



Harlan County Lake Ecosystem Restoration Ribbon Cutting: Harlan County Lake, NE KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION

NWD Priority: Partners

WHO: NWK, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Olsson Mead-Hunt, KRW Construction, CODEL

WHAT: Harlan County Lake Ecosystem Restoration Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

WHEN: June 24, 2025

WHERE: Harlan County Lake, NE

WHY: To celebrate the completion of the Harlan County Lake Ecosystem Restoration project and recognize the partners involved in the project.

WHAT'S NEXT: Maintain strong relationships with our partners to ensure a resilient ecosystem at Harlan County Lake.



Above: A group photo of all attendees for the Harlan County Lake Ecosystem Restoration project. **Below:** LTC Brownhill giving his opening remarks.



Above: LTC Brownhill having a discussion with a Harlan County resident and avid angler who is excited to see the results of the Harlan County Ecosystem Restoration Project. **Below:** Harlan County Lake Project Manager Thomas Zikmund greeting a staffer from Deb Fischer's U.S. Senate office.



Above: Kansas City District staff going over last-minute details before ribbon cutting ceremony. **Below:** Harlan County Lake staff chatting about the days work after the ribbon cutting ceremony,



Summary:

Members of Kansas City District and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Harlan County Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project at Harlan County Lake, NE, on June 24, 2025. Representatives for the designer, Olsson Mead-Hunt, and the construction contractor, KRW Construction, as well as Jerad Reimers with Rep. Adrian Smith's office, were in attendance. The ribbon cutting ceremony began with opening remarks from LTC Brownhill, deputy commander, Kansas City District, followed by remarks from NGPC, Olsson Mead-Hunt and KRW Construction. The formal ribbon cutting followed the opening remarks and afterwards, the Harlan County Lake project staff led a tour of the project site. The \$12.27 million Harlan County Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project is a transformative effort aimed at restoring and protecting aquatic habitats within Methodist Cove. Years of sedimentation had degraded the area's ecological integrity, prompting this extensive restoration effort. The initiative reestablishes critical depth diversity, enhances fish habitats, protects against future sediment accumulation and stabilizes the cove's shoreline. While this project was largely funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with \$9.2 million in federal support, it could not have been completed without the generous \$3 million contribution from the NGPC. Recognized by the White House as a priority project, it stands as a national example of strategic environmental restoration.

