



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Press Release

Lehr Waterfowl Production Area

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2025

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks public comment on the draft Compatibility Determination for Right-of-Way and Construction of Buried Fiber-optic Line on the Lehr Waterfowl Production Area

NAPOLEON, N.D. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public comment on a draft compatibility determination regarding a proposed right-of-way and construction of a buried fiber-optic line on the Lehr Waterfowl Production Area, located in Logan County. The Service is required to determine whether issuing a permit for the right-of-way would be compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established.

The Service regularly receives requests from utility companies and others to temporarily alter upland sites associated with waterfowl production areas, in conjunction with utility line construction and maintenance projects to improve public safety and access to information. These requests go through a compatibility determination to evaluate what, if any, impact issuing a permit for the activity might have on the refuge and the reason for which it was established.

It is essential for the Service to quickly review requests aimed at improving rural life while meeting legal and policy requirements. As part of the permitting process, applicants must submit a detailed proposal including equipment needs, excavation dimensions, restoration techniques and project maps. Limited and negligible long-term impacts to impacted public lands and waters are expected from approved requests.

The draft compatibility determination is available for public review and comment for 15 days from September 18, 2025 to October 2, 2025. The public is being made aware through this notice as well as a notice posted in the Kulm Wetland Management District office. A hard copy of this draft document is available at the district office and electronically on the district [website](#).

Individuals can contact [Refuge Manager Krista Lundgren](#), if there is a need for the documents to be made available in an alternative format. Concerns expressed during the public comment period will be addressed in the final compatibility determination.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov and connect with us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter), [LinkedIn](#), [Flickr](#), and [YouTube](#).