

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HIGH PLAINS WEED MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GRANT from NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**

Lincoln, NE – April 13, 2009 – The High Plains Weed Management Association announced today that it will receive \$9,900.00 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “Nine Mile Creek Invasive Species Control habitat restoration”. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 2, 2009 in Lincoln. This is the second year of award with a potential for third year funding totaling \$28,300. The project is one of the 82 projects receiving \$15,065,944 in grand awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) this year.

The project stems from an earlier initiative of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed Council that resulted in the NET 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.

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. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided over \$142 million in grants to 1, 134 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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