



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Big Stone Wetland Management District
44843 County Road 19
Odessa, Minnesota 56276



Date: 24 June 2024

To: Interested Hayers

Subject: 2024 District Hay Units

Big Stone Wetland Management District will be allowing hay cutting on Arends, Gislason Lake, and Peterson Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) this year.

Hay units are as follows:

Arends WPA (124 acres) is a mix of cool and native warm season grasses and forbs. The hay unit is on the south side of the WPA and can be accessed via a locked gate in the southwest corner. The north boundary is defined by ownership and land use corner points.

Gislason Lake WPA (18 acres) is dominated by smooth brome grass interspersed with sweet clover. Access is via an approach on the southeast corner of the unit. The bulk of the unit is defined by wetlands and a creek on the north, northwest, and southwest of the unit. Hay may be cut along the eastern fence heading north from the approach to access the main unit.

Peterson WPA (93 acres) is a mix of cool and native warm season grasses and forbs with a strong component of sweet clover. The hay unit is on the south side of the unit and bounded by wetland on the north and east sides. Access is via an approach along State Hwy 91 on the west side of the unit.

Haying on all units is being conducted in an effort to knock down dense stands of sweet clover, slow the spread of trees, and to add habitat heterogeneity on the landscape.

***All acreages are approximate and may be less due to terrain or tree stands. Care should be taken to avoid rutting in wet areas – hayers will be held responsible for excessive damage due to unfavorable soil conditions.**

Haying can begin on July 15th, 2024, after a Special Use Permit is issued and signed by both the hayer and the District manager. Bales must be removed by August 15th, 2024 and within 7 days after baling. Wetlands can be hayed if they are dry enough to get equipment into the area without rutting the ground. Prior to bidding, a site visit is STRONGLY encouraged. Cooperators are responsible for following all terms and conditions identified in the special use permit.

Permittees will be selected based on receipt of sealed high bid for the hay unit. Sealed bids are due at the District office **no later than 12 pm (noon) on July 10th, 2024.**

Please contact Biologist Brandon Semel at (320) 808-9470 or brandon_semel@fws.gov if you have any questions about the units or bidding process.

Sincerely,

Mike Budd
Project Leader

2024 Haying Permit Special Conditions

Permit # 32641-24-

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to modify the timing of haying or terminate the SUP if habitat conditions warrant.
2. All equipment for haying, including ATVs and UTVs, must be clean and free of invasive species plant material, including seeds, before entering any Refuge, WPA, or Service easement. The Refuge Manager reserves the right to inspect and deny the use of any equipment/vehicle etc. that appears to contain invasive species plant material or seeds.
3. Haying outside the boundary of the successfully bid upon unit is not permitted and subject to penalties and fines.
4. One cutting of hay is permitted starting July 15th, 2024.
5. The entire unit must be cut, baled, and removed. This includes all woody vegetation. Vegetation that is cut must be removed from the unit.
6. Bales must be removed from the unit within one week (7 days) after baling, but no later than August 15th, 2024.
7. Permittee assumes all liability for damages occurring due to haying operations including damage to refuge lands and facilities.
8. Any deviations from the special conditions must be approved by the Refuge Manager and designee in advance.
9. Payment is due upon receipt of invoice.
10. Failure to comply with special conditions may result in the forfeiture of future haying privileges and future consideration for bidding on any Refuge programs.

Permittee signature

Date



BID SHEET
National Wildlife Refuge System



Big Stone Wetland Management District
44843 County Road 19
Odessa, MN 56276

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name (Proposal Submitter): _____

Partner Name (if applicable): _____

Name of Business or Farm: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Tax ID #: _____ Phone Number: _____ Work Cell

E-mail Address: _____

Successful bidders will be required to provide their Social Security Number at the time the permit is issued. Before a permit is issued, the successful bidder will be required to visit the site with Refuge staff.

BID INFORMATION:

Write your bid amount for the corresponding Unit(s) in the space(s) provided below. If you are not bidding on a particular unit, leave that space blank or write N/A.

Please note, bids are to be based on the individual units, not by the ton or per acre basis. Haying can begin on July 15th, 2024, after a Special Use Permit is issued and signed by both the hayer and the District manager. All bales must be removed by September 15th, 2024 and within 7 days of baling.

Arends Bid: _____ *Gislason Lake Bid:* _____ *Peterson Bid:* _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Sealed bids must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday, July 10th, 2024. Please scan and email your bid to brandon_semel@fws.gov or drop off to bid box in front of main office:

Big Stone Wetland Management District
44843 County Road 19
Odessa, MN 56276
320-273-2191 Office

I have read and, if selected, agree to the permit conditions listed in the bid package. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

NOTICES

All information you provide will be considered in reviewing this application. False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations made in the application may be grounds for revocation of the permit and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001).

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authority: The information requested is authorized by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee) and the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4).

Purpose: To collect the applicant's information to process permits allowing for commercial activities such as: guiding hunters, anglers or other outdoor users; commercial filming; agriculture; rental of cabins and trapping while on the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Routine Uses: The information will be used by the refuge's administrative office for processing Commercial Activity Special Use permits. More information about the routine uses maybe found in the Systems of Records Notice, FWS-5 National Wildlife Refuge Special Use Permits.

Disclosure: Providing the information is voluntary. However, submission of information is required to process and approve commercial activity usage on the National Wildlife Refuge System.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT




We are collecting this information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501) to evaluate the qualifications, determine eligibility, and document permit applicants and to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974. The information that you provide is required to obtain or retain a benefit; however, failure to provide all required information is sufficient cause for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deny a permit. False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations made in the application may be grounds for revocation of the Special Use Permit and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001). According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has approved this information collection and assigned control number 1018-0102.

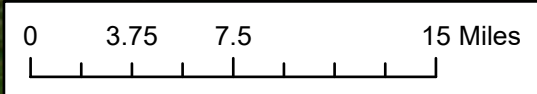
ESTIMATED BURDEN STATEMENT

The public reporting burden for this information collection varies based on the requested specific refuge use. We estimate the relevant public reporting burden for the Commercial Activity Special Use Permit Application form to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Service Information Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: AMAD-ARM-PPM, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or via email to Info_Coll@fws.gov. Please do not send your completed form to this address.

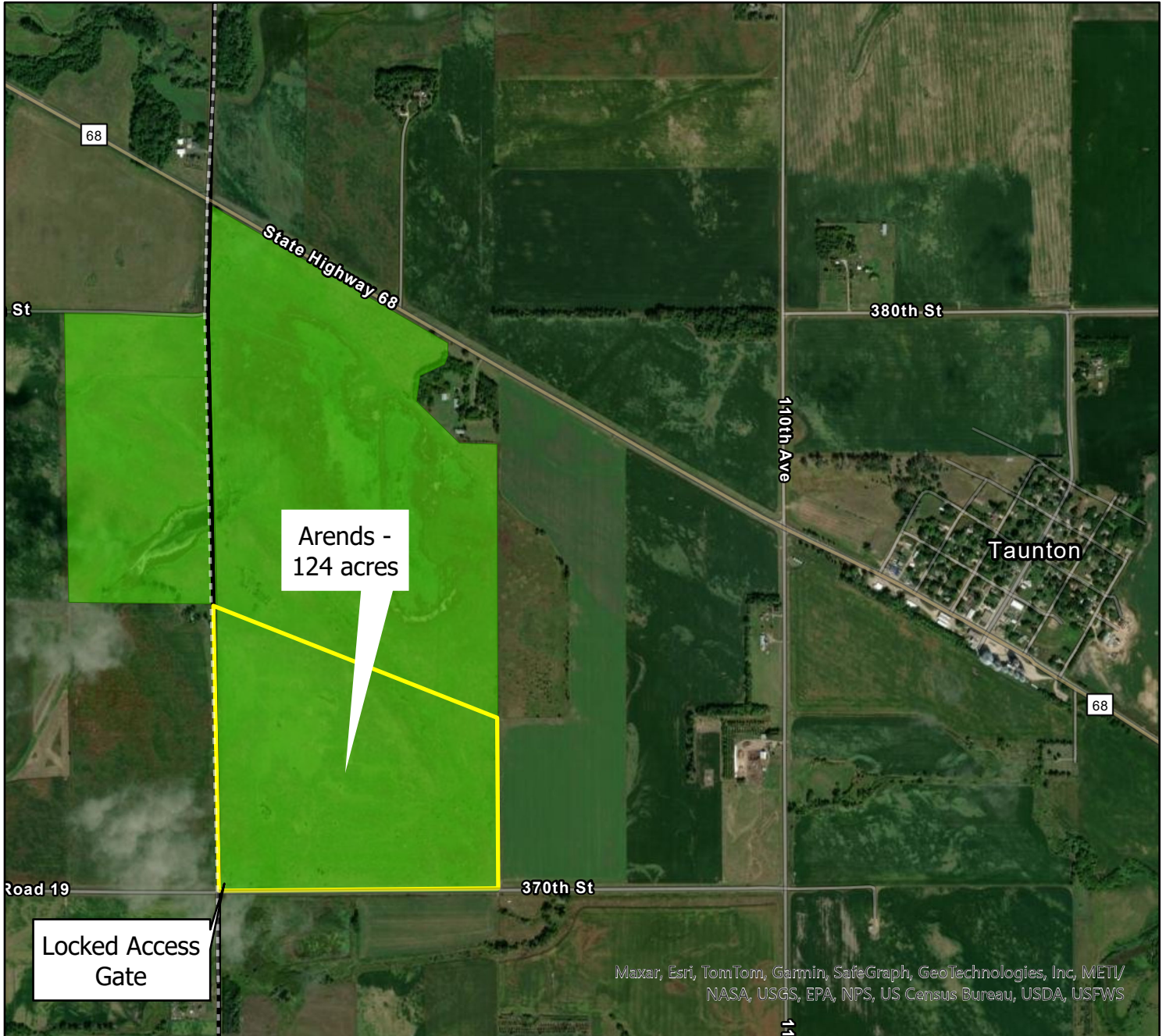
Haying on Big Stone Wetland Management District 2024



-  Big Stone WMD
-  WPAs
-  Haying Unit 2024



Hay Unit: Arends WPA ~124 acres Big Stone Wetland Management District

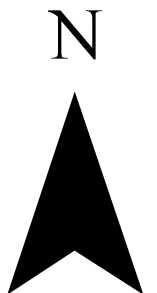


Legend

- WPAs
- Big Stone WMD
- Haying Unit 2024

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

T-113-N, R-43-W, Sec 18



Hay Unit: Gislason Lake WPA ~18 acres Big Stone Wetland Management District



Legend

- WPAs
- Big Stone WMD
- Haying Unit 2024

0 0.07 0.15 0.3 Miles

T-112-N, R-44-W, Sec 34

N



Hay Unit: Peterson WPA ~93 acres Big Stone Wetland Management District



Legend

- WPAs
- Big Stone WMD
- Haying Unit 2024

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Miles

T-109-N, R-42-W, Sec 30

