



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
39650 Sand Lake Drive  
Columbia, South Dakota 57433  
(605) 885-6320

February 22, 2021

Dear Cooperator:

Enclosed are the 2021 grazing packets for those lands offered to the public for grazing in 2021. A map showing all lands offered within the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge Complex is included. If you wish to see a unit you did not request, see our website (link below) or call this office. Grazing bids will be accepted until **March 26, 2021**. Please mail, email ([natalie\\_velez-suarez@fws.gov](mailto:natalie_velez-suarez@fws.gov)), fax (885-6333), phone (605-885-6320), or hand deliver your bids.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has implemented a new policy concerning Agricultural Uses on Service lands. Agricultural Uses are comprised of grazing, haying and farming. All persons interested in bidding on Agricultural Uses are now required to apply via the enclosed one page application form. All of the enclosed documents along with other units available for bid are available from our website [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sand\\_lake/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sand_lake/). Click on **Cooperative Agricultural Uses** to get started. It is our intent that most interested persons in Agricultural Uses will obtain all information and forms from this site in the future. If you are selected as the cooperator, you will receive a Special Use Permit that will look different than previous Permits. The billing process will remain the same with billings sent out after completion of the use (grazing).

Haying packets will be sent out mid-summer. Since hay packets are sent out later, you will need to contact us (if you haven't already done so this year) in May or early June if you wish to receive haying information. Haying information will be found on the website also.

Make sure to inspect the WPA's for water and fence conditions before placing a bid. **The minimum bid is \$10/AUM**. Some of the existing fence on these units may be in poor condition. Please take this into consideration when you are bidding for grazing rights, as you are responsible for all necessary fence repairs. You will have to use your own materials for any electric fencing needs. We will provide materials for any permanent fence maintenance needs.

If you have any questions about what is required of you, please do not hesitate to contact us at (605) 885-6320. Please visit the website to view and download all materials required to prepare a bid. The bid form can be mailed, emailed, faxed, phoned, or hand delivered to our office. If you do not have access to a computer, contact us and we will send information via the mail. Thank you for showing interest in our programs and call us with any specific detailed questions about the units that are not defined or clear in the packet materials.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Velez, Eric Hoggarth, and Sydney Hanna  
Sand Lake Wetland Management District Managers

**GRAZING REGULATIONS**  
**WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS (WPA)**

1. To be eligible to bid you must be a current livestock owner/operator.
2. Other regulations:
  - a. The entire amount of AUM's specified must be utilized during the time period specified. More livestock for a shorter period will be allowed upon mutual agreement between the Cooperator and the Refuge.
  - b. Stocking rates are calculated using the following Animal Unit Values:

1 cow/calf pair = 1.20 AUM's	1 bull = 1.50 AUM's
1 cow = 1.00 AUM	1 yearling = .75 AUM
  - c. If **salt, mineral blocks or lick tubs are used, you will be required to move them every 5-7 days** to reduce overuse of an area. Please locate them in an area away from the water source and fence corners.
  - d. **You are responsible** for all permanent fence repair and installation. The US Fish & Wildlife Service will provide all necessary materials.
  - e. You are responsible for installation, maintenance, and take down of electrical fences, if they are required. Temporary fences are required to be removed within two weeks of the final grazing date.
  - f. You are responsible for keeping the livestock in the specified unit. You are responsible for any damage to surrounding crops or pastures caused by your cattle.
  - g. With the exception of ear tags, no insecticides may be used on your livestock while they are on Sand Lake NWR Complex property.
  - h. Livestock water is not guaranteed. If water becomes unavailable during the grazing period, you may need to haul water. Deductions may be applied.
  - i. You must be in compliance with all South Dakota State livestock health regulations.
  - j. You may bid on more than one unit, but you may not combine units. If you are the successful bidder on more than one unit in which multiple bids are received, you will be limited to one unit of your choice.
  - k. US Fish & Wildlife Service reserves the option to use up to 75% of the grazing fees to purchase supplies or labor to improve facilities and habitat on these areas. The remaining 25% will be paid to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. This may require the permittee to issue two checks at the end of the grazing period.
  - l. Grazing dates are established for each unit to achieve habitat management goals. Deviation from the established date is only permitted upon mutual agreement between the Refuge Manager and the Cooperator. Failure to contact the Refuge Manager may result in the forfeiture of current and future grazing opportunities.

Bids must be received at Sand Lake NWR headquarters by **Friday March 26, 2021**. Bids will be accepted by mail, email, fax, phone or hand delivery, but the written bids must be in sealed envelopes. All envelopes must be marked **WPA Grazing Bid** in lower left hand corner of envelope. The email address to use is; [natalie.velez-suarez@fws.gov](mailto:natalie.velez-suarez@fws.gov) **FAX number is 885-6333**.

ANY VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE REGULATIONS MAY RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF YOUR GRAZING PERMIT AND FORFEITURE OF FUTURE BIDDING ON GRAZING UNITS.

THE U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS.

If you have any questions on the grazing units or any regulations please feel free to contact us at the address or phone number below.

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
39650 Sand Lake Drive  
Columbia, South Dakota 57433  
(605) 885-6320

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sand\\_lake/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sand_lake/)