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*** Water Quality ***

The MNNRD staff have began our summer water sample collection.

Annually, the MNNRD collects around 450 water samples to test for nitrate contamination. The MNNRD provides free in-house nitrate testing for domestic, livestock, and irrigation wells. Samples can be shipped from the office to the lab for other water analysis. Call or stop into the office for available services and sample bottles.



***New Irrigated Acres ***

The MNNRD will be accepting applications for up to 3,000 new irrigated acres or equivalent high capacity uses for 2025. Applications will be accepted from August 1st, 2025, to August 31st, 2025, at the MNNRD Office. Applications and Rules and Regulations are available online at www.mnnrd.org or at the MNNRD Office. For more information, call the office at 402-376-3241.

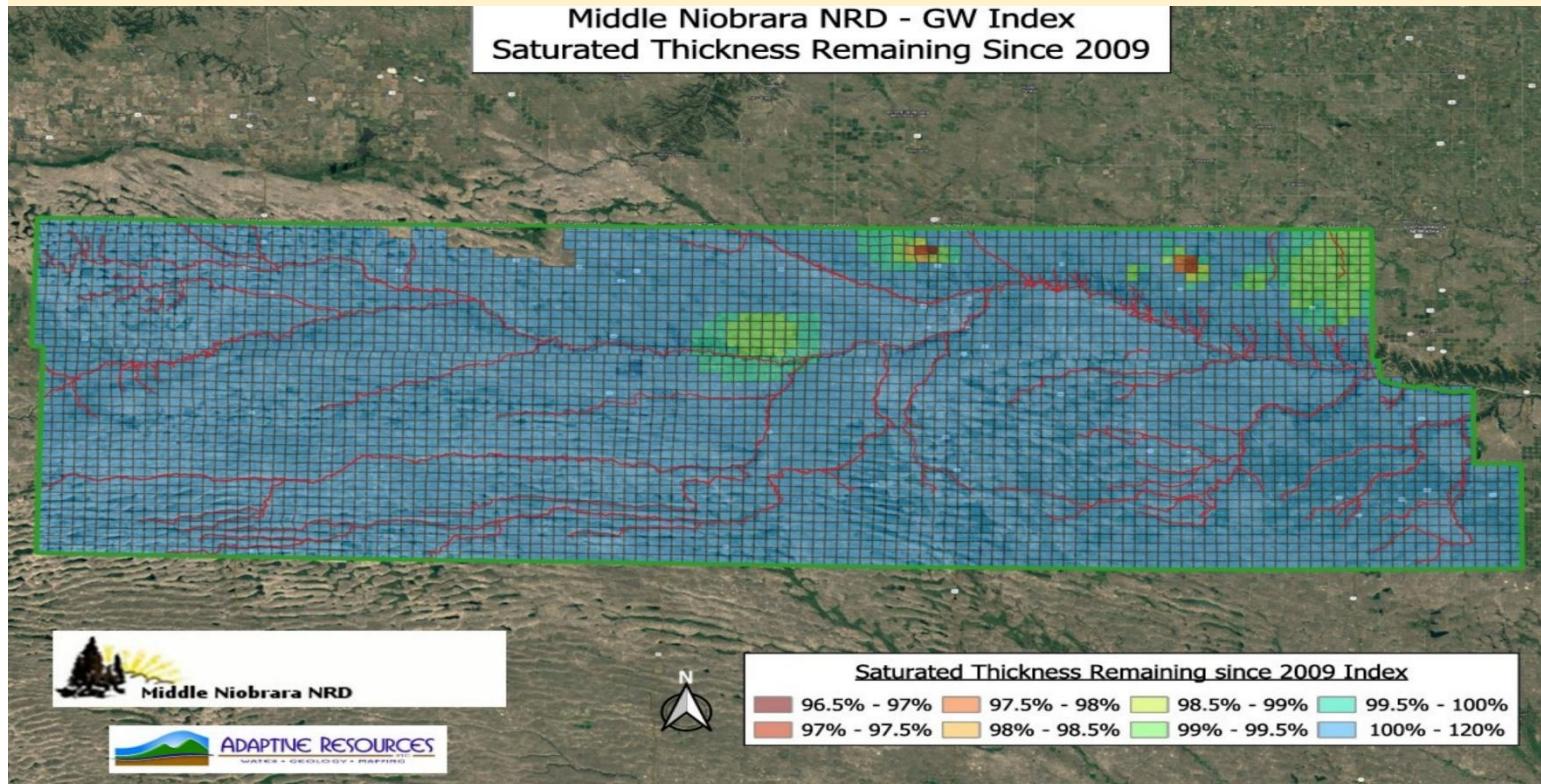


Watershed Planning

The MNNRD and Houston Engineering are addressing threats to water quality, streambed channel, aquatic habitat and infrastructure within the Long Pine Creek Watershed (LPCW) by implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) within the LPCW along with three, in-stream restoration projects on Sand Draw Creek. The LPCW Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program planning effort was approved in August 2024. Final design and permitting are to follow once Federal funding has been secured. The MNNRD and E&A Consulting Group Inc. are nearing the end of planning efforts through USDA-NRCS's WFPO Program on 3 Watersheds in Cherry County. WFPO Feasibility on Schlagel/Evergreen Creek Watershed has been completed.

PLUM CREEK FIRE

FSA is still holding signups until August 15th, 2025, for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to help farmers and ranchers recover from the Plum Creek Wildfire in April 2025. ECP provides financial and technical assistance to repair damage farmland including debris removal, replacing fences, restoring conservation structures, field windbreaks/shelterbelts, and water sources. Contact the Ainsworth FSA Office at 402-387-2242 Ext 2 to learn more.



MNNRD Saturated Thickness Map (Above)

The color coded map above lays out the amount of remaining saturated thickness using hydrogeological well logs to determine total feet of saturated thickness and inputting the static water level measurements the NRD takes every spring and fall. This shows the positive or negative change in the aquifer and gives you a "amount of aquifer remaining". The percentages above showcase the percentage of aquifer remaining in each section. The minimum amount of aquifer remaining anywhere in the MNNRD is 96.5%, and there are numerous places where there is nearly 120% of the original aquifer. Data from 2009-2025 gives the best data set for district wide modeling.

* Valentine Mill Pond *

Due to the hazard class of the Valentine Mill Pond, deficiencies, potential of dam failure, and flooding, a recent feasibility study was conducted by Hazard Engineering. Through the planning, Hazard Engineering came up with three options:

- Lowering spillway crest/removal of labyrinth weir
- Rehabilitation to Significant Hazard
- Full Decommissioning

The MNNRD and City of Valentine continue discussion with the NE Game and Parks Commission as well as Hazard Engineering and NE Dept of Natural Resources. This project is on-going.



* Ainsworth Irrigation District (AID) *

Hazard Engineering recently finished a 2nd feasibility study in the AID to evaluate and improve irrigation operations. The study focused on the entire AID distribution system and solutions for capturing system waste and retiming flows for irrigation use. The study included detailed assessments of the canal system, ride-alongs, and groundwater augmentation evaluations.

Key recommendations from the 1st Feasibility Study included:

- Plum Creek Reservoir water storage and reuse/timing

Key recommendations from the 2nd Feasibility Study included:

- Implementation of groundwater wells to augment the canal system
- Off-channel reservoirs

Conversation continues with NE Dept of Natural Resources and AID. This project is on-going.

Cub Creek Recreation Area

The MNNRD along with the City of Springview and NE Game and Parks Commission are looking into several proposed renovation projects at Cub Creek Recreation Area including:

- Handicap Accessible Toilet
- Floatable Fishing Pier
- Boat Dock
- Boat Ramp
- Bank Stabilization
- Improved Road Access

A Letter of Intent has been sent to the NE Game and Parks to start the beginning planning stages.



Tree Program 2025

The MNNRD provides low-cost tree and shrub seedlings to landowners. Cost share assistance, project design, weed barrier, drip irrigation and planting services are all available. Trees are planted throughout the district for protecting homesteads and livestock from the sun and wind, reducing soil erosion and atmospheric carbon dioxide, flood control, wildlife habitat, aesthetic value, noise reduction and as a “living snow fence”. This year 21,500 trees were planted, and 78,240 feet of fabric weed barrier was installed by the MNNRD crew. In 2025, there was a total of 48,510 trees sold. The Middle Niobrara NRD and the Nebraska Forest Service are again offering cost-share assistance in 2025-2026 to plant Ponderosa Pine seedlings in areas burned by past wildfires. If you are interested, and willing to plant at least 2,700 trees on your property, or with your neighbors, the cost-share covers 90% of the costs for the seedling and the planting. First time landowners will be given priority for available seedlings. To learn more about this project please contact the MNNRD office @ 402-376-3241, or Jason Severe with the NE Forest Service @ 402-480-5657.



Equipment Available

- 4 ft No-Till Drill (ATV/UTV)
- 7.5 ft Haybuster No-Till Drill (Tractor)
- 10 ft Haybuster No-Till Drill (Tractor)
- 10 ft Great Plains No-Till Drill (Tractor) Ainsworth, NE
 - Contact, Kevin Johnson at (402) 760-1803
- Gopher Machine & Bait
- Composting: Compost Turner and Manure Spreader
- Trailers: 14' – 36'
- Tables & Chairs
- 3PT Tree Planters
- Dripline Irrigation Parts
- Wood Chips: Per Ton



Services Available

- Custom Tree Planting
- Custom Fabric Removal
- Custom Composting
- Custom Woodchipping
- Custom Seed Drilling
- Custom Mowing
- Custom Rototilling
- Custom Forestry Sawmill
- Water Sampling
- Dripline Irrigation Installation
- Static Water Level Measurements
- Ultrasonic Flowmeter



Contact us at **402-376-3241**

www.mnnrd.org



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