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SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
**PIPELINE**  
NEWSLETTER

# OLIVER RESERVOIR

## PLAN AN ADVENTURE - VISIT OLIVER RESERVOIR!

Hidden away in Kimball County, Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (ORRA) is worth the trip to see its rustic beauty! ORRA has 48 campsites available for both tent camping and RVs/vehicles. Campsites are on a first come, first serve basis. Although overnight camping is free, a \$10-\$15 donation is greatly appreciated. All donations are used for upkeep of the ORRA. Please refer to [www.spnrd.org/oliverreservoir](http://www.spnrd.org/oliverreservoir) for rules and regulations, updates, reviews and other information regarding the recreation area. If you have any questions, please contact the SPNRD office at 308.254.2377. As the weather warms up consider visiting a NRD Recreation Area for boating, fishing, camping or even just a nature walk, visit [www.nrdnet.org/recreation](http://www.nrdnet.org/recreation).



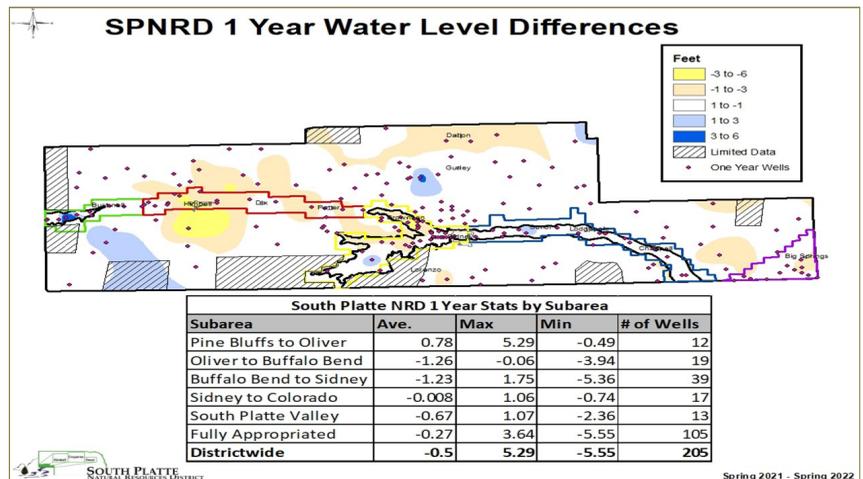
Photo by Sydney Norris

# GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Keeping track of changes in groundwater levels is one of the NRD's many responsibilities. While most areas of the South Platte NRD have abundant groundwater, this resource is not unlimited. In some areas, especially in the western and central parts of the district, groundwater levels have declined over the years.

With the help of cooperating landowners, the NRD has established a district-wide network of observation wells to monitor changes in groundwater levels. There are currently 208 observation wells measured twice a year.

The 2022 Spring Water Level Report is available on our website, [www.spnrd.org](http://www.spnrd.org). Please select the Reports page.



## BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Director Meetings are hosted the second Tuesday of every month at the South Platte NRD office located at 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney, NE.

## BOARD MEETING DATES

- July 12, 2022 @5pm
- August 9, 2022 @5pm
- September 13, 2022 @5pm
- October 11, 2022 @ 5pm

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## 30TH ANNUAL NEBRASKA STATE ENVIROTHON

High schoolers from across Nebraska met at Camp Comeca near Cozad on April 27th for the 30th Annual Nebraska State Envirothon. The all day competition and award ceremony was hosted by Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD). South Platte NRD Director Jim Johnson has been volunteering as an oral presentation judge at State Envirothon for many, many years.

Envirothon is an environmental education program that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities. Teams compete at a regional level in: soils, aquatics, forestry, policy, wildlife, range and a special topic which is selected by the National Conservation Foundation. Six regional winners and eight wild card winners qualify to participate at the State Envirothon. At State, teams test their knowledge in the different categories and, prepare and deliver an oral presentation focusing on a current environmental issue.

Awards are given to the winning team of each testing station and a championship award is given to the team with the highest overall score. The NARD Foundation sponsors the Envirothon cash prizes of 1st: \$1,500, 2nd: \$1,000, 3rd: \$500. Most schools use the money to improve their Envirothon/FFA programs or distribute the funds to student competitors as scholarships. NARD also sponsors the winning team at the NCF-Envirothon. Learn more at <http://www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon>.

A growing number of career fields involve natural resources. Students gain hands-on experience working on environmental issues and get exposure to a variety of careers. Envirothon is a great link between academics and the business world.



Megan Grimes-NARD

Omaha's Concordia Lutheran with members Bobby Lindau, David Rice, Avery Diecman, Nathan Hetrick and Malachi Ellis were named Nebraska Envirothon Champions and took home \$1,500 in prize money. The team, coached by Mike Ellis, will go on to compete at the NCF-Envirothon in Oxford, Ohio, July 24-30, 2022.



Students working together at various stations. 1) Milford, 2) Omaha Zoo Academy-AMP, 3) Burwell, and 4) Omaha Zoo Academy-Children of the Corn.



# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS HELD AT OLIVER RESERVOIR

Potter-Dix 5th and 6th Grade students met at Oliver Reservoir on April 29th for Outdoor Classrooms hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)-Kimball Office. The South Platte NRD also presented along with representatives from the NRCS-Sidney Office, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR), University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Pheasants Forever, and Kimball Recycle Center (KRC).



Grazing Station - Tanner Rien with NRCS encouraged students to create a grazing area using different types of items to represent fencing, tanks, etc.



KRC - Spud Rowley explained the various types of recycling available to residents and listed several products that are made from recycled material.



GPS Units - Nathan Rice with UNL 4-H, taught youth about the use/benefits of GPS navigation units, and had them race to find several waypoints hidden throughout the park.



Mammals - Biologist Lucas O'Connor with Pheasants Forever discussed mammals in Western Nebraska. Students saw the different skull sizes and furs of various animals.



Groundwater Model - Ryan Reisdorff and Don Davis with SPNRD showed an example of groundwater movement in the aquifer. Red dye was used to show how fertilizer could contaminate a water source which then seeps into drinking water.



Bird Olympics - Delanie Bruce with BCR discussed how students compare to birds. Students had the opportunity to track their wingbeats, "flying" speed, gathering skills and compare them to the adaptations of local Panhandle birds.



Soil Profile - Quentin Wagner and Troy Isenbath with NRCS created an activity using different types of foods and a mason jar to create an example of a soil profile.

### UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY SPNRD

June 6-9, 2022 - Nebraska Youth Range Camp at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, NE

June 26-29, 2022 - Adventure Camp about the Environment at the State 4-H Youth Camp near Halsey, NE

August 5, 2022 - Women in Agriculture Conference at the Elks Lodge in Sidney, NE

Our educational programs serve schools, youth groups, producers and the general public. Please contact our office if you are interested in learning more about the principles of environmental stewardship and conservation.



South Platte Natural Resources District  
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This is an official publication  
 of the South Platte Natural  
 Resources District.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Tim Maas	Vice-Chair
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Phil Grabowski	
Chris Meyer	
Kathy Narjes	
Larry L. Rutt	

**NEW SPNRD STAFF**

Our new Information & Education Coordinator is Yolanda Hruska. Yolanda is excited to be on the SPNRD Team! She will continue to provide information about the many programs the District offers.



**SPNRD STAFF**

Galen Wittrock	General Manager
Ryan Reisdorff	Assistant Manager
Don Davis	Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
NaManet Keller	District Secretary
Travis Glanz	Water Resources Specialist
Chris Kaiser	Natural Resources Conservationist
Tyler Sanders	Water Resources Coordinator
Michelle McMillen	NRCS/NRD Field Office Secretary
Yolanda Hruska	Information & Education Coordinator

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