

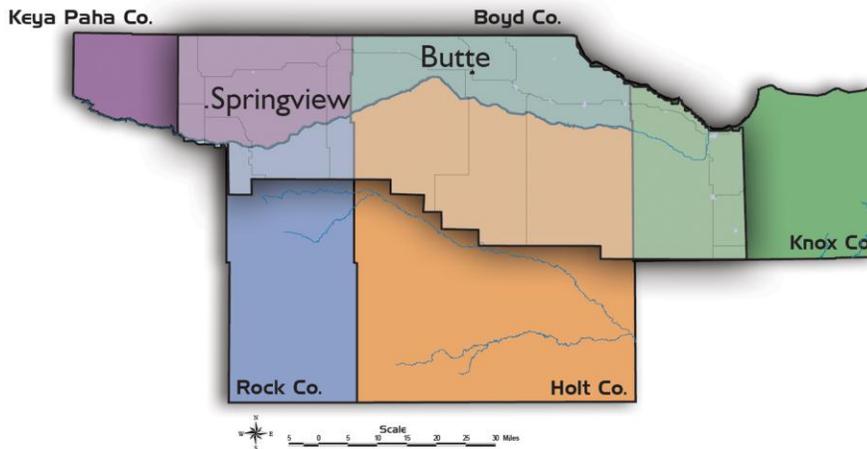
KNOW YOUR NRD



LOWER NIOBRARA
Natural Resources District
Butte, NE

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

2017



LOWER NIOBRARA NRD



NRD QUICK FACTS:

- Wells are measured for static water levels in the spring & fall
- 2 wellhead protection areas
- 805 chemigation inspections completed in 2017
- 1439 chemigation permits issued in 2017
- Free nitrate water testing
- 300 monitoring wells are sampled for nitrates levels
- Ultrasonic flowmeter checks
- Drills available to rent for grass seeding
- Sold 22,622 total trees and shrubs

Protecting Lives

Secure Water Source

The Lower Niobrara NRD established the West Knox Rural Water System in 1984. The WKRWS provides clean safe high quality drinking water to the residents of Verdigre and Winnetoon along with 222 rural residents.

To protect and provide quality drinking water to more residents of Knox County, Nebraska, the Lower Niobrara NRD has developed a new well field on an 80 acre tract of land south of the existing well field. Two new wells and an eight inch transmission line have been constructed. This will provide an additional 500 gpm to the system. In addition a new state of art telemetry system was installed to monitor the system 24/7 giving the staff access to the system via their smart phones. (continued on back)

Protecting Property

Tree Planting and Wildlife Habitat

To protect property and to encourage tree planting, the Lower Niobrara NRD makes low cost conservation tree and shrub seedlings available to District residents. Over the past five years the District has planted an average of 35,000 trees per year. These trees and shrubs are planted in windbreaks for livestock and homestead protection, prevention of soil erosion, wildlife habitat, as



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Protecting the Future

Voluntary IMP & Updated Rules and Regulations

To protect the future supplies of groundwater and surface water the Lower Niobrara NRD developed a Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP) with the Department of Natural Resources. The IMP outlines how the Department and the District will work together to better manage the water resources of the District for beneficial use. The IMP is reviewed annually to insure we are accomplishing the goals set forth within the IMP. Along with the Voluntary IMP the District updated its rules and regulations which went into effect March 1, 2014. New provisions include: 1) the Board has the authority to not accept or limit the number of new irrigated acres District wide, 2) created a ranking (continued on back)

Local Leader in Conservation

Secure Water Source (continued from front)

Working with Indian Health Services water lines in the Bazile/Howe Creek area of the system were extended which can supply up to 16 reservation homes and 6 private landowners along the new line. WKRWS adds two to six new rural homes or pasture hookups each year. These hookups are vital to keep the area growing and prospering.



Tree Planting and Wildlife Habitat (continued from front)

“living snow fences” and for aesthetic value. The District also offers conservation mulch and mulch squares at a reasonable price.

Voluntary IMP and Updated Rules & Regulations (continued from front) process for all new high capacity wells, 3) created parameters to be met before a supplemental/helper well will be considered for an existing system, 4) created the Bazile Groundwater Management Area in the SE corner of the District to concentrate efforts with three other Districts to reduce the nitrate levels in the area, 5) requires all irrigated acres within the boundaries of the District to be certified. 6) Revised the Phase II and III nitrogen management rules to better protect groundwater from over fertilization.

To meet the requirements of the updated rules and regulations the District added a full-time Programs Assistant. Also the Board at their June 2017 meeting decided to not take applications for new irrigated acres. The District will take applications for replacement wells.

Natural Resources Awareness

To increase awareness of natural resources the LNNRD offers scholarships to youth who attend the Nebraska Range Youth Camp or Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE). The scholarships consist of paying 75% of the registration fee. Youth who are interested in rangeland and practical range management are encouraged to attend. Participants develop an awareness of the importance and value of Nebraska’s greatest renewable resource.



Office Staff of the LNNRD promotes awareness of natural resources through other educational activities including: Eighth Grade Conservation Days, Eighth Grade Essay Contest, Co-sponsor the Natural Resources Festival with the UENRD, Partnering Sponsor of the Wonderful World of Water, County Government Day, Hosting Land Judging Contests, Hosting Range Judging Contests, FFA class presentations to explain responsibilities/duties of NRDs, Grade school presentations on Natural Resources upon request.

Protecting Resources

The Lower Niobrara NRD is concerned about possible groundwater contamination by chemicals being pumped through irrigation systems. Chemigation Permits are issued each year to cooperators within the District who intend to apply chemicals through their irrigation system. In order to prevent these chemicals going back into the well the District inspects half of the renewals and all of the new permits each year. The inspections insure all required equipment is present and functioning properly. Items inspected include the low pressure drain, mainline check valve and the chemical injection valve and interlock system which stops the chemical pump when the well shuts down. The operator or his designated representative must be present during inspection.



Nebraska’s NRDs

- Protect lives and property through flood protection
- Are leaders in groundwater management
- Use taxpayers dollars efficiently

Formed in 1972, Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts are local government entities with broad responsibilities to protect our natural resources.

NRDs help Nebraskans respond to natural resource challenges with local control and local solutions. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRDs, which are governed by locally elected board of directors. A 17-member board of directors governs the Lower Niobrara NRD; they are elected by registered voters within the District. The board sets policies for the District and works closely with the staff through a committee system to carry out the District’s goals.

In the forty five years since they were created, NRDs have experienced tremendous growth in the responsibilities given to them by state statute, especially in protecting ground water.

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