

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department  
**NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release, Monday, March 30, 2009*  
*For more information, contact Gordon Weixel, 328-5358*

## **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park closed due to flooding**

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park is closed to the public and will remain closed until it is determined the flooding threat posed by the Missouri River ice jam north of Bismarck near the Double Ditch area is no longer a problem, according to park manager Dan Schelske.

Interpretive programming, scheduled to begin April 1 at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, will not start until at least April 18, adds Schelske. The park will be faced with clean-up after flooding of the Heart River.

The park has played a part in the Bismarck-Mandan flood fight, providing a site for helicopter to pick up rock salt which they spread on the ice jam near Fox Island. Several areas of the park went underwater on March 23 with the rise of the Heart River. By the end of the week most of the water was gone, though ice covered most everything, according to Schelske.

Overland flooding will remain a problem, particularly with the snow the most recent blizzard is leaving in the area. Park staff continues to unclog culverts, dig out ditches and push snow.

Should the ice jam north of Bismarck break, it is possible that flooding will again occur at the park. In concern for public safety, the park will remain closed until further notice.