



## Middle Niobrara NRD



### Current Grants:

**Long Pine Creek Watershed Phase III**  
\$485,000.00

**Long Pine Creek Watershed Phase IV**  
\$810,000

**Expansion of Water Quality & Quantity  
Monitoring Sites**  
\$99,042.01

**SINREC**  
\$154,000 (Year two of three)

**319: Long Pine Creek Watershed Phase II**  
\$221,000.00

**319: Long Pine Creek Watershed Phase III**  
\$300,000

**Nonpoint Source Water Quality Grant  
Waste Reduction - Composting**  
\$41,300

**USFS/NFS Woody Innovations Applications –  
Boiler System**  
\$122,000.00 (USFS), \$105,000.00 (NFS)

**USDA-Watershed Flood Protection Operations  
Grant(s) – Long Pine Creek and 3 Cherry Co.  
Watersheds**  
\$2,400,500.00

**Green Diamond: Forest and Grassland  
Utilization**  
\$290,000

**No-Till Drill 10'**  
\$47,500



MNNRD

303 East Highway 20  
Valentine, NE 69201

Contact us at **402-376-3241**

[www.mnnrd.org](http://www.mnnrd.org)

### NSWCP Cost Share

- Sign-up for 2021-2022 practices will be May 1 – June 21, 2021
- Trees 50%
- Planned Grazing 60%
- Miscellaneous practices, including; grassed waterway, pasture seeding, critical area planting 60%

### No-Till Drills

The Middle Niobrara NRD has no-till drills available for rent.

- 4 ft no-till drill (Four-wheeler)
- 7.5 ft Haybuster no-till drill (Tractor)
- 10 ft Haybuster no-till drill (tractor)

All drills are capable of planting food plots or seeding native grasses. We also have food plot seed, alfalfa and can also obtain grass seed varies for your planting needs. Call the MNNRD office for prices and details.



# Water Resources

## Static Water Levels

MNNRD District Statics Spring 2006 - 2021	2021 - 2020 (1 year)	2021 - 2018 (3 years)	2021 - 2016 (5 years)	2021 - 2011 (10 years)	2021 - 2006 (15 years)
Lowest	-4.3	-2.21	-7.53	-2.39	-7.32
Highest	6.03	16.71	18.24	17.95	17.68
Average	0.1	4	4.14	3.5	3.94
% Wells Showing Increase	50.28	94.68	88.24	90.36	93.18

Cherry Statics Spring 2006 - 2021	2021 - 2020 (1 year)	2021 - 2018 (3 years)	2021 - 2016 (5 years)	2021 - 2011 (10 years)	2021 - 2006 (15 years)
Lowest	-2.36	-2.21	-7.53	-2.39	-7.32
Highest	6.03	8	10.39	17.95	17.68
Average	0.34	2.85	2.52	4.19	3.82
% Wells Showing Increase	59.78	91.92	81.44	85.29	86.84

Brown Statics Spring 2006 - 2021	2021 - 2020 (1 year)	2021 - 2018 (3 years)	2021 - 2016 (5 years)	2021 - 2011 (10 years)	2021 - 2006 (15 years)
Lowest	-4.3	-1.43	-0.96	-0.08	0.18
Highest	5.38	13.54	16.09	10.48	11.43
Average	-0.14	4.46	5.89	2.99	3.71
% Wells Showing Increase	36.36	97.73	97.78	96.55	100

Rock Statics Spring 2006 - 2021	2021 - 2020 (1 year)	2021 - 2018 (3 years)	2021 - 2016 (5 years)	2021 - 2011 (10 years)	2021 - 2006 (15 years)
Lowest	0.49	3.76	2.96	1.5	2.9
Highest	5.19	16.71	18.24	5.78	9.71
Average	1.94	11.87	12	4.3	6.67
% Wells Showing Increase	100	100	100	100	100

Keya Paha Statics Spring 2006 - 2021	2021 - 2020 (1 year)	2021 - 2018 (3 years)	2021 - 2016 (5 years)	2021 - 2011 (10 years)	2021 - 2006 (15 years)
Lowest	-3.95	-1.27	-1.11	-0.47	-0.32
Highest	3.76	8.72	8.58	6.77	8.33
Average	-0.83	4.44	4.13	2.66	3.8
% Wells Showing Increase	27.27	97.14	91.43	86.67	94.74

The MNNRD samples irrigation and monitoring wells twice a year (Spring/Fall) for static water levels (measurement from the ground to the top of the water table). Samples collected in each county for 2021 are as follows: Brown: 45, Cherry: 106, Keya Paha: 33, Rock: 10. The above graph includes data of the lowest, highest, and average static water level change in feet. Along with the percentage of wells in the county that have shown an increase since the above date. Red (-) shows a decline, with green showing an increase. Changes are calculated from the Spring measurement of the listed year from the measurement in 2021. If you have any questions about levels in a more specific area, or would like more data, please call 402-376-3241 or stop into the office!



## **LONG PINE CREEK WATERSHED**

The MNNRD with Engineering assistance are addressing threats to water quality, streambed channelization, aquatic habitat, and infrastructure within the Long Pine Creek Watershed (LPCW) by implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) within the LPCW and an In-Stream Structure (SD-4) on Sand Draw Creek (SDC). The SD-4 project is funded through NE Environmental Trust (NET) and NE Dept of Environment and Energy (NDEE). The project is in the beginning stages and will begin soon. The MNNRD is also working on another project on SDC upstream and downstream a mile from the Old Hwy 7 crossing on SDC. The MNNRD with Engineering assistance through NET funding will look at potential stream restoration projects in those stretches. That project will also begin soon.

The NRCS Watershed Work Plan (EA) in the LPCW – Long Pine Creek Watershed Improvement Project, through the Watershed and Flood Preventions Operations (WFPO) Program is in progress with two LPCW WFPO meetings held previously, and a final Agency and Stakeholder Meetings held April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The LPCW WFPO Plan-EA will be reviewed at the State NE NRCS level followed by final approval Nationally from the Little Rock, AR National Water Management Center (NWMC). Once the Plan-EA is approved, then the final design phase will begin for Tier 1 & 2 projects in the Plan-EA. Once the final design has been completed and approved, MNNRD will apply for USDA funding to address those priority resource concern areas/projects throughout the watershed.

Photo: SD-4 Project on SDC



A virtual and in person agency/landowner meeting was held January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the MNNRD office, as well as one held February 16, 2021 in Merriman for the Upper and Lower Snake Watersheds with site visits to begin in June.

The Rat and Beaver Lake Watershed landowner meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2021 at the Upper Loup NRD in Thedford.

# THE HISTORY OF ARBOR DAY

Can you imagine how the Nebraska Territory looked when the pioneers began settling here? Coming from the east, they missed the availability of trees for windbreaks, building materials, fuel, and for shade.

J. Sterling Morton, a resident of Nebraska City, NE and newspaper editor, was a true advocate for trees and strongly encouraged individuals and civic groups to plant them. At a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture on January 4, 1872, Morton in his roll as secretary of the Nebraska Territory, proposed a tree planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day".

April 10, 1872 became the date of celebration. As an incentive for the largest number of planted trees on that date, prizes were given to individuals and counties. More than 1 million trees were estimated to be planted on the first Arbor Day in Nebraska.

Robert W. Furnas, Nebraska's Governor in 1874, proclaimed Arbor Day official and it was observed on April 10<sup>th</sup> that year. It later became a legal state holiday to be permanently observed on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Arbor day was being celebrated by more than 45 territories and states by 1920, with many of them also passing legislation to make Arbor day an annual event. Many schoolchildren were receiving trees to plant as well as learning the importance of trees as the tradition spread in schools across the nation.

The event is now celebrated in all 50 states with the most common date of observance being the last Friday in April which is National Arbor Day. Some states celebrate the holiday to coincide with the best tree planting weather. For example, the southern states observe Arbor Day in January and February where as it is May in the far northern states.

Even though the official birthplace of the Arbor Day holiday is Nebraska City, NE, across the globe, communities gather for a greener tomorrow by planting trees.

On Arbor Day, April 30, 2021, The MNNRD assisted the Ainsworth and Valentine schools with planting 350 conservation trees in their communities.



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