



Little Blue Natural Resources District

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Little Blue NRD Oxbow Reconnections for Groundwater Recharge Final Report Project #5197

The Little Blue Natural Resources District (LBNRD) supports wetland restoration and monitoring aspects of two oxbow reconnections and one site using instream weirs, for groundwater recharge. Groundwater declines and degradation of stream systems are two ongoing natural resources challenges the LBNRD faces. Three different stream systems were included: Thirty-Two Mile Creek and the Little Blue River west of Ayr, and Big Sandy Creek east of Davenport. This project provided an estimated 200 acre-feet of groundwater recharge and reconnected relic streamside oxbows that provide extensive fish and wildlife benefits through the re-establishment of a contiguous riparian corridor and a more natural hydrologic regime. The oxbow reconnections restored six acres of former wetlands which resulted in improved habitat and nesting for multiple species of birds. These projects restored stability, function, and dynamic processes of the floodplain to a more natural, less degraded condition. This project gives us the capability to quantify and evaluate the benefits for each site. There are 6 monitoring wells that we will continue to observe the water quality and quantity.

The partners of this project were the LBNRD, Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Natural Resources Commission through the Water Sustainability Fund, and the property owners.

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