

# News Release



DISTRICT NAME: Litchfield Wetland Management District

**DISTRICT CONTACT: Trina Staloch, 22274 615<sup>th</sup> Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355,  
Trina\_Staloch@fws.gov, (320) 693-2849 Ext. 103**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 1, 2016

### **Contact:**

Trina Staloch, Deputy Project Leader

### **Haying Bids Accepted for management purposes on federal Waterfowl Production Areas**

The Litchfield Wetland Management District (District) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is accepting bids until June 15, 2016 to remove one cutting of grass hay after August 1, 2016 on several Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs).

District staff manage the WPAs to provide habitat for wetland and grassland dependent migratory birds, mainly waterfowl. Grasslands are managed through the use of prescribed fire, grazing and haying. When using haying as a management tool, cutting after August 1 allows for ground nesting birds to fledge their young. Hay will be cut from fifteen different WPAs located among Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Todd, Stearns and Wright counties. Units to be hayed range from 20 to 62 acres in size. Haying privileges by WPA will be awarded to the highest bidder.

For more information or to request a bid package contact Trina Staloch, Beverly Meyer or Cody Okeson at (320) 693-2849.



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Litchfield Wetland Management District  
22274 615 Avenue  
Litchfield, MN 55355  
May 11, 2016**

Dear Potential Haying Cooperator,

The Litchfield Wetland Management District is utilizing the bid process to encourage cooperators to take one cutting of native hay from federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) after August 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016, unless otherwise noted. This year, there will be twelve WPAs offered.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is increasingly utilizing hay cutting as an optional tool in our grassland management toolbox. One of the main reasons for haying the federal WPAs is to keep the rapidly disappearing grassland habitat from being invaded by woody tree and brush species. Most of the grasslands offered this year will have woody species that will be easily mowed and baled. Many will have small trees that will need to be cut at ground level and removed from the hay field by the cooperator, either before or after baling, as a part of the bid.

The following narrative contains information on haying areas on each WPA:

**Miller Lake WPA** located in northwest Meeker County about 5 miles north of Grove City in section 9 of Swede Grove Township. There are about 15 acres of hay consisting switchgrass, bluestem, indiangrass, side oats, and a variety of other species.

**Phasianus WPA, NE Urban tract** located in central McLeod County about one mile south of Biscay in the center of section 35 of Hassan Valley Township. There are about 44 acres of hay. At least 10 different species of native prairie grasses and 50+ wildflowers were seeded in 2008 and 2010, respectively. The unit was last hayed in 2013.

**Boon Lake WPA** is located in northeast Renville County about 10 miles west of Hutchinson in north central portion of extended section 18 of Boon Lake Township. There are about 40 acres of hay. Over 65 species of grasses and flowers were planted in 2011. The unit was last hayed in 2013.

**Tyrone Flats WPA** is located in northern Meeker County about 3.5 miles south of Eden Valley along the east side of highway 22 in section 23 of Manannah Township. There are about 45 acres of hay. A mix of warm and cool season grasses. The unit was mowed 2 years ago and sprayed last year to control cotton wood seedlings. Several of the seedlings were 1 inch diameter so there may be some woody debris across the unit. A pre-site inspection is recommended to determine if unit is suitable for your equipment.

**Padua WPA** is located in north western Stearns County about 3 miles northwest of Padua in Sections 16, 17, and 18 of Raymond Township. The area to be hayed is in Section 18. There are approximately 40 acres of hay. At least 5 different species of native prairie grasses were seeded.

**Prairie Storm WPA** is located in northwest Stearns County about 3 miles west of Padua in Sections 19, 20, and 29 of Raymond Township. The area to be hayed is in Section 20. There are approximately 47 acres of hay. At least 5 different species of native prairie grasses and 20 + different species of forbs were planted.

**Ashley WPA** is located in northwestern Stearns County about 10 miles west, southwest of Sauk Centre in Sections 29, 30 and 32 of Ashley Township. The area to be hayed is Section 30. There are approximately 57 acres of hay. A mix of warm and cool season grasses.

**Rice Lake WPA** is located in southeast Stearns County about 5 miles west, northwest of Eden Valley in Section 20 of Eden Lake Township. There are approximately 32 acres of hay. The area to be hayed is primarily brome. The time frame to complete cutting, baling and removal of bales is July 15 to August 5.

**Bur Oak Lake WPA** is located in central Kandiyohi County about 2 ½ miles northwest of Kandiyohi in Sections 28 and 33 of Green Lake Township. The area to be hayed is in Section 33. There are approximately 33 acres of hay. At least 10 different species of native prairie grasses and 50+ wildflowers were seeded in 2011. The cooperator will hay two swaths around the perimeter of the fields as shown on map.

**Big Kandiyohi Lake WPA—Coil Tract** is located in southeast Kandiyohi County about 4 ½ miles northeast of Blomkest or 4 ½ miles northwest of Lake Lillian in Sections 2, 3, 4, 10 of Lake Lillian Township and Section 33 of Fahlun Township. The area to be hayed is in Section 4. There are approximately 31 acres of hay. At least 10 different species of native prairie grasses and 50+ wildflowers were seeded in 2010.

**Randall WPA—PF (Leaf) Tract** is located in northwest Kandiyohi County about 4 miles north, northeast of Sunburg in Sections 4, 5, 9 and 16 of Norway Lake Township. The area to be hayed is in Sections 4 and 5. There are approximately 65 acres of hay. At least 15 different species of native prairie grasses and 50 + wildflowers were seeded in 2014. This new seeding has a high concentration of sweet clover. The time frame to start cutting is July 1.

**West Union WPA** is located in southwestern Todd County about 2 miles west of West Union in Sections 18 and 19 of West Union Township. The area to be hayed is in Section 18. There are approximately 44 acres of hay. A mix of warm and cool season grasses.

Maps of the above WPAs may be found on the Litchfield WMD website at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/litchfield\\_wmd](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/litchfield_wmd) under the Maps link. A copy of the General Haying Special Conditions is attached.

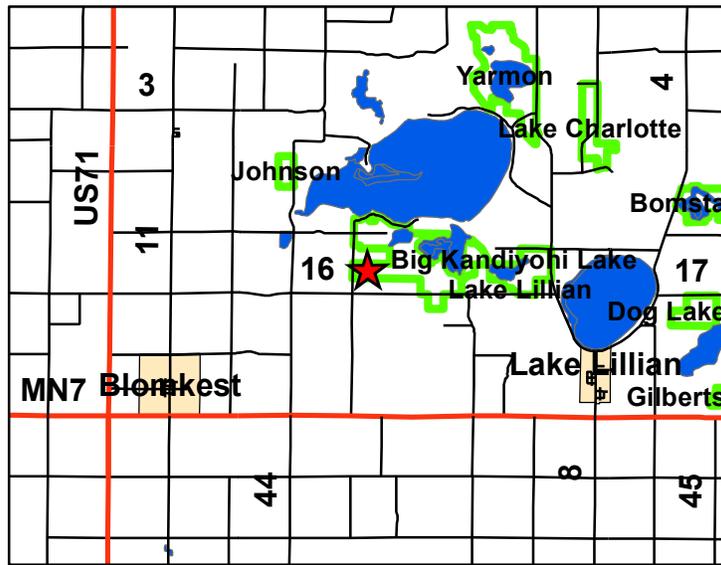
If you are, or if someone you know is, interested in receiving a bid package for the hay on any of the above WPAs, or if you have any questions, call (320) 693-2849 Cody Okeson, extension 104 (Wright, McLeod, Renville and Meeker Counties) or Beverly Meyer at extension 106 (Stearns, Kandiyohi and Todd Counties). **The deadline for submitting bids is June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

Sincerely,

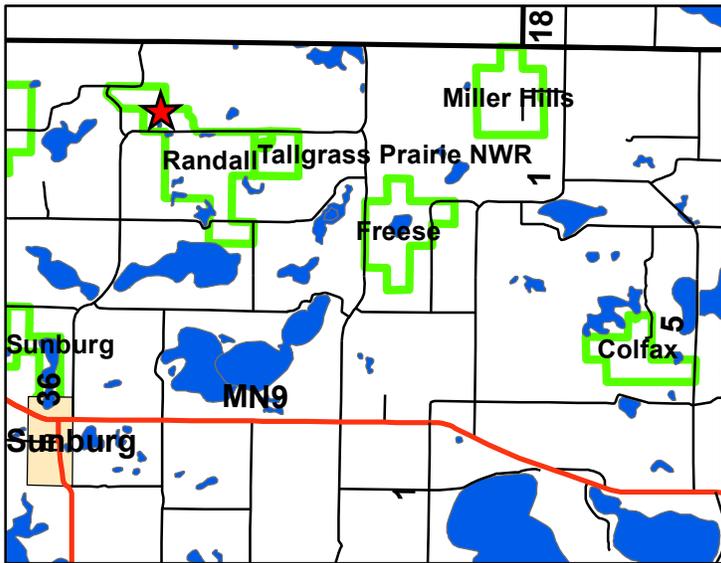
Beverly Meyer  
Wildlife Refuge Spct

Cody Okeson  
Wildlife Refuge Spct

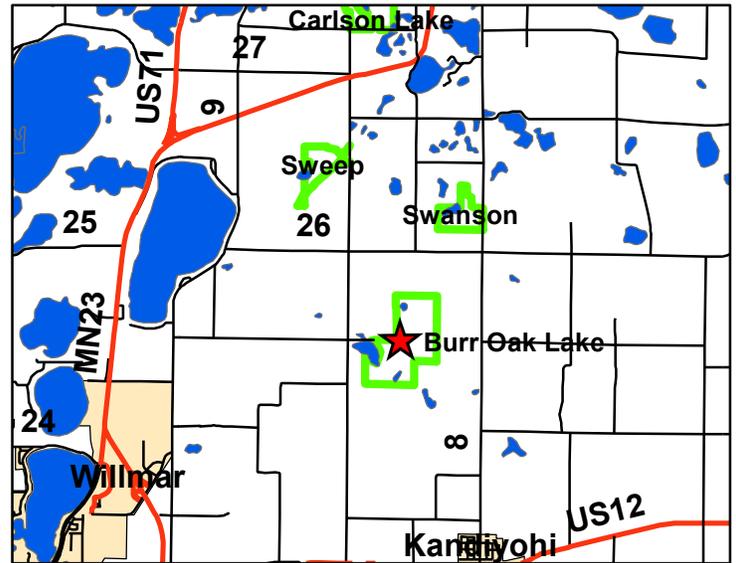
Kandiyohi County-Big Kandiyohi Lake WPA Coil Tract ★



Kandiyohi County- Randall WPA Leaf Tract ★



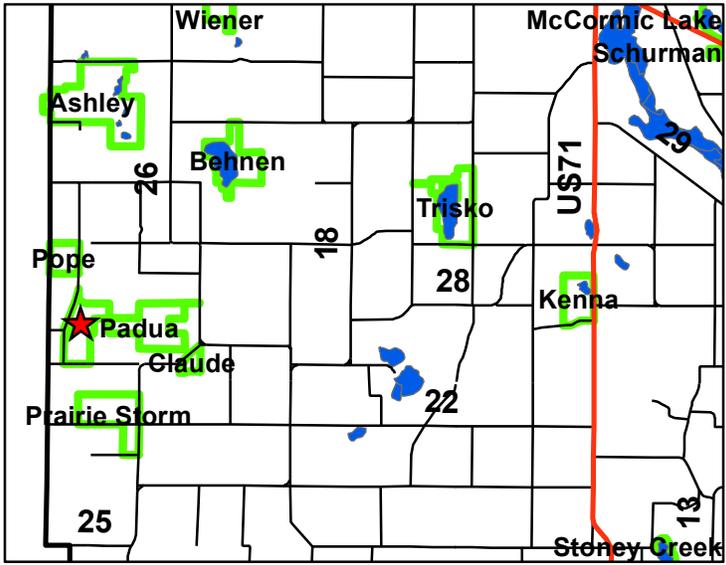
Kandiyohi County- Bur Oak Lake WPA ★



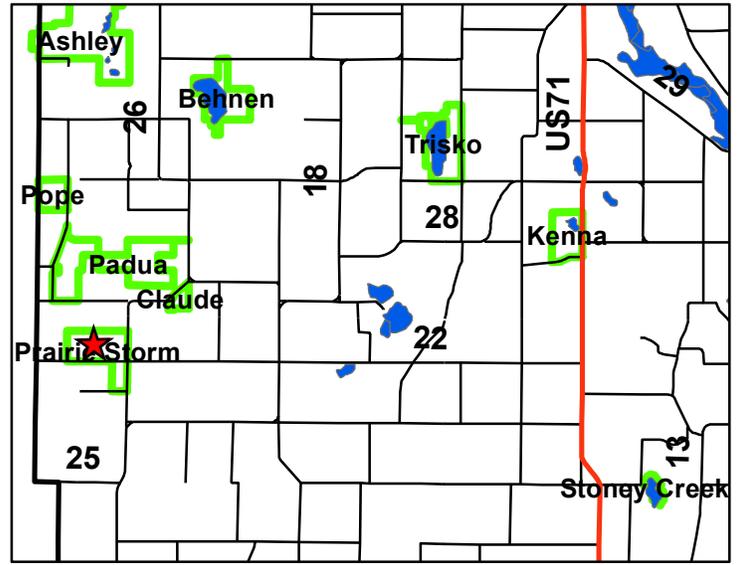
Todd County- West Union WPA ★



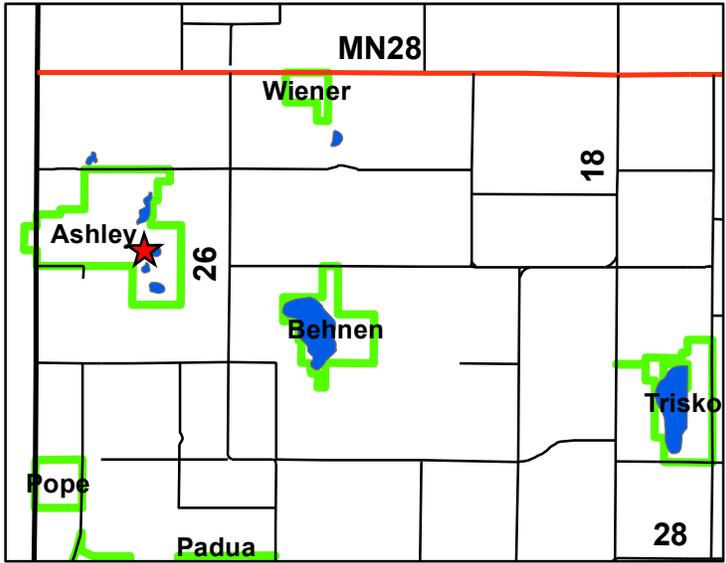
Stearns County- Padua WPA ★



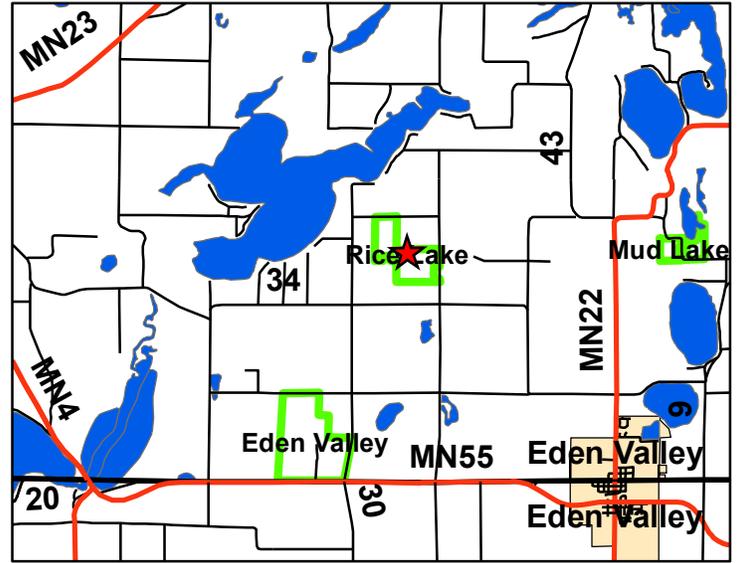
Stearns County- Prairie Storm WPA ★



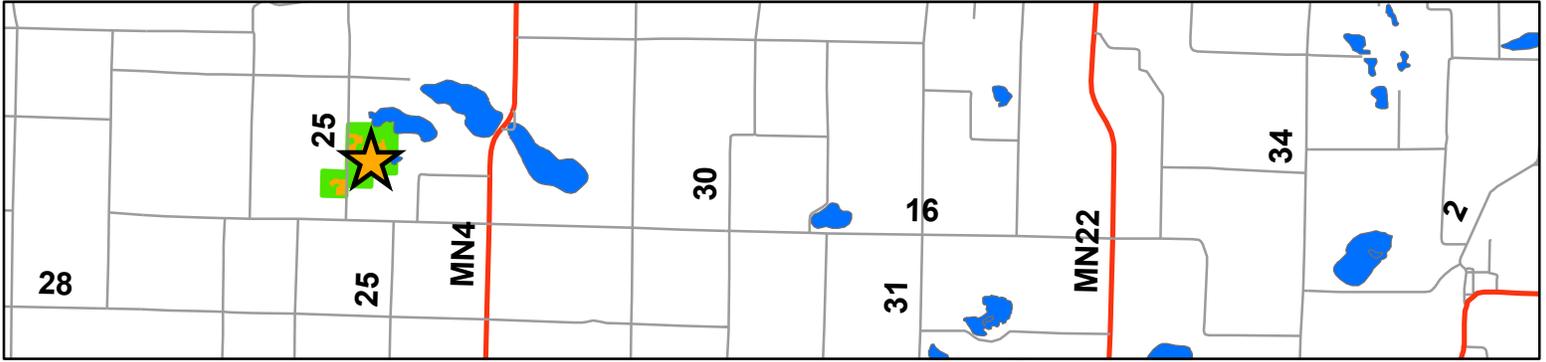
Stearns County- Ashley WPA ★



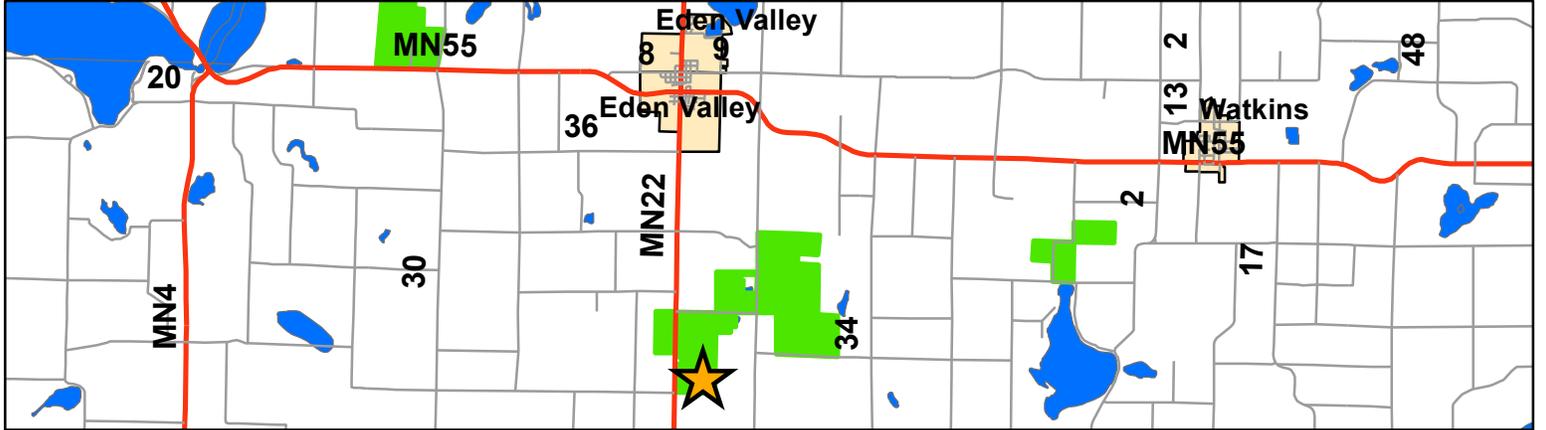
Stearns County- Rice Lake WPA ★



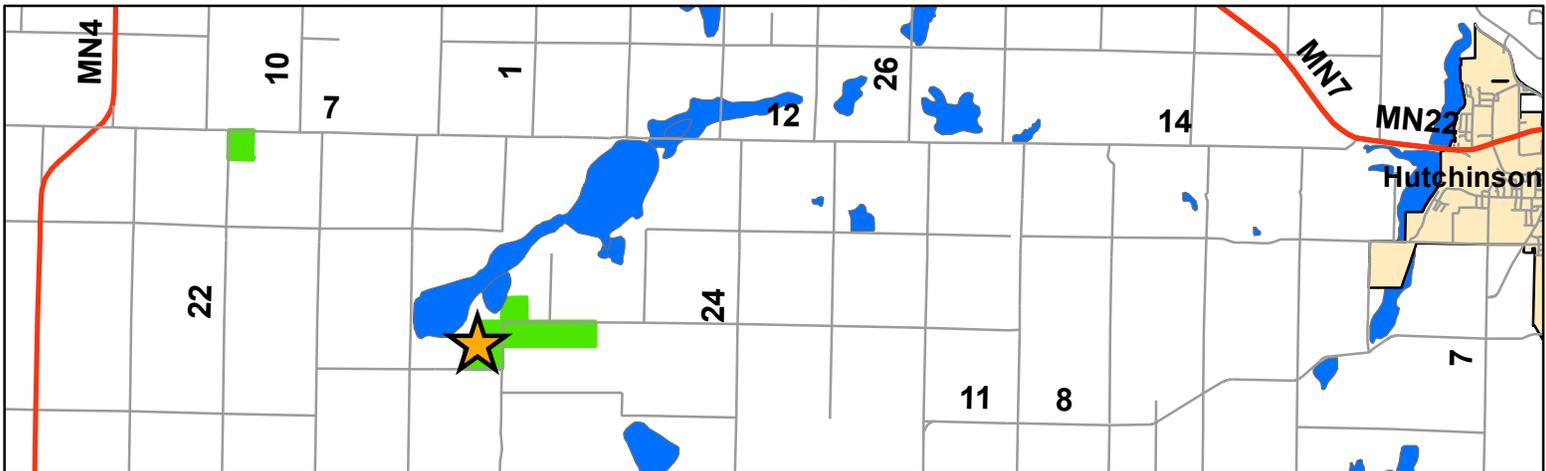
Meeker County - Miller Lake WPA ★



Meeker County - Tyrone Flats WPA ★



Renville County - Boon Lake WPA ★



McLeod County - Phasianus WPA ★

