

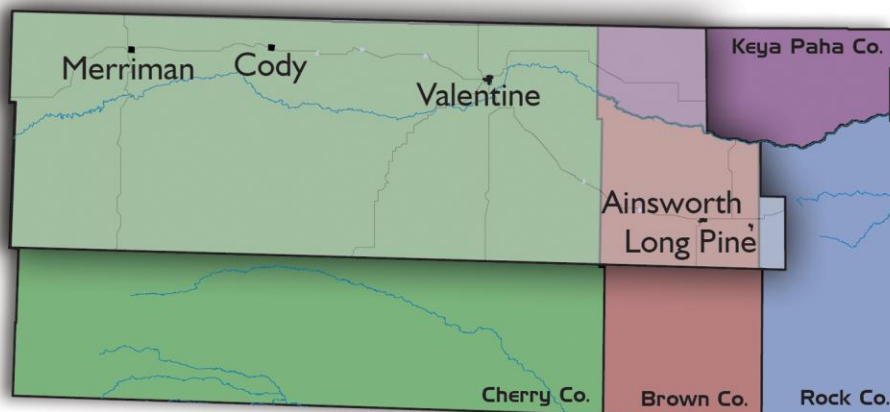
KNOW YOUR NRD



MIDDLE NIOBRARA
Natural Resources District
Valentine, NE

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

Summer 2026



MIDDLE NIOBRARA NRD

Scale 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 Miles



Water Quality Facts (2026)

419 H2O Quality Locations

449 Total Chemigation Permits

215 Chemigation Inspections

Water Quantity Facts

657 Registered Domestic Wells

235 Static H2O Level Monitoring Sites

156,827 Certified Irrigated Acres

117,336 Groundwater

32,038 Surface Water

7,453 Combination

1,135 Active Irrigation Wells

Land Improvement Facts

3,291,288 Trees Planted Since 1972

748 Miles Weed Barrier Since 1991

23,375 Trees Planted In Spring 2026

298,600 Pine Reforestation Since 2018

Protecting Lives

Water Resources

Water Sampling - Nitrate Testing

*District staff sample nearly 450 groundwater wells for nitrate contamination yearly. If your well is on the list, you may see a NRD employee sampling your well soon.

*Free in-house nitrate testing

*Household complete, irrigation quality, and livestock suitability available through the Lab. Contact the office for details

*The District is completing Basin wide surface water sampling for NDWEE. 6 Surface water sites are sampled in Cherry County and 6 sites in Brown/Rock County every week. Sampling for E. Coli, metals, pesticides, and other contaminants as well as stream height are collected.

Protecting Property

Water Resources

*Staff are sampling Merritt Res. for harmful Blue Green Algae every Monday. Please check the signs at the docks or NDWEE website before entering the water.

Chemigation

*Chemigation renewal permits were due June 1st. If you need a chemigation permit for 2026, please call the office ASAP.

*Staff have started inspections for 2026 permit holders. If you are ready for your inspections please call the office, otherwise staff will call to set up an appointment.

*The District has low point drain hoses and chemical injectors for sale at the office.

Protecting the Future

Water Resources

Static Water Levels

*Staff measured 235 static water level locations in April. These sites include both irrigation wells and dedicated monitoring wells. The monitoring wells also have dedicated data loggers and telemetry units that provide daily levels to the District.

The District on average **lost .57"** from the spring of 2025 to 2026.

The District on average is **2.76"** **higher** than measurements 10 years ago (2016).

The District on average is **.14"** **above** wells baseline average. If you have questions about more specific locations, please contact Kyle Temple in the office to learn more.

Projects, Programs, and Equipment/Services

Equipment

- * 4 ft Drill (ATV/UTV)
- * 7.5 ft Haybuster No-Till Drill (Tractor)
- * 10 ft Haybuster No-Till Drill (Tractor)
- * 10 ft Great Plains No-Till Drill (Tractor)
 - Located in Ainsworth, NE
- * Gopher Machine & Bait
- * Compost Turner and Manure Spreader
- * Trailers: 14' & 2 x 36'
- * 3pt Tree Planter
- * Dripline Irrigation Parts
- * Woodchips (Per Ton)
- * Tables & Chairs

Services

- * Custom Tree Planting
- * Custom Fabric Removal
- * Custom Composting
- * Custom Woodchipping
- * Custom Seed Drilling
- * Custom Mowing
- * Custom Rototilling
- * Water Sampling
- * Dripline Irrigation Installation
- * Static Water Level Measurements
- * Ultrasonic Flowmeter

Long Pine Creek Watershed (LPCW)

The MNNRD and Houston Engineering are addressing threats to water quality and infrastructure within the LPCW. The watershed, approximately 332,000 acres primarily in Brown County is mostly irrigated farming and rangeland around Ainsworth and Long Pine. Federal funding through USDA-NRCS's Watershed Flood Prevention & Operations (WFPO) Program, are helping fund projects in the LPCW. The LPCW WFPO Plan-EA was approved in February 2024. The MNNRD recently received funding from USDA-NRCS to continue working on the Plan-EA for final design and continued planning efforts. The MNNRD will be working with Houston Engineering, E&A Consulting, and Hazard Engineering



Tree Program



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.

Trees are planted throughout the district for livestock and farmstead protection, reducing soil erosion, flood control, wildlife habitat, reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide, aesthetic value, and as "living snow fences".

NSWCP SIGNUP NOW

If you are interested in ordering trees or having a windbreak installed for the Spring of 2027, call now.

402-376-3241

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 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 approximately 36 cents per acre. This continues conservation practices that give back locally.

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