

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Nebraska State Office

1121 Lincoln Mall Room 360 Lincoln. NE 68508

February 21, 2024

Notice of Availability

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) titled "Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment, Bone and Long Pine Creeks Watershed Improvement Project, Brown, Cherry, and Rock Counties, NE" in partnership with the Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District. The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, I have determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement is not needed for this project.

The proposed action includes the following improvements: grade control stabilization structures, a stream crossing, a pond, a sediment control basin, streambank protection, critical area planting, aquatic organism passage, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, oxbow restorations, and stream rehabilitation along eleven (11) stream reaches within the Bone and Long Pine Creek Watershed, and weather stations and automated gates on irrigation canals.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until after March 22nd, 2024.

You may view a copy of the FONSI and associated Environmental Assessment at the following website: https://tinyurl.com/5b5bwx8w.

For more information, please contact Melissa Baier, ASTC-Water Resources and Easements, NRCS, 1121 Lincoln Mall, Room 360, Lincoln, NE 68508; or by phone at 402.437.4065; or by email at melissa.baier@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

ROBERT D. LAWSON

State Conservationist