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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGH PLAINS WEED MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Lincoln, NE – April 1, 2010 – High Plains Weed Management Association announced today that it will receive \$9,900 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “Nine Mile Creek Invasive Species Control and Habitat Restoration” project. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 1, 2010 in Lincoln. This is the third and final year of the award with funding totaling \$28,300. The project is one of the 88 projects receiving \$14,970,328 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this year.

The US Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Nine Mile Creek Project a grant of \$80,900 to eradicate “invasive species” in the watershed. This part of the management plan is still in effect. The Russian olive trees have been removed, spraying to control noxious weeds is ongoing, and Salt cedar trees have been foliage sprayed. The results, after 3 years, are very encouraging. It has been determined that with 3 more years of constant attention being paid to controlling re-growth of Russian olive sprouts and eradicating any new growth of noxious weeds, the “Rehabilitation of Nine Mile Creek” will be a major success. Section 319 funds are being used to fund the watershed coordinator’s position, install best management practices, and ensure the success of the project.

The Nine Mile Creek Management Plan has long range goals and objectives that continue to address the situation. 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





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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 Environment Trust in 1992. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust provided over \$157 million in grants to 1,231 projects across the state. Anyone – citizens, organizations, communities, farmers and businesses – can apply for funding to protect habitat, improve water quality and establish recycling programs in Nebraska. The Nebraska Environmental Trust works to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources for future generations.

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