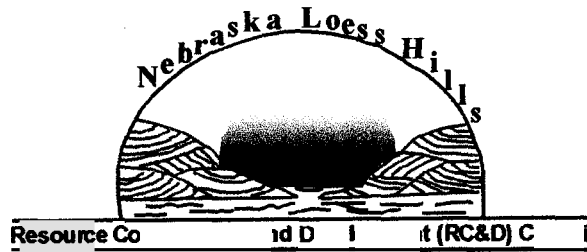


NEBRASKA

Agenda Item: 7.C.



LOESS HILLS RC&D 2002 HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

VISION:

People working actively and in cooperation to strengthen rural communities.

MISSION:

Manage, develop, and conserve natural and human resources for present and future generations.

NEBRASKA LOESS HILLS RC&D

408 North Oakland Avenue

Oakland NE 68045

Phone # (402)685-5175

Fax #(402)685-5172

Email: kent.neumann@,ne.usda.gov

AREA DESCRIPTION

The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D consists of six counties – Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Thurston, and Washington – encompassing **1,671,808** acres **in** east central and northeastern Nebraska. The Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations occupy all of Thurston County and small portions of Burt and Cuming Counties. The area is predominately rural with a population of **100,358(2000 U.S. Census)**. About two-thirds of area residents live in **38** communities. The largest communities are: Fremont – **25,174**; South Sioux City – **11,925**; and Blair – **7,512**. The median size community in the area is **693**. The area hosts **37,823** households.

On January **4,2001**, the Secretary of Agriculture authorized the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D. The five major areas identified as priorities by the RC&D Council include:

- 1) Improve infrastructure and community resources**
- 2) Increase per capita income to a living wage level and create job opportunities for area residents**
- 3) Increase tourism promotion and recreation development**
- 4) Improve solid waste management**
- 5) Reduce erosion and improve ~~air~~ quality and water resources**

VISION

People working actively and in cooperation to strengthen rural communities.

MISSION

Manage, develop, and conserve natural and human resources for present and future generations.

Board of Directors

Jon Bailey, President
Center for Rural Affairs
PO Box 406
Walthill **NE** 68067
Ph#(402)846-5428
jonb@cfia.org

Don Kreikemeier
Cuming county
309 E Sherman St
West Point **NE** 68788
Ph#(402)372-5296

Elden Wesely
Lower Elkhorn NRD
731 Co Road 5
Oakland **NE** 68045
Ph#(402)685-5956
ewesely@alltel.net

Dan Boeshart
City of Emerson
407 Nebraska St
Emerson **NE** 68733
Ph#(402)695-2474

Mark Casey
Thurston County
PO Box G
Pender **NE** 68047
Ph#(402)385-2535
countyroads@inebraska.com

Jim Hurm
SIMPCO
507 7th Street PO Box 447
Sioux City IA 51101
Ph#(712)279-6286
jhurm@simpco.org

Kathy Rhea, V. **Pres.**
Washington County
19944 Co Road P30
Arlington **NE** 68002
Ph#(402)478-4365
kathyrhea@hotmail.com

Mike Williams
Dodge County
130 E 10th
North Bend **NE** 68649
Ph#(402)652-3675
Mike@agpmc.com

Dick Sheets
Burt County
324 South 13th St
Tekamah **NE** 68061
Ph#(402)374-1181

Amen Sheridan
Omaha Tribe
PO Box 245
Walthill **NE** 68067
Ph#(402)846-5656
sheridan@huntel.net

Fred Denker
Dakota County
1517260th St
~~Emerson~~ **NE** 68733
Ph(402)695-2279

vacant
City of South Sioux City
16151st Ave
South Sioux City **NE** 68776
Ph#(402)494-7534

Dick Leitschuck, S/Treas
At Large
523 E 18th St
S Sioux City **NE** 68776
Ph#(402)494-3701
cickleitscliuck@aol.com

Clinton VonSeggern
At Large
912 Logan St
Scribner **NE** 68057
Ph#(402)664-3390

Lynda Cruickshank
At Large
459 Hwy 35
Dakota City **NE** 68731
Ph#(402)987-0314
lcruick@>.willinet.net

Regina Littlebeaver
Winnebago ~~Tribe~~
PO Box 687
Winnebago **NE** 68071
Ph#(402)878-2626
glbago@aol.com

Tom Mountford
Lower Platte North NRD
PO Box 126
Wahoo **NE** 68066
Ph#(402)443-4675

Barb Nichols
Papio-Missouri River NRD
6206 South 141st Street
Omaha **NE** 68137
Ph#(402)896-1171
Barbara_Nichols@mail.unomaha.edu

Staff

Kent Neumann
Coordinator

e-mail: kent.neumann@ne.usda.gov

Laurie Petersen
Program Support Assistant

e-mail: laurie.petersen@ne.usda.gov

Shelly Tislerics
AmeriCorps Volunteer

e-mail: shelly.tislerics@ne.usda.gov

Wayne Jarvill
Experience Works Volunteer

Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D
408 North Oakland Avenue
Oakland NE 68045
Ph#(402)685-5175
Fax#(402)685-5172

- ◆ 1,245 hours were donated by Council Members in '02.
- ◆ 3,647 hours were donated by volunteers in '02.
- ◆ 11 Board of Directors and Council meetings were held in '02.
- ◆ 19 projects were completed in '02.
- ◆ 43 projects are ongoing.
- ◆ 3 projects are being planned.
- ◆ 134 partners were worked with in '02.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To File a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

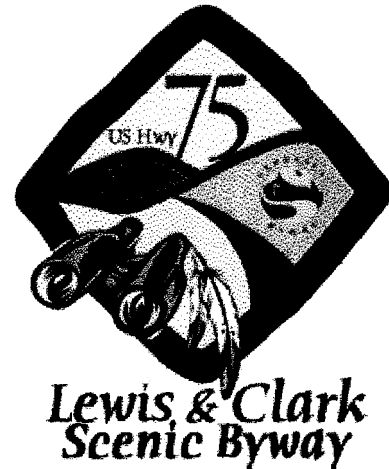
2002 Project Highlights

Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway Website

United States Highway 75 was designated a scenic byway in the spring of 2001. This highway runs north and south near the Missouri River. The part of Highway 75 that runs from South Sioux City, NE to Nashville, NE is known as the Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway.

The official website for the Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway is located at www.lewisandclarkscenicbyway.com. This website was designed by Kelli Paulson with EZ Net Solutions of Tekamah and launched on June 1, 2002. Development of Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway website was made possible by a Nebraska Division of Tourism Marketing grant administered by the Blair Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway website includes a calendar of events and links to local attractions and services.



Partners:

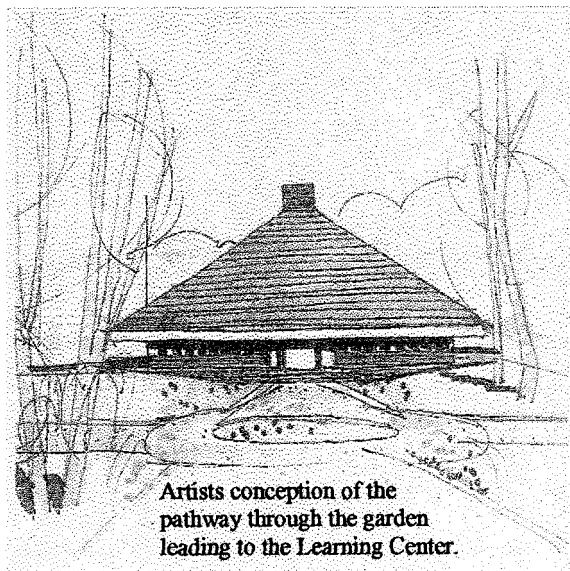
- ◆ Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway
- ◆ EZNet Solutions
- ◆ Blair Area Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Fort Atkinson State Historical Park
- ◆ Burt County Museum
- ◆ South Sioux City Visitors and Convention Bureau
- ◆ Snitily-Carr

Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway Website

Local	\$298.00
State	\$1,599.00
Federal	\$107.00
RC&D	\$163.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,167.00

AiKiRuti Healing Garden

The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D is providing technical assistance to a committee overseeing development of the AiKiRuti Healing Garden. One of the needs for the Garden is to locate and establish plants that have been identified as being culturally and historically important to the Winnebago Tribe. The RC&D received seed from NRCS Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, Kansas.



Artists conception of the pathway through the garden leading to the Learning Center.



AiKiRuti staff and volunteers joined by representatives of the Loess Hills RC&D for earth breaking ceremonies and "casting of seeds."

The Garden will be open to the general public during designated hours. **An** educational booklet will guide visitors through the garden, provide Tribal history, and explain how plants were historically **used**.

Phase two of the project involves construction of a Cultural Learning/Visitor's Center. **This** facility will help preserve the Winnebago language and cultural traditions. It will be an important teaching facility for Indians and non-Indians alike, for those visiting the unique healing

garden. It will also serve **as an** important tool in the treatment of alcoholism

The Cultural Learning Center is designed in the traditional manner with **an** actual fireplace in the middle of a circular room. **From this** center, is **creation** and leading away from it are the four roads of life: North, South, East, and West. Visitors to the center will sit around **this fire**, on the **floor**, and meet with a tribal **member** that can share the knowledge of how plants in the healing garden were used.

Competitive bids have not **been** let yet, but total construction costs are expected to be over \$700,000 with completion of the **project** in the autumn of 2003 **or** spring of 2004 – in time for the **Lewis & Clark** Bicentennial observation.

Partners:

- ◆ AiKiRuti
- ◆ Nee Shoch Ha Chee
- ◆ Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
- ◆ USDA Rural Development
- ◆ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ Northeast Nebraska RC&D
- ◆ State Senator Matt Connealy
- ◆ U.S. Senator Ben Nelson
- ◆ Nebraska Department of Economic Development

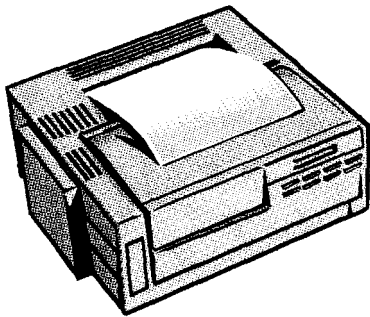
AiKiRuti Healing Garden

Local	\$1,483.00
State	\$0.00
Federal	\$2,206.90
RC&D	\$320.30
	<u>\$4,010.20</u>

NRCS contributed \$85.00 worth of **grass seed**.

Used Printer and Toner Cartridge Recycling Program

Every year over 300,000,000 cartridges are thrown away. The plastic, aluminum, foam, steel, and rubber materials in laser cartridges last more than 1,000 years before breaking down. Recycling ink and toner cartridges reduces the amount of non-biodegradable plastic in landfills and using recycled inkjet cartridges can save the consumer 30% to 50% off cost.



We recognize the environmental benefits of collecting and recycling these spent ink and toner cartridges. Also, for most used cartridges there is a monetary incentive provided by the cartridge recyclers.

In March 2002, the Loess Hills RC&D become a collection site for used ink and toner cartridges. There have been a significant number turned in by local residents and businesses.

Used Printer and Toner Cartridge Recycling Program

Partners:

- ♦ AmeriCorps
- ♦ Nebraska USDA-NRCS

Local	\$1,063.00
State	\$0.00
Federal	\$860.00
RC&D	\$375.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,298.00

Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway Kickoff Party

A kickoff party was held for the Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway on the evening of Tuesday June 4, 2002 at Pop-n-Doc's Restaurant and Marina in Decatur, NE. Over 200 people came to partake in the food and festivities some coming from as far away as Tanzania, Africa and Stockholm, Sweden.

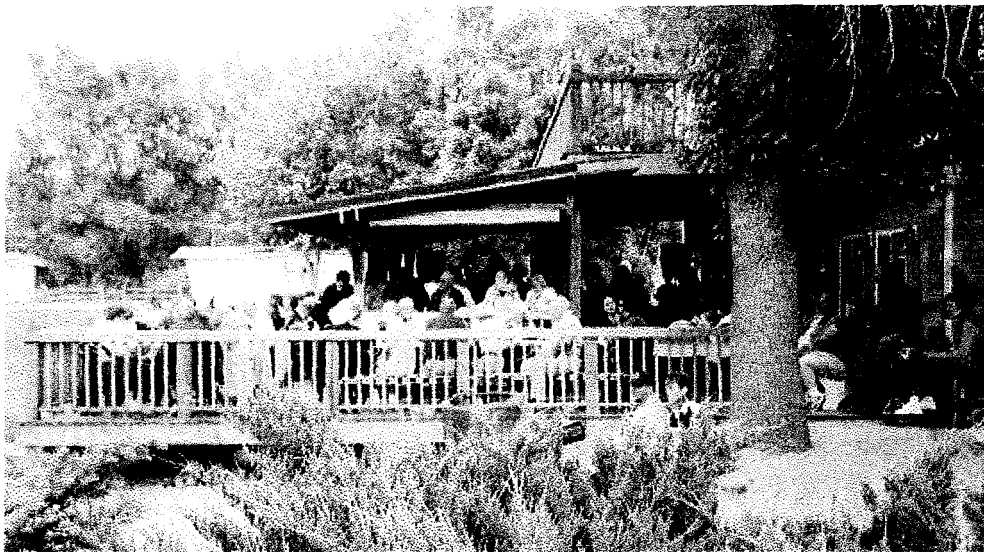
The event included drummers from the Omaha Tribe, an awards ceremony for the Folklore contest and Tribal Vice Chairman, Valentine Parker, conducted a traditional Cedaring ceremony. The "Friends of Discovery" from Onawa, IA came in period costume. The kickoff party also featured a lecture presentation by Dr. Hal Sterns a noted authority on Lewis & Clark. Dr. Sterns' presentation was entitled "The Untold Stories of Lewis & Clark."

The Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway includes communities, as well as scenic, historical, cultural, and archaeological sites 40 miles on either side of US Highway 75 from South Sioux City to the unincorporated community of Nashville, NE in Washington County.



The "Friends of Discovery" from Onawa, Iowa Came in period costume.

More than 200 guests enjoy the weather, the food, and the deck at Pop-n-Doc's During the Byway Kickoff Party.



Partners:

- ◆ Nebraska Humanities Council
- ◆ Omaha Tribal Wildlife and Parks
- ◆ John G. Neihardt Center
- ◆ Carl T. Curtis Health Center
- ◆ Dr. Hal Sterns
- ◆ Pop-n-Doc's Restaurant and Marina
- ◆ Village of Decatur
- ◆ EZNet Solutions
- ◆ Fort Atkinson State Historical Park
- ◆ South Sioux City Visitors and Convention Bureau
- ◆ Burt County Museum
- ◆ Washington County Historical Association
- ◆ Omaha Tribe of Iowa and Nebraska
- ◆ Douglas County Historical Society
- ◆ Uehling Area Business Club

Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway Kickoff Party

Local	\$3,040.00
State	\$1,038.00
Federal	\$735.00
RC&D	\$658.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,471.00

Nebraska ~~Humanities~~ Council contributed \$180.00 (State).

Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway Contributed \$50.00 toward speaker fees.

North Bend Farmers Market



The Farmers Market at the intersection of Highway 30 and Highway 79 in North Bend, NE made its debut June 5, 2002 with about 90 customers in less than two hours. Eleven regular vendors displayed **their** wares with an average of about 100 buyers at each event. Some evenings brought over 150 customers to the market.

Mike Williams displays an onion for sale by vendors Cindy and Gene Karsten.

The North Bend **Farmers** Market continued every Wednesday evening **from** 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm all summer and well into **fall**.

The idea for a farmers market in this **area** was formulated by Mike Williams, a North Bend resident. Location, scheduling, and local interest seem to be the key factors in the North Bend Farmers Market success.

Plans are in place to continue the North Bend Farmers Market next **season**.

Partners:

- ♦ KWPB Radio
- ♦ North Bend PMC
- ♦ City of North Bend

North Bend Farmers Market

Local	\$808.00
State	\$0.00
Federal	\$210.00
RC&D	\$2,992.00
	<u>\$4,010.00</u>

Fremont Lakes North Shore Cleanup

The Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area's North Shore seemed to have been forgotten. Trash of all kinds could be found in and around the lakes of this area. Litter included snack wrappers, bait containers, pop and beer bottles and cans, car tires, plastic bags, and **soiled** baby diapers.

The goal of the Fremont Lakes North Shore Cleanup **project** was to get community **members** involved in a cleanup day in which a number of the lakes in the North Shore area would be cleaned.

over **40** volunteers from the Fremont **area** community came to help the morning of Saturday, July 20, 2002.



Some of the 40+ Cleanup volunteers take a break long enough for a group picture.

Though temperatures reached 102°, three lakes and part of a fourth lake were thoroughly cleaned. Seven dumpsters were filled with the trash collected and seven tires were pulled from the drought lowered lakes. Volunteers received a pizza lunch and various door prizes.

Fremont area business donated monetary support, lunch **supplies** and prizes.

Partners:

- ♦ Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- ♦ AmeriCorps
- ♦ Keep Fremont Beautiful
- ♦ UNL Recycling Office
- ♦ 17 Fremont area businesses
- ♦ PrairieLand RC&D
- ♦ South Central RC&D



The volunteers all felt that the Cleanup was a worthwhile event.

Fremont Lakes North Shore Cleanup

Local	\$2,333.00
State	\$211.00
Federal	\$793.00
RC&D	\$1,540.00
	<u>\$4,877.00</u>

Artist of the Month



More than 80 Paintings made a beautiful addition to the RC&D meeting room.

The goal of the Artist of the Month **program** is to advertise the talents of area artists and to promote sales of their work.

The Artist of the Month program is held in the Loess Hills RC&D office conference room. Each **artist** displays between three to four weeks. An official open house and reception is held where the public can come and **speak** with the artist and view their works. The RC&D office is open to the public throughout the display period for more **informal** viewing.

The RC&D office hosted its inaugural

“Artist of the Month” display from June 17 through July 10, 2002. The first artist of the month was watercolorist Roger Maller of **Oakland, NE**. Mr. Maller **focuses** on scenes from southern **Arizona**, but also paints **images** from his travels such as Venice Italy.

The display attracted over 125 visitors from area communities and out-of-state visitors were registered from New Mexico, Ohio, Colorado, and Texas.



Artist Roger Maller (right) greets guests at the open house at the RC&D office.

The Loess Hills RC&D looks to bring in a new exhibitor roughly every other month with approximately **six** to eight displays **per** year. Talents of exhibitors can include anything from painting, drawing and photography to **crafts**, woodcarving and sculpture.

Partners:

- ♦ Oakland Independent Newspaper
- ♦ Roger Maller

Artist of the Month

Local	\$571.00
State	\$0.00
Federal	\$940.00
RC&D	<u>\$275.00</u>
	\$1,786.00

Pesticide Container Recycling

To help protect water and air quality, the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D partnered with the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa, the Papio-Missouri River NRD, the Cooperative Extension Service, four local agribusinesses, and the Natural Resources Conservation service to conduct the on-going effort to collect and recycle plastic agricultural pesticide containers in Dakota and Thurston Counties.

This was the eighth consecutive year for the Pesticide Container Recycling Program.

This year, Dakota and Thurston County **farmers** and chemical applicators provided over 7,000 containers (nearly two tons) and an additional forty 50 gallon plastic drums for recycling.

The containers were collected by the Papio-Missouri River NRD, transported to a central location at the Omaha Tribal Farm east of Macy, and **then** chipped by **Tri Rinse Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri**. The chipped containers will be manufactured into plastic posts, plastic lumber, shipping pallets, parking lot stops, and more pesticide containers.



Papio-Missouri River NRD's Denny Piper (left) and Amen Sheridan of the Omaha ~~Tribe~~ (right) help local farmers with the pesticide container collection.

Partners:

- ♦ Papio-Missouri River NRD
- Omaha Tribe of Iowa and Nebraska
- ♦ Cooperative Extension Service
- ♦ 4 local Agribusinesses
- ♦ Thurston County USDA-NRCS

Pesticide Container Recycling

Local	\$3,970.00
State	\$0.00
Federal	\$70.00
RC&D	<u>\$709.00</u>
	\$4,749.00

Scrap Tire Collection

Many people have no place to take used tires. Consequently, the tires are discarded and lie around collecting rainwater, creating a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. It was felt that a collection event where residents in the RC&D area could bring their scrap tires and dispose of them for **free** would be very successful and beneficial to these residents. With the spread of the West Nile Virus into Nebraska, it is important to diminish these areas available to mosquitoes.



RC&D Board members Dick Leitschuck (middle) and Elden Wesley (right) help unload used tractor tires from an area resident's trailer.

Additionally, the scrap tires will be recycled into crumb rubber and used in industrial and recreational applications such as park benches and picnic tables. Tractor tires are turned inside out and used as feed bunks for ranching operations.

Through a grant funded by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) we would be able to collect 100 tons of tires from the six county area of **Burt**, Cuming, **Dakota**, Dodge, Thurston, and Washington. We anticipated that **this** amount of tires could easily be collected.

NDEQ was only able to partially fund the grant and we received \$8,000, enough to collect 59 tons of tires. Thanks to an additional \$1,000 contributed by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District, we increased the limit by 7 more tons.

The event took place August 12, 2002 at the **Burt** County Fairgrounds in Oakland. Volunteers came from the Loess **Hills** RC&D, Papio-Missouri River NRD, PrairieLand RC&D, Northeast Nebraska RC&D, and **Keep** Northeast Nebraska Beautiful. Lunch supplies were donated by Wimmers in West **P t 1 W i i** Fremont as well as the Dr. Pepper 7 Uf **li 1** and Coca Cola Bottling Co.

There were a total of **1** les that came and dropped off tires. Residents from 27 communities brought in a total of 63.23 tons, which is approximately 2,800 tires of all sizes.



Kent Neumann, Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D coordinator, helps unload tires at the scrap tire collection.

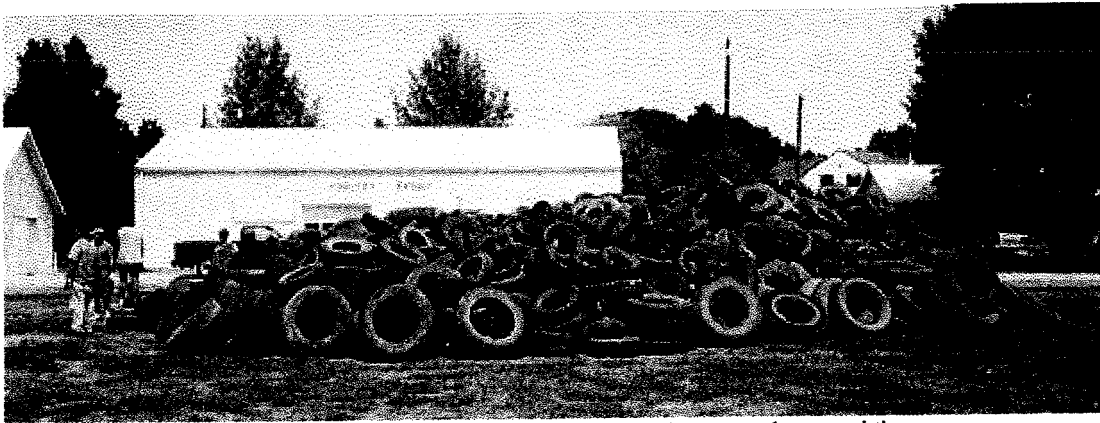
Partners:

- ♦ Department of Environmental Quality
- ♦ Lower Elkhorn NRD
- ♦ Papio-Missouri River NRD
- ♦ Winnebago ~~Trib~~be of Nebraska
- ♦ Northeast Nebraska RC&D
- ♦ Burt County Fairgrounds
- ♦ PrairieLand RC&D
- ♦ City of Oakland
- ♦ Oakland Independent Newspaper
- ♦ **Keep** Northeast Nebraska Beautiful
- ♦ Wimmers Meat Products
- ♦ Wal-Mart
- ♦ **Dr. Pepper** 7 Up Bottling Group
- ♦ Coca Cola Bottling Co.

Scrap Tire Collection

Local	\$1,742.00
State	\$8,000.00
Federal	\$1,247.00
RC&D	<u>\$1,156.00</u>
	\$12,145.00

\$8,000 from Nebraska DEQ
\$536.05 from Lower Elkhorn NRD

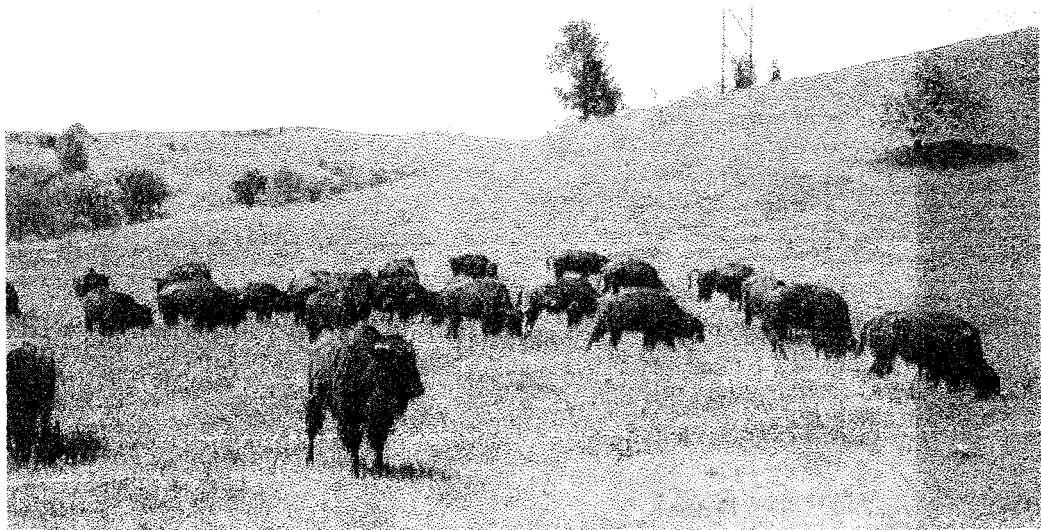


The pile of scrap tires grows with each addition of a car, truck, or semi tire.

Winnebago Bison Turnout & Interpretive Sign Project

The Lewis & Clark scenic Byway **has** been approved to receive \$112,800 from the Federal Highway Administration.

\$108,800 is to go toward the construction of the Winnebago Bison Turnout off of

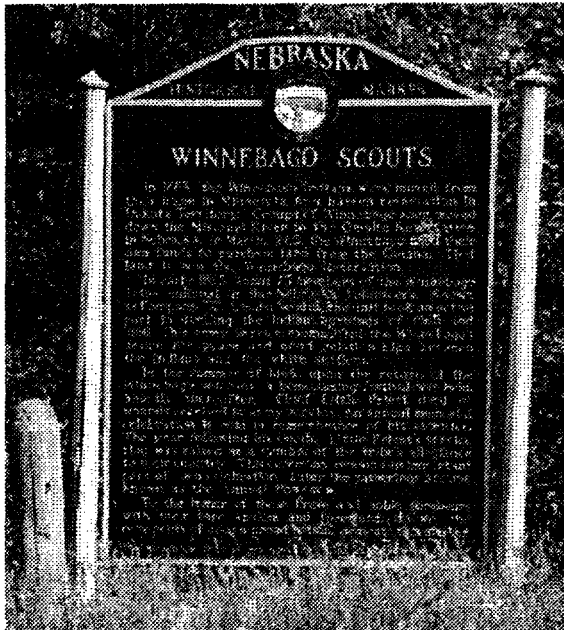


Stopping to watch the bison north of Winnebago will be a safer activity once the bison turnout is complete.

Highway 77 north of Winnebago, **NE** and \$4,000 will be used for interpretive signage describing the cultural significance of bison to Winnebago Tribal members.

Another part of the project is to move the Winnebago Scouts State Historical Marker from its present location to the site of the new turnout, where more visitors will be able to view it.

The Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway is sponsored by the Nebraska **Loess** Hills RC&D.



The "Winnebago Scouts" sign will be moved to the new bison turnout when the turnout is finished.

Partners:

- ◆ Nebraska Department of Roads
- ◆ Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- ◆ Federal Highway Administration
- 4 Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway
- 4 Snitily-Carr

Winnebago Bison Turnout

	\$29,602.00
Local	
State	\$2,462.00
Federal	\$113,754.00
RC&D	\$1,184.00
	<hr/>
	\$147,002.00

NEBRASKA LOESS HILLS RC&D

2002 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

FISCAL YEAR '02 COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project #	Name	RC&D TA \$	Other (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
01042	Dakota County Ag Society	500	2,905	3,405
01043	Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway Web site	163	2,004	2,167
01047	Logan East Rural Water System	250	8,500	8,750
02051	Folklore Contest	500	705	1,205
02052	Artist of the Month '02	275	1,511	1,786
02055	L&C Scenic Byway Tourism Grant	150	8,500	8,650
02057	Pesticide Container Recycling '02	709	4,040	4,749
02058	Scrap Tire Collection	1,156	10,989	12,145
02059	Used Toner/Printer Cartridge Recycling	375	1,923	2,298
02060	L&C Scenic Byway Kickoff Party	658	4,813	5,471
02061	North Bend Farmer's Market	2,992	1,018	4,010
02062	Dakota County Farmer's Market	2,464	799	3,263
02064	Fremont Lakes North Shore Cleanup	1,540	3,337	4,877
02069	Tourism Display '02	250	5,868	6,118
	2001 State RC&D Association Meeting	2,500	500	3,000
01040	Lewis & Clark Motorcoach Tour	4,850	10,200	15,050
99025	Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway	1,800	7,200	9,000
99024	Scenic Byway Hwy 12	450	1,350	1,800
	Totals	21,582	76,162	97,744

FISCAL YEAR '02 – '03 ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project #	Name	RC&D TA \$	Other (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
01045	Dry Hydrant '01	500	2,500	3,000
01048	Walthill Recycling Center	1,500	23,500	25,000
01049	AiKiRuti Healing Garden	5,000	700,000	705,000
01050	Wayne State Stream Monitoring Project	1,750	3,345	5,095
02054	Portal to Decatur	990	4,000	4,990
02056	AiKiRuti Youth Program	750	25,000	25,750
02063	Lewis & Clark First Council	900	235,000	235,900
02065	Lyons City Park Streambank	1,250	3,700	4,950
02066	Winnebago Bison Turnout	1,184	145,818	147,002
02067	Homer Trail Project	560	7,220	7,780
02068	Bell Creek Beef	400	9,250	9,650
02070	MidStates Community Dev. Conf.	875	4,455	5,330
NEW	Pesticide Container Collection '03	1,500	5,000	6,500
02076	Tourism Display '03	250	6,000	6,250
NEW	CEP (AmeriCorps) '03	2,000	11,000	13,000
02071	Project HOPE	5,000	245,000	250,000
02072	Artist of the Month '03	1,000	9,000	10,000
02073	North Bend Farmer's Market '03	2,000	8,000	10,000
02075	S. Sioux City Farmer's Market '03	2,000	8,000	10,000
02074	Used Printer/Toner Recycling '03	2,000	8,000	10,000
02077	Crystal Cove Restoration Project	5,000	995,000	1,000,000
03079	Lewis & Clark Mystery Outing	2,800	8,400	11,200
03078	North Bend Civil Defense Siren	2,000	10,000	12,000
	Totals	41,209	2,477,188	2,518,397

FUTURE PROJECT NEEDS - FY 2003 – 2004

Project #	Name	RC&D TA \$	Other (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
NEW	Nebraska Used Oil Collection	1,500	225,000	226,500
NEW	L&C Motor Coach Tour '03	2,000	3,500	5,500
NEW	Forestry Waste Utilization	1,000	39,000	40,000
NEW	Winnebago Ferry Boat Crossing	5,000	245,000	250,000
NEW	West Point Broad Band Feasibility Study	2,000	8,000	10,000
NEW	Scrap Tire Collection '03	1,200	12,000	13,200
NEW	Household Hazardous Waste '03	1,000	10,000	11,000
NEW	Area Plan '03	3,500	8,500	12,000
NEW	Burt County Winery Feasibility Study	5,000	25,000	30,000
	Totals	22,200	576,000	598,200

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ACTIVITY REPORT within the P-MRNRD
MARCH 2003

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- ❖ Blair field office has received 6 HEL/Wetland Determination requests for FY2003.
- ❖ Omaha field office received 2 new HEL requests and one new sodbuster.
- ❖ Blair field office has received 14 applications for spring construction in Washington County.
- ❖ Blair field office has received 9 applications for assistance with cropland conversions.
- ❖ Omaha field office received one new cropland conversion request. Field visits for 2 prior requests were completed.
- ❖ Blair field office has received 79 orders for 19,200 trees to be planted in Spring 2003; 11,750 trees are to be planted by NRD staff on 27 sites in Washington County.
- ❖ In Thurston County, 35,325 trees and shrubs were sold and 7 district plantings are scheduled.
- ❖ Nine Nebraska buffer strip contracts were approved in Thurston County.
- ❖ Ongoing activities were conducted on 3 wetland appeals in Thurston County.
- ❖ In Burt County 4 terrace projects were staked, designed and are waiting construction. Moisture conditions appear to be adequate for construction activities.
- ❖ In Burt County a wetland restoration/mitigation plan involving 3.1 acres of converted wetlands (CW) and 7.6 acres of restored wetlands was finalized and submitted to the landowner for approval.
- ❖ Burt County received 2 requests for certified wetland determinations in March.

EQIP

- ❖ Omaha field office received 3 new EQIP applications.
- ❖ Diego Ayala, NRCS State Office, assisted Don Atkinson in Walthill with nutrient management/waste utilization activities for a deferred and existing EQIP contract.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- ❖ The contract has been awarded for construction on the Matzen Wetland Restoration.
- ❖ One WRP wetland restoration project has been staked in Burt County; construction is planned for April.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

- ❖ Omaha field office completed 4 field windbreak designs for CRP.
- ❖ Blair field office has received 3 continuous CRP application for buffer strips.
- ❖ Omaha field office revised 6 CRP contracts to re-seed grasses.
- ❖ Blair field office received 7 CREP applications for filter strips.
- ❖ Omaha field office received 6 CREP applications for filter strips and conservation corners. Field visits were completed and all fields were mapped using GPS.
- ❖ One buffer strip grass waterway was planned and planted in Thurston County.
- ❖ Two CRP grassed filter strips have been staked in Burt County and will be seeded in April; one CRP grassed filter strip has been seeded.
- ❖ Burt County received final commitment from landowners for 2 continuous sign-up CRP applications. One of these is a 60-acre grassed filter strip within the CREP boundaries in Burt County. Conservation plan and contract development are in progress.

WATER QUALITY

- ❖ Douglas/Sarpy Counties has 6 well applications pending.
- ❖ Washington County abandoned 2 wells; 12 well applications are pending.
- ❖ Dakota County has 5 well applications pending.

TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

- ❖ Gerry Bowen (NRD), Don Doty and Don Atkinson (NRCS), met with Gerry Heinsheid (Omaha tribal employee) to give suggestions regarding possible flood control measures in Macy and cost-share opportunities.
- ❖ Don Atkinson met with Jason McCauley (BIA) regarding tree/shrub planting for CRP.
- ❖ Don Atkinson explained to Curtis St.Cyr (Winnebago tribal council member) the reason 'bases' appeared on a form the tribe received from FSA and their importance.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- ❖ NRCS/NRD staff from Omaha, Blair and Walthill assisted with booths at the Triumph of Ag held at the Civic Auditorium in Omaha.
- ❖ Blair field office nominated Everett and Irma Holstein owners of 6-H Porkers Inc. for 2003 Master Conservationist.

MEETINGS

- ❖ Blair field office staff, Neil Jensen NRCS and Terry Schumacher NRD, gave presentations at the Farm Bill 2002 program meetings at Tekamah and Blair.
- ❖ Greg Weber and Lee Appleby, NRCS Tekamah, participated in a habitat development public information meeting held March 5, at the First National Bank Northeast in Tekamah. Personnel from several state and federal agencies as well as private conservation organizations presented program and technical information regarding habitat development.

TRAINING

- ❖ NRCS/NRD field office employees attended ArcView and Toolkit training in Oakland, NE.
- ❖ Denny Piper and Rod Kinning, NRD staff, attended a Tree Care workshop in Norfolk.
- ❖ Lee Appleby, NRCS Tekamah, attended a No-Till meeting in Norfolk.
- ❖ NRCS staff from Omaha, Blair and Tekamah attended Irrigation Water Management training in Omaha.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

- ❖ Denny Piper and Rod Kinning performed operation and maintenance on structures in Tekamah Mud and Silver Creek watersheds. They also conducted operation and maintenance activities on the tree cooler.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha
April 7, 2003

cc:

Steve Chick, State Conservationist, NRCS, Lincoln
Ken Noonan, ASTC/FO, NRCS, Lincoln
RH:lc:Activity Report