

Grazing Bid Package Information

COMPLEX: Swan Lake	TRACT: Thompson WPA
LEGAL: T100N/R35W/SW ¼ Sec 26 (Superior TWP)	ACRES: 56.5 grass
YEAR(s): 2026 – 2027	MAP: SEE ATTACHED
BID FORMAT: \$/AUM	AUM: Year 1 = Approximately 42.9 Year 2 = Approximately 54.6

Year # 1

Targeted Grazing Period: July 15th to October 20th (97 grazing days/3.5 months)

Year # 2

Targeted Grazing Period: May 15th to September 15th (123 grazing days/4.0 months)

NOTE – Targeted Grazing Period may vary according to ground conditions and active mgmt. needed to achieve the intended mgmt. goals. Primary grazing mgmt. goal is to help establishment the spring 2027 inter-seeded native prairie within the area and to reduce cool season grasses on the existing remnant prairie.

Stocking Rate: 10 Cow/Calf Pairs and 1 Bull (13.5 Animal Units)

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

Approximate Total AUM = Animal Units multiplied by grazing period in days divided by 30.4 (365 divided by 12)

Year 1	13.5 AU X 97 Days/30.4	=	42.9 AUM
Year 2	13.5 AU X 123 Days/30.4	=	54.6 AUM

Fence Status: There is existing fence on the West and South and East boundary that will need inspected and repaired as needed. Adequate electrical may need to be established along the North fence. The cost to construct the fence needs to be accounted for in your grazing bid. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Iowa DNR will supply any materials for a high tensile electric fence. The fence must be capable of keeping cattle inside the graze unit and is the sole responsibility of the cooperator for frequent inspection and maintenance.

Gates: Three gates (12 ft. long swing gates provided in fence materials) need to be installed. 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 and the NE drainage. The fence in the NE corner of the area may need adjusted to help provide an alternative adequate watering area as approved by Iowa DNR or FWS. During dry periods 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.

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 inter seed native grass and forbs. 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.

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: Swan Lake

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

YEAR(s): 2026 & 2027

TRACT: Thompson WPA

ACRES: 56.5 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 by 4pm on Feb 13, 2026 to:

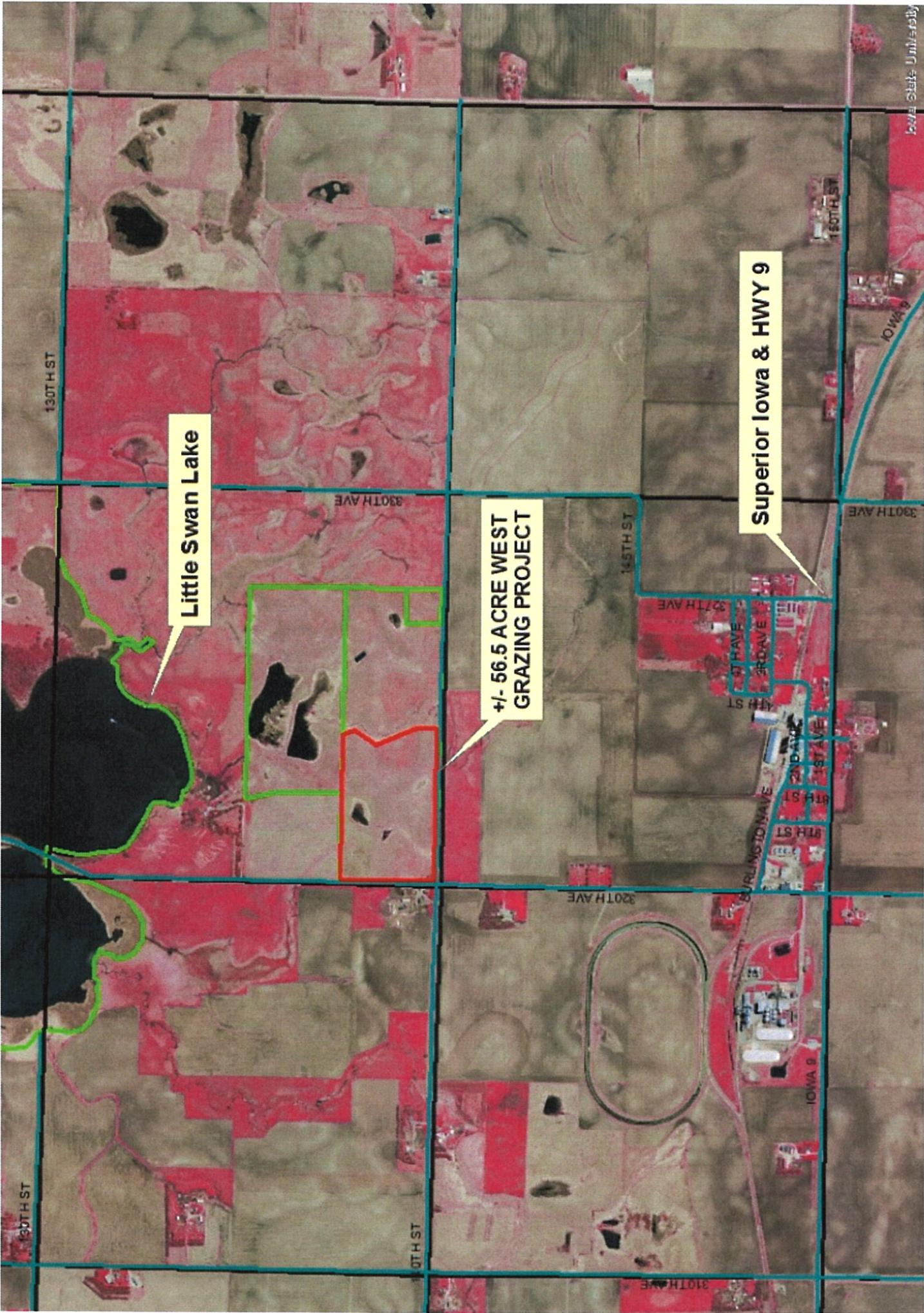
Iowa DNR
Great Lakes Wildlife Unit
2248 125th Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360



**+/- 56.5 ACRE WEST
GRAZING PROJECT**

OVER SEED
MGF PRAIRIE

OVER SEED
MGF PRAIRIE



Little Swan Lake

+/- 56.5 ACRE WEST
GRAZING PROJECT

Superior Iowa & HWY 9

