2014 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 (UBBNRD) integrated management plan (IMP). The UBBNRD'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 UBBNRD 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 (PRRIP).

The 2014 report is the fourth report to be filed following the approval of the IMP in October 2010. This report contains information on the above listed items from January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013.

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 of 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 effects 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 water use.

The Department issued no surface water, groundwater, or dam safety permits in 2013; therefore, there is no change in water use with respect to permitted activities.

These data, in addition to NRD permitted activities, are incorporated by the Department into the annual reporting under the Nebraska New Depletions Plan.

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 National Agricultural Statistics Service Livestock Data and U.S. Census Bureau Population Data have been compiled and analyzed for 2010. Analysis of 2010 sandpits and small reservoirs is nearing completion. These data will be reported by the Department through the Nebraska New Depletions Plan reporting.