

KNOW YOUR NRD

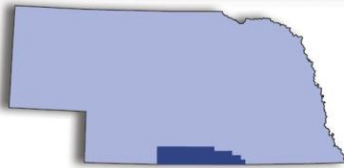
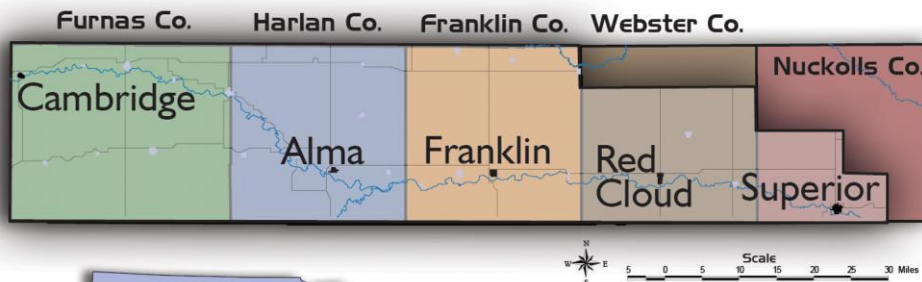


LOWER REPUBLICAN
Natural Resources District
Alma, NE

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

2013

LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD



NRD QUICK FACTS:

Wells Measured Annually
to Monitor Water Levels

20,000 Trees Planted
Annually

All 3,600 Active Irrigation
Wells are Metered and
Regulated

No New Irrigated Land
Development Since 2004

325,012 Irrigated Acres

Protecting Lives

Water Level Monitoring

The LRNRD monitors selected wells across the district to protect farm families from high nitrate levels which may affect personal health.

When it was discovered that the Superior-Hardy area had high nitrate levels in their water supply, they became the first area in the state declared a Special Protection Area. The LRNRD tests monitoring wells in this area four times a year and nitrogen and irrigation management and training workshops are held for area operators.

Protecting Property

Cost Share Programs

A Tree Cost Share Program is offered by the Lower Republican NRD. Planting windbreaks has helped landowners save money on utilities by protecting their homes from winter winds and summer sun. The snow that builds up on fields because of these tree plantings also helps maintain soil moisture levels.

The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund is another means the LRNRD uses to provide financial assistance to Nebraska landowners. This program cost shares on the installation of approved soil and water conservation measures that improve water quality, conserve water, and help control erosion and sedimentation - all of which increase the efficiency of farming operations.

Protecting the Future

Water Management

The LRNRD regulates water use for the preservation and conservation of water and for compact compliance. Our District has a moratorium on new wells and new irrigated acres and a certification of all irrigated acres. All irrigation wells in our district are metered and regulated.

The LRNRD is also responsible for maintaining the integrity of a watershed project completed for the Village of Stamford to protect from occasional flooding.



Major Projects & Programs

Safe Drinking Water For Rural Residents

To protect rural resident's water supply in our District, the Rural Water Project was started in October of 2005. A stretch of 117 miles of pipeline was constructed from just west of Franklin to east of Guide Rock. Four miles south of Franklin, a 100 foot water tower was erected with a 100,000 gallon tank. Service is currently provided to 151 rural water customers and the Village of Guide Rock.



Grant Programs Available

The Lower Republican Natural Resources District currently has two grant programs available to help irrigators retire acres or install soil moisture sensors .

AWEP—Options available under the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) partnership include temporary or permanent retirement of groundwater irrigated acres. Acres must have been irrigated at least two of the last five years to qualify.

CCPI—The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) is a multi-year partnership to help district irrigators purchase and install soil moisture sensor technology to enhance conservation outcomes on agricultural lands.

Acres most closely connected hydrologically to streamflow receive priority ranking for both programs, but all district acres are eligible, with approval depending on the number of applications received.



Educational Opportunities

April 27, 2009 marked the grand opening of the LRNRD outdoor classroom, located on the lot just east of the NRD office in Alma. The outdoor classroom project began in 2007, and was made possible by a grant from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, along with assistance from the community. This area is to be utilized by children and adults alike to learn about and experience nature.

In an effort to educate the youth about natural resources, the Lower Republican NRD helps sponsor an annual Water Jamboree for elementary children and range and land judging contests for high school students. Scholarships are also offered to attend the Nebraska Youth Range Camp and to students planning on majoring in natural resources in college. These opportunities are provided to help train the future of Nebraska.



What the LRNRD does for Nebraska:

Manages our natural resources
Works to keep us in compliance
Educates the future of Nebraska

Republican River Compact

On December 16, 2002 it was announced that Nebraska reached an out-of-court settlement of the U.S. Supreme Court case, Kansas vs. Nebraska, Colorado, concerning the Republican River Compact. The Compact, signed in 1943 by the three basin states, allocates the average annual water supply of the Republican River, 11% to Colorado, 49% to Nebraska, and 40% to Kansas.

On April 22, 2008 Kansas petitioned Nebraska for monetary penalties resulting from Republican River Compact noncompliance in 2005 and 2006. The Arbitrator has awarded \$10,000 in damages to Kansas.

Natural Resource Districts

NRDs help Nebraskans respond to natural resource challenges with local solutions. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRDs, which are governed by locally elected boards of directors. The NRDs are largely funded by property taxes and make efficient use of those tax dollars; typically a natural resources district used only 1 to 2 percent of all property taxes collected in a county.

Find out more about Nebraska's NRDs at www.nrdnet.org and