



File Code: 2720/1950
Date: March 5, 2026

Subject: Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) proposal to reestablish airstrip

To Those Interested in this Project:

The USDA Forest Service, Dakota Prairie Grasslands, Medora Ranger District, received a Special Use Application from the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) to 1. Reestablish an airstrip (formerly known as the Eberts Airstrip) and 2. Maintain an adjoining area for designated plane parking/camping, both located on National Forest System (NFS) lands in NW Section 1, T143N, R102W, Billings County, North Dakota. The need for Forest Service action is to respond to the special use application in accordance with 36 CFR 251 subpart B.

The proposed airstrip would be approximately 3.5 acres and the designated plane parking/camping area would be an approximate 1 acre fenced area. Total area involved in the proposal (airstrip, plane parking/camping area) is approximately 4.5 acres. RAF estimates 8 to 16 landings per month from May to October.

RAF proposes to reestablish the airstrip by filling in holes, removing brush, installing painted rocks for runway markers; constructing a fence around parking/camping area; maintain/mow airstrip and parking/camping area. A portable toilet will be installed initially, with a vault or composting toilet planned for future installation. If approved, a special use permit would be issued for the 4.5-acre area, which would include an agreement with the Medora Ranger District for RAF to maintain the area.

The proposed project would occur in Management Areas 3.65 Rangelands with Diverse Natural Landscapes and 3.51b Bighorn Sheep with Non-Federal Mineral Ownership and within Moderate Scenic Integrity Objective areas. Information on Management Areas are included in the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/dpg/natural-resources>).

This proposed action falls within the Categorical Exclusion (CE), USDA-28d-USFS "Approval, modification, or continuation of special uses that require less than 20 acres of NFS lands."

The District Ranger is the Responsible Official for the decision to approve the project as proposed or an alternative to the proposal. If the proposed activity is approved, the District Ranger may add any best management practices or design criteria for the protection of grassland resources relative to the project. A decision on this proposal is anticipated in the spring of 2026.

If you have concerns or ideas about this project or know about special features that exist in the area, please let us know. The interdisciplinary team for this project will review your comments and may use them to refine the proposal or generate alternatives. The team will analyze the probable environmental effects of carrying out the proposal or one of its alternatives, and the District Ranger will make a final decision about the project. Please submit comments for the RAF air strip proposal by April 3, 2026.



Please email comments to Medora District's Deputy District Ranger, Robert Schilling:
Robert.schilling@usda.gov.

Hardcopy comments can be mailed to:

Medora Ranger District
Attn: Robert Schilling
99 23rd Ave W
Dickinson, ND 58601

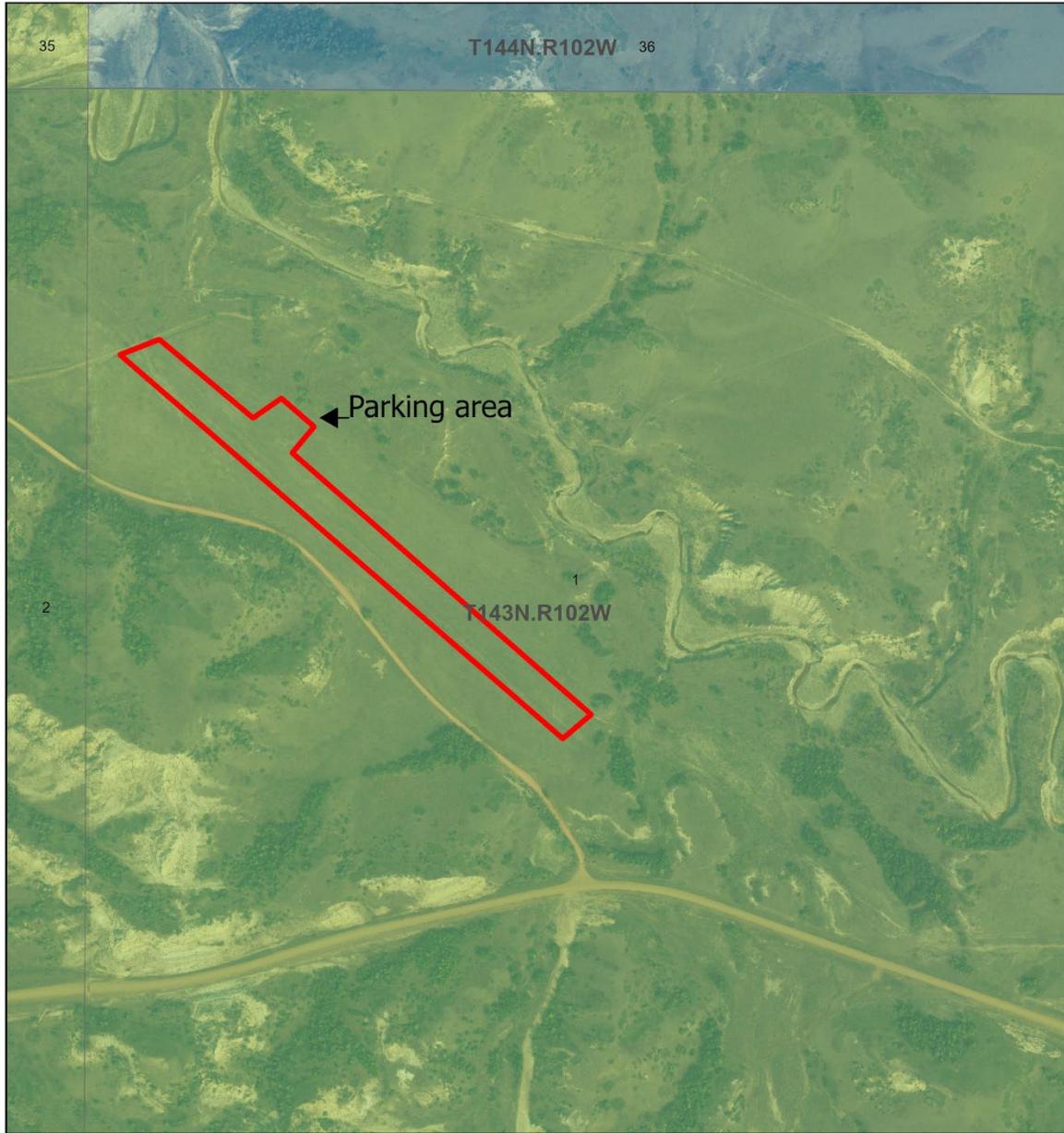
Hand delivered written and oral comments will be accepted during the comment period at the Medora Ranger District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. If you have questions or would like to comment on this project, please contact Robert Schilling at 701-227-7837.

Sincerely,

ROBERT SCHILLING
Deputy District Ranger

Enclosure: Map

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- Sections
Surface Ownership
 National Grassland
 State
 Elkhorn Airstrip

Recreation Aviation Foundation
 Airstrip Rehabilitation
 Section 1, T143N, R102W
 Billings County, ND

