

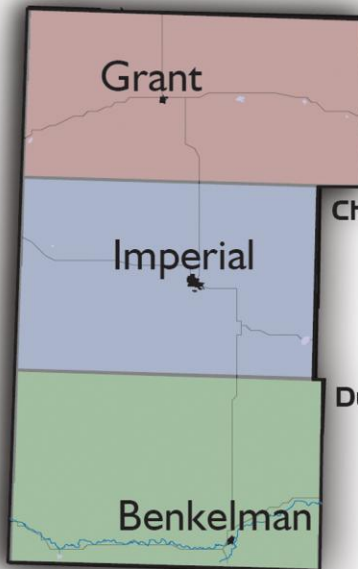
KNOW YOUR NRD



UPPER REPUBLICAN
Natural Resources District
Imperial, NE

Summer/Fall 2009

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



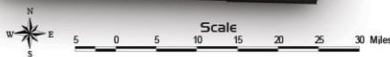
Perkins Co.

Chase Co.

Dundy Co.

**Local People
Providing
Local Solutions**

UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD



URNRD QUICK FACTS:

435,337 Irrigated Acres

250 Water Samples Collected for Groundwater Quality Monitoring

All Irrigation Wells Metered and Regulated

Groundwater Levels Monitored at 400 Locations in Spring and Fall

13 Observation Wells Continuously Measuring Water Levels

No New Irrigation Development Since 1997

Protecting Our Groundwater

The URNRD has actively managed and regulated groundwater supplies since its inception in 1972. To address groundwater quantity



issues, the District and the Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources utilized the following authorities in their joint Integrated Management Plan:

- Reduced irrigation allocations.
- Flowmeters on all irrigation wells since 1980.
- Moratorium on well development and new irrigated acres.

Protecting Our Resource Based Economy

Goals for the integrated management plan are:

- Maintain compliance with the Republican River Compact.
- Ensure that water users within the URNRD assume only their share of responsibility in maintaining this compliance.
- Protect groundwater users in the district.
- Reserve any stream availability gained from regulation, incentive programs and purchased or leased surface water to help the district sustain compliance with the Republican River Compact.



Protecting Our Future

The URNRD has maintained a water quality program for many years. The URNRD provides drinking water test kits to individuals in the District for domestic and livestock water wells at no charge. Water samples can be analyzed for multiple contaminants, ensuring the safety of their families' drinking water.



To safeguard recreational visitors of Southwest Nebraska, water samples have been collected for toxic algae at Enders Lake this summer by URNRD staff in cooperation with Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Nebraska Health and Human Services.

Protecting our Streams

The URNRD is involved with ongoing invasive weed management in stream channels. As a member of the Southwest Weed Management Area, the URNRD supports invasive plant removal along the stream channel. The removal of invasive plants will enhance stream flow and provide flood control. Funding for the first phase in a two-part SWWMA project was made possible through a grant received from the Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture in 2007 provided in LB701; funding was continued in 2008 to further the project.



Protecting the Local Economy



The economy of Southwest Nebraska relies upon agriculture - the URNRD is dedicated to protecting the viability of this ag-based economy, while ensuring proper management of the area's natural resources.

After a prolonged drought period, the Republican River NRDs had the foresight to lease water, bringing the state of Nebraska into compliance with its Republican River Compact allocation in 2007. The NRDs leased both storage water and natural flows from Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District, Frenchman Valley Irrigation District, and Riverside Irrigation Company, totaling 36,000 acre feet. These leases by the NRD protected the rights of irrigators in the basin, with an effective non-regulatory approach to managing the Republican River's water resources.

The URNRD, along with the Middle and Lower Republican NRDs, is committed to assisting the state of Nebraska in meeting compliance with the Republican River Compact, using both water management and augmentation options.

Protecting Future Natural Resources

The URNRD provides conservation education to youth of the district by sponsoring a local week long science camp every other summer. We are protecting our future natural resources through education of our youth about water quality, conservation, stewardship, and encouraging critical thinking. Utilizing hands-on activities, children are learning how to become involved and are encouraged to further develop their knowledge of conservation.



- Leading the way in groundwater management
- Protecting our natural resources since 1972

Located in southwest Nebraska, the Upper Republican Natural Resources District consists of all of Chase, Perkins and Dundy Counties. The District is unique in that it borders both Colorado and Kansas; it also neighbors the Middle Republican NRD to the east, and the Twin Platte NRD to the north. Imperial is the largest municipality of the District's twelve cities and villages.

NRDs help Nebraskans respond to natural resource challenges with local solutions that work. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRDs, which are governed by locally-elected boards of directors. These directors are elected by registered voters within the District. The board sets policy for the District and works closely with the staff through a committee system to carry out the District's goals.

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