

ATTENTION FARMERS AND GROWERS

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge Seeks Agricultural Producers for Cooperative Agriculture Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking up to two agricultural producers for a Cooperative Agriculture Agreement at Columbia National Wildlife Refuge in Othello, Washington. The producers will farm land on the refuge for a period of five years as a cooperator with the Service.

Applicants must fill out applicable portions of FWS Form 3-1383-C and supplemental application questions. The applicants must address in their application how the applicant will meet the criteria outlined in the announcement.

Background

The Columbia National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) was established in 1944, in part, to provide habitat for migratory and wintering waterfowl and migratory lesser Sandhill cranes. Refuge farmlands receive sustained waterfowl use from fall through spring and provide quality forage, which improves waterfowl health and survival. Up to 50,000 waterfowl overwinter annually in the Columbia Basin, with up to 24,000 of those using the Refuge. The refuge's goal is to provide appropriate nutrients to migratory and wintering waterfowl to sustain their populations. The positive and negative effects of the farming program are explored in depth in the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP).

Our goal is to maximize waterfowl use on refuge lands. Approximately 744 acres are currently farmed under cooperative agreements. Through the agreements, the Refuge shares are a minimum of 25% of cultivated acres. The Refuge reserves the standing crop to be knocked down during severe winter weather and/or following the close of hunting season, between early February and mid-March. Crop selection is based on recognizing the nutritional needs of waterfowl as well as the limitations of crop production on refuge lands within the restrictions on seed sources and pesticides. Refuge croplands will be tested periodically to determine soil condition and fertilizer needs to ensure proper growth and health of desired plant species. In addition, invasive plant species are controlled using appropriate Integrated Pest Management techniques including mechanical/physical, chemical, biological, and cultural means.

The Cropland Management Plan for the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is a stepdown plan of the CCP and Environmental Assessment for the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. These plans provide guidance to employ farming as habitat management tool on the

Refuge. The Refuge is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Department of the Interior.

The plan provides management direction for farm fields on the Refuge by focusing on important groups of wildlife and their associated habitats identified in the respective CCP planning process. The prescriptive farming activities were determined to be a compatible use. Farming is a habitat management tool, which may be used to meet resource management objectives on units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with the Service's Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health policy.

This plan also defines the process by which the farming program will be administered and further delineates the requirements and restrictions in a Plan of Operations - Cooperative Agricultural Agreement (CAA).

The Proposed Cooperative Agriculture Agreement

Through this announcement, we are seeking qualified applicants for a 5 year permit that will be renewed annually. The selected cooperators will develop a 5-year crop plan with the Deputy Project Leader for each assigned field. This plan will include crop types to be grown in each field, and the location and crop type for the refuge share. In total, each cooperator will receive up to 75% of acres grown for their share while leaving at least 25% for the Refuge share. Primary crops include wheat, barley, corn, buckwheat, alfalfa, other cereal grains, green forage, or native grasses. Other crops, such as onions, potatoes, canola, or mustard, may be considered within a crop rotation plan to reduce pests and improve soil health.

General Operating Requirements:

- The Refuge provides underground portions of the irrigation system. The Cooperator will need to provide aboveground portions of all center pivots and wheel lines necessary to meet crop production goals.
- Cooperators will pay for annual water rights assessed through Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District.
- Crop plans may be altered through consensus by both the Deputy Project Leader and cooperators during the 5-year agreement.
- The farmer shall provide all necessary work to produce a minimum harvest level on the Refuge share of the following grain crop:
 - Corn 250 bushels/acre
 - Buckwheat 2000 lb/acre
 - Wheat/Triticale 100 bushels/acre
 - Barley 100 bushels/acre
- Cooperators may be required to replant failed crops at their own expense.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy prohibits the use of GMOs and neonicotinoids. All pesticides must be pre-approved under a pesticide use permit (PUP) for the refuge. A list of currently approved pesticides is available. The cooperator is required to provide the Deputy Project Leader a pesticide use report by 30 November of each year documenting any herbicide applications made on the refuge.
- Cooperator must be able and willing to complete crop knock-down during January – March at the request of the Deputy Project Leader.
- All liability relating to farming and crop management to include all persons working for the cooperator, whether related, hired, or as a partner is strictly that of the cooperator as listed on the CAA.
- The cooperator must have or acquire liability insurance that covers the equipment used on Service lands. A copy of the liability insurance must be provided to the Deputy Project Leader (or designee).
- All equipment for farming, including tractors, trucks, ATVs, and UTVs, must be clean and free of invasive species plant material including seeds before entering any Refuge or Service easement. The Deputy Project Leader (or designee) 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. Equipment must meet all safety regulations and must be in good working condition.
- Farming privileges may not be sold, transferred, or sublet, except by transfer to heirs in the event of the death of the cooperator.
- Non-use of farm lands, in whole or in part, shall be cause for cancellation of a cooperator's privileges at the discretion of the Deputy Project Leader unless non-use has previously been approved.
- A five year plan for crop rotation and annual work plans will be developed by the Deputy Project Leader and the cooperator prior to the period of operations.

Cooperator Selection

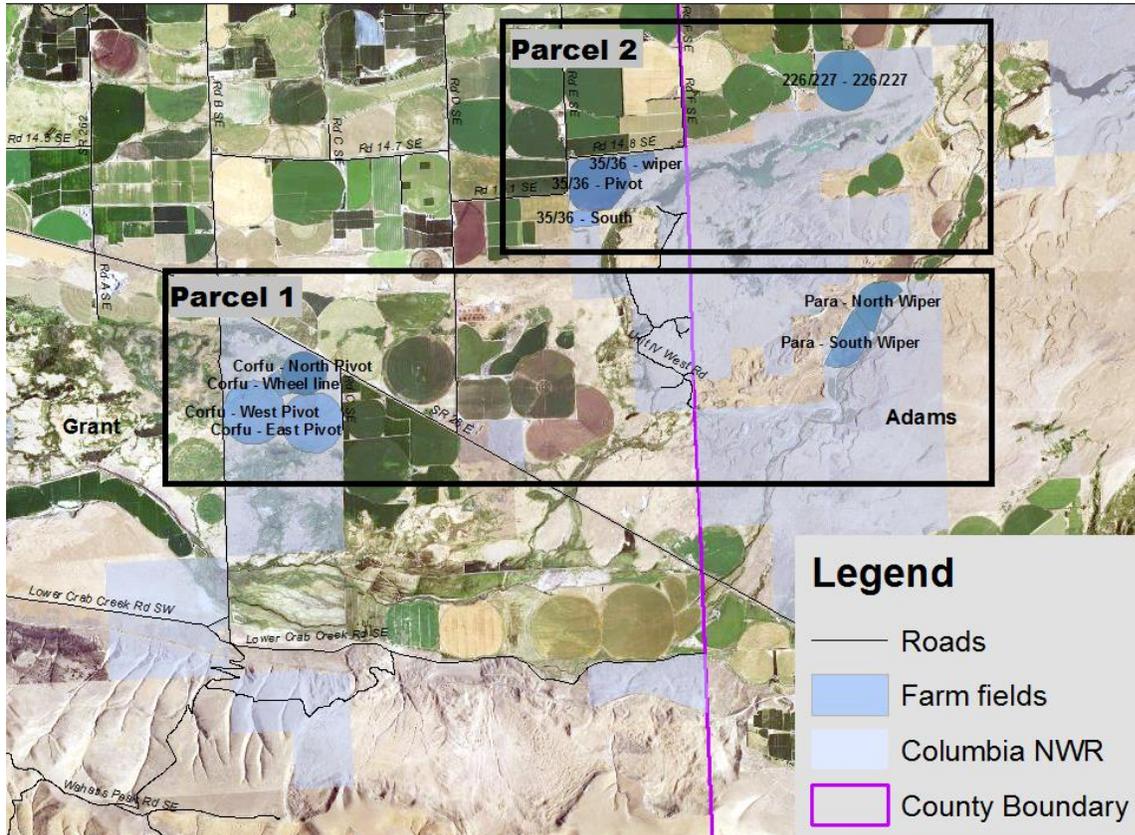
The producer(s) will be selected through an open and competitive process where applications will be scored and ranked by a panel including Service and Washington State University Agricultural Extension staff using the following criteria:

- Experience in cultivation of grains and green forage, especially personal experience on NWRS lands or comparable conservation land, including knowledge of soil composition, chemistry, moisture, and fertility, water needs, and pest problems.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully cultivate crops under restrictions listed above (e.g. non-GMO crops, non-neonicotinoid pesticides, restricted timing of harvest, and limitations on pesticides).
- Ownership or access to the proper equipment, materials, labor, or other resources to participate in the Cooperative Agriculture Agreement (equipment and personnel).

- Proximity of personnel to monitor crops and respond to crop failures or crop health issues
- Positive references regarding past performance, experience, and abilities related to crop cultivation

Parcels Available

Two groups of farm units are available. Parcel 1 includes 457.8 acres. Parcel 2 includes 286 acres. More details on the fields included in each parcel are available.



Applications

To apply, complete FWS Form 3-1383-C (Download at <https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-1383-C.pdf>) and supplemental application questions (included in this document). Hard copies can be requested by calling Trina Staloch, Deputy Project Leader at 320-241-6230 or emailing her at Trina_Staloch@fws.gov. Hard copies can also be picked up at McNary NWR at 64 Maple St, Burbank, WA. Mail completed applications to Trina Staloch, 64 Maple Street, Burbank, WA 99323 or email them to Trina_Staloch@fws.gov.

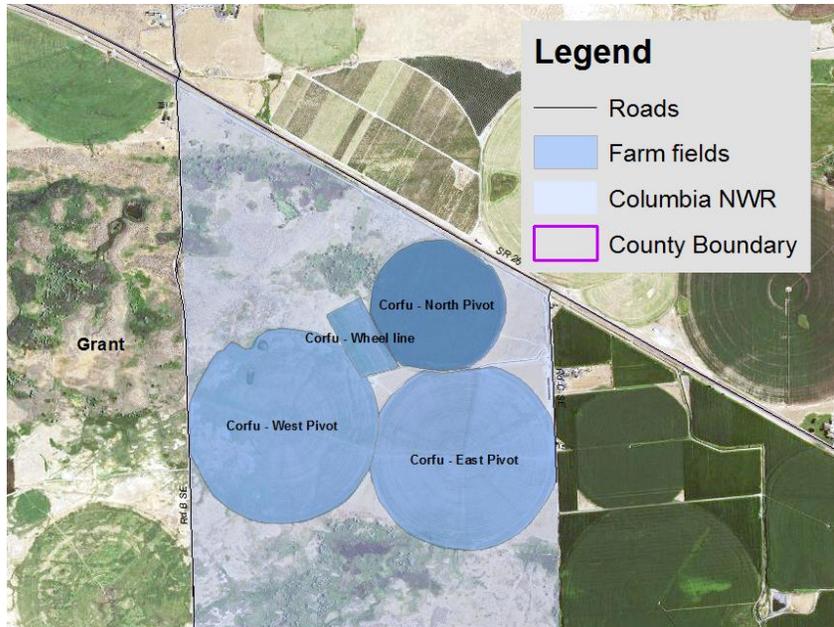
The Cooperator will be selected through an open and competitive process where applications will be scored and ranked by a panel including representatives from the Service and Washington State University Agricultural Extension.

The application package (FWS Form 3-1383-C and supplementation application questionnaire) are to be submitted to the Refuge Headquarters in a sealed envelope marked Cooperative Farming Application, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 64 Maple Street, Burbank, WA 99323. The envelopes may be submitted either by mail or hand delivery to the refuge office. In either case, **applications will only be accepted between November 21 and December 16, 2022.**

Application package envelopes must be received in the refuge office by December 16, 2022 at 4:00 pm. All packages will be opened on December 20th. The individual with the highest ranked application will be notified within 3 weeks of their selection.

Site Visits

A site visit to tour the refuge's farmlands will be held upon request. Please contact Trina Staloch at (320) 241-6230 or Trina_Staloch@fws.gov to schedule a tour.



Field Name	Acres	Government supplied		Cooperator Supplied	
		Pump	Underground Infrastructure	Irrigation Type	Radius/length
Corfu East Pivot	132	75 HP, 7.9 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Pivot	1355'
Corfu North Pivot	64.5	25 HP, 8 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Pivot	960'
Corfu Wheel Line	12.3	25 HP, 6.3 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Wheel Line	1050'
Corfu West Pivot	129	75 HP, 7.9 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Pivot	1400'
Para North Wiper	57	25 HP, 9 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Pivot	1175'
Para South Wiper	63	25 HP, 7.5 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Pivot	1400'

Columbia Parcel 2 – Farm Units 35/36 and 226/227

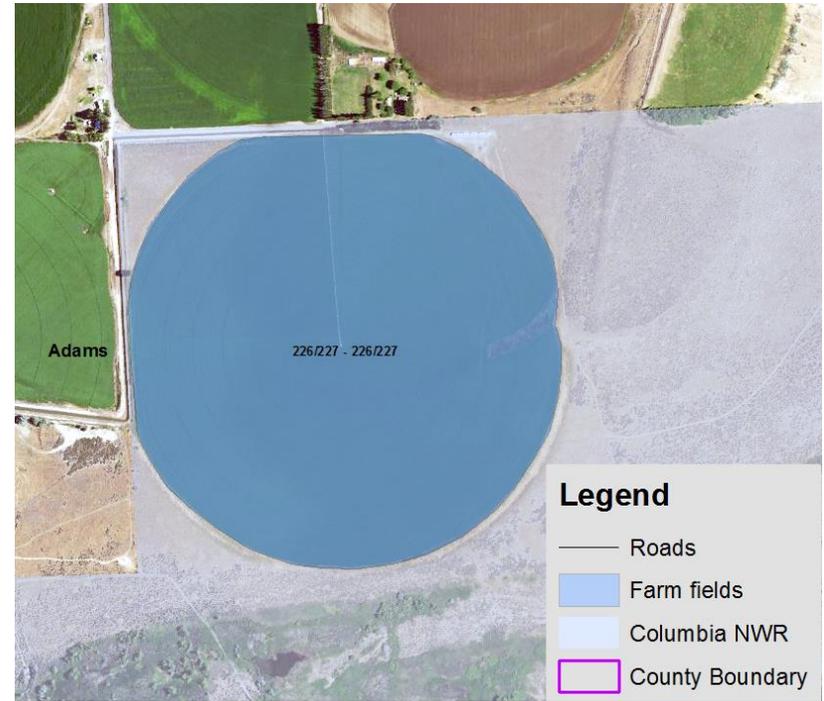
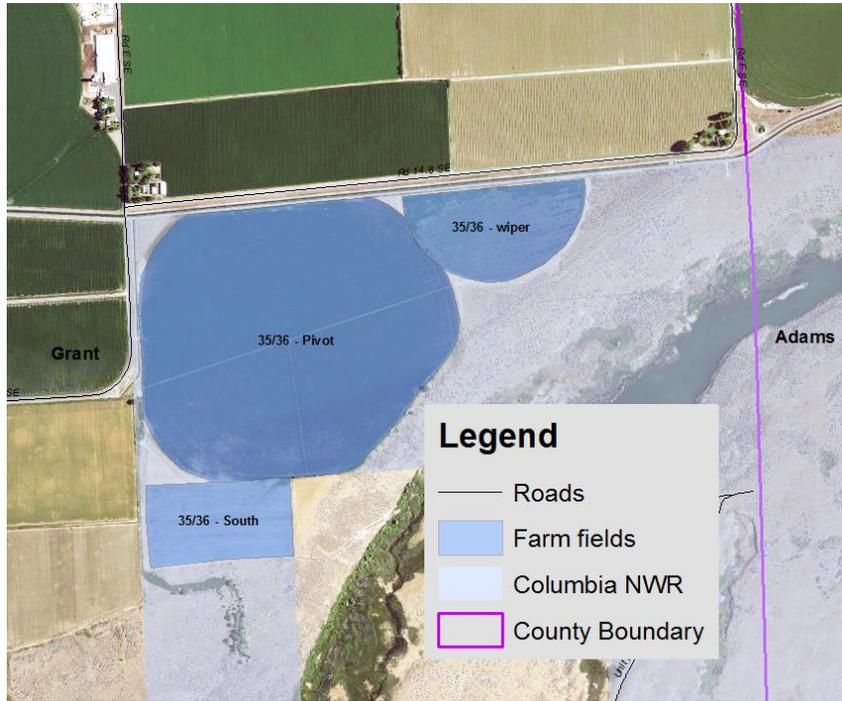
Acreage: 286

Columbia Parcel 2 is divided into two main locations. The 35/36 fields are located 10.4 miles west of the town of Othello, WA. The farm fields are at the corner of Road E SE and Road 14.8 SE. Access is from Road E SE. The 226/227 field is 8.7 miles west of the town of Othello, WA at the corner of South Barton Road and West Herman Road. Access is from canal access roads.

The cooperator will produce at least 71 acres of grain crop such as corn, wheat, barley, or buckwheat or green forage as the refuge share. Location of Refuge share and type of crop will be made by annual agreement. The cooperator's share will usually be corn, alfalfa, wheat, barley, or buckwheat, but may be canola, mustard, onions, or potatoes to provide adequate crop rotation. The stack yards for baled hay will be located in the Northeast corner for FU 226-227, and adjacent to the loading ramp for FU 35-36.

The cooperator is responsible for irrigation district costs and electricity costs. Irrigation district assessment in 2022 was \$26,029.

All below ground infrastructure is currently in place. Water for all fields is drawn from irrigation ditches. The refuge owns the pumps that provide water for the farm fields 35/36, but DOES NOT own the pumps that provide water for the farm fields 226-227. The Refuge provides the pumps, motors, mainline, and associated pivot bases for farm field 35/36. The pump and motor for 226-227 failed last year and would be the responsibility of the successful applicant to provide.



Field Name	Acres	Government supplied		Cooperator Supplied	
		Pump	Underground Infrastructure	Irrigation Type	Radius/length
Field 35/36 Pivot	119	60 HP, 6.8 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Pivot	1430'
Field 35/35 South Wheel Line	19	25 HP, 7.5 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Wheel Line	1200'
Field 35/36 East Wiper	21	30 HP, 7.5 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Pivot	800'
Field 226/227	127	60 HP, 7.5 gpm/acre	Mainline, Base	Pivot	1350'



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.

12) List **known** assistants/subcontractors/subpermittees: (Only required if the assistants/subcontractors/subpermittees will be operating on the refuge without the permittee being present. If unknown at time of application we may require this under "special conditions" to permit before approval.)

Name/Business	Address	Phone #

Activity Information:

13a) Choose a Commercial Activity: **Guided Recreation** **Audio/Visual Recording** **Recreation Events** **Cabins**
Transportation Services **Agricultural Use** **Marine Salvage/Storage** **Mineral Lease** **Other**

13b) Specify Type of Activity if 'Other' was chosen:

Note: Depending on the activity for which you are requesting a permit, we may ask you for the following activity information. Please contact the refuge where the activity is being conducted to determine what information is required.

14) Describe activity by specifically identifying timing (occupancy timeline), frequency, and how the activity is expected to proceed:

15) Specifically identify location(s) and/or attach a map: (GPS location(s) preferred)

16) If drones will be used, describe why the drone is needed and provide specifics on how it will be used:

17) For Guided Operations estimate number of clients if applicable: Per Day Per Season

18) Inquire with refuge if Plan of Operation is required. Is a Plan of Operation attached? Yes No N/A

19) Inquire with refuge if a trip schedule is required. Is a trip schedule attached? Yes No N/A

License/Insurance Coverage/Certification/Permit

Note: Contact the refuge where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if we will require any type of license(s), insurance(s), certification(s), or permit(s). We may process this Special Use Permit while the applicant obtains them.

20) List and attach a copy of any **licenses** you have for equipment operation (i.e., aviation or commercial boats), pesticide application(s), transporters, or others, if required:

License Type	Number	Expiration Date

21) List and attach any **insurance coverage(s)** you have such as general liability, aviation, grounding liability, contaminants applicator, medical evacuation, or others, if required:

Insurance Type	Carrier	Expiration Date

22) List and attach any **certifications** you have such as rat free, hull inspections, CPR/First Aid, or others, if required:

Certificate Type	Expiration Date

23) List and attach other Federal, State, or Tribal **permits**, if required:

Permit Type	Permit Number	Expiration Date

Logistics and Transportation

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.

24a) Does the activity require personnel to stay overnight on the refuge? Yes No N/A

24b) If yes, list names of personnel involved:

List Names	List Names	List Names	List Names

25) Identify and describe all major equipment/gear and materials needed for activity, if required:

26a) Provide detailed information on the logistics for onsite, intersite, and/or ship-to-shore transportation to or on the refuge, if required:

26b) Provide descriptions, license plate and/or identification numbers of vehicles used for onsite transportation, if required:

Vehicle Type	Plate/I.D./Registration #	Vehicle Type	Plate/I.D./Registration #

26c) Provide descriptions, license plate and/or identification numbers of vehicles used for intersite transportation, if required:

Vehicle Type	Plate/I.D./Registration #	Vehicle Type	Plate/I.D./Registration #

26d) Provide descriptions, license plate and/or identification numbers of vehicles used for ship to shore transportation, if required:

Vehicle Type	Plate/I.D./Registration #	Vehicle Type	Plate/I.D./Registration #

27a) Is fuel cache needed? Yes No N/A

27b) Specific location(s) of fuel caches: (GPS Coordinates preferred)

28) Is a Safety Plan attached?
Yes No N/A

Work and Living Accommodations

29) Specifically describe onsite work and/or living accommodations, including spike camps:

30) Specifically describe on or offsite hazardous material storage or other on or offsite material storage space: (Including on and offsite fuel caches.)

Sign, date, and print this form and return it to the refuge for processing. By signing this application, I agree my operations will conform to the information I have provided in this application, and I understand that any deviations or changes to this information must receive prior written approval.

31) Signature of Applicant: _____ Date of Application: _____

NOTICES

No Members of Congress or Resident Commissioner shall participate in any part of this contract or to any benefit that may arise from it, but this provision shall not pertain to this contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

The Permittee agrees to be bound by the equal opportunity "nondiscrimination in employment" clause of Executive Order 11246.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authority: The information requested is authorized by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee) and the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4).

Purpose: To collect the applicant's information to process permits allowing for commercial activities such as: guiding hunters, anglers or other outdoor users; commercial filming; agriculture; rental of cabins and trapping while on the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Routine Uses: The information will be used by the refuge's administrative office for processing Commercial Activity Special Use permits. More information about the routine uses maybe found in the Systems of Records Notice, FWS-5 National Wildlife Refuge Special Use Permits.

Disclosure: Providing the information is voluntary. However, submission of information is required to process and approve commercial activity usage on the National Wildlife Refuge System.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

We are collecting this information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501) to evaluate the qualifications, determine eligibility, and document permit applicants and to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974. The information that you provide is required to obtain or retain a benefit; however, failure to provide all required information is sufficient cause for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deny a permit. False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations made in the application may be grounds for revocation of the Special Use Permit and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001). According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has approved this information collection and assigned control number 1018-0102.

ESTIMATED BURDEN STATEMENT

The public reporting burden for this information collection varies based on the requested specific refuge use. We estimate the relevant public reporting burden for the Commercial Activity Special Use Permit Application form (Commercial) to average 4 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Service Information Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or via email to Info_Coll@fws.gov. Please do not send your completed form to this address.

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1) Responsibility of Permittee: The permittee, by operating on the premises, shall be considered to have accepted these premises with all facilities, fixtures, or improvements in their existing condition as of the date of this permit. At the end of the period specified or upon earlier termination, the permittee shall give up the premises in as good order and condition as when received except for reasonable wear, tear, or damage occurring without fault or negligence. The permittee will fully repay the Service for any and all damage directly or indirectly resulting from negligence or failure on his/her part, and/or the part of anyone of his/her associates, to use reasonable care.

2) Operating Rules and Laws: The permittee shall keep the premises in a neat and orderly condition at all times, and shall comply with all municipal, county, and State laws applicable to the operations under the permit as well as all Federal laws, rules, and regulations governing national wildlife refuges and the area described in this permit. The permittee shall comply with all instructions applicable to this permit issued by the refuge official in charge. The permittee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent the escape of fires and to suppress fires and shall render all reasonable assistance in the suppression of refuge fires.

3) Use Limitations: The permittee's use of the described premises is limited to the purposes herein specified and does not, unless provided for in this permit, allow him/her to restrict other authorized entry onto his/her area; and allows the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to carry on whatever activities are necessary for: (1) protection and maintenance of the premises and adjacent lands administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and (2) the management of wildlife and fish using the premises and other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands.

4) Transfer of Privileges: This permit is not transferable, and no privileges herein mentioned may be sublet or made available to any person or interest not mentioned in this permit. No interest hereunder may accrue through lien or be transferred to a third party without the approval of the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the permit shall not be used for speculative purposes.

5) Compliance: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to require strict compliance with any of this permit's terms, conditions, and requirements shall not constitute a waiver or be considered as a giving up of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's right to thereafter enforce any of the permit's terms or conditions.

6) Conditions of Permit not Fulfilled: If the permittee fails to fulfill any of the conditions and requirements set forth herein, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall retain all money paid under this permit to be used to satisfy as much of the permittee's obligation as possible.

7) Payments: All payment shall be made on or before the due date to the local representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by a postal money order or check made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

8) Termination Policy: At the termination of this permit the permittee shall immediately give up possession to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative, reserving, however, the rights specified in paragraph 11 below. If he/she fails to do so, he/she will pay the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as liquidated damages, an amount double the rate specified in this permit for the entire time possession is withheld. Upon yielding possession, the permittee will still be allowed to reenter as needed to remove his/her property as stated in paragraph 11 below. The acceptance of any fee for the liquidated damages or any other act of administration relating to the continued tenancy is not to be considered as an affirmation of the permittee's action nor shall it operate as a waiver of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's right to terminate or cancel the permit for the breach of any specified condition or requirement.

9) Revocation Policy: The Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may revoke this permit without notice for noncompliance with the terms hereof, or for violation of general and/or specific laws or regulations governing national wildlife refuges, or for nonuse. It is at all times subject to discretionary revocation by the Director of the Service. Upon such revocation the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, by and through any authorized representative, may take possession of said premises for its own and sole use, and/or may enter and possess the premises as the agent of the permittee and for his/her account.

10) Damages: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall not be responsible for: any loss or damage to property including but not limited to crops, animals, and machinery; injury to the permittee or his/her relatives or to the officers, agents, employees, or any other(s) who are on the premises from instructions; the sufferance from wildlife or employees or representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service carrying out their official responsibilities. The permittee agrees to hold the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service harmless from any and all claims for damages or losses that may arise to be incident to the flooding of the premises resulting from any associated government river and harbor, flood control, reclamation, or Tennessee Valley Authority activity.

11) Removal of Permittee's Property: Upon the expiration or termination of this permit, if all rental charges and/or damage claims due to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been paid, the permittee may, within a reasonable period as stated in the permit or as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official in charge, but not to exceed 60 days, remove all structures, machinery, and/or equipment, etc., from the premises for which he/she is responsible. Within this period the permittee also must remove any other of his/her property including his/her acknowledged share of products or crops grown, cut, harvested, stored, or stacked on the premises. Upon failure to remove any of the above items within the aforesaid period, they shall become the property of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION

You may complete the application portion verbally, in person, or electronically and submit to the refuge for review. Note: Please read instructions carefully as not all information is required for each activity. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine applicability of a particular item. We may add special conditions or permit stipulations to permit prior to approval.

1a-c) Identify if permit application is for new, renewal, or modification of an existing permit, whether or not you have or will be applying to another refuge for the same activity, and for which refuge(s). Permit renewals may not need all information requested. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine applicability of this requirement.

2-9) Provide applicant and/or business full name, organization or business name (if applicable), physical and mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail.

10) Provide tax identification number of business or individual.

11a-11b) Check box answering the question regarding any violations of State, Federal, or local law, or regulations related to fish and wildlife or permit activities, if required. If **you answered yes to question 11a**, supply the detailed information requested in question 11b. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if we require information on violations of State, Federal, or local law, or regulations related to fish and wildlife or permit activities.

12) Provide the names and addresses of known assistants, subcontractors, or subpermittees. We may require names and address if the assistants, subcontractors, or subpermittees will be operating on the refuge without the permittee being present. Volunteers, assistants, subcontractors, or subpermittees that are accompanied by the permittee need not be identified.

13) Activity type: identify commercial activity type (such as, guided recreation, audio/visual recording, recreational events, agriculture activities such as haying, grazing, crop planting, logging, beekeeping, and other agricultural products, building or occupying cabins, or other commercial uses). Describe other commercial uses if not one of the listed categories. Applicants in Alaska should contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted if you have questions regarding commercial or subsistence activities.

14) Describe Activity: provide detailed information on the activity, including timing and occupancy timeline, frequency, how the activity is expected to proceed, etc. Permit renewals may not need activity descriptions if the activity is unchanged from previous permit. Most repetitive activities do not require an activity description for each visit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine applicability of this requirement.

15) Location: identify specific location (GPS coordinates preferred) if not at a named facility, and/or attach a map with location. Most repetitive activities may not require identification of a location. In addition, permit renewals may not require a location if the activity is essentially unchanged from the previous permit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if a location is required.

16) If a drone will be used for this activity, describe in detail why the drone is necessary to complete the activity and provide specifics on how the drone will be used.

17) Estimate number of clients per day or per season.

18) Attach a Plan of Operation, if required. Most repetitive activities do not require a Plan of Operations for each visit. In addition, permit renewals may not require a Plan of Operations if the activity is essentially unchanged from the previous permit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office listed where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if a Plan of Operations is required.

19) Attach trip schedule, if required. Most repetitive activities will require trip schedules for each visit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if trip schedules are required.

20) Specifically identify types and numbers of licenses and attach a copy, as required. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine the types of licenses required, and to coordinate the simultaneous application for multiple types of licenses. We may process this Special Use Permit while licenses are being sought, but we may or may not issue the Special Use Permit until appropriate licenses are obtained.

21) Specifically identify names, types, carriers of insurance, and attach copies if required. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine the types of insurance required, and to coordinate obtaining several types of insurance simultaneously with this permit. We may or may not issue this Special Use Permit while other types of insurance are being obtained.

22) Specifically identify types and numbers of other certifications and attach copies if required. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine the types of certifications required, and to coordinate the simultaneous application of multiple certifications. We may or may not issue this Special Use Permit while other certifications are being obtained.

23) Specifically identify types and numbers of other State, Federal or tribal permits and attach copies, if required. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine the types of permits required, and to coordinate the simultaneous application of multiple State, Federal or tribal permits. We may process this Special Use Permit while other State, Federal or tribal permits are being sought, but we may or may not issue the Special Use Permit until other appropriate State, Federal or tribal permits are obtained.

24a-24b) Provide name(s) of any personnel required to stay overnight, if applicable.

25) Identify all equipment and materials that will be used, if required. Most repetitive activities do not require a list of equipment. In addition, permit renewals may not require a list of equipment if the event is essentially unchanged from the previous permit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if a list of equipment is required.

26a-26d) Describe and provide vehicle descriptions and license plate or identification numbers of all vehicles, including boats and airplanes, if required. Motor vehicle descriptions are only required for permittee vehicle, and/or if the vehicle will be operated on the refuge without the permittee being present. Motor vehicles that are accompanied by the permittee as part of a group (convoy) activity need not be identified if cleared in advance by refuge supervisor. Specifically describe ship-to-shore, intersite (between islands, camps, or other sites) and onsite transportation mechanisms, and license plate or identification numbers, if required.

27a-27b) Identify specific location(s) of fuel cache(s) (GPS coordinates preferred), if required.

28a-28b) Attach safety plan if required. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if we require a safety plan.

29) Specifically describe onsite work and/or living accommodations, if required. Include descriptions and locations (GPS coordinates preferred) of spike camps or other remote work and/or living accommodations that are not part of the base of operations. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if we require descriptions of on-site work and/or living accommodations.

30) Specifically describe onsite or offsite hazardous material storage, or other material storage space (including on and offsite fuel caches), if required. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if we require descriptions of hazardous material storage or other on-site material storage.

31) Print the application (if using the fillable version). Date and sign the application and return to refuge for processing. By signing this application, you agree your operations will conform to the information you have provided in this application, and understand that

any deviations or changes to this information must receive prior written approval. The refuge official will review and, if approved, fill out a Special Use Permit, sign, and return a copy to you for signature and acceptance.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF FORM 3-1383-C FOR
APPLICATIONS FOR COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURE OPPORTUNITIES ON THE NWRS**

14) Describe how your proposed activity, based on your background, knowledge and experience, meets the objective criteria by which the Service will evaluate your application as outlined in the Service's Notice of Cooperative Agricultural Opportunity (Notice). In addition, if applicable, please identify how your proposed activity is different from the description of the cooperative agricultural opportunity outlined in the Notice.

18) Does not need to be filled out at time of application. However, this section must be filled out, in coordination with the Service, after the opportunity is awarded and before applicant begins any cooperative agricultural on the NWRS.

Logistics and Transportation

24a-30) Do not need to be filled out at time of application. However, these sections must be filled out, in coordination with the Service, after the opportunity is awarded and before applicant begins any cooperative agricultural on the NWRS.

**THIS APPLICATION FORM IS NOT VALID AS A PERMIT
BUT MAY BE USED AS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT ATTACHED TO THE OFFICIAL PERMIT.
ONLY OFFICIAL REFUGE PERSONNEL MAY ASSIGN A VALID PERMIT NUMBER AND PERMIT TERM
TO THIS APPLICATION FORM AFTER THE PERMIT HAS BEEN APPROVED.**

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM 3-1383-C

Applications for Cooperative Agricultural Opportunities

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY BEFORE FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION:

- **Required: Form 3-1383-C** (Commercial Special Use Permit) is used for Cooperative Agricultural Agreement opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges.
- At the time of application, the applicant does not need to complete all sections of the Commercial Use Permit, but does need to ensure that they provide sufficient information in their proposed operations for the Service to rank and score your application based on the objective criteria listed in this Notice.
- **Required: Attachment 1** (below) In addition to providing the Service detailed information about your proposed agricultural practices on the refuge, you must also describe how your proposed activity (farming), based on your background, knowledge and experience, meets the objective criteria the Service will use to evaluate your application as outline in the Service's Notice of Cooperative Agricultural Opportunity (Notice). Due to limited space on the Form 3-1383-C, we have provided a template attachment where you can provide this additional information. (See Attachment 1)
- Write N/A in any sections that do not appear to be relevant.
- Both the Plan of Operations (section 18) and the Logistics and Transportation Section (Sections 24a through 30) only need to be completed if you are selected as the Cooperator. These sections will then be completed in coordination with the Refuge Manager prior to any agricultural practices beginning on the refuge.
- The signed and completed Commercial Special Use Permit will be the selected Cooperator's authorization for access on and use of the NWRS lands, resources and facilities.

ATTACHMENT 1

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Central Washington National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CWANWRC) is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and consists of Columbia, Toppenish, and Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuges and Hanford Reach National Monument. In an effort to better manage the habitat for migratory and overwintering waterfowl and migratory Sandhill cranes at Columbia NWR, CWANWRC is seeking applicants for our cooperative farming program for fields within Parcel 1 and Parcel 2. The program is managed using a Cooperative Agricultural Agreement (CAA), with the cooperators providing all equipment, supplies, and expertise to grow agreed-on crops.

Interested cooperators should complete the additional information section below. Cooperators will be selected through an open and competitive process where applications will be scored and ranked by a panel including Service and Washington State University Agricultural Extension staff using the following criteria:

- Experience in cultivation of grains and green forage, especially personal experience on NWRS lands or comparable conservation land, including knowledge of soil composition, chemistry, moisture, and fertility, water needs, and pest problems.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully cultivate crops under restrictions listed above (e.g. non-GMO crops, non-neonicotinoid pesticides, restricted timing of harvest, and limitations on pesticides).
- Ownership or access to the proper equipment, materials, labor, or other resources to participate in the Cooperative Agriculture Agreement (equipment and personnel).
- Proximity of personnel to monitor crops and respond to crop failures or crop health issues
- Positive references regarding past performance, experience, and abilities related to crop cultivation

Proposals are to be submitted to the Refuge Headquarters in a sealed envelope marked Cooperative Farming Proposal, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 64 Maple Street, Burbank, WA 99323. The envelopes may be submitted either by mail or hand delivery to the refuge office. In either case, proposals will only be accepted between November 21 and December 16, 2022. Proposal envelopes must be received in the refuge office by December 16, 2022 at 4:00 pm. All proposals will be opened on December 20th. The individual with the highest ranked proposal will be notified within 3 weeks of their selection.

See the attached descriptions for parcel locations and additional information.

Applicant Information:

Name (Proposal Submitter) _____

Partner (if applicable) _____

Name of Business or Ranch _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail address _____

Liability Insurance Provider and Account # _____

Additional Information:

Response time (ability to monitor crops/crop health issues): _____

Location and number of acres currently being farmed other than the proposed refuge lands:

Years of experience in farming operation or other related experience:

List three references who are familiar with your experience & abilities related to farming:

List Equipment Available:

Pivot/End gun and Wheel Lines:

Personnel available:

List all available equipment in good working condition, for example harvesters, tractors, implements, trucks & trailers. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Current Pesticide Applicator's License: Yes/No (Circle one)

Type: _____ Expiration: _____

Background Information:

Provide a history statement of your experience farming for conservation purposes (including endangered species, migratory birds) and contact information for land managers (include location, type of operation, and length of time working for the land owner/land management agency). This could include working with adjacent landowners to meet common goals or mutual benefits for conservation or land management activities. History should include the process for planning annual operation plans, goals of the program, program requirements (cost-share projects), reporting requirements, communication/relationship with the land manager. Continue on additional pages as needed.

Describe your experience working with non-GMO and non-neonicotinoid treated seeds and limitations on pesticides:

Signature:**Date:**