



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Litchfield Wetland Management District  
22274 615<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Litchfield, Minnesota 55355-5818  
Phone: (320) 693-2849

March 10, 2016

Dear Cooperator:

We are contacting you as you have indicated an interest in grazing properties managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Litchfield Wetland Management District (District) known as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA). These federal lands were purchased with your duck stamp dollars for the purpose of providing nesting and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.

As you know, historically western Minnesota was once part of a vast prairie landscape. These grasslands were maintained through periodic disturbances such as wildland fires and grazing by bison. We use prescribed grazing as a management tool to maintain the health of grassland habitats on WPAs.

The WPA is broken into multiple paddocks with the use of temporary fence. Cattle are moved through the paddocks on a set schedule until the entire WPA or a specific portion of the WPA has been grazed. In general, to achieve desired grassland plant diversity and vigor we like to graze the paddocks at high intensity (i.e. high stocking rates) for short durations (2 – 6 weeks) from about May - September. We work closely with the cooperator to come up with a final grazing plan that works for both parties.

As we have not used grazing consistently in the past, many of our WPAs lack fence or the existing fence is in need of repair. Sogge WPA will need exterior as well as interior cross fences. Brenner Lake WPA has a three-strand high tensile exterior fence which was constructed in 2012. Cooperators will be responsible for the repair and/or construction of fence needed to contain their cattle. Permanent fence corners and braces will be required as part of this bid on Sogge WPA. Locations of permanent corners and braces must be approved by Refuge staff.

The Litchfield Wetland Management District is offering for bid Sogge WPA in Todd County and Brenner Lake WPA in Kandiyohi County. The cooperator will be selected by high bid. Enclosed you will find bid package for grazing on Sogge WPA and Brenner Lake WPA. Maps showing the units to be grazed on Sogge and Brenner Lake WPAs are enclosed.

The date set for bid opening is April 4, 2016. Your bid will need to be in this office prior to bid opening at 9:00 a.m. April 4 to be considered. Late bids will not be accepted unless there are no other bids. Other special conditions are listed on the enclosed sheet of conditions. Please read these carefully. To bid you must be a current livestock operator.

Please remember to write "grazing bid" in the lower portion of the envelope. Feel free to call me if you have any questions, 320-693-2849. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Beverly Meyer  
Assistant Wetland Manager

Enc.

## Litchfield WMD Grazing Special Conditions 2016

1. To be eligible to bid/graze you must be a current livestock operator.
2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) reserves the right to modify the grazing period, animal unit months or terminate the Special Use Permit (SUP) if habitat conditions warrant.
3. Supplemental feeding will not be permitted. Use of minerals (salt or protein) will be allowed. Permittee must provide product labeling to the Project Leader for approval. Minerals must be in a container that minimizes spillage and is easily moved and placed as required by the Refuge Manager. The permittee is required to move salt and mineral every 5 to 7 days to reduce overuse of an area. They must be located away from wetlands and fence corners (> 50'). A preferred location is in thick brush. All salt and minerals must be removed at the end of each grazing period if multi-year permit.
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. The Permittee must acquire liability insurance that indemnifies and holds the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service harmless from any liability claims associated with the permittee's livestock operation on Service Land.
5. The permittee must be in compliance with the respective State and local livestock health regulations.
6. All equipment, including ATVs, UTVs and horses used to gather or inspect livestock must be clean and free of invasive species plant material including seeds, before entering on to Service lands. The Project Leader reserves the right to inspect and deny the use of any equipment/vehicle/horses etc. that appears to contain invasive species plant material or seeds.
7. With the exception of ear tags, no insecticides may be used on livestock while they are on the WPA. Any insecticide treatments must be applied before the livestock enter refuge lands. The type of treatment must not transfer insecticide to feces.
8. Vaccinations or other treatments including deworming must be completed prior to grazing on the Refuge. Treatments must be the type that do not transfer chemical to the feces.
9. Any livestock management action including branding or dehorning on Service land must be approved by the Project Leader.
10. Subletting is not permitted. As approved by the Project Leader, partnering with another rancher will be permitted should the number of livestock needed to achieve the desired outcome not be obtainable by a single rancher. If partnering is permitted 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 as identified on the grazing unit map. Any permanent fence constructed on any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System will become property of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

12. Livestock watering will generally be provided via existing wetlands on Service lands. However, the Service cannot guarantee the availability of an adequate water supply for livestock use. If water becomes unavailable, the permittee may have to haul water to the site. Supplemental watering must be approved by the Project Leader.
13. Deceased livestock must be removed from Service lands within 48 hours of discovery unless other arrangements have been approved by the Project Leader.
14. The permittee shall not prohibit the general public from entering Service lands or harass/interfere the general 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.
15. Noncompliance with any of the conditions in this Special Use Permit could result in an immediate revocation of the permit by the Project Leader. Should this permit be revoked there will be NO refunding of any unused portion of this permit. Revocation of Permits will result in forfeiture of any future grazing opportunity.

## Brenner Lake Waterfowl Production Area

Bids will be accepted for grazing management on the Brenner Lake Waterfowl Production Area in Kandiyohi County.

### Legal Description

Brenner Lake Waterfowl Production Area, Norway Lake Township, Section 6 and 7, T122N, R36W, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

<u>Year</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>	<u>Animal Units (AU's)</u>	<u>Grazable Acres</u>
2016	May 1 –September 9	60 AU's	approximately 217 acres

Paddock rotation: Paddock 1 will be grazed from May 1 to June 7, Paddock 2, June 8 to June22, Paddock 3 June 23 to July 6, Paddock 5 from July 7 to August 18, and Paddock 4 from August 19 to September 9.

2017	May 1 – July15	60 AU's	approximately 124 acres
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Paddock rotation: Paddock 4 from May 1 to May 21, Paddock 3 from May 22 to June 15, and Paddock 5, June 16 to July 7. Paddock 5 will be split as shown in blue on the attached map. Paddock 3 and the east half of 5 will be combined.

### Livestock

Permittee can use from 50 cow/calf pairs which will allow for approximately 264 AUM's for 2016 and approximately 135 AUM's for 2017.

### Requirements

The high bidder/permittee will be required to provide all interior cross fencing materials. Permittee will erect, maintain, and remove temporary fence (lines in red on map). This WPA has exterior fence (High Tensile). These fence lines may require trimming of small trees and bushes by the permittee. Permittee is responsible for keeping the livestock in and moving cattle according to rotation schedule. Variance from the original rotation schedule will have to be justified and approved by USFWS staff. Solar panel and fencer can be provided if needed.

Contact Beverly Meyer at 320-693-2849, ext 106 with questions.

## Waterfowl Production Area Grazing Bid Form

I have read, understand and agree to the regulations, conditions and eligibility requirements for grazing and submit this bid accordingly.

Grazing Unit (WPA): Brenner Lake WPA

Grazing Bid (total bid for the units indicated for the time frames indicated): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

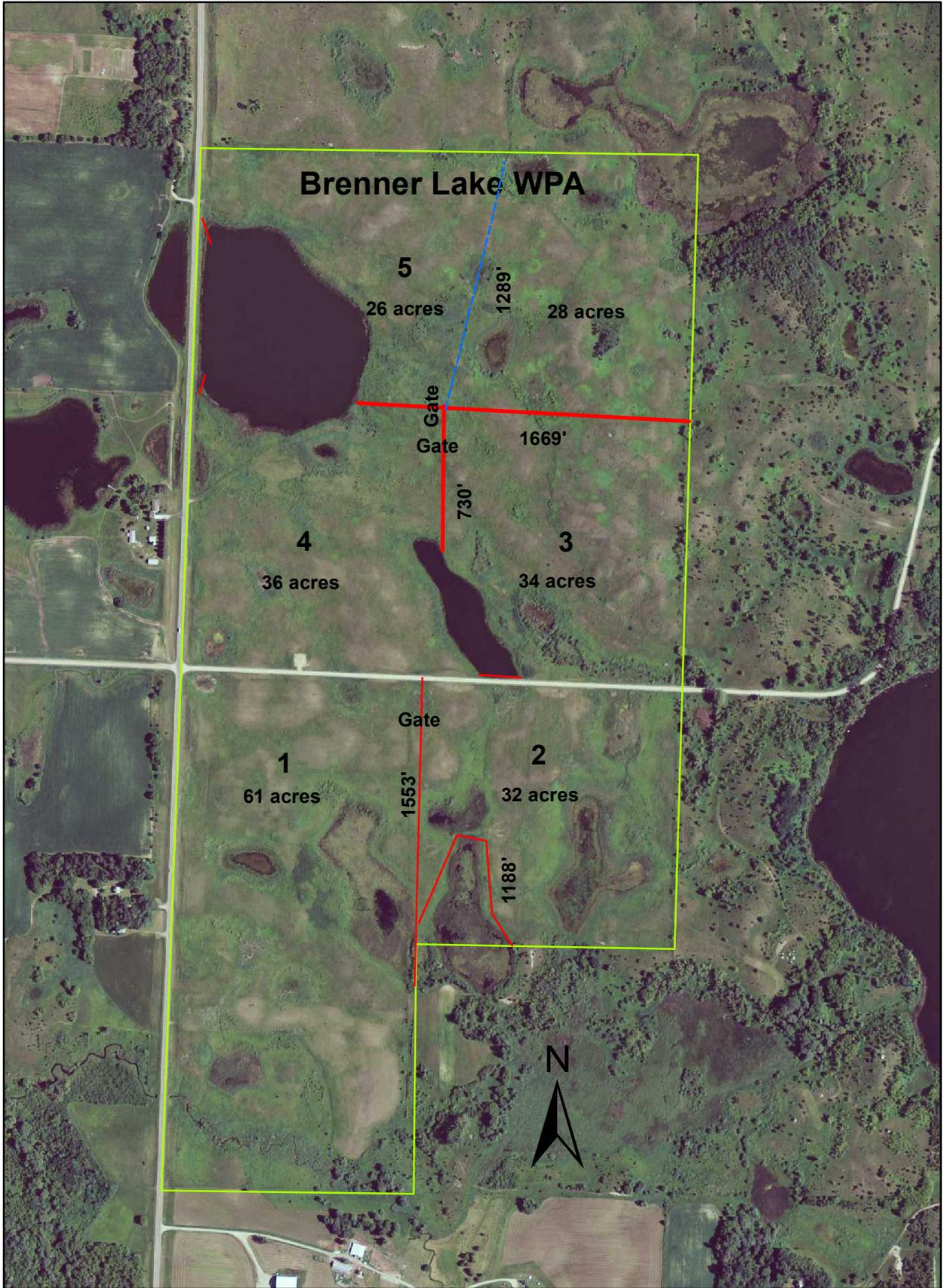
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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Send to: US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Litchfield Wetland Management District  
22274 615<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Litchfield, MN 55355

Lower left corner of envelope write: grazing bid



## Sogge Waterfowl Production Area

Bids will be accepted for grazing management on the Sogge Waterfowl Production Area in Todd County.

### Legal Description

West Union Township

T.127N. R.35W., Section 5 and 8; SW1/4SW1/4, N1/2NW1/4, see attached map.

Todd County, Minnesota

<u>Year</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>	<u>AUs</u>	<u>Grazable Acres</u>
2016	May 15 – September 15	22	approximately 90 acres

Paddock rotation: Paddock 1 will be grazed from May 15 to June 15, Paddock 2, June 16 to July 15, Paddock 4 July 16 to August 15, and Paddock 3 August 16 to September 15.

2017	May 15 – September 15	22	approximately 90 acres
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Paddock rotation: Paddock 2 will be grazed from May 15 to June 15, Paddock 1, June 16 to July 15, Paddock 3 July 16 to August 15, and Paddock 4 August 16 to September 15.

2018	May 15 – September 15	22	approximately 90 acres
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Paddock rotation: Paddock 4 will be grazed from May 15 to June 15, Paddock 3, June 16 to July 15, Paddock 2 July 16 to August 15, and Paddock 1 August 16 to September 15.

### Livestock

Permittee can use from 18 cow/calf pairs or 22 cows

### Requirements

The high bidder/permittee will be required to provide all fencing materials and install permanent corners and H-braces. The amount of fence is approximately 9,875 feet of exterior fence and 7,000 feet of interior/cross fences. Permittee will erect, maintain, and remove temporary fence. Permittee is responsible for keeping the livestock in.

Contact Beverly Meyer at 320-693-2849, ext 106 with questions.

# Waterfowl Production Area Grazing Bid Form

I have read, understand and agree to the regulations, conditions and eligibility requirements for grazing and submit this bid accordingly.

Grazing Unit (WPA): Sogge WPA \_\_\_\_\_

Grazing Bid (for total unit for three years): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Sogge Grazing



## Map Legend

-  Grazing\_Final
-  WPA
-  interior fence, 7,020 feet
-  9,875 feet perimeter fence
- G** gate
- H** h-brace
- C** corner

