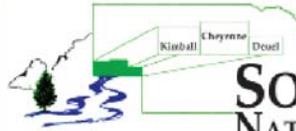


KNOW YOUR NRD



SOUTH PLATTE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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

Summer 2019

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 ground water for use both today and into the future.

Following the state's primary ground water law, LB962, the District has developed its District-wide 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

Ground Water Monitoring

In 2018 the SPNRD completed it's 30th year of monitoring nitrates in the District. Rural and municipal wells are monitored throughout the year. Samples from monitoring wells analyzed and used to assist the NRD in improving groundwater quality to within federal and state quality standards.

In addition to ensuring the water is safe for consumption, the NRD is also charged with groundwater levels to ensure there is enough water for District water users. A network of observation wells allow the NRD to track increases and decreases in groundwater levels so the District can address water management and water users needs.

Protecting Property

Joint East Sidney Watershed Authority

The Joint East Sidney Watershed Authority, or JESWA, was formed in cooperation between the City of Sidney and the SPNRD to protect properties at the lower end of the east Sidney drainage.

Vegetated bioswales (canals) and bioretention (ponds) will slow water, redirect it into the Lodgepole Creek and provide a filtration of the runoff water.

Vegetated bioswales (canals) and bioretention (ponds) will slow water while removing sediment, reducing soil erosion and filtering pollutants as it drains. A fully functioning bioswale can remove up to 20%-40% of pollutants and sediment from runoff.

Protecting The Future

Youth Education

The District provides scholarships to many educational programs, and hosts others without cost to attendees.

For instance, each spring fourth grade students learn about ground water at the Western Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival.

Middle School students can attend the Adventure Camp About the Environment, where they'll roll up their sleeves and learn about soils, water, careers and more.

The NRD also assists high school students, who can attend Range Camp, or participate in range and land judging activities.

Contact us for details!

Oliver Reservoir Streamflow Enhancement Project

Oliver Reservoir, located in western Kimball County, has had an ongoing project which will reduce consumptive use of groundwater and/or increase streamflow into Lodgepole Creek and Oliver Reservoir. Originally the project included 2 possible options to meet the SPNRD goals: 1) modify the footprint of Oliver Reservoir to increase lake levels; and 2) constructing an augmentation well to increase lake levels.

The South Platte NRD Board of Directors determined that the 1st option, modifying the footprint of the reservoir, was too expensive. The 2nd option, constructing an augmentation well, was not favorable due to public perception and concern on whether the well could produce the amount of groundwater required.

The purview of the project has now shifted and the SPNRD is focused on retiring irrigated acres. This retirement of irrigated acres is a way to manage the Streamflow Enhancement Project without pumping water into the lake.

Deuel County Re-Use Pits Recharge Project

Re-use pits are used to recharge groundwater during times of excess flow in the South Platte River. The SPNRD project expanded the number of re-use pits in Deuel County near the Western Irrigation District's canal.

Re-use pits have been used in previous years during times of excess flow for groundwater recharge and to alleviate downstream flooding and mitigate stream depletions.

This project will direct water from the Western Canal into thirteen pits. The water will infiltrate into groundwater and slowly return to the river over time, helping the SPNRD meet Integrated Management Plan (IMP) obligations. The pits were installed south of the South Platte River between the Colorado state line and Big Springs.

Oliver Reservoir Spillway Rehabilitation Project

For several years the SPNRD has been working with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) to ensure that the dam at Oliver Reservoir is in safe, working order. During an inspection several years ago the NeDNR discovered seepage and deterioration in the spillway conduit that could possibly lead to dam failure in the future. The SPNRD immediately started plans to repair the wear and tear on the spillway, and this summer that work has finally been completed. Among other repairs, C&L Water Solutions, Inc. installed a liner in the 118 year old conduit to resolve the seepage issue and maintain the integrity of the dam.

Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

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.

Some NRD responsibilities:

- erosion prevention and control
- prevention of damages from flood water and sediment
- flood prevention and control
- soil conservation
- development, management, utilization, and conservation of groundwater and surface water
- 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 govern southern Panhandle Natural Resources on your behalf. Their actions help ensure public safety, a strong local economy and a bright outlook for future generations.

Our Directors

Subdistrict:

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