

Press Release

High Plains Weed Management Association Receives Grant from

Nebraska Environmental Trust

Lincoln, NE – April 13, 2009 – High Plains Weed Management Association announced today that it will receive \$400,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “North Platte River Invasive Species Follow-up Project”. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 2, 2009 in Lincoln. This is the 1st year of award for a potential for second year funding totaling \$700,000. The project is one of the 82 projects receiving \$15,065,944 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this year.

During the 2008 grant period for the Nebraska Environmental Trust, High plains Weed Management Association received a \$1.6 million grant to address the ever-increasing problem of invasive species in the Upper Platte River Watershed located in the Nebraska Panhandle (consisting of the eight Panhandle Counties). These funds are being used to assist landowners with the removal and management of invasive plant species. The project will enhance water conservation efforts, which has been prompted by multiple years of drought. Since its inception, High Plains has sought to assist landowners in treating the invasive plan species through cost-share assistance, education, and by serving as a resource for anyone affected. One of the most important elements in combating the problem of invasive plant species is continued follow-up control efforts. For example, with species such as phragmites, a minimum of three years of follow-up is necessary to ensure that maximum success has been achieved. That is why it is crucial for High plains to have funding available in order to have continuous follow-up control on the acres that are being treated. High Plains is currently estimating over 8,000 acres of invasive species infested land are to be treated in this year alone. By leveraging existing and future grant funds, High Plains is able to partner with numerous federal agencies, conservation partners and landowners to provide a coordinated effort in addressing this problem. The Nebraska Environmental Trust funds will be used to provide follow-up control of all three targeted species, existing inspection and follow-up personnel through the Project Manager and Field Coordinator, and to continue and expand upon the education efforts High Plains has already implemented in order to provide an innovative, broad-spectrum approach to this vast problem.

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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