

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department
NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release, Tuesday April 21, 2009
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Corcoran is new Lewis & Clark State Park manager

Greg Corcoran is the new manager of Lewis and Clark State Park, replacing Al Larsen who resigned to return to MN accepting a park position offered last fall, announces North Dakota Parks and Recreation director Doug Prchal.

“We are pleased to have Greg and his family return to North Dakota,” Prchal says. “Greg’s interest in public service, the outdoors and background suit him well for this state park manager job. His enthusiasm, interest and skills are what excited and convinced us Greg was well suited for this job.”

Corcoran is a former member of the North Dakota Highway Patrol (2003-2007) who is returning to the state after he moved to his home in Illinois for family matters. He has 14 years of experience in the food industry as a quality assurance director. Corcoran has also managed environmental, health and safety compliance operations/programs for a federal Department of Defense historical site and has volunteer experience as a naturalist liaison between Natural Area Guardians and state and private agencies to preserve and perpetuate ecologically sensitive areas.

“After moving to Illinois, we found that in our hearts we wanted to return to North Dakota. We have the utmost admiration for the people who live here and when the opportunity presented itself we took it,” Corcoran says. “This is a big challenge, starting a new career in what can be considered a somewhat remote area.”

Corcoran and his wife have 11 children, nearly all of which have joined him at the park. He is presently learning the rules and regulations that go with running a state park, meeting people and reviewing the park’s amenities to make sure they are ready for spring visitors.

“Mainly I’m going through the park’s infrastructure making sure it’s suitable for visitors. We’re turning on the water and electrical supply,” Corcoran says. “We’re considering what it will take to put out docks if the water level comes up enough to support them.”

The park is looking for some seasonal workers, according to Corcoran.

“There is a lot of work to be done. I’m trying to get people out here to work. I’ve put out the work in Williston and Ray that we need workers,” Corcoran says. “I’m looking to hire eight to ten people. There’s a lot of work to be done with the trees, tightening things up and making sure everything is green and beautiful. I’m told by the locals it’s been a tough winter, one of the worst, with the most snow people have seen. But everything is in good shape now and we haven’t had any water problems.”

Corcoran admits he was captured by the rugged beauty of Lewis & Clark State Park.

“Driving in here I came over the last hills and was amazed by the buttes, Missouri breaks and Lake Sakakawea was just beautiful,” Corcoran say. “The park has a remote quietness that I’m still getting used to. I’ve been in factories for years, but it’s so quiet here you can hear a pin drop. It gives a person time to reflect on what’s important.”

Lewis & Clark State Park’s new manager had high praise for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, noting he’s had great support since arriving. He looks forward to serving the state and its visitors by providing a special experience at the park.