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**[www.panhandlercd.com/hpwma.htm](http://www.panhandlercd.com/hpwma.htm)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**High Plains Weed Management Association Receives Grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust**

Lincoln, NE –April 4, 2008–The High Plains Weed Management Association announced today that it will receive \$8,500 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “Nine Mile Creek Invasive Species Control and Habitat Restoration Project.” The Trust Board announced preliminary funding for the project at its last meeting on February 7 in Lincoln. This is the first year of three grants totaling \$28,300. The project is one of the 77 projects receiving \$14,798,718 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this year.

The project stems from an earlier initiative of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed Council that resulted in the Trust Fund awarding \$410,000 to secure approximately 450 acres of riparian buffer strips along the streams in the watershed. With the previous management plan still in effect, additional funding had been requested to continue with the objectives of the project.

The funding will be used for habitat restoration of Nine Mile Creek. The goal of this portion of project is to control or possibly eradicate the noxious weed infestation within the riparian corridor thereby increasing the diversity of native species grasses, shrubs and the insect forms depending on this diversity to thrive. The removal of Russian olive and salt cedar trees should increase flows while the best management practices will increase the quality of water to the North Platte River with no adverse effect on water quantity.

The Nine Mile Creek Management Plan includes tours for state and local agencies, conducting workshops for area school students, engaging local civic organizations, and promoting the project with brochures, media coverage, and handouts. An award winning video was made chronicling the history, farming practices, and changes that are found within the watershed. This has been the most effective promotion tool to date.

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. This year the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the Nebraska Lottery are celebrating 15 years of partnership in making Nebraska a better place. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided grants to 1035 projects across the state. Anyone can apply – citizens, conservation organizations, communities,



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businesses and individuals that want to protect Nebraska's natural habitat, improve water quality or quantity or find better ways to manage our waste. The Nebraska Environmental Trust works to preserve,

protect and restore our natural resources for future generations. You may visit the Trust's website at: [www.environmentaltrust.org](http://www.environmentaltrust.org) for more information.

To learn more about this great project, please contact Project Manager Dennis Beyer at 308-632-1311 at his new location within the Panhandle RC&D office located at 1517 Broadway, Suite 101 in Scottsbluff.

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