



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

October 2018

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Calendar of Events

October

- 8 Office Closed:
Columbus Day
- 11 Board Meeting:
Gudmundsen Reasearch
Center, Whitman, NE
2 pm CT
- 13-14 Hunter Education Course
ULNRD Office

November

- 8 Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 7PM CT
- 12 Office Closed:
Veteran's Day
- 22-23 Office Closed:
Thanksgiving

December

- 13 Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 25 Office Closed:
Christmas

Are Noxious Weeds a Problem for You? Let Upper Loup NRD Help

The legal description of a noxious weed is any plant designated by a Federal, State or county government as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property. More commonly, they are defined as a plant that grows out of place and is competitive, persistent and pernicious.

Regardless of which weed you are trying to manage it's important to continue yearly management as skipping a year can cause the noxious weed to re-infest rapidly. Persistence is the key to any successful weed control program.

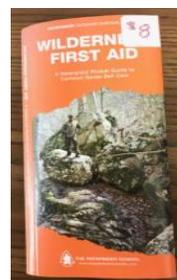
In Nebraska, you are legally required to control noxious weeds on your property. The common noxious weeds on the Nebraska State list include: plumeless thistle, musk thistle, diffuse knapweed, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife and saltcedar. Fortunately, not all of these weeds are found in our District. To help with the battle of noxious weeds in our area (leafy spurge, Canada thistle, musk thistle), the Upper Loup Natural Resources District provides cost share funds for BOTH fall and spring treatment to landowners in the NRD area. Funds are available to cover 45% of the cost of approved chemicals up to \$400 per landowner.

Firearm Hunter Education Course

On Saturday and Sunday, October 13th and 14th, a Firearm Hunter Education Classroom course will be held at the Upper Loup NRD Office. The class will begin Saturday at 1:00 PM Central Time. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1977, is required to carry proof of completion while hunting. Anyone younger than 11 may take the course but will not be certified. They must also be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Anyone under 18 must give the instructor a signed and completed Parental Release Form. Please register online for this event at outdoornebraska.gov

Field Guides Available

Hunting season has arrived! We have field guides for sale at our office in Thedford. Guides include Field Dressing Game, Wilderness First Aid, and Basic Tracking.



ULNRD Field Day Another Success for the Seventh Year

The Upper Loup NRD held their annual Jr. High Field Day with area seventh and eighth graders. 53 students from Hyannis, Mullen, Thedford, and Sandhills schools attended the field day held at the office in Thedford on Wednesday, August 22nd. The presentation topics for the day included wildlife, soils, water quality and quantity, forestry, and range.

Chris Hobza from United States Geological Survey (USGS) taught students about water quality and stream flow in the Middle Loup River. The students played a wildlife CSI activity with Lexi Hingtgen, ULNRD Information and Education Coordinator. Anna Baum, ULNRD Manager, presented many activities about the importance of soils. Individuals were able to learn about soil properties and test soil pH. Shane Young, ULNRD Resources Technician presented a hands-on jeopardy activity for the students about trees and forestry. Individuals had the opportunity to learn about range ecosystems with NRCS rangeland management specialist Julianna Schaeffer, where they covered various topics from grasses, forbs and shrubs to browsers and predators. This year we were joined by Nebraska Educational Television (NET) as they covered a segment with Chris on watersheds.

For some of the students, this was their second year of attending the Jr. High Field Day. Each year the NRD tries to add new material and new sessions for students to explore the wide range of natural resources topics. The students really enjoy the hands-on learning experience the NRD provides and leave with a better knowledge of natural resources.



Fall is the Time to Start Tree Planning

Trees provide important benefits such as, protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, preventing soil erosion, and also providing wildlife habitat. The Upper Loup NRD offers tree program services including: planning, planting, weed barrier installation or weed control, and drip irrigation.

Fall is a good time to think about tree planning. The ULNRD provides a 65% cost share along with free tree planning services. Trees and shrubs (excluding small acreage package), planting, weed mulch, and drip irrigation systems are all eligible for the cost share program. For more information about these services or to make an appointment for your tree plan, contact Shane at 308-645-2250.



ANIMAL TRIVIA

1. How many species of bats are in NE?
A. 20 B. 13 C. 8 D. 3
2. The Salt Creek Water Beetle is one of the rarest insects in the world and only found in what NE city? A. Lincoln
B. Clay Center C. Chadron D. Valentine
3. True or False: River otters can be found in NE.
4. How many times does a hummingbird flap its wings per second?
A. 30 B. 60 C. 15 D. 80
5. Which threatened and/or endangered animals are still residents of NE?
A. Swift Fox B. Northern Long-Eared Bat
C. Southern Flying Squirrel D. All of the Above
6. Nebraska is home to how many species of venomous snakes?
A. 4 B. 0 C. 1 D. 2

Answers on page 4

Projects in Progress

Tree Survival Checks

Shane will be conducting tree survival checks in the District over the next few months and is also working on tree plans. If you are planning on planting trees in the spring, please contact Shane to get on the list and set up an appointment at 308-645-2250.

Flowmeter Reading

Beginning in October Jake, Shane and Lexi will be out reading flowmeters. You will recognize them by the white pickup with the Upper Loup NRD emblem on the side. Weather permitting, all readings shall be completed by January 1.

Flowmeter Maintenance

Reminder, inspect your flow meters for any odd behavior such as unusual noises. Little to no maintenance is required for most meters. Producers are responsible for flowmeter maintenance and repairs.

Groundwater Use Reports

Irrigators in Grant, Hooker, and Thomas counties! Annual water use reporting letters will be mailed out soon to those who DO NOT have a flowmeter. Please return the information ASAP to the NRD even if you did not irrigate. You may report your water use by mail, phone (308-645-2250), or email Jake (jginkens@upperloupnrd.org)

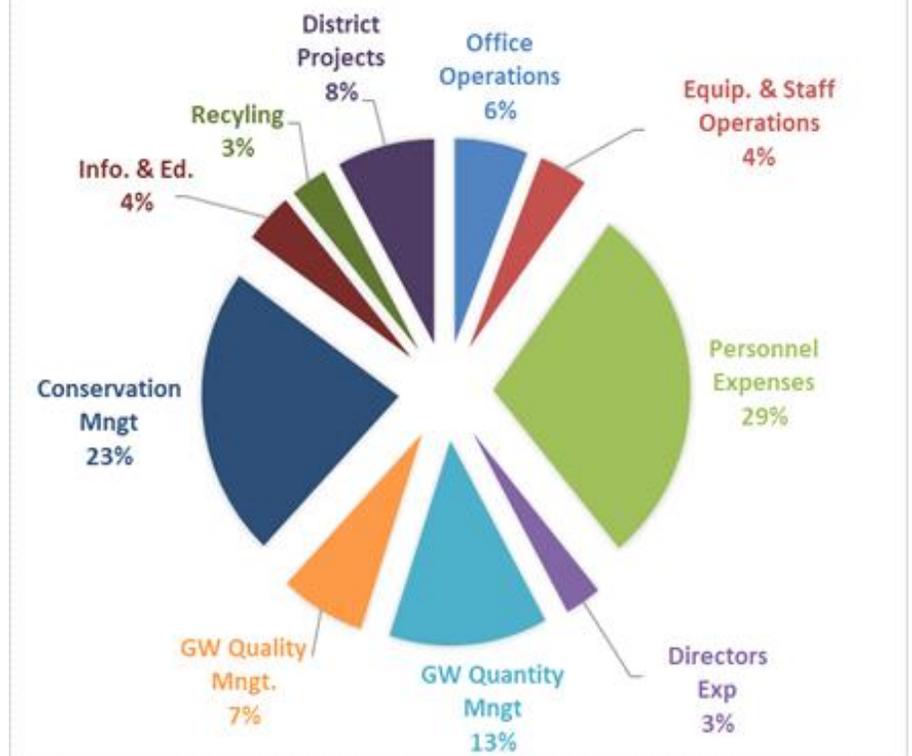
Learning Center Grant Project

With the new shop complete remodeling to the old shop will begin. The learning center will provide a comfortable, safe, and well-equipped central facility in the District that can be used for information sharing, training, instruction and hands-on experiences on a variety of topics. It will be available to schools, communities, organizations and the general public for functions.

ULNRD Board Approves 2018-2019 Budget

The Upper Loup Board of Directors adopted the budget for fiscal year 2018-19 on September 13, 2018. This year's budget calls for a property tax levy of .019 (1.9 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation). NRD's have the option to levy up to 4.5 cents per 100 dollars of valuation to aid in fulfilling all their statutory responsibilities, which we are well below. With the help of grants and product sales the Upper Loup has been able to provide a wide variety of services including water quality testing, conservation practices, wildlife habitat improvement, soil sampling, noxious weed control, recycling, yard enhancement, and camp scholarships to name just a few. The upcoming annual budget total is \$1,145,000.00 with a tax asking of \$494,900.00, meaning less than half of our total budget (43%) is supported by tax dollars.

2018-19 EXPENSES



Thermo-imaging Grant Project

The 3-year grant to collect data to measure and record groundwater-levels and temperature to enhance our understanding of groundwater/surface water interaction in the Loup River basin is complete and the final report is being written. Streams in the Loup River basin are sensitive to consumptive groundwater use because of the close hydrological connection between groundwater and surface water. The information gained will be analyzed for streamflow and groundwater discharge patterns which will lead to more informed water management decisions when it comes to conserving, maintaining and protecting our water supplies, natural environments and economic vitality for future generations.

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

General Manager

Shane Young

Resources Technician

Jake Ginkens

Resources Technician

Leslie Harvey

Administrative Secretary

Jack Brummet

Recycling Coordinator

Lexi Hingtgen

Information & Education,

Resources Technician

Pam Petersen

Field Office Secretary

ULNRD Board of Directors

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Bobbie Jo Christensen

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Fall Trees Available



The Upper Loup NRD has fall container trees for purchase. They range in price from \$5.75 plus tax to \$8.75 plus tax. For a list of species and prices please contact the office 308-645-2250.

ANIMAL TRIVIA ANSWERS

1) B. 13 species 2) A. Lincoln 3) True 4) D. 80 times/second 5) D. All of the above 6) A. 4 species