



MIDDLE NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District Receives Grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust

Lincoln, NE – June 11, 2020 – Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District announced today that it will receive \$485,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “Long Pine Creek Watershed Restoration - Phase 3” project. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on June 11, 2020 in Lincoln. The project is one of the 118 projects receiving \$20,000,000 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this year. Of these, 73 were new applications and 45 are carry-over projects.

This project takes a stakeholder driven, watershed-wide approach to improving surface and ground water pollution, stabilizing streams, and restoring aquatic habitat. Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) funds, combined with NDEE Section 319 and project sponsors’ monies and labor will be used to implement a stream rehabilitation project (site SD-4) on Sand Draw Creek, as identified in the Long Pine Creek Watershed Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The specific activities that will be implemented as a part of this project will include: final design plans (preliminary designs completed in Phase I), permitting and construction of a self-adjusting engineered rock riffle structure to address stream instability, head cutting, scouring, erosion, excess sedimentation, aquatic habitat loss, and streambank degradation issues. Additionally, this project will include implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs); tree clearing to reduce hazardous fuels to create fire breaks; and fund a watershed coordinator position whom will continue working closely with the landowners in order to provide education and outreach activities.

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided over \$328 million in grants to over 2,300 projects across the state. Anyone – citizens, organizations, communities, farmers, and businesses – can apply for funding to protect habitat, improve water quality, and establish recycling programs in Nebraska. The Nebraska Environmental Trust works to preserve, protect, and restore our natural resources for future generations.

