

Greenfields IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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Minutes from a Special Meeting of the Greenfields Irrigation District's (GID) Board held on Tuesday, January 23rd, at 2 P.M to discuss the formation of a Grazing Pasture Sub-Committee to address various issues the District is having managing the pastures efficiently. Those in attendance were: Board Vice President Bill Norris, Commissioner Pat Brosten, District Manager Erling Juel and Board Secretary Jenny Gulick. Also present were water users: Brad Schaefer, Denver Harris, Chris Ostberg, Clayton Forseth, Ken Morris, Rocky Forseth and Range Rider Ron Wilson.

Handouts were provided by Manager Juel which consisted of a map of the pastures, an Agenda and a Pasture Lease Update sheet. Discussion opened with Manager Juel giving a brief overview of what exactly the ground that makes up GID's grazing pastures is: U.S. Government owned and withdrawn land for Reclamation's use and GID's oversight. The land consists of approximately 23,000 acres, with 82 individual pastures. The revenue GID receives yearly is approximately \$160,000, which offsets the annual assessment we must charge our water users each year by \$2/acre. The current leases will expire on December 31st, 2026.

Range Rider Wilson gave the group a brief overview of the pastures' statuses. He reported that he saw a lot of over-grazing and also saw a lot of opportunity for many of the pastures to carry more AUMs. There are areas to re-distribute cattle, water could be fenced in where cattle would need to go there to the water. He reported that he saw possibilities to either make changes to the ground and/or make changes to the lease.

Pasture Issues that GID needs to address:

- 1) Sub-leasing
- 2) Transferring of leases
- 3) Fencing & other improvements
- 4) Lack of water
- 5) Lack of access
- 6) Overgrazing
- 7) Subdividing into panels
- 8) Reorganizing pastures into less pastures, but bigger units
- 9) Bidding preferences to local GID producers
- 10) Weed control
- 11) Harvesting hay
- 12) Tracking usage
- 13) Pasture use vs. pasture stewardship
- 14) Offer perceptions from pasture users

The Board is looking to possibly allow sub-leasing cattle. The current lease doesn't allow leasing cattle, which doesn't help young producers, which doesn't help young producers get established. A question was brought up if the sub-lessee had to be a water user, and the two Board members expressed their belief that it should be. Currently GID only allows an individual entity to lease up to 4 pastures.

Manager Juel explained to the group that there are times when there is too much water in our canal system and at said times, it would be beneficial to both GID and the pasture lessees to be able to irrigate the pastures with this excess water. As it is native grass, irrigation would only help minimally, but if we were to

aerate the pastures, it might help the ground to receive the water. It was also expressed that producers would likely be more willing to invest in ground improvements, if long-term leases were allowed. Manager Juel will approach the Bureau and the FSA and find out if there is potential to break-up ground to re-seed it into grass.

The desire by the lessees present was expressed that they would like to see the pastures to be able to be passed down to family members. It was also suggested that we might incorporate how BLM and the State handle pasture leases. Discussion of what type of improvements are currently allowed, any that are not permanent structures. It was mentioned that a 3rd party appraiser would be able to determine a fair and marketable value for the pasture, when improvements have been made. The individual looking to acquire the lease would be responsible for finding an appraiser. A question was asked about GID's policy for resting pasture. A producer can choose to rest the pasture, but still must pay the annual lease payment.

The group then looked at possible answers to the problem of a pasture lacking drinking water. Discussion of the possibility of doing a little digging and snake a canal through the pasture that would then empty back into our canal system. GID could do the work to establish dedicated watering spots, with a small slope causing limited erosion.

The over-grazing issue was then addressed. Many lessees feel that they have no other choice than over-grazing, due to nowhere else to graze their animals. The ditch riders can have some responsibility in reporting this problem when it is noticed. Also, the Range Rider will have the ability to make suggestions to the lessee. GID may look into subdividing into panels, once the current leases expire.

The current bidding process was then discussed and reported that currently a water user has the 1st right of refusal to match the top bid from a non-water user. Weed control is another major issue. However, the good news is that a majority of the weeds growing are edible, but for animals to desire to eat them, the grazing period would need to be extended. In the past, on pastures with an excessive weed problem, GID crew sprayed and was reimbursed by the lessee. It was brought up that GID crews need to take responsibility in spraying the upper canal banks, and that a drone might be a feasible way to accomplish this. Also, rough grass is spreading due to inability to graze earlier or later in the year.

Harvesting hay off a grazing pasture is currently not allowed. On most pastures, there would not be enough grass to make the effort worthwhile, but on those that there would be, maybe a thought to assess that ground differently. Producer would need to get Board approval before irrigating or haying the ground. The group voiced its opinion that it shouldn't be necessary for lessee to report the moving of cattle between pastures and GID has found that regulating co-mingling turned out to be much too big of a job, anyhow. Also currently the lease holder is 100% responsible for maintaining the fencing, however, State law says that the 2 neighbors share the responsibility 50/50. Those present wanted to know what GID's current tracking system for usage was and it was reported that GID currently relies on the honor system. The group would like to see that lessees are knowledgeable on pasture use versus pasture stewardship. The members present also encouraged that livestock reporting forms would be sent out each Fall with the annual lease invoice. It is also recommended to avoid any high ball bids, that the prospective lessee would have to come up with a feasibility plan to show it is a legitimate proposal. It is also encouraged that the Range Rider has more authority and responsibility to help report numbers, and suggest improvements to both GID and the lessees.

Other topics briefly discussed with no definitive answer given were: Sealed bid versus open bidding, whether or not an annual inflation increase/decrease might be implemented in the annual lease payment.

Manager Juel will summarize Board Secretary's notes once compiled and will provide the members of the group with follow-up.

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GID Pastures-Map 1

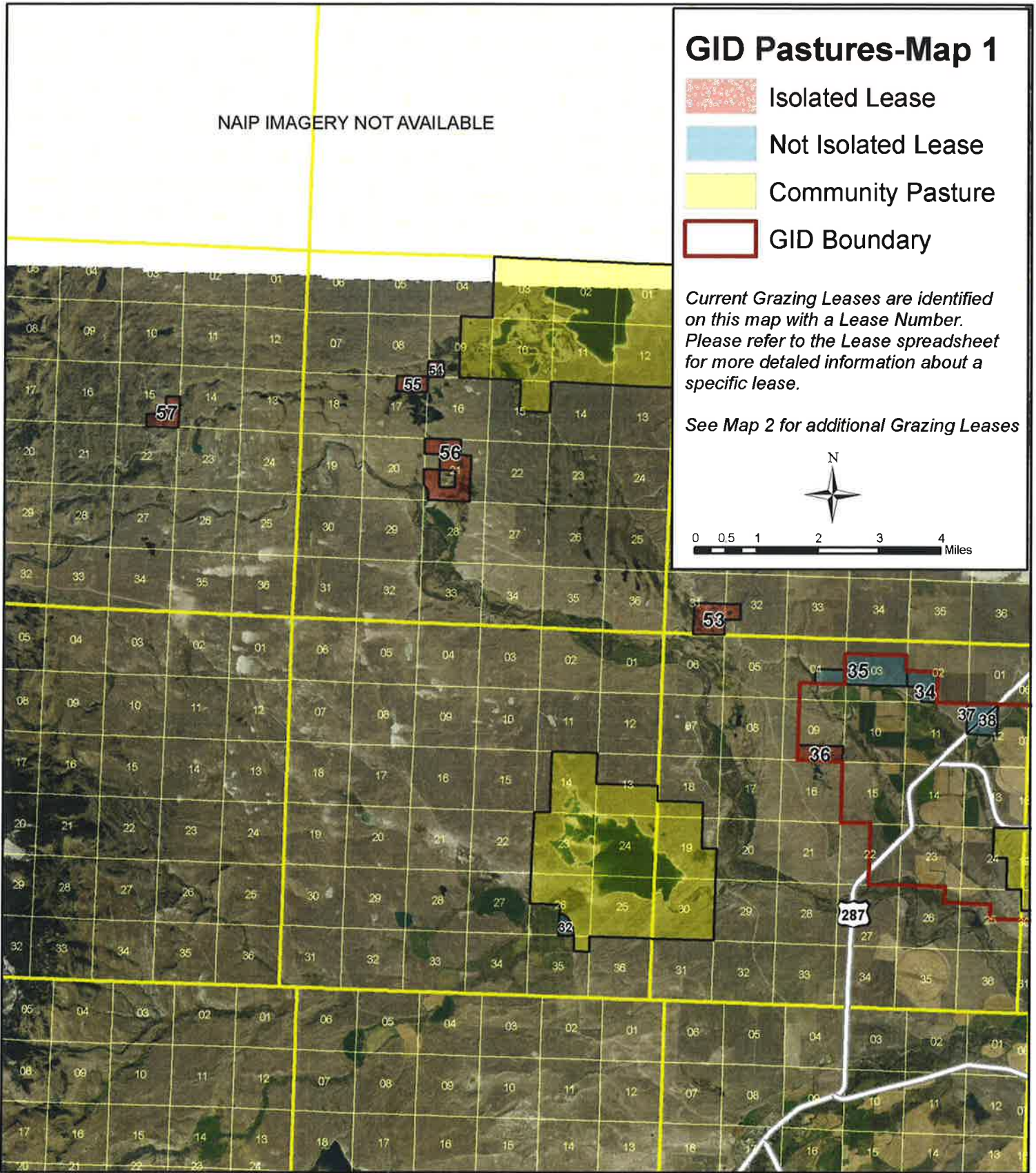
-  Isolated Lease
-  Not Isolated Lease
-  Community Pasture
-  GID Boundary

Current Grazing Leases are identified on this map with a Lease Number. Please refer to the Lease spreadsheet for more detailed information about a specific lease.

See Map 2 for additional Grazing Leases



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



T 22 N

T 21 N

T 20 N

R 8 W

R 7 W

R 6 W

GID Pastures-Map 2

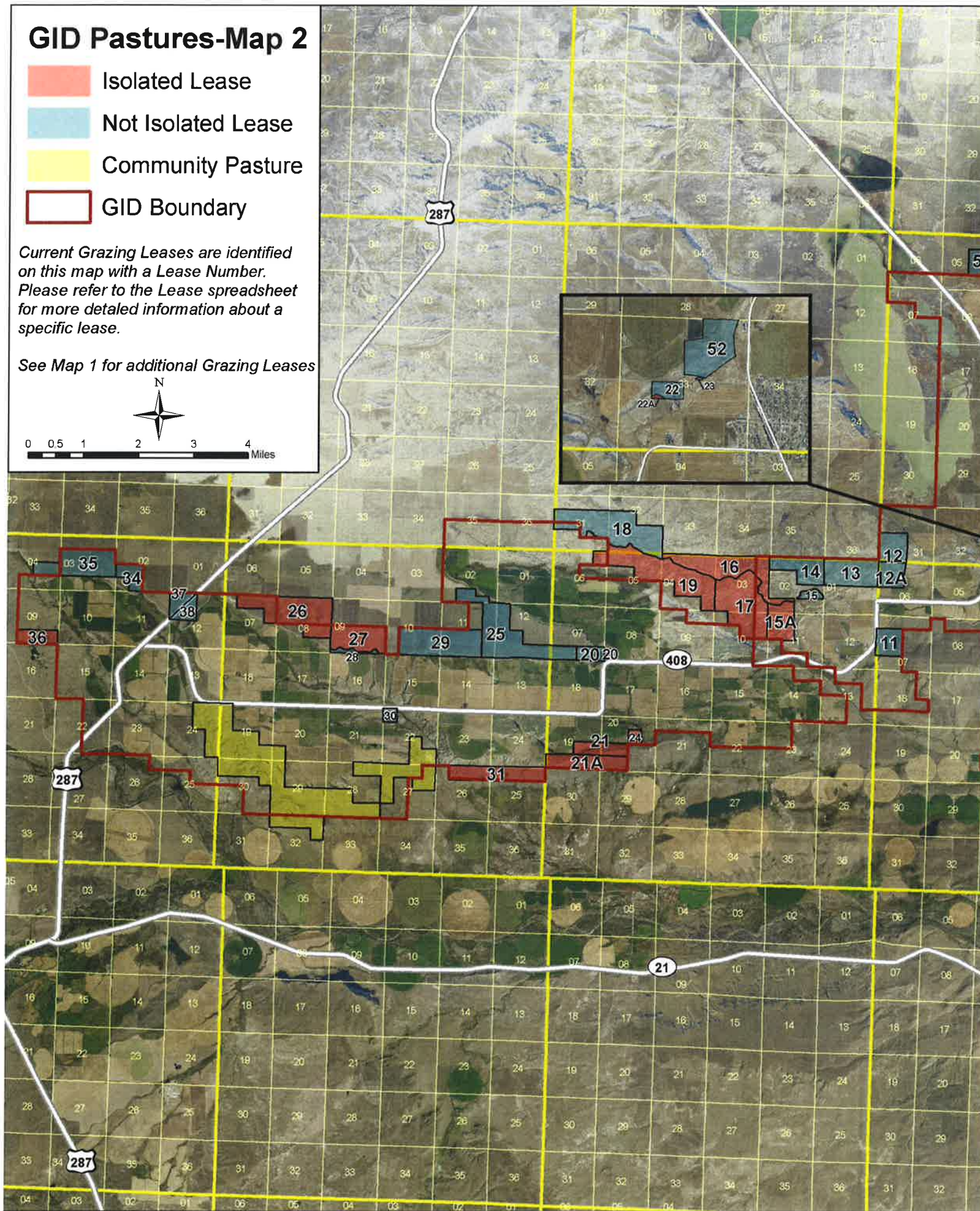
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R 6 W

R 5 W

R 4 W

