

Cropland Management Plan

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

McGregor District

July 1994

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I. Introduction

The McGregor District is currently managing a relatively small farming program utilizing Cooperative Agreements with local farmers. Approximately 350 acres are involved, but not all of that acreage is necessarily farmed every year. All fields are in an area of Clayton County, Iowa referred to as the Turkey River Bottoms and are across the Mississippi River from Cassville, Wisconsin (Figure 1).

These particular fields have historically been under cultivation even before acquisition by the Refuge. Until recently, there was additional farming practiced at other places on the District. Except for in the Turkey River Bottoms, all of the other row cropping has been suspended and suitable vegetative cover established.

II. Objectives

The sole purpose for this program is to prevent the encroachment of woody vegetation into the fields until such time that moist soil units are developed. Although not the intent, the crops primarily corn, do provide food and cover for wildlife.

III. Current Management Practices

See Figure 2 for an aerial photograph of the fields and the divisions between the four cooperating farmers in 1994. The field configurations are adjusted as needed. Some of the fields, or portions thereof, are temporarily idled and then either cropped or mowed periodically depending on levels of woody invasion. The woody vegetation generally consists of willow, cottonwood, box elder, green ash, and silver maple. Cropping also eliminates the need for control of noxious weeds, a "no-cost" management practice. Due to periodic flooding, there are some years when the crops cannot be planted or harvested.

Each Cooperative Agreement runs from March 1 to February 28 and is renewed annually. The agreements specify field configuration, crop type, and crop share percentages (Appendix A). If the farmers intend to apply herbicides they may only use those which are on the Fish and Wildlife Service's list of Pre-approved Herbicides and submit a Pesticide Use Proposal (Appendices B and C). Insecticides are not permitted. Crops have generally been corn, with only a very few exceptions when millet or sorghum were authorized for accommodation of cultural problems.

The farmers are allowed to harvest a portion (75% in 1994) of the corn in the fall and the balance is left standing as the Refuge's share. The Refuge's share provides food and cover for wildlife such as deer, pheasants, raccoons, and waterfowl. Waterfowl use and benefits increase in the years when the field floods. The farmers may harvest what is left of the Refuge's share the following spring.

Plans are to continue operating in a similar fashion until the remaining

privately owned fields are purchased and the moist soil units developed. Should objectives change, this plan will be changed or amended accordingly.

Figure 1

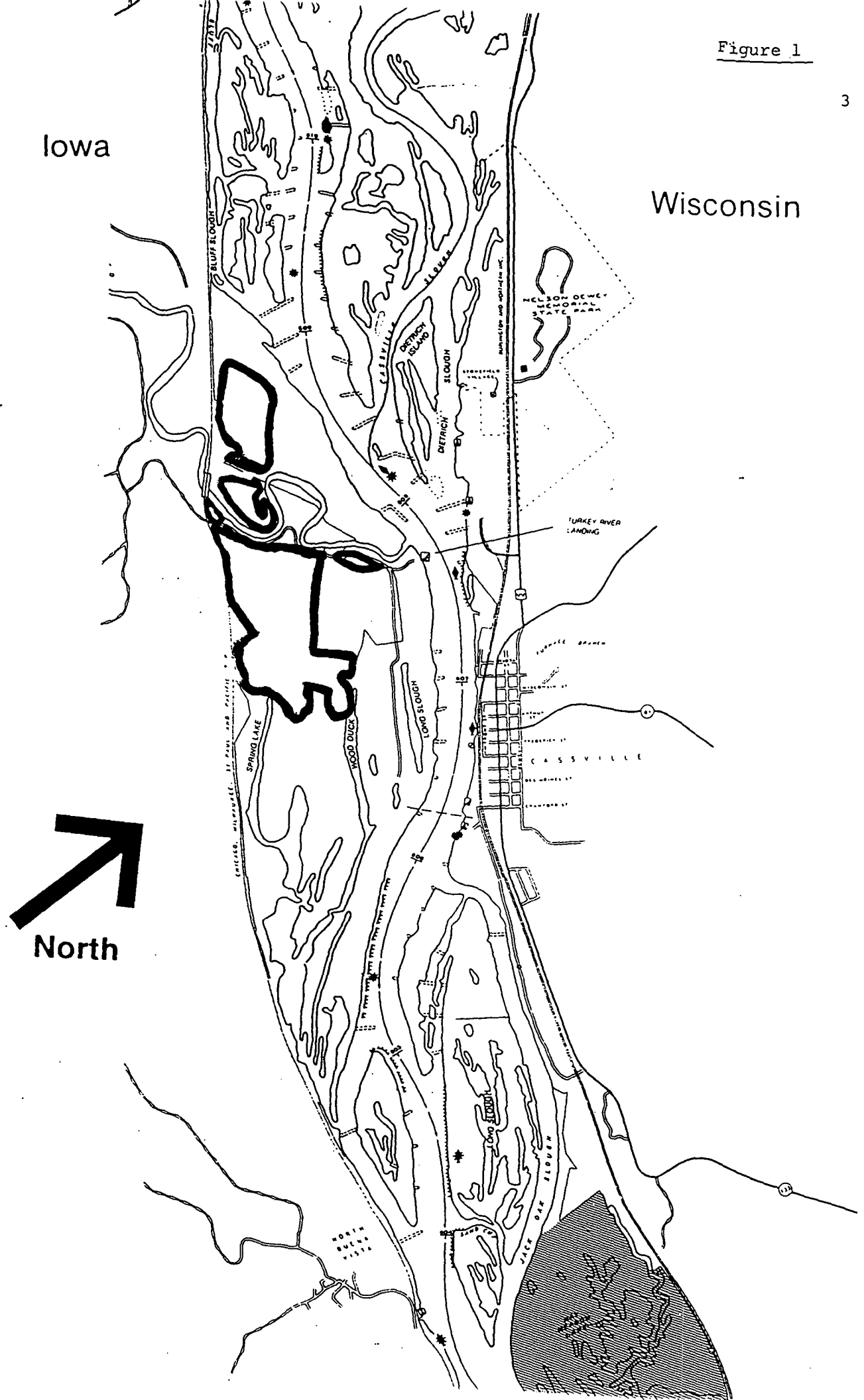


Figure 2

4

1994 Cooperative Farming Agreements
Field Configurations

	Andregg	45 Acres
	Bittner	70 Acres
	Vogt	128 Acres
	Wachendorf	105 Acres



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
COOPERATIVE FARMING AGREEMENT

Cooperator's name LeRoy N. Wachendorf		Address RFD #2 Guttenberg, IA 52052		252-1059 Telephone		
Period of use From: <u>March 1</u> , 19 <u>93</u> To: <u>February 28</u> , 19 <u>94</u>		Refuge Name and State where located Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, P.O. Box 460, McGregor, Iowa 52157				
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for and in consideration of the mutual benefits arising hereunder, grants to the Cooperator named above, privileges of using lands of the National Wildlife Refuge System indicated above, for the cultivation, production, and/or harvesting of agricultural crops, on a share basis as specified below:						
Farm Unit	Field	Crop or Crop Group	Acres	Cooperator's Share (% or acres)	Government's Share (% or acres)	
					Harvested	Unharvested
Turkey River	A1, A2, A3	Corn or Bush hog	± 48.5	75%		25%

1. The Cooperator agrees that agricultural crops of the type and acreages specified above must be planted, cultivated, and harvested during the first year of operation. If this agreement is for more than one year, the type of crop, acreage, and distribution may be altered or modified annually, following the first year of operation, by mutual consent of both parties. Changes in the agreement must be made prior to planting season by an addendum, which is attached to and becomes part of the agreement.

2. These privileges are granted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and accepted by the undersigned, subject to the terms, covenants, obligations, and reservations contained therein.

3. Special Conditions: (If none, so state)

- Cooperator waives the right to participate in any ASCS programs for these Federal lands or crops produced thereon.
- Cooperator will leave a 10 foot strip of uncultivated land between all private lands and the agricultural units and a 50 foot strip between the Mississippi River, including tributaries, lakes, ponds, and the agricultural units except where there is a wooded field boundary. No tillage or planting will be done closer than 40 feet from the county road edge.
- Cooperator will harvest corn on a pick 12 rows, leave 4 basis. Any of the government's share of the corn that can be salvaged may be picked and becomes the property of the cooperator after May 1, 1994, if the cooperator is selected as the sharecropper in the 1994 season.
- Cooperator will comply with the conditions of the approved pesticide use proposals for 1993. He will advise the Refuge Manager when planting and chemical applications are to take place.
- Any portion of cooperator's units not utilized for row crop, must be bush hogged unless otherwise noted.

(Cooperator's Signature)

29-Apr 93
(Date)

(Issuing Officer's Signature and Title)

John R. Lyons
(Date)

4-6-93

3-1492 (Rev. 3/78)

- Cooperator will not remove any cornstalks from government land.
- Machine operation will be confined to roadways and land covered by this agreement.

REGION 3
PRE-APPROVED HERBICIDES
(revised 1/94)

The following herbicides may be approved for use with ground application only by the Station or Refuge Manager. Complete a Pesticide Use Proposal for each pesticide and retain at the field station.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Example of Trade Name</u>	<u>Use - Targets</u>	<u>Toxicity*</u>		
			<u>Aquatic</u>	<u>Bird</u>	<u>Mammal</u>
Acifluorfen	Blazer	Soybeans - broadleaves	ST	ST	ST
Ametryn	Evik	Corn - grass, broadleaves	MT	NT	ST
Bentazon	Basagran	Corn/Milo/ Soybeans - broadleaves	NT	MT	MT
Bromacil	Hyvar	Non-Crop - grass, broadleaves	ST	NT	NT
Butylate	Sutan	Corn - grasses	MT	NT	ST
Clethodim	Select	Soybeans - grasses	ST	NT	ST
Dalapon	Dowpon	Corn/Soybeans - grasses	NT	NT	NT
Dicamba	Banvel, Clarity	Corn/Milo/ Non-Crop - broadleaves, brush	NT	NT	ST
EPTC	Eptam, Eradicane	Corn - grass, broadleaves	ST	MT	ST
Fluazifop	Fusilade	Soybeans - grasses	MT	NT	NT

-continued next page-

*Toxicity: NT - Practically Non-Toxic
ST - Slightly Toxic
MT - Moderately Toxic
HT - Highly Toxic

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Use - Targets</u>	<u>Toxicity*</u>		
			<u>Aquatic</u>	<u>Bird</u>	<u>Mammal</u>
Fosamine	Krenite	Non-Crop - brush	NT	NT	NT
Glyphosate	Roundup	Corn/Milo/ Soybeans/Non-Crop - grass, broadleaves	MT	NT	NT
	Rodeo	Aquatic Non-Crop	NT	NT	NT
Imazethapyr	Pursuit	Soybeans - broadleaves, grass	NT	NT	NT
Linuron	Lorox	Corn/Milo/ Soybeans - grass, broadleaves	ST	ST	ST
Pendimethalin	Prowl	Corn/Milo/ Soybeans - grass, broadleaves	MT	ST	NT
Sethoxydim	Poast, Poast Plus	Soybeans - grasses	ST	ST	ST
Triallate	Far-Go	Wheat - wild oats	HT	NT	ST
Triclopyr (TEA salt only)	Garlon 3A	Non-Crop - brush, broadleaves	NT	ST	ST
2,4-D	Weedone, others	Corn/Milo/Small Grains/Non-Crop - broadleaves, brush	MT	MT	MT
Vernolate	Vernam, Surpass	Soybeans/Corn - grass, broadleaves	MT	NT	ST

*Toxicity: NT - Practically Non-Toxic
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Proposal Number _____

U.S. Department of Interior
Pesticide Use Proposal

BUREAU _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ DATE _____

AREA _____ (_____)

I. Pesticide/Application:

TRADE NAME _____ EPA REGISTRATION # _____

COMMON NAME _____ MANUFACTURER _____

FORMULATION _____ APPLICATION DATE(S) _____

METHOD OF APPLICATION _____ # OF APPLICATIONS _____

APPLICATION RATE (use units on label) _____

II. Pest: LIST SPECIFIC PESTS, CROP, AND REASON FOR APPLICATION.**III. Treatment site: DESCRIBE LAND TYPE OR USE, SIZE OR VOLUME, TIMING OF APPLICATION, SLOPE AND SOIL TYPE, IF RELEVANT.****IV. Sensitive aspects and precautions: DESCRIBE SENSITIVE AREAS (E.G., MARSH, ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT) AND DISTANCE TO TREATMENT SITE. IF SENSITIVE AREA IS UPSTREAM OR BEYOND ONE MILE FROM SITE, INDICATE "NO SENSITIVE AREAS NEARBY." LIST MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO AVOID IMPACT TO SENSITIVE AREAS.**

I will ensure that the pesticide will be applied in accordance with label restrictions and the information above.

Signed _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Bureau Approval _____ Date _____

Bureau Recommendations

Departmental Recommendations

____ Approved
____ Disapproved
____ Approved with modifications

Director,
Office of Environmental Project Review

Date _____