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Basin-Wide Planning in Nebraska

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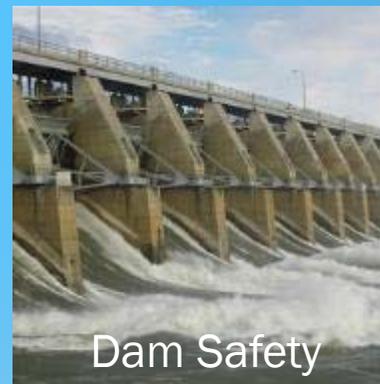
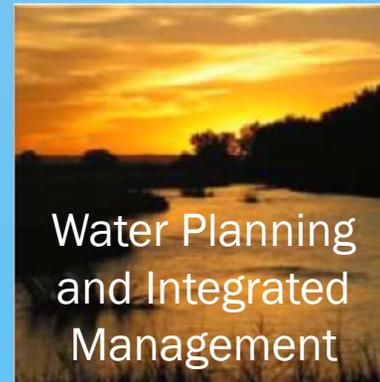
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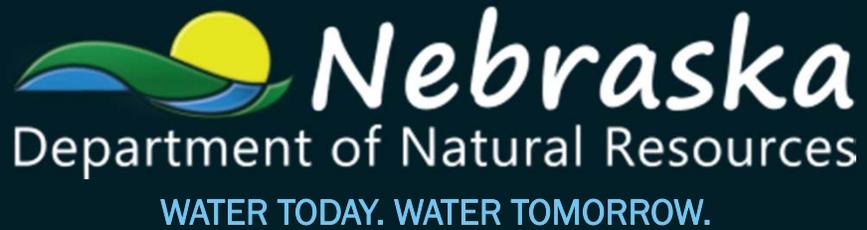


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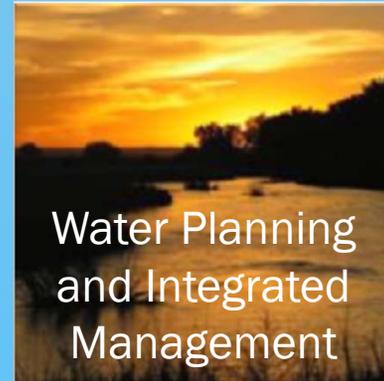
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Water Planning
and Integrated
Management



Outline

Basin-wide planning in Nebraska

Purpose and benefits

Characteristics

Current basin-wide plans

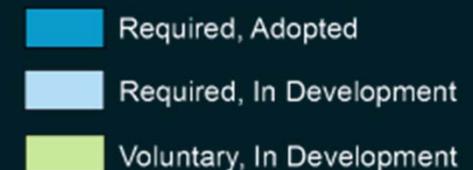
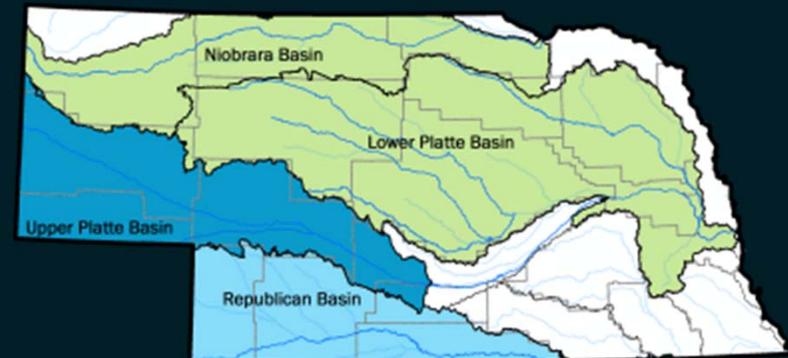
Discussion

PURPOSE AND BENEFITS

A basin-wide plan facilitates **collaboration** and **coordination** of water supply management actions among NDNR and all the NRDs within a basin

Basin-wide planning, purpose

- Management of hydrologically connected surface water and groundwater resources
- NDNR & all NRDs within a basin



Basin-wide planning, benefits

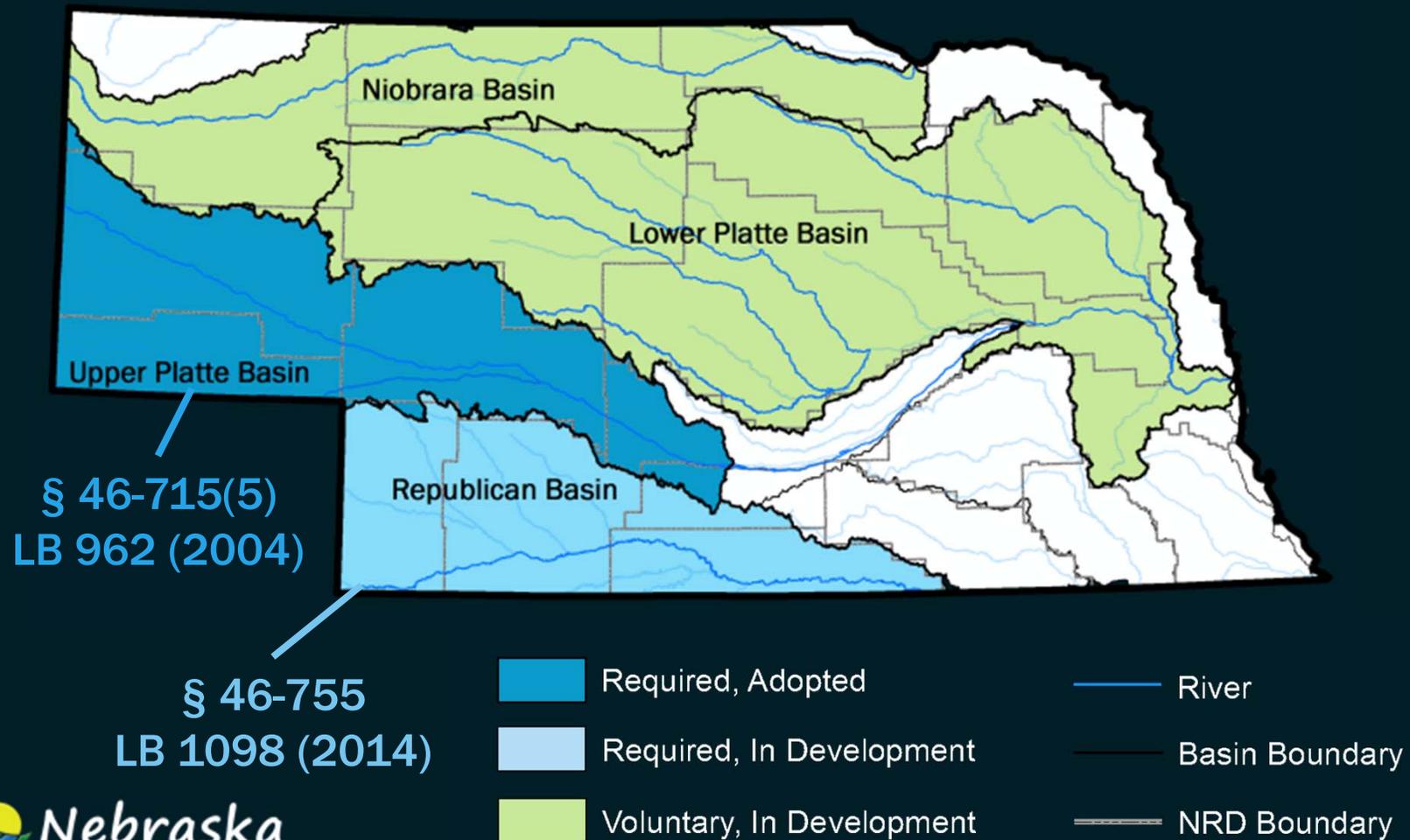
- Basin-wide planning looks beyond NRD borders to:
 - Provide a framework for consistency among a basin's NRDs for tasks such as:
 - Defining goals and objectives
 - Monitoring
 - Data exchange
 - Address connectivity between NRDs
 - Manage cross-boundary issues and opportunities



CHARACTERISTICS

Basin-wide planning is a **collaborative, adaptive** management approach to managing a basin's water resources

Basin-wide plans may be required by statute or voluntary



Basin-wide plans are collaborative

- Plan Development
 - NDNR + basin NRDs
 - Stakeholders
(collaboration mandated for required plans)
- Plan implementation
 - NDNR + basin NRDs



Basin-wide plans use an adaptive management approach



Basin-wide plans are similar to but different from IMPs

Basin-wide plans

- All basin NRDs & DNR
- Goals & objectives
 - Focused on regional, cross-boundary issues and opportunities
 - Consistent among basin NRDs
 - More of a general framework

Integrated management plans

- 1 NRD & NDNR
- Goals, objectives, & controls
 - Tailored to local issues and opportunities
 - Specific to one NRD
 - More specific

Basin-wide plans complement IMPs

REPORTING GUIDELINES
FRAMEWORK
DATA EXCHANGE GUIDELINES
DATA COLLECTION GUIDELINES
CENTRAL LOCATION
SHARED PLAN COMPONENTS
CONSISTENCY
CROSS-BOUNDARY TRANSFERS
REGIONAL WATER ISSUES
COMMUNICATION
CROSS-BOUNDARY PROJECTS



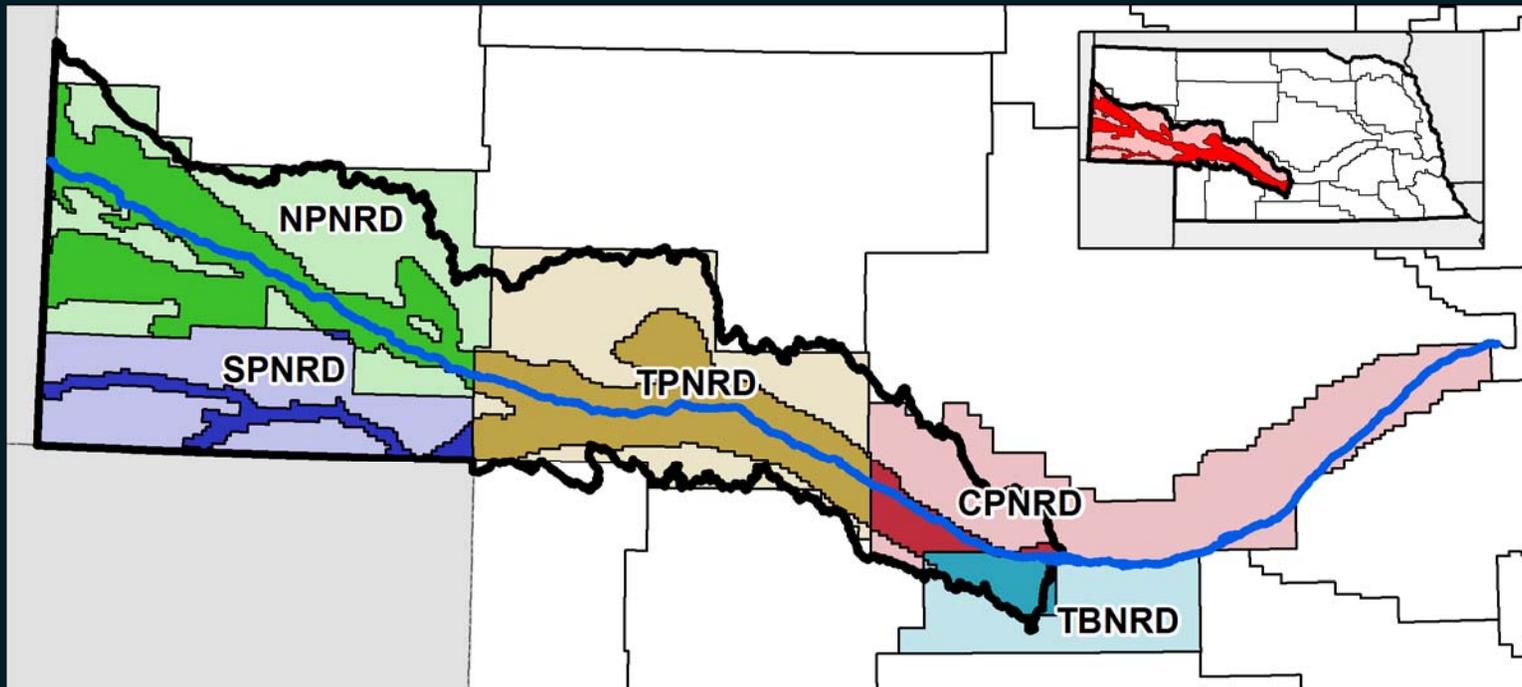
CURRENT BASIN-WIDE PLANS

Each of the state's four basin-wide planning processes is unique, reflecting both differing statutory requirements and each basin's distinct challenges and opportunities

Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

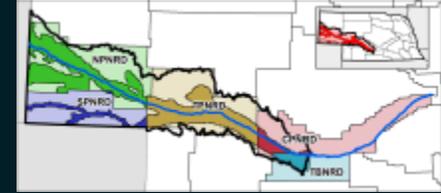
Plan overview

- Required by LB 962 (2004)

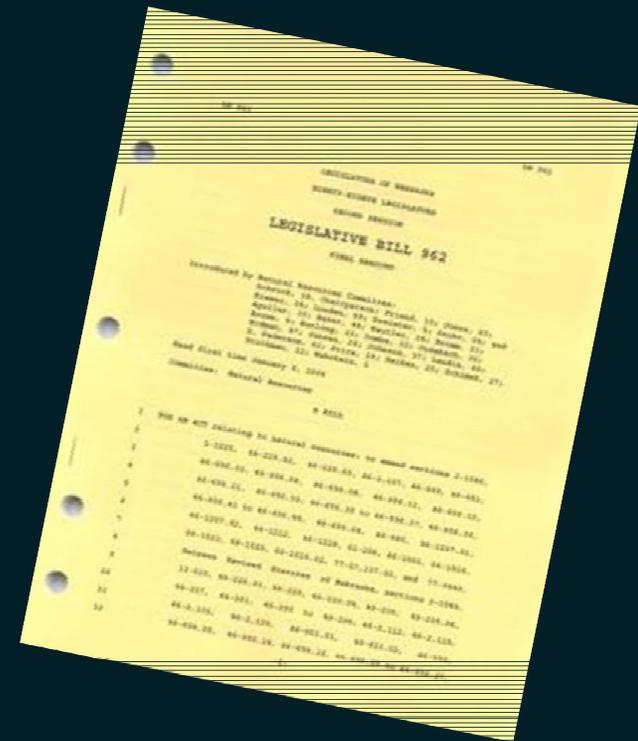


Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

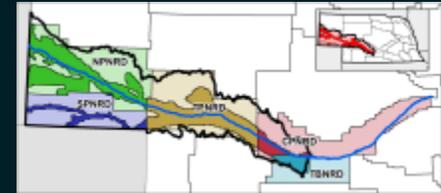
Statutory requirements, § 46-715(5)



- Use consultation and collaboration approach
 - Stakeholders representing specific interests
 - Agreement by all parties OR by NDNR/NRDs OR by Interrelated Water Review Board
- Develop IMPs concurrently
- Identify the difference between current and fully appropriated levels of development
- Adopt an incremental approach
 - 10 year increments
 - Technical analysis of progress to evaluate whether each subsequent increment is needed



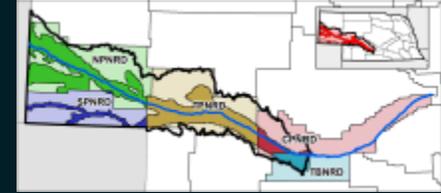
Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan Status



- ✓ Technical analysis to assess progress towards goals
- ✓ Draft public participation plan
- ✓ Facilitator selection in progress
- ✓ Stakeholder meetings to begin in June

Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

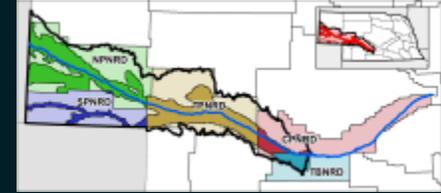
Public involvement



- Stakeholder committee must include representatives of: irrigation districts, reclamation districts, public power and irrigation districts, mutual irrigation companies, canal companies, and municipalities that rely on water from basin
- Meetings are open to the public

Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

First increment plans, IMP/BWP relationship



Basin-wide plan

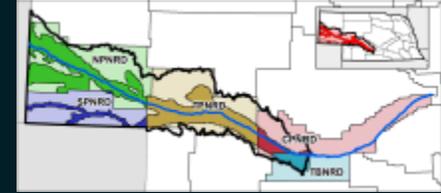
- Goals and objectives
 - Consistent among basin NRDs
 - More of a general framework
 - Defines where we want to get
- Creates opportunities for collaboration among NRDs

IMPs within the basin

- Goals, objectives, & controls
 - Specific targets and actions that each NRD will use to meeting the basin-wide plan's goals

Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

First increment plans, IMP/BWP relationship



Basin-wide plan

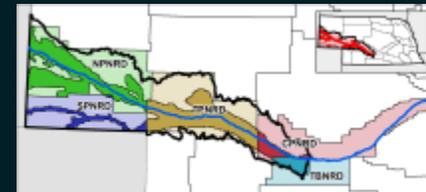
- Establish uniform methods for calculating depletions and offsets

IMPs within the basin

- Coordinate with the other NRDs to develop a consistent method of calculation that will be applied when calculation of depletions or accretions to the stream are necessary

Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

First increment plans, IMP/BWP relationship



Basin-wide plan

- Identify projects to enhance water supply
- Pursue on a basin-wide level when they will help achieve sustainable levels of supply and use and address water shortages in one NRD that affect more than one NRD.

IMPs within the basin

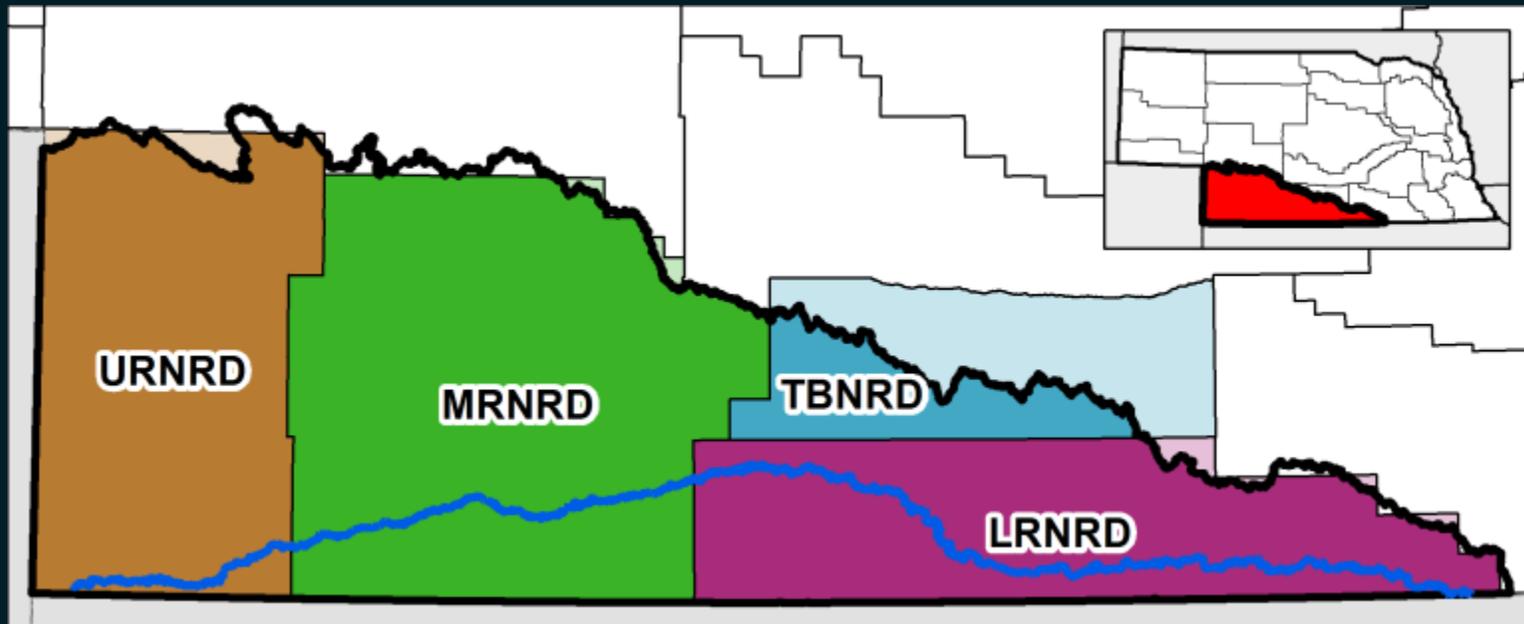
- Investigate opportunities to reduce consumptive use
- May include but not limited to:
 - Transfer SW appropriations to instream flow
 - Transfer SW appropriations or apply for new for GW recharge
 - Contractual agreements between water users
 - Conjunctive management with SW projects

Next: Republican River Basin-wide plan

Republican River Basin-wide plan

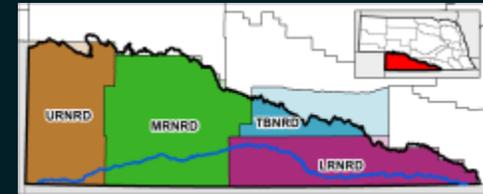
Plan overview

- Required by LB 1098 (2014)



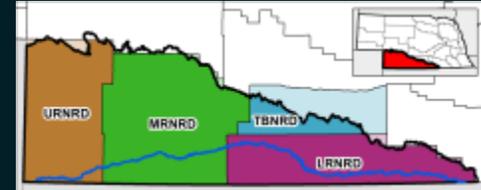
Republican River Basin-wide plan

Statutory requirements, § 46-755



- Ensure Compact compliance continues
- Set forth a timeline to achieve goals and objectives
 - Not to exceed 30 years
 - Track progress by setting measurable hydrologic objectives and intermediate target dates
 - Technical analysis every 5 years to assess progress and assess need for plan modifications
- Use consultation and collaboration approach
 - Stakeholders representing specific interests
 - Agreement by all parties OR
by NDNR/NRDs OR by Interrelated Water Review Board

Republican River Basin-wide plan IMP/BWP relationship



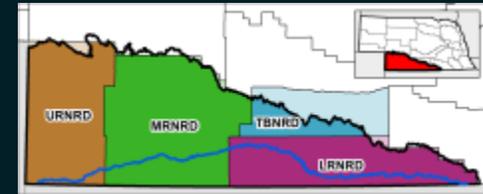
Basin-wide plan

- A framework that will apply to all four NRDs within the basin

IMPs within the basin

- Must be consistent with the basin-wide plan
- May include additional incentive programs or controls

Republican River Basin-wide plan Status



- ✓ Education about basin hydrology and trends
- ✓ Identification of issues and concerns
- ✓ First draft of goals, objectives, and action items

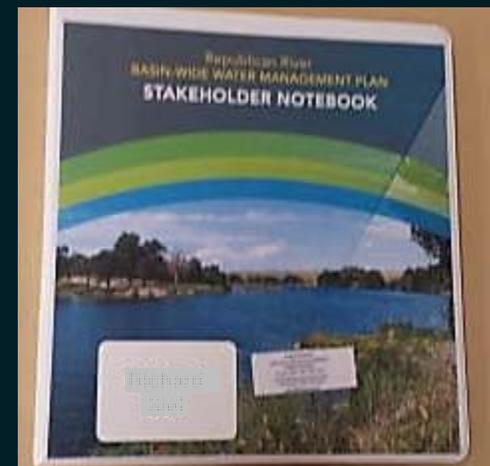
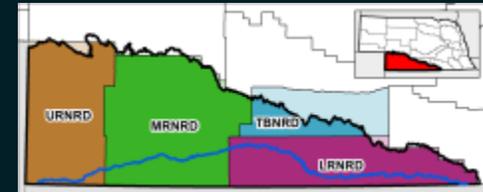
Republican River Basin-wide plan

Public involvement

- Stakeholder Advisory Committee
 - 47 members
 - Must include representatives of: irrigation districts, reclamation districts, public power and irrigation districts, mutual irrigation companies, canal companies, and municipalities that rely on water from basin
 - Meetings open to public

- Collaboration and consensus process

- 4 hour meetings, every other month
 - Morning – logistics and education
 - Afternoon – working session

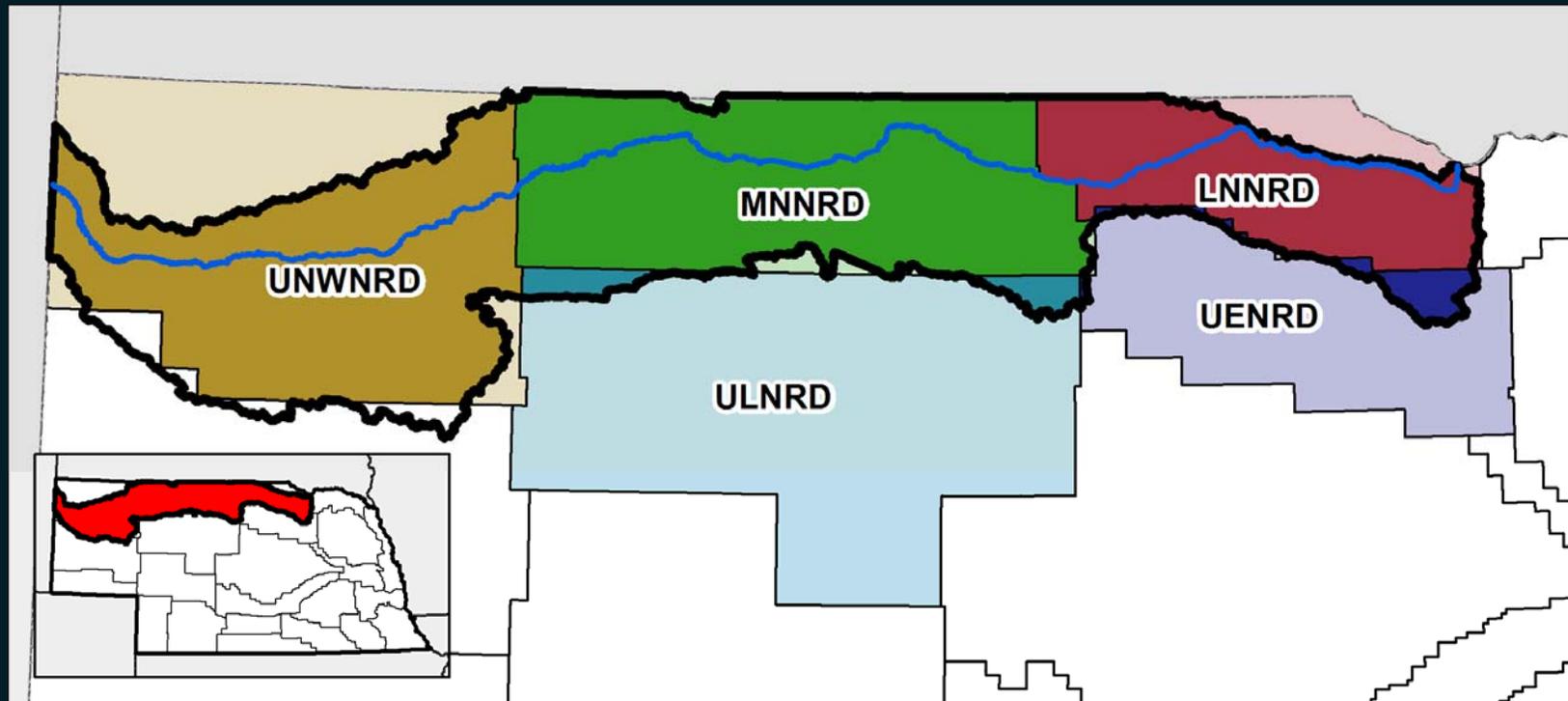


Next: Niobrara River Basin-wide plan

Niobrara River Basin-wide plan

Plan overview

➤ Voluntary

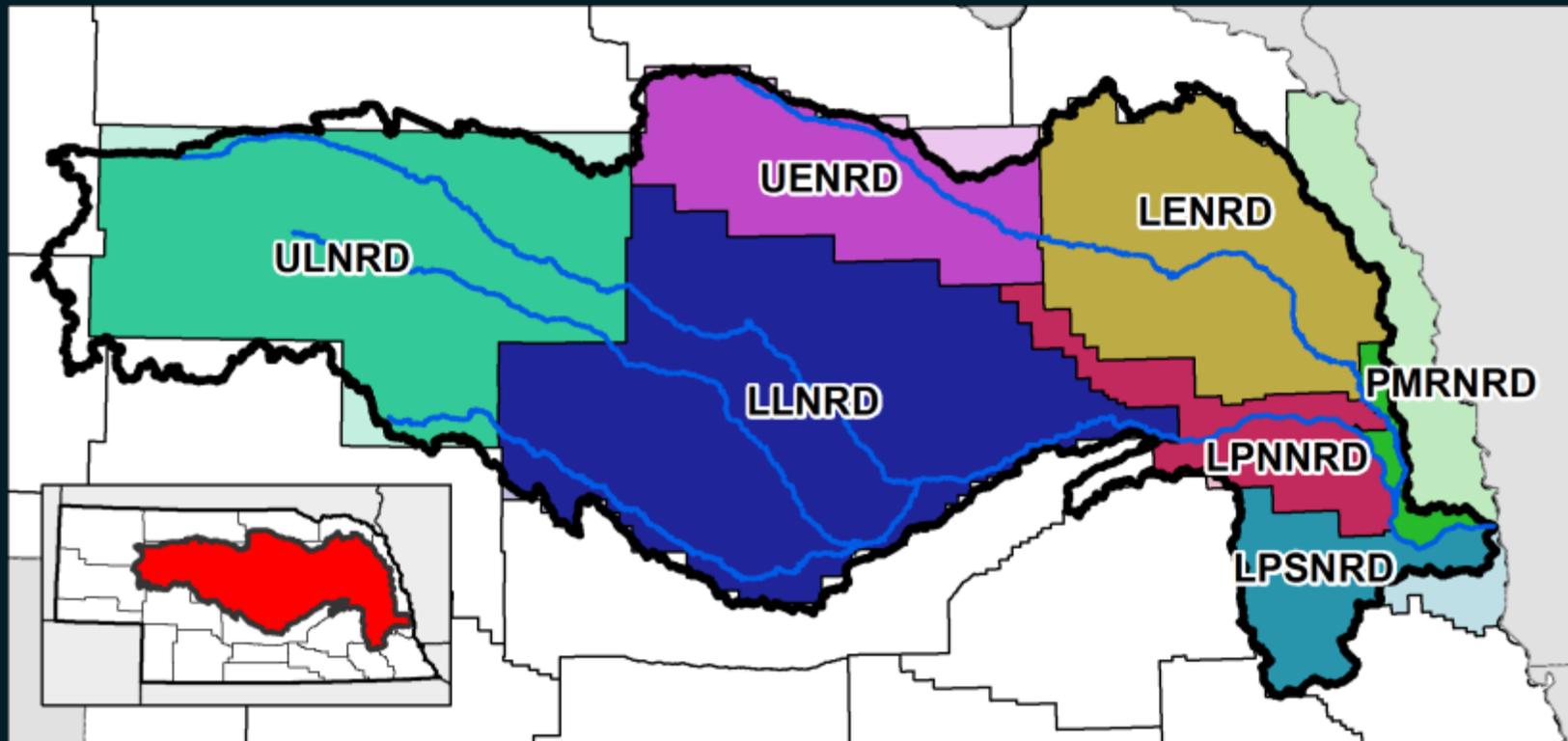


Next: Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan

Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan

Plan overview

➤ Voluntary



Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan Representation



- NRD board members represent the varied interests in this voluntary basin-wide planning process
- More than 10 members on each of 7 District Boards, for a Total of 113
- <http://dnr.ne.gov/LPRBC>

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