

Sand & Soapweed

Middle Niobrara NRD * Valentine, NE

Big Rock Fire Replant

2016 was the 10th year the MNNRD, Middle School kids and High School FFA replanted trees in the Big Rock Fire Replant area. Over 20,000 trees have been planted since 2006. This year we also hosted a community tree planting at the Valentine Park. Thank you to everyone for your efforts over the years.



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PLACE YOUR TREE ORDERS TODAY FOR SPRING 2017 PLANTING SEASON

NVOEP

The MNNRD is an active participant in the Niobrara Valley Outdoor Education Partnership. The NVOEP promotes educational activities throughout the MNNRD. Different activities include canoeing with children at Cub Creek to teach them more about natural resources in this area in fun hands on learning experience. Springview Afterschool Club and Nature Fest are to name a few.

neRAIN

Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network [NeRain] is a program comprised of volunteers to collect statewide precipitation data. Participants receive a free all weather rain gauge and are asked to spend a few minutes each day recording the daily amount of precipitation. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact our office.

NDEQ Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant was awarded to MNNRD in the amount of \$150,000. This money will go towards purchasing a bigger chipper to meet our needs.

SUMMER 2016

Protecting Lives ~ Protecting Property ~ Protecting the Future

Utilizing Eastern Red Cedar Waste



The incorporation of Woody Biomass has been a beneficial addition to the MNNRD.

Two Woody Biomass Projects are being conducted.

1. Integration of Woody Biomass & Manure as Soil Health Amendments for Agriculture Production Fields. University of Nebraska at Lincoln is assisting in this study.
 - This current proposal builds upon the initial investigation of utilizing woody biomass from pasture & forest management activities as a soil amendment to improve soil health in light textured soils by extending the monitoring period & including project sites where heavier soils dominate.
 - Project Methods: Demonstration sites will be utilized with a single study design replicated at all four sites. Six treatments (Table 1) will be applied to 12-m x 10-m research plots within cooperators' fields annually following harvest from Fall 2016 through Fall 2019. The experiment will be a completely randomized block design with four replications at each of the sites.
2. ½ Field Woody Biomass Application
 - This study is still being conducted & the results we're hoping for are increased soil health & water quality benefits.
 - Project Methods: Two demonstration sites are being utilized.
 - i. Woody Biomass mixed with Swine manure
 - ii. Woody Biomass mixed with Cattle Manure
 - The NE Forest Service is helping fund this study.

(Table 1)
Six treatment Applications are as follows:

1. Woody Biomass, 6 ton/ac
2. Woody Biomass, 12 ton/ac
3. Woody Biomass w/ Liquid N, 6 ton/ac
4. Woody Biomass w/ Swine Manure, 6 ton/ac
5. Woody Biomass w/ Cattle Manure, 6 ton/ac
6. Control, No Amendments



Water News

The MNNRD received 517 total chemigation permits. 270 chemigation systems were inspected this summer. Chemigation systems are inspected to make sure all of the necessary safety equipment is present and working to prevent mixing of chemicals and the groundwater source. Landowner cooperation is very much appreciated!

Chemigation Fees: Renewal \$50, New \$75 and Emergency \$300.

Over 380 nitrate samples were taken throughout the district. State standard is 10 ppm or less.

SPRING STATICS 2016

Comparison of Spring 2015 to Spring 2016

County	2016	Largest Increase	Largest Decrease
Brown	0.93	1.18	-1.81
Cherry	-0.77	3.93	-3.71
Keya Paha	2.01	3.72	-2.68
Rock	-1.27	-0.55	-1.99

Tree Season 2016

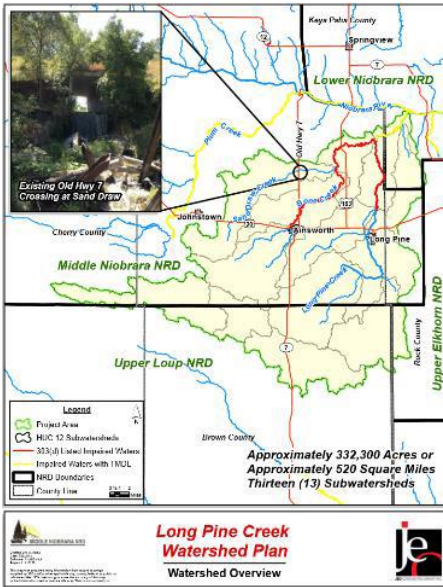
Tree season 2016 was a success despite the hot and dry year last year. The Middle Niobrara NRD sold over 60,000 trees and machine planted over 14,000. Survivability checks on this year's machine planting will be conducted this fall by MNNRD staff. Survivability results will be mailed to landowners who had machine plantings conducted by the Middle Niobrara NRD this spring. As part of the NSWCP contract, the Middle Niobrara NRD will provide cost-share on trees that need to be re-planted for up to two years following the initial planting, with a \$100 minimum cost-share. Now is the time to review your tree planting needs for the upcoming years. Several plantings have already been designed for installation in the spring of 2017.





Long Pine Creek Watershed

The Middle Niobrara NRD & JEO Consulting are addressing threats to water quality & infrastructure within the Long Pine Creek Watershed. The watershed, approximately 328,000 acres primarily in Brown County is mostly irrigated farming & rangeland & the communities of Ainsworth & Long Pine. A NDEQ & NET Grant are helping to fund the project. A watershed advisory group consisting of local representatives is forming to facilitate the development of the watershed plan and engage the public. An important milestone is studying degradation in the Long Pine Creek Watershed. The project plans to reduce erosive forces, turbidity, and pollutants in order to improve water quality for habitat, and stabilize flow within the stream. To address these problems landowners have been suggested to follow some Best Management Practices. Some BMPS identified include riparian fencing, waste control, alternative livestock water sources, stream restoration, filter strips, detention ponds and wetlands, wet detention basins, onsite wastewater treatment systems inspections and upgrades, irrigation water and fertilizer and nutrient management, woody biomass utilization, cover crops, and wellhead protection area planning. As a result of trying to improve conditions within the Long Pine Creek Watershed the NET, NDEQ, and USDA have provided funding to encourage landowners to implement Best Management Practices.



NEW to MNNRD



CASSIE CICHORZ-- is originally from Brighton Colorado, but she has lived in Nebraska long enough to call it home. Her schooling is from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where her focus is Natural Resource Restoration and Water Science. While at Lincoln she worked in the Aquatic Ecology Lab piloting wetland restoration experiments and hypothesized in plant germination. This leads into her passion for the great outdoors which includes lake time with her pup, and a lot of fishing. Cassie has been with the Middle Niobrara for two summers now, and is looking forward to working with landowners in the community.

Catch your NRD Moment with Travis on KVSJ 940 for all the latest MNNRD updates!

MNNRD PROGRAMS

NSWCP Cost Share:

Sign up May 1st thru May 31st

Trees 50% up to \$4,000-

Planned Grazing 60% up to \$5,000-

Miscellaneous Practices 60% up to \$5,000-

Water Quality Cost Share

Sign up Nov-Dec

Items available:

*Surge Valves

*Low Pressure Nozzles

*Converting Siphon Tubes to Gated Pipes

Cost Share is limited to 50% up to \$2,500-

*Soil Moisture Sensors

Cost Share is limited to 50% up to \$1,000-

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sub District No.1- Wade Andrews, Chairman

Sub District No.2- Justin Hammond

Sub District No.3- Len Danielski

Sub District No.4- Cheryl Lovejoy, Secretary/Treasurer

Sub District No.5- Greg Wilke

Sub District No.6- Marty Graff

At Large- Dean Jochem, Vice-Chairman

EMPLOYEES

General Manager- Mike Murphy

Water Programs Coordinator- Tim Storm

Administrative Assistant- Cortney Werner

Lead Natural Resources Technician-Travis Connot

Natural Resources Coordinator- Zac Peterson

Natural Resources Intern- Cassie Cichorz

Important Dates

- State Fair Aug. 26- Sept. 5, Grand Island
- September 13-15 Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island
- September 25-27 NARD Annual Conference, Kearney
- Jan. 4, 2017 90 Day Legislative Session Begins
- Jan. 23-25, 2017 NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln
- Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 2017 NACD Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- March 18-22, 2017 NARD Washington D.C. Meeting

CONTACT US

Middle Niobrara NRD
526 E 1st St., Valentine, NE 69201
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Fax: 402-376-1040
mnnrd@qwestoffice.net
www.mnnrd.org

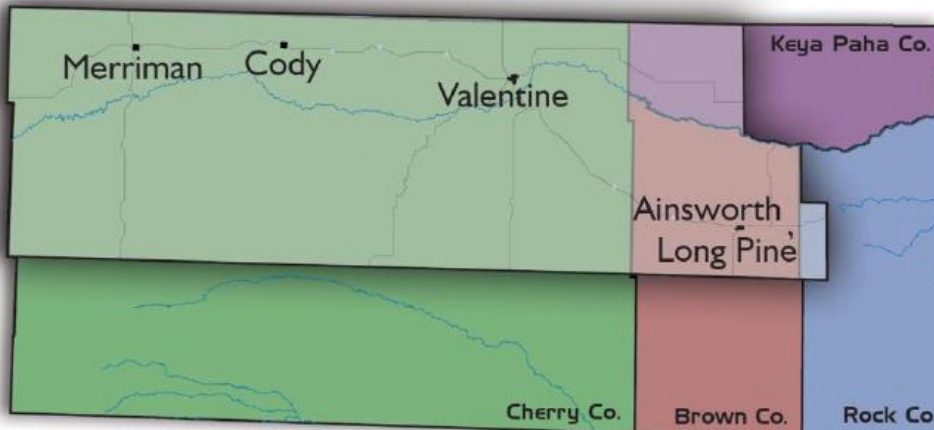
KNOW YOUR NRD



MIDDLE NIOBRARA
Natural Resources District
Valentine, NE

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

2016



MIDDLE NIOBRARA NRD



Water Quality Facts (FY 2016)

- 380 nitrate samples
- 517 total chemigation permits
- 270 chemigation inspections

Water Quantity Facts

- 574 registered domestic wells
- 197 static water level monitoring sites
- 151,383 certified irrigated acres
- 112,046 groundwater
- 31,933 surface water
- 7,403 combination

Land Improvement Facts

- 2,522,816 trees sold since 1980
- 60,971 trees sold in FY 2016

Protecting Lives

The NRBA initiated a Basin Wide Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (VIMP) with the NDNR, and the public. The goals of the integrated management process are to ensure a balance between water supplies and uses, and to protect the rights of existing surface water and groundwater users.

Since the initiation of the Basin Wide VIMP the NRBA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NGPC and NPPD in September 2015 to purchase the NPPD Spencer Hydro Facility and water rights. NDNR would like to see the

Protecting Property

Niobrara NRD's work on their district IMP's at this time during the transition of ownership at the hydro facility.

At the December 2015 Board Meeting the MNNRD Directors voted to extend the temporary stay on new irrigated acres until the District IMP is completed. This temporary stay had originally been put in place on June 29, 2015. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources also extended their temporary stay on new surface water irrigated acres to coincide with the MNNRD's stay. The plan is to let the LB 1038 process work.

Protecting the Future



The MNNRD is maintaining the Brewer Bridge Landing to allow public access on the Niobrara River.

Projects and Programs

Woody Biomass Utilization

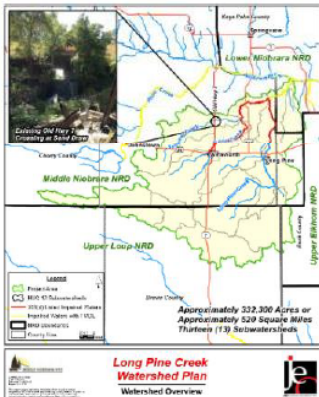
The latest project the MNNRD has undertaken is tree chipping. Fallen or piled trees are chipped, and the chips are then used for various projects. The research and projects include mixing the chips with liquid nitrogen fertilizer, or hog or cattle manure, and then apply the chips to irrigated cropland. This increases nutrients available to the plants. Another project applies the wood chips to recreational trails to stabilize them and prevent future erosion.

The MNNRD was also awarded a Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) grant to help purchase a skid steer and tree shear. Services available are windbreak renovation, wood chipping, woody biomass utilization, and landscape and vegetation management work.



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Tree Program

To encourage tree planting, the MNNRD makes low-cost tree and shrub seedlings available to landowners. Cost share programs, project design weed barrier, drip irrigation and planting services are available as well. Trees are planted throughout the district for livestock and farmstead protection from the sun and wind, reducing soil erosion, flood control, wildlife habitat, reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide, aesthetic value, and as a “living snow fence”. This year 17,000 trees were planted, and 94,700 feet of fabric weed barrier was installed by the MNNRD crew. The MNNRD has assisted with the Big Rock Fire Replant for the last ten years. The Valentine school kids have done most of the planting in the fire area.



Your NRD

- Protects lives through water testing
- Are leaders in groundwater management
- Uses taxpayer dollars efficiently

Nebraska's system of local natural resources management is unique in the United States. Unlike most states which have districts based on counties, Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts are based on river basin boundaries which enables Nebraska to manage resources on a watershed basis. While all NRDs share a common set of responsibilities, each district is autonomous, governed by a locally-elected Board of Directors. Each district sets its priorities and develops programs to best serve local needs. Since being created in 1972, NRDs have experienced tremendous growth in the responsibilities given to them by state statute, especially in protecting groundwater.

The NRDs are partially funded by property taxes and make very efficient use of those tax dollars. A typical NRD takes only 1-2 % of all property taxes in a county. The MNNRD tax collections amount to less than a penny a day per resident, or 29 cents per acre. This continues conservation practices which give back locally.

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



MIDDLE NIOBRARA NRD CONSERVATION TREE PROGRAM ORDER FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

SPECIES	#
CONIFERS	
Concolor Fir	
Eastern Red Cedar	
Rocky Mountain Juniper	
Austrian Pine	
Jack Pine	
Ponderosa Pine	
South West White Pine	
Black Hills Spruce	
Colorado Blue Spruce	
Norway Spruce	
DECIDUOUS	
Amur Maple	
Silver Maple	
Black Cherry	
Black Walnut	
Bur Oak	
Gambel Oak	
Swamp White Oak	
Golden Willow	
Diamond Willow	
Hybrid Cottonwood	
Native Cottonwood	
Hackberry	
Honey Locust	
Kentucky Coffee Tree	
Northern Catalpa	
SHRUBS	
American Plum	
Buffalo Berry	
Elderberry	
Purple Chokeberry	
Service Berry	
Caragana	
Chokecherry	
Sandcherry	
Cotoneaster	
Crabapple	
Golden Currant	
Hardy Apricot	
Hazelnut	
Honeysuckle	
Gray Dogwood	
Lilac	
Skunkbush Sumac	

Request for Special Orders	
SPECIES	#

Return your order to:
 Middle Niobrara NRD
 526 E 1st Street
 Valentine, NE 69201

Please check where you prefer to pick up your seedlings.

Valentine

Ainsworth

Deadline for Ordering trees is October 31, 2016.

(some species may be available after this date)

- BAREROOT
 - \$1.00 each
 - 25 minimum
- POTTED
 - Prices may vary
 - 30 minimum



Please order species in multiples of **25**. Potted trees are available upon special request in multiples of 30.

You will be billed for a 50% deposit when your order is confirmed.

We will call in early April when your trees arrive.

The tree order form is for conservation trees that you will be planting yourself. If you want the NRD to help design a windbreak, or machine plant your trees please contact the MNNRD office at (402)376-3241 or 1-800-891-7645.

No guarantees on tree survivability.

for office use only	
• _____	date received
• _____	date wrapped
• _____	# bundled
• _____	date called

Middle Niobrara NRD
526 E 1st St.
Valentine, NE 69201