



Research & Demonstration Grant Funding Program Annual Report

Please return the completed form along with the below referenced supplemental information to Jason Coleman at jason.coleman@hpwd.org.

NAME: Ogallala Commons, Inc.	
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 346	PHONE NUMBER: 806-945-2255
CELL NUMBER: 806-336-1713	EMAIL: darryl@ogallalacommons.org
PROJECT TITLE:	
TOTAL FUNDING: \$6,000	
PROJECT COMPLETED: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: July. 31, 2020
PREFERRED PRESENTATION MONTH: November	

Attached to this document please provide the following supplemental information:

- Financial report showing expenses, remaining funds, and financial contributions from cooperators and other funding sources.
- Any supplemental materials you would like the HPWD Board of Directors to review.
- A copy of the presentation materials for the HPWD Board of Directors meeting presentation.

1. Describe your progress to date with the project (Word Limit 150):

On October 8, 2019, OC held a Playa Field Day at the Floyd County Unity Center in Muncie, TX. The event featured a panel presentation on "Playas and Wind Development. A total of 18 attended the Field Day, which included 10 landowners, 6 of whom owned playas. On Nov. 19, 2019 in Canyon, OC's Playa Field Day was attended by 35 participants (12 who were landowners, 7 who own playas). On June 23, 2020 in Hereford, TX, OC's Playa Field Day was attended by 55 participants (18 who were landowners, 8 who own playas). OC also conducted 2 Playa Festivals for 88 students from Sudan and Farwell Schools on October 4th at Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, and another Festival at OC Playa Classroom on Oct. 4, 2019 for 86 students from Hart, Kress, Silverton, and St. Anthony's School in Hereford, TX.

2. Describe successes or setbacks observed with implementing the project (Word Limit 150):

Thus far, our greatest success has been our attendance at Playa Field Days—the last two we have held were our best attended ever. Quite a bit of growth from even 2 years ago. Another success is the number of landowner and those who own playas who are attending our Field Days.

The setback so far has been Covid-19 and having to postpone earlier Field Days. Our events are currently scheduled and seem to be on track, but Covid-19 restrictions could result in having to offer online education. Though we are prepared to offer virtual education, it can never replace on-site education and getting out in the field.

Due to the Covid-19 delays, we are short one Playa Field Day of completing our proposed work objectives. We will complete our project with our final Field Day on July 11, 2020. Even with one Field Day to go, we have exceeded our attendance goals for Playa Field Days and Playa Festivals through the project work we have already completed.

3. Describe the results of the proposed work objectives and expected impact of the research/demonstration being conducted (Word Limit 250):

Ogallala Commons conducted 3 Playa Field Days within the HPWD boundaries (Floyd, Randall, and Deaf Smith counties) from October 2019 - June 2020. The Field Days were attended by 100 participants, 40 of whom were landowners (and 21 who own playas). We still have one more Field Day to deliver, scheduled for July 11th at OC Playa Classroom in Nazareth, TX (Castro County).

Ogallala Commons conducted 3 Playa Festivals for 154 students during the month of October 2019, that were sponsored by HPWD (at Muleshoe NWR for 37 Sudan 5th Graders, at Farwell Middle School for 51 5th Graders, and OC Playa Classroom in Nazareth for Hart, Kress, and St. Anthony's School in Hereford—66 total students).

4. Describe the conservation impacts to the District (Word Limit 150):

5. Please describe any outreach and communication plans you have for this project, including any awards submissions or potential opportunities for publishing (Word Limit 150):

**“Playa Education & Restoration for Healthy Watershed Management”
Project Final Budget**

Project Income

Dixon Water Foundation funding	\$10,000
Los Alamos National Laboratories	\$ 6,000
Grant Funding from High Plains Water District	\$ 6,000
Investments for Playa Festivals	\$ 3,100
Bayer Fund	\$ 3,000
Registrations for 3 Playa Field Days	\$ 900
Sub-Total	\$29,000

Project Expenses

Playa Field Days Project Coordination by OC Staff	\$19,000
Playa Festival faculty stipends	\$ 4,000
Conservation Education Community Intern stipends	\$ 2,400
Meals, lodging, and rentals at Field Days & Festivals	\$ 1,000
Administrative Services	\$ 2,600
Sub-Total	\$29,000

Photos from Ogallala Commons Playa Field Days & Playa Festivals, 2019-2020



On October 8, 2019, OC held a Playa Field Day at the Floyd County Unity Center in Muncie, TX. The event featured a panel presentation on “Playas and Wind Development”.



The field tour in Floyd County checked out a playa for restoration possibilities as well as the spacing of wind turbines from playas at a nearby wind farm.



Don Kahl, TPWD Region 1 Migratory Game Bird Specialist, covered general information on playas and the Texas Playa Conservation Initiative (<https://playasworkfortexans.com/>) at Nov. 21, 2019 Playa Field Day



Visiting couple of playas southwest of Canyon, TX on Nov. 21st Playa Field Day, with a variety of ducks to observe.



Out at Garcia Lake with presenters on June 23, 2020 Playa Field Day in Hereford, TX.



A mostly masked and socially-distanced group of attendees at Playa Field Day in Hereford Community Center on June 23, 2020.

Playa Festivals in 2019



OC Intern Amanda Emert helps 5th Graders to process what they learned on a Nature Walk at Playa Festival.



Jim Steiert (center) give great information on shorebirds at Goodwin Playa in Clovis, NM



OC Stewardship Educator Robert Martin exhibits a menagerie of reptiles & amphibians at OC Playa Festivals.