



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/IR05/IR07

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
681 Salyer Road
Upham, North Dakota 58789



Grazing Application

January 20, 2023

J Clark Salyer Wetland Management District
Upham, North Dakota



Applications Due:
March 3, 2023

Mail To:
US Fish and Wildlife Service
J Clark Salyer WMD
681 Salyer Road
Upham, ND 58789

Points of Contact:
John Takala - WMD Manager
john_takala@fws.gov
1-701-768-2548 x114



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January 20, 2023

Dear Applicant,

In 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established a new policy for awarding Cooperative Agricultural Agreements (CAAs). The new policy requires an open and competitive process for awarding CAAs.

In you are interested in applying for a CAA (grazing permit), you must return application(s) to J Clark Salyer NWR/WMD office by March 3, 2023. A separate application is required for each unit. Cooperators will be selected based on answers provided within the application. Applicants who receive the highest score for a particular unit will be awarded a Special Use Permit (SUP). Please be advised, falsifying information on the ranking application will result in forfeiture of the application.

SUPs will be valid for a period of up to 5 years without competition. Grazing rates and timing will be determined annually, although there may not be grazing allowed every year. Grazing rates and deductions will be determined similar to previous years, i.e. deductions are given for temporary fencing, fence repair, spraying noxious weeds, etc.

All applications must be returned to J Clark Salyer NWR/WMD by 3:30 pm on March 3, 2023 to be considered. Mail applications to 681 Salyer Rd., Upham, ND 58789 or email them to john_takala@fws.gov. Cooperators will be selected and notified by March 17, 2023.

Applications, units available and more information can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/j-clark-salyer-wetland-management-district>.

John Takala
District Manager
john_takala@fws.gov
Office: 701-768-2548, ext. 114



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2023 WPA Grazing Permit Conditions

Grazing on National Wildlife Refuge and Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) provide unique opportunities for a cooperative effort between ranchers and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the betterment of wildlife and their habitats while providing pasture for ranching operations. The cooperative agreements benefit both parties, but are only successful with strong partnerships, frequent communication, and quality documentation. This letter details expectations for grazing cooperators on the respective WPAs listed in this memo. These expectations for maintenance of fences and/or rotation and stocking rates are not all inclusive. Successful applicants are encouraged to communicate regularly with staff at J. Clark Salyer NWR to reach mutual goals and needs, and to alleviate any possible confusion.

Page 2 of this memo details which WPA's are open for applications for grazing from 2023-2027. Conditions of the permit vary by each WPA; however, selection criteria will remain uniform for all applicants regardless of their choice of WPA. Each applicant will be considered only for the WPA of their choice. If multiple locations are desired, a separate application will be required for each WPA. Only one applicant will be selected for each WPA. Selection criteria will be based on the following considerations:

1. Operational capacity and qualifications.
2. Proximity of operations
3. Experience with USFWS grazing operations on National Wildlife Refuges or Waterfowl Production areas, or other public conservation lands.
4. Understanding of grazing management practices focused on conservation.
5. Past Performance under USFWS cooperative agreements.



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J Clark Salyer WMD Waterfowl Production Areas Units with available Grazing Permits 2023-2027

County	WPA (Unit) Name	Township Location	Legal Description	Approximate Grazeable Acres
Bottineau	Boreson	Peabody	T162 R77 Section 23	127
McHenry	Freelander	Wagar	T157 R77 Section 31	103
McHenry	Mikes Peak	Granville	T155 R79 Sections 26, 27, & 28	491
McHenry	Heer WPA	Anamoose	T151 R75 Section 29	91
Pierce	Bullrush	Rosedale	T153 R73 Section 25	112
Pierce	Christenson Lake	Christenson	T156 R73 Section 7, 8, 17 & 18	184
Pierce	Herd Lake	Spring Lake	T158 R72 Section 15, 21, & 22	233
Rolette	Armstrong	Leonard	T160 R71 Section 23 & 24	160
Rolette	Elbow Lake	Rice	T159 R71 Section 33	133



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Rolette	Ghost Valley	Finnegan	T159 R72 Section 34, 35 & 36	605
Rolette	Beaver	Wolf Creek	T160 R72 Section 22	36

**** See attached Maps and Permit Conditions for each Unit**

General Expectations:

All grazing operations, regardless of WPA, are expected to provide general upkeep of the WPA grounds, to include fence and gate maintenance, cleanliness, and adequate containment of animals to prevent escape. This may require construction of new barbed wire fence and/or installation of temporary electric wire. Any materials required will be provided by FWS or may be reimbursed through deductions from the grazing bill. For larger fencing projects, deductions can be spread out over the 5 year permit period. Prior coordination with the Refuge Manager is required. Labor and chemical materials used for control of noxious and troublesome weeds may also be deducted from the grazing bills. Successful applicants are also expected to abide by the prescribed grazing rotation and number of animal units as prescribed annually.

Specific site expectations:

Boreson WPA:

The grazing pastures for Boreson WPA are located in west central Bottineau County; approximately 7 miles west of Bottineau and 1.5 miles north of Hwy 5. It contains approximately 127 acres of pasture. Stocking rate will be approximately 60 Animal Units (AU) for 51 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing. The west fence sits rather low and requires maintenance to raise the wire enough to keep cattle inside the WPA. Temporary electric wire may be used until the fence can be repaired.

Frelander WPA:

Frelander is located approximately 11.5 miles west of Towner in central McHenry County. It contains approximately 103 acres of pasture. Stocking rate will be approximately 45 AU for 78 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing. Access is very limited from the north, utilizing a section line prairie trail and is subject to seasonal flooding.



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Mikes Peak WPA:

Mikes Peak is located approximately 3 miles south of Granville (1 mile south of Hwy 2) in central McHenry County. It contains approximately 491 acres of pasture. Stocking rate will be approximately 120 AU for 117 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing. This WPA has seen an increase in the presence of Absinth wormwood. Cooperator assistance with weed control is desired.

Heer WPA:

Located approximately 3 miles west of Anamoose in southern McHenry County. It has approximately 91 grazable acres. Maintenance/repair of existing barb-wire fence is required. New construction of approximately 4,300 feet of fence line along east and north boundary also required. Use of temporary electric wire may be used until fence is complete. Stocking rates will be approximately 42 AU for 60 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing.

Bullrush WPA:

Bullrush is located in southern Pierce County, approximately 2 miles west of County Road 3 and 1 mile north of County Road 19. Approximately 112 acres of pasture are available for grazing. Stocking rate will be approximately 36 AU for 86 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing.

Christenson Lake WPA:

Located 3 miles west of Rugby and 1 mile south of Hwy 2. 184 acres of pasture are available for grazing. Stocking rate will be approximately 52 AU for 98 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing. This WPA has no fencing except on the east side along the road. Construction of approximately 1.5 miles of barbed wire fence is desired; materials to be provided by USFWS and labor deducted from grazing bill. Leafy spurge is prevalent and cooperator assistance with weed control would be desired. Mowing of roadsides along entire WPA would be allowed and a deduction would be given annually.

Herd Lake WPA:

Located on County road 17 and 4 miles east of Hwy 3 (9 miles north of Rugby), there is approximately 233 grazable acres on this WPA. Stocking rate will be approximately 60 AU for 90 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing.

Armstrong WPA:

Located 3 miles east of Rolette, Armstrong is situated nicely along County Road 66, and houses



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approximately 160 acres of pasture. Stocking rate will be approximately 51 AU for 81 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing.

Elbow Lake WPA:

Elbow lake is located 8 miles south of Rolette and contains approximately 133 acres of pasture. Stocking rate will be approximately 51 AU for 73 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing. This WPA has no permanent fencing, construction of up to approximately 1.8 miles of barbed wire fence could be completed by cooperator; materials to be provided by USFWS and labor deducted from grazing bill. The use of electric fence would be allowed if new barbed wire fence is not feasible.

Ghost Valley WPA:

Located 7 miles east of County Road 3 and 1 mile north of County Road 17, Ghost valley contains approximately 605 acres of pasture. Stocking rate will be approximately 117 AU for 113 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing. The west portion of the WPA is separated from the rest of the WPA but is accessible by a section line.

Beaver WPA:

Located approximately 5 miles west of Rolette on County Road 66, this WPA houses only 36 acres of pasture. Stocking rate will be approximately 25 AU for 36 days, subject to condition of vegetation and typically will use a twice-over rotation between applicable pastures designated for grazing. Fences are in fair condition except where they pass through cattails. The east side has no fence and will require new construction of approximately 0.25 miles of barbed wire fence; materials to be provided by USFWS and labor deducted from grazing bill.

For additional information or questions please contact John Takala, Wetland District Manager, at john_takala@fws.gov or by phone at 701-768-2548 ext. 114.



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Fees

Fees for grazing will be adjusted annually, based on the average grazing fee rates published in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) annual publication of Agricultural Prices. If the district unit is below the base rate for grazing, we will increase the yearly fee by \$1.00/Animal Unit Month (AUM) per year until the base rate is reached. Once the USDA base rate is reached, the rate will then be based on the USDA's annual rate reported. If the base rate goes below the current rate, the reduced rate will be matched.

J. Clark Salyer WMD has adopted the definition of an AU and AUM referenced in the "Study of Fees for Grazing Livestock on Federal lands, A Report from The Secretary of the Interior and The Secretary of Agriculture, dated October 21, 1977." An AU, as defined by the Society for Range Management, is "...one cow of about 1,000 pounds. Thus, one cow on the range for 1 month is an AUM. If livestock other than cattle are used for grazing, or different aged calves or bulls are grazed, the following conversion factors will be used to calculate grazing fees.

Class of animal	Factor
Yearling (9-18 months)	0.70
Weaner Calf	0.50
Cow	1.00
Cow/Calf Pair	1.20
Bull	1.50
Mature Sheep or goat	0.20
Ewe w/lamb or nanny w/kid	0.30
Horse or mule	1.20
Bison	1.00

Cost-sharing and deductions

Materials for habitat improvement (such as fence maintenance/construction or herbicides may be provided by J. Clark Salyer WMD. Alternatively, the cost of materials may be reimbursed to the cooperator through deductions in grazing fees. Receipts must be provided at years end to request deductions for materials. Materials provided by USFWS is the preferred method for improvements on refuge lands.

Approved standard deductions are as follows:

Barbed Wire Fence

*Barbed Wire Fence Maintenance \$0.03/FT X _____ Feet

**New Construction (3 Strand) \$0.70/FT X _____ Feet



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**New Construction (4 Strand)	\$0.80/FT	X	_____	Feet
***Old Barbed Wire Fence Removal	\$0.20/FT	X	_____	Feet

*Barbed Wire fencing materials will be supplied by the WMD for fence construction and repairs (Barbed Wire, Wire Clips, Steel T Posts and Wood Posts).

**New Fence Construction prices vary dependent on terrain. The prices will be higher on rough and/or rolling topography.

***Old Fence Removal prices vary dependent on terrain and old fence condition.

Electric Fence

Install & Remove (District Materials)	\$0.05/FT	X	_____	Feet
Install & Remove (Cooperator Materials)	\$0.07/FT	X	_____	Feet
Water Gap Fencing	\$0.30/FT	X	_____	Feet
Water Hauling	\$15/Day	# of Days	Water Hauled	_____
Livestock Moves	\$25/Move	# of Livestock	Moves	_____

Other deductions may be approved by the District Manager dependent on unit work needs.

Other Considerations

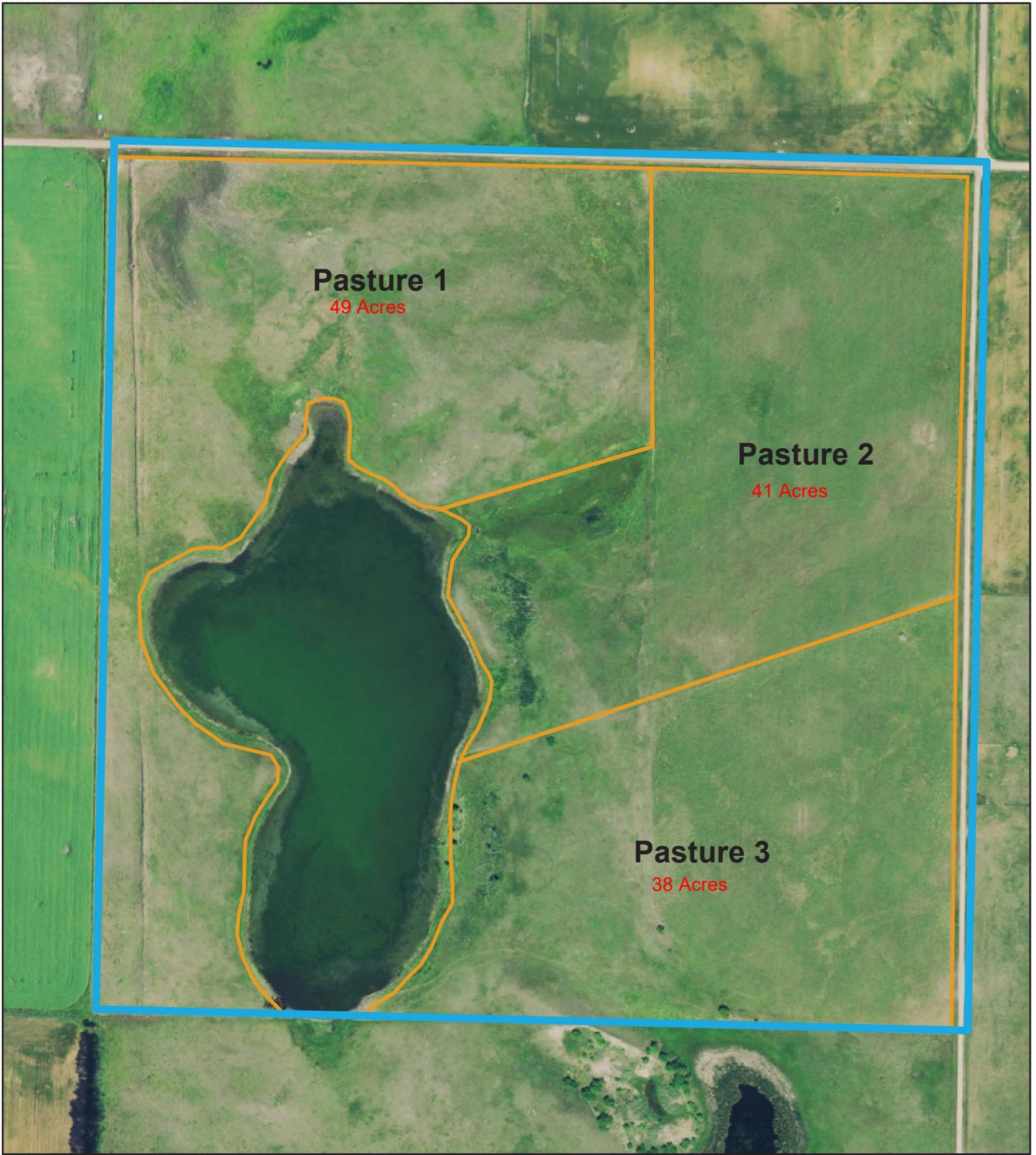
Occasionally there are conditions which may impact timelines and/or operations. These may include, but are not limited to drought, prescribed fire, wildfire, habitat conditions (such as flooding or poor vegetation production), other habitat management actions, or unforeseeable emergencies which may require modifications to stocking rates, grazing rotations, or timelines for starting and/or removing cattle. These considerations should be communicated between both parties wherever possible and in the most expedient manner possible.

Selection criteria

The Selection Committee will evaluate proposals based on a competitive ranking using the following criteria (listed in no specific order):

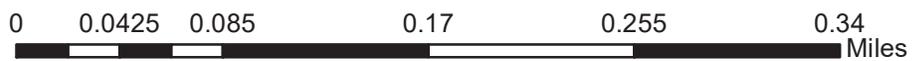
1. Operational capacity and qualifications.
2. Proximity of operations
3. Experience with USFWS grazing operations on National Wildlife Refuges or Waterfowl Production areas, or other public conservation lands.
4. Understanding of grazing management practices focused on conservation.
5. Past Performance under USFWS cooperative agreements.

2023 Boreson WPA Grazing Units Bottineau County

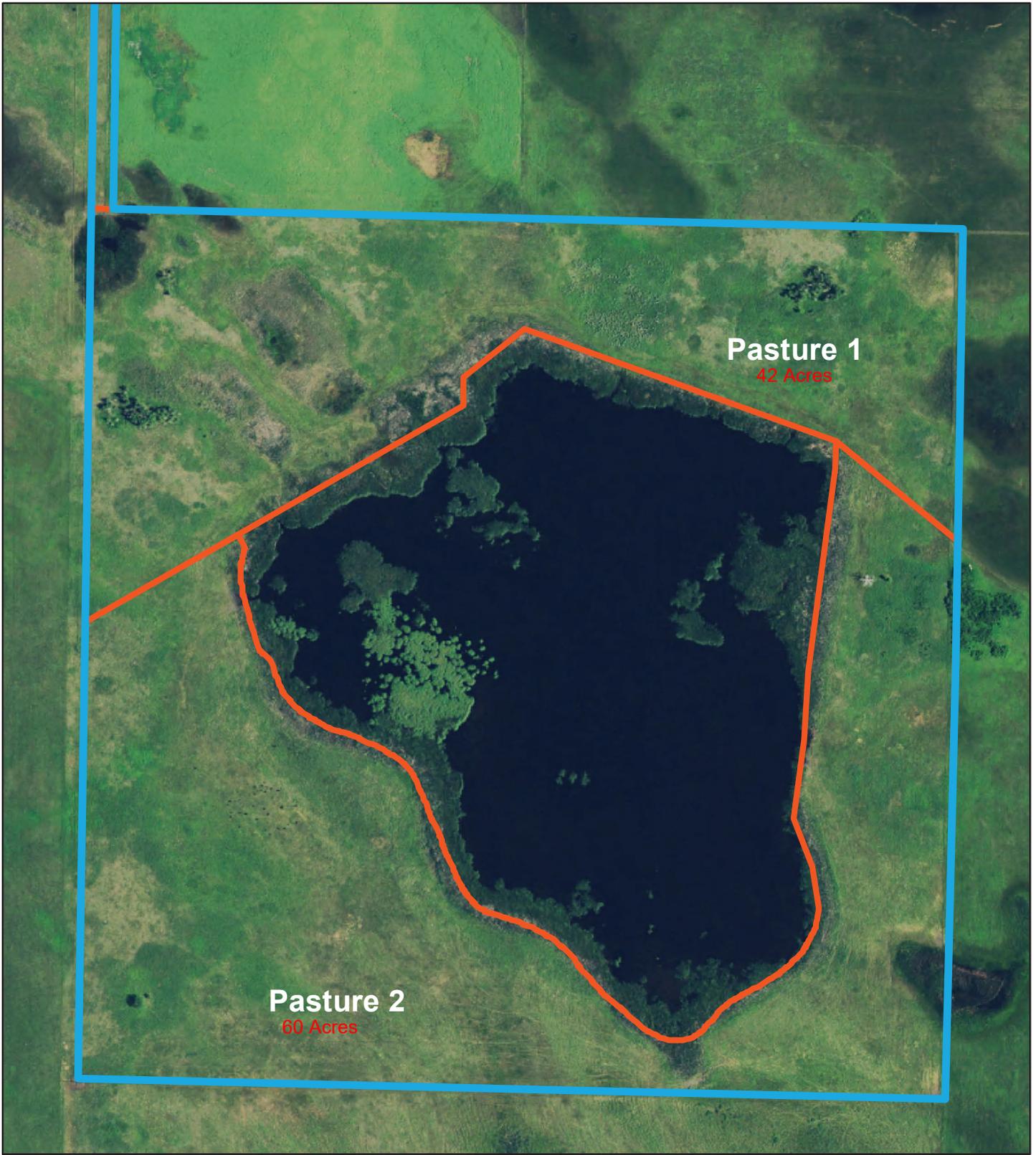


Legend

-  WPA Boundary
-  Grazing Units



2023 Freelanders WPA Grazing Units McHenry County



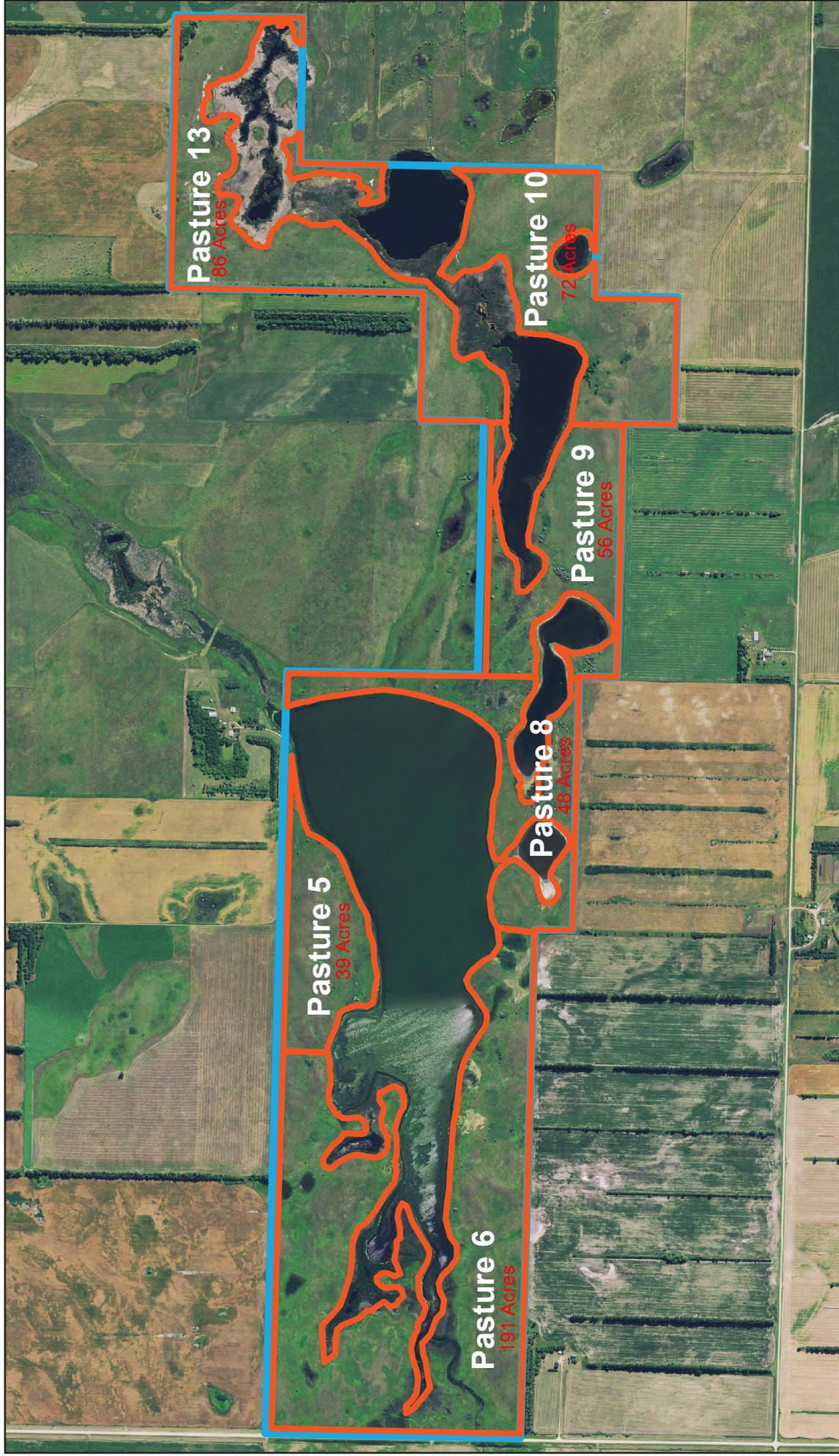
Legend

-  WPA Boundary
-  Grazing Units

0 0.0425 0.085 0.17 0.255 0.34 Miles



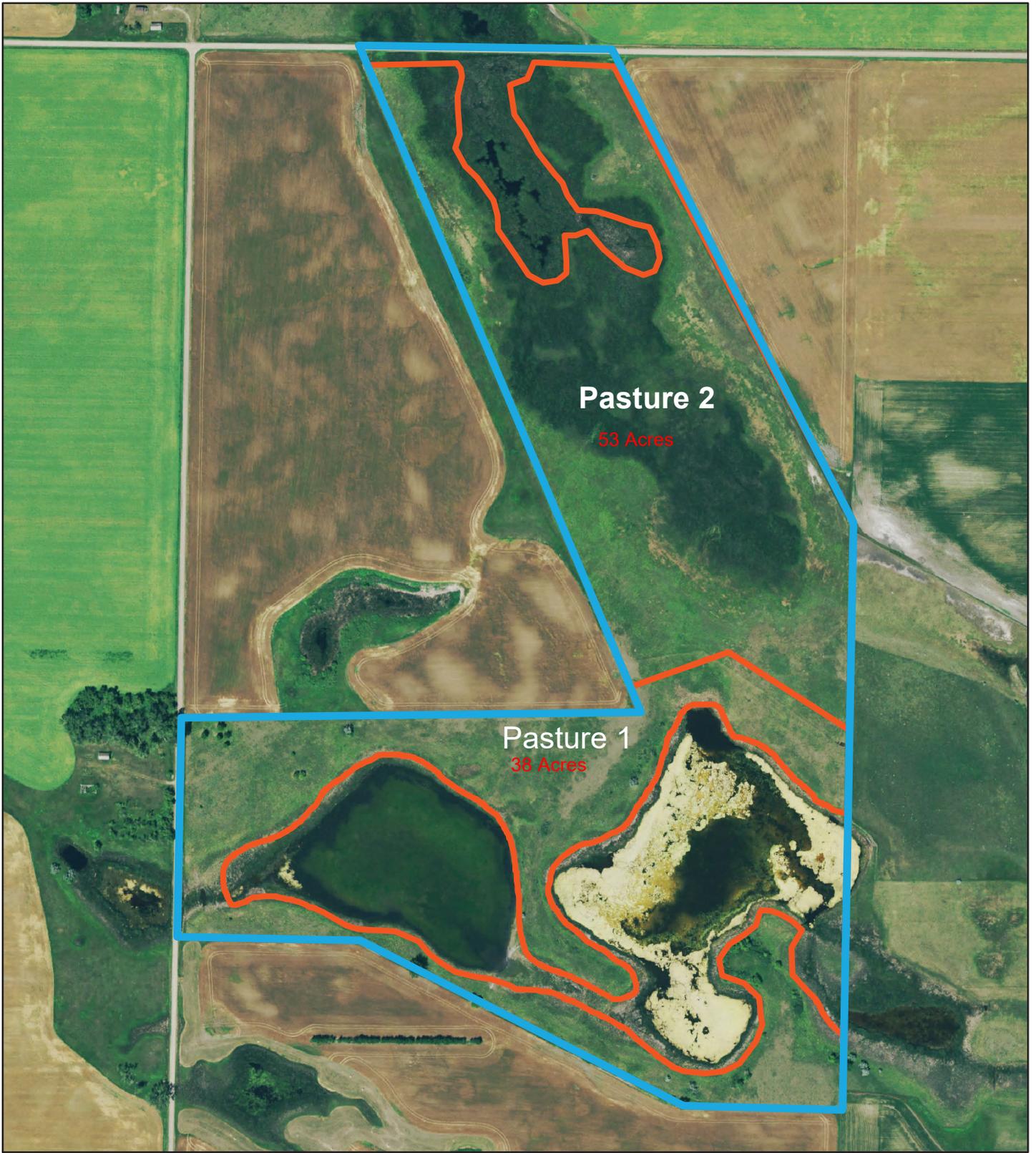
2023 Mikes Peak WPA Grazing Units McHenry County



Legend

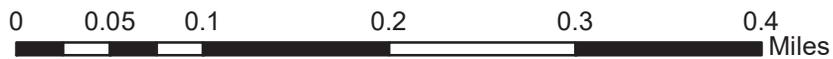
-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary

2023 Heer WPA Grazing Units McHenry County

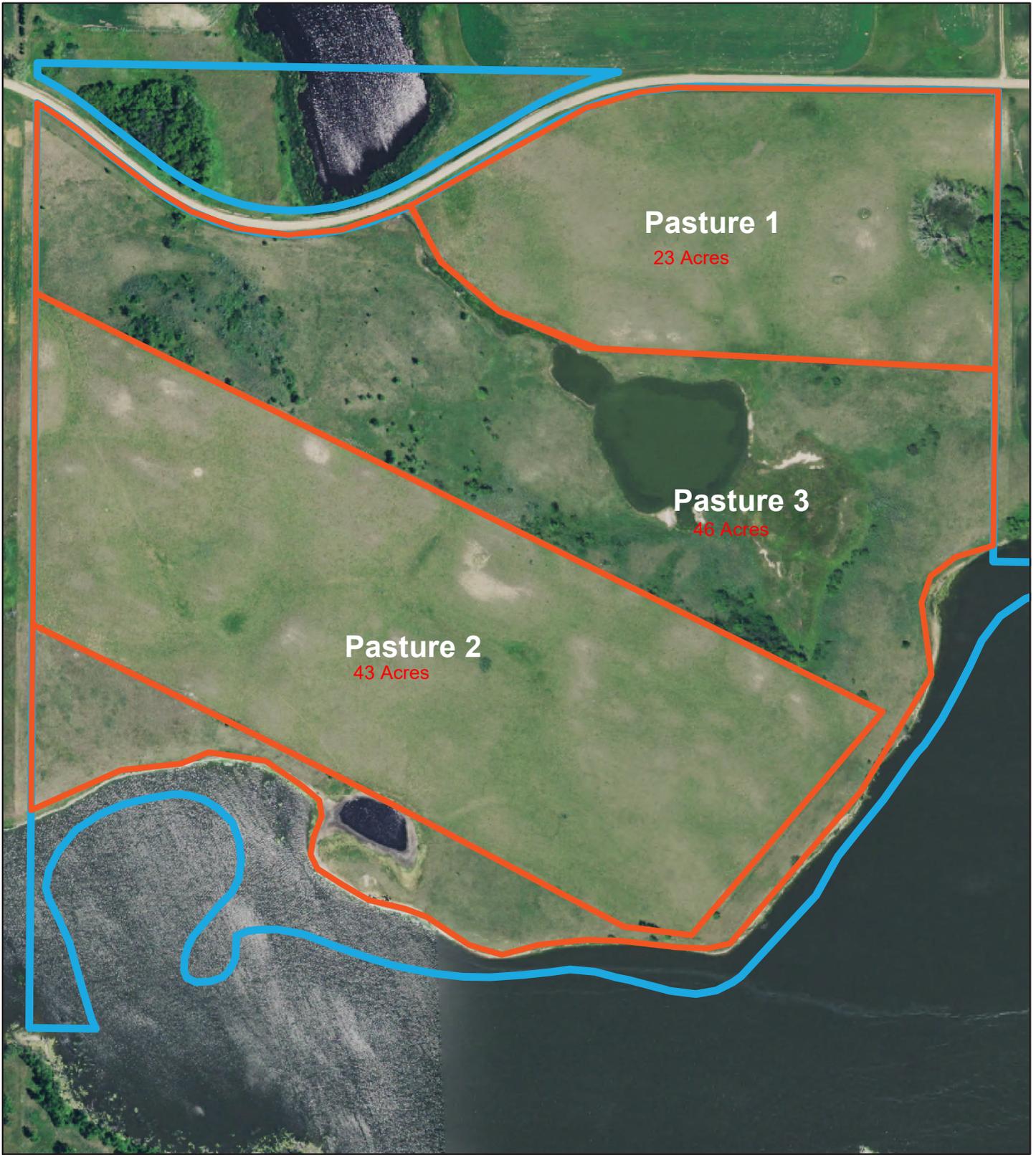


Legend

-  WPA Boundary
-  Grazing Units

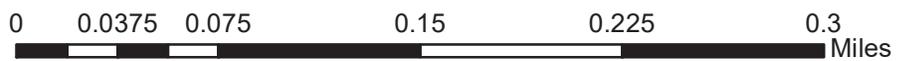


2023 Bullrush WPA Grazing Units Pierce County

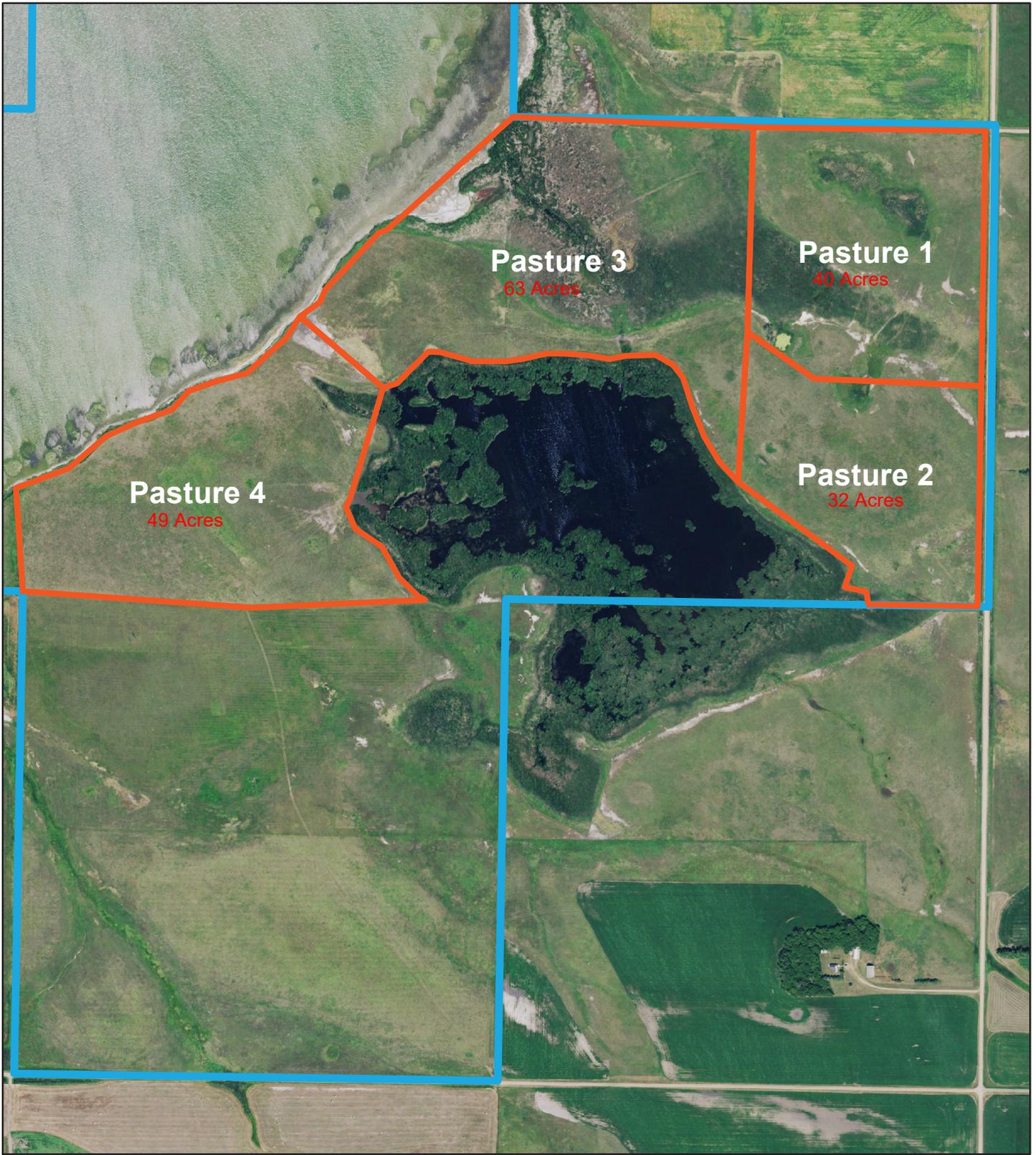


Legend

-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary

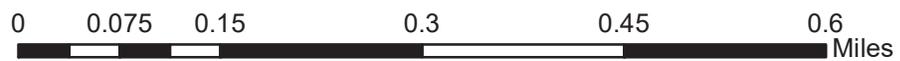


2023 Christenson Lake WPA Grazing Units Pierce County

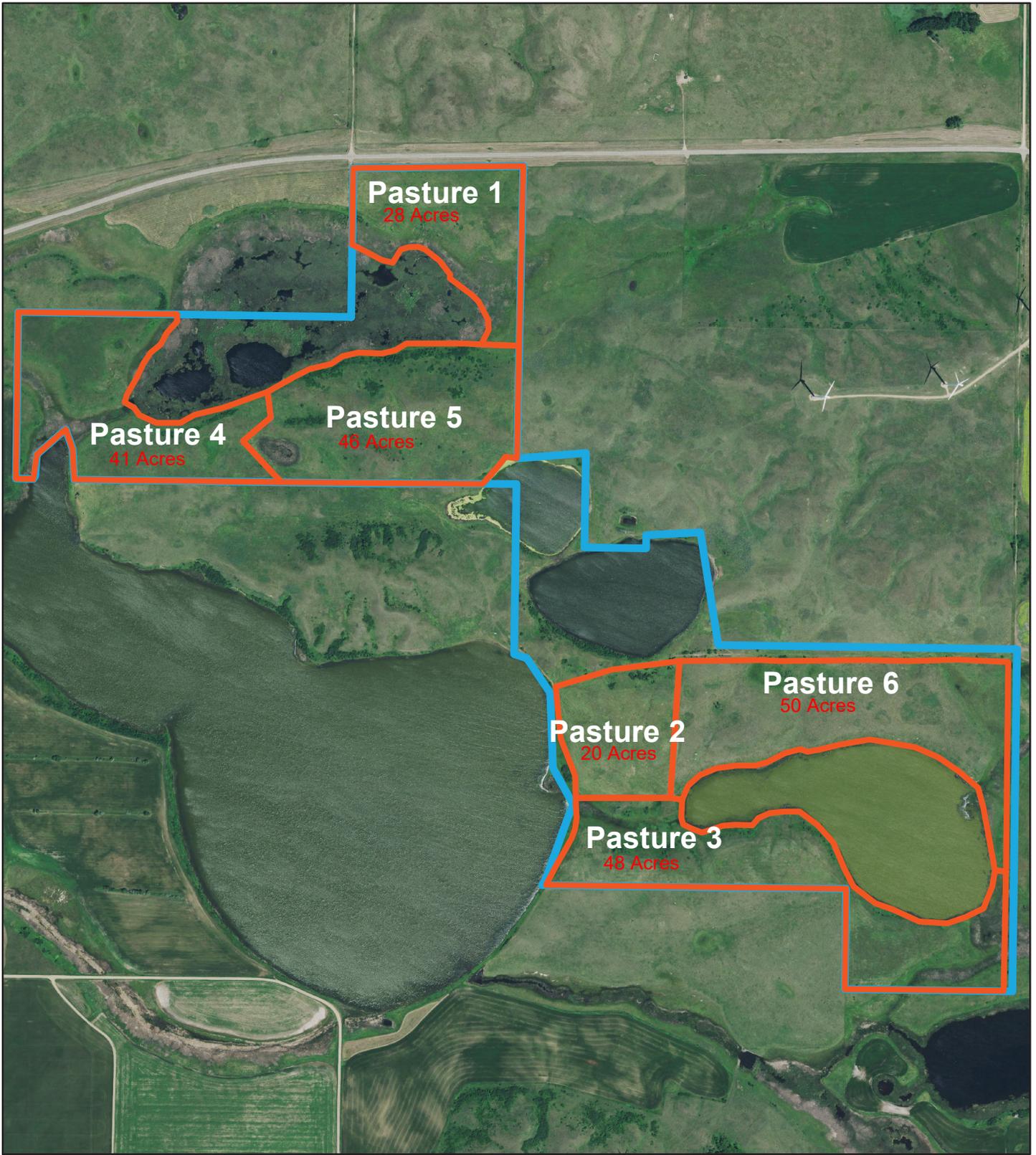


Legend

-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary

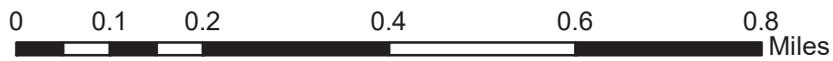


2023 Herd Lake WPA Grazing Units Pierce County

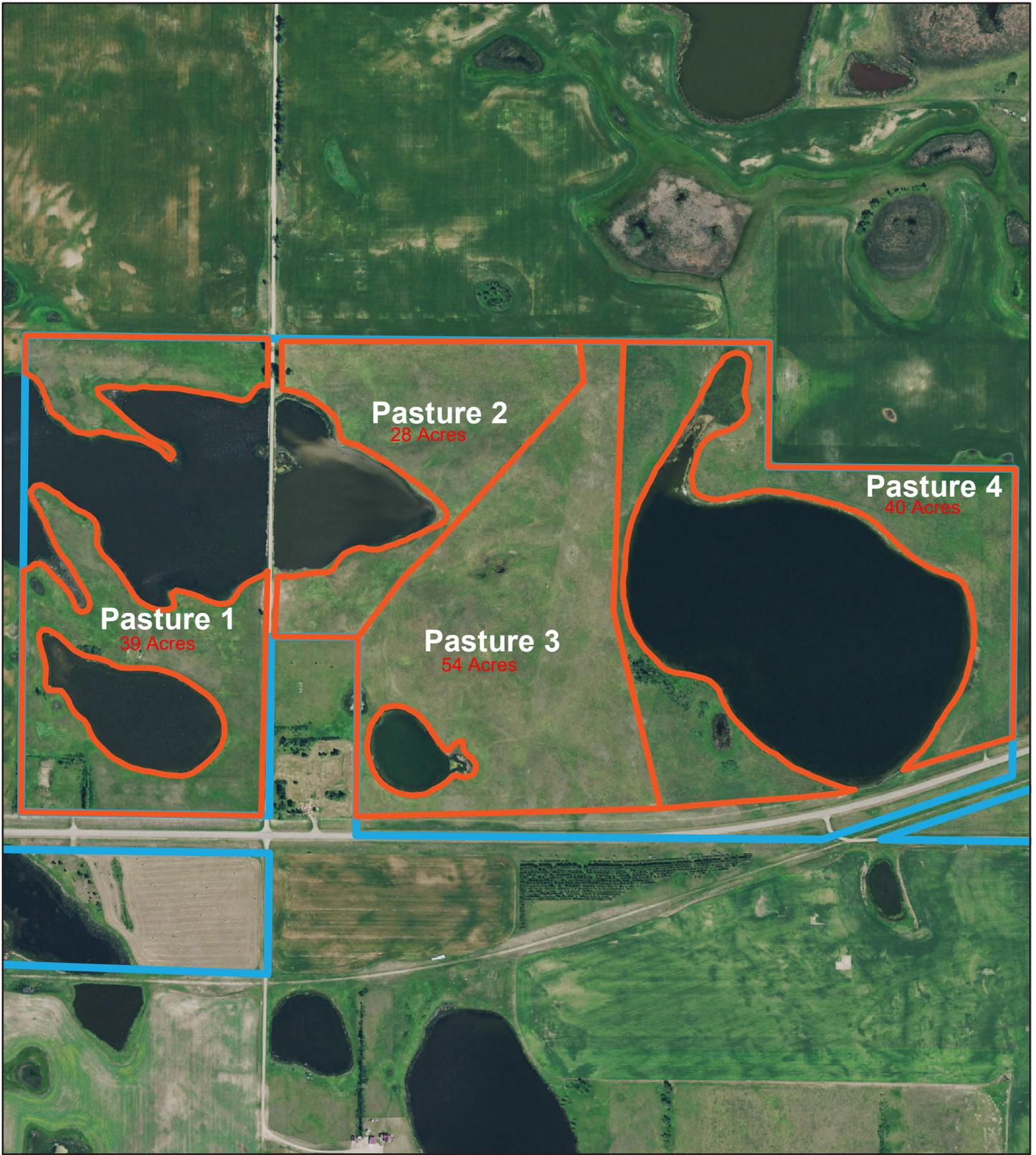


Legend

-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary

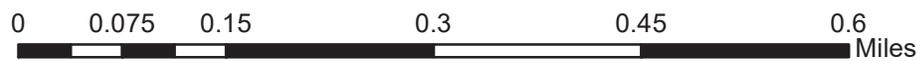


2023 Armstrong WPA Grazing Units Rolette County

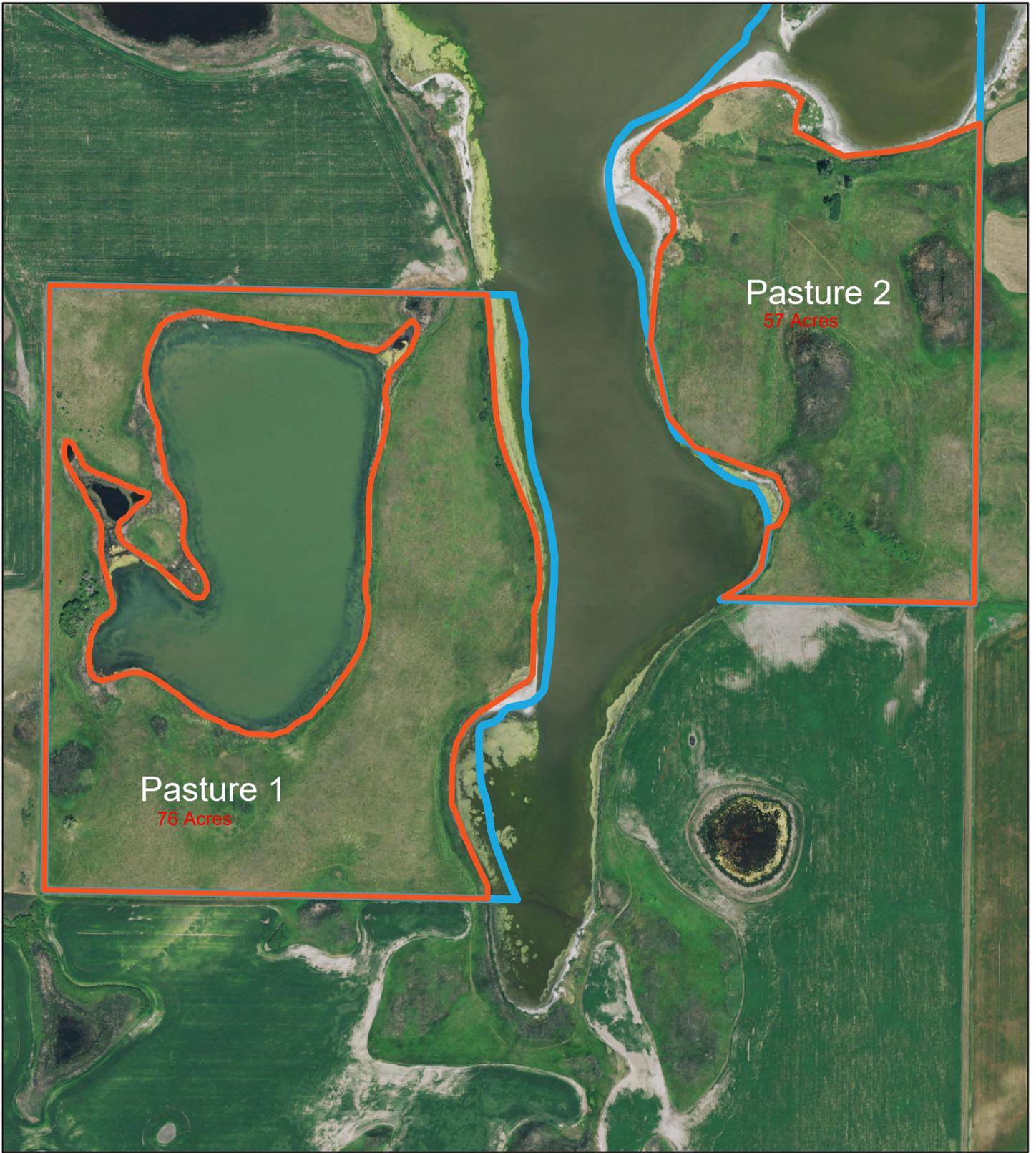


Legend

-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary

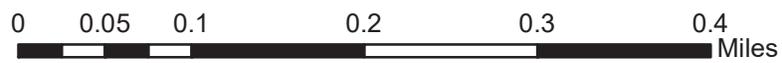


2023 Elbow Lake WPA Grazing Units Rolette County

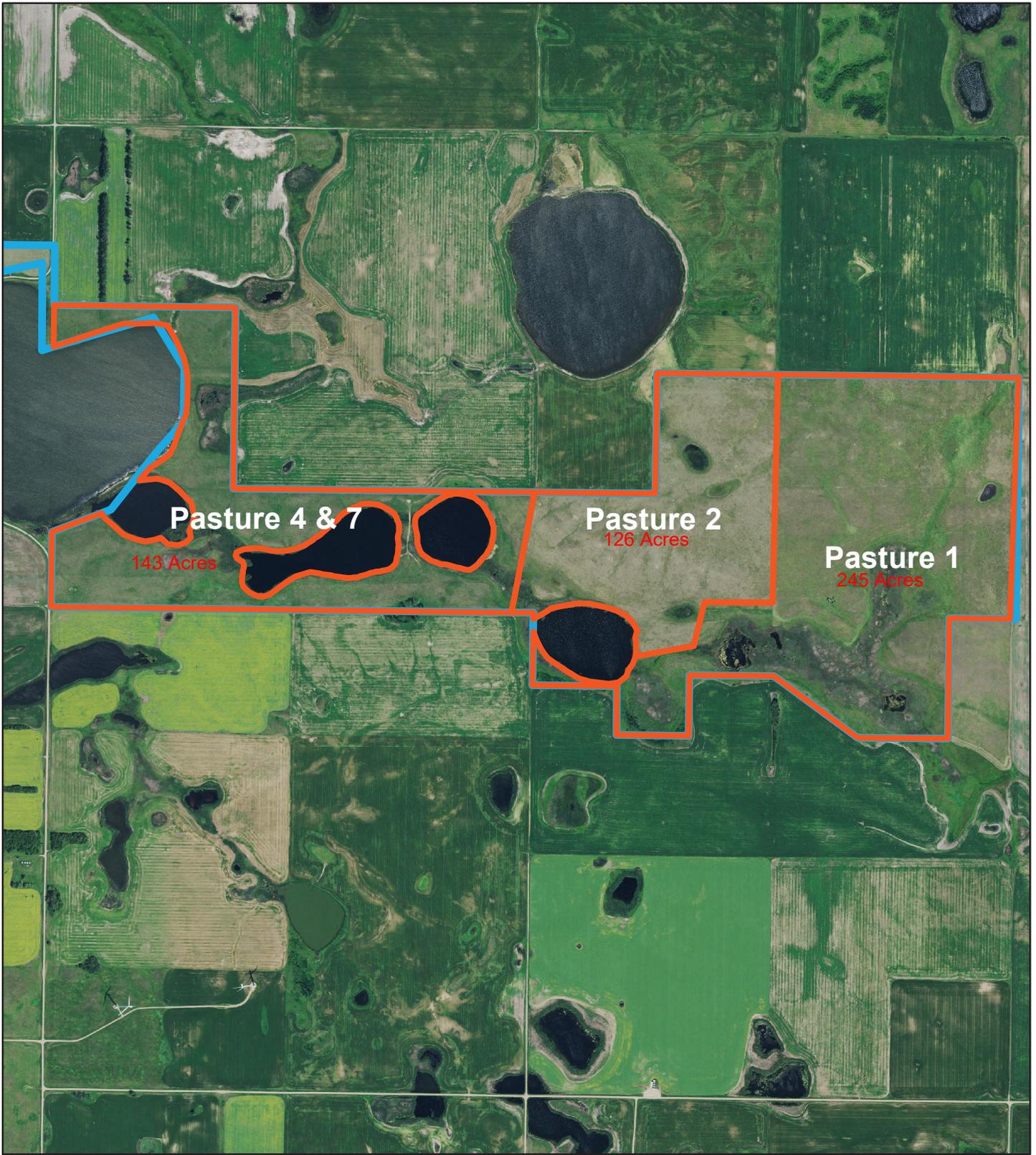


Legend

-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary

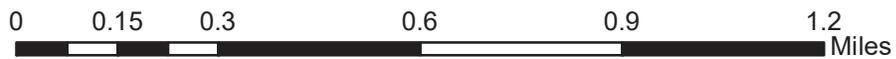


2023 Ghost Valley WPA Grazing Units Rolette County

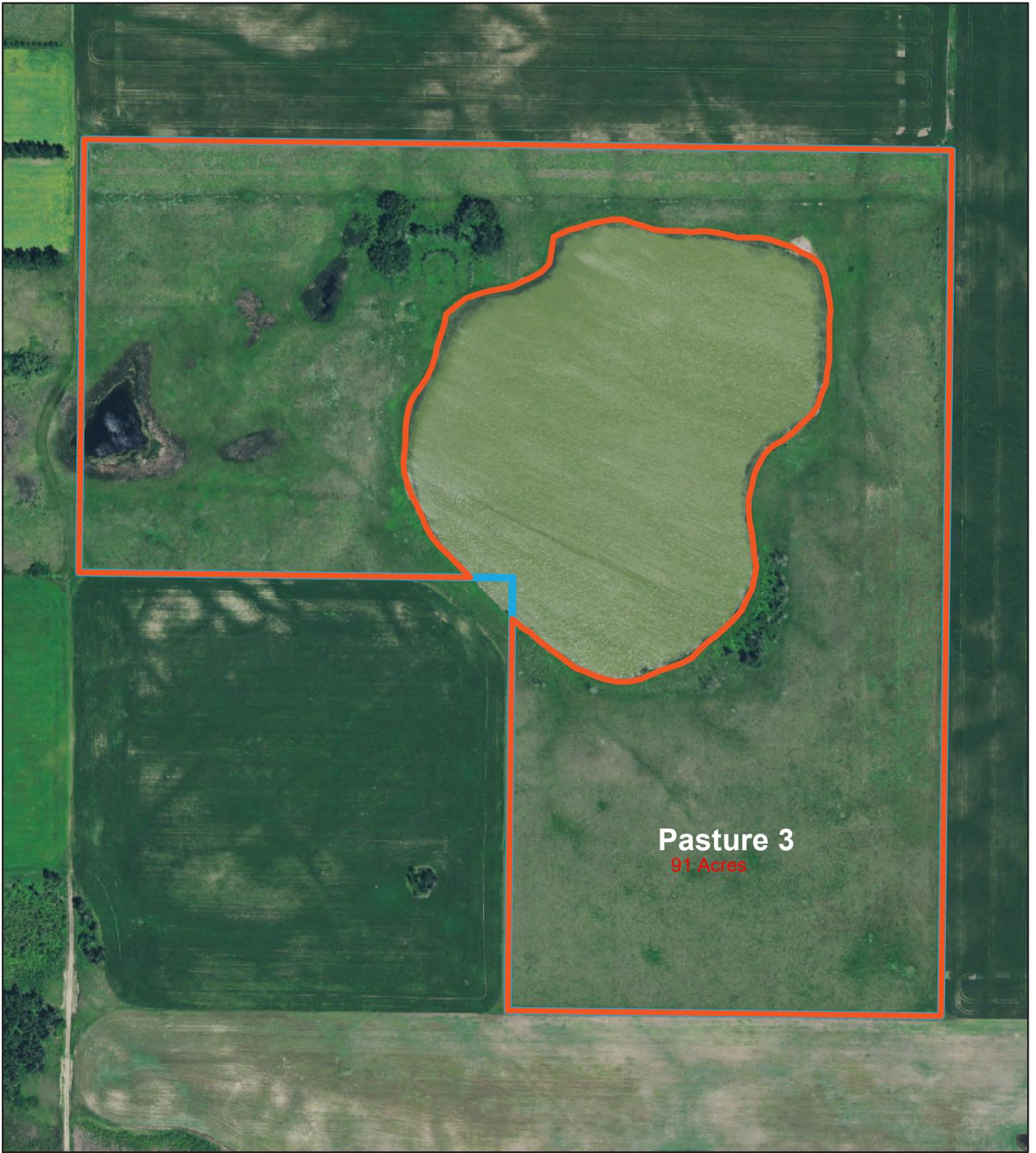


Legend

-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary

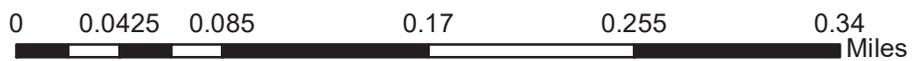


2023 West Ghost Valley WPA Grazing Unit Rolette County



Legend

-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary



2023 Beaver WPA Grazing Unit Rolette County



Legend

-  Grazing Units
-  WPA Boundary



J Clark Salyer Wetland Management District
Cooperative Grazing Application

In order for your application to be considered, you must truthfully answer the following questions. You may be required to provide supporting documentation for your answers. Providing false information will invalidate your application and result in ineligibility to apply for future opportunities.

Name of unit for which you are applying: _____

County: _____

1a. Do you have experience with cooperative grazing or infrastructure maintenance on this WPA in the past?

Yes _____ No _____

1b. If no, do you have experience grazing on other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges or WPA's?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which Refuge or Wetland Management District? _____

Year(s) grazed _____

2a. Do you currently own or lease private or public pasture in the local area that you are willing to graze in rotation with USFWS land?

Yes _____ No _____

2b. If yes, please check the choice that best describes the nearest parcel under your control that you would graze in rotation with this USFWS unit:

Adjacent (shares a boundary) _____

Within 5 miles of the unit _____

Between 5 and 10 miles from the unit _____

More than 10 miles from the unit _____

Please provide the legal description of this nearest parcel (to the quarter section):

3. Can you provide the necessary stock to graze the unit following a prescribed grazing plan for the stocking rate and desired duration described in the unit summary?

Yes _____ No _____ # available to graze this unit _____

4. Are you able to follow a grazing plan, and maintain records including number of stock, dates in and out of unit, maintenance records, and other information that may be necessary to ensure management objectives are being met?

Yes _____ No _____

5. Are you willing to install (either yourself, or hire out) and maintain all fence necessary to execute this agreement?

Yes _____ No _____

6. Are you (or your designee) able to respond within 2 hours to address any urgent needs that may arise during grazing, including escaped livestock, infrastructure maintenance, neighbor complaints, etc.?

Yes _____ No _____

7. Are you willing to treat noxious weeds on the grazing unit using herbicide furnished by WMD and apply herbicides in compliance with Fish & Wildlife Service Pesticide Use Proposals?

Yes _____ No _____

8. If necessary, are you willing to complete road side mowing in compliance with County or Township regulations?

Yes _____ No _____

I certify that all information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and I meet all qualifying standards for this application.

Print Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____