

Windom WMD Grazing Invitation News Release – February 23, 2026

The Windom Wetland Management District in Windom, Minnesota, is accepting bids for ten new grazing opportunities in Cottonwood, Freeborn, Jackson, and Murray counties of southern Minnesota for the 2026 grazing season. The ten new sites range in size from 45 to 150 acres. Producers must follow all federal and state regulations.

Applicants must submit a completed bid sheet from the bid packet by 4 p.m. on March 13, 2026. A Special Use Permit will also be required for each successful bidder.

Bid packets are available on the district website [Windom Wetland Management District | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](https://www.fws.gov/windom) or by contacting assistant manager Todd Hauge at (507) 831-2220 ext. 03 or todd_hauge@fws.gov. Packets include maps and all details for each activity and unit.

Bids may be mailed to: Windom WMD, Attn: Grazing Bid, 49663 County Road 17, Windom 56101, or emailed to todd_hauge@fws.gov.

Units will be allocated using a competitive bidding process. The winning bidders will be notified by March 17, 2026. Any additional questions, please contact Assistant Manager Todd Hauge.



BID SHEET
National Wildlife Refuge System



Windom Wetland Management District
 49663 County Road 17, Windom, MN 56101

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name (Proposal Submitter): _____

Partner Name (if applicable): _____

Name of Business or Farm: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Tax ID #: _____ Phone Number: _____ Work Cell

E-mail Address: _____

BID INFORMATION: *Grazer will be selected based on receipt of sealed high bid per Animal Unit Month (AUM). Grazing will occur approximately May 1 to June 30. Each unit will be grazed for a three-year period, **unless refuge staffing levels are insufficient to administer the grazing program, bid price is per year. Units may require rotating grazing on or between the units each year to meet management goals. The bid includes installation and removal of temporary fencing. Write your bid amount for the corresponding Unit(s) in the space(s) provided below. If you are not bidding on a particular unit, leave that space blank or write N/A. **BID DEADLINE IS 4:00 pm March 13, 2026.*****

Cash Rent Bids:

County	Unit Name	Grazable Acres	Maximum AUMs per year	Bid Amount \$ per AUM
Jackson	Bisaillon & Pletz Marsh WPAs	80	80	
Cottonwood	Blixseth WPA	80	80	
Cottonwood	Des Moines River WPA	45	45	
Jackson	Holy Trinity	145	145	
Murray	John Giese WPA	150	150	
Jackson	La Crosse WPA	95	95	
Freeborn	Pickerel Lake WPA	145	145	
Jackson	Sioux Forks WPA	135	135	
Cottonwood	Swan Lake WPA	75	75	
Freeborn	Turtle Lake WPA	65	65	

Animal Unit (AU): Mature Cow = 1 AU, Cow-calf Pair = 1.2 AU, Yearling (9-18 months) = 0.70 AU, Weaner Calf = 0.5 AU, Bull = 1.5 AU, Mature Sheep/Goat = 0.2 AU, Ewe w/lamb or Nanny w/kid = 0.30 AU, Horse/Mule = 1.2 AU, and Bison = 1.0 AU. One cow on the range for one month = AUM.

I understand that a signed Commercial Activities Special Use Permit and Proof of Insurance are required to be in place before grazing or fencing activities can begin. I have read and, if selected, agree to the permit conditions listed in the bid package and the 2026 Windom WMD Grazing Regulations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The 2026 Windom WMD Grazing Regulations and maps are attached.

Contact Todd Hauge if there are any questions at 507-822-0326 (cell) or email at todd_hauge@fws.gov or Fax 507-831-5524. Please ask questions before you bid.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

NOTICES

All information you provide will be considered in reviewing this application. False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations made in the application may be grounds for revocation of the permit and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001).

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 to average 1 hour 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: AMAD-ARM-PPM, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or via email to Info_Coll@fws.gov. Please do not send your completed form to this address.

2026 WINDOM WMD GRAZING REGULATIONS

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to modify or terminate all grazing Special Use Permits (SUP) for any reason, **including if refuge staffing levels are insufficient to administer the grazing program**, or if habitat conditions warrant.
2. Use of minerals (salt or protein) will be allowed. The permittee must provide product labeling to the Refuge Manager for approval prior to use. Minerals must be in a container that minimizes spillage and are easily moved and placed as required by the Refuge Manager.
3. Supplemental feeding will not be permitted, all supplements need prior Refuge Manager Approval.
4. 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 SUP.
5. 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.
6. The permittee must be in compliance with the respective state and local livestock health regulations.
7. All equipment for grazing, including ATVs and UTVs, must be clean and free of invasive species 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.
8. The use of pesticides requires advance U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval. The permittee shall provide the Refuge Manager with product labeling and/or the Material Safety Data Sheet 30 days prior to use to provide adequate time to determine approval or disapproval of the product. Permittee is required to report pesticide use if approved by **[September 1]**.
9. Any livestock management action including branding or dehorning on Service land must be approved in advance by the Refuge Manager.
10. 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.
11. Fence maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. All temporary fence needs to be removed at the end of the grazing plan. Any repairs to or permanent fence constructed on National Wildlife Refuge System lands will become property of the Service.
12. Water will be available using area wetlands on Waterfowl Production Area. Methods of supplemental watering must be approved by the Refuge Manager.
13. 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. Following the completion of the final year of the permitted grazing season, removal of all temporary fencing and other equipment provided by the permittee is required. Failure to remove materials within 1 month

after the completion of the final grazing season will result in a monetary fine and potential loss of consideration for future grazing permits.

15. The Permittee must provide the Refuge Manager, **within 5 working days**, the date, type, and number of animals at the start and end of grazing each year or anytime animals are added or moved off a unit.
16. The permittee shall not prohibit the public from entering Service lands or harass/interfere the public in any way that would distract from their enjoyment of the Service lands whether their livestock are currently grazing in the unit or not.
17. Permittee must provide a tax identification number or SS# for billing purposes.

I have read the above grazing regulations and understand failure to comply could result in revocation of grazing privileges.

Permittee Signature _____ Date _____



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Windom Wetland Management District

Pletz Marsh WPA

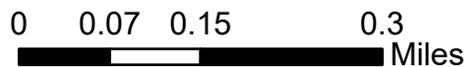
Total Acres: 128.82

Bisaillon WPA

Total Acres: 80.0



-  2026 & 2028 Grazing Bisaillon Pletz Marsh
-  2027 Bisaillon-Pletz Marsh WPAs
-  FWS Fee Title
-  USFWS Easements





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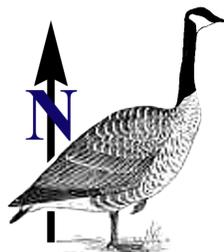
Windom Wetland Management District

Blixseth WPA

Total Acres: 160.0



- 2026 & 2028 Grazing Blixseth WPA
- 2027 Grazing Blixseth WPA
- FWS Fee Title
- USFWS Easements



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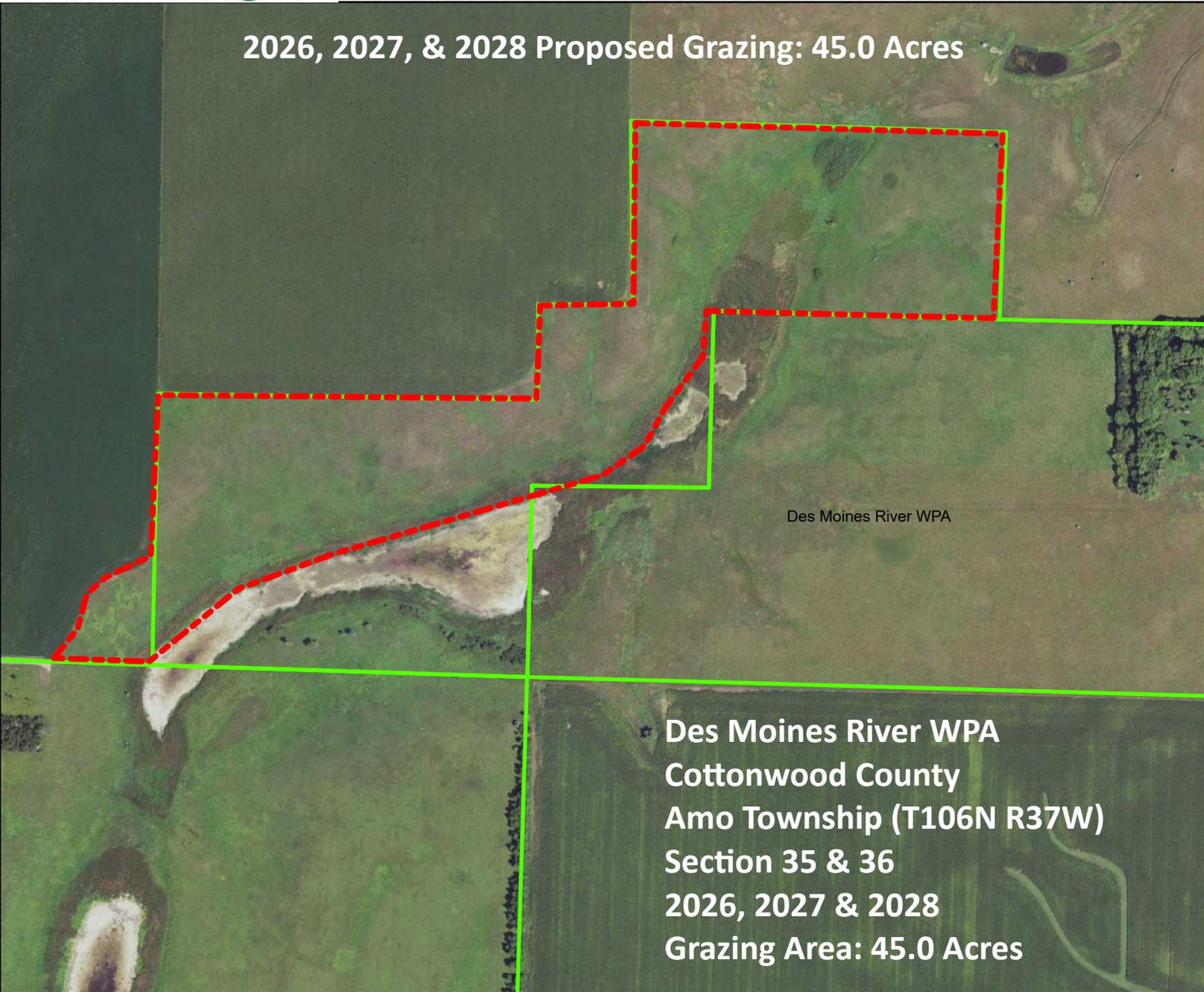


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

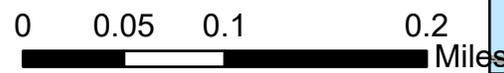
Windom Wetland Management District

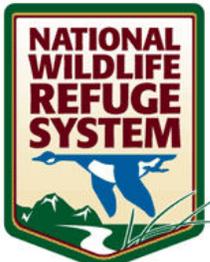
Des Moines River WPA Total Acres: 313.01

2026, 2027, & 2028 Proposed Grazing: 45.0 Acres



-  2026 2027 & 2028 Grazing
-  Des Moines River WPA
-  FWS Fee Title
-  USFWS Easements





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Windom Wetland Management District

Holy Trinity WPA

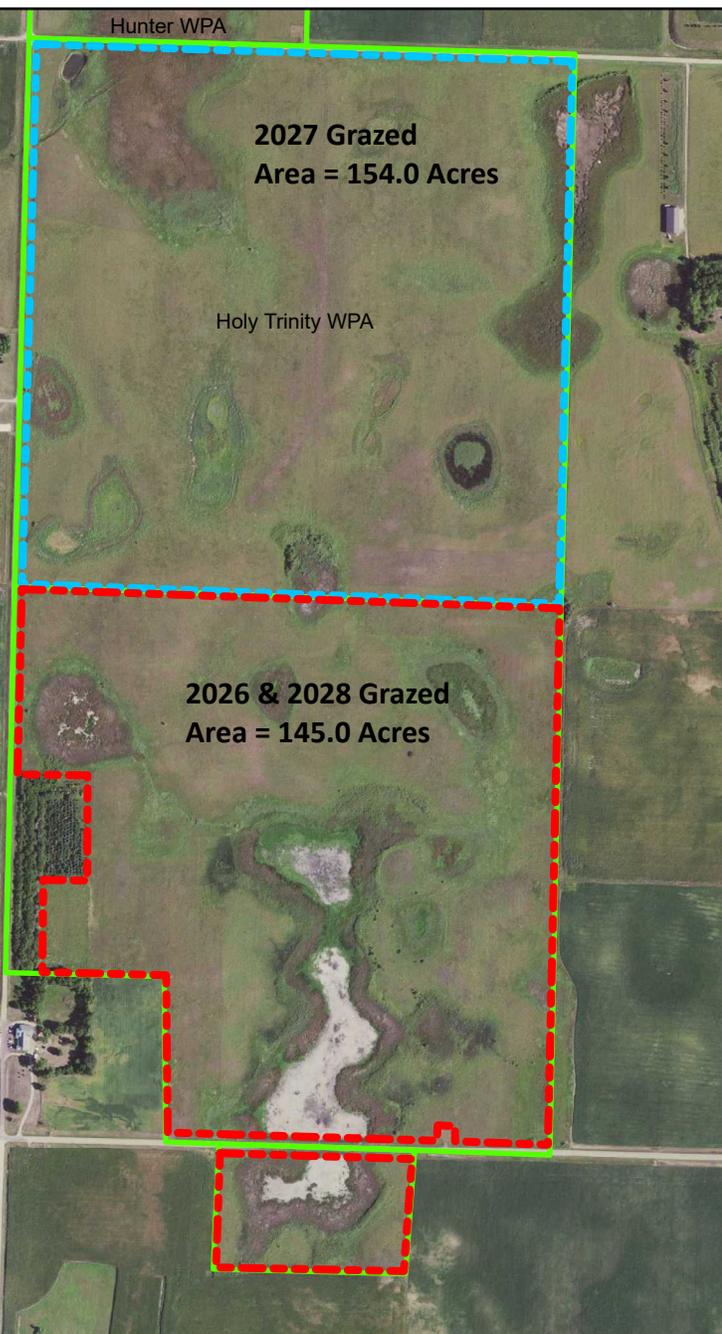
Total Acres: 318.8

2026, 2027, & 2028 Proposed Grazing Units:

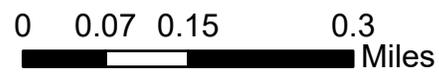
- Cooperators must rotate grazing units as management goals are met.
- Multi-year grazing may be required.
- Temporary fencing movement is included in the final bid price.

Please bid accordingly.

Holy Trinity WPA Jackson County Hunter Township (T102N R36W) Sections 34
 2026 & 2028 Grazing Area: 145.0 Acres
 2027 Grazing Area: 154.0 Acres



- 2026 & 2028 Grazing Holy Trinity WPA
- 2027 Grazing Holy Trinity WPA
- FWS Fee Title
- USFWS Easements





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Windom Wetland Management District

John Giese WPA

Total Acres: 320.0

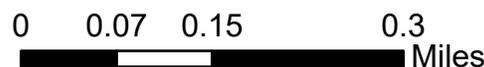
2026, 2027, & 2028

Proposed Grazing Units:

- Cooperators must rotate grazing units as management goals are met.
 - Multi-year grazing may be required.
 - Temporary fencing movement is included in the final bid price.
- Please bid accordingly.



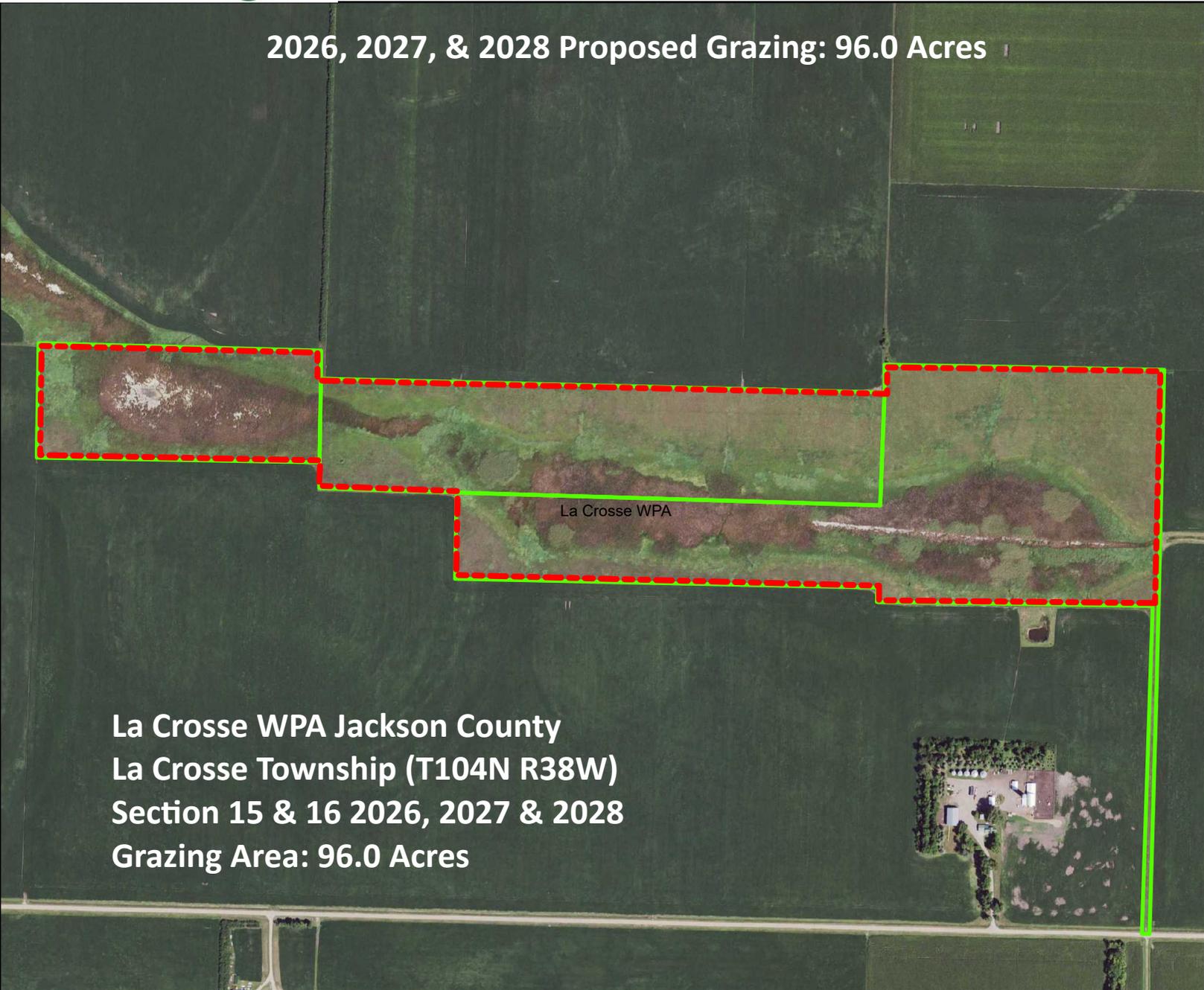
- 2026 & 2028
 Grazing Area John Giese WPA
- 2027 Grazing Area
 John Giese WPA
- FWS Fee Title
- USFWS Easements





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Windom Wetland Management District
La Crosse WPA **Total Acres: 101.15**

2026, 2027, & 2028 Proposed Grazing: 96.0 Acres



La Crosse WPA Jackson County
La Crosse Township (T104N R38W)
Section 15 & 16 2026, 2027 & 2028
Grazing Area: 96.0 Acres

- 2026 2027 & 2028 Grazing
- FWS Fee Title
- USFWS Easements



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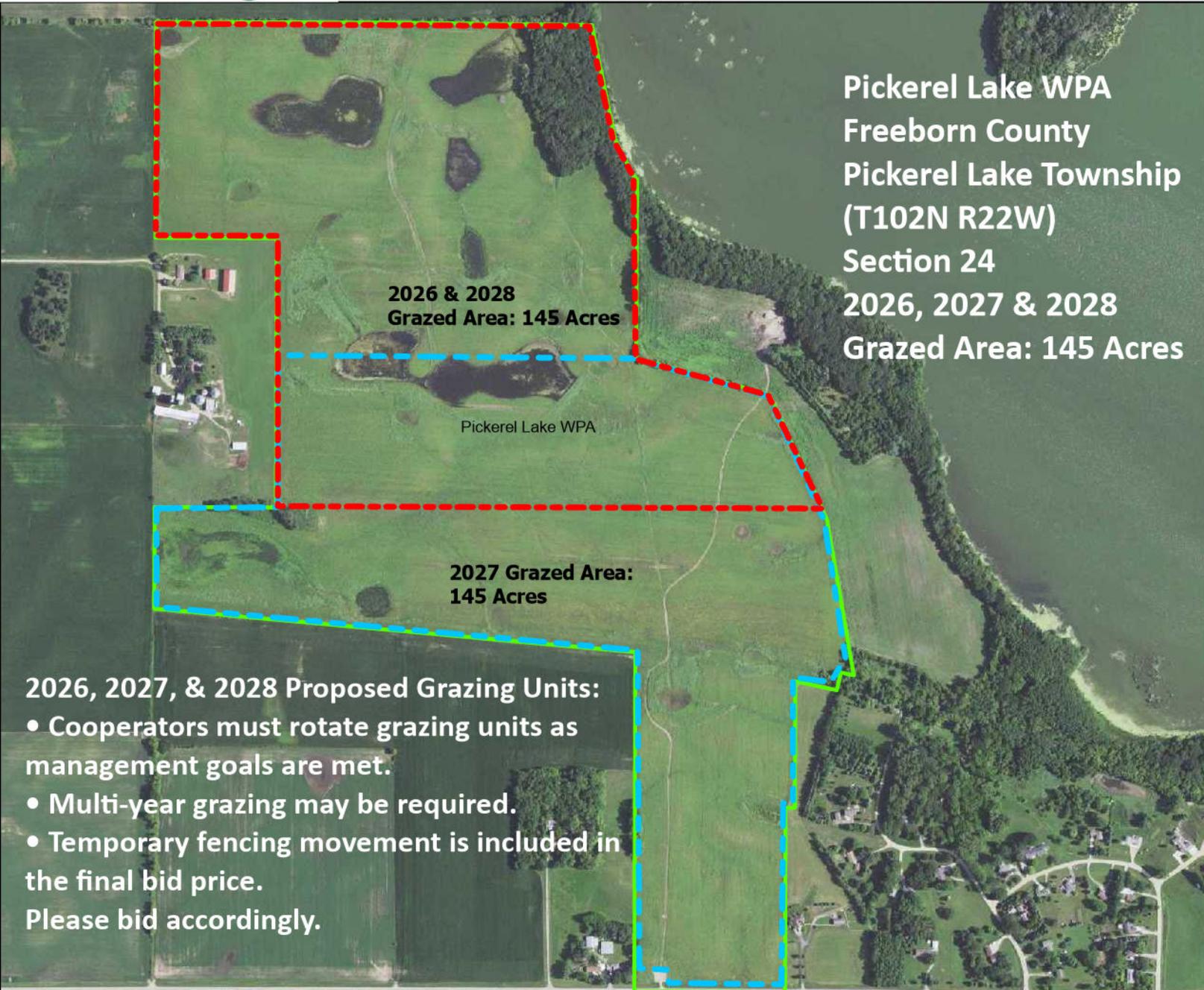


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Windom Wetland Management District

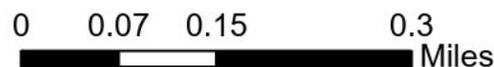
Pickereel Lake WPA

Total Acres: 245.0



Pickereel Lake WPA
 Freeborn County
 Pickereel Lake Township
 (T102N R22W)
 Section 24
 2026, 2027 & 2028
 Grazed Area: 145 Acres

- 2026 & 2028
Grazing Pickereel Lake WPA
- 2027 Grazing Pickereel Lake WPA
- FWS Fee Title
- USFWS Easements





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

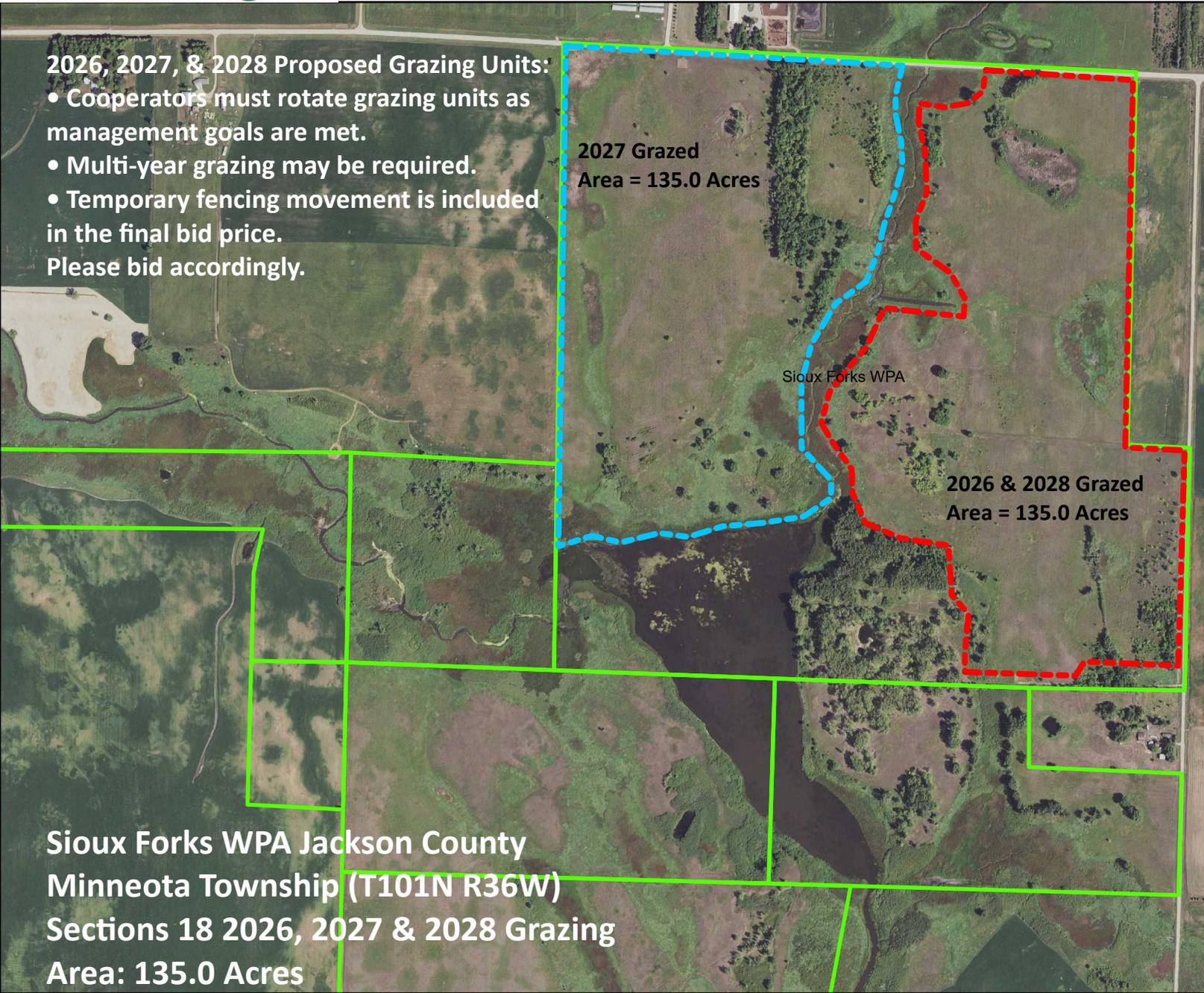
Windom Wetland Management District

Sioux Forks WPA

Total Acres:

2026, 2027, & 2028 Proposed Grazing Units:

- Cooperators must rotate grazing units as management goals are met.
 - Multi-year grazing may be required.
 - Temporary fencing movement is included in the final bid price.
- Please bid accordingly.



Sioux Forks WPA Jackson County
 Minneota Township (T101N R36W)
 Sections 18 2026, 2027 & 2028 Grazing
 Area: 135.0 Acres

 2026 & 2028 Grazing
 Sioux Forks WPA

 2027 Grazing Sioux Forks
 WPA

 FWS Fee Title

 USFWS Easements





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Windom Wetland Management District

Swan Lake WPA

Total Acres: 150.0

2026, 2027, & 2028

Proposed Grazing Units:

Watonwan River WPA

- Cooperators must rotate grazing units as management goals are met.
- Multi-year grazing may be required.
- Temporary fencing movement is included in the final bid price. Please bid accordingly.



Swan Lake WPA Cottonwood County Dale Township (T106N R36W) Section 12
 2026 & 2028 Grazing Area: 75.0 Acres
 2027 Grazing Area: 72.0 Acres

- 2026 & 2028 Grazing Area Swan Lake WPA
- 2027 Grazing Area Swan Lake WPA
- FWS Fee Title
- USFWS Easements



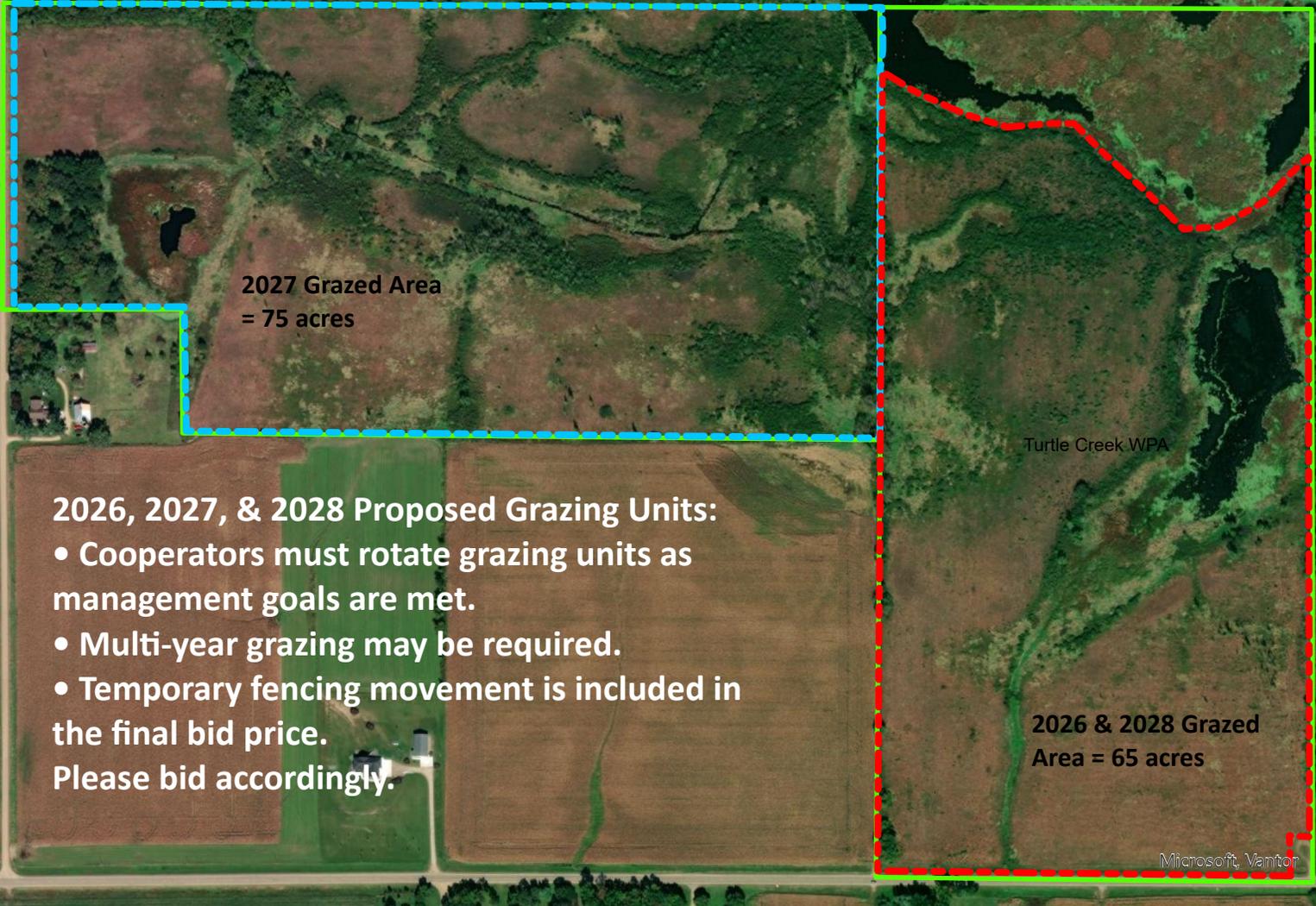


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Windom Wetland Management District

Turtle Creek WPA Total Acres: 155.0

Turtle Creek WPA Freeborn County Moscow Township (T103N R19W) Section 24
 2026 & 2028 Grazing Area: 65 Acres
 2027 Grazing Area: 75 Acres



2026, 2027, & 2028 Proposed Grazing Units:

- Cooperators must rotate grazing units as management goals are met.
 - Multi-year grazing may be required.
 - Temporary fencing movement is included in the final bid price.
- Please bid accordingly.

- 2026 & 2028 Grazing Turtle Creek WPA
- 2027 Grazing Turtle Creek WPA
- FWS Fee Title
- USFWS Easements

