

Natural Resources News

Fall 2001 A Newsletter of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Vol. 13

Come visit our web page to find out more about what we can do for you: <http://www.tpnrd.org>

Ground Water Management Plan — Quality & Quantity

The Plan

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District's Ground Water Management Plan objectives are; 1) to identify the ground water supplies, identify changes of the ground water levels, and identify the sources and levels of ground water contamination within the District, 2) to establish ground water quantity and quality goals, 3) to develop long-term solutions necessary for the prevention and/or reduction of ground water declines or of levels of ground water contaminants posing environmental and health hazards. The plan further includes recommendations of suitable practices and programs to stabilize, reduce, and prevent the occurrence, increase, or spread of ground water declines or contamination. The District envisions the goals being accomplished through voluntary and mandatory educational programs and implementation of agricultural and conservation techniques such as the use of Best Management Practices.

The District's Ground Water Management Program will establish a Target Area in those parts of the District where ground water could become a problem. The District's Program will establish a Ground Water Management Area in those parts of the District where ground water is a problem.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District topographically has four major Land Resource Areas consisting of the Nebraska Sandhills, the Central Nebraska Loess Hills, the Rolling Plains and Breaks and the Central High Tableland as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

TARGET AREA NITROGEN REPORTS ARE DUE DECEMBER 31, 2002

For those of you living in the Target Area in SW Keith County your **Annual Nitrogen Report forms are due in December**. If you have lost, misplaced or thrown away the original forms don't fret just call the office and let us know what you need or log onto our web page at www.tpnrd.org, and go to the Nitrogen and Water Report button then click on Nitrogen and Water Report. It may take a few minutes to bring up the form then all you need to do is print it off and fill it out. If you have any questions when filling out the form please feel free to give us a call.

Quantity

The results of the 2001 monitoring program are: (see the map on page 3)

Central High Tableland -0.43 feet,
Nebraska Sandhills +2.06 feet,
Rolling Plains and Breaks +2.33 feet,
Central Nebraska Loess Hills +1.19 feet.

The ground water elevations in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District have remained relatively stable during the period of monitoring by the District, but there are localized areas of concern. The District began a ground water elevation monitoring program in 1976 and continues to monitor 121 sites annually during the early spring and the fall.

The goal of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is to maintain the quantity of ground water for 100 years for domestic, agriculture and commercial purposes.

Target Areas will be implemented within Townships to address localized ground water problems. The triggering mechanism established is 5.0 feet from the 1983 baseline year, and is based on the average of the three year spring ground water table levels compared to the 1983 baseline year.

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Ground water Management Plan Continued from Page 1

Management Areas will be implemented within Major Land Resources Areas in three phases to address ground water quantity problem. The triggering mechanism is on the previous three year spring average ground water table levels compared to the 1983 baseline year.

Phase I: 10.0 Feet or greater decline.

Phase II: Subsequent declines equal to 30% of the average decline which initiated Phase I.

Phase III: Subsequent declines equal to 30% of the total of the average decline which initiated Phase I and Phase II.

Strategic sub-areas may be identified in target areas within Major Land Resource Areas for implementation of a Management Area three years following the implementation of the target area and annually thereafter.

Currently, Quantity Target Areas in the District are in T11N R34W, T12N R36W, T 12N R35W, T12N R37W T12N R39W. No Management Areas have been established within the District.

Quality

The results of the 2001 monitoring program for nitrates are: (see the map on page 3)

Central High Tableland 5.2 ppm,

Nebraska Sandhills 2.0 ppm,

Rolling Plains and Breaks 2.2 ppm,

Central Nebraska Loess Hills 3.5 ppm.

The ground water nitrate levels in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District have remained relatively stable during the period of monitoring by the District, but there are localized areas of concern. The District began a ground water quality monitoring program for nitrates in 1982 and continues to monitor 84 sites annually during either the spring or the fall for nitrates and other potential contaminants.

The goal of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is to maintain ground water quality acceptable for domestic purposes.

Target Areas will be implemented within Townships to address localized nitrate-nitrogen or other contamination problems. The triggering mechanism is 5.0 ppm for nitrate or 50% of the Maximum Contamination Level (MCL), and is based on the average of the last three years of testing.

Management Areas will be implemented within Major Land Resources Areas in three phases to address the nitrate-nitrogen or other contamination problems. The triggering mechanism is based on the average of the last three years of testing.

Phase I: 7.0 ppm (70% of MCL)

Phase II: 8.5 ppm (85% of MCL)

Phase III: 10.0 ppm (MCL)

Strategic sub-areas may be identified in target areas within Major Land Resources Areas for implementation of a Management Area three years following the implementation of the target area and annually thereafter if subsequent contamination levels increase or are above 10.0 ppm (MCL) and have not decreased.

There currently are 9 Quality Target Areas in the District; which are in T11N R 26W, T11N R27W, T12N R27W, T12N R41W, T13N R36W, T13N R37W, T13N R39W, T13N R40W, T13N R41W. No management areas have been established within the district.



WILD Nebraska Program

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District has combined resources with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission to provide funding, guidelines and technical assistance for the "WILD Nebraska" program in the District. WILD Nebraska program funds are comprised of 75% Game & Parks and 25% District dollars. The purpose of WILD Nebraska is to develop and enhance wildlife habitat on private land. WILD Nebraska replaces the former Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP), which had been a District program since the late 1980's. The existing WHIP contracts will be honored through their remaining terms as long as they remain in compliance with those agreements.

WILD Nebraska will offer new habitat enhancement practices in addition to ones offered in the previous program. Options for improvements include but are not limited to: grass/legume establishment, wetland enhancement, shrub/shelterbelt plantings, food plot establishment and riparian forest buffers. Agreements are 5 to 10 years in length. Cropland conversion to habitat will provide annual payments for 5 years. Hunting access is not a program requirement, although there are incentives for cooperators who agree to allow public access. For more information about WILD Nebraska, please contact Bill Carhart at the Twin Platte Natural Resources District office.

Water Wells

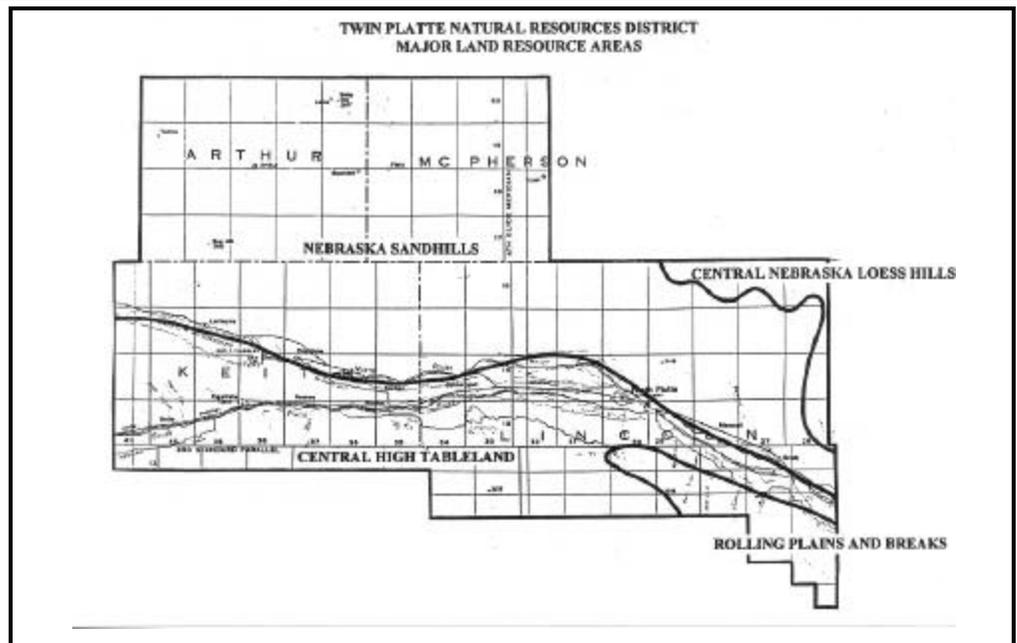
Irrigation, Domestic, and Stock Wells

In June, the Associated Press released information and some local newspapers picked up the stories about wells in Nebraska. While some of their information was correct, some of the details were misleading. We are here to bring the facts to you:

- All irrigation wells must be registered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Domestic wells, including stock wells, need to be registered if they were drilled **after** September 9, 1993.
- Water well contractors are now responsible for filing the registration within 60 days of completion of the well. Exceptions are dewatering wells intended for use for less than 90 days or test holes.
- The DNR shall be notified by the landowner of any change in the ownership of a water well required to be registered. As of July 1, 2001 the DNR will charge a \$20 fee to file this form.
- If you are unsure if your well is registered or if the well ownership records are up-to-date, contact the DNR at (402) 471-2363 or the Twin Platte Natural Resources District at (308) 535-8080. This information is also available online at www.dnr.state.ne.us or www.tpnrd.org.

It is very important to make sure all wells are registered and the information is kept up to date because DNR only recognizes the rights of those wells which are registered. Registration protects you against potential lawsuits from neighboring well owners, from new wells being drilled too close to your established well, and protects your use of that water.

Major Land Resource Areas In The Twin Platte Natural Resources District



Twin Platte Natural Resources District

Board of Directors.....	Sub-District
Jim Rubenthaler.....(H)584-3578.....	At-large
(Chairperson)	
Doug Stack.....(W)535-8308.....	3
(Vice-Chairperson)	
Jerry Weaver.....(W)534-9240.....	3
(Secretary)	
Jim Meisner.....(H)284-6509.....	5
(Treasurer)	
Bob Peterson.....(H)532-2689.....	2
Joe Wahlgren.....(H)537-3136.....	2
Todd Kramer.....(H)764-2421.....	1
Jeff Baldrige.....(H)534-7780.....	4
Bob Wiseman.....(H)368-5866.....	4
Eric Hansen.....(W)532-6244.....	1
Dennis Schilz.....(W)287-2341.....	5

Staff Members.....	Position
Kent O. Miller.....	General Manager
Dave Slattery.....	Conservation Programs Coordinator
Bill Carhart.....	Range Programs Coordinator
Glen Bowers.....	Water Programs Coordinator
Ann Fisher.....	Water Programs Technician
Ardis Lehmkuhler.....	Administrative Assistant
Kathy Clark.....	Field Office Secretary, North Platte NRCS

Natural Resources News is the official publication of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. This quarterly publication is partially funded by a 319 Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or would like to be placed on our mailing list please feel free to submit them to:

Twin Platte Natural Resources District
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P.O. Box 1347
North Platte, NE 69103-1347
Phone: (308)535-8080
Fax: (308)535-8207
e-mail: tpnrd@nponline.net

ATTENTION!!!!!! Teachers and Leaders! The Water Trailer is Available

One of the more popular tools of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is the water trailer. This is a mobile hands-on educational tool, which is used to educate any age about water and its different relationships. With the water trailer we can discuss ground water, surface water, the flow of a river, erosion, sedimentation, and pollution. These are a few of many topics that can be explained with the water trailer. For a great addition to a science lesson, or just a fun learning experience for the group, the water trailer is the way to go. The water trailer is used outside, in good weather. Call today to schedule the water trailer!

Upcoming Events:

December

- 11 Board of Director's Meeting - 4:30 p.m.
MDT Game & Parks Visitor Center at Lake McConaughy
- 31 Target Area Nitrogen Reports Due



January

- 10 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 p.m. CDT*



February

- 6 & 7 North Platte Farm & Ranch Expo at the D & N Event Center

- 14 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 p.m. CDT*

March

- 14 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 p.m. CDT*

* Board Meetings are held in the United Nebraska Bank Center North Platte

Twin Platte

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

111 South Dewey Street
North Platte, NE 69103-1347

Postal Patron