

# **Cooperative Agricultural Opportunity at Fergus Falls Wetland Management District**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking bids to farm 27 acres within Townsend Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) which is part of Fergus Falls Wetland Management District (FFWMD). Cooperative Agriculture is used at FFWMD to achieve waterfowl production objectives by preparing a quality seed bed free of weeds prior to seeding the field to a high diversity tallgrass prairie planting with more than 30 species of native grasses and wildflowers. As a result, this farming program requires that agricultural crops be planted, cultivated, and harvested in accordance with Special Conditions for Farming and other requirements described below.

## **I. What & Where:**

One farm field totaling 27 acres on Townsend WPA is described in the attached Crop Plan and Field Descriptions

1. Field will be rented for a period of one crop year beginning **Mar 1, 2022** and ending **Dec. 1, 2022**.
2. Field is located within the FFWMD in Buse Township, Section 15, Otter Tail County – **Attachment 2** includes Map of Field Location.

## **II. How to Bid:**

1. Review General Conditions for Bids (see Section III below).
2. Complete and return Bid Sheet (**Attachment 3**) along with signed Special Conditions and the Special Use Permit Application found at <https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-1383-C.pdf> or provided by district staff upon request to: Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, 18965 County Highway 82, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 **by 2 p.m. Monday, January 31, 2022**.
3. The highest bidder will be selected as the permittee, assuming they can document comparable farming experience. In the event of a tie, a random drawing will decide the permittee.
4. FFWMD staff will notify the highest bidder. Questions regarding the bid process: contact Wildlife Biologist, Hannah Kruegel, at 218-770-2515.

## **III. General Conditions for Bids:**

1. Bids will be on a per acre basis. Bidders will need to determine what they are willing to pay per acre farmed in 2022. This price per acre will be the bid. This is the price the bidder will pay on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, for acres farmed. The highest bidder will be selected as the permittee.
2. Bids will be valid for the 2022 crop year ending on December 1, 2022. A Special Use Permit will be issued for 2022. If the permittee does not honor the bid, farming rights will be given to the next highest bidder in this bid cycle or re-bid at the discretion of the Service. If it is re-bid, the original permittee will not be allowed to bid at that time.
3. Once a bid is accepted, the permittee agrees to pay the total bid for the year farmed by December 1, 2022.

## **IV. Crop Plan:**

The Plan covers planting and harvesting **27 acres** of oats. The permittee must agree with Special Conditions for Farming WPA (**Attachment 1**). Oats will be harvested in fall 2022 by the permittee.

**V. Permitting Requirements:**

1. Before work onsite, the permittee must have an approved Special Use Permit (FWS form 3-1383-C) for the year farmed. The Special Use Permit will be issued and approved by the Project Leader and includes a 1-year farm plan that identifies crops to be planted and harvested, use of pesticides, use of best management practices, and special conditions. The Special Use Permit also requires the permittee to submit a final pesticide use report identifying any chemicals used, application methods, and application rates. The Special Use Permit is completed, issued, and signed by the Project Leader.
2. **Chemicals used must be pre-approved before application by WMD staff.**
3. The permittee will be required to sign the Special Conditions for Farming WPA (**Attachment 1**).

**VI. Reporting Requirements**

1. Seed labels must be submitted to the Project Leader by the permittee before any planting occurs.
2. The permittee must report pesticide use in writing to the Project Leader within 10 days after applying any chemicals. The report must identify chemicals used, application methods, and application rates.

**VII. Summary of Cooperative Agriculture Program**

Individuals have the opportunity to submit a bid/per acre for the Cooperative Agricultural opportunity at Townsend WPA which is part of Fergus Falls Wetland Management District. The selected permittee will be responsible for the following specifications for the Cooperative Agriculture Program:

1. Plant and harvest 27 acres to oats within the Townsend WPA for a 1-year period during 2022, as outlined in the crop plan.
2. Follow Special Conditions for Farming WPA (**Attachment 1**).
3. Submit pesticide use report.

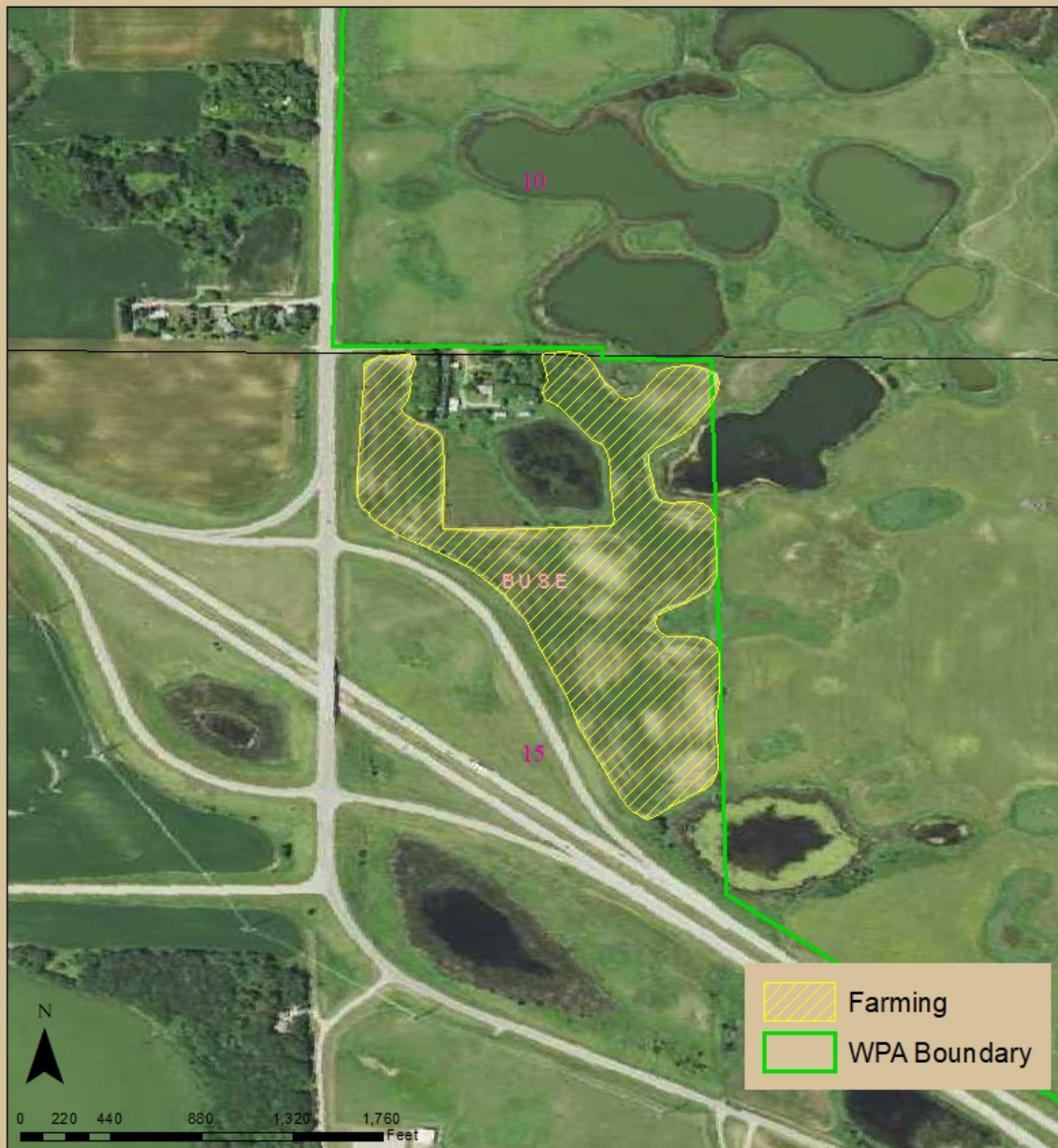
## Fergus Falls Wetland Management District –Attachment 1

### Special Conditions for Farming Townsend WPA- Harvest

- A. Site prep and farm approximately 27 acres on the Townsend WPA, sec. 15 of Buse Twp., Otter Tail County, Minnesota (see attached map). Fields will be farmed in 2022. **Use of herbicides or pesticides will require written approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.** No fall tillage is allowed after the oat crops are harvested in 2022.
- B. No alterations or improvement to any drainage facilities or wetland restoration structures are allowed without written consent from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- C. If ruts are created in the field during planting, spraying, or harvest, the ruts must be leveled before 15 November 2022 at the permittee's expense.
- D. Payment will be based on planted acres. Payment will be due by 1 December, 2022 payable to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- E. **The permittee must provide written report of pesticide used to project leader within 10 days after applying any chemicals.** The report must identify chemicals used, application methods, and application rates.
- F. No neonicotinoid-treated (or other insecticide-treated) seed can be used.
- G. The permittee may begin farming operations **March 1, 2022.**
- H. The permittee is required to notify Project Leader of enrollment in FSA program(s). All acreage reporting will be the responsibility of the permittee.
- I. All crops shall be planted and harvested as early as possible with a target date for completion of harvesting operations of **November 15 for each year.**
- J. The permittee will abide by all appropriate State and Federal regulations pertaining to storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials (oils, solvents, pesticides, pesticide containers, etc.). The permittee will immediately notify Project Leader in event of any accidental hazardous material release and take appropriate measures to contain the release.
- K. Burning of any kind is not permitted on Townsend WPA by the permittee.
- L. Any violation of these conditions will be grounds for termination of the Special Use Permit.

**I understand and agree to all special conditions of the Cooperative Farming Agreement.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Permittee's Signature and Date



**Attachment 2 - Townsend WPA  
Otter Tail County, Minnesota  
Buse TWP., Section 15**

## Fergus Falls Wetland Management District – Attachment 3

### Bid Sheet for Townsend WPA

#### ***Instructions:***

1. Read entire Cooperative Agricultural document.
2. Sign and date special conditions (**Attachment 1**)
3. Complete this Bid Sheet (**Attachment 3**).
4. Complete 1<sup>st</sup> Page of Special Use Permit Application found at <https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-1383-C.pdf>.
5. Place signed Special Conditions, Bid Sheet and Special Use Permit Application in an envelope and seal.
6. Mail or deliver sealed envelope to Fergus Falls WMD by **Monday, January 31, 2022** at 2:00 p.m.

*If bid sheet is not completed correctly and clearly legible or the Special Use Permit Application page 1 is not completed or the envelope is not sealed the bid will not be considered.*

**Bidding:** Please evaluate the attached Crop Plan and place your bid based upon the price you would pay per acre each year. This will be your competing bid and the highest bidder will be selected, assuming they can document comparable farming experience. Your annual rent will be your bid amount per acre multiplied by 27 acres for the 2022 crop year. In the event of a tie, the winning bidder will be randomly drawn from the competing bidders. Feel free to end your bid with cents to help avoid ties such as \$100.08/acre rather than \$100/acre.

**Bid Amount (\$/acre):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Can you document comparable farming experience?** (The highest bidder will be asked to provide documentation, for example data from FSA). ☐ Yes or ☐ No

I have read and if selected agree to the permit conditions listed in the bid package.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Fergus Falls Wetland Management District is located at 18965 County Highway 82, Fergus Falls, MN 56537*