

Supplemental Instructions

Haying Opportunity

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking qualified applicants for a Cooperative Agricultural Program at the Sand Lake Wetland Management District (District) in north-central South Dakota. Please familiarize yourself with the USFWS Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) that has been put forth for haying. Please review the bid prospectus for the unit before submitting your bid. To be considered for the program applicants must complete the applicable portion of the FWS Form 3-1383-C (Commercial Special Use). The applicant must address in their application how they will meet the selection criteria outlined in the instructions.

Background

Sand Lake District was created in 1961. The Sand Lake District covers eight counties in east-central South Dakota. The district consists of 162 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs), totaling 45,000 fee-owned acres, in Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Potter, Spink, and Walworth counties. The topography in the eastern counties of the district is relatively flat while the western counties have both flat areas and rolling hills. The WPA's are a part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. National wildlife refuges and WPAs are vitally important to wildlife and people. These lands are managed to provide habitat for endangered species, migratory birds, and other wildlife. They also provide places for people to hunt, fish, learn about and enjoy wildlife.

The purpose of haying in the Sand Lake District is to improve habitat conditions for migratory birds, prevent encroachment of woody vegetation on upland meadows, and reduce the cover of invasive plant species. The effects of the agricultural programs were explored in depth in the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) (USFWS 2012). The plan provides management direction for grassland portions of the refuge by focusing on important groups of wildlife and their associated habitats identified in the CCP planning process. The prescriptive haying activity was determined to be a compatible use during the CCP process.

The Proposed Cooperative Agricultural Agreement

The selected applicants will operate under a Cooperative Agricultural Agreement (CAA) as “Cooperators” with the Service. Under this CAA the Service is proposing the Cooperator be responsible for haying an allotted acreage of pasture in the district to remove this year as well as previous years’ vegetative growth. The Cooperator will be allowed to hay from August 1st, 2022, to September 1st, 2022. A plan of operations will be developed before any Cooperator activity.

The district is seeking to award a CAA for the following McPherson County management units:

1). Bergdorf Waterfowl Production Area (WPA)– McPherson County

WPA Description:

The WPA has a total of 239 acres containing a combination of grasses and sedges including cool-season tame grass and limited amounts of warm-season native grass species.

2.) Noble Waterfowl Production Area (WPA)- McPherson County

WPA Description:

The WPA has a total of 217 acres containing a combination of grasses and sedges including cool-season tame grass and limited amounts of warm-season native grass species.

CAA Selection and Application

The Cooperator will be selected through an open and competitive process. Interested Cooperators will be evaluated based on the proposed bid (\$/acre), and experience and qualifications that demonstrate an ability to meet the resource management objectives of the District. The objective criteria that will be utilized in the selection are further defined in the Supplemental Instructions in the bid packet.

All bids remain sealed and will be opened on the same day. Apparent high bidders will be notified promptly of their selection. Bids received after the closing date will be returned to the bidder unopened. Bids not in conformance with the advertised terms of the sale will be rejected. The Sand Lake District reserves the right to reject any or all bids that do not meet the requirements identified in the bid prospectus. Furthermore, the Sand Lake District also reserves the right to reject bids from any bidders that have previously violated the terms of any Special Use Permits (SUP).

Winning bidders must complete a Cooperative Agricultural Agreement (CAA) with the Sand Lake District Refuge Manager within two weeks of winning bid notification, and before any haying on to the WPA. The CAA will include the Special Use Permit and an Annual Plan of Operations.

To apply:

Your bid package must include: (1) a signed Special Conditions form; (2) a signed bid worksheet; and (3) a completed first two pages of the Commercial Activities Special Use Permit Application, USFWS Form 3-1383-C.

Please turn in your bids to the Sand Lake Wetland Management District office no later than 4:00 p.m. July 15th, 2022. Bids may be received by:

Mail: USFWS Sand Lake District
Attention: Lindsey Wickre
39650 Sand Lake Drive
Columbia, SD 57433
Email: lindsey_wickre@fws.gov

Sealed bids will be opened by the District and permittees selected on July 18th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. For any questions or further information please contact Lindsey Wickre, Private Lands Biologist, at 605-228-8421.

Special Conditions

General Operating Requirements of the Haying Program:

- The USFWS reserves the right to modify or terminate the CAA if habitat conditions warrant. If changes to the permit are deemed necessary, the permittee agrees to abide by the changes or the permit will be voided. The permittee will be notified ahead of time if any such changes are implemented.
- The Refuge provides the Cooperator with access to the WPA to perform haying activities. In exchange, the Cooperator utilizes labor and equipment to perform activities that help achieve District goals. Pastures will have an assessed value based on the number of harvestable acres and the accepted Cooperators bid proposal.
- Haying will occur after July 31st, 2022, and be completed by September 1st, 2022.
- **Litter and thatch will be removed from the hayed area using a rake or discbine etc.**
- All hay and equipment will be removed from the WPA by September 15th, 2022.
- All liability related to haying to include all persons working for the cooperator is strictly that of the Cooperator.
- All equipment used in pasture management must be clean and free of invasive species plant material including seeds before entering the WPA.
- Haying privileges may not be sold, transferred, or sublet.
- Harvested hay must be used for the Cooperator's operation and may not be sold or traded.
- Any damage to Government property must be reported to the local Refuge Manager immediately and replaced by the permittee.

Bid Worksheet

All bid amounts must be submitted in a dollar amount per acre (\$00.00/acre).

Please fill out:

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

My Bid:

Name of Waterfowl Production Area: _____

Amount bid per acre: \$ _____ (Minimum bid allowed \$45/acre)

Signature

Date



COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION



National Wildlife Refuge System

Refuge Name:

Address:

Attn: (Refuge Official)

E-Mail:

Phone #:

For Official Use Only:

Approved Permit #:

Station #:

Permit Term: from to

Note: We do not require all information for each use. See instructions at the end of the notice and contact the refuge to determine the applicability of a particular item.

1a) Identify the type of Permit you are applying for: New Renewal Modification Other

1b) Have you applied, or do you intend to apply, to any other refuges for this same activity? Yes No

1c) If yes, which refuges?

Applicant Information

2) Full Name: 3) Title:

4) Business Name:

5) Physical Address:

City/State/Zip:

6) Mailing Address: (if different than above)

City/State/Zip:

7) Business Phone #: 8) Business Fax #:

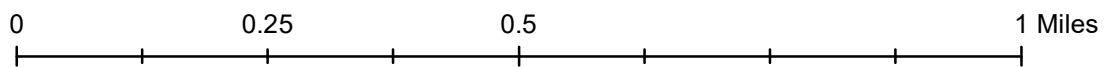
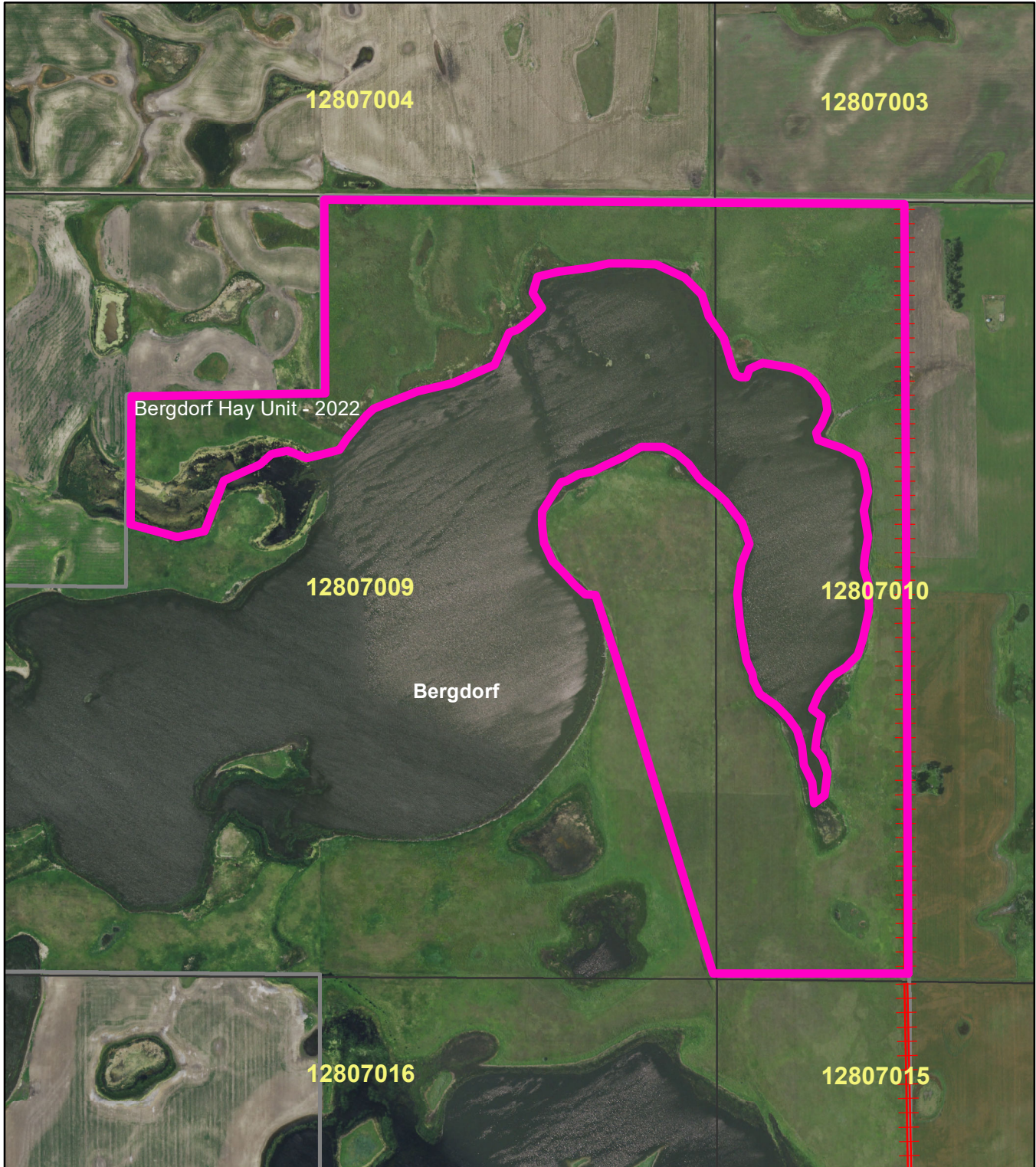
9) E-mail: 10) Business Tax ID #:

11a) Within the past 5 years, has the company (entity), its owners, or any employees who have or will be expected to operate on the refuge, been convicted, pled nolo contendere, forfeited collateral, or are currently under charges for any violations of any State, Federal, or local law, or regulations related to fish and wildlife or permit activities? Yes No

11b) If you answered "YES" to question #11a, provide the individual's name, date of charge, charge(s), location of incident, court, and action taken for each violation.



Bergdorf WPA - McPherson County 128-70-09 and 10



2022 Haying Acreage = 239

Legend

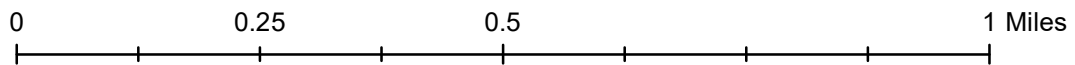
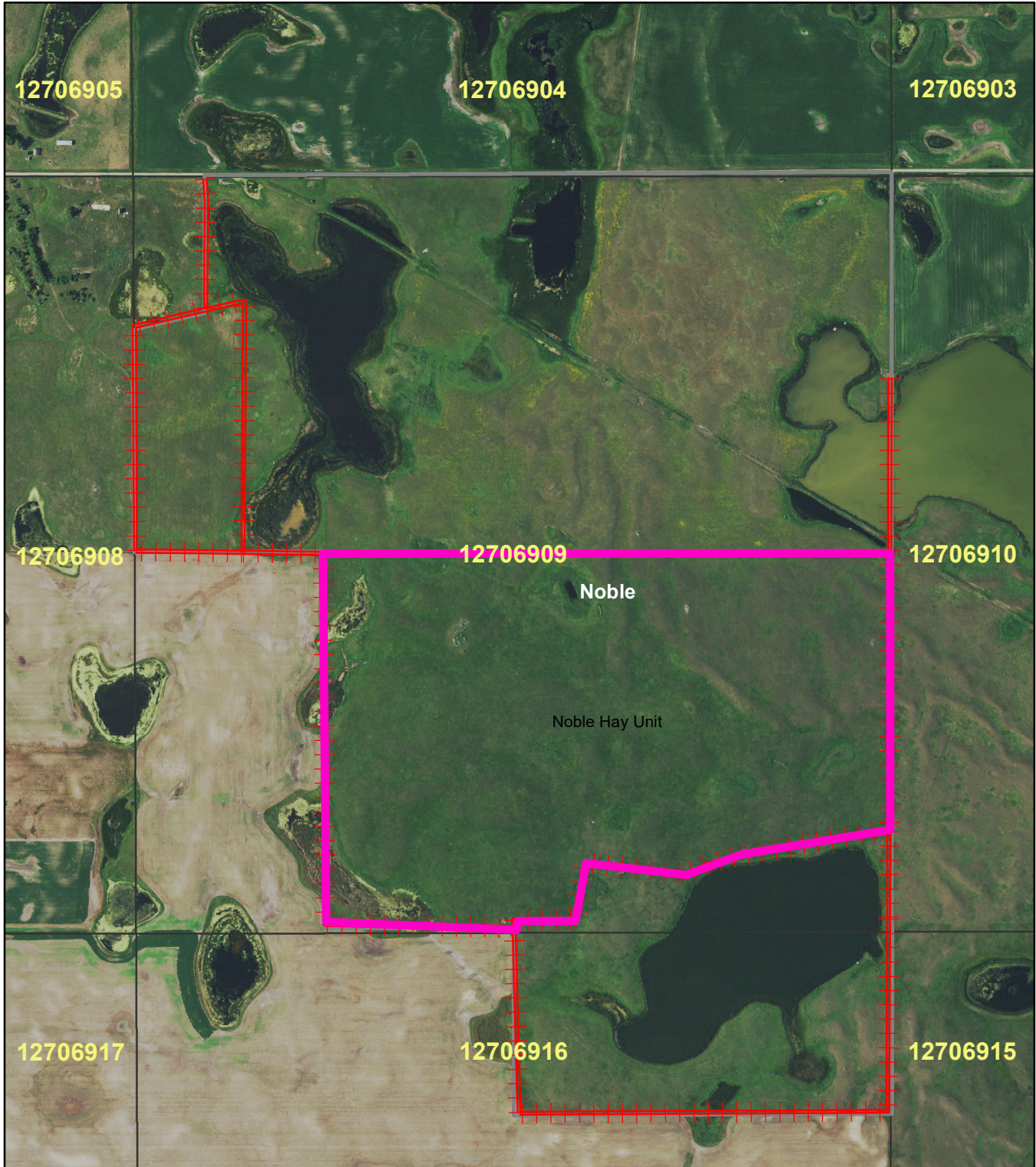
- BergdorfWPA_HayingUnits_2022
- McP_Roads
- McP_TownshipSectionRange
- SLWMD_Fence
- mcphewpa



McPherson County WPA Haying Units



Noble WPA - McPherson County 127-69-09 S1/2 - 217 Acres



Legend

- NobleWPA_HayingUnit_2022
- McP_Roads
- McP_TownshipSectionRange
- SLWMD_Fence
- mcphewpa

2022 Haying Acreage = 217



McPherson County WPA Haying Units