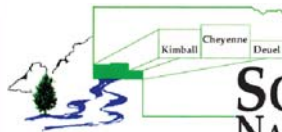


KNOW YOUR NRD

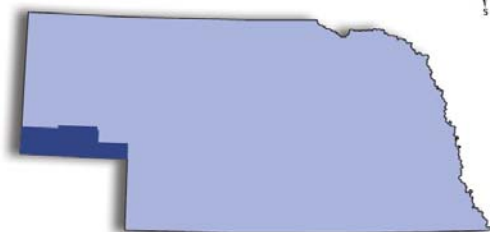


SOUTH PLATTE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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

Summer '09

SOUTH PLATTE NRD



Protecting Lives, Property and the Future of Natural Resources

The District Monitors more than 100 ground water wells, taking measurements twice each year.

Ground and surface water quality checks are performed regularly, testing for nitrates, bacteria and pesticides that could be harmful.

Over 3 million trees provided through conservation and community tree programs are protecting and adding value to property and providing hundreds of acres of wildlife habitat.

Did you know?

About half of 220-mile long Lodgepole Creek runs the length of the District.

The South Platte River runs for 9 miles in the District's southeast corner.

Depth to the District's ground water ranges from a few feet to 300 feet.

Protecting Lives

Pre-Hazard Planning

The South Platte NRD is coordinating with officials throughout the District to review the possible need for a multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Plan components would include pre-disaster planning, providing proactive steps toward reducing disaster damage. There could also be provisions for an emergency response plan and plans for recovery and clean up following disasters.

In forming the plan, information will be gathered to determine the needs of communities involved. Possible pre-disaster planning could include the need for flood levees, structure and infrastructure protection and other public safety provisions.

Protecting Property

Flood Mitigation

The South Platte NRD is coordinating with the city of Sidney to address flooding concerns that arose in the southeast part of the city in June.

Drainage from a large area flows to just three main points, which were overwhelmed when as much as two inches of rain fell in less than an hour.

Several homes were flooded and a large amount of erosion damage occurred during the period, which lasted for nearly two weeks.

Options are being considered to halt or divert such waters before they reach the developed areas and thus reduce damage to property.

Such work is a priority for NRDs, which count flood control as one of their mandated responsibilities.

Protecting The Future

Best Possible Plans

The directors are constantly reviewing data collected from District staff, scientists and other agencies as part of the decision making process.

Members apply that information as they strive to meet the NRD's mission:

To formulate and instigate forward-looking plans and programs through a cooperative process that will provide for the long-term protection and enhancement of the district's natural resources while ensuring that major economic and social impacts are fully considered.

Current work on the District's Integrated Management Plan, Basin-wide Plan and review of Districtwide Rules take into consideration the impact on future uses and needs.

Equipped For Habitat Improvement

The NRD leases no-till grass drills to landowners to help improve wildlife habitat, reduce erosion and enhance their property. More than 4,000 acres of improvements have been made thus far and we're geared up to meet the demand of tens of thousands of acres of upcoming CRP enhancements.



Since 1977, the South Platte NRD has sold more than 3 million trees for improvements. We rototilled many of those areas, which were planted with our tree planters.

Water habitat improvements have resulted in lower chemical use, where our aquatic weed harvester was used as an alternative to spraying.

Information You Can Use

The South Platte NRD is committed to providing the best information possible to people of all ages about the care, protection and use of our natural resources. Our educational programs serve schools, youth groups, farmers and the general public. From our resource lending library to workshops and special events, our goal is to help develop positive environmentally sound programs for all generations.

Scientific Exploration

The district has been able to take steps toward a different type of look at the area's hydrogeology, thanks to efforts made in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the North Platte NRD and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Helicopter flights have been made over the South Platte and North Platte NRDs, using electronic frequencies to take pictures similar to a "cat scan." The readings are formatted for use by the USGS, who in turn take the readings and apply the data to form reports on the area hydrogeology. The resulting high definition relief maps can reveal a lot about an area's aquifers.

We are also working with scientists from the University of Nebraska and University of Idaho using a system referred to as METRIC - Mapping EvapoTranspiration with High Resolution and Internal Calibration. The system combines the satellite data with ground-based data to determine past ground water uses, which can help us manage future needs.

Dedicated to Resources Management

Our staff members are experts in their field and use that expertise to develop the most up to date programs and information to assist you with your resources management objectives.

We're dedicated professionals who share a common interest - a love and respect of the natural world around us.

Like you, we want to conserve and enhance natural resources and use them in the same ways you do. We farm, hunt, fish and work in yards and gardens. Because of that, we understand where you're coming from and are proud to work with you in our common cause - to use our resources wisely while leaving them in good shape for future generations.



Nebraska's NRDs:

In 1972 the Nebraska Legislature enacted laws to combine 152 special purpose entities into 23 NRDs. Unique to Nebraska, the districts are local government entities with responsibility to protect natural resources. Major Nebraska river boundaries form the boundaries, enabling districts to respond best to local needs.

Some NRD responsibilities:

- erosion prevention and control
- prevention of damages from flood water and sediment
- flood prevention and control
- soil conservation
- development, management, utilization, and conservation of groundwater and surface water
- 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

The South Platte NRD

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

Talk About Value!

On a property valued at \$100,000 the South Platte NRD's property tax share in FY 2009 was just \$54.00, less that the cost of a 20 oz. bottle of pop once each day of the year!

Wise use of grants such as those from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, allows the NRD to use nearly half of its revenues to carry out projects and programs directly for your benefit!