

**Program 21 - Interstate Water Rights:** Following are descriptions of the primary interstate agreements administered within this subprogram.

**Nebraska v. Wyoming** - The Department has implemented measures to ensure that the provisions of the settlement are in place, and now performs work necessary to assure the various settlement provisions are followed. In addition to compact administrative tasks, work activities include stream gaging, observation of irrigation and other water usage in Wyoming, and conducting research and technical studies. Primary responsibility for the stream gaging, monitoring, and other field work is assigned to staff in our Bridgeport field office to help minimize costs, but travel and related expenses are still significant.

**Kansas v. Nebraska and Colorado** - This settlement involves the Department as well as local entities, primarily natural resources districts (NRDs), in the processes of complying with settlement provisions. This stems largely from the fact that the primary issue in this case was the impact of groundwater use on the streamflows of the Republican River, and NRDs have significant authority in regulating groundwater. Moratoriums regulating the installation of wells, requirements for installing flow meters on higher capacity wells, and establishment of certified irrigated acres instituted by the NRDs are helping to limit water use and provide data by the to establish base information. The acreage information and flow meter measurements will be the basis for detailed information on water use. It is a costly data collection and reporting process and the State provides a significant portion of the operational funds. The NRDs and DNR have adopted IMPs to regulate consumptive use of ground water. DNR has provided and will continue to provide technical and financial support as the IMPs are enforced. The three states developed a groundwater model during the settlement negotiation process and further refinement of that model along with the utilization of that model will play a major role in determining compliance with the settlement and the need to regulate groundwater withdrawals. Additional funds will also be utilized for contracts for various hydrologic, water use, modeling, and engineering studies. These studies will be a key component to developing long range conjunctive use strategies that will allow Nebraska the continued benefit of irrigated agriculture in the Basin while still complying with the compact.

### **Program Objectives**

The objective of the Water and Soil Conservation Program is to effectively and efficiently administer and enforce regulations and policies affecting the use of Nebraska's water and soil resources. This entails providing the scientific, technical, and administrative resources and information needed to reach defensible policy decisions, while working cooperatively with other committed stakeholders to find a sustainable balance among competing demands. The Department's goal is to provide Nebraska's leaders and citizens with the information and analyses they need to make wise resource decisions for the benefit of all Nebraskans, both current and future.

### **Performance Measures**

A limited number of empirical performance measures are available in this program because most employees are involved in work which is difficult to quantify. Examples include database development and integration, hydrology studies, computer modeling, GIS tools and applications development, program administration, floodplain delineations, floodplain administration, review of dam construction plans, and cooperative work with NRDs, irrigation districts, and other natural resource interests. The empirical measures presented below represent only a small portion of the work being accomplished by the employees in this program.

Activities	Actual				Estimated			
	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	
<b>Payments for Permanent or Temporary Relinquishment of Irrigation Rights:</b>								
CREP (No Irrigation for 10-15 years)	12	422	45	20	120	180	180	
EQIP (No Irrigation for 4 years)			0	0	-	-	-	
Pumpkin Creek EQIP (Permanent)			20	0	-	-	-	
Republican Basin EQIP (Permanent)			37	0	-	-	-	
Lower Republican EQIP (Permanent)			0	4	-	-	-	
Tri Basin NRD EQIP (Temporary - 5 years)			0	27	-	-	-	
<b>Stream &amp; Canal Gages Managed:</b>								
Annual	70	87	87	90	92	93	93	
Seasonal	95	95	95	99	99	99	99	
<b>Floodplain:</b>								
BFE Request	186	244	244	244	250	250	250	
Counties Mapped (on-going)	5	21	26	26	13	10	10	
Technical Assistance (hrs.)	2,350	790	1,980	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	
Public Educ. & Comm. Outreach (hrs.)	125	1,570	1,980	1,780	1,900	1,900	1,900	
<b>Surface Water:</b>								
New Applications		89	108	81	86	79	72	
Modifications		173	198	122	184	203	222	
Applications Canceled in Full, in Part, or Dismissed		31	62	72	66	76	87	
Administrative Surface Water Orders		258	330	302	315	333	351	
<b>Ground Water:</b>								
Registrations		8,042	6,908	5,752	6,328	5,756	5,183	
Modifications		6,122	7,790	8,464	7,760	8,062	8,363	
Decommissioned		3,564	2,671	3,086	2,884	2,660	2,437	
Permits		2,307	1,525	1,589	1,916	2,024	2,133	
<b>Ground Water Permits:</b>								
New Applications Filed		26	14	10	21	25	29	
Notices Filed		7	5	10	9	10	11	
Applications Approved		9	23	13	19	22	26	

Applications/Permits Canceled, Dismissed, or Denied		5	7	6	7	7	8
<b>Changes of Ownership:</b>							
Ground Water Forms Received		6,961	4,253	5,449	5,894	6,233	6,572
Wells Affected		12,048	7,615	9,664	10,330	10,885	11,440
Surface Water Forms Received		253	365	239	303	321	337
Surface Water Appropriations Affected		607	635	487	596	615	635
<b>Legal Division:</b>							
Water Rights Hearings		4	20	9	15	19	23
<b>Dam Safety:</b>							
Inspections	812	356	585	644	708	779	857
Dam Plans Reviewed	37	44	43	47	52	57	63
<b>Survey:</b>							
Floodplain Elevation Surveys							
Valley Cross-Sections for Floodplain							
Delineation			55	60	57	60	59
Floodplain/Watershed Cross-Section Surveys			68	75	70	72	75
Dam Topographical Surveys			35	20	25	28	30
Dam Breach Surveys			4	2	3	4	2
Wells Surveyed			150	147	152	153	150
Photogrammetry (acres)			37,000	40,000	35,000	33,000	36,000
<b>Databases Managed:</b>							
Data Bank	52	55	58				
Website/Network - # hits	500,000	700,000	900,000				
<b>Integrated Management Plans:</b>							
Required or In Process	8	6	7	10	7	7	6
Approved	0	3	3	4	7	7	8

<b>Interstate Compacts &amp; Decrees:</b>	
Republican River Compact	
North Platte Decree	
Blue River Recovery	
Platte River Recovery Implementation Plan	
Niobrara	

<b>Other Memberships:</b>	
Missouri River Assoc. of States & Tribes	
Western State Water Council	

**Notes:**

New surveys of irrigation practices are to be conducted every 5 years.

Four weather stations need to be maintained. Potentially 3 more weather stations to be installed.

Annual stream gage telemetry maintenance is contracted with Bureau of Reclamation.

Development of Ground Water Model is planned for FY 09-10.