



Platte Program and Nebraska New Depletion Plan Update

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
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Land Plan

- Acquisition, protection, and restoration of 10,000 acres of habitat for the three avian species
- Willing seller/willing buyer
- Good Neighbor policy
- Will NOT shift tax burden

Land Plan Status

- 8,000 acres acquired
 - Focused and selective for remaining acres
- Final shaping of existing Complexes
 - Plum Creek
 - Cottonwood Ranch
 - Elm Creek
 - Fort Kearny
- Emphasis on non-complex lands
- Emphasis on Kearney to Odessa Complex











Water Plan

- Reducing deficits to FWS Target Flows by average annual of 130,000 to 150,000 AFY
- “Pulse” Flows for Adaptive Management

Water Action Plan Update

- SDHF possible
- WAP projects likely to produce yields needed
- Water Plan budget *likely* sufficient with certain combinations of projects
- Findings updated with best available information

Water Acquisition

- Retime excesses
- Acquire by lease or purchase
- Water Management Incentives
 - Reduce CU and increase return flows



Storage

- Two surface reservoir sites under investigation
 - Elm Creek
 - J2 Reregulating
- Two recharge locations under investigation
- Facilities will be owned and operated by local districts



Water Plan Status

- Less than 500 AFY in hand
- Direction fairly clear for path to follow
 - 5000 AFY lease from Wyoming
 - 5000 AFY lease from Colorado Recharge
 - 40,000 AFY from Surface Reservoir
 - 10,000 AFY from Nebraska GW Recharge
 - 10,000 AFY from Nebraska lease/purchase

Adaptive Management Plan

- Improve production of least tern and piping plover from the central Platte River
- Improve survival of whooping cranes during migration
- Avoid adverse impact from Program actions on pallid sturgeon populations
- Within overall objectives 1-3, provide benefits to non-target listed species and non-listed species of concern and reduce likelihood of future listings

Adaptive Management Plan Status

- ISAC and Peer Reviews
- Monitoring in Place
 - Geomorphology/In-Channel Vegetation
 - Species (WC, T&P)
 - Lidar & Aerial Photography
 - Water Quality
- Implementation Initiated
 - Hydraulic and Sediment Transport Models
 - Habitat Rehabilitation Actions
 - Directed Research
 - Trial-Scale Sediment Augmentation

Nebraska New Depletion Plan

Update

Three Separate Parts

- 1997 to 2005
- January 1, 2006 (Annual Review)
- Ongoing Assessment (Robust Review)

1997 to 2005

- Whole CoHyst Model Area
- New or Expanded Uses must be offset

Beginning on January 1, 2006 (Annual Review)

- Groundwater Permits
 - 28 / 40 Area
 - Surface Water Basin
- Surface Water Permits
 - Surface Water Basin

Beginning January 1, 2006 (Annual Review)

- Scheduling and Reporting: From 2007 on, each year of the first increment, the state will provide the GC with a report containing information from the preceding year:
 - Permitted new and expanded uses of surface water
 - Permitted new and expanded uses of groundwater
 - Collective amount, timing, and locations of the depletions and required mitigation to target flows because of those and new expanded uses

Ongoing Assessment (Robust Review)

- Non-Permitted
- Assessment: Starting in 2010, and every five years thereafter, the state will conduct a new land use inventory and will collect other necessary information to assess the sufficiency of the combined NRD-required and state offset measures implemented.
- Assessment shall be completed by December 31 of the year following the year when the assessment was begun.

Basin-Wide Plan Goals

1. Incrementally achieve and sustain a fully appropriated condition
- 2. Prevent reductions in the flow of a river or stream that would cause noncompliance with an interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement**
- 3. Keep the plan current**
4. Work cooperatively to identify and investigate disputes between groundwater users and surface water appropriators and, if determined appropriate, implement management solutions to address such issues

Basin-Wide Plan Goal 2 Objective

- Prevent streamflow depletions that would cause noncompliance by Nebraska with the NNDP included within PRRIP for as long as PRRIP exists

Basin-Wide Plan Goal 3 Objectives

- Meet at least annually to review progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Basin-Wide Plan and those portions of individual NRD IMPs that implement the NNDP
- Public meetings to be held in June or July each year, starting July 27, 2010, and continuing July 26, 2011

IMP Tracking & Reporting

- For each Platte River Basin overappropriated IMP
- To be provided at Basin-Wide Annual Meeting
- NRDs involved include: Central Platte, North Platte, South Platte, Tri-Basin, and Twin Platte

Tracking and Reporting of Water Use Activities

- NRD permits (Annual)
- DNR permits (Annual)
- DNR Other (Robust)
 - NASS
 - Census
 - Sandpit
 - Reservoirs less than 15 AF
- All mitigation measures

Tracking and Reporting of Water Use Activities

- Reporting should include information on the location, amount, and timing of the depletions caused by each permitted new or expanded water use, as well as the associated offset and the location, amount and timing of the offset's accretions to the river.
- Reports available at least four (4) weeks prior to each basin-wide annual meeting.
- Utilize standard format.
- The reported information will be used as appropriate in the evaluation process.
- Reported information will be presented at the basin-wide annual meeting and **used for PRRIP compliance.**

Measuring the Success of Meeting the Goals and Objectives of the IMP

- Annual Review
- Robust Review
 - The groundwater models used for this process will be calibrated to baseflows and groundwater levels in the area with sufficient temporal variability to assess the impacts on a monthly basis
 - The groundwater models will be updated periodically to simulate the management practices that have been implemented to date
 - The evaluation period of these models will be 1998 through 2048



Thank you!

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Questions?

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