

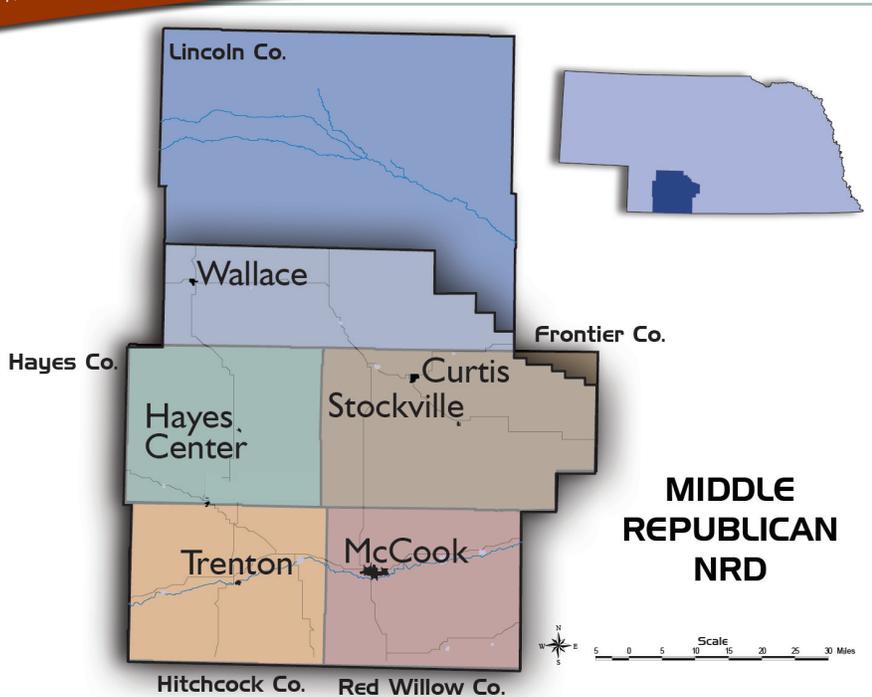
KNOW YOUR NRD



MIDDLE REPUBLICAN
Natural Resources District
Curtis, NE

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

2013



Middle Republican NRD QUICK FACTS:

Managing and conserving water while protecting the economy in Southwest Nebraska

- The land area of the MRNRD covers 3,843 square miles or 2,459,520 acres.
- 52% is rangeland while 46% is considered cropland.
- 4140 acres have been retired from irrigation permanently since 2006.
- 10,119 trees were planted for wildlife and soil conservation in 2012.
- The District controls and maintains 34 flood control structures.

Protecting Lives

Protecting Property

Protecting the Future

Monitoring Water Quality

We are working year round to protect and monitor the quality of your ground water.

- ◆ Protecting ground water as a drinking source for over 19,724 people living in the Middle Republican Natural Resources District.
- ◆ Protecting surface and ground water quality by working with landowners to properly seal abandoned irrigation wells.
- ◆ Inspecting 1/3 of all irrigation wells each year to insure safe operations of their chemigation systems.
- ◆ Protecting drinking water supplies by collecting and testing water samples for Nitrates from strategically located wells.

Protecting the District from Flooding



Thirty-four flood control structures are strategically located throughout the district to help prevent flooding as a result of sudden and heavy rain events. The structures are designed to catch run-off and release it slowly into the natural drainage system. Once all of the water is released, the structures remain dry until the next heavy rain event.

Setting Policy to Protect the Future of Ground water

To protect the future of ground water and to assist the State with compliance of the Republican River Compact, an *Integrated Management Plan* was created. The plan includes...

Incentive programs for landowners to reduce irrigated acres.

- ◆ No new ground water uses permitted.
- ◆ Irrigation use levels are maintained at a sustainable level.
- ◆ Ground water use for irrigation is monitored to achieve 20% reduction from historical pumping volumes.

Integrated Management Plan : Managing Surface and Ground Water During and Through the Drought

In 2005, the District and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources adopted a joint Integrated Management Plan that treats surface and ground water as hydrologically connected. The plan has a water use reduction goal of 20% below use between 1998-2002. The rules & regulations within the plan allow for "additional actions" that will keep the District in compliance with its own plan and that of the tri-state Republican River Compact. These additional actions include retiring acres and developing augmentation projects. The Riverside Irrigation Company purchase, featured below, was one such project.



The Frenchman Creek once fed the retired canal now owned by the district.



The Riverside Irrigation canal remains dry. That water water remains in the Frenchman Creek to flow into Kansas.



Many adjoining fields, once irrigated by the canal, have become dryland or turned to grazing.

Surface Water Augmentation: NCORPE

Providing Flexible Water Management Strategies To The Basin



The ideal water augmentation project 15 miles southwest of North Platte became available in 2012. The Twin Platte, Upper Republican, Middle Republican and the Lower Republican NRDs purchased the former 19,500 acre Lincoln Farms and established a management cooperative, NCORPE. The property sits between the Platte River and Republican River Basins where a 'mound' of ground water exists providing augmentation potential to both basins.

Water from the mound will be pumped into the Medicine Creek during dry years and be allowed to flow into the

Republican River and on into Kansas for compliance with the Tri-state River Compact. The alternative would be to further limit or shut down irrigation across the District during dry years. Water from the mound is considered additional water to the system therefore potentially providing 100% credit towards compact compliance. Additionally, use of this water does not deplete local supplies. During normal precipitation years, no pumping may occur and the water will remain stored underground.

NRD Programs

- Soil Conservation
- Cost Share Assistance
 - Well Abandonment
 - Terrace Enlargements
 - Wildlife Habitat
- Flood Control
- Tree Planting
- Wildlife
- Education

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts were created in 1972 with the purpose of conservation and preservation of our natural resources. With this in mind, the MRNRD is involved in many programs relating back to the responsibilities the Nebraska State Legislature charged NRD's with in 1972.

To achieve those responsibilities, the District works closely with several other federal, state, and local agencies, clubs and organizations to carry out its programs and responsibilities.

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

