

MEDORA GRAZING ASSOCIATION  
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**MEDORA GRAZING ASSOCIATION**  
**GRASSLANDS GRAZING GRANT PROGRAM**  
**SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 2368**

Cooperator: Medora Grazing Association, McKenzie County Grazing Association, Little Missouri Grazing Association, Sheyenne Valley Grazing Association, Horse Creek Grazing Association, and Cedar River Grazing Association.

Title: Senate House Bill No. 2368-Grasslands Grazing Grant Program

The Grasslands Grazing Grant (GGG) Program is proposed to be authorized as a funding program by the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly through Senate Bill No. 2368. The purpose of the Grasslands Grazing Grant Program is to provide grants to organizations representing cooperative grazing associations in the state. The grant funds will be made available for infrastructure projects which were located on national grasslands within the state that included water development, Fencing, Conservation initiatives, professional services and supplies, and projects to enhance wildlife habitat, capture carbon, and increase the health of the grasslands.

The Medora Grazing Association lies within the Counties of Billings, Slope and Golden Valley, situated in the Badlands of Western North Dakota. The Medora Grazing Association is entered into an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service for the permitted use of 125,332 head months of grazing each year on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. The Association administers the livestock grazing program on the National Grasslands to extend sound practices of land management, exert a favorable influence for securing land conservation practices, and to promote development of grassland agriculture to demonstrate practical principles of land use for the areas in which it lies.

The Medora Grazing Association has in the past applied for, received, and completed forty-three (43) GGG program projects during the course of the funding cycle that was created by the authorization of the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly through House Bill No. 1009. The Association is extremely thankful for that opportunity and the benefits it provided to the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. There is still an inherent need for more improvements in the Medora Grazing

Association lands. The Grasslands and the livelihoods that depend on them are stressed and a viable future for both ranching and the wildlife it supports on the Grasslands is still needed. The US Forest Service Dakota Prairie Grasslands represents a significant portion of the western grasslands of our state. The listed projects that the Medora Grazing Association has proposed will be a crucial part of the Association and its members to ensure and support the preservation of the National Grasslands and the many family ranches that have a legacy in these lands. The management practices that these projects within the Medora Grazing Association include prescribed grazing strategies, installation of range infrastructure, implementation of restoration activities designed to improve vegetative composition, riparian conditions, wildlife resources, and wooded draws across the National Grasslands. The projects will have a tremendous impact on improving the ability to better utilize the grazing of all of the Allotments and enhance the resources for the wildlife populations.

The Medora Grazing Association remains committed in our partnership with the US Forest Service to implement various grazing management tools on National Forest Service Lands within the Medora Ranger District. Along with the aid of the Grasslands Grazing Grant implementation the Association will be able to utilize the resources that have been made available through the NDIC Well Conversion Program that will help alleviate the need for water that supports grazing and the abundance of wildlife in the Grasslands. We will continue to work with the Forest Service and our members to assist with planning and implementation of these improvements. The Association will provide administrative assistance, including any required permit applications with county of State agencies, liaising with contractors, project invoicing and procurement of project materials.

The Medora Grazing Association is thankful for the time and dedication of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture staff, the Medora Ranger District, the Board of Directors, and the members of the Association. The Association looks forward to another opportunity to work with all involved to continue making these much-needed improvements to the National Grasslands.

Wes Obrigewitch

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Obrigewitch', written over a horizontal line.

President  
Medora Grazing Association