



**Dave Heineman**  
Governor

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.  
Director

IN REPLY TO:

July 18, 2011

Roger W. Houdersheldt, Board Chairman  
Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District  
105 North Lincoln Avenue  
York, NE 68467

Re: Upper Platte Basin Integrated Management Area Annual Report

Dear Mr. Houdersheldt:

Enclosed is the 2011 Annual Report of the Upper Platte Basin Integrated Management Area within the Upper Big Blue NRD. This report documents the items for which the Department is responsible under the Monitoring and Studies section of the Integrated Management Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian P. Dunnigan".

Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.  
Director

Enclosure

cc: John Turnbull, District Manager

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**2011 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE UPPER BIG BLUE NATURAL  
RESOURCES DISTRICT'S INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This report is intended to satisfy the Department of Natural Resources (Department) tracking and reporting requirements as described in the Monitoring and Studies section of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District's integrated management plan (IMP). The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District's IMP requires that the Department track and report on the following items on an annual basis: 1) any surface water permits issued; 2) any dam safety permits issued; 3) any groundwater permits issued; and 4) the associated offsets for any new permits issued. The Department is also required to report items every five (5) years; they include: 1) National Agricultural Statistics Service livestock data; 2) U.S. Census Bureau population data; 3) inventory of sandpits; 4) inventory of reservoirs of less than fifteen (15) acre-feet; 5) any retirements of irrigated acres or other water uses; and 6) offsets provided for depletions resulting from increased consumptive use related to the items listed above.

The items tracked and reported will be used by the Upper Big Blue NRD and the Department to measure the success of the controls, and other action items in meeting the goals and objectives of the IMPs. Two evaluation components for measuring success are described in the IMP. The tracking, reporting, and evaluation processes are described in more detail in the Monitoring and Studies section of the IMP. In addition to the evaluation processes, the information that is tracked and reported will also be used by the State to help meet requirements of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program).

The 2011 report is the first report to be filed following approval of the IMPs in October 2010. Therefore, this report contains information on the above listed items from October 18, 2010, to December 31, 2010.

**II. ACTIVITIES TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY**

Items reported annually include permits that are issued by the Department. When a surface water or groundwater permit is reviewed, the Department assesses the potential for the permitted action to increase, decrease, or not affect water use. Depending on the circumstances, the applicant may be required to take action that would mitigate the affect of any increase in water use. Described in this section are the permits issued by the Department and the associated review of potential changes in the water use. The Department issued no permits; therefore there is no change in water use with respect to permitted activities.

III. ACTIVITIES TO BE REPORTED ON A FIVE (5) YEAR BASIS

For purposes of the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program, the Department collected and analyzed a dataset for National Agricultural Statistics Service Livestock Data, and U.S. Census Bureau Population Data in calendar years 1997 and 2005 and sandpits and other reservoirs smaller than fifteen (15) acre-feet (those not requiring a permit) from 2005 aerial imagery. The intent is to compile this data again for the year 2010 and every five (5) years thereafter. This data is currently incomplete. When the information is complete, it will be provided to the District as well as reported under the Basin-Wide Plan for Joint Integrated Water Resources Management of Overappropriated Portions of the Platte River Basin, Nebraska pertaining to the entire Cooperative Hydrology Study area.