



220 Center Ave.  
PO Box 81  
Curtis, NE 69025

Phone: 800 -873-5613  
Fax: 308 -367 -4285  
Email:rlawson@mnrnd.org

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## **Middle Republican Natural Resources District**

### **For Immediate Release**

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## **5<sup>th</sup> Graders Crazy for Conservation**

*Curtis*, NE -- Nearly 100 5th graders in Hayes Center, Maywood, Medicine Valley, Southwest and Wauneta Palisade Elementary Schools will converge on the Curtis, NE City Park on September 19 for the 12th Annual 5th Grade Conservation Craze.

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District (NRD) hosts this free outdoor education day for 5th grade students. The event, formerly known as the Frontier County Area 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Education Day, is celebrating it's 12<sup>th</sup> year. Schools in the NRD's portions of Frontier, Red Willow, Hayes, and Hitchcock counties are eligible to attend.

The students will spend the day at six stations learning many aspects of conservation: students become water molecules and take an extraordinary journey; become CSI wildlife detectives to interpret wildlife signs; watch demonstrations about wells and groundwater; get down and dirty with hands-on mud activities to learn about land treatment and soils; and take a walk around the "Fantastic River Fun".

Students will also hear a special presentation by biologists from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission out of North Platte. TJ Walker, District Manager, will talk about the wildlife of the Loess Hills and how he live traps a local endangered species as part of an ongoing study.

More than 1,100 students have attended the event since its inception in 1996. Presenters are drawn from a variety of local, state and federal agencies including the Frontier Co. NRCS, the Upper and Lower NRD's and the Little Blue NRD.

The event is sponsored and presented by the Middle Republican Natural Resources District, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

For more information, contact Roger Lawson (308) 367-4281.

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**For more information about this story contact:**

Roger Lawson  
Information and Education Coordinator

Note to Press: See attached PDF of schedule and presentation information.