



# ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

Winter (2010-2011)

*A quarterly news bulletin to provide project managers and district environmental staff with current permit requirements, training opportunities and other environmental guidance.*

## STORMWATER/EROSION CONTROL

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### Silt Fence – Old Reliable

Each year we conduct an annual review of stormwater inspection reports to analyze how well BMPs are performing. If you look at the number of corrective actions noted for each BMP type, it would seem that silt fence is always the problem child. However, compliance reports do not consider that the total linear feet of silt fence used is probably 10X that of our other BMPs, so it's not surprising that it's at the top of the list for most corrective actions documented. Regardless, silt fence can be a very effective BMP when used in the right place and when it is installed and maintained correctly. Below are some general guidelines to follow when using silt fence:

- Splicing of silt fence runs or patching should overlap by six (6) feet to allow adequate room to tie the two pieces together.
- Install silt fence along the contour if possible to distribute the load on the fence more evenly.
- Using Bays or J-hooks can benefit areas where installing on the contour is not possible. Remember that the bays and J-hooks can be a high porosity silt fence to allow the water to drain more freely.
- Silt fence is not intended to be used in areas of concentrated flow (ditches). High porosity silt fence can be used across a ditch as a velocity control measure but should not be considered a sediment control measure.
- Giving the silt fence the "tug test" is an easy way to check if it was installed properly. If the bottom of fence isn't securely fastened into the ground, water will seep underneath and start a gully.
- Lastly don't expect a row of silt fence at the bottom of 20 acres of freshly graded ground to have much of a chance at containing the sediment from that area. The Temporary Erosion Control Plan should include a number of BMPs (mulch, cover crop, ditch checks, etc.) that when used in conjunction can be effective in managing the runoff from the project.

Contact Information: Ron Poe – (402) 479-4499

***Important Reminder:*** *As the ground starts to thaw, pay close attention to discharge points on your projects. Be sure sediment and erosion control BMPs are in place to effectively contain sediment and other construction materials from entering waterbodies and other critical areas.*

## **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

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### **Spring Seed Orders**

The Roadside Stabilization Unit will request the districts' spring seed orders soon. These orders are for seed to be used on maintenance projects, bare spots or other areas requiring seed (shoulder mixture OR foreslope, ditch, and backslope mixture). We'll need to know how many acres-worth of each seed mixture you'll need. Purchase orders are needed for seed; fertilizer is ordered directly through the Supply Inventory System.

Ordering seed all at one time helps the Department save money by using a bidding process. Carol Wienhold will send out the request for orders in February.

Contact Information: Carol Wienhold – (402) 479-3917

## **WETLANDS and SECTION 404 PERMITS**

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### **Spring Growing Season**

The middle of April marks the beginning of the growing season. This means you will be seeing the Environmental Permits Unit (EPU) Biologists out in the field reviewing projects and mitigation sites. The EPU will be visiting with District Environmental Coordinators and other District personnel when making site visits. In addition, this season will include contracting with more On Call Consultants to delineate wetland boundaries on NDOR projects. Each consultant will be given District contact information before beginning a project, so expect to see and hear from them in the near future.

EPU Contact Information:

Tony Ringenberg, Districts 1 and 4 - (402) 479-3683

Dale Vagts, Districts 2,3 and 8 – (402) 479-3812

Dillon Dittmer Districts 5,6 and 7 - (402) 479-3568

## **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

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### **Tree Removal**

From now until April 1 is the best time to remove trees and brush. This will help avoid issues with nesting migratory birds.

### **Carry Over Projects**

If you have a project that is carrying over from last fall, or continuing over the winter, and it includes conservation conditions for Threatened and Endangered Species, please contact Eric Zach to ensure all reports are set up properly.

Contact Information: Eric Zach – (402) 479-4766

## UPCOMING TRAINING

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### NDOR Erosion and Sediment Control for Inspectors - Certification Classes

Starting in 2011, many of you may need to be re-certified in the NDOR Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector Class or you may know of folks that need to receive the initial training in the full-day certification course. If you are unsure when your certification expires, there is a database available on LTAP's website that lists the certification number and expiration date of everyone certified through this program.

Below is the current schedule of upcoming classes as of today. More classes will be held throughout the year as needed. If you have a large number of people interested in a class, contact Ron Poe or Dennis Smith and we'll try to set up a class in your area to cut down on travel expenses.

DATE	CLASS	LOCATION		AVAILABILITY
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Half Day – Recertification	NDOR District 7 Office	Holdrege	Open
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Half Day – Recertification	NDOR District 2 Office	Omaha	7 Seats Left
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Half Day – Recertification	Northeast Community College	Norfolk	Full
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Full Day – Certification	Mahoney State Park	Ashland	Open
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Full Day – Certification	Northeast Community College	S. Sioux City	Open

#### Contact Information:

Ron Poe – (402) 479-4499

Dennis Smith; UNL-LTAP – (402) 472-0976

Course information is also available on the LTAP website at:

[http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion\\_control.html](http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion_control.html)