



# **NDNR Overview: Surface Water Permitting, Field Office Activities, and Integrated Water Management**

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Department of Natural Resources

Water Planning and Integrated Management



Surface Water



Floodplain Management



# Who is NDNR?

Groundwater



Dam Safety



Field Offices



# Agency Mission

## VISION

- The DNR is dedicated to working with Nebraska's citizens and leaders for the effective management and conservation of the State's water and land resources.

## MISSION

- Committed to perform our statutory responsibility to manage and conserve the State's water and land resources.

# Available Information

- New Website Design - <http://dnr.ne.gov/>
- Statewide Water Planning - <http://dnr.ne.gov/iwm/statewide-water-planning>
- Streamgaging - <http://data.dnr.nebraska.gov/RealTime>
- NERain - <http://nerain.dnr.nebraska.gov/nerain/>
- Ice Jam Monitoring - <http://dnr.ne.gov/fpm/ice-jam>
- INSIGHT - <http://dnr.ne.gov/insight/>
- Voluntary Water Use Database - <http://data.dnr.nebraska.gov/wateruse>

Water Planning and  
Integrated Management



Surface Water

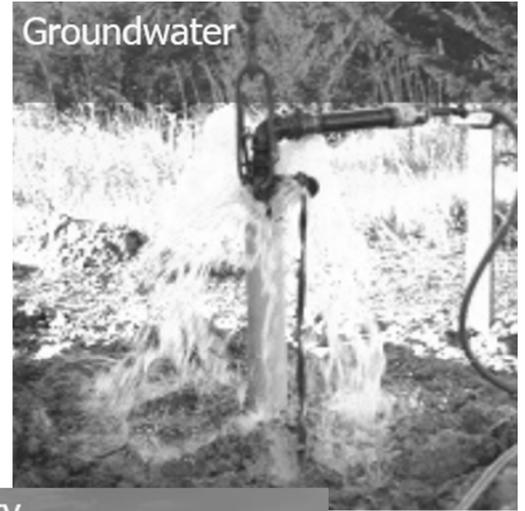


Floodplain Management

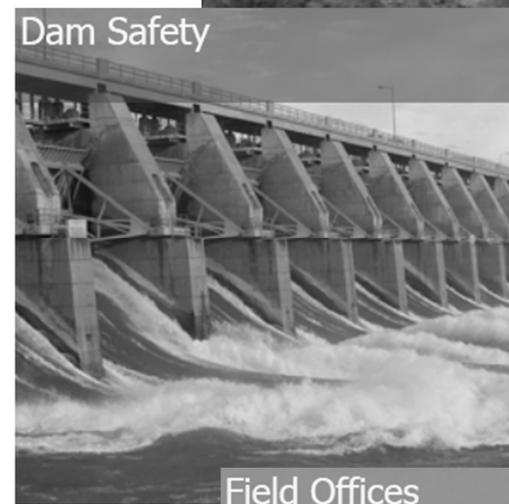


# Today's Presentation

Groundwater



Dam Safety



Field Offices



Water Planning and  
Integrated Management



Surface Water

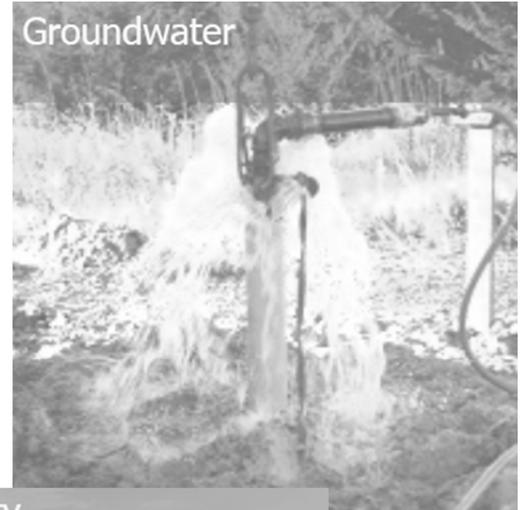


Floodplain Management

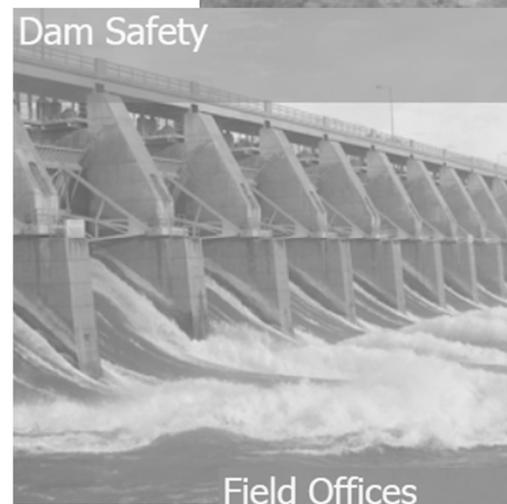


# Today's Presentation

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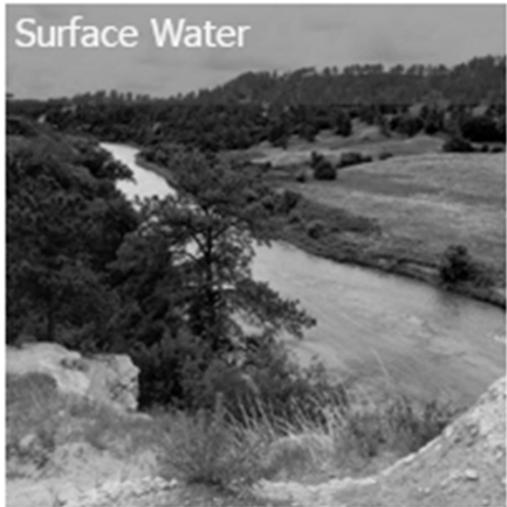


Dam Safety



Field Offices





# **SURFACE WATER PERMITTING**

# Surface Water Permitting

- 1) Application procedure for obtaining a surface water permit
- 2) How NDNR determines whether to approve a permit application
- 3) Additional considerations in IMP/moratorium areas
- 4) What it means if an appropriation is approved



# Application Procedure for Surface Water Permits

## Applicant Process

- 1) Submit application
  - Application must be made to NDNR before commencing construction or taking water
  - Application must list:
    - Purpose
    - Water source
    - Amount requested
    - Time to complete construction
    - Time of first beneficial use
- 2) Correct defective applications within 90 days. Provide any additional supporting information that NDNR deems necessary to complete a review

## NDNR Process

- 1) Identify defects in application and request other information
- 2) Post public notice of applications – newspaper and NDNR website
- 3) Approve or deny application



# NDNR Determination Procedure

- The criteria for determining whether to grant a surface water permit are statutorily defined (*Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-235*)
  - NDNR shall approve the application if:
    - There is unappropriated water in the source of supply named in the application,
    - Such application and appropriation when perfected are not otherwise detrimental to the public welfare, and
    - Denial of the application is not demanded by the public interest



# **Additional Considerations in IMP/moratorium Areas**

- In areas with IMPs, there may be an additional step before a permit is allowed to be filed if there is a moratorium or stay in place
- NDNR may not be able to grant a permit if there is a moratorium or stay on irrigated acres in place, but applications may still be filed

# Your Irrigation Appropriation is Approved

## What do you Get?



- You have received permission to beneficially and frugally use the water from the stream as prescribed in Approval Order, which defines the use, amount, location, and conditions of the permit
- It is not a guarantee of water, and you may not injure senior appropriators while exercising your right
- You may call for water in times of shortage if there are upstream junior appropriators affecting your supply



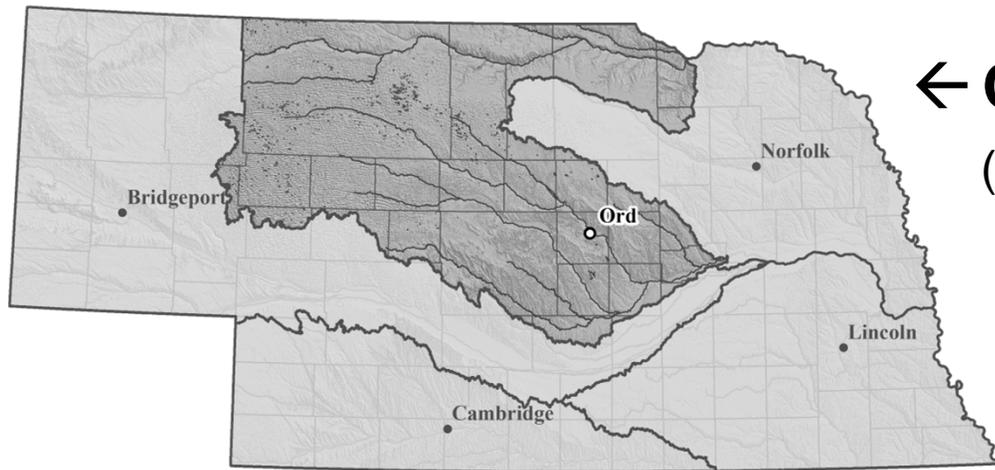
# ORD FIELD OFFICE

# Field Office Overview

- Ord Field Office Responsibilities:
  - Surface Water Administration Program
  - Stream Gaging and Measurement Program
  - Dam Inspections – Safety of Dams Division
  - Field Investigations – Permits Division

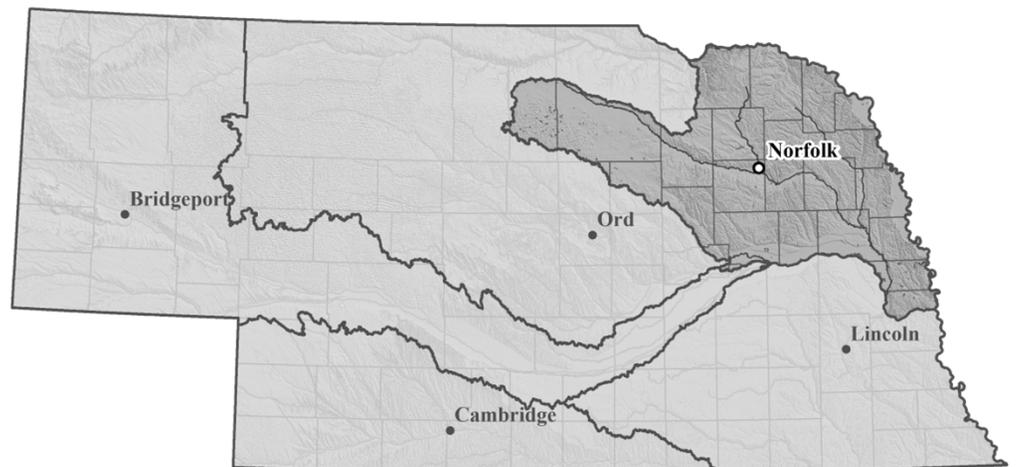


# Surface Water Administration Area



← **Ord Field Office**  
(includes LNNRD)

**Norfolk Field Office** →  
(includes UENRD)



# Ord Field Office

## Surface Water Administration

- **Administration Activities – Depending Upon:**
  - Daily flow and demand for water
  - Relation between Priority, Preference, and Storage
  - Various other factors that affect stream flow
- **Closing Notices:**
  - Issued by Field Office based on water basins
  - Scores of diversions may be closed at anytime
  - Site visits to check compliance, flow, and demand
- **Opening Notices:** Issued as flow increases or demand is met

# Field Offices

## Stream Gaging Program

- Approximately 85 year-round stream gages
  - Located on streams, rivers and lakes throughout the State
  - Monthly site visit and discharge measurement
- Approximately 100 seasonal stream gages
  - Located on canals, some lakes and streams
  - Measured weekly, monthly, seasonally
- Stage - Discharge Records
  - Annual review and check of each individual record

# Field Offices Stream Gage Site

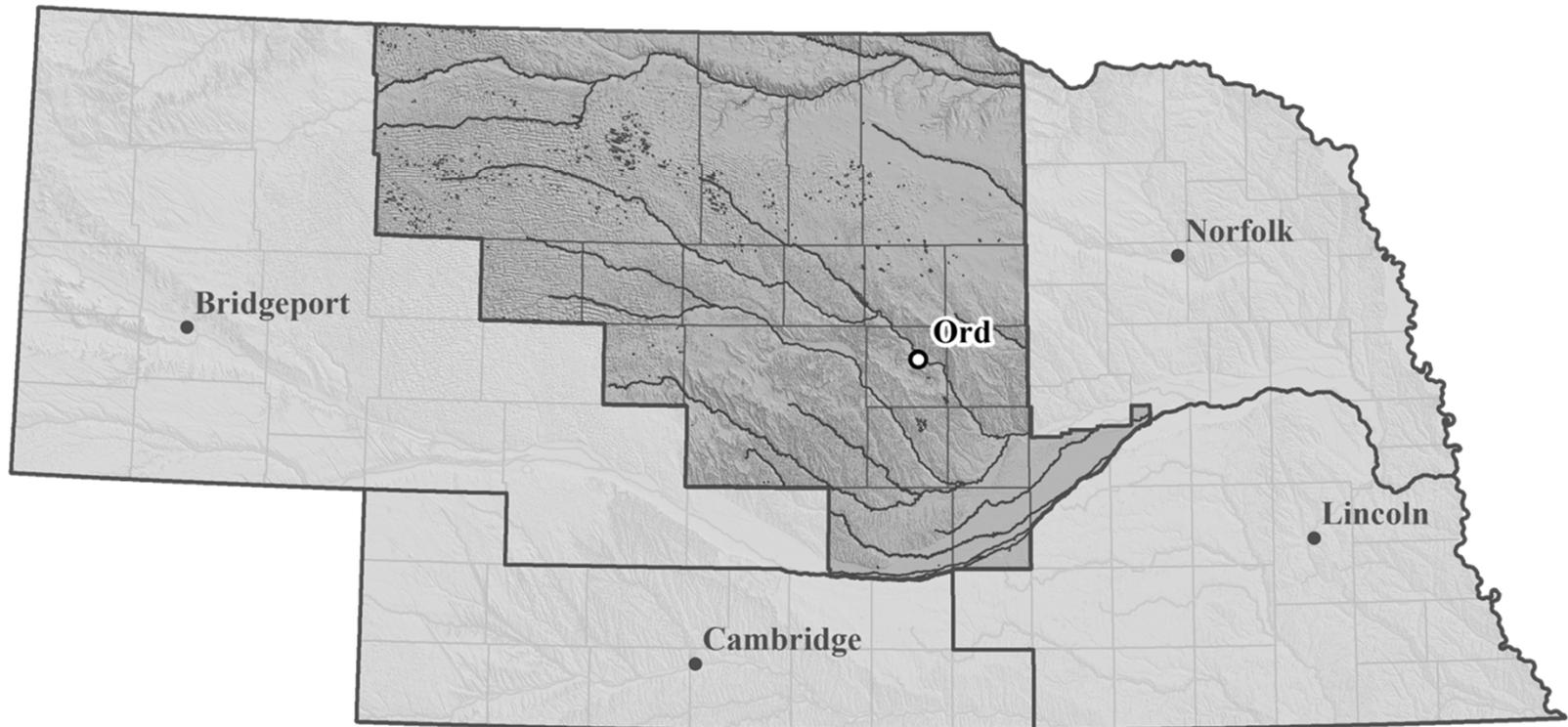




# Ord Field Office Stream Measurement



# Dam Inspection Boundaries



# Ord Field Office Safety of Dams

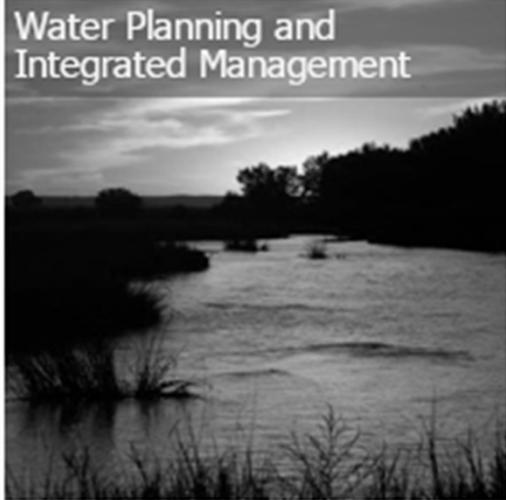
- Support for Dam Safety Division
- Approximately 70 inspections annually
  - Typically small earthen dams w/no downstream structures
  - Both NRD and private owners
  - Pre-notification letter
  - Safety Inspection Report



# Ord Field Office

## Field Investigations

- In support of Permit Section:
  - Investigate non-use or non-compliance
  - Based on basin, stream, or Department knowledge
  - Approximately 50 investigations pending for 2015
- Field Investigation Components:
  - Site visit
  - Interview with owner, tenant, or operator
  - Title search
  - Signed and Notarized Report



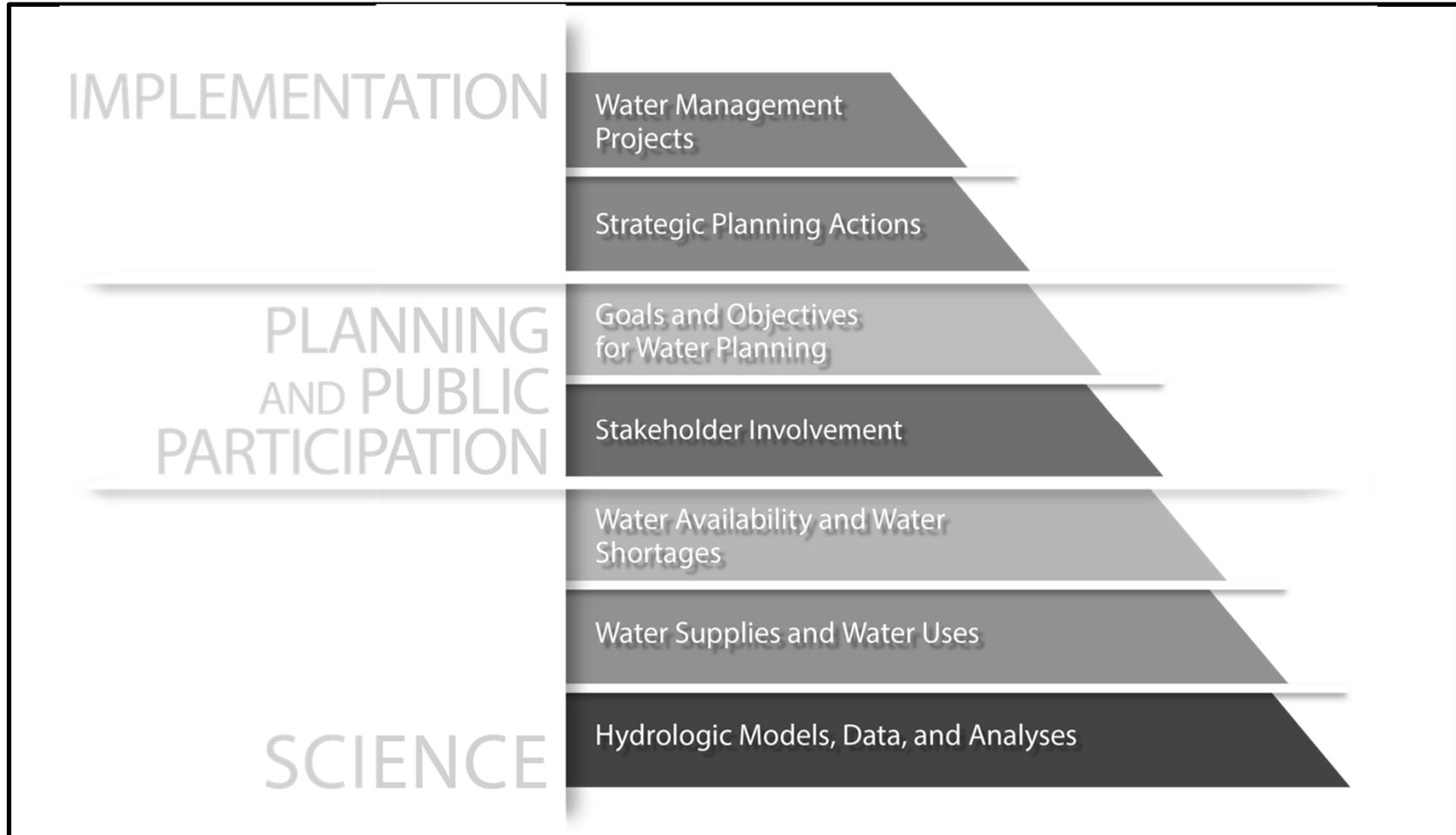
# **INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT**

# The Integrated Water Management Process

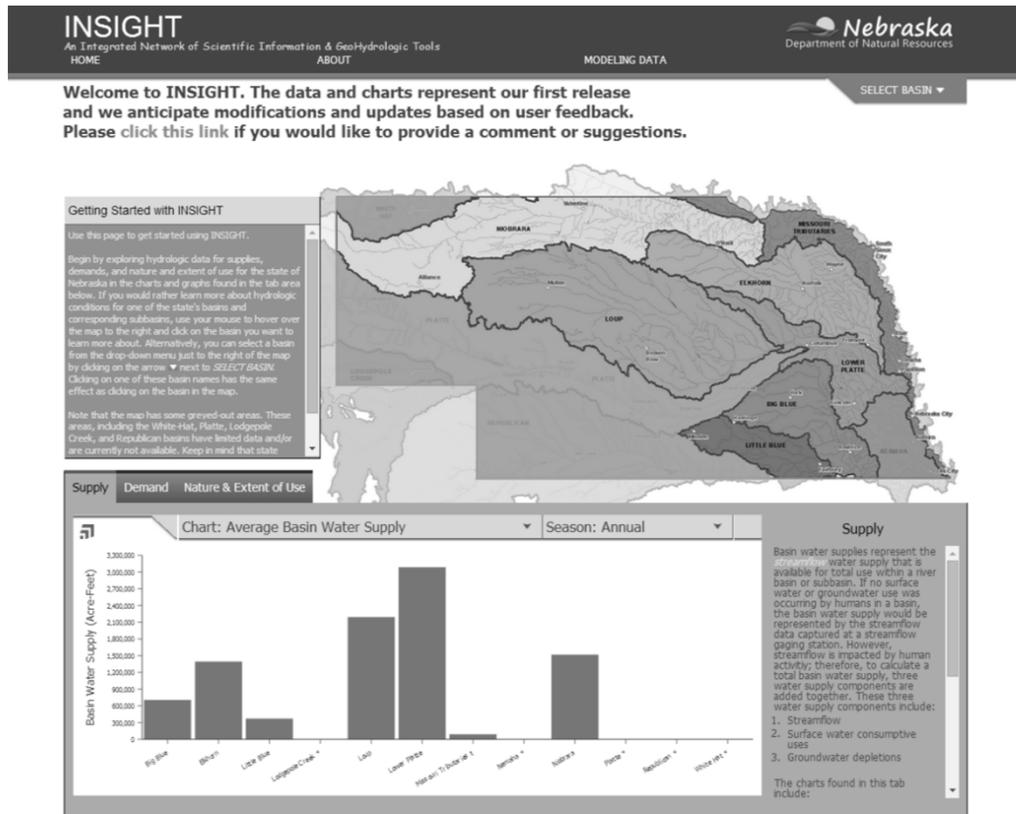
- Helps maintain a balance between water supplies and uses
- Protects the rights of existing water users
- Helps Nebraska plan for highly variable water supplies
- Manages surface and groundwater as one resource



# Integrated Water Management



# Science: Integrated Water Management Models and Studies

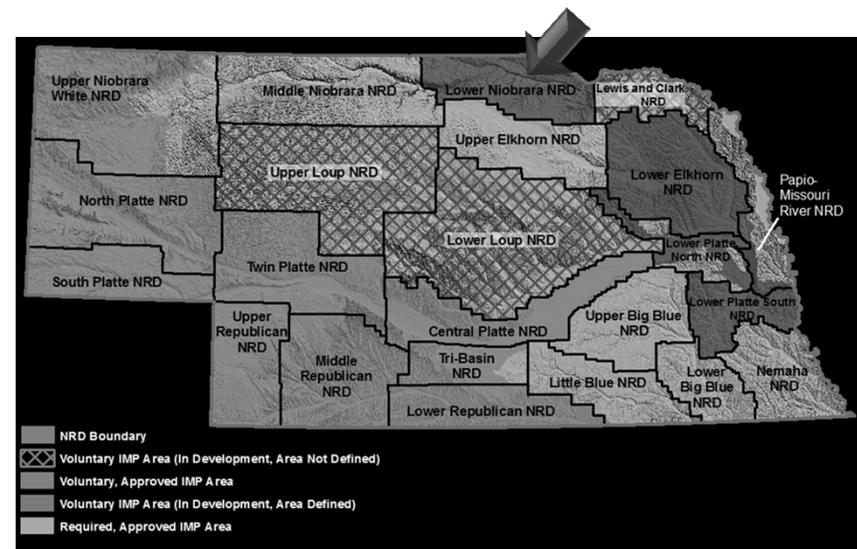


Data from models and other sources is compiled, analyzed, and displayed on the INSIGHT website for several basins across the state

[www.dnr.nebraska.gov/INSIGHT/](http://www.dnr.nebraska.gov/INSIGHT/)

# Planning: Status of LNNRD Planning Efforts

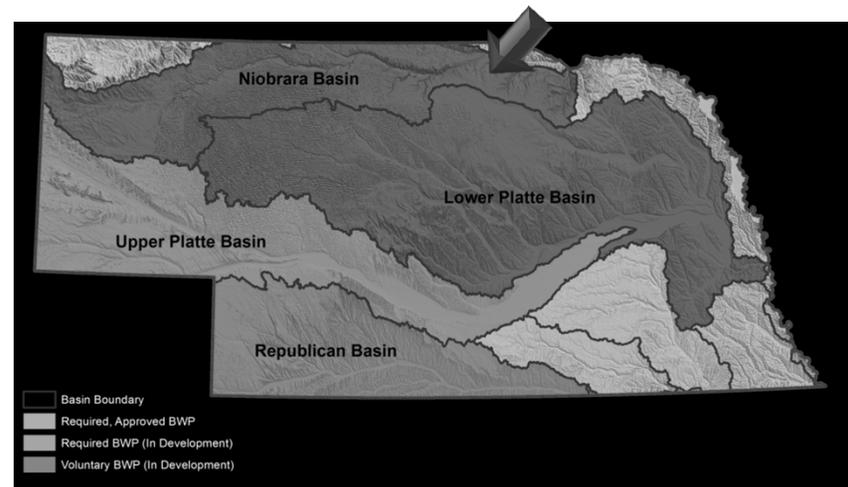
- **LNNRD Integrated Management Plan**
  - Development phase: *2011-2014*
  - Became effective: *May 1, 2014*
  - Implementation phase: *May 1, 2014 to present*



# Planning: Status of LNNRD Planning Efforts

- **Niobrara Basin-Wide Plan**

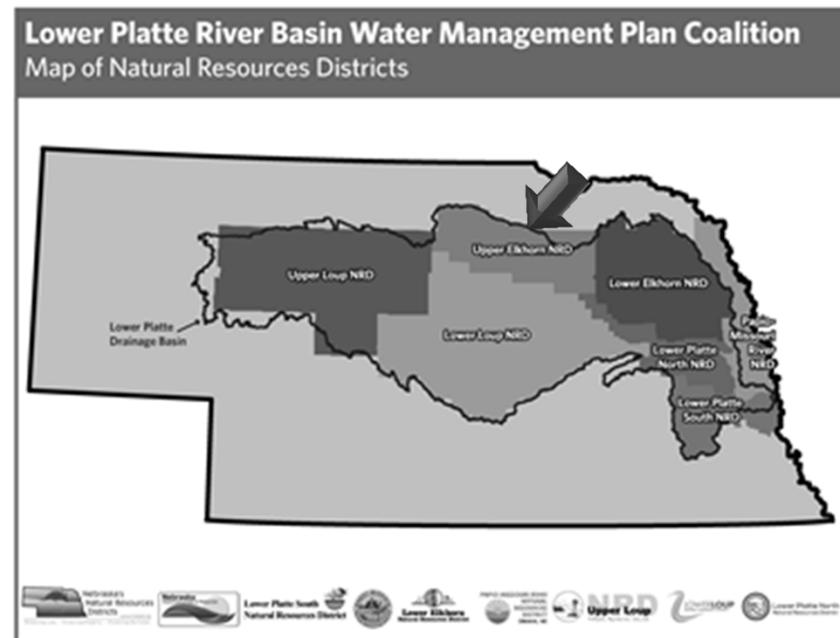
- Includes LNNRD
- Currently in very early stages of planning
- Public input survey – **deadline March 11**  
<http://go.unl.edu/39wo>



# Planning: Status of UENRD Planning Efforts

- **Lower Platte Basin-Wide Plan**

- Includes UENRD
- Final plan target:  
End of 2015
- More information:  
[http://dnr.nebraska.gov/  
LPRBC](http://dnr.nebraska.gov/LPRBC)



# Implementation: Gathering Additional Data



# **NDNR INFORMATION STATIONS**

# NDNR Information Stations



## Ord Field Office

- Streamgages
- Water administration

## Water Planning

- Integrated management plans
- Basin-wide plans

## Water Permits

- Water permits and applications



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