



**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

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Samples May Show Nitrate Movement and Trends

It's been five years since the Lower Platte South NRD took samples of the vadose zone in the Lower Salt Creek Ground Water Reservoir. On Wednesday, the NRD Board approved re-sampling that portion of the soil profile between the root zone (about four feet deep) and ground water. Officials hope to learn whether slugs or high concentrations of nitrates that showed up in the earlier samples have moved or multiplied since the area, a several-mile wide corridor along Highway 6 between Waverly and Ashland, was declared a Phase Two Ground Water Management Area in 2001.

By re-sampling, NRD Resources Coordinator Dan Schulz said, "We hope to be able to better understand the rate nitrates are moving through the vadose zone to the ground water. We'll also use the information to educate producers in the reservoir." Many producers have taken advantage of special cost-sharing rates offered by the NRD for certain best management practices since the 2001 Phase Two declaration, and those rates are still being offered. The project will also include some vadose zone sampling in the Ceresco Community Water System Protection Area under a wellhead protection agreement the NRD has with that community. A project bid of \$10,394.61 from ASW Associates was accepted Wednesday by the NRD Board.