

Agenda Item 8. Grant Modifications

A. 19-155-2 – Pheasants Forever – Conservation Ag, Urban, and Working Lands (Pages 8-2 thru 8-3)

The sponsor is requesting a budget modification to shift funds from the Foregone Income Payments budget category to the Cost-Share Assistance category. In their original application, they estimated their budget based on the assumption that landowners would choose the option to receive annual contract payments on their projects. However, they have found that landowners are seeking establishment cost-share and opting out of the annual payments. This grant modification will allow them to do more projects with their grant funding.

Staff recommends approving the modification.

Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.

B. 18-188 – Fontenelle Forest – Woodland, Savanna, and Prairie Habitat Restoration (Pages 8-4 thru 8-7)

The sponsor is requesting a budget modification to shift funds from Habitat Restoration, Education/Outreach, and Monitoring into the Equipment and Supplies budget category. They have made some changes to their program, which has significantly reduced their spending in restoration work (staff salaries). They have also received more partner funding for an outreach event. They believe that they can do more/better work with more and updated equipment. They also have a bigger need for supplies due to the discovery of new invasive plants.

Staff recommends approving this modification

Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.

October 23, 2020

Kelsi Wehrman
Pheasants Forever, Inc.
PO Box 146
Nelson, NE

Reference: NET 19-155-2 – Conservation Ag, Urban, and Working Lands

Dear Kelsi,

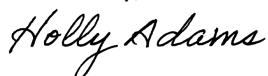
We have received your letter dated October 21, 2020, requesting a modification to shift funds from the Foregone Income Payments budget category into the Cost-Share Assistance budget category. Modifications are outlined in the table below:

| Category | Amount | Modification | Modified Budget | Disbursed | Remaining |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Administration | \$8,327.55 | \$0.00 | \$8,327.55 | \$7,266.73 | \$1060.82 |
| Cost-Share | \$112,456.03 | +\$98,000 | \$210,456.03 | \$84,938.58 | \$125,517.45 |
| Foregone Income | \$270,000.00 | -\$98,000 | \$172,000.00 | \$5,112.00 | \$166,888.00 |
| Personnel | \$30,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$30,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$30,000.00 |
| Totals: | \$420,783.58 | | \$420,783.58 | \$97,317.31 | \$323,466.27 |

We will take your request to the NET Board at the November 5, 2020 meeting. You will be notified following that meeting of the Board's decision.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Holly Adams
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman



State Coordinator

Kelsi Wehrman
 PO Box 146
 Nelson, NE 68961

402-621-0744

kwehrman@pheasantsforever.org

October 21, 2020

Mark Brohman
 Nebraska Environmental Trust
 700 South 16th Street
 Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Nebraska Environmental Trust,

This letter is a request to shift \$98,000 from the Foregone Income Payments budget category to the Cost-Share Assistance budget category in the 19-155-2 grant. Conservation Ag, Urban and Working Lands (now referred to as the Pathway for Wildlife Program), is a pilot program and we estimated the budget based on the assumption that most landowners would choose the option to receive annual contract payments on their projects. However, we have been pleased to find that a lot of landowners are only seeking establishment cost share and opting out of the annual payments, yet still enrolling in a three-year contract. This has allowed us to leverage the grant funding and do more projects. We already have over 115 active and finished projects in the Pathway for Wildlife Program, affecting over 5,500 acres; which exceeds our expectations of the first year of the pilot program. With this budget shift, we will be able to affect more acres with establishment cost share.

| Budget Category | Current Budget |
|---|----------------|
| Cost-Share Assistance | \$ 112,456.03 |
| Foregone Income Payments | \$ 270,000.00 |
| Personnel Services for Project Implementation | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Administration | \$ 8,327.55 |
| | \$ 420,783.58 |

| Budget Category | Requested Budget |
|---|------------------|
| Cost-Share Assistance | \$ 210,456.03 |
| Foregone Income Payments | \$ 172,000.00 |
| Personnel Services for Project Implementation | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Administration | \$ 8,327.55 |
| | \$ 420,783.58 |

Sincerely,

Kelsi Wehrman
 Pheasants Forever, Inc.
 State Coordinator

October 23, 2020

Michelle Foss
Fontenelle Forest
1111 Bellevue Blvd. North
Bellevue, NE 68005

Reference: NET 18-188 – Woodland, Savanna and Prairie Habitat Restoration

Dear Michelle,

We have received your email dated October 23, 2020, requesting a modification to shift funds from Habitat Restoration, Education and Outreach, and Monitoring to the Equipment and Supplies categories. Modifications are outlined in the table below:

| Category | Amount | Modification | Modified Budget | Disbursed | Remaining |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Education/Outreach | \$11,750 | -\$2,000 | \$9,750 | \$5,329.31 | \$4,420.69 |
| Equipment | \$135,400 | \$41,500 | \$176,900 | \$129,909.37 | \$46,990.63 |
| Habitat Restoration | \$249,500 | -\$46,000 | \$203,500 | \$163,845.36 | \$39,654.64 |
| Monitoring | \$8,500 | -\$72.74 | \$8,427.26 | \$8,427.26 | \$0.00 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$18,250 | \$6,572.74 | \$24,822.74 | \$17,656.68 | \$7,166.06 |
| Travel/Training | \$4,500 | \$0.00 | \$4,500 | \$1,532.78 | \$2,967.22 |
| Totals: | \$427,900.00 | | \$427,900.00 | \$326,700.76 | \$101,199.24 |

We will take your request to the NET Board at the November 5, 2020 meeting. You will be notified following that meeting of the Board's decision.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Holly Adams
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman

From: [Michelle Foss](#)
To: [Adams, Holly](#)
Subject: RE: Grant Budget Category Funding Change Request
Date: Friday, October 23, 2020 8:47:17 AM
Attachments: [image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image018.png](#)

Good morning,

Here is what I'm looking at:

Removing \$46,000 from habitat restoration, \$2,000 from Education and Outreach, and \$72.74 from monitoring.

Adding \$41,500 to Equipment and \$6,572.74 to Supplies.

Justification: Habitat Restoration – change in personnel resulting in lower salary and cheaper benefit costs, as well as lack of external, hired, fire help for a year; Education and Outreach – sponsorship and lower costs for Fire Fest event; Monitoring – lower costs for monitoring

Equipment – we can accomplish more work with more/better equipment such as a third UTV, skidsteer/tractor implements and parts, brush cutters and/or chainsaws

Supplies – discovery of new invasive plants has increased our herbicide needs, as well as gas/diesel for mowing/thinning equipment and fire; we have increased capabilities of travel for partner work on other private and public lands

Please let me know what else you need from me.

Thank you!

Michelle Foss

Director of Stewardship and Research



1111 Bellevue Blvd. North
Bellevue, NE 68005
Main Line: 402.731.3140
Extension: 1036

Fax: 402.731.2403
Fontenelleforest.org



From: Adams, Holly [mailto:holly.adams@nebraska.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Michelle Foss
Subject: RE: Grant Budget Category Funding Change Request

Good Morning Michelle,

Can you please tell me the amounts that you are thinking about moving into equipment and supplies?

Holly Adams

Grants Administrator
Nebraska Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

From: Michelle Foss <MFoss@fontenelleforest.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Adams, Holly <holly.adams@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Grant Budget Category Funding Change Request

Ms. Adams,

I'm about to submit my Y3Q2 report for Grant 18-188, but I would like to request a Category Funding Change. We've had some changes in the past year which have significantly reduced our spending in the restoration work (staff salaries) category, as well as receiving more partner funding for an outreach event than anticipated. We'd like to apply those dollars to the equipment and supplies categories, but I don't know what that process is with the online portal. Also, does that need to be done before I submit the reimbursement request, which will result in overspending in at least one category?

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Michelle Foss

Director of Stewardship and Research

FONTENELLE FOREST

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