

1-30-2025

My Name is John Hild I am from Medora North Dakota and a member of the Medora Grassing association here in support of Senate Bill 2368 that is included in the ag commissioners budget.

Grasslands Grassing Grant Program That would be afford to grassing association in the state of North Dakota for projects on the ground provide water development, infrastructure for grazing of cattle, wildlife, public use, and ad firefighting resources.

There are thousands of acers of public lands and state land from Watford City to Bowman and though out the state that are used by both Ranchers and recreational people.

You may ask why this program:

To keep the grasslands in good condition by building fences to help the rotation of cattle. Water development to graze areas that have not be utilize for years with the help of a new creation of conversion wells thanking abandon oil wells into water wells that would supply water and miles of pipelines though out the Grass lands.

You may ask:

For the distribution of Wildlife deer, elk, birds, to areas without fresh water.

You may ask why the public:

With water resources scattered around the grasslands in the form of wells and stock tanks, this gives them the public hikers, bikers, trail riders, hunters the ability to cool off, water their bird dogs, water their horses.

You may ask:

Most important to be able to supply water resources for fighting wild fires and rescue operations by using water from stock tanks that hold 1200 gal to 2000 gal to fill fire units, using trails for maintenance to these infrastructures for access in case of rescues operation.

The Medora Grazing Association was started back in the thirties, there was not a lot of assistance at that time for the ranching community. You had to do with what you had to keep food on your table and feed your livestock.

We relied on mother nature to grow the grass, fill the water holes for our livestock.

Times have changed and there are programs/ funding for other industries for them to produce products for the state as well as the country.

With this Bill and funding in the last year has given some light, with shared funding, ranchers are able to improve their places, as well as the state and federal allotments for the cattle, to utilize areas of grass where there has been no water source, by spreading out the water cows and wildlife graze areas not used, which in turn rejuvenates grasses.

Areas that need new fencing to hold the cow on that grass, this in turn will give them a better quality of livestock to sell.

The ability to put in a pipeline and tanks, fences will help the future generations as they build up their operations and cow herds.

One other thing to think about is that these new water sources will also be utilized by bikers, trail riders and hikers, a water source out in the back county around Medora would certainly get utilized by wildlife as well tourist visiting the area. Hunters would also utilize these water sources.

I have experienced many rescues on the Maada Hey trail over the years, many of these rescues were due to dehydration, with these water tanks available on public lands it will benefit these types of incidents from happening as often.

This water improvement project over the last year has provided a reliable water source to areas that desperately needed improvement. Getting this water to our grazing areas will improve the quality of livestock, the grasslands and help to improve the Forest Service's public lands for future generations. I have meet with several permittees and they feel this is a step forward improving their Ranches.

The Medora Grazing Association is in support of this ~~Senate~~ bill 2368 to move forward.

Thank you,

John Hild

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Hild".