

Order Trees by December 31<sup>st</sup> to Receive Discount

Central Platte NRD receives most of our conservation trees and shrubs from Bessey Nursery at Halsey National Forest. Although last month’s Bovee Fire burned nearly 19,000 acres of the Forest and private land, along with the 4-H Camp and the observation deck; the nursery stock was protected by the sprinkler systems in the nursery’s green houses.

The NRD will again be accepting tree and shrub orders for spring planting from November 1<sup>st</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup>. This year, we have 33 species available including 15 shrubs, 11 deciduous/hardwoods and 7 conifers.

Cost: \$1 per tree - sold in bundles of 25 | \$25/25 trees or \$100/100 trees

- **10% Discount** Orders received by December 31<sup>st</sup> will receive a 10% discount on trees and shrubs, weed barrier and our tree planting service.
- **50% Cost-Share** Available for trees and weed barrier.  
Note: 200+ trees must be ordered to receive cost-share funds.



SMALL ACRE PACKAGES

Four small acres packages are being offered that include 50 seedlings for \$60, with 10 of each specie.

**Flowering Package:** Serviceberry, Midwest Crabapple, Common Lilac, Red-Osier Dogwood, Caragana (10 of each)

**Wildlife Package:** Chokecherry, American Plum, Elderberry, Golden Currant, Red-Osier Dogwood (10 of each)

**Eastern Nebraska:** Bur Oak, Peking Cotoneaster, Swamp White Oak, Midwest Crabapple, Black Chokeberry (10 of each)

**Western Nebraska:** Ponderosa Pine, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Bur Oak, Chokecherry, American Plum (10 of each)

TREE PLANTING SERVICE

A complete tree planting service is available for orders of 200+ trees. Service includes a tree crew with all necessary equipment. When arrangements are made for the NRD to plant the trees, the tree planting crew will deliver them to the landowner at planting time.

Cost: .45 cents/tree planted The minimum charge is \$180

To learn more call Kelly Cole at (308) 385-6282 or visit [cpnrd.org/costshare/conservation tree program](https://cpnrd.org/costshare/conservation-tree-program)

Executive Travel Partners with NRDs

Executive Travel and Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) have partnered to plant one million trees in Nebraska over the next five years through the ETGreen campaign, starting with 50,000 trees in 2022. ETGreen was launched in September 2021 and is designed to help Executive Travel’s customers offset their carbon footprint generated by airline travel.



(Left to Right) Pat Hecox planting seedlings ordered from CPNRD and Deb Hecox following the planter to supervise.

“With our blockbuster ETGreen campaign we are showing our commitment to address the environmental concerns of our team and customers by planting trees to help mitigate greenhouse gases generated by our travelers. Planting trees not only helps our environment, but also beautifies the communities in which we live. The NRDs work closely with farmers, ranchers, and everyday Nebraskans to plant hundreds of thousands of affordable trees annually.”

Pat and Deb Hecox, Dawson County, were landowners who received cost-share funds in the Central Platte NRD through the Executive Travel partnership in 2021.

Executive Travel funds are available this year for landowners who order 200+ trees for spring planting. Call Kelly Cole (308) 385-6282 for details on this program and CPNRD’s other tree and cost-share programs.

Important Dates

2022

- \* Nov 1 - April 1 Tree and weed barrier orders accepted
- \* November 10 Groundwater Management Plan - Public Information Meeting, Central City
- \* November 15 Groundwater Management Plan - Public Information Meeting, Kearney

2023

- \* January 1 Nitrogen Certification test due
- \* February 16 CPNRD Water Programs Update - Central City
- \* March 31 Crop Report due for Groundwater Management Program
- \* April 15 CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarship applications due
- \* June 1 Chemigation applications due
- \* Sept 1- March 1 Transfer applications for irrigated acres accepted
- \* September 15 Chemigation reinspections must be completed

Follow Central Platte NRD on:   

Board of Directors Subdistricts

Subdistrict At-Large Keith Ostermeier, Grand Island (Treasurer)

- |    |   |                                      |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | Jay Richeson, Gothenburg                  | Brian Keiser, Gothenburg             |
| 2  | Dwayne Margritz, Lexington                | Tom Downey, Lexington                |
| 3  | Marvion Reichert, Elm Creek (Secretary)   | Steve Sheen, Kearney                 |
| 4  | Lon Bohn, Gibbon                          | Ryan Kegley, Kearney                 |
| 5  | Deb VanMatre, Gibbon                      | Jim Bendfeldt, Kearney               |
| 6  | Jerry Milner, Grand Island                | Mick Reynolds, Wood River (Chairman) |
| 7  | Jerry Wiese, Grand Island (Vice-Chairman) | Ed Stoltenberg, Cairo                |
| 8  | LeRoy Arends, Grand Island                | Alicia Haussler, Grand Island        |
| 9  | Ed Kyes, Central City                     | Doug Reeves, Central City            |
| 10 | Chuck Maser, Grand Island                 | Barry Obermiller, Grand Island       |

Staff

General Manager: Lyndon Vogt  
Assistant Manager: Jesse Mintken  
Administrative Assistant: Kelly Cole  
Communications Assistant: Brody Vorderstrasse  
Cozad Ditch Manager: Michael Schmeeckle  
Cozad Ditch Rider: Jake Laird  
Easement Habitat Specialist: Krystal Church  
GIS Coordinator: Angela Warner  
GIS Image Analyst: Luke Zakrzewski  
Hydrologist: Brandi Flyr  
Information/Education Specialist: Marcia Lee  
Precision Conservation Specialist: Darren Cudaback  
Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist: Nelson Winkel  
Projects Assistant: Tom Backer  
Range Management Specialist: David Carr

Resources Conservationist: Bill Hiatt  
Resources Conservationist: Shane Max  
Secretary/CPNRD: Deb Jarzynka  
Secretary/NRCS-Grand Island: Colleen Buettner  
Secretary/NRCS-Central City: Kyla Friedrichsen  
Secretary/NRCS-Lexington: Samantha Keith  
Secretary/NRCS-Kearney: Shelly Lippincott  
Secretary/Thirty Mile Irrigation District: Marci Ostergard  
Thirty Mile Irrigation District Manager: Jim Harris  
Thirty Mile Irrigation District Technician: Mike Ostergard  
UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator: Dean Krull  
Water Quality Specialist: Tricia Dudley  
Water Resources Specialist: Dan Clement  
Water Resources Technician: Courtney Widup

Nebraska's NRDs: Protecting Lives | Protecting Property | Protecting Your Future



IN PERSPECTIVE

Central Platte NRD Newsletter

Volume 27 No. 2  
November 2022

215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE (308) 385-6282 [cpnrd.org](https://cpnrd.org)

Bendfeldt Inducted Into NRD Hall of Fame



Central Platte NRD Director, Jim Bendfeldt, was inducted into the NRD Hall of Fame at the Nebraska Association of Resources District’s annual conference in September. Annually, Nebraska’s NRDs nominate and vote for individuals who have made significant contributions to improving the state’s natural resources. The 2022 NRD Hall of Fame inductees are:

- NRD Director – Jim Bendfeldt, Kearney, Nebraska
- NRD Employee – Marlin Petermann (posthumously), Omaha, Nebraska
- NRD Supporter – Susan Olafsen-Lackey, Winside, Nebraska

Jim Bendfeldt has had a significant impact by bringing awareness of district problems along with viable solutions during his 17 years and counting on the CPNRD board. In 2007, Bendfeldt initiated the idea to implement the first water bank

for the transfer program and the first irrigation certification website in the state.

Bendfeldt was one of the first in Kearney to successfully implement conservation practices providing reductions in soil moisture loss, fuel needs, soil erosion and irrigation scheduling. Now retired, his son Shane continues the practice by trying new technologies and practices and providing land for University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension trials.

Bendfeldt credits his leadership to involvement on more than a dozen boards and committees and encourages new candidates to run for election to achieve a more diverse board of directors. In addition to NRD meetings, Bendfeldt attends meetings of other community boards to ensure his role as a director is thorough.

“It’s important to learn from other community board members,” Jim said. “It gives you a mindset to be considerate of what other people think.”

Also In This Issue

- GWP Information Meetings Nov. 10 & 15
- 2023 Budget Up \$400,000
- Staff Spotlight: Nelson Winkel
- Nov. 18 Signup Deadline RCPP
- Over \$12 Million to Producers
- Order Trees by December 31<sup>st</sup>
- Executive Travel Partners with NRDs



Celebrating Bendfeldt’s Hall of Fame Induction  
Front: Jim & Carol Bendfeldt

Back: Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD General Manager,  
Doug and Heather Brummels (daughter),  
Jodi and Shane Bendfeldt (son),  
Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist

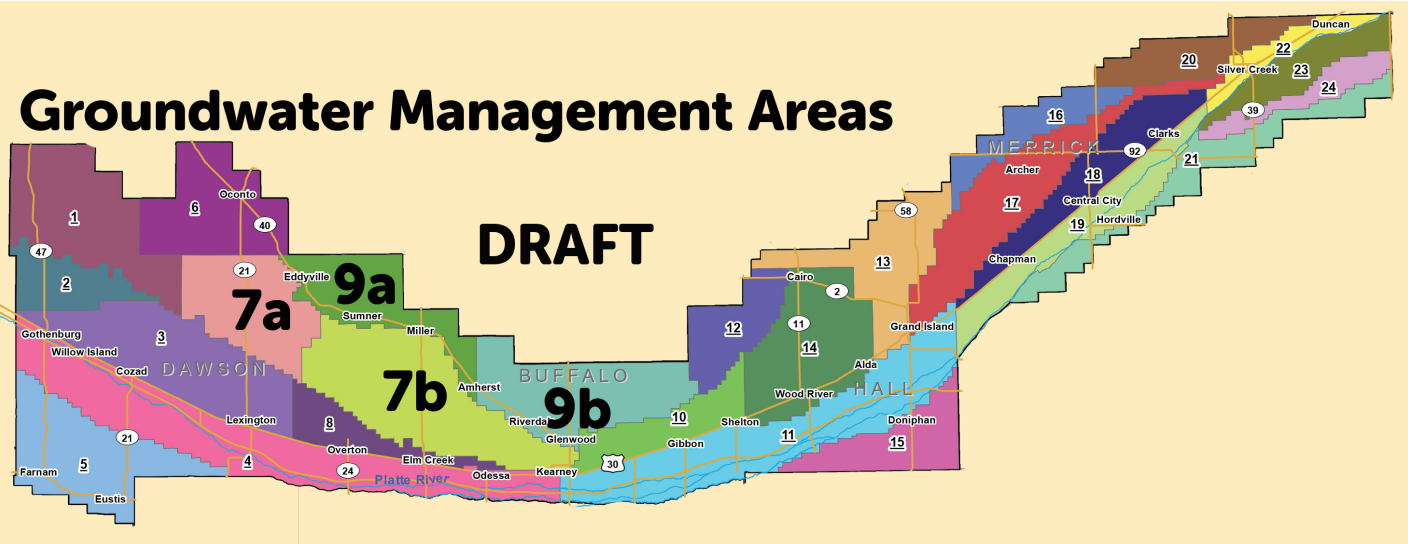


# Groundwater Management Plan Rewrite

## Public Information Meetings November 10 & 15

Central Platte NRD will host two public information meetings this month to explain proposed changes to the NRD’s Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). The proposed updates from Olsson Engineering were reviewed by the NRD’s Water Utilization and Water Quality committees this summer. Changes include new climate, hydrogeologic and socio-economic data of the groundwater resources. Plan triggers, data sets and maps, and 2022 COHYST prediction 50-year simulations were also added. Proposed updates:

- Allow subdistricts 7 and 9 to be subdivided based on level of development and hydrology.
- New phase triggers to reflect percentages of maximum acceptable declines.
- Add management regulations to require meters and allocation to address groundwater decline instead of reducing irrigated acres and well spacing.



The information meetings will include a presentation on water quality; although there are no changes proposed for the water quality section of the plan at this time. The board will likely consider adoption of the Plan this winter.

Public Information Meeting Schedule			
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CITY
Thursday, November 10	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Merrick County Youth & Ag Center	Central City
Tuesday, November 15	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Buffalo County Extension	Kearney

The proposed Groundwater Management Plan is available for download at [cpnrd.org/groundwater-quantity](http://cpnrd.org/groundwater-quantity)

### Did You Know?

Central Platte NRD’s Groundwater Management Plan was the first plan to be approved by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and was implemented by CPNRD’s Board of Directors in 1987. Groundwater depths and thicknesses were charted and used to help establish 24 groundwater supply management areas. Besides aquifer conditions, soils and topographic characteristics are similar in each management area.

The Plan has a phased approach with a set maximum acceptable decline and margin of safety for each management area. It was determined that as an area’s average groundwater level declined through that margin of safety, controls should be mandated to slow the decline.

To learn more visit [cpnrd.org/water-resources/groundwater-quantity](http://cpnrd.org/water-resources/groundwater-quantity)



## 2023 Budget Up \$400,000

The Board of Directors approved the 2023 budget of expenditures at \$28,448,376.11 with the required property tax of \$4,395,462.13; an increase of \$411,839.44 from last year. The District’s total valuation from the 11 county assessors is \$18,752,221,861.

The counties within the Central Platte NRD include all of Dawson and parts of Custer, Buffalo, Hall, Howard, Nance, Merrick, Hamilton, Platte, Polk and Frontier. With the District’s total assessed valuation at \$18,752,221,861 the required 2022/2023 levy was set at 0.023440 compared to last year’s levy of 0.022196.

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, said “With this levy, homeowners with properties valued at \$200,000 will pay just \$46.88 in property taxes to support conservation benefits provided by the Central Platte NRD including flood reduction, water quality management, water use management, soil health, cost-share to producers for conservation practices, forestry, land management, recreation and education.”



## Staff Spotlight - Nelson Winkel

Nelson Winkel is Central Platte NRD’s new Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist. Winkel is working to help landowners use fire to manage lands for grazing and wildlife; as well as reduce the risk that volunteer Eastern Red Cedars pose to communities. Nelson lives by Wood River where he serves on the local Volunteer Fire Department, gardens and experiments with sustainable agriculture.

One practice that Winkel uses in his garden is biochar. It’s charcoal that has been made for use in promoting healthy soils (**Biological-Charcoal**). Biochar has shown to improve soil quality, increasing crop growth and yield by increasing soil pH, moisture-holding capacity, microbial flora and the availability of phosphorus and total nitrogen.

Two aspects make biochar preferable to other organic materials: the first is high stability against decay. It can remain in soil longer providing longer-term benefits to the soil, and the second is that it has more capability to retain nutrients.



Biochar can be made several ways with the basic approach to create a fire in a kiln with fallen limbs or dead tree branches and use dry slash to feed the fire. Winkel’s favorite method is called a Flame Cap Kiln. This kiln style has an open top side where the incoming air can mix with burning gasses resulting in a clean combustion. The closed sides and sealed bottom are important to keep oxygen from reaching the coals and maintaining a clean burn.

As the fire burns, the burning gasses are driven off from the coals and mixed in a flame with the incoming air; consuming the oxygen before it can reach the coals on the bottom. Once white ash forms on the coals, that’s a sign that oxygen is getting to the coals and burning the charcoal. The next step is to quickly extinguish the coals, mixing with water until all the areas of the coals are thoroughly extinguished. This is an essential step to preserving your work and making sure the biochar doesn’t burn when not attended.

Learn more about biochar, visit the Nebraska Forest Service website <https://nfs.unl.edu/great-plains-biochar-initiative> or the U.S. Biochar Initiative at <http://biochar-us.org/using-flame-cap-kiln>.

Contact Nelson Winkel about the benefits of prescribed burns and burn planning at (308) 385-6282 | [winkel@cpnrd.org](mailto:winkel@cpnrd.org)



Nelson Winkel  
Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist

## November 18<sup>th</sup> Signup Deadlines for RCPP Funding

Two funding opportunities through the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) have a signup deadline of November 18, 2022, for producers to submit their applications. Details on both programs:



### Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project

The Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project has over \$2 million available for landowners to apply more efficient irrigation techniques, install conservation practices, and assist farmers with converting irrigated acres to non-irrigated farmland.

The CPNRD objectives are to reduce water consumption by converting irrigated land to non-irrigated on a permanent or temporary basis with a focus in the over-appropriated area of the District from Gothenburg to Elm Creek and Groundwater Management Areas that are in declining status.

Surface and groundwater quality and quantity concerns will also be addressed with the implementation of improved irrigation system and management technologies to increase irrigation efficiencies, reducing impacts to the Platte River and the local groundwater supply. Phases II/III areas of the CPNRD’s Groundwater Quality Management Program will also be targeted since nitrate levels in these areas are above the recommended 10 ppm drinking water standard.

Central Platte NRD is the primary sponsor. Partners include the Twin Platte NRD, Thirty Mile Irrigation District, Southside Canal Company, and the Cozad Ditch Company. The Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project was initiated in 2015 and has been renewed for five additional years of RCPP funding through the 2018 Farm Bill.

### Nebraska Soil Carbon Project

This project provides greater financial incentives to producers who adopt cover crops, no-till and diverse crop rotations that store carbon in the soil. Private companies utilize the stored carbon and water quality benefits to help reach their goals around sustainability. Depending on the practices implemented, producers earn up to \$45 per acre each year.

Payments are for new soil health acres only. There is no gross income or acre enrollment cap for NRCS payments. Still, producers are encouraged to enroll a reasonable number of acres given their operation size and soil health experience. More acres can be submitted for enrollment in subsequent years of the program.

Nebraska Soil Carbon Project is a partnership with CPNRD, Upper Big Blue NRD, NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, Ecosystem Services Market Consortium, Cargill, Target and McDonald’s. The Nature Conservancy manages the new program and is investing \$8 million for farmers to implement these practices over the next few years.

Applications for both programs are accepted continuously at your local NRCS office but must be submitted by Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> to be evaluated for the 2023 round of funding. To learn more, [visit www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov).

### NRCS OFFICES WITHIN CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

- Central City (308) 946-2251 Ext. 3
- Grand Island (308) 395-8586 Ext. 3
- Kearney (308) 237-3118 Ext. 3
- Lexington (308) 324-6314 Ext. 3

## Over \$12 Million to Producers Since 1972

In the last 50 years, Central Platte NRD has provided over \$12 million in cost-share assistance to producers to implement efficient soil and water conservation practices through programs funded by the NRD and the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. CPNRD has cost-share assistance for the following practices: These funds help conserve and protect the natural resources in central Nebraska.

- 60% funding for Well Abandonment
- 50% funding for Streambank Stabilization, Windbreaks and Weed Barrier, Flow Meters, Urban Forestry, Prescribed Burns, Grassland Conservation, Cover Crops and Burn Preparation
- 75% funding for Phragmites Control

To learn more, call Kelly Cole (308) 385-6282 or visit [cpnrd.org/cost-share/cpnrd-nswcp-cost-share](http://cpnrd.org/cost-share/cpnrd-nswcp-cost-share)

