreement period $830,524.32 of OHF cost-share (60%) with $553,682.88 in landowner cost-share (40%). The WGP has paid out $255,369.34 in livestock and bird friendly development practices to date. The Trust has provided habitat lease payments in the amount of $228,485.50. All agreement holders have been informed about public access options.
The WGP interest has been strong by landowners who have CRP acres expiring in 2017. Landowners are very interested in transitioning these acres into their livestock grazing operations. All WGP funds will be obligated by the end of October. Installation of livestock and grassland bird friendly development practices will be very active this fall as many of the CRP acres have now expired as of 9/30/2017.

All WGP program details are available to anyone on the NDNRT website www.ndnrt.com. Photos provided with the status report are posted on the OHF website.

April 2018
Activity during this reporting period was focused on effectively coordinating with delivery partners and coordinating with landowners on project completions. This diverse partnership was busy working with the participating landowners providing technical assistance on rotational grazing and selecting locations of bird/livestock friendly development practices. The WGP signed a total of 42 agreements with landowners enrolling 17,346 acres in grazing management agreements. A total of $1,002,124.20 has been obligated to date.

The majority of WGP agreements completed during this reporting period were developments associated with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that expired in September 2017. This gave a short window of opportunity for landowners from October and November to get the developments completed or to coordinate with well drillers and custom fencing contractors. Even with this short time frame and all other fall harvest activities a significant amount of activity got completed this fall. At the time of this reporting period, approximately 50% of the proposed budgeted activity has been completed. WGP partners will continue to coordinate with landowners as the development activities get completed in 2018. Photos provided with the status report are posted on the OHF website.

October 2018
WGP has entered into 42 agreements. WGP water developments and fencing was completed on 16 agreements since the last reporting period for a total of $421,885.43 ($253,131.26 OHF and $168,754.17 landowners). A total of 26 agreements (62%) of the 42 agreements are finalized. A total of 5 agreements are enrolled into the ND Game and Fish Department’s Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program providing public access on 2,476 acres.

The remaining WGP agreement anticipated completion will be 2018 or in 2019. Water developments continue to be subject to availability of contractor and weather. The Trust, co-applicants, and partners will continue to work with landowner on the remaining activities until the project is completed. Photos provided with the status report are posted on the OHF website.

April 2019
WGP has entered into one new agreement with a landowner in Sheridan county. The WGP now has entered into 44 agreements. WGP water developments and fencing was completed during the reporting period on 9 agreements for a total of $202,280.75 ($121,368.45 OHF and $80,912.30 landowners) A total of 30 of the 44 agreements have been completed.

During this reporting period, the following has been installed: 66,323 feet of fence, 4 wells, 5,243 feet of water pipeline and 6 water tanks. It is anticipated that the remaining agreements will be completed in 2019.

November 2019
During the reporting period, water developments and fencing were completed on 4 agreements. Activities included: 21,495 feet of fence, 1 solar water well, 3 water wells, and 5 water tanks. It is anticipated that the remaining agreements may go into 2020. Additional details are available in the full report.
April 2020
The work on five additional agreements has been completed, totaling $105,435.70 ($63,261.42 OHF and $42,174.28 landowners.) Activities included: 37,853 feet of fence, 1 solar water well, and 2,340 feet of shallow pipeline. It is anticipated that work on the remaining agreements will be completed by the end of 2020.

October 2020
There were not OHF expenses during the reporting period. This fall, the Trust completed an assessment of all landowner agreements and had discussions with all landowners with development activity remaining on their agreements. There are 8 agreements with activity remaining. All 8 indicated that they plan to continue their agreements. Six indicated they will be submitting invoices to the Trust for payment in 2020.

April 2021
During this reporting period WGP provided two expense reimbursements. The Trust anticipates that all activity will be completed for this grant in 2021.

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<tr>
<th>Agreements</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>#feet of fence</th>
<th>#water systems</th>
<th>#feet of pipeline</th>
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<td>750.3</td>
<td>12,900</td>
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Dated 4/29/2021