## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

Conservation and Survey Division School of Natural Resources University of Nebraska-Lincoln





CONSERVATION AND SURVEY DIVISION

School of Natural Resources

# Conservation and Survey Division **Our Mission**

The Conservation and Survey Division (Nebraska Geological Survey), the natural resource survey component of the School of Natural Resources, is a unique, multi-disciplinary research, service and data-collection organization established by state statute in 1921.

The Division's mission is to investigate and record information about Nebraska's geologic history, its rock and mineral resources, the quantity and quality of its water resources, land cover and other aspects of its geography, as well as the nature, distribution and uses of its soils.

Cover photo: Lake Superior agates, such as this beautiful polished specimen, are frequently found in eastern Nebraska's glacial deposits. **Conservation and Survey Division** 

## **Annual Report 2020**

February 2021

R.M. Joeckel

Director, Conservation and Survey Division Senior Associate Director, School of Natural Resources

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

## CSD 2020 Accomplishments at a Glance

Extension contacts by CSD personnel: 1,968

Number of organization/programs served worldwide: 95

Requests for data and analysis served by CSD personnel: 369

Footage of test holes drilled and/or logged by CSD personnel: 9,530 ft

Automated groundwater-data entries overseen by CSD personnel: 489,216

Groundwater quality results processed by CSD personnel: 8,589

Teaching contribution of CSD personnel: CSD faculty taught 15 different courses in 5 different programs at UNL, producing 448 student credit hours

Students advised by CSD personnel in 2020: 21 graduate students

Continuing education units for professionals (CEUs) generated by CSD personnel: 185

Total grant funding with which CSD personnel were associated: >\$3.95 million

Total scientific publications of all kinds authored or coauthored by CSD personnel: 37 Peer-reviewed scientific journal articles: 20

**Book chapters: 2** 

Survey reports, bulletins, and field guides: 3

Major field trips run or co-run by CSD personnel:

Presentations by CSD personnel: 28

Media interviews by CSD personnel: 3

Social media involving CSD: 27 Tweets, with 3.0% engagement rate (896 engagements); 30,091 impressions; 1,301 media views 11% increase in followers

Total page views of CSD website: 226,058 page views

Downloads of archived CSD publications from UN-L Digital Commons: 788 total CSD publications downloaded from UNL Digital Commons; 11,667 views by users in 144 countries

## **Publications Authored or Coauthored by CSD Personnel in 2020**

- Abimbola, O.P., A.R. Mittelstet, A.R., and Gilmore, T.E., 2020. Geostatistical features of streambed vertical hydraulic conductivities in Frenchman Creek Watershed. *Hydrological Processes* [https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.13823].
- Abimbola, O.P., Mittelstet, A.R., **Gilmore**, **T.E.**, and **Korus**, **J.T.**, 2020. Influence of watershed characteristics on streambed hydraulic conductivity across multiple stream orders. *Scientific Reports* 10:3696, https://doi. org/10.1038/s41598-020-60658-3
- Carson, E.C., Attig, J.W., Rawling, J.E., III, and Hanson, P.R., 2020. Constraints on the end of the MIS 2 advance and onset of retreat for the Green Bay Lobe of the southern Laurentide Ice Sheet, south-central Wisconsin, USA, *Quaternary Research* 95: 142-153 [https://doi.org/10.1017/qua.2020.8].
- Chapman, K., Gilmore, T.E., Chapman, C.D., Mehrubeoglu, M., and Mittelstet, A.R., 2020.
  Application of time-lapse imagery and machine learning to improve stream discharge monitoring. *AGU Fall Meeting* [https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm20/meetingapp. cgi/Paper/714982].
- Cherry, M., Gilmore, T., Mittelstet, A., Gastmans, D., Santos, V., and Gates, J. B., 2020. Recharge seasonality based on stable isotopes: Nongrowing season bias altered by irrigation in Nebraska. *Hydrological Processes*, 34: 1575–1586. https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.13683
- Crago, R., Szilagyi, J., and Qualls, 2020. Comment on "Complementary principle of evaporation: from original linear relationship to generalized nonlinear functions" by S. Han and F. Tian, *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences* 25: 63-68, https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2020-310.

Dave, N., Mittelstet, A.R., **Korus, J.T.,** and **Waszgis, M.M.,** 2020. Impact of an extreme flood event on streambank retreat: Cedar River, Nebraska, USA. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* 56: 528–538 [https://doi.org/10.1111/1752-1688.12828].

- Delozier, J., and **Burbach, M.E.,** 2020. The need for boundary spanners in integrated water resource management. In Goldstein, M., and DellaSala, D. (eds.), *Encyclopedia of World Biomes*, p. 351-357. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- Duboscq, S., Genereux, D.P., Gilmore, T.E., Pétré, M.A., Solomon, D.K., Knappe, D.R.U., Hopkins, Z.R., and DeStefano, N.J., 2020.
  3H/3He groundwater ages and discharge of PFAS from groundwater to a coastal plain stream in North Carolina. AGU Fall Meeting [https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm20/meetingapp. cgi/Paper/672542].
- Hallum, D., Hanson, P.R., Tucker, S., and Diffendal, R.F., Jr., 2020. Hydrogeology and geology of the lower North and South Platte Rivers of Nebraska, Conservation and Survey Division Guidebook No. 37, 44 p.
- Humphrey, E., Solomon, D.K., Gilmore, T.E., Mittelstet, A.R., Zlotnik, V.A., Genereux, D.P., Zeyrek, C., MacNamara, M.R., and Jensen, C.R., 2020. Using empirical transit time distributions to forecast stream water tracer concentrations. *AGU Fall Meeting* [https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm20/meetingapp. cgi/Paper/666576].
- Jensen, C.R., Genereux, D.P., **Gilmore, T.E.,** Solomon, D.K., Mittelstet, A.R., Humphrey, E., MacNamara, M.R., Zeyrek, C., and Zlotnik, V.A., 2020. Estimating groundwater age in the Nebraska Sand Hills from SF6 in stream

water: An application of the reach massbalance approach to groundwater mean transit time. *AGU Fall Meeting* [https://agu.confex. com/agu/fm20/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/674734].

Joeckel, R. M., Ludvigson, G. A., Möller, A., Hotton, C. L., Suarez, M. B., Suarez, C. A., Sames, B., Kirkland, J. I., and Hendrix, B., 2020. Chronostratigraphy and Terrestrial Palaeoclimatology of Berriasian–Hauterivian Strata of the Cedar Mountain Formation, Utah, USA. *Geological Society Special Publication* 498 [https://sp.lyellcollection.org/ content/early/2019/10/16/SP498-2018-133].

Johnson, W.C., **Hanson, P.R.,** Halfen, A.F., and Koop, A.N., 2020. Sand dunes of the central and southern Great Plains, in Lancaster, N., Hesp., P.A., (eds), *Dunes of North America*, p. 121-179. New York, Springer.

Korus, J.T., Fraundorfer, W., Gilmore, T.E., and Karnik, K., 2020. Transient streambed hydraulic conductivity in channel and bar environments, Loup River, Nebraska. *Hydrological Processes*, 34: 3061–3077. https:// doi.org/10.1002/hyp.13777

Korus, J.T. and Hensen, H. J., 2020. Depletion percentage and non-linear transmissivity as design criteria for groundwater-level observation networks. *Environmental Earth Sciences* 79: 382 [https://doi.org/10.1007/ s12665-020-09123-y].

- Layton, P.J., Adams, T.M., Jol, H.M., and Hanson, P.R., 2020. Aeolian dune stratigraphy revealed within Niobrara River valley, Nebraska Sand Hills, USA. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs* 52 (5).
- Lee, J. D., Möller, A., Ludvigson, G. A., Suarez, M. B., McLean, N. M., and Joeckel, R. M., 2020.
  Volcanogenic zircons from mudrocks: A new tool for chronostratigraphy. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs* 52 (1) [https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2020SC/webprogram/Paper343823.html].

Lee, J. D., Möller, A., Ludvigson, G. A., Suarez, M., Joeckel, R. M., and Maxson, J. (2020).
Refining the chronostratigraphy of the Cretaceous Cedar Mountain Formation, Utah, using volcanogenic zircons from mature paleosols. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs* 52 (6).

- Li, Y., Liu, C., Ou, G., Wang, Z., **Korus, J.T.,** and Jiang, R., 2020. Can hydraulic conductivity of fluvial sediments be informed by spectral reflectance? *Water Resources* 47: 846-854 [https://doi.org/10.1134/S0097807820050218].
- Ma, N., **Szilagyi, J.,** Zhang, Y., and Jozsa, J., 2020. Benchmarking large-scale evapotranspiration estimates: A perspective from a calibration-free complementary relationship (CR) approach and FLUXCOM. *Journal of Hydrology* 590, 125221.
- MacNamara, M., Genereux, D.P., Gilmore, T.E.
  Solomon, D.K., Mittelstet, A.R., Humphrey, E.,
  Jensen, C.R., Zeyrek, C., and Zlotnik, V.A.,
  2020. Groundwater 14C Age at the point of discharge in a groundwater dominated stream: Sampling below the streambed in nested watershed sin the Nebraska Sand Hills (USA). AGU Fall Meeting [https://agu.confex. com/agu/fm20/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/675554].
- Miller, M. and **Burbach, M.E.,** 2020. Cigarette butt disposal behavior: A case study of a public beach on Jekyll Island, Georgia, USA. *Environment and Natural Resources Research* 10: 27-43.
- Kennedy, S.M. and **Burbach, M.E.** 2020). Great Plains ranchers managing for vegetation heterogeneity: A multiple case study. *Great Plains Research*, 30: 137-148.
- Korus, J.T., Joeckel, R.M., and Tucker, S., 2020. Genesis of giant, bouldery bars in a Miocene gravel-bed river: Insights from outcrop sedimentology, UAS-SfM photogrammetry, and GPR. *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, v. 90: 27-47.

Miao, X., Stohr, C., **Hanson, P.R.,** and Wang, Q., 2020. Remote sensing and three-dimensional photogrammetric analysis of glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits for aggregate resource assessment in McHenry County, Illinois, USA. *Engineering Geology* 274, 105695.

Smith, V. L. and Joeckel, R. M., 2020. Reservoir characterization and static Earth model for potential CO<sup>2</sup> storage in Upper Pennsylvanian Cyclothems, Nebraska, USA. *Environmental Geosciences* 27: 67-86.

Solomon, D.K., Humphrey, E., **Gilmore, T.E.,** Genereux, D.P., and Zlotnik, V., 2020. An automated seepage meter for soft-bottom streams and lakes. *Water Resources Research* [https://doi.org/10.1029/2019WR026983].

Staggs, D.W., **Burbach, M.E.,** Matkin, G.S., and Burkhart-Kriesel, C., 2020. The Nebraska Water Leaders Academy graduates' influence on community capitals and community capacity. School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Open-File Report 209.

**Szilagyi, J.,** 2020. Water balance backward: estimation of annual watershed precipitation and its long-term trend with the help of the calibration-free generalized complementary relationship of evaporation. *Water* 12, 1775.

Szilagyi, J., Crago, R., and Ma, N., 2020. Dynamic scaling of the generalized complementary relationship (GCR) improves long-term tendency estimates in land evaporation, *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* 37: 975-986.

Szilagyi, J. and Franz, T. E., 2020. Anthropogenic hydrometeorological changes at a regional scale: observed irrigation-precipitation feedback (1979-2015) in Nebraska, USA. *Sustainable Water Resources Management* 6: 1-10 [https://doi.org/10.1007/s40899-020-00368-w].

Turk, J. K. and Graham, R.C. 2020. Disturbance impacts on porosity and hydraulic properties of vesicular horizons. *Soil Science Society of America Journal* 84: 543-555 [doi:10.1002/ saj2.20055].

Turk, J.K. and Young, R.P., 2020. Field conditions and the accuracy of visually determined Munsell soil color *Soil Science Society of America Journal* 84: 163–169 [https://doi. org/10.1002/saj2.20023].

Young, A.R., Burbach, M.E., Howard, L.M., Olafsen Lackey, S., and Joeckel, R. M., 2020. Nebraska Statewide Groundwater-Level Monitoring Report 2019. *Nebraska Water Survey Paper* 87. Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Zeyrek, C., Gilmore, T.E., Mittelstet, A.R., Zlotnik, V.A., Solomon, D.K., Genereux, D.P., Humphrey, E., MacNamara, M.R., and Jensen, C.R., 2020. A model-based study of the effects of spatial recharge patterns on groundwater transit time distributions in the Nebraska Sandhills. *AGU Fall Meeting* [https:// agu.confex.com/agu/fm20/meetingapp.cgi/ Paper/682502].

Zlotnik, V. A., Solomon, D. K., **Gilmore, T. E.,** Genereux, D. P., and Humphrey, C. E., 2020. Dynamic seepage meter: Theory with application examples. *EGU General Assembly 2020* [https://doi.org/10.5194/ egusphere-egu2020-3718].

## Presentations by CSD Personnel and their Students in 2020

## Full Range Leadership for Leaders in the

*Water Arena* Nebraska State Irrigation Association, Water Leaders Academy, Lincoln, NE January 23, 2020 (**Burbach**)

## *World Water 2020 and a Geological Primer on Groundwater in Nebraska*

Nebraska Water Leaders, Nebraska State Irrigation Association, Lincoln, NE January 24, 2020 (**Joeckel**)

### AEM presentation and tradeshow booth

ENWRA annual meeting at the NRD Legislative Conference January 28, 2020 (**Cameron**)

## ENWRA breakout session and panel discussion

NARD Legislative Conference January 28 & 29, 2020 (Lackey, Cameron and Korus)

#### Interpretive Geologic Maps and Cross Sections for Phelps, Kearney, and Adams Counties in Nebraska

Joint Tri-Basin and Little Blue NRD Board Meeting at the Nebraska Legislative Conference Lincoln, NE, January 29, 2020 (**Divine, Gilmore and Cherry**)

## Watershed Science Education:

*Needs Assessment and Development* North Central Agricultural and Natural Resources Water Academy, Omaha, NE February 12, 2020 (Gilmore)

## Public meeting presentation on AEM

Concerned Citizens for Responsible Government of Saunders County February 13, 2020 (Cameron)

#### The Nebraska Water Leaders Academy

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, Kearney, NE February 19, 2020 (**Burbach**)

#### Platte River Resilience Fund

Central Platte Local Leadership Team and Central Platte NRD, Grand Island, NE February 26, 2020 (**Burbach**)

*Water Quality and Water Level Database Updates* NARD Water Meeting, Kearney, NE, March 3, 2020 (Divine, Young, McGuire and Virden)

## Writing Nebraska's Water Management Story

Nebraska Watershed Science Collaborative Workshop, March 31, 2020, Virtual (Ingram, Gilmore)

#### From Knowledge to Understanding: Lessons Learned from Integrating Research and Stakeholder Engagement in a Water & Agriculture Project University of Washington EarthLab & Learn Webinar Series, May 12, 2020 (Burbach)

#### Nebraska's Local, Integrated Approach to Water Management in the Platte River Basin: A Case Study

International Society for River Science Special Session Planning Meeting May 28, 2020 (**Burbach**)

*Groundwater Recharge Seasonality Roundtable* June 22, 2020, Virtual (Powers, Gilmore, and Cherry)

*Nebraska GeoCloud Webinar* July 1, 2020 (Cameron, Korus)

#### Hydrogeology and Water Quality Issues in the North Platte Valley, Nebraska

UNL Water Center Miniconference July 3, 2020 (Sibray)

#### An Assessment of Local, Integrated Water Resource Management in the Platte River Basin, Nebraska, USA 26th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Virtual Conference

Resource Management, Virtual Conference, July 15, 2020 (**Burbach**)

*ENWRA Spring Technical Meeting* July 23, 2020 (Cameron)

Central Platte Local Leadership Team - From Knowledge to Understanding: Lessons Learned from Integrating Research and Stakeholder Engagement in a Water & Agriculture Project Nebraska Water Center Virtual Conference August 3, 2020 (Burbach)

## Geological Overview and Commentary on Carbon Capture and Storage in Nebraska

Capturing Carbon in Nebraska Webinar Series, Battelle Memorial Institute and the Great Plains Institute August 3, 2020 (Joeckel)

#### The Impact of Sampling Methodology on Soil Bulk Density Measurement by the Clod Method

UCARE Virtual Symposium, UNL August 5, 2020 (Airori, Turk, and Baker)

## Recognizing Uranium Source Rocks in the

Sedimentary Environment AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition September 30, 2020 (Sibray, Hallum, and Campbell) Sources of Rare Earth Elements on the U.S. and the World AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition September 30, 2020 (Campbell, Gregory, Sibray, and Conca)

Developing and Applying a Conceptual Framework to Identify the 'Participatory Culture' of Farmer Stakeholders Rural Sociology Graduate Student Conference October 26, 2020 (Whitley, Eaton, Brasier, and Burbach)

Producer Attitudes Toward Stakeholder Engagement: Opportunities for and Constraints to Participation in Water and Land Management and Policy Development AWRA Annual Conference, Virtual November 10, 2020 (Burbach, Delozier)

### Water for Agriculture: Engaging with Stakeholders to Find Solutions AWRA Annual Conference, Virtual November 10, 2020 (Burbach)

#### UNL Pedology Updates

Nebraska Cooperative Soil Survey Meeting, Virtual December 2, 2020 (Turk)

## Nitrate and Uranium Water Quality Issues in the Southern Nebraska Panhandle

Presentation for Panhandle Research and Extension Center December 2, 2020 (Sibray)

## Organizations for which CSD Personnel Fulfilled Requests for Information, Consultation or Services in 2020

Adaptive Resources, Inc. American Association of Petroleum Geologists Applied Sciences (journal) AquaGeo Frameworks Audubon Nebraska, VESPR (Vision for an Ecologically Sound Platte River) **Battelle Memorial Institute** Bazile Nitrate Study **Beijing Normal University** Budapest University of Technology and Economics CASNR Community Night California Department of Food and Agriculture Central Platte NRD China University of Geosciences Chinese Academy of Sciences City of Firth, Nebraska Coordinate Solutions (St. Augustine, Florida) Darrah Oil Co. (Wichita, Kansas) Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum GmbH (Hamburg, Germany) Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute **Downey Drilling** Duck Creek Ranch *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* (journal) Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment Environmental Geosciences (journal) Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary) Fairbanks, Irrigation

Gallifrey Exploration, LLC Geosciences (journal) Glen-Gery Corporation (Wyomissing, Pennsylvania) Groundwater (journal) HDR, Inc. High Point Resources (Denver, Colorado) Hydrological Processes (journal) IM2 Consulting (Houston Texas) International Association of Hydrogeologists Journal of Sedimentary Research Journal of Water and Soil Conservation Legacy of the Plains Museum Lewis and Clark NRD Little Blue NRD Lower Loup NRD Lower Niobrara NRD Lower Platte North NRD Lower Platte South NRD Massachusetts Institute of Technology Middle Niobrara NRD Middle Republican NRD Missouri State University National Association of State Boards of Geology National Envirothon National Science Foundation Nebraska Association of Resource Districts Nebraska CarbonSAFE

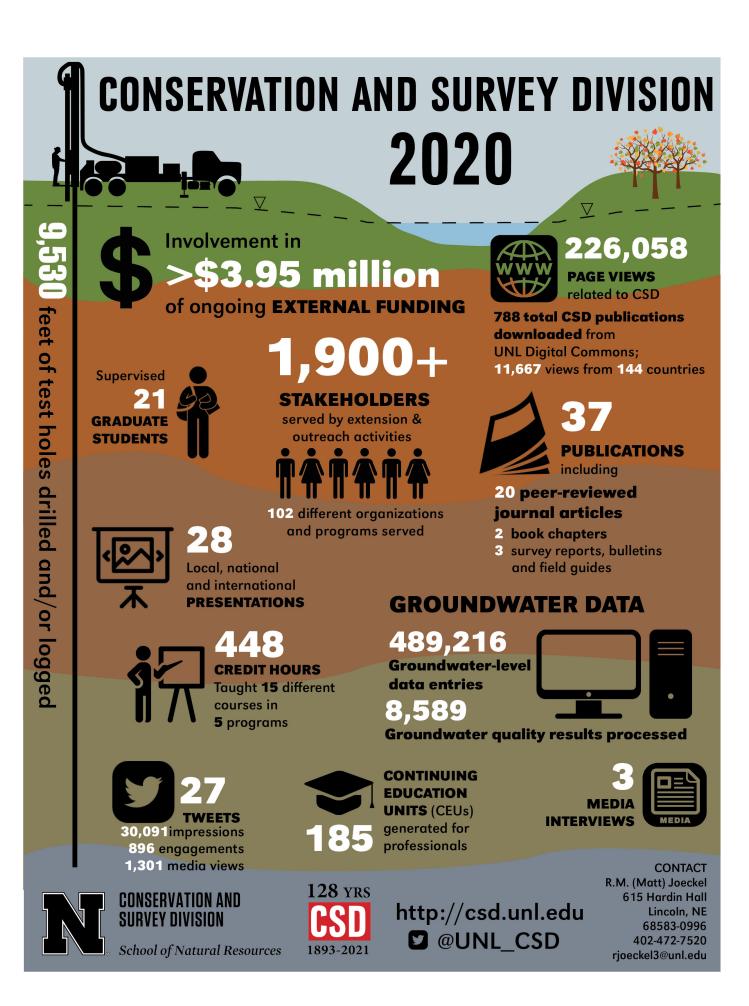
Nebraska Climate Assessment Response Committee (CARC) Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Nebraska Environmental Trust Nebraska Geological Society Nebraska Legislature Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Nebraska Public Power District Nebraska State Irrigation Association North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature Nebraska Water for Ag Multistate Research Project Nebraska Well Drillers Association Nemaha NRD North Platte NRD **Olsson Associates** Papio-Missouri River NRD Pennsylvania State University Quality-Assessed Agrichemical Contaminant Database for Nebraska Groundwater **RDG** Geoscience and Engineering Spear-T Ranch Stephen Trenchard, Independent Geologist **Templeton University** Texas Bureau of Ecnomic Geology Texas A&M University

The Flatwater Group The Leak Detective (Omaha) UN-L Community and Regional Planning **UN-L** Education Abroad U.S. Department of Interior U.S. Geological Survey U.S. Geological Survey National Groundwater Monitoring Network U.S. Geological Survey Nebraska Water Science Center U.S. National Park Service University of Florida University of Minnesota University of Northern Hungary Upper Loup NRD Upper Niobrara-White NRD Upper Republican NRD USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service VAL Energy. Inc. (Wichita, Kansas) Village of Clarkson, Nebraska Village of Oxford, Nebraska Village of Syracuse, Nebraska Village of Wilber, Nebraska Water (journal) Waverly Management Plan William Bynog, Independent Geologist Wisconsin Aquatic Sciences Center

## **Selected Objectives for 2021**

- Bedrock core preservation project involving >1,000 ft of core at Mead, NE storage facility
- Begin inventory of geological samples at Mead, NE storage facility and rebuild CSD core database
- Characterization of soils in depressional wetlands of the Todd Valley, Nebraska
- Characterizing the geologic and hydrogeologic frameworks of eastern and southwestern Nebraska using AEM
- Collaborate with Platte Basin Timelapse project on image-based hydrology (https://gaugecam.org)
- Complete publication on Nebraska's
   Rainwater Basins
- Complete updates to CSD groundwater maps including elevation of the water table and aquifer saturated thickness
- Comprehensively characterize the geologic and hydrogeologic frameworks of eastern and southwestern Nebraska using AEM
- Conduct and supervise research to increase our understanding of the human dimensions of natural-resources management
- Contribute to upgrade of Agrichemical Database
- CSD Test-Hole Database
- Develop, improve, and add additional layers to the CSD Online Interactive Data Map
- Develop programming, facilitate sessions, and conduct evaluation of the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy

- Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA)
- Evaluation of color and organic carbon relationships in Nebraska soils
- Evaluation of soil profile transformation after 60 years in four Nebraska counties
- Evaluation of watershed-scale groundwater transit- time distributions from field sampling and numerical modeling
- Groundwater transit times and nitrate delivery to Bazile Creek, Nebraska
- Hydrologic monitoring and groundwater agedating in the upper Little Blue River Basin.
- Initiate a natural resource public database of the critical minerals in Nebraska
- Initiate installation of sampling network for stable isotopes in precipitation
- Meteorological-data based mapping of global land evapotranspiration rates and their long-term trends.
- Nebraska GeoCloud
- Provide technical support for Sandhills Interactive Natural Resources Educational Complex (SINREC)
- Stream-groundwater relationships in the Platte River watershed
- USGS STATEMAP Cooperative Geologic Mapping in Nebraska
- Watershed Science Education: Multi-Agency Collaboration





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