

# NOTICE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting public comments for a new proposed use. SRT Communications has proposed to install a fiber optics line that will replace existing and outdated telecommunication lines. A portion of this route would cross J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge.

The proposed work locations include:

T159N R77W Section 9 SE1/4; T159N R77W Section 8 S1/2; T159N R77W Section 18; T159N R77W Section 13 S1/2; T159N R77W Section 13 S1/2; T159N R77W Section 14 S1/2; T159N R78W Section 10 (Headquarters Area); T160 R78W Section 30 NW1/4 and T160N R78W Section 19 SW1/4 (see attached maps). The proposed work areas will be the following portions of the Refuge: Following the Upham – Willow City Road (81<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE/82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE) on the north side of the road in the existing right of way; the Refuge Headquarters area and following 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW (Tacoma Township) on the east side of the road in the existing right of way (see attached maps).

The proposed work is as follows:

Lines will be installed in the existing road right of way and/or areas where the replaced telecommunication lines currently exist.

Mainline construction will be done with a plow train consisting of 2 CAT D6 or 7 LGP dozers and a vibrating plow that causes very little disturbance. Areas such as the headquarters complex will be done with a smaller RTX rubber tracked vibratory plow. Areas that are impossible to plow, such as the river channel and roads/highways will be bored. SRT Communications will reshape and reseed any areas that are in need of restoration after cable placement.

The Upham-Willow City Road and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW sections will be plowed into the existing right of way to a depth of 36-48” below grade.

The Refuge Headquarters section will be plowed in to a depth of 18-24” following existing roads and across small portions of building lots.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use:

There will be minor and temporary impacts to vegetation and wildlife use in the areas during the period of construction which will take place during spring/summer of 2015. It is also anticipated there will be no impact to listed species from the action. There are no anticipated long-term negative impacts of for this project. Positive long-term impacts include updated telecommunication service to the Refuge and surrounding area.

This notice will be posted at the J. Clark Salyer NWR headquarters from April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 through April 11<sup>th</sup> 2015. A copy of the draft Compatibility Determination and associated maps is available upon request. People wishing to provide comments can do so by close of business on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 by submitting them in writing to Att: Project Leader, J. Clark Salyer NWR, 681 Salyer Road, Upham, ND 58789, or at the refuge office located at this same address. For more information, contact Frank Durbian, Project Leader, 701-768-2548 x113.