



COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION



National Wildlife Refuge System

Refuge Name:

Address:

Attn: (Refuge Official)

E-Mail:

Phone #:

For Official Use Only:

Approved Permit #:

Station #:

Permit Term: from to

Note: We do not require all information for each use. See instructions at the end of the notice and contact the refuge to determine applicability of a particular item.

1a) Identify the type of Permit you are applying for: New ☐ Renewal ☐ Modification ☐ Other ☐

1b) Have you applied, or do you intend to apply, to any other refuges for this same activity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1c) If yes, which refuges?

Applicant Information

2) Full Name: 3) Title:

4) Business Name:

5) Physical Address:

City/State/Zip:

6) Mailing Address: (if different than above)

City/State/Zip:

7) Business Phone #: 8) Business Fax #:

9) E-mail: 10) Business Tax ID #:

11a) Within the past 5 years, has the company (entity) , its owners, or any employees who have or will be expected to operate on the refuge, been convicted, pled nolo contendere, forfeited collateral, or are currently under charges for any violations of any State, Federal, or local law, or regulations related to fish and wildlife or permit activities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

11b) If you answered "YES" to question #11a, provide the individual's name, date of charge, charge(s), location of incident, court, and action taken for each violation.

Grazing Bid Package Information

COMPLEX:	Little Swan Lake	TRACT:	Thompson WPA
LEGAL:	T100N/R35W/SW ¼ Sec 26 (Superior TWP)	ACRES:	40.0 grass
YEAR(s):	2023	MAP:	SEE ATTACHED
BID FORMAT:	\$/AUM	AUM:	21 total Cows

2023

Target Grazing Period: May 15 to August 15 (93) grazing days (3 months & 3 days)

NOTE – Targeted Grazing Period may vary according to ground conditions and active mgmt. needed to achieve the intended mgmt. goals. Also, to simplify fencing +/- 4 acres of State WMA land in the very SE corner is included in the enhancement project for a total of +/- 44 acres of grass. Primary grazing mgmt. goal is to help establish the spring 2022 inter-seeded native prairie within this area and to reduce cool season grasses on the existing remnant prairie areas.

Stocking Rate: 10 Cow/Calf Pairs and 1 Bull

Animal Unit Defined as follows:

- Mature cow – 1.0
- Cow/calf pair – 1.2
- Yearling (9-18 months) – 0.7
- Weaner calf – 0.5
- Bull – 1.5

Fence Status: There is fence around the boundary of the grazing area. Cooperator will need to inspect the fence for any required maintenance to insure cattle stay within the area at all times. The cost to construct or repair the fence needs to be accounted for in your grazing bid. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Iowa DNR will supply all the materials for a high tensile electric fence (2 strands or 3). The fence must be capable of keeping cattle inside the graze unit.

Gates: Gate location is shown on attached map. The gate needs to be constructed in such a way that it can be easily opened to allow passage of trucks, tractors and other equipment. Gate materials will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Water Source: Livestock watering will generally be provided via existing wetlands or historical excavated dugout pool. During dry periods when wetlands do not contain water, supplemental watering will be allowed from the main drainage in the NW corner of the paddock. Any methods and locations of supplemental watering on Service lands must be approved by the Refuge Manager. All water tanks and any other miscellaneous items must be removed from the property within one week from when the cattle are removed.

Forage Types: The site consists of primarily cool season grasses with a small percentage that is native prairie grasses / forbs and some small wetland plant communities.

Grazing Targets:

Plants: Impact community composition by reducing grass competition to allow for expression and expansion of forb community. Reduce the amount of cool season grass in order to establish seeded native grass and forbs and to enhance existing remnant prairie. Reduce cattail dominance on wetland edges to allow for open water as well as increased wetland community diversity. Create structural heterogeneity utilizing cattle grazing patterns to increase required habitat for grassland birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

Animals: Increase nest attempts, successes, and brood raising potential for waterfowl and prairie obligate birds. Increase insect diversity by increasing vigor and abundance of native forb community. Increase basking areas and wetland openings for reptiles and amphibians.

Required Grazing Area Mgmt. & Noxious Weed Control

The permittee will be responsible for managing and mowing thistles as needed within the grazing area for noxious weed control during the designated grazing period in 2023. Spraying is strictly prohibited and will not be allowed on the FWS WPA.

Grazing Special Conditions

1) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to modify or terminate the Special Use Permit if habitat conditions warrant.

2) Cattle will be purged using corn stalks or other weed free alternative food sources as approved by the Refuge Manager for 2 weeks prior to the described grazing period

3) All liability relating to livestock and livestock management to include all persons working for the permittee, whether related, hired or as a partner is strictly that of the permittee as listed on the Special Use Permit. The permittee must have/acquire liability insurance that covers the livestock being grazed on Service Lands. A copy of the liability insurance must be provided to the Refuge Manager.

4) The permittee must be in compliance with the respective state and local livestock health regulations.

5) All equipment for grazing, including ATVs and UTVs, must be clean and free of invasive plant material including seeds before entering any Refuge, Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), or Service easement. The Refuge Manager reserves the right to inspect and deny the use of any equipment/vehicle/horse etc. that appears to contain invasive species plant material or seeds.

6) The permittee will not use any pesticides (includes insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands.

7) Any livestock management action including branding or dehorning on Service land must be approved by the Refuge Manager.

8) Subletting is not allowed. As approved by the Refuge Manager, partnering with another rancher will be allowed should the number of livestock needed to achieve the desired outcome not be obtainable by a single rancher. If partnering is allowed, the initial permittee will be solely responsible for the total payment, management, liability and all special conditions of the permit.

9) Fence maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Any permanent fence constructed on National Wildlife Refuge System lands will become property of the Service.

10) Livestock watering will generally be provided via existing wetlands. During dry periods when wetlands do not contain water, supplemental watering will be allowed. Any methods and locations of supplemental watering on Service lands must be approved by the Refuge Manager. All water tanks and any other miscellaneous items must be removed from the property within one week from when the cattle are removed.

11) The permittee must notify the Refuge Manager of deceased livestock. Deceased livestock must be removed from Service lands within 48 hours of discovery unless other arrangements have been approved by the Refuge Manager.

14) Supplemental feeding is not permitted on the unit.

15) Use of minerals (salt or protein) will NOT be allowed

16) The Service is not responsible for providing alternative pasture if the Special Use Permit is terminated.

Grazing Bid Sheet

COMPLEX: Little Swan Lake

LEGAL: T100N/R35W/SW ¼ Sec 26 (Superior TWP)

YEAR(s): 2023

TRACT: Thompson WPA

ACRES: 44.0 grass

Bid (\$/AUM): _____

Cooperator Name (Printed)

Cooperator Address

City

State

Zipcode

Cooperator Home Phone

Cell Phone

Cooperator Signature

Date

For Additional Information Contact:

Chris LaRue Biologist

Iowa DNR – Great Lakes Wildlife Unit

712-330-4543

Send Completed Bid Sheets to:

Thompson WPA Grazing Bid

AgriLand Inc

905 South Grand Ave

Spencer, IA 51301

712-580-3553

