

Section 16

What are School Trust Lands and the Department of Trust Lands (DTL)?

At statehood, lands were set aside and granted to the state (typically section 16 and 36 of every township) with the sole purpose of providing funding for "common schools". Currently DTL manages approximately 706,480 surface acres and 2.6 million mineral acres. DTL is charged with managing these lands and 18 separate Trusts and Funds, with the largest Trust being the Common Schools Trust (K-12th grade students are the recipients of the Common School Trust fund dollars).

Specifically for surface acres, money is generated predominately by two ways: 1) the leasing of surface acres for agricultural purposes (grazing, haying, cropping) and 2) through rights-of-way easements (oil development, electric lines, etc.)



To maximize the return of every dollar, the money generated is invested by the Investment Division. During the current biennium (2021-2023), distributions to the common schools of ND will amount to \$421,020,000 which accounts for 15.3% of education per student – that is approximately \$1,829 per student! In the last 8 years, the Common Schools trust has supplied nearly \$1 billion (\$991,480,000) to public schools in North Dakota. All operating costs are paid from revenues generated by the Trust Lands, no taxpayer dollars are used.

PUBLIC ACCESS/POSTING REMINDER

School Trust Lands are open to non-vehicular public access, unless otherwise posted. Sign requests must first be approved by DTL. Posting Trust Land with any other sign than Department approved signs is a violation of your lease terms.

DTL provides 3 types of signs free of charge:

“Notify Lessee”: requires the public to notify the lessee before entering the property, but does not allow the lessee to restrict access

“Closed”: prohibits the public AND the lessee from hunting the tract of land.

“Walking Access Only”: serves to remind the public to not drive on Trust Lands.

TO REQUEST POSTING SIGNS, PLEASE UTILIZE THE ONLINE APPLICATION FOUND AT
WWW.LAND.ND.GOV

GET TO KNOW THE SURFACE DIVISION

JOSEPH STEGMILLER



Joseph Stegmiller is the Surface Management Division Director. Joseph joined the Department as a Land Management Specialist and recently moved into the Director role. He grew up on a family farm near Flasher, ND and is still active in the day-to-day operations. He obtained a B.S. in Zoology and a M.S. in Entomology, both from NDSU in Fargo, ND. He also has a Masters Certificate from UND for Geographic Information Systems. Joseph spends his free time with his wife and two kids which usually involves fixing fence or checking cows.

JACOB LARDY



Jacob is a Land Management Specialist with the Department. Jacob oversees all grazing plans on Trust lands, carries out the water development program, handles anything pertaining to public access and posting and public outreach, is in charge of the taxes for the land, and assists with the leasing auctions. After graduating with a B.S. in Range Science from NDSU, Jacob worked for KLJ in Bismarck, ND; after which he joined the team at DTL. You can find Jacob spending his free time outside, hiking with his and wife and 3 kids, or running along the bluffs of the Missouri River. Jacob is an avid road runner, trail runner, and hunter. Jacob's passion for rangelands stems from finding beauty in being outside!

CORY BARTH

Cory is the Reclamation Specialist for the Department. He oversees reclamation on Trust Lands throughout the state. This includes reclamation of pipelines, oil well sites, roads, utilities, fire, and mining practices. Cory is also the Field Inspector Supervisor. He manages nine Field Inspectors stationed across the state. Cory has a B.S. in Natural Resources Management as well as a M.S. in Range Science, both from NDSU in Fargo, ND. In his free time Cory manages a vegetable business and enjoys traveling and fishing.



KAYLA SPANGELO

Kayla is the Rights-of-Way Specialist for the Department. She handles all inquiries and the acquisition process for roads, utilities, pipelines, well sites, etc. Previous to joining DTL, Kayla worked with local producers, SCD, and NRCS professionals in five counties in Central/Eastern ND. Kayla obtained a B.S. in Natural Resources Management, a Minor in Range Science, and M.S. in Natural Resource Management, all from NDSU in Fargo, ND. When she is not working, she spends her time with her black lab, hiking, hunting, fishing, gardening, and assisting her husband and father-in-law farm and custom seed & harvest west of Bismarck-Mandan.



GET TO KNOW THE SURFACE DIVISION (CONT.)

GARRET HECKER

Garret is a Reclamation and Rights-of-Way Specialist with DTL. After graduating with a B.S. in Biology and Fish and Wildlife Science from VCSU and a M.S. in Range Science from NDSU Garret worked for KLJ in Bismarck, ND and Farm Service Agency in Killdeer, ND. You can find Garret spending his free time helping his family with their cattle ranch near South Heart, ND or hiking the ND badlands with his wife and dog. Garret also enjoys fishing out of a kayak chasing bass and pike. Garret has been interested in rangeland management for most of his life as his side hobbies include identifying birds and plants.



RYAN KOBILANSKY

Ryan is the newest member of the DTL staff who recently accepted the position of Leasing Coordinator. Ryan has worked previously as both an Agronomy Sales Representative and as a Watershed Coordinator. He enjoys working directly with landowners and producers to provide technical assistance and recommendations to improve agricultural systems. He has a B.S. in Natural Resources Management from NDSU and enjoys firearms, reloading, hunting, and helping his in-laws operate their family farm and ranch. He resides in Glen Ullin, ND along with his wife, Chantel.



COST SHARE AVAILABLE



Cost Share is available to DTL surface lessees for noxious weed/pest control and developing water on Trust Lands.

For more information, please visit www.land.nd.gov or call the Department at (701) 328-2800.



STAYING IN “THE KNOW”

Please notify the Department if there has been a change in address, phone numbers, someone has passed away, or retired from farming/ranching. Rent billings, newsletters, and correspondence all rely on having the correct name and up to date contact information.



ND DEPARTMENT OF TRUST LANDS
1707 N 9th Street
PO Box 5523
Bismarck ND 58506-5523

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 419
Bismarck, ND
Zip Code 58504

SURFACE DIVISION STAFF

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Kayla Spangelo (*kspangelo@nd.gov*)
Rights of Way, Access

Jacob Lardy (*jlardy@nd.gov*)
Access, Range Management,
Permanent Improvements, Outreach, County Taxes

Garret Hecker (*ghecker@nd.gov*)
Reclamation, Rights of Way, Aggregate

Ryan Kobilansky (*rkobilansky@nd.gov*)
Leasing, Auctions, Weed and Pest

FIELDMEN

Dale Ferebee – Beach
Mike Sondeland – Bismarck
Tim Kuntz – Mandan
Randy Kreil – Bismarck
Kacey Holm – Ashley
Anthony Duletski – Bowman
Corey Paryzek – Williston
Duane Anderson – Minot
Bruce Baska – Mohall

Important Reminders:

**Deadline for Weed Cost Share
is October 31st!**

**Your lease may be expiring!
Check your lease for the
expiration date.**

Fall auctions are scheduled.

**Any application can be submitted at
any time through our website:
www.land.nd.gov**

**For more information call the
Department at (701) 328-2800**