



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

17705 212 Ave NW

Foxholm, ND 58718



Grazing Application

March 14, 2025

Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge
Foxholm, North Dakota



Applications Due:
April 14, 2025

Mail To:
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Upper Souris NWR
17705 212th Ave NW
Foxholm, ND 58718

Point of Contact:
Katie Figaro – Deputy Refuge Manager
katherine_figaro@fws.gov
1-701-468-5467 x112

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14 March 2025

Dear Applicant,

In 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established a new policy for awarding Cooperative Agricultural Agreements (CAAs). The new policy requires an open and competitive process for awarding CAAs.

If you are interested in applying for a CAA (grazing permit), you must return application(s) to Upper Souris NWR/WMD office by April 14, 2025. A separate application is required for each unit. Cooperators will be selected based on answers provided within the application. Applicants who receive the highest score for a particular unit will be awarded a Special Use Permit (SUP). Please be advised, falsifying information on the ranking application will result in forfeiture of the application.

SUPs will be valid for a period of up to 5 years without competition. Grazing rates and timing will be determined annually, although there may not be grazing allowed every year. Grazing rates and deductions will be determined similar to previous years, i.e. deductions are given for temporary fencing, boundary fence repair, spraying noxious weeds, etc.

All applications must be returned to Upper Souris NWR/WMD by **April, 14, 2025** to be considered. Mail applications to 17705 212th Ave NW, Foxholm, ND 58718 or email them to katherine_figaro@fws.gov. Cooperators will be selected and notified by **April, 21, 2025**.

Applications, units available, and more information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/upper-souris/.

Katie Figaro
Deputy Refuge Manager
katherine_figaro@fws.gov
Office: 701-468-5467, ext. 112
Cell: 701-871-5676

Upper Souris NWR Units with available Grazing Permits 2025-2029

County	Unit Number	General Location	Approximate number of cow/calf pair needed ***
Ward	G1	East side of Souris River from Baker Bridge to 156 th Ave NW	116 cow/calf pair
Renville	G14	West side of Lake Darling from 77 th St. NW stretching north for 3.5 miles	135 cow/calf pair
Renville	G15	West side of Lake Darling; ½ mile south of Grano Crossing	60 cow/calf pair
Renville	G19	West side of Lake Darling running north from Grano Crossing to the railroad	73 cow/calf pair
Renville	G21	East side of Lake Darling from 91 st St NW south to Greene Crossing (east)	125 cow/calf pair

** See attached Maps and Permit Conditions for each Unit

APPLICATION FOR CONSERVATION GRAZING COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURE AGREEMENT

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

WPA FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING _____

Fees

Fees for grazing will be adjusted annually, based on the average grazing fee rates published in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) annual publication of Agricultural Prices. If the district unit is below the base rate for grazing, we will increase the yearly fee by \$1.00/Animal Unit Month (AUM) per year until the base rate is reached. Once the USDA base rate is reached, the rate will then be based on the USDA's annual rate reported. If the base rate goes below the current rate, the reduced rate will be matched.

J. Clark Salyer WMD has adopted the definition of an AU and AUM referenced in the "Study of Fees for Grazing Livestock on Federal lands, A Report from The Secretary of the Interior and The Secretary of Agriculture, dated October 21, 1977." An AU, as defined by the Society for Range Management, is "...one cow of about 1,000 pounds. Thus, one cow on the range for 1 month is an AUM. If livestock other than cattle are used for grazing, or different aged calves or bulls are grazed, the following conversion factors will be used to calculate grazing fees.

Class of animal	Factor
Yearling (9-18 months)	0.70
Weaner Calf	0.50
Cow	1.00
Cow/Calf Pair	1.20
Bull	1.50
Mature Sheep or goat	0.20
Ewe w/lamb or nanny w/kid	0.30
Horse or mule	1.20
Bison	1.00

Cost-sharing and deductions

Materials for habitat improvement (such as fence maintenance/construction or herbicides) may be provided by J. Clark Salyer WMD. Alternatively, the cost of materials may be reimbursed to the cooperator through deductions in grazing fees. Receipts must be provided at year end to request deductions for materials. Materials provided by USFWS is the preferred method for improvements on refuge lands.

Approved standard deductions are as follows:

Barbed Wire Fence

*Barbed Wire Fence Maintenance	\$0.05/FT	X	_____	Feet
**New Construction (3 Strand)	\$0.70/FT	X	_____	Feet
**New Construction (4 Strand)	\$0.80/FT	X	_____	Feet
***Old Barbed Wire Fence Removal	\$0.20/FT	X	_____	Feet

*Barbed Wire fencing materials will be supplied by the WMD for fence construction and repairs (Barbed Wire, Wire Clips, Steel T Posts and Wood Posts).

**New Fence Construction prices vary dependent on terrain. The prices will be higher on rough and/or rolling topography.

***Old Fence Removal prices vary dependent on terrain and old fence condition.

Electric Fence

Install & Remove (District Materials)	\$0.05/FT	X	_____	Feet
Install & Remove (Cooperator Materials)	\$0.07/FT	X	_____	Feet
Water Gap Fencing	\$0.30/FT	X	_____	Feet
Water Hauling	\$15/Day	# of Days	Water Hauled	_____
Livestock Moves	\$25/Move	# of Livestock Moves		_____

Other deductions may be approved by the District Manager dependent on unit work needs.

Other Considerations

Occasionally there are conditions which may impact timelines and/or operations. These may include, but are not limited to drought, prescribed fire, wildfire, habitat conditions (such as flooding or poor vegetation production), other habitat management actions, or unforeseeable emergencies which may require modifications to stocking rates, grazing rotations, or timelines for starting and/or removing cattle. These considerations should be communicated between both parties wherever possible and in the most expedient manner possible.

Selection criteria

The Selection Committee will evaluate proposals based on a competitive ranking using the following criteria (listed in no specific order):

1. Operational capacity and qualifications.
2. Proximity of operations

3. Experience with USFWS grazing operations on National Wildlife Refuges or Waterfowl Production areas, or other public conservation lands.
4. Understanding of grazing management practices focused on conservation.
5. Past Performance under USFWS cooperative agreements.

Ranking Criteria

Answer the following questions. 'Yes' answers are worth 5 points, 'No' answers are worth 0 points. The applicant with the most points will be awarded the permit. In the case of a tie, a random drawing between the highest scoring applicants will be conducted and a permittee selected.

To be eligible for a Grazing Permit the Cooperator must be: 1) be at least 18 years of age; 2) a current livestock operator with a herd of at least 20 livestock.

1. Do you have experience grazing on FWS owned lands or conservation lands?
Y or N _____
 2. Do you have experience grazing lands for the purposes of habitat management?
Y or N _____
 3. Do you own the animals necessary to implement the rotational grazing system as described?
Y or N _____
 4. Can you rotate or move cattle within +/-two days of planned rotations prescribed in a grazing system?
Y or N _____
 5. Can you maintain a record of livestock moves throughout the grazing system and provide those records to the refuge manager within one week of the close of the grazing season?
Y or N _____
 6. Are you willing and able to complete and or pay contractors for necessary grazing program materials, maintenance, or infrastructure installation on assigned grazing units knowing these expenses will be deducted from your annual grazing fees?
Y or N _____
 7. Do you have control of adjacent private land through ownership or lease for the life of this proposed grazing system, which you are willing to graze in rotation with refuge lands?
Y or N _____
- Total Points _____

By signing below, I agree that my answers are true and can be fulfilled through the grazing seasons of 2025 – 2029. I further understand that this grazing system is not a guarantee of grazing rights on Upper Souris NWR and can be cancelled by either party with 45 days' notice if either party is not carrying out their roles and responsibilities of the agreement.

Signature

Date