

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

# NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release, Dec. 15, 2011*

*For more information, contact: Cross Ranch State Park, 701-794-3731*

*Lake Metigoshe State Park, 701-263-4651*

## State parks get 2 new yurts

New yurts are available at Cross Ranch State Park and Lake Metigoshe State Park for those campers who are looking for a different experience as they explore the outdoors.

Two yurts were first established at Cross Ranch State Park just over a year ago. They are a round living structure consisting of canvas stretched over a wood lattice and ceiling beams. The structures were popular among nomadic peoples in Europe. They offer a light, airy atmosphere, have domed skylights for a spectacular view and are fully furnished. Cooking is prohibited inside the yurt, but fire rings are located outside and they are also near vault toilets.

Lake Metigoshe State Park has its first yurt, located on the west shoreline of School Section Lake. The site provides a great view of the lake, is surrounded by trees and there is plenty of wildlife in the area to see. The four-person yurt, available throughout the year, uses a propane fireplace for heat, has electricity and is furnished. The bright blue canvas yurt was christened the "Blue Herron," following the park's history of naming its cabins after native birds.

Cross Ranch received its third yurt. It's smaller than the two 20-footers first established in the park with a 16-foot diameter. What's unique about this yurt is its location. The structure is located four miles northeast from the visitor center and is accessible only by hiking to it on the Levis Trail. The structure doesn't have electricity and uses a wood burning stove for heat. It's ideal for campers wanting to get away from it all and willing to put in the effort to access it.

Cost to rent a yurt is \$50 a night. The yurts are available by reservation either through the NDPRD website or the call center at 800-807-4723. For more information call the parks or check it out online at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov).