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Janklow Plans Massive Cleanup Effort This Weekend; Local Volunteers, National Guard, Inmates to Clean 5 Eastern SD Towns

(Pierre) -- Gov. Bill Janklow is stepping up his effort to Spruce Up South Dakota this weekend with a sweep through five eastern SD towns.

Members of the National Guard, local volunteer fire departments, local volunteers, and one hundred state prison inmates will assemble in Howard at 8:00 a.m. (CT) on Saturday, June 2 to tear down dilapidated buildings, cut down trees, fix fences and clean up trash. The cleaning crew will then move through Vilas, Roswell, Fedora, and Carthage.

"We're going to try to get these towns cleaned up in one big weekend," Janklow said. The people have really stepped up to the challenge in a very short period of time."

Janklow said the idea for the big weekend project came while he was driving through the area. "I just know that we can make a huge impact in a short time with a concerted effort."

Fifty minimum security inmates from the Yankton Trusty Unit and fifty more from Unit C of the Jameson Annex trusty unit in Sioux Falls will be involved in the effort.

Twelve members of the National Guard from Bravo Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, from Madison and De Smet will pitch in on the effort with four bulldozers and four transport vehicles.