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(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER (202) 224-5358

KANSAS PROJECTS INCLUDED IN FY91 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL \$7.8 MILLION FOR KANSAS PROJECTS

WASHINGTON - Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) announced tonight the funding of several Kansas projects approved by the Senate. The funding proposal, the FY1991 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, now moves to a joint House/Senate conference.

Projects approved by the Senate action include:

MARAIS DES CYGNES WETLANDS

An amendment authored by Senator Dole was approved on the Senate floor providing \$2.5 million to acquire land for wetlands preservation. The funding would purchase 4,000 acres along the Marais des Cygnes River which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified as a priority site. Located approximately 50 miles from Kansas City, the area would be maintained as a refuge for waterfowl and a number of threatened and endangered species.

"This land has been a priority with the Fish & Wildlife Service for years, and I'm pleased that with Governor Hayden's help we will be able to finally begin this important wetlands preservation project," Dole said.

WICHITA FISH & WILDLIFE REFUGE

Funding was approved to purchase land to establish an urban Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Wichita. The complex would include nature trails, demonstration plots, and wildlife observation sites. Plans for the site also included a visitor's center with aquarium displays, wildlife exhibits, classrooms and audio visual rooms. The appraisal of the proposed property site, 7 acres next

to Chisholm Creek Park, is approximately \$450,000. Dole teamed up with Governor Hayden in pushing for establishment of the refuge, which is also backed by both the Sierra Club and the Audobon Society.

QUIVIRA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BARTON COUNTY

\$400,000 was included for emergency assistance to help the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge overcome water supply problems. \$600,000 was included for an addition to the Refuge

Headquarters for environmental education activities and several interpretive developments. These developments, which include interpretive kiosks, self-guided nature trails and an observation tower overlooking the Little Salt Marsh, will improve the accessibility to the public at one of Kansas' three national wildlife refuges.

"As our closest wildlife refuge to a metropolitan area, it is important to upgrade this popular attraction and make it more user-friendly," Dole said.

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FORT LARNED VISITOR CENTER

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\$590,000 was included to begin work on a visitor's center at Fort Larned in Larned. The funding would be used for feasibility, planning and design of the visitor's center at this major tourist stop along the Sante Fe National Historic Trail. The complete restoration of the 19th century fort requires relocation of the visitor's center, which will improve service for visitors to one of Kansas' two National Historic Sites.

Today's Senate action marks the continuation of Dole's commitment to preserving the history and heritage of Fort Larned.

WILSON LAKE, RUSSELL COUNTY

\$125,000 was included for a study of the feasibility of designating Wilson Lake a National Recreation Area, which would then be maintained by the National Park Service. Wilson Lake, located in Russell County, is currently maintained by both the Kansas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Army Corps of Engineers and could become the state's first National Park.

Kansas is currently one of the nation's few states without a National Park.

PONY EXPRESS TRAIL

\$150,000 was also included in the bill to study the feasibility of establishing a Pony Express Visitor Center within the Marysville Home Station or the Hollenberg Relay Station complexes in Northeast Kansas. Legislation to make the Pony Express National Historic Trail part of the National Trails System is currently pending in Congress.

Dole teamed up with State Senator Don Montgomery to deliver the funding to promote this popular Kansas attraction.

HASKELL INDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE DORMITORY, LAWRENCE

Senator Dole worked with Senator Kassebaum to include \$3 million in the bill to finance the construction of a dormitory at Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence.

"The most pressing need at Haskell is additional residential living space. Many prospective students are unable to attend Haskell because there is no dormitory space available. Haskell has a lot to offer and we should do our part to help in this effort," said Dole.

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