



Department of Natural Resources declares a small portion of the ULNRD to be "Fully Appropriated" in 2008

Water has been deemed "the issue of the decade" by Governor Dave Heineman and has been evident across the District and the state following the passage of LB 962. LB 962, was drafted from the recommendations of the Water Policy Task Force and instructs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to evaluate every river basin in Nebraska. This annual evaluation is required for every river basin, sub-basin, or reach that has not either initiated the development of an integrated management plan (IMP) or implemented an IMP.

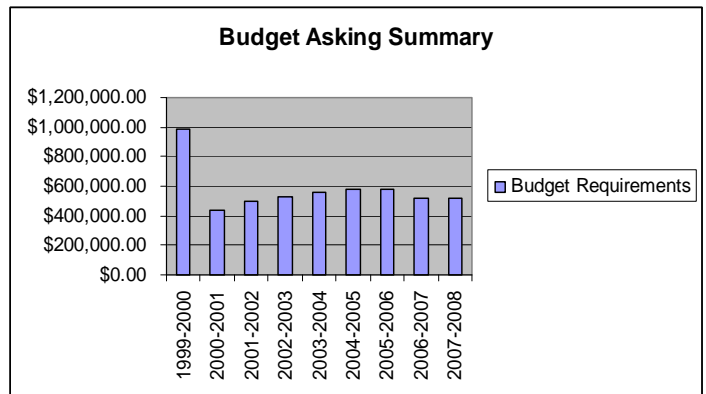


This annual evaluation by DNR is performed to determine if a basin is fully appropriated or in some instances over-appropriated. As a general concept, a basin is fully appropriated when existing uses of both surface water and hydrologically connected ground water supplies are equal to but do not exceed the available water supplies over the long term. If a basin is fully appropriated, any new use will in time take water away from an existing use. Once a basin is designated as "fully appropriated" it is subject to the rules and regulations of LB 962, which will include a moratorium on all high capacity well development (those pumping greater than 50 gal/min) and no new irrigated acres.

DNR has evaluated the expected long-term availability of surface water supplies and hydrologically connected ground water supplies for 2008 of the Blue River Basins, Lower Niobrara River Basin, Lower Platte River Basin, and Missouri Tributary Basins. Based on the evaluation, the Niobrara River Basin upstream of Spencer Hydropower is preliminarily determined as fully appropriated. This designation does affect a very small portion of the Northern ULNRD District. Producers in our District that this has an effect on have been contacted by our office. The majority of our District will NOT be fully appropriated for the year 2008. However, based on reasonable projections of the extent and location of future development in the basin and on currently available data, the analysis also shows that this preliminary conclusion would change to a conclusion that the entire basin is fully appropriated if no additional constraints are placed on surface water and ground water development.

ULNRD Spending

On September 13, 2007 the Upper Loup NRD Board of Directors adopted the fiscal year 2007-2008 budget. As you can see from the "District's budget requirements" chart, the ULNRD has strived to respect the concerns of our taxpayers by continuing to find other funding mechanisms to maintain your NRD.



NRD's have the ability to levy up to 4 cents per \$100 of property valuation and we are proud to say that with all the past and new programs and services we provide we have been able to maintain a levy rate of 2 cents per \$100 of property valuation since 1990.

Upper Loup Staff

- Anna Baum General Manager
- Jack Brummet ... Resources Technician
- Kyle Yrkoski Resources Technician
- Angie Jensen Administrative Secretary
- Sandy Booth Information & Education Cord.
- Cleo Jacobs Thedford Field Office Clerk

Upper Loup Board of Directors

- Subdistrict 1 Ginger Fouse & Eric Storer
- Subdistrict 2 Steve Boyer & Judy Ridenour
- Subdistrict 3 Gary Schaeffer & Wayne Eatinger
- Subdistrict 4 Byron Cox & Gordon Simonson
- Subdistrict 5 Louis Jacobson & Travis Hansen
- At Large: Wynn Wiens

New Groundwater Management Area Rules and Regulations in place as of January 1, 2008

The Upper Loup NRD conducted a public hearing on Thursday November 8, 2007 to receive public testimony on proposed ground water rules and regulations and the designation of a Ground Water Management Area for ground water quality and quantity purposes.

The rules and regulations were adopted and an order was issued in December which applies to the entirety of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District. The purpose of the Management Area and rules and regulations are to facilitate the proper management of ground water for quality and quantity.

The primary changes of the new rules and regulations are:

- * well permits are required from the District prior to the construction of any high capacity wells (water wells pumping greater than 50 gallons per minute)
- * flowmeters or any other approved metering device is required on any high capacity wells drilled after January 1, 2008
- * flowmeters or any other approved metering device is required on any commercial or industrial wells after January 1, 2008 regardless of when the well was drilled (the District will be providing cost share on the purchase of these meters)
- * requiring permits from the District for the physical transfer of any groundwater out or within the district
- * certification of irrigated acres by the

District – process will begin after January 1, 2008
 * permits required from the District for the transfer of certified acres
 * the reporting of groundwater well use to the District by irrigators, city or villages and./or industrial or commercial users .

Full text copies of the rules and regulations can be obtained from the Upper Loup NRD, 39252 Highway 2, Thedford, NE 69166, 308-645-2250 or viewed and downloaded from the Upper Loup NRD website, www.upperloupnrd.org



Tree Orders are now being taken

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District continues to sell and plant trees to property owners across the district as it has for the past 30+ years. Trees can be purchased as producer hand plants, contract plants or for NRD machine planting. The ULNRD is now accepting orders for conservation trees thru March 1st or while tree supplies last. Trees are available in a variety of species consisting of conifers, broadleaves and shrubs. Conservation fabric mulch is also available and is a very beneficial practice to young windbreaks. It is installed over the seedlings to help control weeds and retain moisture.

The ULNRD or local NRCS are available to work with landowners to determine the type and number of trees and shrubs needed. A technician will make arrangements for the tree order and assist with NRD machine planting service as well as advise you about weed control and care following planting.

To help promote tree planting the NRD has cost share funds available for those practices that meet state require-

ments. Trees, shrubs, planting and weed mulch are all eligible for the cost share program.

Remember the Upper Loup NRD is your one-stop shop to order trees and weed mulch. For more information on the conservation tree program including tree prices, minimum purchases, cost share, or if you need assistance with designing a tree planting project, stop by our office in Thedford or call us at 308-645-2250 or contact your NRCS Office.

2008 Prices + tax

Bare root trees 68¢ each
(25 species minimum)

Machine plantings .. \$1.22 each
(100 tree minimum)
 Trees 68¢ each
 Planting 54¢ each

Hand potted trees94¢ each

Fabric mulch 40¢ / foot

Mulch & installation ..70¢ / foot
 Mulch 40¢ / foot
 Installation 30¢ / foot



Species Available

* recommended species for our District

To review species descriptions visit website:
www.nrdnet.org/trees

Conifers:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| * Eastern Red Cedar | * Rocky Mountain Juniper |
| * Jack Pine | * Ponderosa Pine |
| Austrian Pine | Black Hills Spruce |
| CO Blue Spruce | Norway Spruce |

Broadleaves:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| * Hackberry | Amur Maple |
| Buffaloberry | Shumard Oak |
| Crabapple | Hawthorn |
| Lilac | Russian Olive |
| Skunkbush Sumac | Swamp White Oak |
| * Siberian Elm | * Honey Locust |
| Bur Oak | Black Walnut |
| * Diamond Willow | Pin Oak |
| Silver Maple | Red Oak |

Shrubs: Any of the following shrubs are fairly adaptable to this area.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Caragana | Contoneaster |
| Sumac | American Plum |
| Honeysuckle | Golden Current |
| Manchurian Apricot | Chokecherry |
| Lilac | Sandcherry |
| Elderberry | Green Ash |
| Black Cherry | Red-Osier Dogwood |
| Hazelnut | False Indigo |
| Harbin Pear | Woods Rose |

For a complete inventory list call our office.

Are your wells registered correctly? If not they are considered to be "illegal" ..

As of September 9, 1993, all wells drilled in the State of Nebraska are required to be registered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To find out if your wells are registered you may contact DNR at <http://dnrdata.dnr.state.ne.us/> or contact your local NRD office. Since the passage of LB 962 it also important to make sure your wells are registered under the proper name and that any irrigated acres are registered. Both the DNR and NRD will be monitoring wells more closely to ensure compliance with Nebraska State Law.

Unregistered wells or wells registered incorrect are considered "illegal" and could possibly be subjected to a cease and desist order, immediate decommissioning without availability for cost-share, or an increased cost for required registration through the DNR. The ULNRD is beginning their acre certification process in accordance with the Districts new rules and regulations and only LEGAL wells qualify for acre certification. Written notice must be provided to the DNR for change of ownership, correction of registration information, modifications of a registered well, and for abandonment of all wells. To obtain these forms go to the DNR website, click on the Ground Water tab, go to the "Ground Water Forms" portion near the top of the page. A list of available forms will be there for printing. For further information regarding the reasons to register a well, go to the DNR website or if you have any further water well related questions, contact the DNR at 402-471-2363 or visit their WEBSITE: <http://www.dnr.state.ne.us/> or you may contact the Upper Loup NRD.

The ULNRD has gopher bait on hand for purchase by those individuals that have a current pesticide applicators license. The District also has a gopher machine available for rent. If interested please contact the office for information. 308-645-2250

Dripial Pursuit.

Test your water knowledge:

1. What two states are transferring groundwater from Nebraska into their state?
2. Name a waterfall found in Nebraska.
3. Name two of the rivers that flow through the ULNRD.
4. Which holds more water, warm air or cool air?
5. Name a rock and roll group with water in their name.
6. True or False, contaminated water always tastes or smells or looks bad?
7. Name two of the four leading states in groundwater being pumped.
8. What did the Titanic hit before it sank?
9. What's the longest river in the world?

Answers found on page 4 of this newsletter

The 2008 Election Year is upon us.

Citizens interested in serving a four year term on the Upper Loup Board of Directors must file with their local County Clerk by the following dates:

Incumbents February 15, 2008

Non-incumbents March 3, 2008.

A seat will be filled in each of the five sub-districts. For more information feel free to contact the ULNRD office in Thedford.



NERain Volunteers needed. If you are a weather enthusiast and would like to volunteer for the NeRAIN Program contact the Upper Loup NRD at 308-645-2250 and visit with Kyle! Volunteers will receive a new quality rain gauge, installation and brief training to record data. Being a volunteer requires just a few minutes each day to report readings from your gauge! You can report by computer, calling into the office or mailing in monthly totals.

Our District could definitely use volunteers in BROWN and BLAINE Counties.

ULNRD has acquired an additional 10' Great Plains No-Till drill with grass seed boxes. We hope with the purchase of this drill we can better serve the needs of our producers. The drills work well for planting forage crops, range seeding, ground cover crops and corners for wild life. 2008 drill rental will be \$6.00 per acre. Drill delivery charge is \$45.00 If you would like additional information or like to request the drill please contact our office.



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Theedford, Ne 69166
Permit. No. 11

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 212
 East Hwy 2
 Theedford, NE 69166

Phone: 308-645-2250
 Fax: 308-645-2308
 www.upperloupnrd.org

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Calendar of Events

- January**
- 2 Stapleton Satellite Office Open
 - 9 Mullen Satellite Office Open
 - 11 ULNRD Board Meeting, Theedford
 - 16 Hyannis Satellite Office Open
 - 21 Holiday Office Closed
- February**
- 6 Stapleton Satellite Office Open
 - 8 ULNRD Board Meeting, Theedford
 - 13 Mullen Satellite Office Open
 - 18 Holiday Office Closed
 - 20 Hyannis Satellite Office Open
- March**
- 4 Stapleton Satellite Office Open
 - 11 Mullen Satellite Office Open
 - 13 ULNRD Board Meeting, Theedford
 - 18 Hyannis Satellite Office Open

Bow hunter Education to be offered in February of 08

A crossbow is considered the same as a firearm in Nebraska, and crossbow hunters 12 years of age or older born on or after January 1, 1977, must have proof of completion of firearm Hunter Education on their person while hunting any game, game animal or game bird with a crossbow.

Bowhunter Education is a highly successful program ensuring that safe, respectful and responsible hunters participate in the sport of bow hunting in Nebraska. This program is mandated by the Nebraska Legislature, administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and taught by volunteer instructors starting in 1993.

ULNRD will be sponsoring the class at their main office in Theedford with Dan Wadas as the volunteer instructor. If you are interested in taking the course contact the ULNRD. Watch your local papers and the ULNRD website for class schedule details.

Upon request, Upper Loup NRD staff will make presentations for any school or community organization.

Presentations can focus on water, wildlife, forestry, land treatment or other environmental and conservation issues. Educators, please note that many of the presentations that we do address state and national academic standards.

Some examples of classroom presentations previously performed include: water quality and water quantity activities, Arbor Day presentations, geocaching workshops, wildlife habitat enhancement and pollution activities. We are willing to present on a variety of topics, feel free to call and discuss your needs or desires.

- Dripial Pursuit Answers:
1. Colorado & Kansas
 2. Snake, Smith, Bridal
 3. Dismal, North Loup, Middle Loup, South Loup, Calamus
 4. Warm
 5. Creedence Clearwater Revival
 6. False
 7. Nebraska, Texas, California, Idaho
 8. Iceberg
 9. Nile