

NEWS RELEASE

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Use of Platte Basin High Flows to Reduce Flood Risk and Enhance Groundwater Recharge

(Lincoln, NE) The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is having great success working with the surface water irrigation districts in the Platte River Basin and the partners in the Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Program to divert flood flows from the North Platte River. These flood flows will soak into the canals and recharge the available water to the underlying aquifer over a period of months. As of April 7, 2011, fourteen (14) irrigation districts have signed contracts to take a portion of the flood flows into their canals. Brian Dunnigan, Director of the Department of Natural Resources, stated "The surface water irrigation districts have shown great support for this important project." Coordination with the Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Program partners assists with the funding for this project and study of the enhanced groundwater recharge.

These projects will benefit the state by moving some high flows out of the rivers during potential flood risk times and storing some of the flows in the aquifer, potentially assisting the state with future interstate compliance efforts.

For more information on this project or to express an interest in participating in the project, please contact Jesse Bradley at the Integrated Water Management Division of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at (402) 471-0586 or jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov.

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