

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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Contract awarded for Graham Island road raise

Contracts for raising Devils Lake's Grahams Island road have been awarded to Ames Construction which is now reviewing the materials, announces the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and North Dakota Department of Transportation.

"This is one more step in our continuing efforts to restore our infrastructure in the Devils Lake area," Gov. Jack Dalrymple says. "We know that Graham Island is a popular recreation destination and an important contributor to the Devils Lake area economy."

It's been a difficult summer for Grahams Island State Park with water lapping at the shoulders of the only road and debris covering the road on windy days. The park regularly uses a snow plow to remove the debris swept on the road by Devils Lake waves. Park reservations are suspended due to uncertain access and campers are asked to call ahead to check on weather and road conditions. On high wind days the park has been closed. Besides the state park, Grahams Island is also home to seven families.

"It is exciting to be at this juncture. It has taken a year and a half of work and support on the part of a lot of local, state and federal officials to get to the point where work can begin to raise the Island Road," says Graham Island State Park manager Henry Duray. "This past year the rising lake has pushed our road situation to the limit. The start and completion of this project will be much appreciated by residents and visitors of the Devils Lake Region."

The low bid submitted by Ames Construction was \$15,214,867 which is slightly above the engineer's estimate. A five-mile stretch of the road, now at a level of 1455 (feet above sea level), will be raised to 1461. The federal government is providing \$12.3 million of the construction funding with the North Dakota legislature providing state match of \$2.8 million. Benson county is contributing \$50,000 and the city of Devils Lake also is contributing \$50,000 of local match.

A construction start date has yet to be identified, however, the contractor is required to keep public access to Grahams Island open during the road raise.