



Nebraska's Water Challenges and Opportunities

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Overview

- Statewide Water Planning
- Integrated Management Planning
- Major Basin Activities
- FAB report



Statewide Water Planning

- The challenge is to manage the water supply and its current and future variability, in:
 - Time
 - Location
 - Types of Use
- Understanding our water supplies and uses creates great opportunities within integrated water management and can ultimately provide for comprehensive water planning.



Understanding the Water Supply

- Impossible to plot a course without clear knowledge of where we are
- The undepleted “Virgin” streamflow is our water supply
- The only way to use more than this supply, on average, is to borrow from storage
- Uses must be understood in order to quantify the water supply

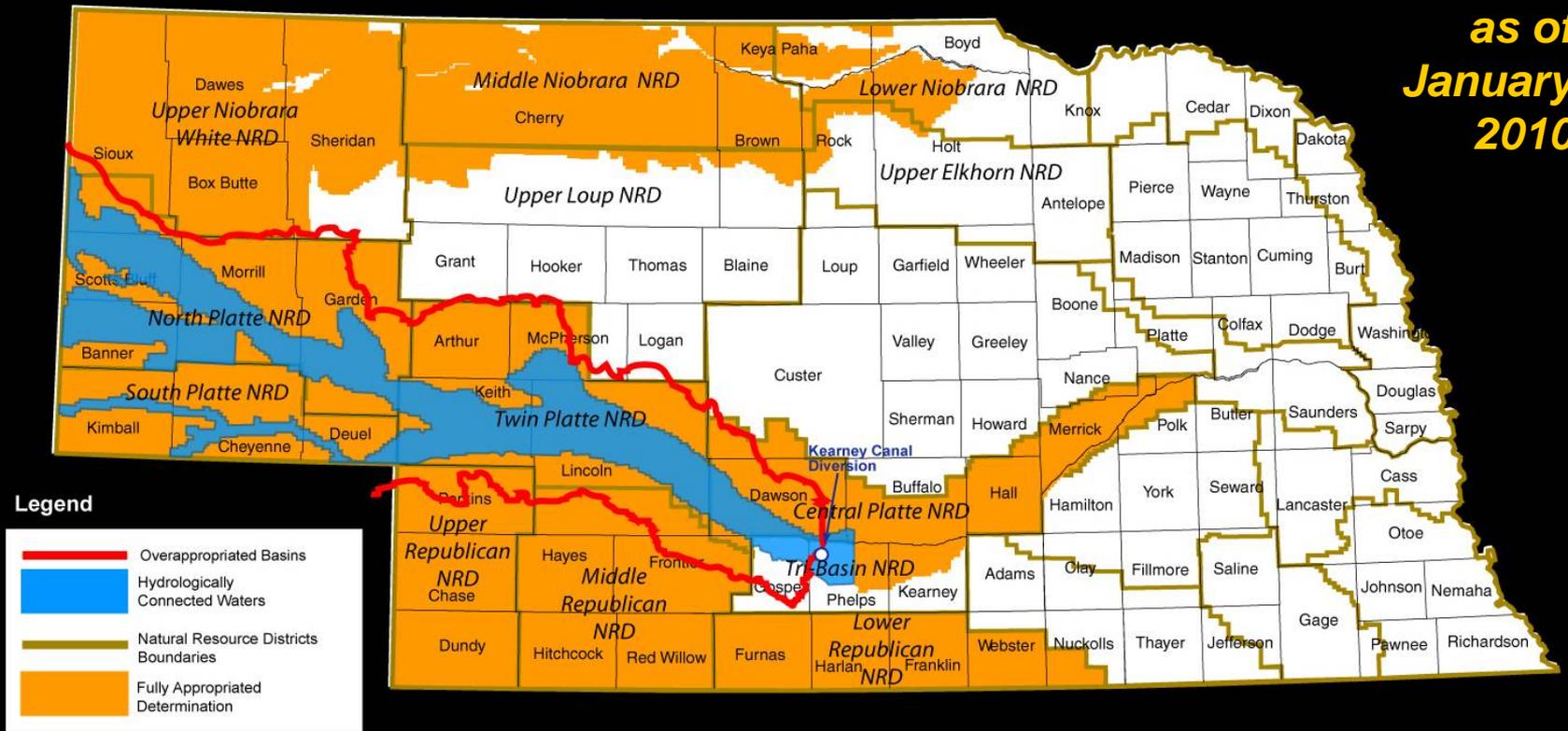


Integrated Management Planning



Fully and Overappropriated Areas

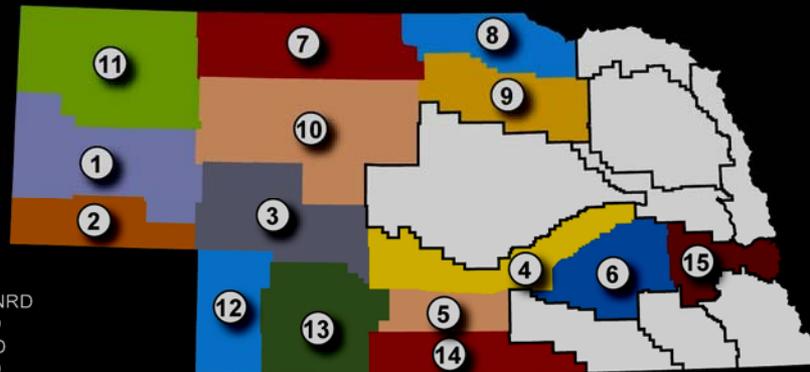
as of
January
2010



Status of Integrated Management Plans

natural resources districts

1. North Platte NRD
2. South Platte NRD
3. Twin Platte NRD
4. Central Platte NRD
5. Tri-Basin NRD
6. Upper Big Blue NRD
7. Middle Niobrara NRD
8. Lower Niobrara NRD
9. Upper Elkhorn NRD
10. Upper Loup NRD
11. Upper Niobrara White NRD
12. Upper Republican NRD
13. Middle Republican NRD
14. Lower Republican NRD
15. Lower Platte South NRD



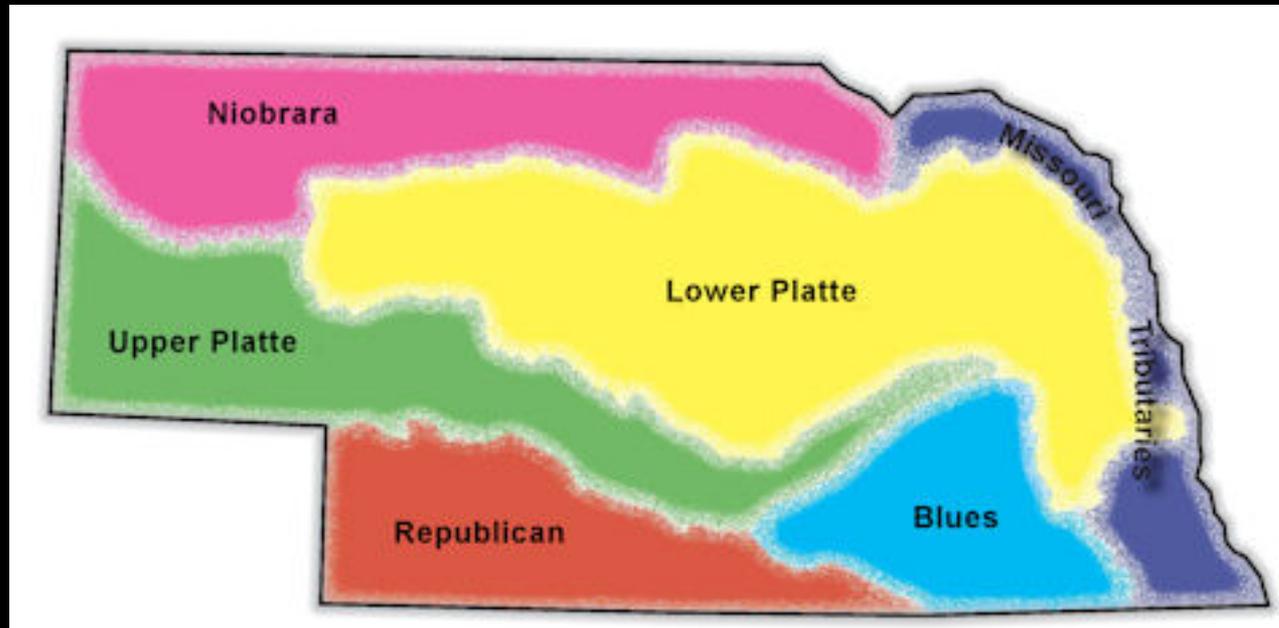
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15 Natural Resources Districts

- Ten natural resources districts have completed IMPs
- Four natural resources districts are in the process of developing IMPs
- One natural resources district is in the process of developing a voluntary IMP

Basin Activities

- Upper Platte River
- Republican River
- Niobrara River



Upper Platte River Basin

- Encompasses six natural resources districts (NRDs) with portions declared over and fully appropriated
- Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program (PRRIP) in place to mitigate impacts of water-related activities through depletion plan implementation with goal to return to July 1, 1997, water use and to provide for the protection, restoration and maintenance of habitat for endangered species
- Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Project
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
- North Platte Decree Implementation
- South Platte Compact Activity



Republican River Basin

- Encompasses portions of five NRDs
- The Republican River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force is created by the Nebraska Legislature
- Republican River Compact Activity & Accounting



Niobrara River Basin

- Encompasses portions of five NRDs
- Portions of the Niobrara River Basin have been declared fully appropriated
- Niobrara Basin Study
 - Bureau of Reclamation funded study providing \$350,000 (in-kind funding) to define options for meeting future water demands
 - Assist in the development and implementation of IMPs and other water planning activities
 - Identify opportunities for meeting water needs through structural and nonstructural means
 - Analyze potential effects of climate variability on water supply



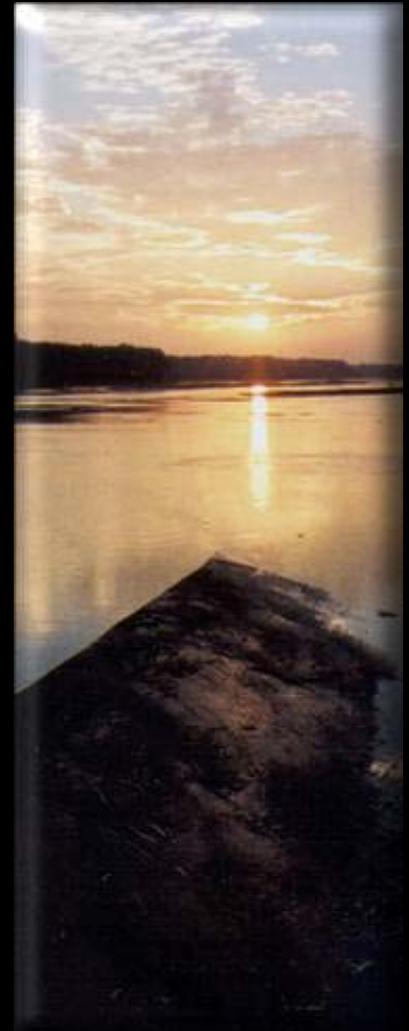


'FAB' Report

- Annual Evaluation of Availability of Hydrologically Connected Water Supplies
- Evaluates the long-term availability of surface water supplies and hydrologically connected groundwater supplies of areas determined to be fully or overappropriated
- Required by *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §°46-713 of the Ground Water Management and Protection Act

Summary

- Statewide Planning
- Integrated Management Planning
- Significant activity throughout the state





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