

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release, Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

*For more information, contact Gordon Weixel 701-328-5357*

*Mike Duerre 701-594-2444*

### **Grand opening of Pembina Gorge Recreational Area, June 30**

A grand opening of the Pembina Gorge State Recreational Area featuring one of North Dakota's few off-highway vehicle (OHV) public trail opportunities, is scheduled for Saturday, June 30, at the trail head near the community of Walhalla.

Federal, state and local officials have been invited to take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Following the dedication, there will be tours of the newly established 12-mile multiuse trail and a luncheon at the trailhead. While designed for the use of OHVs it is also open to hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders.

The trail is made possible through the North Dakota Park and Recreation Department's partnerships with state agency and private landowners. An additional 12-mile loop is being planned as well as more traditional, non-motorized trail opportunities. The Tetrault Woods State Forest, located south of Walhalla, is undergoing trail enhancements which will provide an unforgettable walk through the woods.

There is no fee to use the new multiuse trail that is designed to accommodate non-motorized and motorized traffic, including the three classes of OHVs – dirt bikes, four wheelers and side-by-sides – which are 60 inches wide or less. Riders under age 18 must wear a helmet and youngsters ages 12 to 15 must have an OHV safety certificate. Riders ages 11 and younger cannot operate OHVs on public land.

“The multiuse trail was developed in response to the high demand for these types of public opportunities,” says NDPRD Recreation Division Manager Arik Spencer. “The trail is only possible through the willingness of local landowners and state agencies to enter into lease agreements allowing this activity.”

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department Director Mark Zimmerman along with Spencer and Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area Manager Mike Duerre will participate in the ceremony.

Information on the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area along with state parks can be found online at the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov).