

Lower Republican  
Natural Resources District



Master Plan FY 2010—2020

LRNRD

Adopted January 12, 2012

# LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

## Master Plan for FY 2010 - 2020

The Lower Republican Natural Resources District is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska. On July 1, 1972, the Lower Republican Natural Resources District, along with twenty-three other Nebraska NRDs, began to address the responsibilities assigned to them by the State legislature. Today, twenty-three Districts cover the entire state, including all urban and rural areas. These Districts are governed by elected Boards of Directors that set individual District policies, approve programs and projects, set budgets and approve expenditures. Each District has a General Manager who reports directly to the Board. The General Manager of each District manages a staff that conducts the day to day activities to carry out policies, programs, and projects.

This Master Plan provides the general direction in which the Lower Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors anticipate future programming needs. No attempt is made in the Master Plan to present current plans, budgets or to present demographic information on resources of the District. Such information is available from other sources. Comprehensive and historical data concerning programs, projects, staffing and funding can be obtained from the District.

**OVERALL GOAL:** The priorities and goals of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District are to maintain and enhance the natural resources within the District.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Lower Republican Natural Resources District shall be a leader in conserving, protecting, developing, and managing the natural resources of this District for the health and welfare of the people of the District.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Lower Republican Natural Resources District is a multi-purpose, local unit of Nebraska Government for management, development, and protection of the soil and water resources found in this

District. The basic responsibilities of the District, which are authorized by statute, are listed below:

- Development, Management, Utilization, and Conservation of Groundwater and Surface Water, and Water Supply for Beneficial Uses
- Soil Conservation, Erosion Prevention and Control
- Flood Prevention and Control
- Pollution Control
- Prevention of Damages from Flood Water and Sediment
- Development and Management of Recreational and Park Facilities
- Forestry and Range Management
- Development and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Drainage Improvement
- Solid Waste Disposal and Sanitary Drainage

**METHODS:** The methods to meet these responsibilities are:

- Leadership
- Information and Education
- Technical Advice and Assistance
- Cost Sharing
- Construction and Operation by the District
- Monitoring, Data Collection, and Research
- Regulation

# Groundwater Conservation and Management

*The District's goal is to provide quality water in the quantity needed for an infinite period of time.*

## Objectives:

- Reduce the potential for non-point source contamination of groundwater through education, research management practices and incentives that would minimize the effect on the area's economy
- Monitor the groundwater quality and quantity conditions by continuing to expand monitoring systems as needed and as staff time and budget allow (Implement the District's Groundwater Management Area Plan)
  - Evaluate static water level fluctuations to identify potential declining areas
  - Assess the need for more stringent controls due to increasing contaminant levels
- Encourage the use of best management practices to reduce deep percolation and to support research and adoption of equipment and techniques that have potential for reducing groundwater contamination
- Regulate the use and protection of groundwater through the implementation of:
  - Control Area regulations to reduce conflicts between users and minimize future declines of groundwater
  - Groundwater management area regulations to stabilize and reduce nitrate contamination of groundwater
  - Chemigation regulations to reduce the risk of contamination of groundwater through irrigation systems
  - Irrigation runoff regulations to conserve groundwater and to reduce conflicts between irrigators

- Obtain funding from state and federal sources to leverage District tax dollars for groundwater management activities
- Assist in the planning and development of domestic water supplies where requested by local units of government or citizen groups
- Provide information and education and to encourage groundwater users to use best management practices

## **Surface Water Conservation**

*The District's goal is to encourage the efficient use and protection of surface water for beneficial use.*

### **Objectives:**

- Encourage soil conservation practices that would improve water quality in streams and lakes
- Provide information and education opportunities to promote increased water use efficiency for surface water

## **Soil Conservation**

*The District's goal is to maximize soil conservation efforts in order to preserve the resource for future use.*

### **Objectives:**

- Prevent accelerated erosion through land treatment programs and encourage soil-saving practices
- Implement and enforce erosion and sediment control regulations to mediate conflicts between concerned parties

- Reduce erosion of soil through improved conservation practices, conversion of steep slopes with erosive soils to non-cultivated uses, protection of stream banks, and improved land management
- Provide information and education to promote soil conservation

## **Flood Prevention and Control**

*The goal of the District is to reduce flooding and flood damages to acceptable levels, while making the best use of flood plain land.*

### **Objectives:**

- Encourage flood plain management to create a proper balance between structural and non-structural methods of flood protection
- Increase the awareness of flood plain problems and potential solutions through local planning, education and information programs

## **Pollution Control**

*The goal of the District is to minimize pollution by protecting and enhancing the quality of the land, surface water, and groundwater within the District's boundaries.*

### **Objectives:**

- Protect groundwater and surface water from point and non-point sources of pollutants (see also "Groundwater Management Plan")
- Inform and educate the public of potential and existing pollution of water, soil and air and the need for pollution prevention

## **Parks and Recreation**

*The goal of the District is to improve and increase the outdoor recreation opportunities in the region, especially in conjunction with multi-purpose water projects.*

### **Objectives:**

- Consider public use sites where the District holds the land in title
- Consider providing cities and villages, on a case-by-case basis, with planning and financial assistance for multi-use parks and recreation improvement and development that enhance natural resources such as tree plantings, wildlife habitat, and open spaces
- Provide information and education to promote parks and recreation uses of public lands

## **Forestry and Range Management**

*The District's goal is to maintain and improve the quality of woodlands and grasslands in this District.*

### **Objectives:**

- Provide information on forestry and grassland management
- Encourage tree planting for windbreaks and other conservation purposes
- Promote native grass seeding for soil erosion prevention
- Encourage proper range and pasture management to provide for better quality of grasslands to increase productivity
- Provide a tree-planting program to assist landowners in planning for tree plantings, offer seedling trees for sale, and provide a planting service for windbreak, Christmas tree or wildlife sites

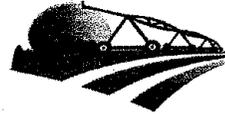
- Consider providing cities and villages with planning and financial assistance for community tree, shrub, and native grass plantings
- Encourage the preservation of existing tree plantings, woodlands, and grasslands
- Encourage outdoor classrooms and environmental informational opportunities to show the importance of trees and grasses

## **Fish and Wildlife Habitat**

*The goal of the District is to conserve and improve the fish and wildlife habitat found in the District.*

### **Objectives:**

- Provide information and financial assistance for private landowners to develop and maintain wildlife habitat
- Leverage District funding for habitat programs by partnering with private, other local, state, and federal agencies.
- Encourage practices by public entities and individuals that will promote permanent vegetation and trees and encourage private landowners to preserve the remaining wetlands where practical.
- Provide information and education to promote fish and wildlife habitat



**Lower Republican  
Natural Resources District**  
*P.O. Box 618  
Alma, NE 68920-0618*

Department of Natural Resources  
Attn: Kent Zimmerman  
PO Box 94676  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

RECEIVED

JAN 18 2012  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES