INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION AWARDS OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND DOLLARS IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,848,133

Bismarck, ND - The Industrial Commission approved $5,848,133 of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars for 17 projects. The 63rd legislative assembly appropriated up to $30 million per biennium for the Fund from oil and gas production tax revenue to support projects such as access to private and public lands for sportsmen; creating fish and wildlife habitats; stewardship toward farming and ranching; enhancing water quality, plant diversity and soil conditions; and for outdoor recreation areas. This award is for the first grant round. Four more rounds are scheduled for the remainder of the biennium.

“We are pleased with the projects recommended to us by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board for this first round of grants,” the Commission members said in a joint statement. “These projects will improve water quality, make more lands available for hunter access, support outdoor recreation and assist with the planting of trees. These projects are ready to begin as soon as contracts are signed, and they will have a positive impact across the entire state.”

The next application deadline for the program is April 1, 2014. In addition to approving these projects, the Commission also stated that several types of projects will not be considered in the future, except in extenuating circumstances, such as funding for staffing, annual maintenance, feasibility studies, projects that have already been completed, paving for roads and parking lots, research, etc. A complete list is available on the Outdoor Heritage Fund website. http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm

“From the smallest project to the largest, we believe these projects will be good for North Dakotans,” said Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Chairman, Wade Moser. “They will enhance habitat, plant trees and improve the outdoor recreation experience across the state.”

The projects approved are:

- Artificial Nesting Habitat Improvement - Spirit Lake Nation Fish and Wildlife Department - $5,565
- Mapping of Tribal Land for Sportsmen - Spirit Lake Nation Fish and Wildlife Department - $8,568
- The Marcus Friskop Nature Center - Hankinson Public School - $30,000
- ND Hen House Project I - Delta Waterfowl - $34,000
- Community Outdoor Fitness Park - Minot Family YMCA - $45,000
- LSC 20,000 Trees by 2020 - Ludden Sportsmen Club - $50,000
- Warwick Dam - Modification & Rehabilitation - Eddy County Water District - $55,000
- Antelope Creek Wild Rice Corridor Watershed Restoration Project - Richland Soil Conservation District - $105,000
- Bismarck Trailhead/Neighborhood Park - Bismarck Parks and Recreation District - $105,000
- Trail Restoration & Improvement Program - ND Parks & Recreation Department - $112,000
- Ransom County Water Quality Improvement Project - Ransom County Soil Conservation District - $115,000
- Sheyenne River Sedimentation Reduction Project - Barnes County Soil Conservation District - $126,000
- Natural Resource Stewardship in North Dakota’s Parks, Preserves and Natural Areas - $129,000
- Aquatic Habitat Infrastructure Enhancement - Ducks Unlimited, Inc. - $322,000
- Enhanced Grazing Lands & Wildlife Habitat (Phase I) - Ducks Unlimited, Inc. - $828,000
- ND Statewide Conservation Tree Planting Initiative - ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts - $1,878,000
- ND Game and Fish Department Outdoor Heritage Habitat Initiative - ND Game and Fish Department - $1,900,000

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. Jack Dalrymple as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, oversees the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

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