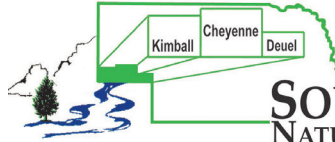


# KNOW YOUR NRD

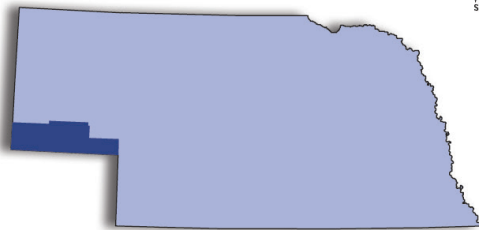


**SOUTH PLATTE**  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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

Winter 2023-2024

## SOUTH PLATTE NRD



### Quick Facts of the SPNRD

- \*1 of 3 NRDs aligned on county boundaries
- \*Encompasses 1.65 million acres
- \*14 - 18" annual precipitation
- \*12 Wellhead Protection Areas
- \*~200 districtwide observation wells measured twice a year to monitor ground water levels
- \*~160 network wells sampled yearly for ground water quality
- \*1,246 Irrigation wells
- \*Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area, Goldeneye and Goldenrod Wildlife Management Areas
- \*Provide free bacteria water testing

### Protecting Lives

#### Long Range Implementation Plan

The Long Range Implementation Plan dated July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2027, was approved by the Board of Directors on October 11, 2022. *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-3277* requires the plan shall be updated annually and filed with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Governor's Policy Research Office, and the Game and Parks Commission. The update was submitted on September 22, 2023.

Along with a description of the District, the Long Range Implementation Plan has been prepared to explain SPNRD activities planned for the current fiscal year, and activities being

considered for the next several years up to Fiscal Year 2027. At that time, the plan will be reviewed by the SPNRD Board for approval of another five years.

#### Master Plan

On November 14, 2023, the SPNRD Board approved the Master Plan. *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-3276* requires the plan shall be updated at least once every ten years and filed with the NeDNR. This plan outlines long term goals and objectives to enable the directors and staff to visualize the future and annually structure a course of action to move in the right direction. The framework for all District activities, programs, and regulations is as follows:

### Protecting The Future

1. Seven Key Program Planning Areas
  - 1) Ground and Surface Water Management
  - 2) Land Treatment (Soil Conservation and Erosion Control)
  - 3) Forestry and Range Management
  - 4) Recreation, Fish and Wildlife
  - 5) Waste Disposal and Pollution Control
  - 6) Flood Prevention and Control
  - 7) Drainage Improvement and Channel Rectification
2. Information and Education
3. Personnel, Organizational Structure and Operations Management

## About the South Platte NRD

### Ground Water Quality Management

Our November 2023 Ground Water Quality Monitoring Report shows composite average levels for all four management areas were slightly down compared to 2022. For nearly 36 years, the South Platte NRD has been monitoring ground water quality to protect and conserve water resources. From 1988 through 1991 our monitoring program identified levels of nitrate-nitrogen and determined baselines. We have been actively addressing the complex issue of nitrates in ground water through our network of irrigation, domestic, and monitoring wells.

SPNRD's Ground Water Management Plan was implemented to facilitate the proper management of ground water for quality, quantity, and integrated management. Our Plan includes general enforcement and specific controls for ground water quantity and quality.

The district has four ground water quality management subareas (GWQMSA) that are governed by Phase levels, the higher the Phase, the more implementation of management efforts for protection is required. The Environmental Protection Agency has set the safe drinking water standard for nitrate at 10 ppm (parts per million). The table below summarizes when each subarea was created and the current management level, and our phases are as follows:

Phase I: nitrate-nitrogen levels of 6.5 ppm average for 3 consecutive years

Phase II: nitrate-nitrogen levels of 8.0 ppm average for 3 consecutive years

Phase III: nitrate-nitrogen levels of 9.5 ppm average for 3 consecutive years

Ground Water Quality Management Sub Areas					
Nitrate-Nitrogen Composite Averages in ppm					
Sub Area	Date Est.	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sidney (Phase III)	1990	12.16	12.10	11.60	11.35
Lodgepole Valley Deuel County (Phase I)	1995	5.98	4.7	6.23	5.37
South Platte Valley (*Phase I)	1995	9.23	8.95	9.28	9.13
East Lodgepole Valley Cheyenne County (Phase I)	1998	7.66	7.49	7.82	6.82
*Phase II effective 2024 irrigation season					

The SPNRD Board of Directors approved and adopted the Amended and Restated Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations, effective July 13, 2023. A general description of the content is the transition of the SPVGWQMSA from Phase I to Phase II designation. These changes affect irrigated agricultural lands in the Deuel County South Platte River Valley. The full text of the rules and regulations is available at [www.spnrd.org](http://www.spnrd.org).

Long-term collaborative efforts among producers, state agencies and the NRDs can make an impact on the quality of our ground water.

## Nebraska's NRDs:

In 1972 the Nebraska Legislature enacted laws to combine 154 special purpose entities into what became 23 NRDs. Unique to Nebraska, the districts are local government entities with responsibility to protect natural resources. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries, enabling districts to respond best to local needs.

### 12 Areas of Responsibility

- Erosion Prevention and Control
- Prevention of Damages from Flood Water and Sediment
- Flood Prevention and Control
- Soil Conservation
- Water Supply for Beneficial Uses
- Development, Management, Utilization, and Conservation of Groundwater and Surface Water
- Pollution Control
- Solid Waste Disposal and Drainage
- Drainage Improvement and Channel Rectification
- Development and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Development and Management of Recreational & Park Facilities
- Forestry and Range Management

*Learn more at [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org)*

## The South Platte NRD

Seven locally elected directors manage the southern Panhandle Natural Resources. Their actions help ensure public safety, a strong local economy and a bright outlook for future generations.

### Our Directors

Subdistricts:

1. Bill Halligan
2. James C. Johnson
3. Timothy R. Maas
4. Marc Sprenger
5. Chris Meyer
6. Kathryn E. (Kathy) Narjes
7. Larry L. Rutt