



1517 Broadway Suite 101

Phone: 308-632-1311

Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Fax: 308-632-7671

www.panhandlercd.com/hpwma.htm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jennifer Rogers

High Plains Weed Management Association

1517 Broadway Suite 101

Scottsbluff, NE 69361

panhandle.rcd@allophone.com

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 \$1,600,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “North Platte Invasive Species Control 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 two grants totaling \$1,800,000. The project is one of the 77 projects receiving \$14,798,718 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this year.

The funds from the Trust will be used to remove and control invasive species in the riparian areas of the North Platte River watershed. The current drought in Western Nebraska has forced landowners to evaluate every available option for water conservation. The High Plains Weed Management Association (consisting of eight panhandle counties) has taken on the responsibility to address the water loss caused by the expansive growth of invasive species. Three main invasive species (Russian olive, Saltcedar and Phragmites) are targeted to be controlled. Approximately 14,300 acres is expected to be treated.

The educational process will use newsletters, workshops and web pages to help landowners and others understand the value of cost sharing on this project. The project will also have a positive effect locally on the work force by creating jobs to stimulate the economy of the panhandle. Monitoring sites and test plots for existing and new technologies will be established. This will ensure the best results achievable.

The Russian olive will be sheared, stump treated and removed to areas not in the flood plain. Saltcedar and Phragmites will be treated and left standing to ensure complete eradication. The High Plains Weed Management Institute will be leveraging these funds with in-put from conservation partners and landowner participation. This collaboration will assist in restoring the riparian areas to their more natural states. The project will reduce water consumption benefiting the entire Platte River watershed. The possibility of flooding due to debris in the flood plain will be greatly reduced after it is removed. Restoring native habitat and pastureland will have a desired effect on the treated areas. This project will enhance the aesthetics of the entire watershed.



1517 Broadway Suite 101

Phone: 308-632-1311

Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Fax: 308-632-7671

www.panhandlercd.com/hpwma.htm

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, 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 for more information.

HPWMA is also pleased to announce the appointment of Project Manager Dennis Beyer, and Field Coordinator Roy Lyles. Dennis and Roy will be in charge of project implementation and will be a great asset to the project. Dennis Beyer will be located within the Panhandle RC&D office in Scottsbluff, and Roy Lyles will continue his duties through the North Platte Natural Resources District, and will be housed in that office.

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.

###