



IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R6/

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region



MAILING ADDRESS:
Upper Souris NWR
17705 212th Ave. NW
Foxholm, ND 58718

Grazing Application

February 13, 2023

Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge
Foxholm, North Dakota



Applications Due:
March 17, 2023

Mail To:
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Upper Souris NWR
17705 212th Ave NW
Foxholm, ND 58718

Point of Contact:
Tom Pabian – USNWR Manager
tom_pabian@fws.gov
1-701-468-5467 x119



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Dear Applicant,

February 13, 2023

In 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established a new policy for awarding Cooperative Agricultural Agreements (CAAs). The new policy requires an open and competitive process for awarding CAAs.

If you are interested in applying for a CAA (grazing permit), you must return application(s) to Upper Souris NWR office by March 17, 2023. A separate application is required for each unit. Potential cooperators may only submit applications for up to three units. Cooperators must prioritize units of choice. A maximum of two units may be issued to a cooperator. Cooperators will be selected based on answers provided within the application.

Applicants who receive the highest score for a particular unit will be awarded a Special Use Permit (SUP). Please be advised, falsifying information on the ranking application will result in forfeiture of the application.

SUPs will be valid for a period of up to 5 years without competition. Grazing rates and timing will be determined annually, although there may not be grazing allowed every year. Grazing rates and deductions will be determined similar to previous years, i.e. deductions are given for temporary fencing, fence repair, cattle moves, etc.

All applications must be returned to Upper Souris NWR by 3:30 pm on March 17, 2023 to be considered. Mail or deliver applications to:

Upper Souris NWR
17705 212th Ave. NW
Foxholm, ND 58718

or email them to:
tom_pabian@fws.gov.

Cooperators will be selected and notified by March 30, 2023.

Applications, units available and more information can be found at:
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper-souris>

Tom Pabian
Refuge Manager
Office: 701-468-5467, ext. 119



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2023 USNWR Grazing Permit Conditions

Grazing on National Wildlife Refuge and Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) provide unique opportunities for a cooperative effort between ranchers and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the betterment of wildlife and their habitats while providing pasture for ranching operations. The cooperative agreements benefit both parties, but are only successful with strong partnerships, frequent communication, and quality documentation. This letter details expectations for grazing cooperators on Upper Souris NWR units listed in this memo. These expectations for maintenance of fences and/or rotation and stocking rates are not all inclusive. Successful applicants are encouraged to communicate regularly with staff at Upper Souris NWR to reach mutual goals and needs, and to alleviate any possible confusion.

Page 2 of this memo details which refuge units are open for applications for grazing from 2023-2027. Selection criteria will remain uniform for all applicants regardless of their choice of units. If multiple locations are desired, a separate application will be required for each unit. Potential cooperators may only submit applications for up to three units. Cooperators must prioritize units of choice. A maximum of two units may be issued to a cooperator. Only one applicant will be selected for each unit. Selection criteria will be based on the following considerations:

1. Operational capacity and qualifications.
2. Proximity of operations
3. Experience with USFWS grazing operations on National Wildlife Refuges or Waterfowl Production areas, or other public conservation lands.
4. Understanding of grazing management practices focused on conservation.
5. Past Performance under USFWS cooperative agreements.

General Expectations:

All grazing operations are expected to provide general upkeep of the refuge grounds, to include fence and gate maintenance, cleanliness, and adequate containment of animals to prevent escape. This may require construction of new barbed wire fence and/or installation of temporary electric wire. Any materials required will be provided by FWS or may be reimbursed through deductions from the grazing bill. For larger fencing projects, deductions can be spread out over the 5-year permit period. Prior coordination with the Refuge Manager is required. Successful applicants are also expected to abide by the prescribed grazing rotation and number of animal units as prescribed annually.



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County	Unit Number	General Location	Approximate number of cow/calf pair needed ***
Ward	G5	Baker Bridge to County Road 6 (west)	100 cow/calf pair
Renville	G8	Eckert Ranch to 1 mile north	25 cow/calf pair
Renville	G9	Muskego TWP, sections 5,6, and 8	25 cow/calf pair
Renville	G10	Callahan TWP, section 25	25 cow/calf pair
Renville	G12	Landing 3 north to Oil Wells	100 cow-calf pair
Renville	G14	Oil wells – north 1 mile (west)	125 cow/calf pair
Renville	G15	Grano Xing - South 2 miles (west)	100 cow/calf pair
Renville	G11	Grano Xing - South 2 miles (east)	60 cow/calf pair
Renville	G19	Grano Boat Ramp north to RR Tracks (west)	60 cow/calf pair
Renville	G17	Grano Xing north to RR Tacks (east)	40 cow/calf pair
Renville	G18	RR tracks to Green Boat Ramp (east)	35 cow/calf pair
Renville	G25	Green Xing north to Dam 41 Xing (west)	100 cow/calf pair
Renville	G27	Dam 41 Xing – MRP Road (west)	175 cow/calf pair
Renville	G28	Dam 41 Xing – Swenson Bridge (east)	100 cow/calf pair

*** Subject to change***

General descriptions

Unit G5: Unit is fully in Ward County, St. Mary's TWP, portions of sections 7, 8, 16, 17, 21, 28, 33 and 34. South boundary is Ward County Road 8 (Baker Bridge) extending northwest to Ward County Road 6. Access is typically good. Several units include native prairie, marshland and riverine/riparian corridor. Livestock water is usually good with stock dugouts and water lanes to the Souris River. A typical annual permit is good for 92 grazing days, 100-125 cow/calf pairs.

Unit G8: Unit is fully in Renville County, Muskego TWP, portions of sections, 8, 9, and 16. Access is extremely limited. Grazing unit contains 2 cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 125 grazing days, 25 cow-calf pairs.

Unit 3G9 Unit is fully in Renville County, Muskego TWP, portions of sections, 5, 6, and 8. Access is extremely limited. Grazing unit contains 2 cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 45 grazing days, 25 cow-calf pairs.

Unit G10: Unit is fully in Renville County, Callahan TWP, portions of section 25. Access is limited. Grazing unit contains 1 cell, mostly native prairie, livestock water is Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 30 grazing days, 25 cow-calf pairs.

Unit G12: Unit is fully in Renville County, majority in Muskego TWP, portions of sections 7, 8, 17, 19, 20, 29, and 30. Access is limited. Grazing unit contains multiple cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is stock dugouts and Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, 100 cow/calf pairs. This grazing unit has not been grazed in recent years.

Unit G14: Unit is fully in Renville County, majority in Plain TWP (portions of sections 1 and 2) and Callahan TWP (portions of section 23, 26, 35, and 36). Access is limited. Grazing unit contains multiple cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is stock dugouts and Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, 100 - 125 cow-calf pairs.

Unit G15: Unit is fully in Renville County, Callahan TWP (portions of section 15, 22, and 23). Access is limited. Grazing unit contains multiple cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is stock dugouts and Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, 100 cow-calf pairs. This grazing unit has not been grazed in recent years.

Unit G11: Unit is fully in Renville County, Callahan TWP (portions of section 11, 12 and 14). Access is good. Grazing unit contains multiple cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, 50 cow-calf pairs.

Unit G19: Unit is fully in Renville County, Callahan TWP (portions of section 3 and 4) and Grassland TWP (sections 31, 32 and 33). Access is good. Grazing unit contains multiple cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, 60 cow-calf pairs. This grazing unit has not been grazed in recent years.

Unit G17: Unit is fully in Renville County, Callahan TWP (portions of section 3 and 4) and Grassland TWP (sections 33 and 34). Access is good. Grazing unit contains four cells, Livestock water is Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, 40 cow-calf pairs.

Unit G18: Unit is fully in Renville County, Grassland TWP (portions of section 20 and 29). Access is good. Grazing unit contains three cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, 35 cow-calf pairs.

Unit G25: Unit is fully in Renville County, Grassland TWP (portion of section 19) and Roosevelt TWP (portions of sections 2, 11, 13, and 24). Access is good. Grazing unit contains multiple cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is Lake Darling. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, 100-125 cow-calf pairs.

Unit G27: Unit is fully in Renville County, McKinney TWP (portions of sections 10, 11, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 26). Access is good. Grazing unit contains multiple cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is stock dugouts and Souris River. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, +/- 175 cow-calf pairs.

Unit G28: Unit is fully in Renville County, Grover TWP (portion of section 34), Hamlet TWP (portion of section 30) McKinney TWP (portions of sections 3, 11, 12, 13, 24 and 25). Access is good. Grazing unit contains multiple cells, mostly native prairie, livestock water is stock dugouts and Souris River. A typical annual permit is for 92 grazing days, +/- 125 cow-calf pairs.

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G8



State of North Dakota, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnology, Inc, METI/MASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Maxar

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

-  G8 Boundary
-  G8 Grazing Cells

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G9



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

 G9 Grazing Cells

 G9 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G10



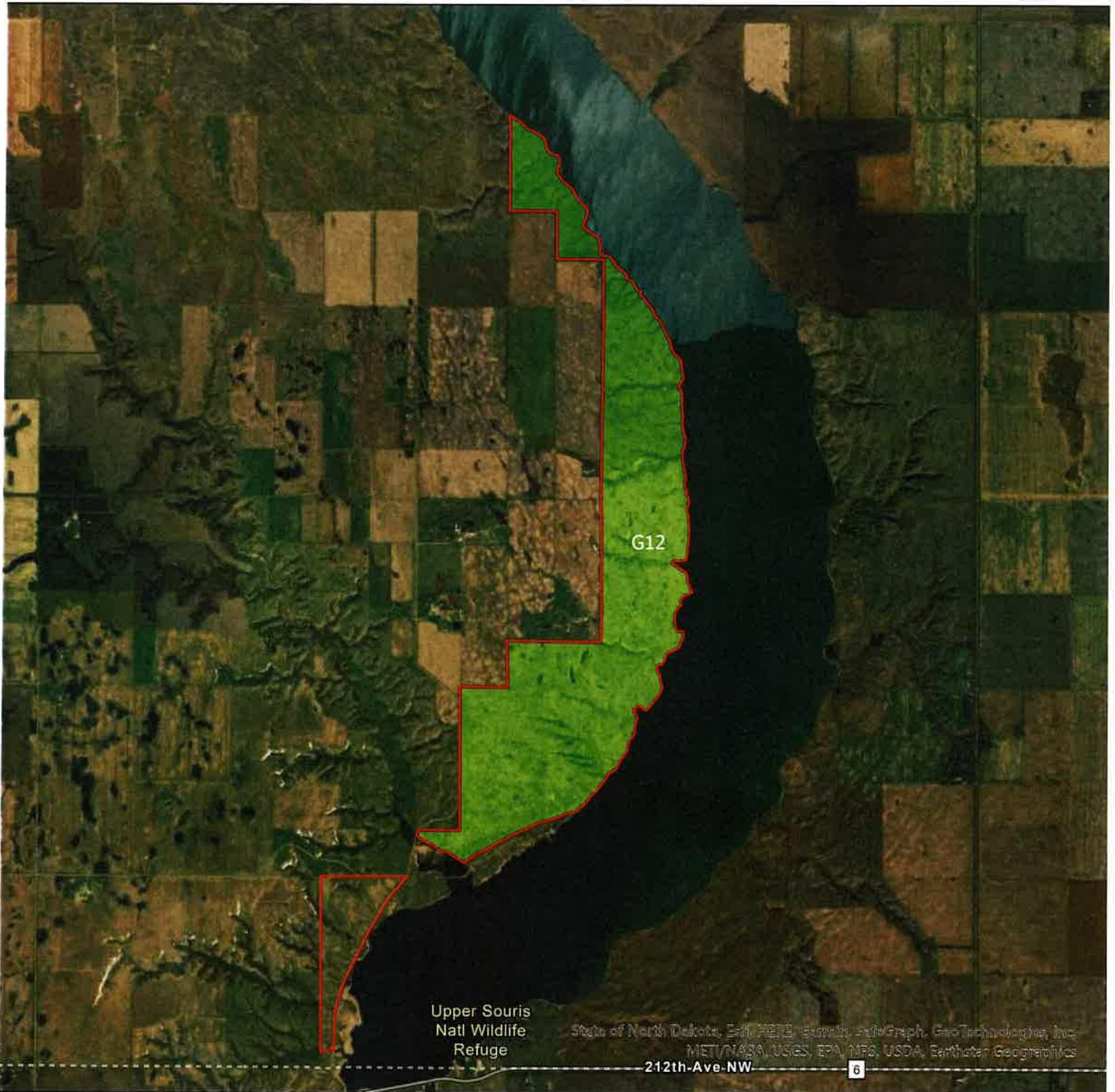
Esri, Community Maps Contributors, State of North Dakota, Esri, HERE, Garmin,
SwiGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census
Bureau, USDA, Maxar

0 0.33 0.65 1.3 Miles

 G10 Grazing Cells

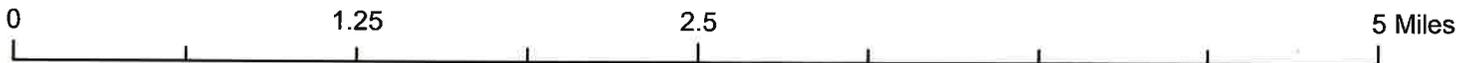
 G10 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G12



-  G12 Grazing Cells
-  G12 Boundary

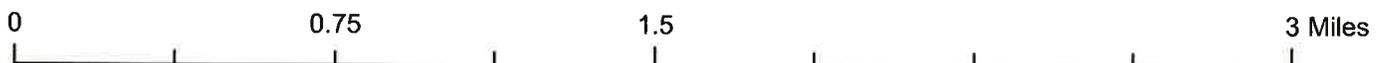
Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G14



 G14 Grazing Cells

 G14 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G15



 G15 Grazing Cells

 G15 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G11



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

 G11 Grazing Cells

 G11 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G19



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

-  G19 Grazing Cells
-  G19 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G17



-  G17 Grazing Cells
-  G17 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G18



-  G18 Grazing Cells
-  G18 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G25

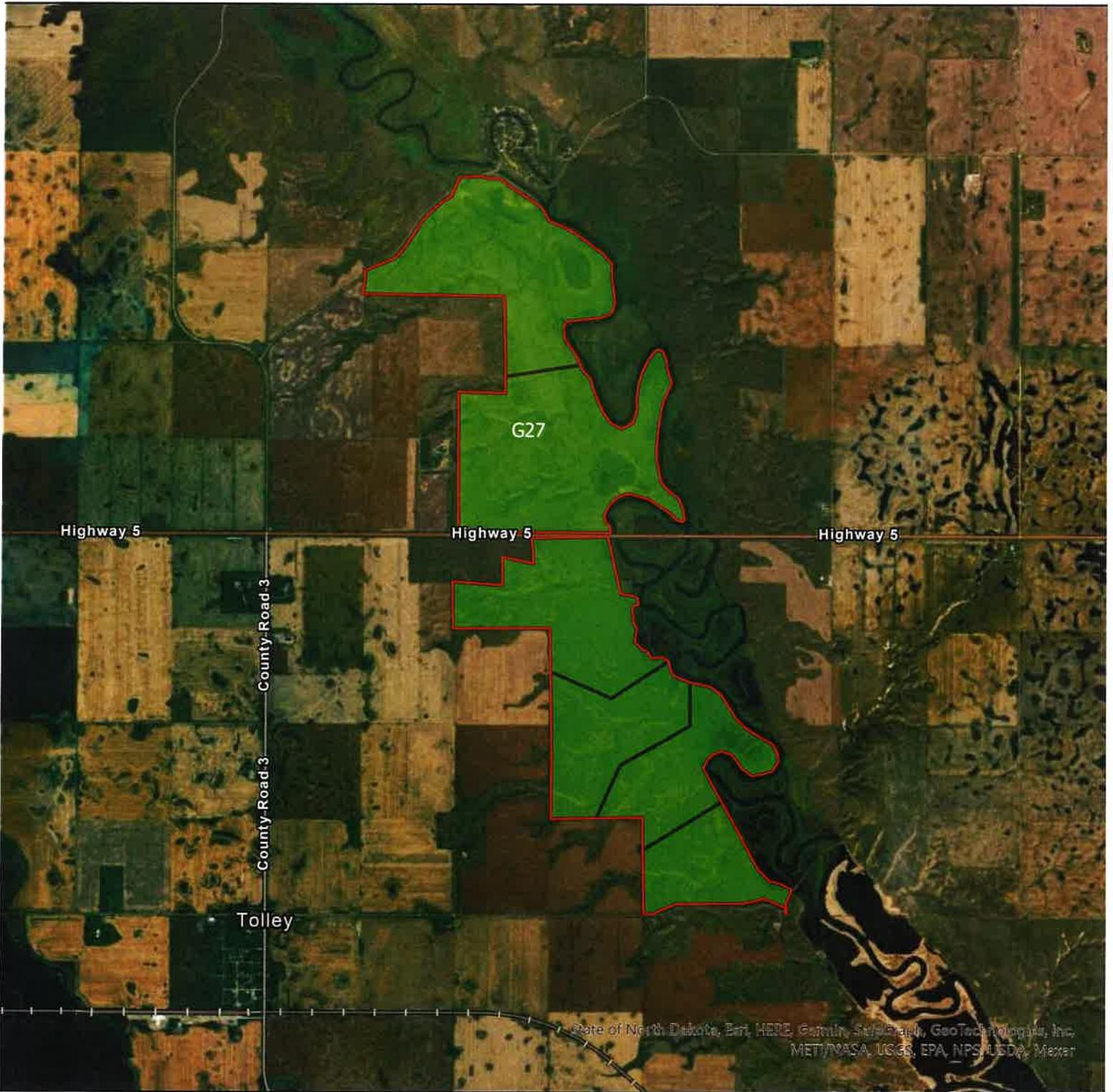


0 2 4 8 Miles

 G25 Grazing Cells

 G25 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G27

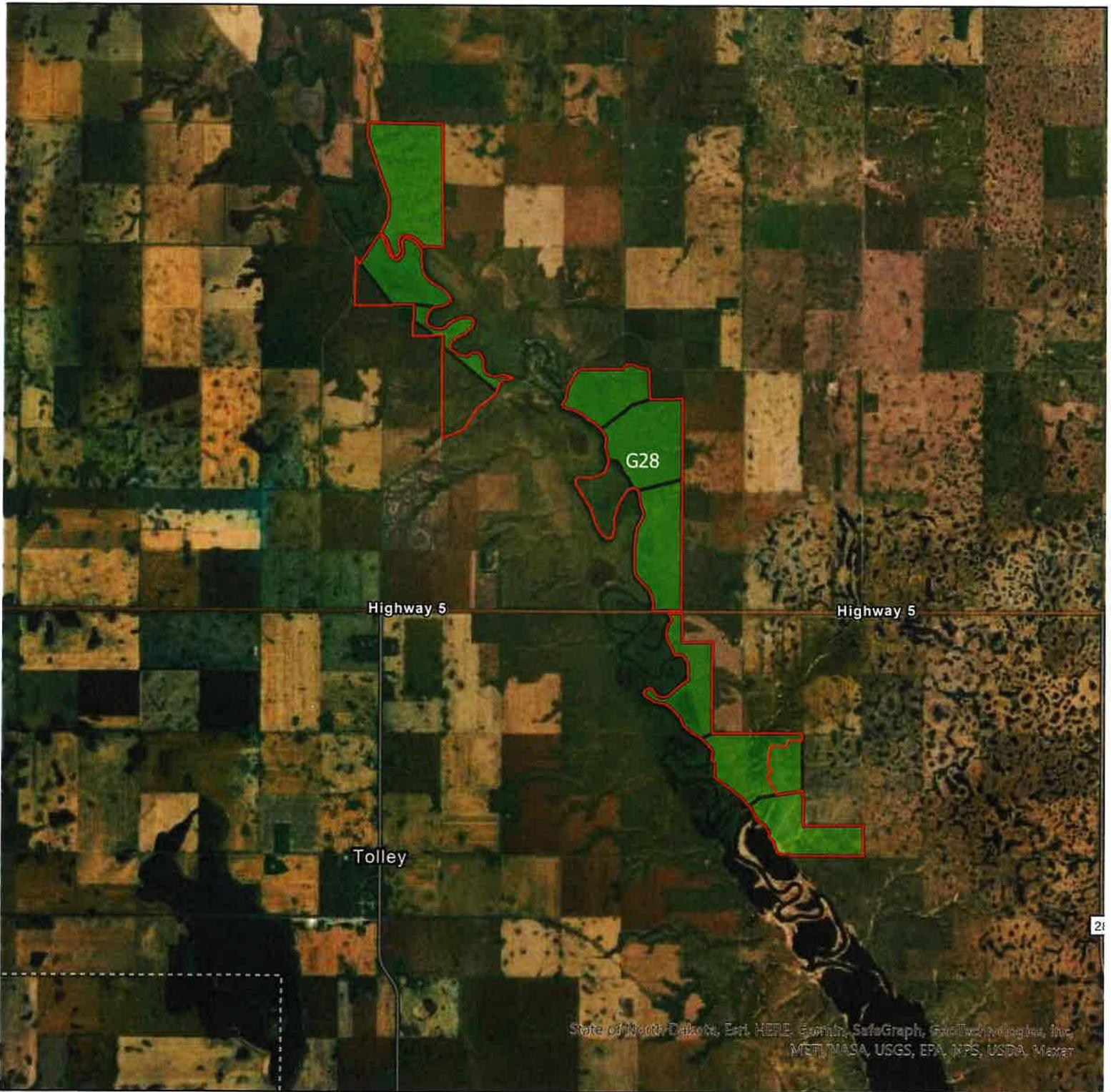


0 2 4 8 Miles

 G27 Grazing Cells

 G27 Boundary

Upper Souris NWR Grazing Unit G28



0 3 6 12 Miles

 G28 Grazing Cells

 G28 Boundary

**Upper Souris NWR
2023
Northwest North Dakota NWR & WMD Complex
Cooperative Grazing Application**

Unit # _____

Priority# 1 2 or 3 (Circle one)

1. Do you have experience with cooperative grazing or infrastructure maintenance on Upper Souris NWR within the past 3 years?

Yes No

1b. If no, do you have experience grazing on other NWRs or WMDs?

Yes No

1c. If yes, what NWR or WMD? _____ Year grazed?

2. Do you currently own or lease private or public ground within 15 miles of this NWR?

Yes No

2b. If yes, choose what best describes the closest parcel of land you own or lease:

Shares boundary with NWR _____

0 to 5 miles from the unit _____

5 to 10 miles from the unit _____

10 to 15 miles from the unit _____

2c. If yes, are you willing to graze this land in rotation with FWS land?

Yes No

2d. If yes, are you willing to rest private grazing acres during years that you graze on FWS units?

Yes No

3. Can you provide the necessary stock to graze the unit following a prescribed grazing plan?

Yes No

4. Are you able to follow a grazing plan and maintain records including numbers of stock, dates in and out of units, maintenance completed, and other records that might be necessary to help ensure management objectives are being met for the unit?

Yes

No

5. Are you willing to install (either yourself or hire out) and maintain all fence necessary to execute this agreement?

Yes

No

6. Are you, or your designee, able to respond within 2 hours to address any urgent needs that may arise during grazing, including escaped livestock, infrastructure maintenance, neighbor complaints, etc?

Yes

No

I certify that all information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge and I meet all qualifying standards for this application.

Signature _____ ***Date*** _____

Print Name

Mailing Address

Phone