

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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Little Missouri State Park celebrates 40th Anniversary

Little Missouri State Park is holding a special celebration on Saturday, May 28, recognizing its 40th Anniversary of joining the state park system. A number of events are being held and several speakers will address the park's past, present and future. Little Missouri State Park is featured on the State Park Annual Vehicle Pass which commemorates the anniversary.

The celebration begins at 11 a.m. with a project for the kids as they make their own cowboy outfit – vest, cowboy hat and chaps – from supplies provided by the park.

A free barbecue starts at noon with plenty of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and beverages for park visitors. This is followed by addresses by North Dakota Parks and Recreation Director Mark Zimmerman, NDPRD planning manager Jesse Hanson and Park Manager Eric Lang.

From 2 to 3 p.m. visitors can meet with park staff and enjoy some snacks and beverages. Also starting at 2 p.m. will be a number of Kids Games including “Needle in the Haystack,” “Cattle Roundup,” “Cattle Roping,” and others. Prize will be given out.

Singer, songwriter and storyteller T.J. Casey will perform starting at 4 p.m. Casey is pure cowboy through and through and his “Cowboy from the Soul” performance is a sure crowd pleaser. Casey will close out the evening with a sunset performance starting at 8:45 p.m., around a campfire at the bluff in the park overlooking the badlands.

Little Missouri State Park is a huge park, consisting of over 4,500 acres located 17 miles north of Killdeer in the heart of the ruggedly beautiful Badlands. Within the park, visitors can see mule deer, coyotes, fox, bobcats, golden eagles and the prairie rattlesnakes. The state owns approximately 1,000 acres of Little Missouri State Park with the rest leased from nearby landowners. There are about 50 miles of trails available to the public which are particularly appealing to horseback riders and hikers wanting to explore the area.

Admission will be free to the public during May 28. Information about Little Missouri State Park can be found on the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.