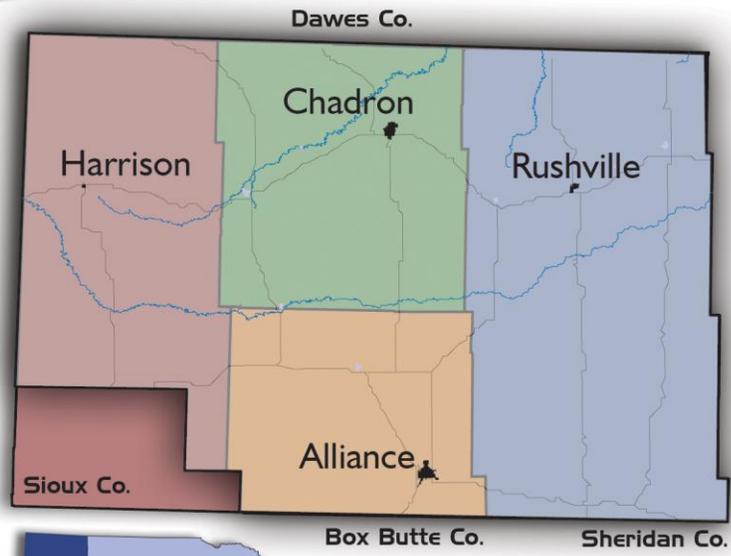


KNOW YOUR NRD



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
Natural Resources District
Chadron, NE

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



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NRD

Water Quality Facts

- * 1025 Nitrate Samples Collected
- * 1281 Chemigation Permits Approved
- * 686 Chemigation Systems Inspected

Water Quantity Facts

- * 1853 Irrigation Flow Meters Read
- * 248,662 Ground Water Irrigated Acres
- * 2012 Average Water Use, 17.40 in/ac.

Land Improvement Facts

- * 6,792,568 Trees Sold Since 1985
- * 192,117 Trees Sold in 2012

Protecting Lives * Protecting Property * Protecting the Future

Protecting the Water Supply

Water is without a doubt our most important natural resource. That is why the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District (UNWNRD) works toward the protection of water quality and quantity for present and future generations.

The UNWNRD closely monitors ground water levels using 1990 as a base year. Static water levels are measured to show the average changes in subareas of the district, and regulations have been put into effect in areas of concern.

In 2003, the UNWNRD established a stay on new high capacity wells to prevent the over-appropriation of the water supply. Working with Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the UNWNRD

strives to maintain a balance of supply and demand for ground and surface water. Currently, DNR has determined that the majority of the UNWNRD is fully appropriated.

To manage surface water and ground water that are hydrologically connected, the UNWNRD has partnered with DNR in the creation of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The IMP was first implemented in 2009 and was intended to be dynamic. In 2011, updates were adopted to strengthen the regulations already in place.

Protecting Lives

To aid cities in protecting their drinking water supply, UNWNRD worked together with city leaders towards the development of several Wellhead Protection Plans. Partnerships with cities help ensure

that potential contaminants don't impact drinking water.

In 1998, the UNWNRD designated the entire district a Ground Water Management Area (GWMA), to identify where problem areas may exist with the quality and quantity of our ground water. The UNWNRD regularly conducts ground water quality studies within the GWMA to ensure that contamination patterns are identified in a timely fashion.

The UNWNRD also tests domestic wells for nitrates and bacteria for free. This program allows residents with private domestic wells to verify the safety of their drinking water.



Your NRD:

- Uses taxpayer dollars efficiently
- Protects lives through water quality testing
- Protects property through soil conservation

The NRDs are partially funded by property taxes - typically one to two percent of all property taxes in a county. For each resident in the Upper Niobrara White NRD this amounts to only \$1.80 a month toward the protection of lives, property and the future.

The UNWNRD is governed by a locally elected Board of 11 Directors who are aware of local concerns and make informed decisions to address local issues.

Find out more about the UNWNRD at www.unwnrd.org

The Natural Resources District system is unique to the State of Nebraska. In 1972, NRDs were aligned according to watershed basins, instead of by political boundaries. This system provided a more efficient management strategy than the county conservation districts because it solved the issues of overlapping authorities and lack of funding.

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



“Our property has been protected thanks to the Upper Niobrara White NRD’s Tree Program. They’ve been very helpful with information and installation of windbreaks in Northwest Nebraska.”

-The Mike Manning Family, Hemingford

Projects and Programs

Protecting the Future through No-Till Education

The Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District (UNWNRD) is actively involved in no-till education in the Nebraska Panhandle. Each year the UNWNRD hosts No-till Field Days in the summer and a No-Till Conference.

No-till farming is becoming more prevalent in Northwest Nebraska as the UNWNRD’s efforts in no-till education are helping encourage growers to work toward changing their operations.

More acres are being converted to no-till, as producers realize the benefits to soil health and water conservation.

Producers examine the leaf stage of no-till corn near Alliance.



Protecting Property through Tree Planting and Wildlife Habitat Restoration



Tree planting demonstration.

To encourage tree planting for conservation, the UNWNRD makes low-cost tree and shrub seedlings available to landowners, in addition to weed barrier and planting services. Within the past year, over 192,000 trees were distributed through the UNWNRD’s tree program for livestock and homestead protection, soil conservation, wildlife habitat, water conservation and for aesthetic value. Because the tree program is such a large source of the UNWNRD’s revenue, the District is able to keep its tax request to a minimum.

Cost-Share Programs

The UNWNRD provides incentives for implementation of conservation practices through various cost-share programs such as the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. During the last five years over one million dollars has been channeled to improvements for property within the four counties. However, only about 10% of those funds came from the UNWNRD’s budget. The UNWNRD writes grants and requests dollars from other agencies for cost-share programs. This allows residents to plant trees, put in irrigation flow meters, install drinking water filtration or reverse osmosis systems, properly plug abandoned wells and improve the efficiency of their irrigation systems at reduced cost.

Drop nozzles deliver irrigation water to corn crop

