

Amendment to Chase Lake WPA, Unit 3 Prescribed Burn Plan

Rationale:

The prescribed fire plan for Chase Lake WPA, Unit 3 was written in 2020. It went through the technical review process in 2020 as well, and signatures of the original prescribed fire plan preparer, and the technical reviewer are within the original plan. The plan was not, however, approved by the agency administrator, as 2020 saw drastic shifts in priorities due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the US. The ND Fire Zone, as a result, did not conduct any prescribed fire projects in 2020. As such, this plan did not get to the Agency Administrator for final approval. In the time since the plan was written and technically reviewed, a minor adjustment to the burn unit boundary was made, resulting in this amendment.

Element 4: Description of the Prescribed Fire Area modification:

The original burn unit boundary was delineated using grazing cells, and this plan only was written for grazing cell #3, hence the name Unit 3 in the plan name. Unit 3 is bounded on the east side by a small waterway, that, in a normal year with adequate moisture would suffice as an adequate holding feature to keep a prescribed fire west of the unit boundary. 2020 started off as a normal year for precipitation and moisture, but quickly fell into a drought pattern by mid-summer. At the time this amendment is being written (February 2021), the drought persists. The result of the drought is extremely low water levels, and as such, the eastern-most portion of Unit 3 is very dry with little or no water present in the drainage that was originally intended to be a holding feature.

Unit 3, as originally written consists of upland and marsh grasses and forbs, (both native and tame species) totaling 373 acres.

This amendment, as shown by the map has added 61 acres to the unit, all to the east, for a total of 434 acres. The adjacent grazing cell, labeled as Unit #6, was heavily grazed in 2020. As such, it will make an adequate holding feature, instead of the drainage between Unit 3 and Unit 6. The map in this document depicts the added acres around the following locations on the map: point "G," point "F," point "E," and point "D."

Other than 61 added acres, the remainder of the burn plan is unchanged, and remains valid (once signed by the Agency Administrator). This amendment will be sent to the Agency Administrator for signature at the same time as the original burn plan. The amended burn unit boundary will allow fire personnel to safely hold the eastern perimeter on upland (dry) ground, as opposed to trying to hold the eastern perimeter in the wetland/drainage, which is difficult at times due to poor access for vehicles, and challenging due to the marsh grasses that make up the heavy fuel loading on the periphery of wetlands.

SIGNATURES for the Amendment to Chase Lake WPA, Unit 3 Prescribed Fire Plan

Amendment Preparer: _____ Date: 28 February 2021

Printed Name: Michael J Hill

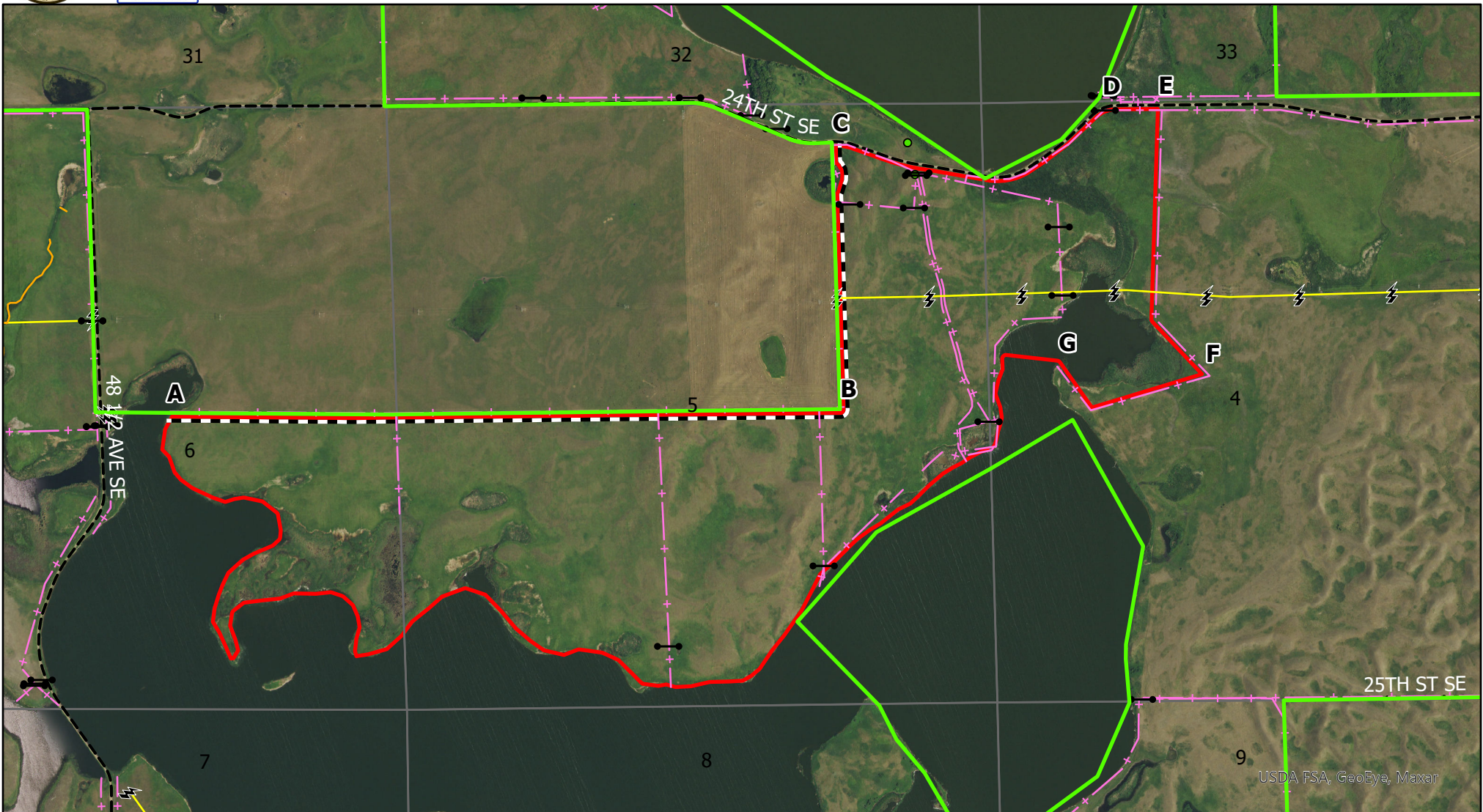
Agency Administrator: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: Paul Halko



US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chase Lake WMD - Chase Lake WPA Unit 3- Project Map 434 Acres



USDA FSA, GeoEye, Maxar



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|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------|
| Burn Unit Boundary | Utility Line | Gate and Access | County Roads | |
| FWS Fee Title | Fence | Section Line | | Paved |
| Mow Line | Utility Point | | | Gravel |
| | | | Trail | |

Scale: 1:15,000

Produced by: M. Hill
 February 2021
 NAD83 StatePlane North
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