



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sand Lake NWR/WMD
39650 Sand Lake Drive
Columbia, SD 57433

March 25, 2026

Dear Potential Farming Cooperator,

The Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is seeking bids to farm 14 acres within the Refuge in Brown County, South Dakota. Farming is part of the cooperative agricultural program the Refuge uses to prepare a quality seedbed before native grass and forb restoration. The unit offered for bid will be temporarily farmed for a five-year contract from 2026 to 2030. The first of five crops will be planted in the spring of 2026. Interested individuals are encouraged to inspect the unit before bidding.

The unit will be awarded to the highest successful bidder. The minimum bid that will be accepted is \$108/acre, based on the 2025 average cropland rental rates for Brown County. The bid price will be set on a per-acre basis and remain unchanged for the five-year life of the agreement. 25% of the 5-year payment will be required at the time of seeding in the spring of 2026, under the agreement, and the remaining 75% is due at the termination of the agreement.

Neonicotinoid seed treatment is prohibited from use on refuge lands. Glyphosate-tolerant GMOs are the only GMOs permitted to be planted on refuge lands. All crops and herbicides must be approved by the Refuge Manager before use. Spray records will be kept by each cooperator and given to the Refuge staff after each crop year.

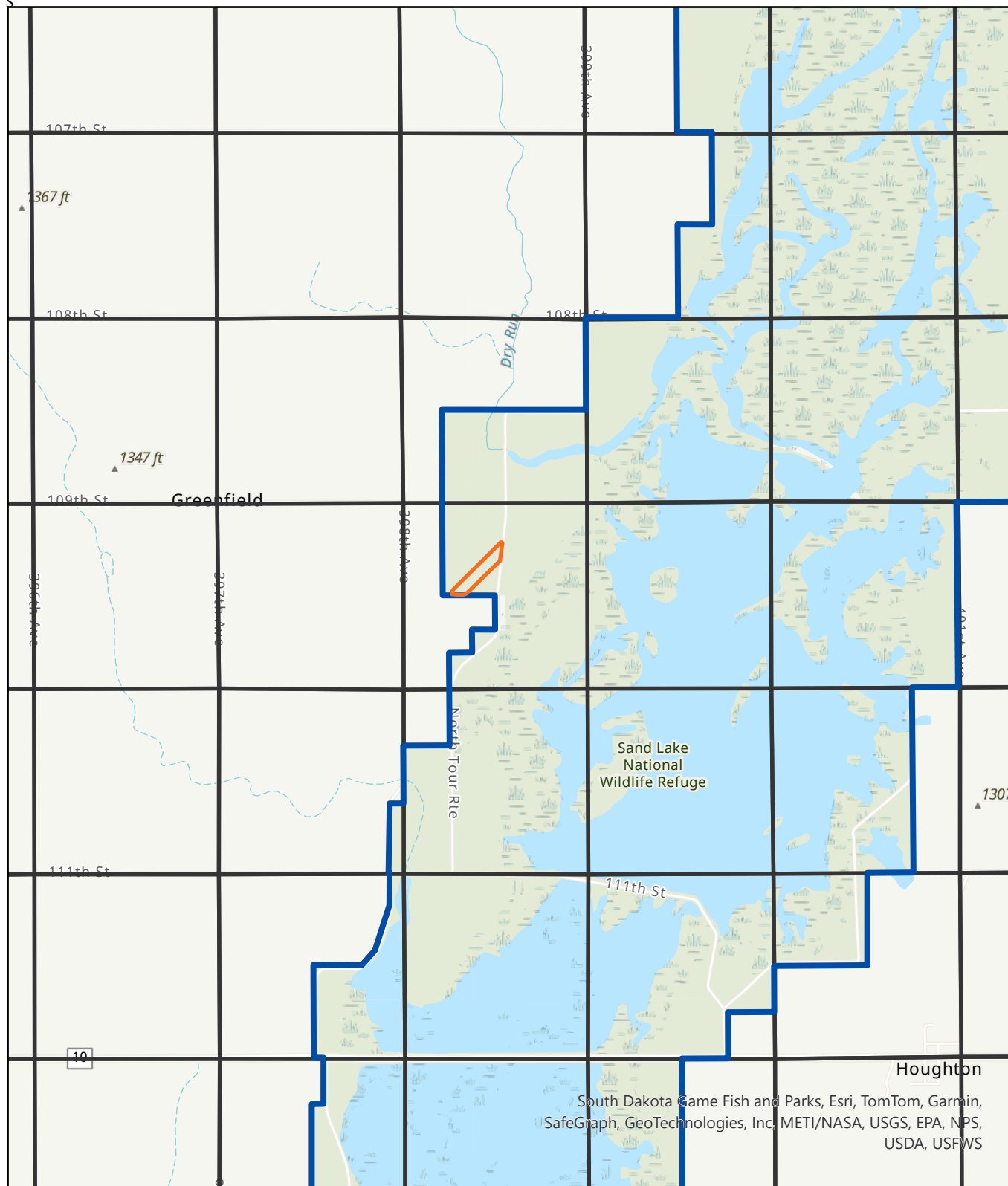
Sealed bids must be received by Noon, Wednesday, April 15, 2026. For additional information about this agricultural opportunity, contact me at 605-546-8914.

Thank You,

Sydney Hanna
Sand Lake WMD Manager



Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge 2026 Farm Unit Brown Co. South Dakota



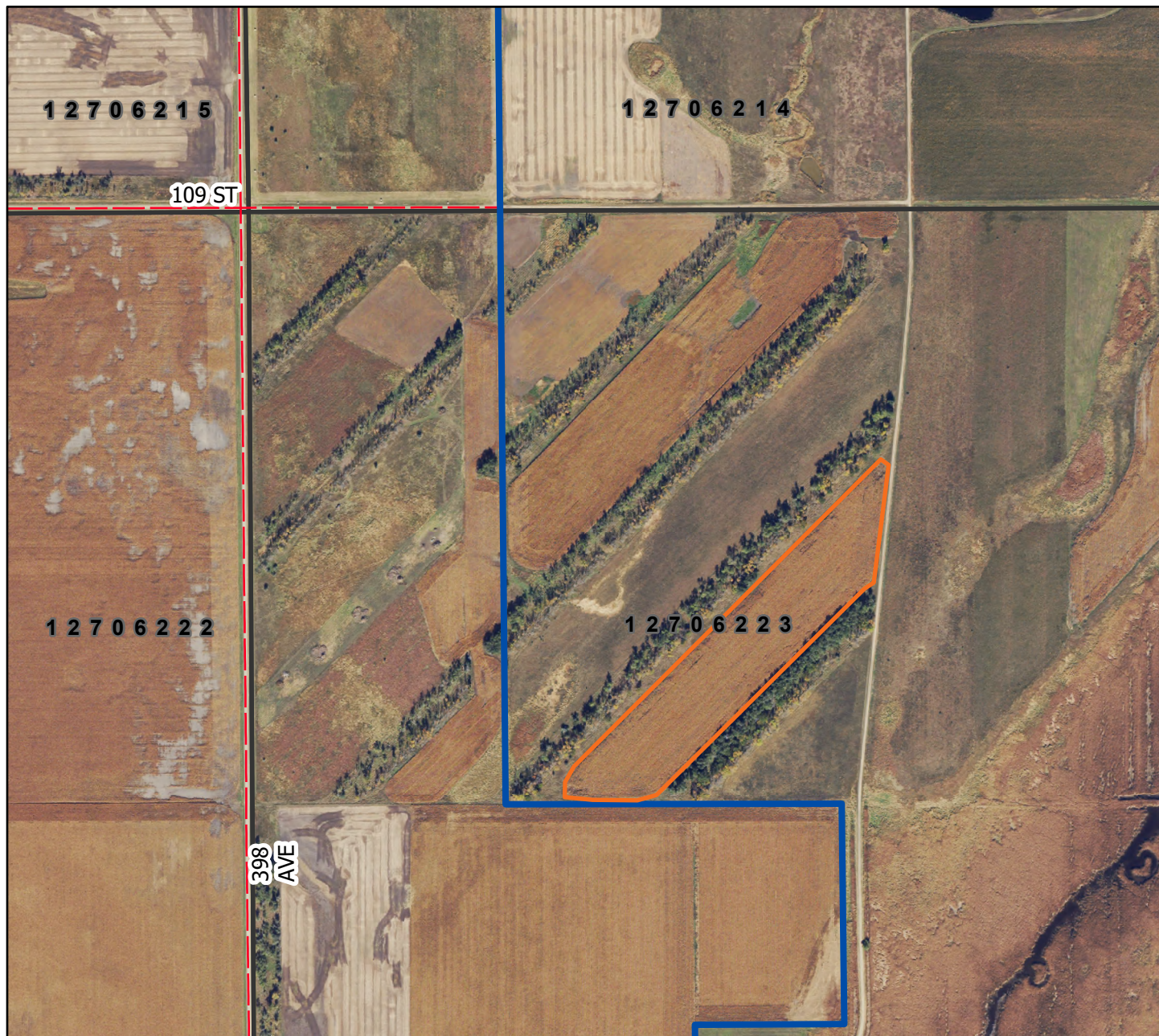
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

-  Refuge Boundary
-  Section Lines (PLS TRS)
-  2026 Refuge Farm Unit (14 Acres)

0 0.28 0.55 1.1 1.65 2.2 Miles



Refuge Farming Unit
Brown Co. South Dakota
127-62-23



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

- Township Gravel Roads
- ▮ Refuge Boundary
- ▮ Section Lines (PLS TRS)
- ▮ 2026 Refuge Farm Unit (14 Acres)



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605-546-8914



Application and Bid for 2026-2030 Cooperative Agriculture Agreement

Only sealed bid sheets will be accepted through Noon, Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Name _____ Application Date _____

Address _____ Telephone No. _____

City, Zip Code _____

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is soliciting bids to temporarily farm a parcel for a five-year contract (2026-2030). The minimum bid that will be accepted is **\$108/acre**, based on 2025 average cropland rental rates for Brown County. The unit will be awarded to the highest successful bidder. The bid price will be set on a per-acre basis and remain unchanged for the five-year life of the agreement. 25% of the five-year payment will be required at the time of the seeding in year one of the agreement, and the remaining 75% is due at the termination of the agreement.

Neonicotinoid seed treatment is prohibited from use on refuge lands. Glyphosate-tolerant GMOs are the only GMOs permitted to be planted on refuge lands. All crops and herbicides must be approved by the Refuge Manager before use. Spray records will be kept by each cooperator and given to the Refuge staff after each crop year.

Tract	Acres	Legal Description	\$Bid/Acre
Refuge Unit (#60)	14	127-62-23	

Bidder's Signature _____ Date: _____