Dear Cooperator:

We are contacting you as we believe you may have an interest in grazing properties managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District. Our District lands are broken up into separate units known as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) that were purchased with duck stamp dollars for the purpose of providing nesting and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl and other migratory bird species.

The Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, along with much of west central Minnesota, is located in the Prairie Pothole Region, which extends from northern Iowa through Alberta, Canada, and is characterized by prairie grasslands dotted with shallow depressional wetlands. Historically, these prairie grasslands were maintained through periodic disturbances such as wildland fires and grazing by bison. Our goal in conservation grazing is to use cattle as a management tool to mimic these historic disturbances in order to maintain our prairie habitat. Other conservation goals for this unit include controlling invasive species, particularly wild parsnip.

Attached to this letter, you will find the grazing bid package for this management unit which includes cooperator requirements, stocking rates, approximate grazing dates, and maps of the unit. Grazing dates are approximate and may be changed by USFWS District staff at any point during the grazing agreement if habitat or other conditions warrant. Since grazing has not been used consistently on all WPAs in the past, many do not have any fencing; the cooperator will be required to construct and maintain fencing throughout the grazing agreement. Please remember to factor this into your final bid.

Please make sure your bid sheet is submitted before **3:30 PM on March 30, 2020**; late bids cannot be accepted. Bids will be based on price per animal unit for the approximate grazing dates provided in this packet; actual grazing fees will be calculated at the end of each grazing season and will reflect the actual stocking rate and number of grazing days.

Feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Thank you for your interest,

Erin Lentz

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
18965 County Hwy 82
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 736-0636 – Office
(218) 739-9534 – Fax
Erin_Lentz@fws.gov
Fergus Falls Wetland Management District  
Backstrom Waterfowl Production Area

Legal Description: T 135 N, R 43 W; Erhard's Grove, Parts of Sections 8, 9, 16 and 17, Otter Tail County, Minnesota

Unit Size: ~ 250 – 315 acres
- The unit will be broken into a minimum of 3 paddocks of varying size per year, and the grazing regime will be rotational grazing.

Habitat: Native warm season grasses (big bluestem, indiangrass, little bluestem, switchgrass, and sideoats grama). There are very few forbs present on the unit. Several small areas are also seeded to smooth brome. Reed canary grass is found along all wetland margins. WPA5 is native prairie with high diversity.

Grazing Period: June – August 2020 – 2022
- Grazing dates are approximate and will be based on weather and habitat conditions.

Stocking Rate: 51 AUs (0.2 AU/acre)
- Grazing rates are dependent upon habitat conditions.

Animal Unit (AU) Equivalents:
- Mature cow – 1.00
- Cow-calf pair – 1.20
- Yearling – 0.70 (9-18 months)
- Weaner calf – 0.50
- Bull – 1.50

Fee Schedule:
- 2020 – Payment due October 31, 2020
- 2021 – Payment due October 31, 2021
- 2022 – Payment due October 31, 2022

Requirements:
- The cooperator will be required to provide a minimum of 51 animal unit equivalents (40 cow/calf pair and 2 bull) to graze this unit.
- The cooperator is responsible for installation and maintenance of both the interior and exterior fence.
  - USFWS will provide metal t-posts (6’6” studded on one face, 1.25#FT with spade at bottom) for the exterior fence. T-posts will remain USFWS property at the end of the grazing agreement.
  - Cooperator must provide all other labor, materials, and fencing equipment, including a power source for all electric fence.
- The cooperator will be required to rotate cattle through 3 cells per grazing season (June – August each year) and through a total of 5 paddocks during the 3 year grazing agreement.
- The cooperator is responsible for the maintenance of the fence for the duration of the agreement, as well as the removal of the fence once the grazing agreement has been satisfied.

Bids will be based on price per AU.
- Make sure to factor in materials, labor for fencing, and supplemental watering needs in your final bid. Selected permittee will be required to provide their Social Security Number.
### Backstrom WPA Grazing - 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>WPA 1</th>
<th>WPA 2</th>
<th>WPA 3</th>
<th>WPA 4</th>
<th>WPA 5</th>
<th>WPA 6</th>
<th>WPA 7</th>
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<tr>
<td>June - mid July</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>Graze</td>
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<tr>
<td>mid July - August</td>
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<td>September</td>
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### Proposed Backstrom WPA Grazing - 2021

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<td>July</td>
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<td>Total Days of Grazing</td>
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### Proposed Backstrom WPA Grazing - 2022

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Special Use Permit Conditions:

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to modify or terminate the permit if habitat conditions warrant.

2. The primary point of contact with the District is Erin Lentz:
   
   Office: (218) 736-0636
   Cell: (218) 770-3352
   Email: erin_lentz@fws.gov

3. Public use is allowed on any Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) during the grazing period.

4. All WPAs are open to public hunting during applicable seasons.

5. Dates of grazing are based on average conditions. The District reserves the right to modify the grazing period or animal units if habitat conditions exceed objectives.

6. Supplemental feeding is prohibited except for protein and mineral. Supplemental feeding stations (blocks, tubs, etc.) should be moved throughout the grazing period to minimize soil disturbance; placing minerals in woody brush is encouraged. Please locate supplemental feeding stations away from water sources, parking lots, and fence corners. Supplemental feeding CANNOT contain any ingredient for the purpose of pest control.

7. No insecticide treatment of cattle is allowed, either on site or 30 days prior to moving cattle onto the WPA, without written approval of the District, in order to minimize any impact to the biological community (ex. – dung beetles) on the WPA.

8. The District reserves the right to erect small fence exclosures for the purpose of monitoring grazing impacts.

9. Livestock water is not guaranteed. If water becomes unavailable during the grazing period, the cooperator may need to haul water. Methods of supplemental watering must be approved by the District Manager.

10. Fences (materials, installation, maintenance, and removal) are the responsibility of the cooperator. Boundary fence must consist of at least two hot wires. No plowing, discing, or herbicide may be used to prepare for fence installation, only mowing. Permittee must obtain any necessary permits/written authorization from the appropriate authorities to install temporary fence in a road ROW.

11. Wire from fence must be lowered/dropped to the ground prior to the start of the small game/archery hunting seasons; T-posts may be left in place for the duration of the grazing agreement.

12. Any fence (posts, wire, etc.) left standing/on the WPA after the expiration of the Special Use Permit becomes the property of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and can be used by future grazing cooperators at the Service’s discretion.

13. The Cooperator is responsible for keeping the livestock in the specified grazing area. The cooperator is responsible for any damage to surrounding crops or pastures, or any other damage, caused by the cattle.

14. The cooperator must be in compliance with all Minnesota State livestock health regulations.

15. No branding, dehorning, or other cattle management activities are allowed on site without written approval of the District.
16. No subleasing of any grazing rights is allowed without written approval of the District.

17. All equipment, including ATVs, UTVs, and horses used to gather, inspect livestock, or facilitate fencing must be clean and free of invasive species plant material, including seeds, before entering on to WPAs. The District Manager reserves the right to inspect and deny the use of any equipment.

18. Final fee is based on actual use. Cooperator will record and report actual use and will keep Wetland Management District staff informed of details by regular phone or email contact.

19. Any payment owed to the District is due at the end of each year of the Permit; payable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 18965 Co Hwy 82, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

20. Any credit on the grazing agreement expires at the end of the Special Use Permit. The District does not pay out any remaining credit.

21. Noncompliance with any of the conditions in this Special Use Permit could result in an immediate revocation of the permit by District staff. Should this permit be revoked, there will be NO refunding of any unused portion of this permit. Revocation of the Special Use Permit will result in forfeiture of any future grazing opportunity on Fergus Falls WMD land.
Grazing Unit Name: Backstrom Waterfowl Production Area

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

I have read and I will comply with all the Special Use Conditions listed on the Grazing Unit Requirements.

I agree that I am responsible for maintaining all fencing for this grazing unit.

I agree to provide the necessary materials and labor to install all electric fence, and I agree to supply a power source for all electric fence.

I agree to maintain all electric boundary fence and maintain all interior paddock fencing.

I agree to provide paddock fencing for a rotational grazing system. I agree to move cattle from paddock to paddock when desired habitat conditions are met; this will be determined by District Staff.

I agree that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the right to modify or terminate the permit if habitat conditions warrant.

Sealed bids are due to the District Office by 3:30 PM March 30, 2020
Fergus Falls Wetland Management District
18965 County Highway 82
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-736-0636

NOTE: Bids are based on price per AU not per acre.

Animal Unit (AU) Equivalents:
- Mature cow – 1.00
- Cow-calf pair – 1.20
- Yearling – 0.70 (9-18 months)
- Weaner calf – 0.50
- Bull – 1.50

Grazing Bid: $________________________ per AU

____________________________________  ______________________
Signature                                      Date

Name:  _______________________________________

Address: _______________________________________

Phone #: ________________________________

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Dear Cooperator:

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Please make sure your bid sheet is submitted to the office before 3:30 PM on March 30, 2020; late bids cannot be accepted. Bids will be based on price per animal unit for the approximate grazing dates provided in this packet; actual grazing fees will be calculated at the end of each grazing season and will reflect the actual stocking rate and number of grazing days.

Feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Thank you for your interest,

Erin Lentz
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
18965 County Hwy 82
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 736-0636 – Office
(218) 739-9534 – Fax
Erin_Lentz@fws.gov
Fergus Falls Wetland Management District
Schultz Lake Waterfowl Production Area

Legal Description: T 127 N, R 36 W; Orange Township, Parts of Sections 23, 26, 27, Otter Tail County, Minnesota

Unit Size: ~270 acres
- The unit will be broken into a minimum of 4 paddocks of varying size per year, and the grazing regime will be rotational grazing.

Habitat: Native warm season grasses/forbs, along with some invasive cool season grasses. **Wild parsnip is found throughout the WPA.**

Grazing Period: May – September 2020 – 2022
- Grazing dates are approximate and will be based on weather and habitat conditions.

Stocking rate: 51 AUs (0.2 AU/acre)
- Grazing rates are dependent upon habitat conditions.

Animal Unit (AU) Equivalents:
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  - Cooperator must provide all other labor, materials, and fencing equipment, including a power source for all electric fence.
- The cooperator will be required to rotate cattle through 4 cells per grazing season (May – September each year) during the 3 year agreement.
- The cooperator is responsible for the maintenance of the fence for the duration of the agreement, as well as the removal of the fence once the grazing agreement has been satisfied.

Bids will be based on price per AU.
- **Make sure to factor in materials, labor for fencing, and supplemental watering needs in your final bid. Selected permittee will be required to provide their Social Security Number.**
## Schultz Lake WPA Grazing - 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>WPA 1</th>
<th>WPA 2</th>
<th>WPA 3</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>mid-May to mid-June</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Days of Grazing</strong></td>
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## Schultz Lake WPA Grazing - 2021

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<th>Days</th>
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16. No subleasing of any grazing rights is allowed without written approval of the District.

17. All equipment, including ATVs, UTVs, and horses used to gather, inspect livestock, or facilitate fencing must be clean and free of invasive species plant material, including seeds, before entering on to WPAs. The District Manager reserves the right to inspect and deny the use of any equipment.

18. Final fee is based on actual use. Cooperator will record and report actual use and will keep Wetland Management District staff informed of details by regular phone or email contact.

19. Any payment owed to the District is due at the end of each year of the Permit; payable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 18965 Co Hwy 82, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

20. Any credit on the grazing agreement expires at the end of the Special Use Permit. The District does not pay out any remaining credit.

21. Noncompliance with any of the conditions in this Special Use Permit could result in an immediate revocation of the permit by District staff. Should this permit be revoked, there will be NO refunding of any unused portion of this permit. Revocation of the Special Use Permit will result in forfeiture of any future grazing opportunity on Fergus Falls WMD land.
**Grazing Unit Name:** Schultz Lake Waterfowl Production Area

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

I have read and I will comply with all the Special Use Conditions listed on the Grazing Unit Requirements.

I agree that I am responsible for maintaining all fencing for this grazing unit.

I agree to provide the necessary materials and labor to install all electric fence, and I agree to supply a power source for all electric fence.

I agree to maintain all electric boundary fence and maintain all interior paddock fencing.

I agree to provide paddock fencing for a rotational grazing system. I agree to move cattle from paddock to paddock when desired habitat conditions are met; this will be determined by District Staff.

I agree that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the right to modify or terminate the permit if habitat conditions warrant.

**Sealed bids are due to the District Office by 3:30 PM on March 30, 2020.**

Fergus Falls Wetland Management District
18965 County Highway 82
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-736-0636

NOTE: Bids are based on price per AU not per acre.

**Animal Unit (AU) Equivalents:**
- Mature cow – 1.00
- Cow-calf pair – 1.20
- Yearling – 0.70 (9-18 months)
- Weaner calf – 0.50
- Bull – 1.50

Grazing Bid: $________________________ per AU

__________________________  ____________________________
Signature                     Date

Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________
Phone #: ______________________________

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to reject any or all bids.