

September 18, 2014

Lt. Gov. Wrigley Dedicates Coal Lake Wildlife Area Today

The Falkirk Mining Company and Great River Energy Donate Area to NDDOT

Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley today joined North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Director Grant Levi, along with representatives of the Falkirk Mining Company and Great River Energy, to dedicate the new Coal Lake Wildlife Management Area, located near Underwood. The wildlife habitat area is now open to public access for fishing, hunting, trapping and many other outdoor activities. The area was developed through a program in which the Falkirk Mining Company and Great River Energy donated approximately 729 acres of land to NDDOT.

"This project is a prime example of public and private partnerships working together," said Lt. Governor Drew Wrigley. "NDDOT, the Falkirk Mine and Great River Energy worked together to create this beautiful wildlife habitat area which will now benefit the public for years to come. North Dakota will continue to work to meet our twin stewardship responsibilities for the environment and the economy."

The Coal Lake project is the final step in a plan to eliminate no-mow areas on state highways across the state. The no-mow areas were developed in the 1970's to meet a federal requirement on highway construction projects to mitigate the impacts to wetlands and wildlife habitat along U.S. Highway 2 and U.S. Highway 83.

"This program is a direct result of our continued commitment to the environment by ensuring there are no adverse impacts while building projects." said NDDOT Director Grant Levi.

The Falkirk Mine and Great River Energy worked on reclamation of the Coal Lake area to create an area to serve the public. Chairman of the Public Service Commission Brian Kalk stated, "The Falkirk Mine and Great River Energy should be proud of how well the reclamation around Coal Lake looks today. Just over a decade ago, there was a 100 foot hole in the ground within a hundred yards of Coal Lake, and today, it looks as though all the land was undisturbed. I'm

honored to be a part of this dedication celebration today, congratulations on a job well done.”

The Game and Fish Department will manage the wildlife habitat area. “The Game and Fish Department is excited to work with The Falkirk Mining Company and NDDOT to manage the 729 acres for wildlife management. It’s another example of collaboration and creates another tract of wildlife habitat for the public to enjoy,” said Terry Steinwand, North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director.

Before today’s dedication ceremony, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department hosted an outdoor educational program at the site for fourth grade students from Turtle Lake, Underwood and Washburn.

Speakers at today’s event included; Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley, NDDOT Director Grant Levi, Great River Energy Director of North Dakota Generation John Weeda, ND Game and Fish Director Terry Steinwand and Brian Kalk, Public Service Commission Chairman.