



WATERSHED 360°

GRADES 9-12

EPISODE 5 | "LIFEBLOOD"

LIFEBLOOD (5:07)

Viewer Guide

"Water is irreplaceable and we need to watch it, conserve it, and take care of it for future generations." This video takes the viewer down one more step of the Platte River watershed and is a continuation of the story of irrigation touched on by "Balancing Act" episode. Viewers will see the diversion dam near the Wyoming-Nebraska border and other irrigation infrastructure. Kevin Adams of the Farmers Irrigation District explains how the water originates from the snow pack in the Rocky Mountains and makes its five-day journey through rivers and dams to end up in Nebraska. The camera captures some simple technology that is still used to regulate and deliver water for irrigation. Listen closely for the names of crops that are raised in the Nebraska Panhandle and what Mr. Adams means by environmental flows.

Captions

Farmers Irrigation District manages water diverted from the river into the Tri-State Canal system. (1:00)

This canal system sends water downstream to 60,000 acres of farmland in western Nebraska. (1:40)

These small check dams are constructed of wooden boards called "needles." (2:22)

Nebraska leads the nation in total irrigated acres. (2:50)

Irrigation makes agriculture possible on millions of acres of arid land. (3:03)

A series of check dams constructed along the canal manage water flow velocity. (3:19)

Water from Lake McConaughy flows into the Platte River. (3:57)

Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska manage flows to create and maintain wildlife habitat. (4:27)

Pre-Questions

1. Why could water be called the "lifeblood" of the Nebraska Panhandle?
2. How long does it take for a droplet of melted snow to travel from the Rockies to Nebraska on the North Platte River?
3. You will hear in the video refer to "environmental flows" out of the Platte River. What is meant by "environmental flows"?

Post-Questions

1. Repeat the Pre-Questions as Post-Questions.
2. What are some of the crops irrigated with diverted Platte River water?
3. What are some of the animals that are helped by the environmental flows?

NOTES
