



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge
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January 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Grazing Cooperators

From: Todd Schmidt, Refuge Manager, Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

Subject: 2025 Spring Grazing

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge is offering seven grazing units to the highest bidders for the 2025 season. Bidders must be directly involved with a bona fide cattle operation; no subleasing is allowed. Bidding will be by live auction held at the Refuge Headquarters shop on **Thursday, February 20th, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. MST**. Grazing bids will be accepted as a unit price/AUM.

An Animal Unit Month (AUM) is defined as the amount of forage required to support one Animal Unit (AU) for one month. A month is considered as 30.5 days. A single non-lactating cow without calf is considered as one AU. The following lists the other established AU for each class: 1 cow = 1 AU, 1 cow/calf pair = 1.2 AU, 1 yearling = 0.70 AU, and 1 bull = 1.5 AU. **Minimum and maximum AUs are listed for each unit. Anything outside this range is a violation of the Special Use Permit and fines could be levied.** Minimum bid opens at \$15/AUM and increases at \$1 increments.

Grazing dates and duration vary by unit, so check the summary sheet. **No grazing beyond the dates listed for each unit is planned.** Any potential extensions will be determined by the refuge manager towards the end of the listed grazing time frame and any adjustments in rates negotiated between the refuge manager and the successful bidder.

No preference for additional or future grazing is implied and should not be assumed. Refuge staff will inspect permanent fences and water sources prior to turn-in and will make any needed repairs. The successful bidder is responsible for maintaining and repairing permanent fence and water sources while cattle are in the unit. The refuge will supply all posts, electric wire, and insulators needed to complete temporary fencing, **however the fence charger(s) will need to be supplied and maintained by the bidder.** The successful bidder is responsible for erecting and maintaining any required temporary fence. Successful bidder is also responsible for mending any broken fence, removing tubs, temporary corrals, and all other personal property. Refuge staff will remove temporary fencing after grazing is completed.

*****Inspections of the units are highly encouraged prior to the auction.**

2025 Grazing Units at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

<p>Unit 1 Management Unit Names: N and S Rectangles, LCN No Water, LCS No Water Acres: 550 Duration: May 1 – June 15 Later option to graze the furthest south unit until July 10 Fall option to return: September 01-30</p> <p>Minimum and Maximum AUs: 125-150 cow/calf pairs or 215-250 yearlings</p> <p>Fence: Permanent barbed wire fence throughout all paddocks.</p> <p>Water: Water sources include a solar wells and Lake Creek</p> <p>Rotation: Grazing will be rotated through 4 individual paddocks at Refuge Manager’s discretion.</p>	<p>Unit 2 Management Unit Names: LCN L Shaped, Middle and Pintail Acres: 360 Duration: May 1 – June 15</p> <p>Minimum and Maximum AUs: 100-125 cow/calf pairs or 175-215 yearlings</p> <p>Fence: Permanent barbed wire fence throughout all paddocks.</p> <p>Water: Water sources include solar wells and one windmill</p> <p>Rotation: Grazing will be rotated through 3 individual paddocks at Refuge Manager’s discretion.</p>
<p>Unit 3 Management Unit Names: Short Eared Owl, Snakepatch East and West Acres: 480 Duration: May 1 – June 15 Minimum and Maximum AUs: 100-125 cow/calf pairs or 175-215 yearlings Fence: Permanent barbed wire fence throughout all paddocks.</p> <p>Water: Water sources include two solar wells</p> <p>Rotation: Grazing will be rotated between 3 individual paddocks at Refuge Manager’s discretion.</p>	<p>Unit 4 Management Unit Names: North Lek, Unit 1 Acres: 570 Duration: April 20 – June 15</p> <p>Minimum and Maximum AUs: 100-125 cow/calf pairs or 175-215 yearlings</p> <p>Fence: Permanent barbed wire fence in North Lek, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of electric in Unit 1. Cooperator will need three fence chargers.</p> <p>Water: Water source includes one solar well and various springs</p> <p>Rotation: Grazing will be rotated between 2 individual paddocks at Refuge Manager’s discretion.</p>

2025 Grazing Units at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge Cont'd

Unit 5

Management Unit Names: Marty Quarter, LCS Driveway, LCS New Water

Acres: 450

Duration: **May 1- June 15**

Minimum and Maximum AUs: **100-125 cow/calf pairs or 175-215 yearlings**

Fence: Permanent barbed wire fence throughout all paddocks except for a 100 yard section.

Cooperator will need 1 fence charger.

Water: One solar well and Lake Creek.

Rotation: Grazing will be rotated between 3 individual paddocks at Refuge Manager's discretion.

Unit 6

Management Unit Names: Summer swamp, Trout Ponds

Acres: 660

Duration: **May 1- June 15**

Minimum and Maximum AUs: **125-150 cow/calf pairs or 215-250 yearlings**

Fence: Permanent barbed wire fence in Summer Swamp, need approximately ½ mile electric fence for Trout Ponds. **Cooperator will need 2 fence chargers.**

Water: One solar well and Cedar Creek and dams.

Rotation: Grazing will be rotated between 2 individual paddocks at Refuge Manager's discretion.

Unit 7

Management Unit Names: North 11 and Pool 11

Acres: 615

Duration: **May 1- June 15**

Minimum and Maximum AUs: **125-150 cow/calf pairs or 215-250 yearlings**


Fence: Permanent barbed wire fence dividing paddocks with approximately 1.25 miles of electric fence. **Cooperator will need 2 fence chargers.**


Water: Two Solar Wells and Pool 11 water.


Rotation: Grazing will be rotated between 2 individual paddocks at Refuge Manager's discretion.



Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge 2025 Grazing Units

 Refuge Headquarters

 Refuge Boundary

 fences

