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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

For Immediate Release

Wauneta-Palisade Envirothon Team Qualifies For State

Curtis – The Mid-Plains Regional Envirothon competition was held recently at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in conjunction with the FFA Region XII Skills Contest. Fourteen teams participated in this year’s contest.



Wauneta-Palisade Envirothon Team. Left to Right: Brennan Keiser, James Strand, Katie Erickson, Jesse Skelton, and Luke Wright

Winning the competition with 119 points was the Wauneta-Palisade High

School team. Team members are freshmen Katie Erickson, Brennan Keiser, Jesse Skelton, and James Strand and sophomore Luke Wright. The team sponsors are Teresa Hayes and Dan Andrews. The second and third place teams are from Hayes Center and Medicine Valley High Schools with 116 points and 114 points.

Regional Envirothon Coordinator Kara Gall attributes this year’s higher-than-average scores to the Envirothon Training Session, a pilot program organized by the Middle Republican and Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts, which took place on February 9 in North Platte. “I think our area teams benefited immensely from the training session. I’m hoping that we’ll see a fair number of wildcard invitations to the state competition because of these scores.”

With this win the Wauneta-Palisade team automatically qualifies for the Nebraska Envirothon on May 7 at Halsey National Forest. Wildcard teams are invited statewide

according to the eight highest scores following the regional winners. The winning state team will represent Nebraska at the Canon National Envirothon in Springfield, Missouri in July.

Envirothon offers both in-class curriculum and hands-on field experiences focused around ecology, natural resource management, and current environmental issues. Designed for 9-12 grade students who want to get "up-close and personal" with North America's natural resources, the Envirothon Program began in Nebraska in 1992. More than just a simple test, the Envirothon encourages students to work collaboratively as a team, to exercise their training and problem-solving skills, and to learn that cooperation among team members is key to achieve knowledge on subjects such as soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, range, policy, and a special national environmental issue. Steve Van Boening, Science Instructor for North Platte High School adds, "Envirothon gives my students the chance to learn not only about environmental issues, but to explore possible careers that may be of interest them."

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NE Forest Service, NE Game and Parks Commission, NE Department of Environmental Quality, and the NE Department of Natural Resources sponsor the Nebraska Envirothon program.

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