

Photo provided by Google Earth

SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Any high school student planning on attending a two or four year institution in Nebraska who is majoring in a field that is natural resources or agricultural related is eligible for a \$500.00 Scholarship through the SPNRD. Applications are due May 1st, 2021. For more information please contact the SPNRD office and we will be able to provide you with an application for the scholarship.



UPDATED RECREATION AREA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Galen Wittrock, Assistant Manager at South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD), manages the recreation areas within the District. At the January Board of Directors meeting, Wittrock proposed new changes to the existing Recreation Area Rules and Regulations handbook. The recreation areas that are located in the SPNRD are Goldenrod Wildlife Management Area near Chappell, Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area near Kimball and Goldeneye State Management Area, near Big Springs. The prominent changes in the handbook include, but are not limited to the following:

- No target shooting allowed at Oliver Reservoir
- Defining the hunting season to coincide with the federal and state hunting seasons
- All campers must register their campers and vehicles
- Open fires must only be contained in the designated, NRD provided fire pits



BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Director Meetings are hosted the second Tuesday of every month at the South Platte NRD office located at 551 Parkland Dr, Sidney, Nebraska.

BOARD MEETING DATES

March 9, 2021 @5pm
April 13, 2021 @5pm
May 11, 2021 @5pm
June 8, 2021 @5pm

UPDATES

WELL DECOMMISSIONINGS

The SPNRD offers 65% cost-share up to \$600.00 for the proper well decommissioning of old irrigation, livestock, and domestic wells. Cost-share does not include the costs associated with pulling the pump or casing. We currently have budgeted \$5,000.00 for cost share assistance on well decommissionings.

SPNRD NITRATE LEVELS

The Sidney Ground Water Quality Management Subarea (SGWQMSA) is currently in phase II but has been proposed to move to phase III in the updated Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations. When nitrates enter the groundwater system, it affects the health of the water over time. Due to the Brule Formation, the nitrates in that area soak into the ground easily. The SGWQMSA has exceeded 9.5 ppm as an average the past three years. Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Coordinator points out that after reviewing the nitrate levels in different subareas in the District, the data that is most important to remember is the trend line in each subarea over the past 10 years. Please see the graph below for more information.



**Protecting Lives,
Protecting Property,
Protecting the Future**

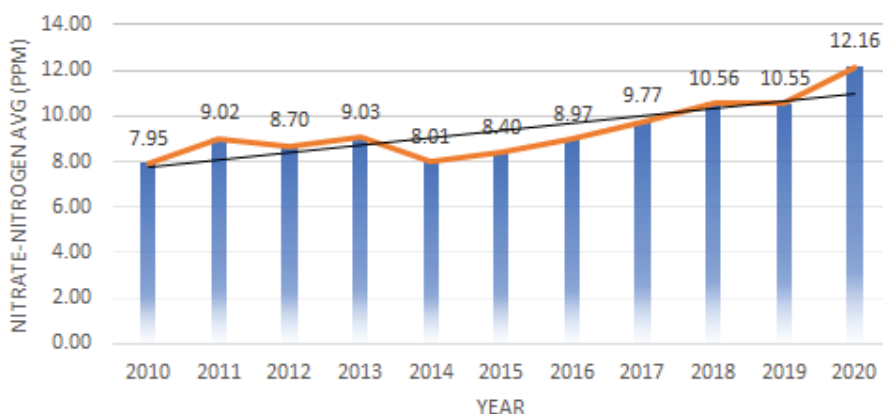


NEW SPNRD STAFF

SPNRD would like to welcome the new Public Relations and Education Manager, Sydney Norris. Sydney is originally from Omaha, but has lived in Kearney and North Platte over the past 7 years. She graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2018 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Journalism and a minor in Photography. Sydney has experience in educating the public in natural resources and enjoys relaying information utilizing multi-media design and photography.



**SGWQMSA NITRATE COMPOSITE
AVERAGE**



EVERGREEN TREE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

If you have any pine trees located on your property, you may start to notice damage toward the tops of the tree. The damage to these trees is due to environmental damage caused by the recent weather patterns. The type of damage you may notice will look similar to the image on the right. The tops of the trees will display a rusty color in the needles and there will be a visible contrast between the rust color needles and the live green needles. This damage is caused by harsh environments, such as dry conditions and the large temperature changes from last year. The damage is more likely to be noticed on non-native pines, such as Austrian pines, that are not as used to these harsh conditions. To prevent further damage from drought, utilize supplemental watering. For further questions, please contact the SPNRD.



KIDS CORNER



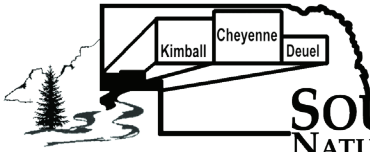
CAMPS

The status on Range Camp and Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE Camp) is still pending. Please stay tuned to the SPNRD social media and spnrd.org for more information.

GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

The Western Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival that is held for fourth graders has been canceled for 2021. SPNRD however will be providing a short video and materials for teachers to safely provide fun presentations to the schools.

Contact Sydney Norris, the SPNRD Public Relations and Education Manager at snorris@spnrd.org for more information or questions pertaining to available natural resources education.



SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

South Platte Natural Resources District
551 Parkland Dr. P.O. Box 294
Sidney, NE 69162

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NaManet Keller	District Secretary
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Ryan Reisdorff	Water Resources Specialist
Chris Kaiser	Natural Resources Coordinator
Sydney Norris	Public Relations & Education Manager
Tyler Sanders	Water Resources Technician
Michelle McMillen	NRCS/NRD Field Office Secretary
Sydney Wagner	NRCS/NRD Secretary/Technician

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

SPNRD is offering a scholarship. Applications are due May 1st, 2021. For more information, please visit pg. 1 of this newsletter.



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