



WATERSHED 360°

GRADES 9-12

EPISODE 6 | "GROUNDWATER RISING"

GROUNDWATER RISING (3:05)

Viewer Guide

"People talked about the Sandhills as a desert, but when I looked at the system with all the water the sand held, I began to look at it as a large inland sea." This episode takes the viewer to Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Garden County, Nebraska to hear from wildlife biologist, Marlin French. He explains how the groundwater and the Sandhill lakes are all part of the North Platte watershed. One may travel through the area and see the many lakes but not realize that the water is moving from lake to lake and to the North Platte River through groundwater flow. Be sure to listen for the three types of birds he mentions in connection to Crescent Lake and remember to take advantage of the 360-degree view.

Captions

Groundwater creates critical wetland habitats for plants and animals. (0:46)

The grass covered dunes were formed by wind-blown sands from an ancient sea bed. (1:04)

Like snowmelt, groundwater is critical to streamflow in watersheds around the globe. (1:20)

Groundwater from the Sandhills flows into the Platte River system. (1:38)

Rainwater absorbed by the sand dunes recharges the Ogallala Aquifer. (2:01)

Pre-Questions

1. What is an aquifer?
2. Does groundwater move and flow?
3. How do the Sandhills function like a sponge?

Post-Questions

1. How does the groundwater in the Sandhills contribute to the North Platte River?
2. How did sand become the main soil for the area we call the Sandhills?
3. Because of the interconnectedness of the groundwater to the watershed, what responsibility does that place on the people of the Sandhills?

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