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# Moving Beyond the Minimum Required by Nebraska's Integrated Water Management Statutes

Greater Platte River Basins Symposium

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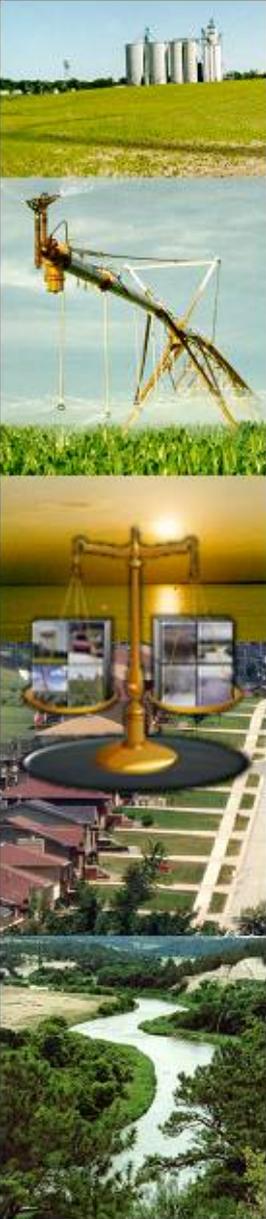
# IMP goals and objectives

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Must be developed with the purpose of sustaining a balance between basin supplies and uses...

...to sustain the **economic** viability and **environmental** and **social** health, safety, and welfare of the basin...

...for both the near and long term.





# IMPs are required to...

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- **Ensure** state compliance with federal and state laws and interstate compacts and agreements. Compliance is a driving force for IMPs in areas where there are laws and/or compacts and agreements that regulate water use.
- **Protect** groundwater users dependent on stream recharge and surface water appropriators existing at the time of the preliminary determination from depletions caused by uses begun after the preliminary determination.

# How can this be achieved?

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- Moratoriums
- Offsets
- Transfer Rules
- Allocations and other reductions in use, if needed

A simple and straightforward approach that requires little more than rules and regulations and basic science.

# Can we do better?

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- Republican River Basin and Platte River Overappropriated Area
  - New development not likely without offsets due to statutory and interstate obligations
  - Reductions in use have been needed and will continue to be needed, unless...
  - Conjunctive Management and better utilization of existing water supplies, particularly excess flows
  - Requires complex and sophisticated science

# Can we do better?

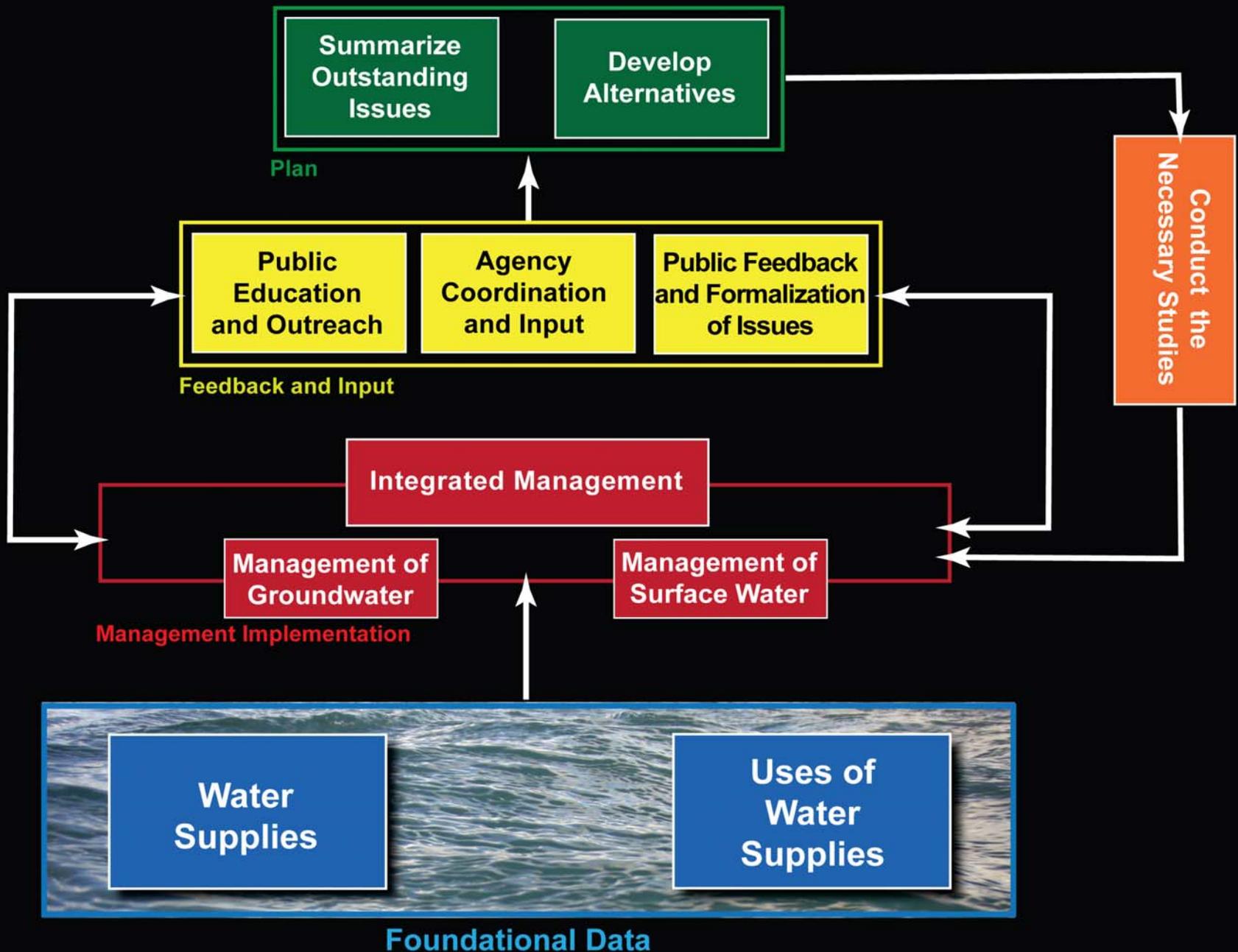
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- The rest of the state
  - By proactively managing water supplies and uses, existing uses are protected and new uses may be available
  - A management area established for the purpose of integrated management allows for new uses to be regulated differently from pre-existing uses
  - Requires complex and sophisticated science

# It's the water supply!

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- Impossible to plot a course without clear knowledge of where we are
- The undepleted “Virgin” streamflow is our water supply
- The only way to use more than this supply, on average, is to borrow from storage
- Uses must be understood in order to quantify the water supply



# Water Planning

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- The challenge is to manage the water supply and its current and future variability, in:
  - Time
  - Location
  - Types of Use
- Understanding our water supplies and uses creates great opportunities within integrated water management and can ultimately provide the opportunity and information needed for comprehensive water planning at the local, basin, and state level.