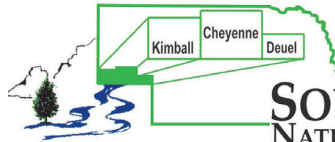


KNOW YOUR NRD

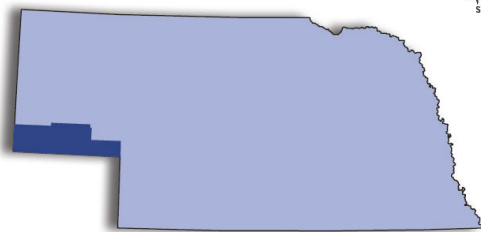


SOUTH PLATTE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972

Summer 2022

SOUTH PLATTE NRD



Protecting Lives, Property and the Future of Natural Resources in the Southern Panhandle.

Did you know?

The District has a wide variety of provisions, programs and practices it uses to protect groundwater for use both today and into the future.

Following the state's primary groundwater law, LB962, the District has developed its Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations, and also established, in conjunction with the state, an Integrated Management Plan to meet management objectives.

There are provisions for oversight and management options to help assure needs for sustainability and economic viability are met.

Protecting Lives

Groundwater Quality

Quality management protects groundwater from over-use of fertilizer and non-point-source pollution. This is accomplished by establishing groundwater management areas and adopting regulatory controls in those areas.

Currently, the district has four Groundwater Quality Management Subareas.

The primary goal is to improve groundwater quality within federal EPA and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy standards. The standard for nitrate nitrogen, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), is 10 parts per million for human consumption.

Protecting Property

Groundwater Levels

Keeping track of changes in groundwater levels is one of the NRD's many responsibilities. While most areas of the SPNRD have abundant groundwater, this resource is not unlimited.

With the help of cooperating landowners, a districtwide network of observation wells monitor changes in groundwater levels. There are currently 208 observation wells measured twice a year, during Spring and Fall.

Chemigation

To protect groundwater from contamination and prevent personal injury, Nebraska law requires anyone who chemigates (applies fertilizer or other agricultural chemicals through

Protecting The Future

an irrigation system) to follow several regulations. The three requirements are: Certification, a Chemigation Permit, and Required Equipment. Renewal permits and fees are due yearly, by June 1st.

Flow Meters

Flow meters must be installed on all water wells pumping more than 50 gpm by an approved contractor and be properly maintained. They are a valuable tool used to provide the total amount of irrigation water applied and the amount of water being withdrawn from various aquifers. The information also aids in future groundwater modeling efforts and management decisions.

Learn more at spnrd.org. Select the Water Management page.

About the South Platte NRD

Cost Share Programs

Cost share provides financial assistance to landowners to encourage conservation practices that will produce long-term benefits to improve soil health and control erosion. Practices such as terraces, tree planting, erosion control dams, buffer strips and livestock pipelines. Learn more at www.spnrd.org. Select the Cost Share page.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Conservation practices that can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations, in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) - Conservation measures that improve water quality, conserve water, and help control erosion and sedimentation, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Conservation Tree Program - Seedlings for farmstead windbreaks, shelterbelts and wildlife habitat.

- Tree purchases and planting
- Barrier material and installation (new plantings)
- Drip system materials and installation (new plantings)

Community Forestry Program - For urban homeowners, neighborhood groups, villages and cities.

- Purchasing, planting and maintaining trees
- Removing trees

Urban Conservation - Less water, fertilizer, maintenance, expense, and runoff plus a beautiful yard!

- Xeriscape
- Buffalograss lawns
- Rain gardens and rain barrels

Buffer Strip Program - Slows water runoff, traps sediment and prevents fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants from reaching surface water and groundwater.

- Planting grasses, trees or shrubs

Well Abandonment Program - Abandonment according to state specifications by a licensed water well driller or pump installer.

Corners For Wildlife - Gives landowners the option to set aside a center pivot corner and plant it to trees, shrubs and/or grass.

Irrigation Special Components - Scheduling, water control, and water management components.

Equipment Services - Equipment available to help make your project a success.

- Grass Seeding Program - In cooperation with Pheasants Forever, rent a no-till grass drill to help improve wildlife habitat.
- Tree Planters - When you've got hundreds of trees to plant, nothing saves time and aching backs like using the tool made especially for planting trees.
- Rototilling - This three point hitch mounted tiller works the ground deeply, leaving you with a bed fit for any seedling.

Nebraska's NRDs:

In 1972 the Nebraska Legislature enacted laws to combine 154 special purpose entities into 23 NRDs. Unique to Nebraska, the districts are local government entities with responsibility to protect natural resources. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries, enabling districts to respond best to local needs.

12 Areas of Responsibility

- Erosion Prevention and Control
- Prevention of Damages from Flood Water and Sediment
- Flood Prevention and Control
- Soil Conservation
- Water Supply for Beneficial Uses
- Development, Management, Utilization, and Conservation of Groundwater and Surface Water
- Pollution Control
- Solid Waste Disposal and Drainage
- Drainage Improvement and Channel Rectification
- Development and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Development and Management of Recreational & Park Facilities
- Forestry and Range Management

Learn more at www.nrdnet.org

The South Platte NRD

Seven locally elected directors manage the southern Panhandle Natural Resources. Their actions help ensure public safety, a strong local economy and a bright outlook for future generations.

Our Directors

Subdistricts:

1. Bill Halligan
2. James C. Johnson
3. Timothy R. Maas
4. Phil Grabowski
5. Chris Meyer
6. Kathryn E. (Kathy) Narjes
7. Larry L. Rutt