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For More Information Contact: Alyssa Smola, 402.471.7672 or E-mail

to: asmola@nrdnet.org

STUDENTS COMPETE IN THE 2010 NEBRASKA STATE ENVIROTHON

Alda, NE – The 2010 Nebraska Envirothon State Championship team hails from Superior High School. The competition was held May 1st at the Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center near Alda. Students from across the state participated in five-member teams, and competed against 14 other Nebraska High School teams. The State competition is one stop on the road to the Canon Envirothon which is a national program for 9th – 12th grade students who study long and hard to become proficient in a wide array of subjects relating to natural resources and the environment.

The first place Superior Team is now invited to represent Nebraska at the Canon Envirothon and also receives a \$1000 scholarship offered by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, who is the annual sponsor of the Nebraska Envirothon. This year the Canon Envirothon will be held at the University of California at Fresno. The week long contest, August 1nd – 6th, involves testing, touring, learning sessions, and opportunities for students to meet other state champions. Over 50 teams from across the U.S. and Canada are expected to participate at this year's national competition.

“The Envirothon gives high school students nationwide a chance to learn more about natural resources and participate in hands-on learning,” said Dean Edson, Executive Director for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts. “The Envirothon also serves to interest students in potential careers in natural resources management. It is important to invest in our youth and educate them on the importance of protecting the future of Nebraska’s natural resources,” Edson added.

Five-member teams compete in seven areas of environmental studies: Soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, range, policy and a current environmental issue titled Biodiversity in a Changing World. Test questions are not only written, but many require hands-on observations, measurements and

calculations. To advance to the state competition, student teams first compete in regional contests around the state. The winners of each region and seven wildcard teams then compete at the state competition.

Members of the first place team from Superior High School are Victoria Simonsen, Zach Dressman, Andrew Brittenham, Bethany Brittenham and Tyler Stobl. Their coach/adviser is Dave Barnard. The team was sponsored by the Central Platte NRD. The State Runner-up team was also from Superior High School and a team from Ord High School finished in third place. Other High Schools participating at the state contest were: Bellevue East, Bellevue West, Omaha Burke, Norris (Firth), Ogallala, Concordia (Omaha), West Holt, Boone Central and Gering.

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