INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION AWARDS $5,752,839 IN OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUNDS

Bismarck – The Industrial Commission today approved nearly $5.8 million in state grants from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The 63rd Legislative Assembly appropriated up to $30 million per biennium from oil and gas production tax revenue to support outdoor recreation and conservation projects including access to public and private lands for sportsmen, farming and ranching stewardship practices, fish and wildlife habitat preservation, and outdoor recreation areas.

The Industrial Commission, comprised of Gov. Jack Dalrymple, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, has approved $14.1 million in grants so far this biennium and is expected to fund additional projects during two more grant rounds.

“We are pleased with the quality of the applications that were recommended for our consideration,” the commission members said in a joint statement. “These are projects that meet the directives established by the Legislature and they will have a lasting impact on our recreational opportunities and quality of life. We look forward to supporting many more worthy projects as we move forward.”

“This round includes a variety of projects – from enhancing outdoor experiences for our citizens across the state to implementing best management practices that will result in improved water quality,” said Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board Chairman, Wade Moser.

The projects approved are:

- $3,000,000, ND Game and Fish Department - match funding for USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - providing a one-time habitat incentive on CREP acres;
- $1,750,000, Delta Waterfowl, provide incentives to producers who agree to leave qualified wetlands intact - 10,500 acres;
- $240,000, Park River Parks and Recreation, partial funding for a 20-unit campground;
- $187,650, Morton County Parks, bank stabilization project along the Missouri River to allow for more shoreline fishing;
- $125,000, Drayton Park Board, partial funding for a 70-site recreational use campground;
- $100,000, Grand Forks Park District, dredge Ryan Lake to restore and stabilize the shoreline and develop recreation area for expanded, year-round use;
- $82,218, Audubon Dakota/Fargo Park District, create, restore and enhance wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for City of Fargo -- 142.25 acres.
- $66,152, Tri-Cities Joint JDA, creation of a looped walking trail with a bird observatory and educational area and a playground rest area;
- $60,000, Pheasants Forever Dakota Chapter, Bismarck, purchase of trees and weed barrier to improve habitat for a long term beneficial environment;
- $40,382, ND Parks & Recreation Department, purchase and installation of fishing docks at Beaver Lake and Lake Metigoshe for public use;
• $40,000, Sandhills Archery Club, upgrade landscaping and improve safety and expand shooting opportunities;
• $35,500, Fingal Wildlife Club, restoration of a dam to be used for recreation fishing and family picnic area;
• $16,000, The Nature Conservancy, purchase of livestock tanks to improve rotational grazing program on the Brown Ranch;
• $9,937, Wild Rice Soil Conservation District, improve, maintain and restore water quality along the Wild Rice River.

The next application deadline for the program is November 3, 2014. More information about the program, including the application process can be found on the Outdoor Heritage Fund website. [http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm](http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm).

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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For more information contact Wade Moser at 701-226-4269