



DAKOTA PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS RESEARCH/SURVEY PROPOSAL REQUEST & APPROVAL PROCESS

Thank you for your interest in conducting research/surveys on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG). This document intends to serve as guidance on how to request a permit for research/survey related work on the DPG.

STEPS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL TO CONDUCT RESEARCH/SURVEYS ON THE DPG:

Fill out the DPG Research/Survey Proposal and Operating Plan document. Please be as specific as possible when filling out the proposal and indicate which District(s) you would like to conduct any research or surveys on as well as map(s) of locations. Providing legal descriptions (Section, Township, Range) will expedite the approval process. The DPG is separated into four Ranger Districts in three National Grassland units (see Figure 1 on next page for reference).

The Little Missouri National Grassland (LMNG) is comprised of two Ranger Districts. The McKenzie Ranger District (McKenzie County) and the Medora Ranger District (Billings, Slope, and Golden Valley Counties).

The Grand and Cedar River National Grassland is comprised of the Grand River Ranger District which manages the Grand River National Grassland in South Dakota (Perkins and Corson Counties) as well as the Cedar River National Grassland in North Dakota (Grant and Sioux Counties).

The Sheyenne National Grassland is comprised of the Sheyenne Ranger District which manages the Sheyenne National Grassland (Ransom and Richland Counties) as well as the Denbigh Experimental Forest (McHenry County, North Dakota).

- Once completed, attach any additional information or required permits, and send the proposal and operating plan to the appropriate resource staff area (see contact information on page 2).
- The appropriate resource staff will then review, provide any initial feedback, and will send to the appropriate District Ranger (if solely working on one District) or the Grassland Supervisor (if research or surveys are conducted on multiple Districts or DPG-wide). The District Ranger or Grassland Supervisor will then either approve, request additional information, or reject the proposal.
- If approved the Ranger or Grassland Supervisor will issue an approval/permit form which should be carried when in the field. ***A permit for off-road travel will be needed if traveling off designated trails or roads. Off-road permits may be obtained on a case-by-case basis by contacting the appropriate District Ranger's office.*** The approval/permit form will also include any stipulations. The approval process may take between 30-60 days.
- Please share your data with us! We are interested in any report or publication as well as any applicable GIS data that comes out of research or surveys conducted on the DPG.
- If interested in performing any cultural resource (archaeological, historical, architectural), minerals, or paleontological related work on the DPG, please contact the appropriate staff listed on the next page as special processes and permits apply to these types of activities.



Figure 1. The Dakota Prairie Grasslands is comprised of four Ranger Districts on three National Grassland Units and one Experimental Forest.

DISTRICT OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION (General Inquiries about District, Request off-road permit, use of Designated Recreation Sites such as campgrounds, trails, trailheads, etc.)

Medora Ranger District: 701-227-7800

McKenzie Ranger District: 701-842-8500

Sheyenne Ranger District: 701-404-8950

Grand River Ranger District: 605-374-3592

PLEASE SEND RESEARCH/SURVEY PROPOSALS TO THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCE AREA STAFF:

Wildlife/Botany/Fisheries: **Vacant**– Grasslands Biologist/Program Manager –

*Please send requests to JJ Nelson (Medora/Grand - josiah.nelson@usda.gov), Sarah Bickerdyke (McKenzie - sarah.bickerdyke@usda.gov), Jamie Bitker (Sheyenne - jamie.bitker@usda.gov).

Hydrology/Soils: Nick Semenza – Watershed Program Manager –

nicholas.semenza@usda.gov – 701-989-7311

Range/Invasives: Stacy Swenson – Range Program Manager –

stacy.swenson@usda.gov – 701-404-8945

FOR INQUIRIES ON CULTURAL/HISTORIC/ARCHITECTURAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL/MINERALS RELATED WORK PLEASE CONTACT:

Heritage/Cultural Resources – Aidan McCarty – Heritage Program Manager -

aidan.mccarty@usda.gov – 701-989-7306

Minerals/Geology/Paleontology: Brian Kempenich – Minerals Program Manager -

brian.kempenich@usda.gov – 701-227-7847



RESEARCH/SURVEY PROPOSAL and OPERATING PLAN
Submit at least 60 days in advance of proposed research

Permit holder name, address, and contact information.

Primary field contact person information (if different than permittee listed above):

Description of the Research/Survey: Provide a summary of the focus of the research/survey, number of people, survey methods, specimen collections (if any), anticipated goals/outcomes. Attach additional document as needed.



Provide details of locations for the proposed Research/Survey area and attach maps.

Method of transportation. List the vehicle make, model, and license number (if registered).

Frequency of Activity and time of year.

Additional questions:

- 1) What specific safety precautions have you made in the event of a medical emergency? (i.e. First aid kits, radios, cell phones, emergency contacts, etc.)

- 2) If research/surveys include handling of species/specimen collections or cultural resources related work have the appropriate permits been received from other agencies (i.e. North Dakota Game and Fish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or other related State/Federal agencies)? If so, please provide copies.

- 3) Please list any recreation sites you plan to utilize during your site visits to include calendar day and time of day for actual use. Examples: campgrounds, designated trails and trailheads (Blacktail Trail, Maah Daah Hey Trail, North Country Trail, etc.). If unsure, please contact appropriate District office on page 2.

Data sharing.

Upon completion of research/survey, please share acquired data with the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (GIS data, reports, summaries, etc.).

¹ A permit for off-road travel will be needed if traveling off designated trails or roads. Off-road permits may be obtained by contacting the appropriate District Ranger's office.

Dakota Prairie Grasslands Research Proposal/District Approval Permit Form. Applicant leave blank. For administrative use only. Permittee must carry a copy of the signed form when in the field.

Research Title or Description:

Permit Holder's Contact Information:

Approved

Signature of Approving Official

District Point of Contact

District Requirements/Expectations/Stipulations

Denied

Signature of Approving Official

Reason for Denial:

This document, as approved, allows the above named to conduct research/surveys on the lands administered by the Dakota Prairie Grasslands and within the specified District(s). Keep copy for District Records.