NEBRASKA NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMISSION

STATE WATER PLAN
PUBLICATION NO. 301-2

Status Summary

Volume 1

Potential Projects

SECOND REVISION
FEBRUARY, 1975

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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Feb 28, 1975

PROGRAMS:
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
WATERSHED PROTECTION
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT
DATA BANK
WATER QUALITY PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT FUND

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Seventh Floor
Terminal Building
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

January 22, 1975

The Honorable J. James Exon, Governor

and

Members of the Legislature

It is my privilege to submit on behalf of the Natural Resources Commission the second revision of Volume I of the Status Summary section of the State Water Plan. This volume has been revised to give current data on potential projects in response to Legislative Resolution 47 of the 1972 session, which directs that this publication be prepared and presented to the Legislature biennially.

This revised Volume I summarizes potential federal projects planned or being planned on January 1, 1975. The project summaries include brief descriptions of the current status, project area, project features, and public interest in the project. This edition also includes information on the change of status of former potential projects summarized in the original volume and subsequent revisions to give some indication of progress in water resource development in the past six years.

This publication is intended to provide those people who must make the decisions vital to Nebraska's future development a source of readily available information upon which they can base their decisions.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Dreeszen

Vincent Dreeszen, Chairman

The Technical Advisory Committee and the Special Representatives Committee provided counsel and guidance in the preparation of the original report, and, in some cases, review and comments on this revision.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Letter of Transmittal	i
Committee Membership	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Maps	iv
Project Index	v

	Page
Nebraska's State Water Plan	1
The Status Summary	2
Project Development by Agency	3
Definitions	8
Chapter 1. White River-Hat Creek Basin	13
Potential Projects	13
Chapter 2. Niobrara River Basin	16
Status of Former Potential Projects	16
Niobrara Relocation Project	16
Potential Projects	16
Lavaca Flats Unit	16
Mirage Flats Project-Suppl. Water	20
O'Neill Unit	23
Chapter 3. Missouri Tributaries River Basin	29
Status of Former Potential Projects	29
Papillion Creek Watershed Project	29
Aowa Creek Watershed Project	29
Papillion Creek and Tributaries Project	29
Tekamah-Mud Creek Watershed	29
Potential Projects	29
Projects in Planning	29
Mud Creek near Bellevue	29
Chapter 4. North Platte River Basin	32
Status of Former Potential Projects	32
Ash-Plum Creek Watershed	32
Winters Creek Watershed	32
Creighton Valley Watershed	32
Mitchell Irrigation District Rehabilitation	32
Potential Projects	32
Projects in Planning	32
Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District Rehabilitation	32
Chapter 5. South Platte River Basin	35
Status of Former Potential Projects	35
Brule Watershed Project	35
Potential Projects	35
Chapter 6. Middle Platte River Basin	38
Status of Former Potential Projects	38
Spring Creek Watershed	38
Fort Kearny Unit	38
Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District E-65 Improvement Program	38

	Page
Chapter 6. Middle Platte River Basin (continued)	
Potential Projects	38
Nebraska Mid-State Division	38
Chapter 7. Loup River Basin	44
Status of Former Potential Projects	44
Loup River at Columbus Local Flood Protection	44
Mud Creek at Broken Bow Local Flood Protection	44
Beaver Creek at St. Edward Local Flood Protection	44
Potential Projects	44
Cedar Rapids Division	44
North Loup Division	48
Chapter 8. Elkhorn River Basin	54
Status of Former Potential Projects	54
Corporation Gulch Watershed	54
Battle Creek Local Flood Protection	54
Giles Creek Local Flood Protection	54
Meadow Grove Local Flood Protection	54
Wakefield Local Flood Protection	54
King Lake Local Flood Protection	54
Potential Projects	54
Highland Unit	54
Logan Unit	58
Norfolk Unit	61
Projects in Planning	64
Maple Creek Watershed	64
Pender Local Flood Protection	64
Osmond Local Flood Protection	64
Dodge Local Flood Protection	64
Chapter 9. Lower Platte River Basin	65
Status of Former Potential Projects	65
Platte River and Lost Creek, Schuyler Local Flood Protection	65
Shell Creek and Tributaries	65
Clear Creek Watershed Project	65
Potential Projects	65
Linwood Unit	65
Projects in Planning	70
Bone Creek Watershed	70
Lost Creek North of Columbus Local Flood Protection	70
Chapter 10. Republican River Basin	71
Status of Former Potential Projects	71
Medicine Creek (Upper and Lower) Watershed	71
Potential Projects	71
Blackwood Creek Watershed	71

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued)

Chapter 10. Republican River Basin (continued)
Projects in Planning 76
Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District Rehabilitation Project 76
Frenchman-Cambridge Division Supplemental Water Supply Studies 76

Chapter 11. Little Blue River Basin 77
Potential Projects 77
Little Blue Unit 77

Chapter 12. Big Blue River Basin 83
Status of Former Potential Projects 83
Clatonia Creek Watershed 83
Potential Projects 83
Sunbeam Unit 83
Projects in Planning 87
Swan Creek Watershed 87
Wolf-Wildcat Creek Watershed 87
Beatrice Local Flood Protection 87

Chapter 13. Nemaha River Basin 89
Status of Former Potential Projects 89
Little Nemaha River Levee Project 89
Winnebago-Bean Creek Watershed 89
South Fork Watershed 89
Potential Projects 89
Long Branch Watershed 89
Projects in Planning 92
Middle Big Nemaha Watershed 92
South Branch Little Nemaha Watershed 92
Upper Little Nemaha Watershed 92

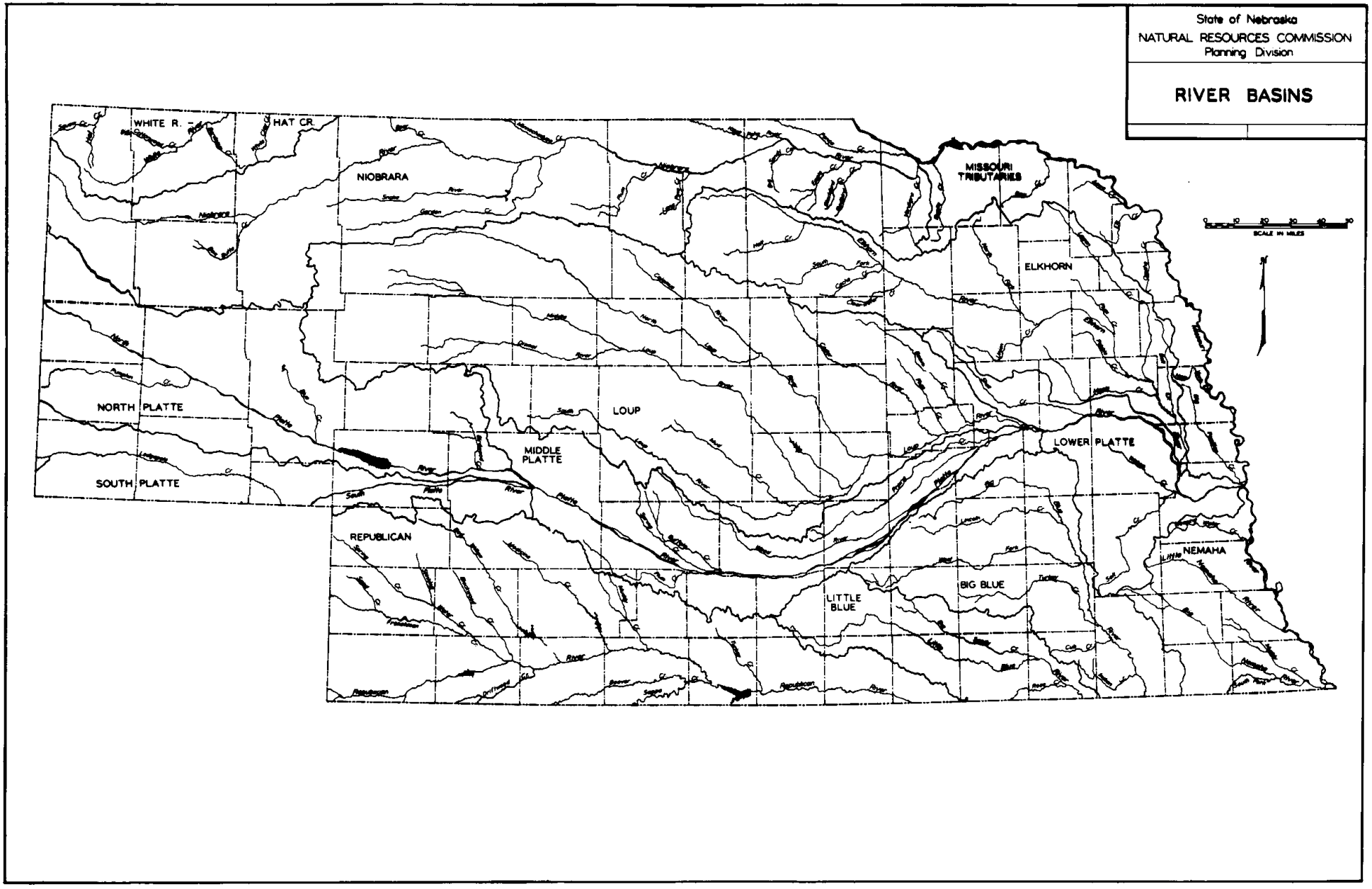
Chapter 14. Other Studies of Potential Projects 93
Inter-State and Regional Studies 93
Studies in Nebraska 94

LIST OF MAPS

Title	Page
Nebraska River Basins	vi
White River-Hat Creek Basin	12
Niobrara River Basin	14
Lavaca Flats Unit	19
Mirage Flats Project	22
O'Neill Unit	27
Missouri Tributaries River Basin	28
North Platte River Basin	30
South Platte River Basin	34
Middle Platte River Basin	36
Nebraska Mid-State Division	41
Loup River Basin	42
Cedar Rapids Division	47
North Loup Division	51
Elkhorn River Basin	52
Highland Unit	57
Logan Unit	60
Norfolk Unit	63
Lower Platte River Basin	66
Linwood Unit	69
Republican River Basin	72
Blackwood Creek Watershed	75
Little Blue River Basin	78
Little Blue Unit	81
Big Blue River Basin	82
Sunbeam Unit	86
Nemaha River Basin	88
Long Branch Watershed	91

PROJECT INDEX

Name	Page
Aowa Creek Watershed	29
Ash-Plum Creek Watershed	32
Battle Creek Local Flood Protection	54
Beatrice Local Flood Protection	87
Beaver Creek at St. Edward	44
Beck Plan	93
Big Blue River Basin, Nebraska and Kansas	95
Big Muddy Creek Watershed	97
Blackwood Creek Watershed	71
Bone Creek Watershed	70
Brule Watershed	35
Cedar Rapids Division	44
Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District E-65 Improvement Program	38
Clatonia Creek Watershed	83
Clear Creek Watershed	65
Corporation Gulch	54
Creighton Valley Watershed	32
Dodge Local Flood Protection	64
Frenchman-Cambridge Division Supplemental Water Supply Studies	76
Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District Rehabilitation Project	76
Fort Kearny Unit	38
Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District Rehabilitation	32
Giles Creek Local Flood Protection	54
Gordon Area	95
Highland Unit	54
Keya Paha Area	95
King Lake Local Flood Protection	54
Lavaca Flats Unit	16
Linwood Unit	65
Little Blue Basin Study	96
Little Blue Unit	77
Little Nemaha River Levee	89
Logan Unit	58
Long Branch Watershed	89
Lost Creek North of Columbus	70
Loup Basin Study	96
Loup River at Columbus	44
Lower Big Nemaha Watershed	97
Lower Little Nemaha Watershed	97
Maple Creek Watershed	64
Meadow Grove Local Flood Protection	54
Medicine Creek Watershed	71
Metropolitan Omaha, Nebraska-Council Bluffs, Iowa	96
Middle Big Nemaha Watershed	92
Mirage Flats Project Supplemental Water	20
Missouri River, Gavins Point Reservoir and Niobrara River, Nebraska and South Dakota	96
Missouri River, Three Forks, Montana, to Sioux City, Iowa	96
Mitchell Irrigation District Rehabilitation	32
Mud Creek at Broken Bow	44
Mud Creek near Bellevue	29
NAWAPA	94
Nebraska Mid-State Division	38
Nebraska State Water Plan Studies	95
Nemaha Basin Study	96
Nemaha and Little Nemaha River Basin, Nebraska and Kansas	95
Niobrara Basin Study	96
Niobrara Relocation Project	16
Niobrara River Basin, Nebraska, Wyoming, and South Dakota Review Study	95
Niobrara River Basin Reappraisal Study	95
Norfolk Unit	61
Northeast Cass Watershed	97
North Loup Division	48
North Platte River Basin, Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming Review Study	96
O'Neill Unit	23
Osmond Local Flood Protection	64
Page Area	95
Papillion Creek and Tributaries	29
Papillion Creek Watershed	29
Pender Local Flood Protection	64
Peru-Brownville Watershed	97
Platte River and Tributaries Study	95
Platte River and Lost Creek near Schuyler	65
Platte River Basin Study-Nebraska	94
Ponca Area	95
Republican Basin Study	97
Republican River-Harlan County Lake Review Study	95
Rock Creek Watershed	97
Sedgwick-Sands Draws Watershed	93
Shell Creek and Tributaries	65
South Branch Little Nemaha Watershed	92
Southern Sarpy Watershed	97
South Fork Watershed	89
South Platte River and Tributaries Study	96
Spring Creek Watershed	38
Squaw-Camp Watershed	97
Stevens-Callahan Watershed	97
Sunbeam Unit	83
Swan Creek Watershed	87
Tekamah-Mud Watershed	29
Turkey Creek Watershed	97
Upper Little Nemaha Watershed	92
Wahoo Creek Watershed	97
Wakefield Local Flood Protection	54
Weeping Water Creek Watershed	97
Western States Water Augmentation Plan	94
Winnebago-Bean Creek Watershed	89
Winters Creek Watershed	32
Wolf-Wildcat Creek Watershed	87


State of Nebraska
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Planning Division
RIVER BASINS
WHITE R.
HAT CR.
NIOBRARA
MISSOURI TRIBUTARIES
ELKHORN
NORTH PLATTE
LOUP
MIDDLE PLATTE
LOWER PLATTE
SOUTH PLATTE
REPUBLICAN
NEMAHA
BIG BLUE
LITTLE BLUE
SCALE IN MILES

NEBRASKA'S STATE WATER PLAN

Nebraska Revised Statutes § 2-1507 (7) (Supp. 1967) directs the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to "plan, develop, and encourage the implementing of a comprehensive program of resource development, conservation and utilization for the soil and water resources of this state in cooperation with other local, state and federal agencies and organizations."

Legislative Resolution 5, of the 1967 Legislature, (Reaffirmed by L.R. #72 -- 1969 Session) specifically directed the Natural Resources Commission to "... prepare a comprehensive water and related land plan for the State of Nebraska, such framework plan to be completed no later than June 30, 1971, and to be known as the State Water Plan." In addition to an analysis and evaluation of the state's water and land resources, the Resolution directed that the State Water Plan include an examination of legal, social, and economic factors associated with resource development.

Nebraska's State Water Plan, as established by the Commission, consists of the following four sections:

Section 1. The Framework Study - The framework study is based on reconnaissance type investigations and makes use of presently available planning data in formulation of the framework plan. Basic objectives of the study were to assess the present quantity, distribution, quality, and use of Nebraska's water and land resources and to provide a broad, flexible guide to the best uses of these resources to meet current and future needs. The Report on the Framework Study was published in May 1971, and 4 appendices to the report have been published since that time.

Section 2. Basin Studies - This section will consist of studies of individual river basins. The studies will be made in the detail necessary to identify potential projects, estimate project costs and benefits, suggest the order of development, show the relationship of each project to the state's framework plan, and recommend local action to accelerate resource development.

Section 3. Status Summary - Significant water resource development projects planned by federal agencies for future development are described in the Status Summary, Volume 1, Potential Projects. The present status of water resource development in the State will be summarized in Volume II of this section of the State Water Plan.

Section 4. Special Recommendations - This section consists of recommendations for action by the Legislature, Governor, and various units of government to improve the conservation, development, management, and utilization of Nebraska's land and water resources. The recommendations will be prepared as the need for action becomes apparent and are to include a thorough study of the legal, social, and economic aspects of major problems of resource development. Four special recommendations have been completed to date.

THE STATUS SUMMARY

The Status Summary, the third section of the State Water Plan, will consist of two volumes summarizing the status of water resource developments in Nebraska. Both will be revised periodically to keep them current.

Volume I provides a brief description of federal projects which are presently proposed for construction. Legislative Resolution 47 of the 1972 session directed that this summary be prepared biennially and presented to the Legislature each regular session of an odd-numbered year. This is the second revision of Volume I.

Volume II will deal with the existing water resource developments in Nebraska. This volume will include a summary of the physical development that has taken place or is under construction.

Purpose

The need for continued water and related land resource conservation and development in Nebraska is very evident. Floods, droughts, pollution, and erosion cost Nebraska millions of dollars annually. Water resources once considered limitless are becoming seriously depleted or polluted, while some development opportunities go untapped. The State Water Plan, as required by the Legislature, is continuously being developed and updated by the Commission to provide a guide for the wise and efficient use of our water and related land resources. A variety of federal agency projects has been proposed for construction and this volume is intended to provide the Governor, Legislature, and citizens of Nebraska with concise information regarding these potential water resource developments.

Scope

This volume of the Status Summary summarizes the federal projects currently being considered for development in Nebraska. It includes all active projects for which a formal report of some type has been issued. Brief descriptions of the current status of the project, the project area, project features and effects, remaining problems and needs, and public interest are included in most entries. The information in this volume was compiled from the latest project reports available and from status reports or progress reports showing project status on January 1, 1975.

Acknowledgment

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission wishes to thank all those who supplied data, participated in review, or otherwise provided assistance in the preparation of this report. To insure accuracy in this volume, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Missouri River Basin Commission reviewed and verified the data compiled from their reports.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BY AGENCY

This section summarizes the planning procedures for each of the three major federal agencies involved in water resource planning and development. It is included to provide the reader a basic explanation of the procedures followed in development and implementation of projects.

Development of a Bureau of Reclamation Project

Reclamation projects, except where public lands are involved, must meet the needs of the state and locality. The local people interested in such development must support action to initiate and conduct the investigation of water and related land resource development possibilities. If it is determined that studies are needed and warranted, funds for an appraisal investigation, previously known as a reconnaissance investigation, are requested by the Regional Director. Upon approval by the Commissioner of Reclamation, Secretary of the Interior, and the Office of Management and Budget, funds for this investigation are included in the Department of Interior budget request to Congress. When funds have been appropriated by Congress, the appraisal investigation can begin.

Although each study is tailored to meet the needs and opportunities of the particular area, the investigation normally follows certain general steps. First, an appraisal is made analyzing the problems and needs of the area, then the various resource potentials and means for developing them as a solution are investigated, and a report is prepared. This is carried out with a minimum of funds and field work, using available data and considerable judgment. The appraisal study is conducted to determine promising alternatives and to assess the engineering and economic feasibility, environmental aspects, and local interest in such alternatives, but only to the extent that a determination can be made as to whether expenditure of the funds necessary to accomplish a feasibility investigation and report are warranted. Appraisal studies which indicate favorable results, and for which feasibility investigations are recommended, may require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Where an appraisal investigation has shown that a potential project warrants further study and state and local interests have endorsed the potential plan, a request for authorization to make a feasibility investigation is made to Congress. This request is made through the appropriate committees and subcommittees of both the Senate and House of Representatives. If the investigation is authorized and money is made available by Congress, studies are undertaken in cooperation with interested and affected government agencies, local area representatives, and the public. Public involvement programs will be initiated as required to provide liaison between the general public and the planning and technical personnel. Depending on the complexity of the investigations, planning teams and technical task forces may be organized to collect and assess resource data and to formulate and evaluate alternative plans.

The feasibility investigation develops a detailed, multiple-objective plan following procedures established by the Water Resources Council that includes appraisal evaluations of alternate plans as well as an examination of possible environmental impacts and the financial feasibility and economic justification for the project.

The feasibility report, after receiving departmental approval, is submitted to other federal agencies and to the governors of affected states for formal review and comment. A report for any unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program is also sent to all of the states in the Basin for review and comment. Following this formal review, the report is then transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. After clearance by the OMB, the Secretary of the Interior transmits the report to Congress for consideration of the proposed project for authorization. The feasibility report must proceed through the same Congressional committees which recommend authorization of the feasibility investigation.

Environmental impact statements are prepared for all project feasibility reports. A final environmental impact statement must be filed with the Council on Environmental Quality 30 days prior to any major Federal action. After a project is authorized, any significant changes in the project plan or purposes are reported through supplements to the final environmental impact statement.

Following Congressional hearings and enactment of project construction authorization, a definite plan report which includes specific engineering and operation plans is prepared. The Bureau of Reclamation through the OMB then requests that Congress appropriate funds to permit the start of construction. At this time, or even in the earlier feasibility review process, additional planning may be necessary to update the plan and estimates if considerable time has elapsed between the project construction authorization and the request for appropriation of funds. Any changes in the updated plan must also be reflected in a final updated environmental impact statement and public hearings must be held before construction begins if any of the environmental aspects of the project have changed.

After execution of suitable repayment contracts, certification of the irrigability of lands, filing final environmental impact statements, and Congressional appropriation of necessary funds, project construction can proceed. Designs and specifications are prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation. Practically all construction is accomplished by private contractors chosen on the basis of competitive bids. However, inspection and control of construction to assure conformance with specifications is accomplished by the Bureau.

As soon as practicable after completion of construction, the operation, maintenance, and general management of a project's distribution system is turned over to the local sponsor. Annual or periodic joint inspections help assure adequate attention to proper operation and maintenance. Normally, multipurpose reservoirs with power facilities, dedicated flood control capacity, or municipal and industrial water supply will remain under the operating control of the government.

The Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956, and amendments thereto, and the Rehabilitation and Betterment Act make it possible for certain types of organizations to obtain interest-free loans for small reclamation projects. Grants are also made, along with the loans, for those portions of the projects that are non-reimbursable. The project may be a completely new undertaking, or it may be a rehabilitation of an existing project. The maximum cost of projects under the Small Reclamation Projects Act can be no more than $15,000,000 with the Federal Government providing a loan and/or grant combination totaling no more than $10,000,000. There is no limit on the total cost of programs under the Rehabilitation and Betterment Act, but it must be within the ability of the water users to repay within a reasonable period of time.

Development of a Corps of Engineers Project

Corps of Engineers projects in Nebraska are mainly of two types, major flood control or multipurpose projects and small local flood protection projects.

Major project studies of survey scope originate with a request from individuals or organizations to their Senator or Congressman for assistance with a flood threat, water supply problem, recreation need, or some other type of water problem. The member of Congress may request that the Public Works Committee authorize a survey study of the situation, usually through adoption of a resolution but sometimes by inclusion in a river and harbor and flood control act.

After the study has been authorized, it is assigned by the Chief of Engineers through the Division Engineer to the proper District Office. Then funds must be requested in the Department budget and provided by Congress before the study can be started.

When funds become available, the District Office makes a study, initiated by a public hearing, to determine the extent of the problem and possible solutions. An engineering survey is made to develop the general plan, and an estimate is made of the cost and the expected public and private benefits from the project. If the proposed project is for local protection, or it is a multipurpose project including local water supply, general agreement of the responsible local officials with the requirements for local cooperation must be obtained.

Upon completion of the District Engineer's survey report and development of an Environmental Statement, they are submitted for review by state and federal agencies at several different levels. After all comments are received, the survey report is forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget by the Secretary of the Army. After approval by this office, it is transmitted to the Public Works Committee to fulfill the original directive which started the investigation. The Environmental Statement is forwarded to the Council on Environmental Quality.

Ordinarily if the proposed project is feasible the report is then printed as a public document, and may be included in a flood control bill for consideration by the Congress. If the bill is passed by Congress

and signed by the President, the project becomes authorized for construction. On receipt of authorization, the District Office secures assurance of local cooperation, and funds for construction are requested in the Department's budget, which is reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget before it is transmitted to Congress.

Under special authority given to the Chief of Engineers, the Corps, without specific Congressional approval, can undertake small localized projects if they meet certain limitations. These projects include small flood control projects, bank protection works, clearing of channels, small boat harbors, flood plain delineations, and the repair of existing flood control works which were not constructed by the Federal Government.

A study of a potential local project may be initiated by the District Engineer at the request of local citizens. If a reconnaissance study indicates a project could provide sufficient benefits, funds for a detailed project study are requested from the Chief of Engineers. The detailed project report, containing the results of engineering and economic analyses of the project, must be reviewed by state and federal agencies and approved by the Chief of Engineers. Then, if assurances of local cooperation are provided and other statutory limitations are met, funds for construction may be allocated by the Chief of Engineers without specific Congressional action.

After appropriation of construction funds by Congress or the Chief of Engineers, the District Engineer prepares plans, specifications, cost estimates, and secures evidence of local willingness to accept right-of-way and maintenance provisions. Awarding of the construction contracts is made through bidding.

Upon completion of construction, local protection projects are turned over to the local sponsor for operation and maintenance. Major multipurpose projects are maintained by the Corps or other cooperating federal agencies.

Development of a Small Watershed Project Under the Administration of the Soil Conservation Service

Public Law 566 provides for federal assistance in solving flood, drainage, erosion, sediment and irrigation problems which are beyond the scope of an individual effort, and in development of facilities for recreation, fish and wildlife, and municipal or rural water supplies.

The Natural Resources Districts created by the Legislature in July, 1972 can initiate and sponsor small watershed projects. Formal application must be made to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to obtain planning assistance from the Soil Conservation Service.

After an application is submitted, a field review is held with representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, Natural Resources Commission, Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, other interested state and federal agency personnel, and the Natural Resources District board to examine the watershed problems and determine

if the proposed project is potentially feasible. Following the field review the application and recommendations are forwarded to the Natural Resources Commission. If a need for watershed development is apparent and a project appears potentially feasible, the Commission approves the application and forwards it to the Soil Conservation Service.

After the application is approved by the Soil Conservation Service, priorities will be issued by the Natural Resources Commission for planning assistance. As technical assistance and planning funds become available, the Soil Conservation Service will conduct a Preliminary Investigation. If the Preliminary Investigation Report indicates a feasible project and, after public informational meetings are held to determine the most socially acceptable alternative and the proposed plan is accepted by the sponsoring board, the State Conservationist will request planning authorization from the Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service.

After receipt of this authorization and allocation of funds by the Administrator, a detailed watershed plan is formulated and an environmental assessment is conducted by the local sponsors with technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service and the Natural Resources Commission. The sponsors then initiate a public informational meeting and invite local residents and interested state and federal agencies. After this meeting, the local sponsors determine if the plan is acceptable. If acceptable, preliminary drafts of a Watershed Work Plan and Environmental Statement are prepared for technical review by USDA specialists. These documents are forwarded to interested federal and state agencies for review and comment. After review, another public meeting similar to the other two will be held. If the watershed plan is still acceptable to the local sponsors after this meeting, they sign the Work Plan Agreement.

After these reviews, the work plan and environmental impact statements are submitted by the State Conservationist to the Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service for review by federal agencies at the Washington level and for formal review by the Governor. Projects in which the federal share of construction is less than $250,000 may be approved by the State Conservationist. For projects in which the federal share exceeds $250,000, the work plan is transmitted through the Office of Management and Budget to the appropriate House and Senate Committees for authorization.

Federal funds for watershed construction are budgeted annually by Congress and allocated by the Administrator to the State Conservationist. Before construction can begin on any structure, the local sponsoring organization must obtain needed land rights, water rights, a construction permit, and enter into the construction contract, except that the Federal Government may, upon request of the local sponsor, enter into contracts for construction of structures.

Operation and maintenance of the completed structural works is the responsibility of the local sponsor.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are provided to reduce repetition and to define many of the terms used in this summary. Included in this glossary are explanations covering such subjects as direct benefits, indirect benefits, state and federal costs, and Missouri River basin power revenues.

Definitions and terms used in this publication and all State Water Plan publications conform, where possible, to those adopted by the Missouri Basin Interagency Committee in April, 1968.

Acre-Foot - (abbr. ac.ft.) A unit for measuring volume of water equal to the quantity required to cover one acre to a depth of one foot and is equal to 325,851 gallons or 43,560 cubic feet.

Activity Day - Participation by an individual in a specific outdoor recreation activity during any part of a day.

Ad Valorem Tax - A tax authorized by the state for use by small subdivisions of government. A tax on all tangible property within the subdivision boundary.

Aquifer - A rock formation, bed, or zone containing water that is available to wells. May be referred to as a water-bearing formation or bed.

Arable Lands - Lands which are capable of being cultivated using presently accepted practices.

Average Annual Damages - Estimated flood and related damages computed as a uniform annual series. Average annual flood damages are computed on the basis of expectancy in any one year of the various amounts of flood damages that would result from floods throughout the full range of potential magnitude.

Conservation Storage - Storage of water for useful purposes such as irrigation, municipal water supply, power, recreation, water quality, or fish and wildlife.

Consumptive Use Requirement - The annual quantity of water in acre-feet per acre absorbed by the crop and transpired or used directly in the building of plant tissue, together with that evaporated from the cropped area.

Crop Irrigation Requirement - The amount of irrigation water in acre-feet per acre required by the crop; it is the difference between crop consumptive use requirement and effective precipitation.

Cubic Feet Per Second - (abbr. c.f.s.) A term used in measuring the rate of flow of water past a given point. One c.f.s. flowing for 24 hours equals 1.98 acre-feet.

Cutoff - Channel straightening procedure whereby a stream loop or meander is eliminated.

Direct Benefits - Those estimated benefits which are derived as a direct result of the project features such as providing irrigation water for increased crop production.

Diversion Requirement - The amount of water in acre-feet per acre that is diverted from a stream to irrigate a given area of land, including an allowance for evaporation, seepage and farm waste.

Drainage Area - The land area above a given point on a stream which contributes surface water drainage.

Economic Life - The number of years used for economic analysis.

Farm Delivery Requirement - The amount of water in acre-feet per acre required to serve an area from a canal turnout. It is the crop irrigation requirement plus farm waste and deep percolation losses.

Fisherman Day - Any part of a day spent fishing by an individual.

Flood Frequency - The probability of occurrence of a flood expressed as a percent or as a recurrence interval based on its ratio to the mean annual flood. Thus, a two percent chance flood would be essentially a 50-year flood when expressed on a recurrence interval.

Flood Plain - A strip of relatively low-lying land bordering a stream and usually built of sediment deposited by the stream.

Flood Storage - The volume of water in acre-feet which can be stored in a reservoir to reduce the flow of flood waters downstream from the reservoir. It is usually an increment of storage above the conservation pool.

Headworks - The initial canal section and diversion control features which permit or control passage of water.

Hunter Day - Any part of a day spent hunting by an individual.

Indirect Benefits - Indirect benefits are those estimated benefits which are not derived directly from operation of project features but are realized from increased profits by local businesses, increased settlement opportunity, and increased economic growth by reason of the direct production.

Initial Storage - The amount of water in acre-feet that a newly constructed reservoir is capable of storing, including an allowance for sediment.

Interest Rate - The rate of interest used in plan formulation and evaluation for discounting future benefits and computing costs, or otherwise converting benefits and costs to a common time basis.

Intermittent Stream - A stream that flows only part of the time or through only part of its course.

Irrigation Depletion - The amount of diverted water consumptively used in serving an area, including wasted water not returning to the stream system. It is the gross diversion minus the return flow.

Irrigable Lands - Lands that are capable of being irrigated and are in an area where water can be made available at costs presently conducive to private or public development.

Land Treatment - The application of conservation practices to the land, such as terracing, contour farming, planting of grass, etc. It includes all types of management, vegetation, and mechanical practices.

Lateral - A small waterway or canal which usually branches from a larger canal and brings irrigation water to the fields which are to be irrigated.

Local Cost - Costs which are borne by a local unit or entity. On Bureau of Reclamation projects it generally is that portion of the project cost allocated to irrigation which is reimbursable and will be paid by a local body such as an irrigation district.

Maximum Water Surface - The highest water surface elevation for which the dam is designed.

Missouri River Basin Power Revenues - (abbr. Mo. R. Basin Power) - Money which is derived from the generation and sale of power from federally-owned hydroelectric power plants located within the Missouri Basin over and above that needed to cover the costs of repayment, operation and maintenance of the power facilities.

Multiple-Purpose Reservoir - A reservoir planned to be used for more than one purpose.

Non-Federal Costs - Project costs borne by a state or local body. May include recreation; irrigation; fish and wildlife; operation, maintenance, and replacement; and land and rights-of-way. For this report, it includes all non-federal costs except those associated with an irrigation project.

Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement - (abbr. O.M.&R.) - Average Annual costs of project operation and normal maintenance, with allowance for replacement of worn-out parts of facilities.

Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program - The multiple-purpose plan of development consolidated from plans of the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation and approved by the second session of the 78th Congress in the Flood Control Act of December 22, 1944.

Project Installation Cost - The total cost of Soil Conservation Service projects; includes the cost of land treatment, land rights, structural measures, and engineering and administrative costs.

Recreation Day - A visit by an individual to a recreation area for a significant portion of a 24-hour day. A recreation day is assumed to consist of 2.5 activity days.

Return Flow - That part of irrigation water not consumed by evaporation, stored in the soil, or used by plants, which returns to either its source or another body of water.

Revetment - A river channel control structure usually built of stone and either extending out into the river to deflect the flow or extending along the bank to protect the bank.

Sediment Capacity - The amount of reservoir capacity allowed for the deposition of sediment.

Separable Cost - The cost associated with a function of a multipurpose project computed as the difference between the project cost with and without the function.

Side Channel Basin - Low depression areas along a river channel which can be used to store floodwater to reduce the flow in the river channel.

Spillway Capacity - The rate of flow in cubic feet per second that a spillway can discharge under maximum water surface conditions.

Spoil Bank Levees - A levee constructed from material excavated at the site from the channel for the purpose of preventing floodwater encroachment beyond this levee.

State Costs - Costs assigned to the State, which usually include, but are not limited to, one half of the separable cost of providing land and facilities for the enhancement of recreation, fish and wildlife, and associated functions during construction.

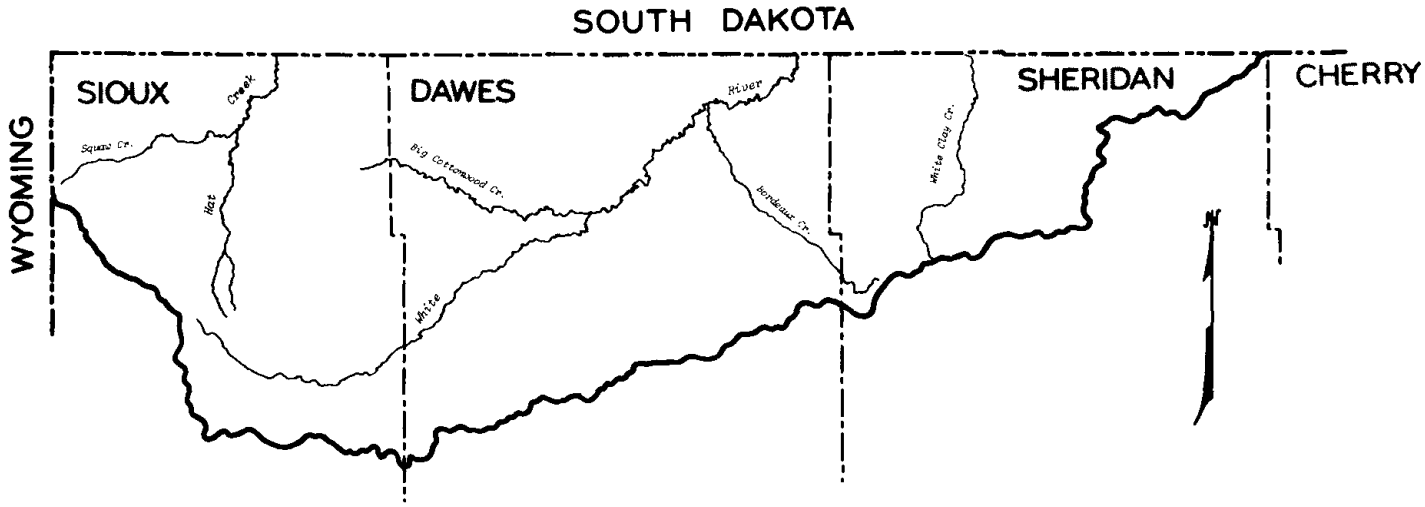
Storm Event - The runoff producing storm usually expressed as a frequency or percent chance of occurrence in any given year.

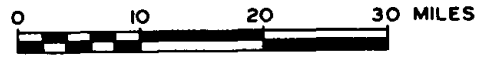
Streamflow Depletion - Decrease in the amount of water within a certain stream reach. It is the inflow minus the outflow.

Surcharge Storage - Temporary reservoir storage from the maximum water surface elevation down to the highest of the following elevations:

a. Top of exclusive flood control capacity,
b. Top of joint use capacity, or
c. Top of active conservation capacity.

WHITE RIVER-HAT CREEK BASIN





LEGEND*

EXISTING PROJECT SERVICE AREA

EXISTING DAM & RESERVOIR

* NOTE: All basin map legends were standardized and all features will not appear on every map.

CHAPTER 1. WHITE RIVER - HAT CREEK BASIN

This Basin is located in the extreme northwestern corner of the State. It includes only 2,130 square miles within Nebraska, making it the smallest Basin. The White River, with its many tributaries, drains the major portion of the Basin. Hat Creek, which drains the remainder of the Basin, rises in the northwestern part of Sioux County and flows northward into the Cheyenne River in South Dakota.

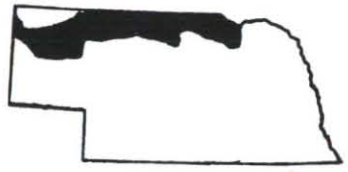
Potential Projects

There are no documented potential projects in this Basin of the type presented in this volume.

Volume 2 of the Status Summary will discuss the existing development in the Basin.

NIOBRARA RIVER BASIN

Sheet 1 of 2



SOUTH DAKOTA

Line

CHERRY

Bear Cr.

Niobrara River

LAVACA FLATS UNIT

SHERIDAN

WYOMING

MIRAGE FLATS PROJECT - SUPPLEMENTAL WATER

SIOUX DAWES

BOX BUTTE RES.

River

Niobrara

BOX BUTTE

Box Butte Cr.

Snake River

Cr.

Gordon

Match

GRANT

SCOTTS BLUFF

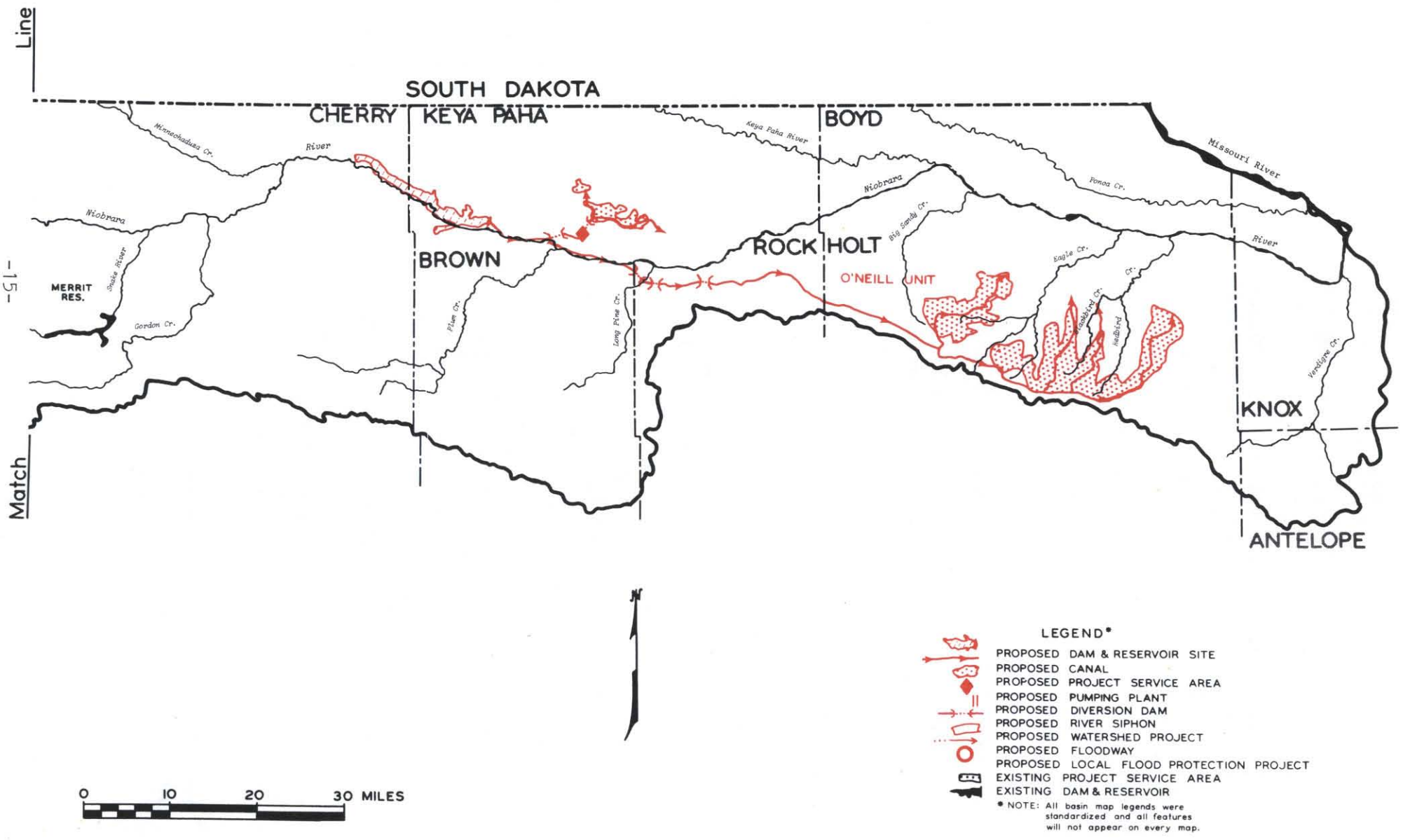
MORRILL

GARDEN

0 10 20 30 MILES

NIOBRARA RIVER BASIN

Sheet 2 of 2



CHAPTER 2. NIOBRARA RIVER BASIN

The Niobrara River rises in eastern Wyoming and flows eastward across the northern part of Nebraska. The Basin covers 11,870 square miles in Nebraska, including the drainage area of Ponca Creek and several minor Missouri River tributaries.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following project included in the first revision of this publication has changed as noted below.

Niobrara Relocation Project

Construction funds and funds to acquire the old town have been made available, the Village Planning Commission has acquired a new townsite, and construction has begun on new homes and businesses.

Potential Projects

Lavaca Flats Unit

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for investigation of the Lavaca Flats Unit. Irrigation is the principal purpose of this proposed unit.

Current Status. A feasibility report on this potential project was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1956. Local interest diminished however, and no authorization or construction funding was sought. Before further steps toward construction can be taken, firm indications of local interest and support must be evident.

Description of Project Area. The potential Lavaca Flats Unit is located in Sheridan and Cherry Counties in northwestern Nebraska, about ten miles southeast of Gordon. The topography is very suitable for irrigation development. Arable lands are crossed by pronounced drainageways which afford excellent drainage into the Niobrara River. The average annual precipitation is 17 inches, of which approximately 80 percent is received during the irrigation season from April to October.

The economy of the area is based primarily on agriculture with cattle, hay, and forage sorghum being the leading farm commodities. At present, small tracts of land near Gordon are irrigated with groundwater.

Project Description. The Lavaca Flats Unit would be a single-purpose irrigation project which would entail construction of a pumping plant, a main supply canal, distribution laterals, and a drainage system. These facilities would lift Niobrara River water a height of 110 feet and deliver it to 2,270 acres. The pumping plant would be located on the Niobrara

River about ten miles southeast of Gordon. The Lavaca Flats canal would extend 11.5 miles from the pumping plant to the project lands and four small laterals totaling 3.4 miles in length would distribute the water throughout the irrigable area.

Remaining Problems and Needs. Erosion is a severe problem in this area and extensive land treatment is necessary. Sediment bedload is quite high in the Niobrara River.

This proposed project would have capacity to divert 40 c.f.s., which is in excess of that allowed by state law on a project of this size. Diversion of water at the Lavaca Pump site would reduce the flow at the Valentine No. 3 and Spencer Power Plants by a small percentage. Further study would be required to resolve this problem.

Public Interest. There is little local support for this project and currently there are no known plans for formation of a local governmental entity, such as an irrigation district, to sponsor the project.

LAVACA FLATS UNIT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	1 Year	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$48,780	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$15,440
INTEREST RATE:	2 1/2 Percent	COSTS BASED ON:	1956 Prices
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	2.74 to 1.00	LAND REQUIRED:	119 Acres
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	2270 Acres		

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Direct Benefits	53.3	0.23	53.53
Indirect Benefits	80.1	-0-	80.1
Total Benefits	133.4	0.23	133.63

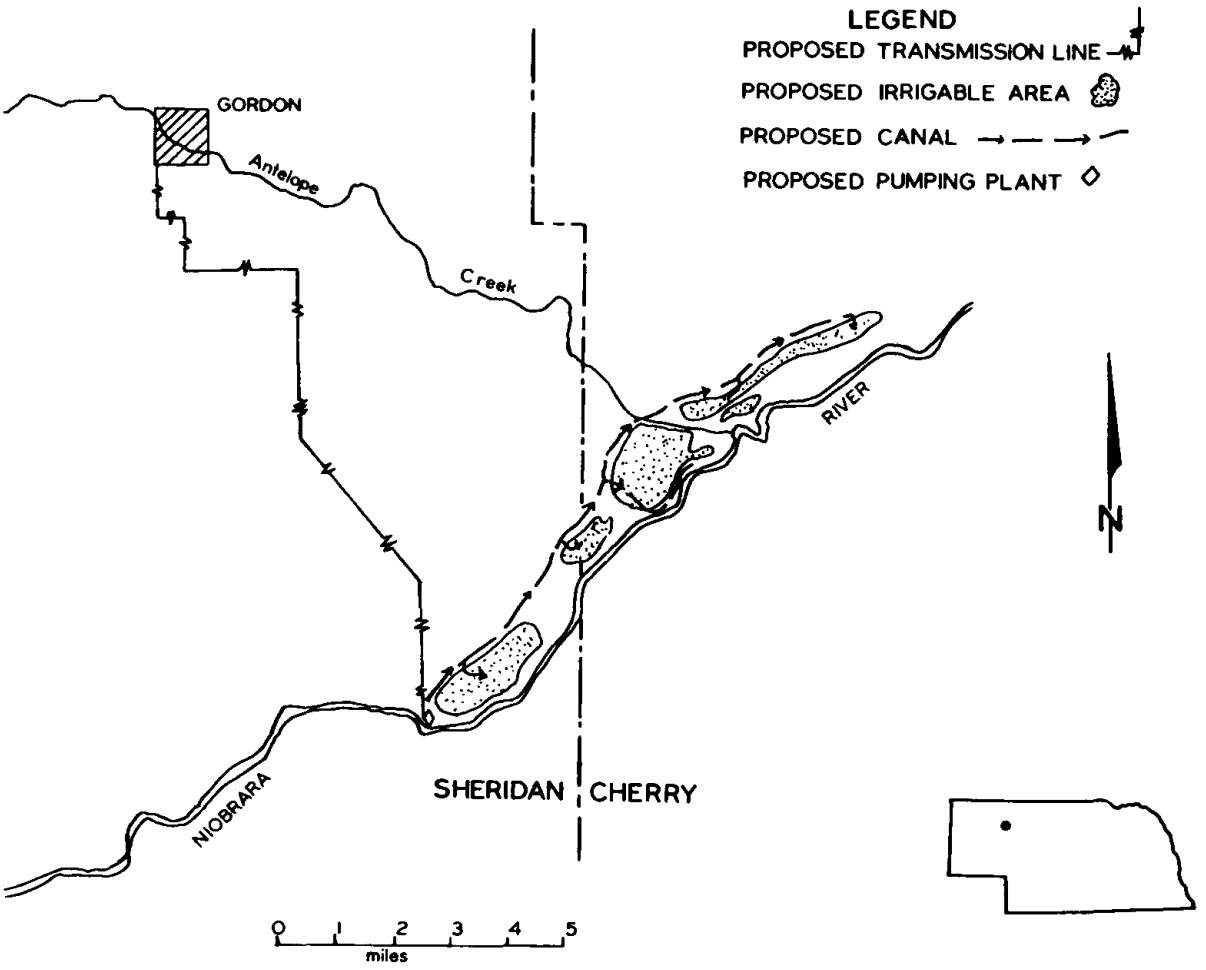
Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Project Costs	1,250.7	-0-	1,250.7
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	-0-	-0-
Reimbursable	1,250.7	-0-	1,250.7
Mo. R. Basin Power	911.5	-0-	911.5
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	-0-	-0-
Local	339.2	-0-	339.2

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	1.20 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.71 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Requirement:	2.06 ac.ft./ac.
Total Diversion Requirement:	4,700 ac.ft.
Return Flow:	1,000 ac.ft.
Streamflow Depletion:	3,700 ac.ft.

LAVACA FLATS UNIT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION



Mirage Flats Project - Supplemental Water

The existing Mirage Flats Irrigation Project has an inadequate water supply, and the Bureau of Reclamation has developed a proposal to provide supplemental water and other benefits.

Current Status. A feasibility report was prepared in 1965, and bills to authorize the additions to this project have been introduced but not acted on by Congress. Congress must authorize and fund the additions before detailed planning and construction can proceed. In 1973 a bill was introduced in Congress to cancel all indebtedness and transfer title for the project works to the local District. There have been no hearings nor Congressional action on this proposal.

This project has been endorsed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as a part of the Nebraska State Water Plan.

Description of Project Area. This project is located in the northern half of Nebraska's panhandle. Box Butte Reservoir, which provides storage for the project, is located on the Niobrara River in Dawes County. The irrigated lands lie in Sheridan County north of the Niobrara River.

Geographically, this portion of the Niobrara River Basin is characterized by flat table lands which have been modified severely by erosion at many points. At these points the terrain varies from rolling to rough. Irrigated lands of this project lie on stream terraces in the Niobrara River valley.

The average annual precipitation in this area is only about 16 inches. About three-fourths of this precipitation occurs during the growing season.

The economy of the region is agriculturally oriented.

Project Description. The proposed plan would supply supplemental water through the existing distribution system by pumping from 17 deep wells located near project canals. Additional lands around Box Butte Reservoir would be acquired to enhance recreation and fish and wildlife functions of the project, and to alleviate existing and future operation and maintenance problems.

Benefits from the proposed additions would be derived from irrigation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. They would include an additional 5,000 recreation days and an additional 4,940 hunting, fishing, and nature study days annually.

Public Interest. The Mirage Flats Irrigation District is currently operating and maintaining the project, and its board requested that the Bureau of Reclamation study the feasibility of providing supplemental water. Local interest in this project addition developed because of the lack of an adequate water supply.

MIRAGE FLATS PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	2 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$54,000	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$33,100
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/8 Percent	BY:	Mirage Flats Irrigation District
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	2.00 to 1.00		
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	11,662 Acres	COSTS BASED ON:	1965 Prices
		LAND REQUIRED:	926 Acres

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Fish & Wildlife	Recreation	Total
Direct Benefits	77.6	8.5	3.7	89.8
Indirect Benefits	18	-0-	-0-	18
Total Benefits	95.6	8.5	3.7	107.8

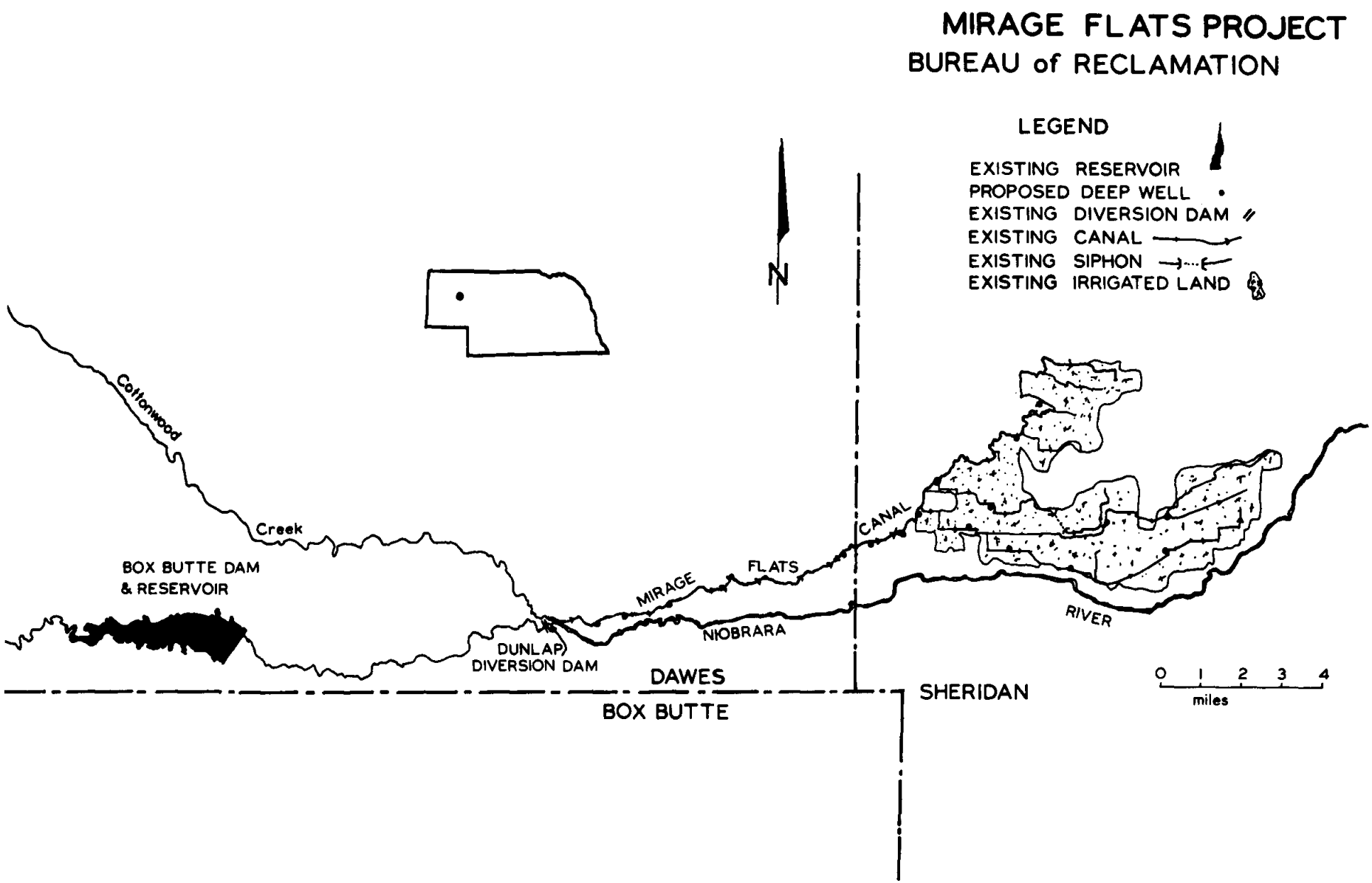
Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Fish & Wildlife	Recreation	Total
Project Costs	560	110	38	708
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	78.5	23	101.5
Reimbursable	560	31.5*	15	606.5*
Mo. R. Basin Power	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	31.5*	15	46.5*
Local	560	-0-	-0-	560

* Does not include repayable interest during construction

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	1.09 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.56 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Requirement:	2.32 ac.ft./ac.
Total Diversion Requirement:	26,200 ac.ft.


MIRAGE FLATS PROJECT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION
LEGEND
EXISTING RESERVOIR
PROPOSED DEEP WELL
EXISTING DIVERSION DAM
EXISTING CANAL
EXISTING SIPHON
EXISTING IRRIGATED LAND
N
Cottonwood
Creek
BOX BUTTE DAM
& RESERVOIR
DUNLAP
DIVERSION DAM
MIRAGE
FLATS
CANAL
NIOBRARA
RIVER
DAWES
BOX BUTTE
SHERIDAN
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miles

O'Neill Unit

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for investigation and design of the O'Neill Unit. This proposed project will be multipurpose, providing irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, and incidental flood control benefits.

Current Status. A feasibility report was completed in 1964 by the Bureau of Reclamation. The project was authorized by Congress in October, 1972*. It has been endorsed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as a part of Nebraska's State Water Plan. Preconstruction planning is underway and advance planning investigations are scheduled for completion in fiscal year 1978. The final environmental impact statement was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality on September 22, 1972. Funds for final design and construction must be provided before construction can begin.

Description of Project Area. This project is located in north-central Nebraska just north of the Sandhills. The terrain of this area is characterized by benchlands and terraces ranging from 50 to 500 feet in elevation above the Niobrara River.

The economy of the area is based primarily on agriculture with corn, cattle, and hay being the leading farm commodities.

Intensive groundwater irrigation development has occurred in the area during the past 15 years. Groundwater levels have declined as withdrawals have exceeded recharge and likely will continue to do so unless natural recharge is supplemented with surface water from other sources. Yield to wells is diminishing or inadequate in some of the area due to well concentration and pumping interference.

Annual precipitation in the area averages about 21 inches, of which 16 inches occur during the months of April through September.

Project Description. Major features of the O'Neill Unit would include the Norden Dam and Reservoir, O'Neill Canal, Springview Pumping Plant, and associated distribution systems. The primary function would be the irrigation of 77,000 acres of land in Keya Paha and Holt Counties.

Norden Dam would be a rolled earthfill structure on the Niobrara River about 3 miles below the mouth of Fairfield Creek. The reservoir would have an initial capacity of 411,000 acre-feet. The O'Neill Canal would deliver water to the Springview facilities as well as to the larger area in Holt County.

The Springview Forebay Dam and Reservoir, located five miles southwest of Springview on a tributary of Jewett Creek, would receive water from the O'Neill Canal through the Springview Sub-Canal. Springview pumping plant would lift water about 300 feet to serve 7,300 acres in Keya Paha County.

Approximately 4,697 acres, including 880 acres on Fairfield Creek, would be acquired and managed to provide fish and wildlife benefits.

* P.L. 92-514

Recreation and fish and wildlife features of this project would provide 300,000 recreation days, 24,200 fisherman days, and 26,800 hunter days annually.

Public Interest. Local support for the project has been provided for many years by individual farmers and landowners, the Niobrara River Basin Development Association, and the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce. The North Central Nebraska Reclamation District, formed in 1963, has collected funds through taxation and voluntary contributions to sponsor the preliminary steps necessary for project authorization. The Niobrara Basin Irrigation District was formed in 1972 to sponsor the project and assume the repayment obligations.

There was some active opposition to the project in 1970 and 1971 due to concern for possible environmental effects. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission withdrew its letter of intent to cost-share certain recreation and fish and wildlife costs of the project. The North Central Nebraska Reclamation District has provided a letter of intent to cost-share recreation, fish, and wildlife activities in accordance with the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended.

O'NEILL UNIT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	10 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$4,665,000	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$552,000
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/4 Percent	BY:	North Central Nebraska Reclamation District
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.42 to 1.00		
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	77,000 Acres	COSTS BASED ON:	1972 Prices
		LAND REQUIRED:	30,355 Acres

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Fish & Wildlife	Recreation	Flood Control	Total
Direct Benefits	4,760	71	381	16	5,228
Indirect Benefits	1,398	-0-	-0-	-0-	1,398
Total Benefits	6,158	71	381	16	6,626

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Fish & Wildlife	Recreation	Flood Control	Total
Project Costs	107,635[1/]	1,605	5,877	351	115,468
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	1,238	4,505	351	6,094
Reimbursable	107,635[1/]	367[2/]	1,372[2/]	-0-	109,374[2/]
Mo. R. Basin Power	86,985	-0-	-0-	-0-	86,985
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	367[2/]	1,372[2/]	-0-	1,739[2/]
Local	20,650	-0-	-0-	-0-	20,650

1/ This figure includes $2,704,000 assigned pumping power costs.
2/ Does not include repayable interest during construction.

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

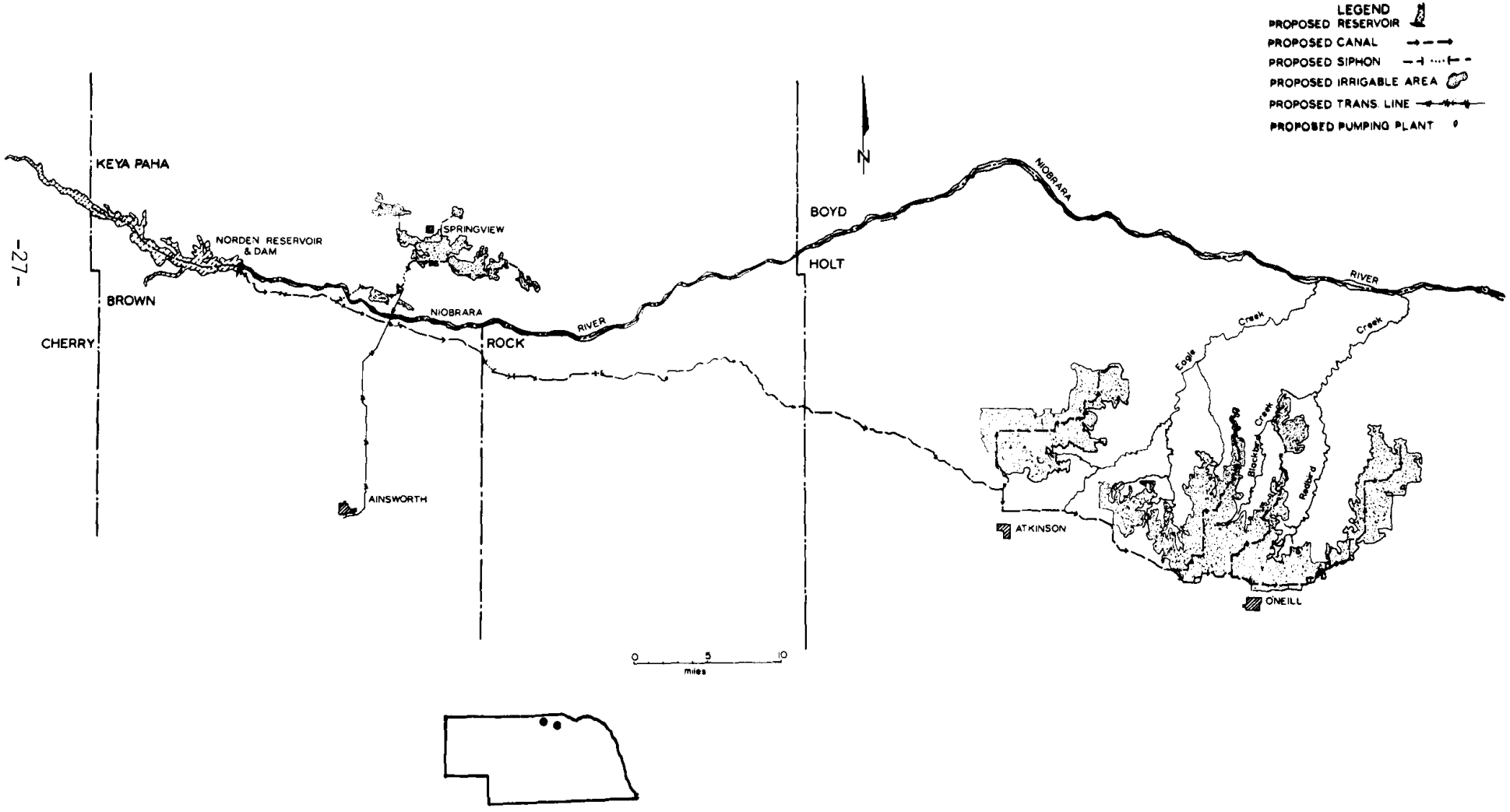
Crop Irrigation Requirement:	1.12 ac.ft./ac.-O'Neill, 1.13 ac.ft./ac.-Springview
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.87 ac.ft./ac.-O'Neill, 1.88 ac.ft./ac.-Springview
Diversion Requirement:	3.07 ac.ft./ac.-O'Neill, 2.39 ac.ft./ac.-Springview
Total Diversion Requirement:	231,100 acre-feet
Return Flow:	Not Available
Streamflow Depletion:	235,800 ac.ft. at Norden Dam

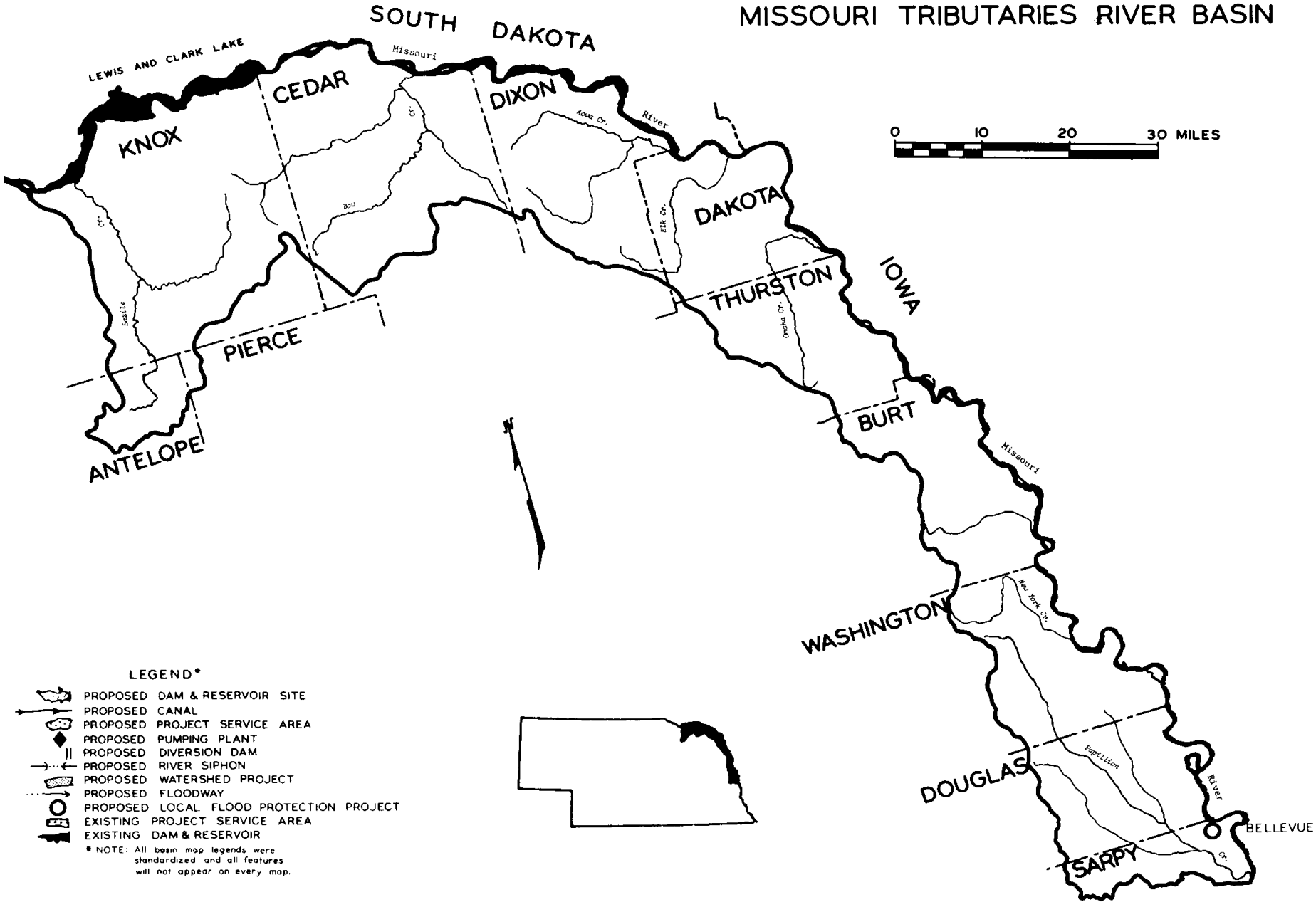
Table 4 - Dam and Reservoir Data

Norden Dam		Springview Forebay Dam	
Height:	245 feet	Height:	61 feet
Length:	3,700 feet	Length:	375 feet
Spillway Cap.:	8,800 c.f.s.	Spillway Cap.:	140 c.f.s.
Drainage Area:	8,390 sq. miles 2400 contributing	Drainage Area:	0.4 sq. miles
Norden Reservoir		Springview Forebay Reservoir	
Capacity	Acre-Feet	Capacity	Acre-Feet
Surcharge	131,500	Surcharge	90
Sediment	110,000/100 yr.	Sediment	80/100 yr.
Conservation	125,000	Conservation	90
Total	411,000*	Total	170*
Surface Area	Acres	Surface Area	Acres
Surcharge	7,500	Surcharge Pool	14
Cons. Pool	6,300	Cons. Pool	8

* Excludes Surcharge

O'NEILL UNIT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION




MISSOURI TRIBUTARIES RIVER BASIN
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LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE
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CEDAR
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DAKOTA
THURSTON
IOWA
PIERCE
BURT
ANTELOPE
Missouri
WASHINGTON
DOUGLAS
SARPY
BELLEVUE
LEGEND*
PROPOSED DAM & RESERVOIR SITE
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED PROJECT SERVICE AREA
PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
PROPOSED RIVER SIPHON
PROPOSED WATERSHED PROJECT
PROPOSED FLOODWAY
PROPOSED LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
EXISTING PROJECT SERVICE AREA
EXISTING DAM & RESERVOIR
* NOTE: All basin map legends were standardized and all features will not appear on every map.

CHAPTER 3. MISSOURI TRIBUTARIES RIVER BASIN

This Basin occupies a narrow strip of land along the eastern and northeastern borders of the State between the mouths of the Niobrara and Platte Rivers. The Basin, totaling 2,950 square miles, is composed of the drainage areas of a number of small streams directly tributary to the Missouri River and the portions of the Missouri River flood plain which connect these drainage areas.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following projects included in the original Volume I and the first revision has changed as noted below.

Papillion Creek Watershed Project

This project is currently under construction.

Aowa Creek Watershed Project

This project is currently under construction.

Papillion Creek and Tributaries Project

This Corps of Engineers project is currently under construction.

Tekamah-Mud Watershed

This project has been authorized and is awaiting construction.

Potential Projects

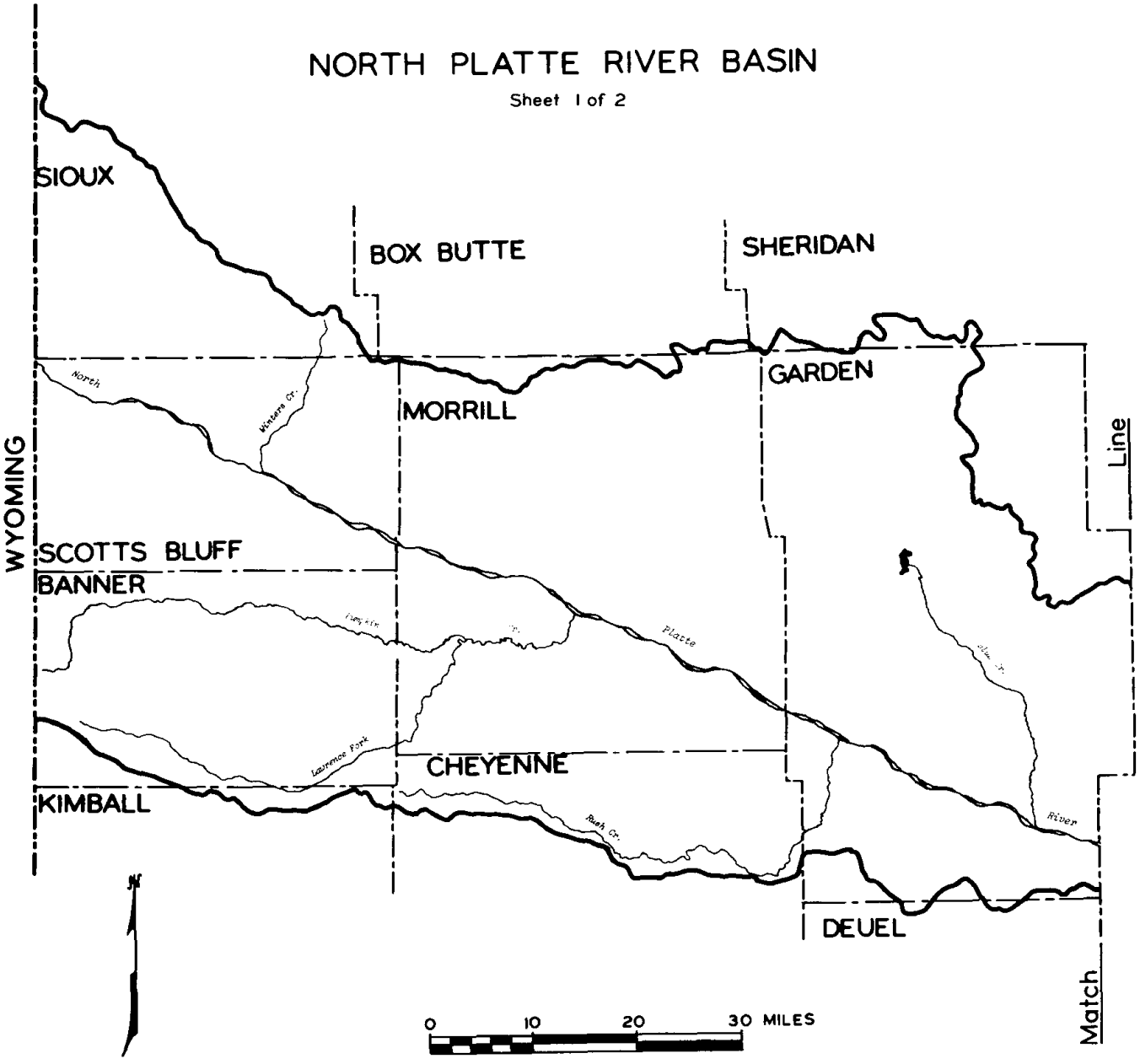
There are no more documented potential projects in this Basin of the type presented in this volume.

Projects in Planning

Mud Creek near Bellevue

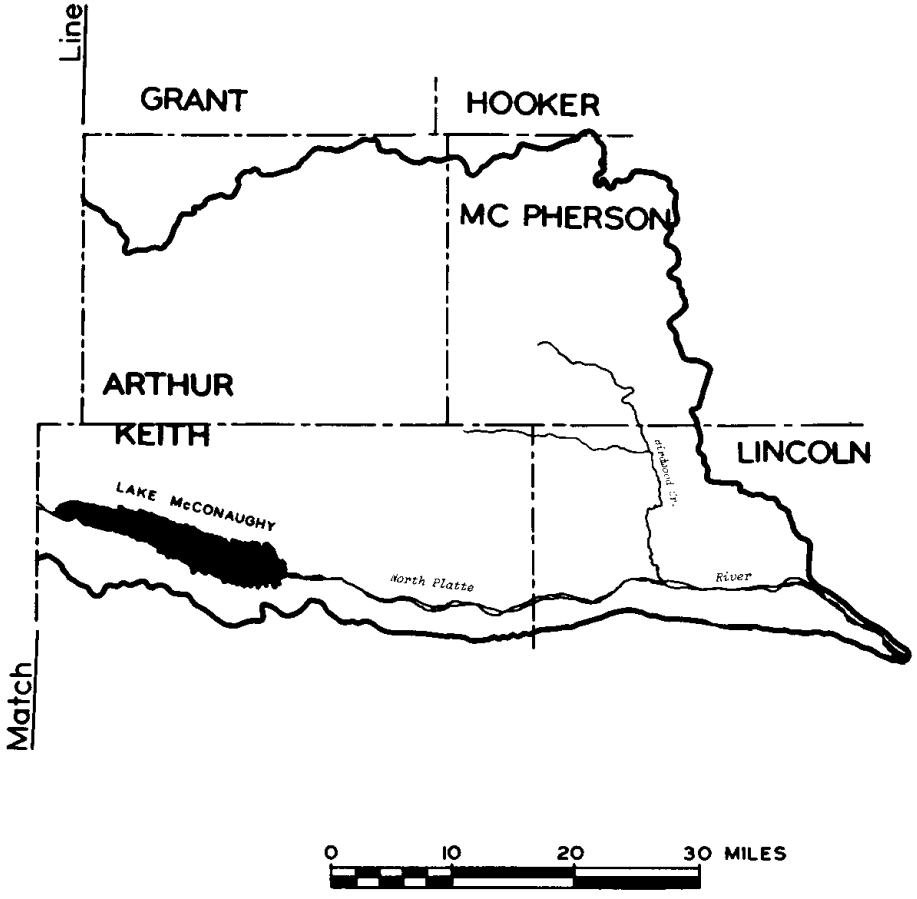
A study was initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, on November 9, 1971 at the request of the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners. The proposed project would provide protection from floods by improving the channel.

Current Status. The reconnaissance study, which indicates that a channel improvement project would be feasible under present conditions, has been completed. An official expression of local support is needed before the project can proceed further.


NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Sheet 1 of 2
SIOUX
BOX BUTTE
SHERIDAN
GARDEN
MORRILL
WYOMING
Line
SCOTTS BLUFF
BANNER
CHEYENNE
KIMBALL
DEUEL
Match
0 10 20 30 MILES

NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Sheet 2 of 2

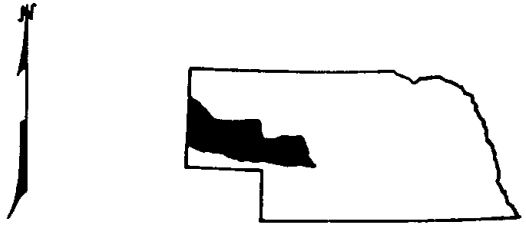


LEGEND*

EXISTING PROJECT SERVICE AREA

EXISTING DAM & RESERVOIR

* NOTE: All basin map legends were standardized and all features will not appear on every map.



CHAPTER 4. NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

This Basin is located in the western portion of the State near the central part of the Panhandle. It extends from the Wyoming-Nebraska state line to the confluence of the North and South Platte Rivers, encompassing an area of 7,140 square miles.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following projects included in the original Volume I and the first revision has changed as noted below.

Ash-Plum Creek Watershed

This project is inactive.

Winters Creek Watershed

This project has been authorized and is awaiting construction.

Creighton Valley Watershed

This project is inactive.

Mitchell Irrigation District Rehabilitation

This project has been authorized and part is under construction.

Potential Projects

There are no more documented potential projects in this Basin of the type presented in this volume.

Projects in Planning

Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District Rehabilitation

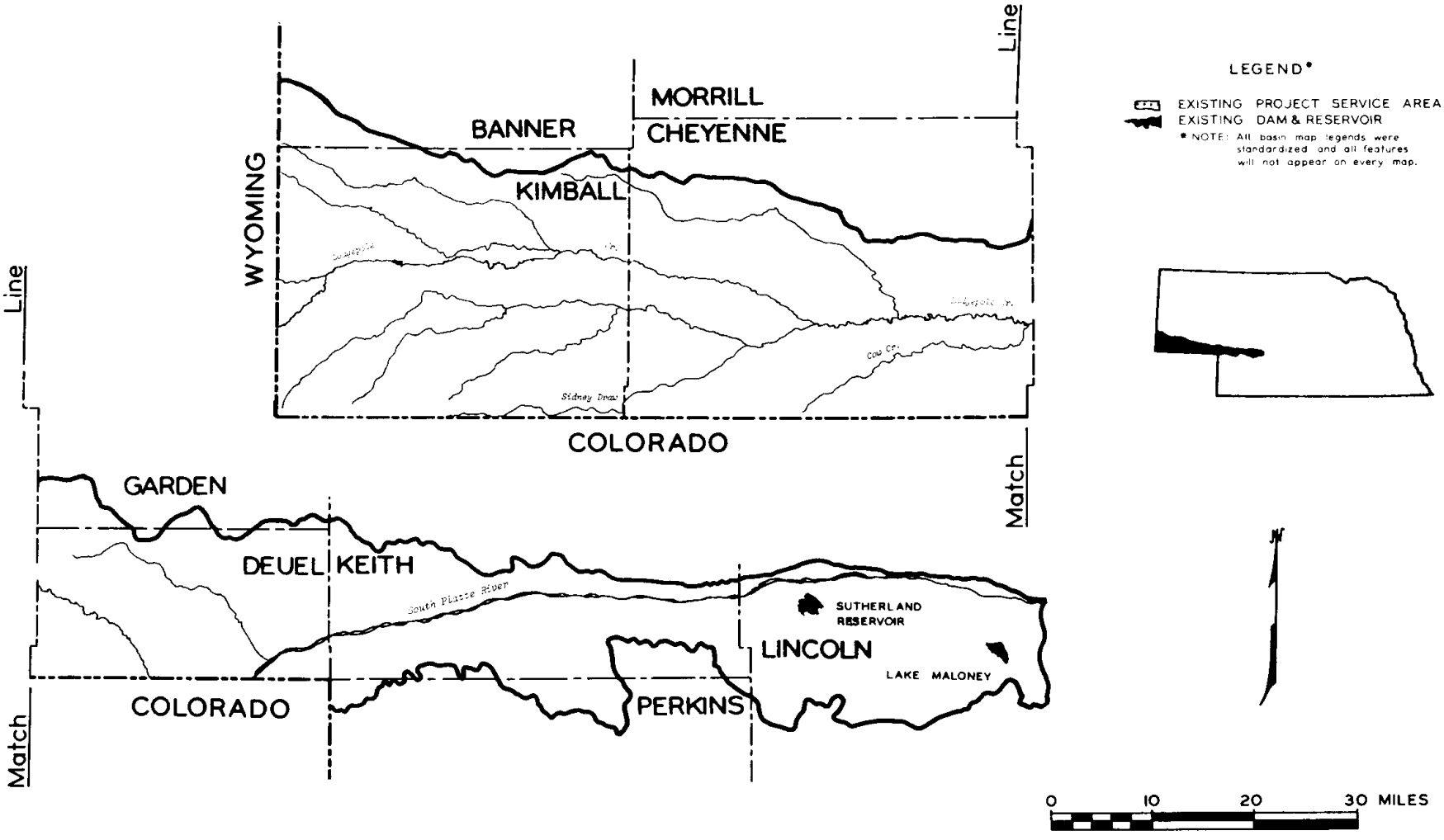
The Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District has made application for a rehabilitation and betterment loan to construct Dry Creek Dam and Reservoir for regulation of operational waste out of Fort Laramie Canal. A survey is necessary to determine the need and justification for a rehabilitation and betterment program.

The Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District is served by the Fort Laramie Canal. Deliveries to the district are made through the Goshen

Irrigation District system in Wyoming and Dry Creek is used as an operational wasteway for the canal.

The capacity of the Fort Laramie Canal is not sufficient to supply all water needs during periods of peak demand. Also, the travel time for water in the canal system is about four days and there is no regulatory storage near project lands, so canal water in excess of irrigation demands must be wasted back to the river. Storage in the proposed Dry Creek Reservoir, which would be located in western Scotts Bluff County, would serve two purposes: (1) it would provide supplemental water to Horse Creek Lateral during periods of peak demand, making other water available to the remainder of the system, and (2) it would salvage water which would otherwise be wasted because of the time lag in water delivery.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN



CHAPTER 5. SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

The South Platte River Basin covers 3,150 square miles in a narrow strip along the southern Panhandle extending from the Wyoming-Nebraska state line to the confluence of the North and South Platte Rivers. Lodgepole Creek is the principal Nebraska tributary to the South Platte River, which originates in Colorado.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following project included in the original Volume I has changed as noted below.

Brule Watershed Project

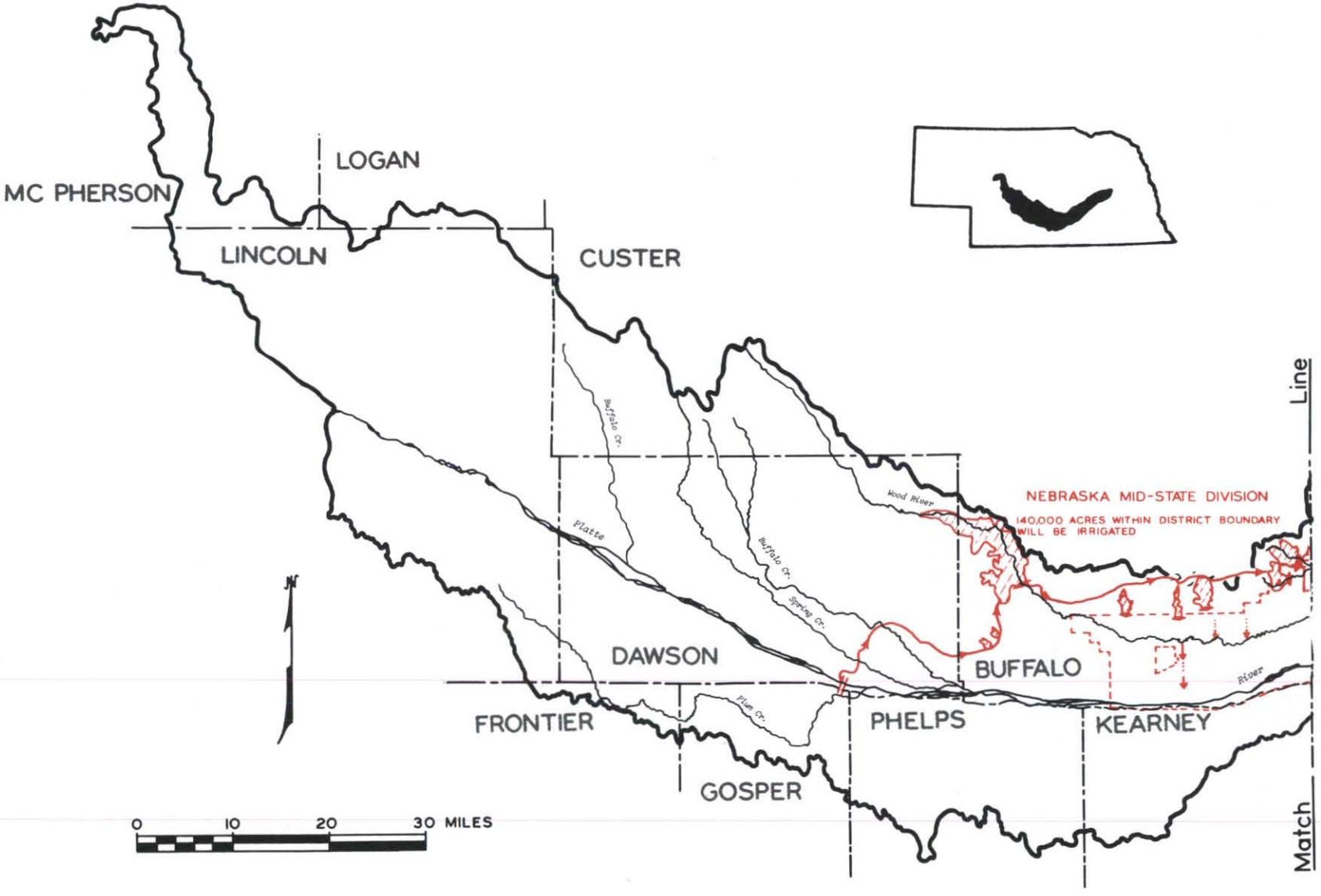
This project has been completed.

Potential Projects

There are no documented potential projects in this Basin of the type presented in this volume.

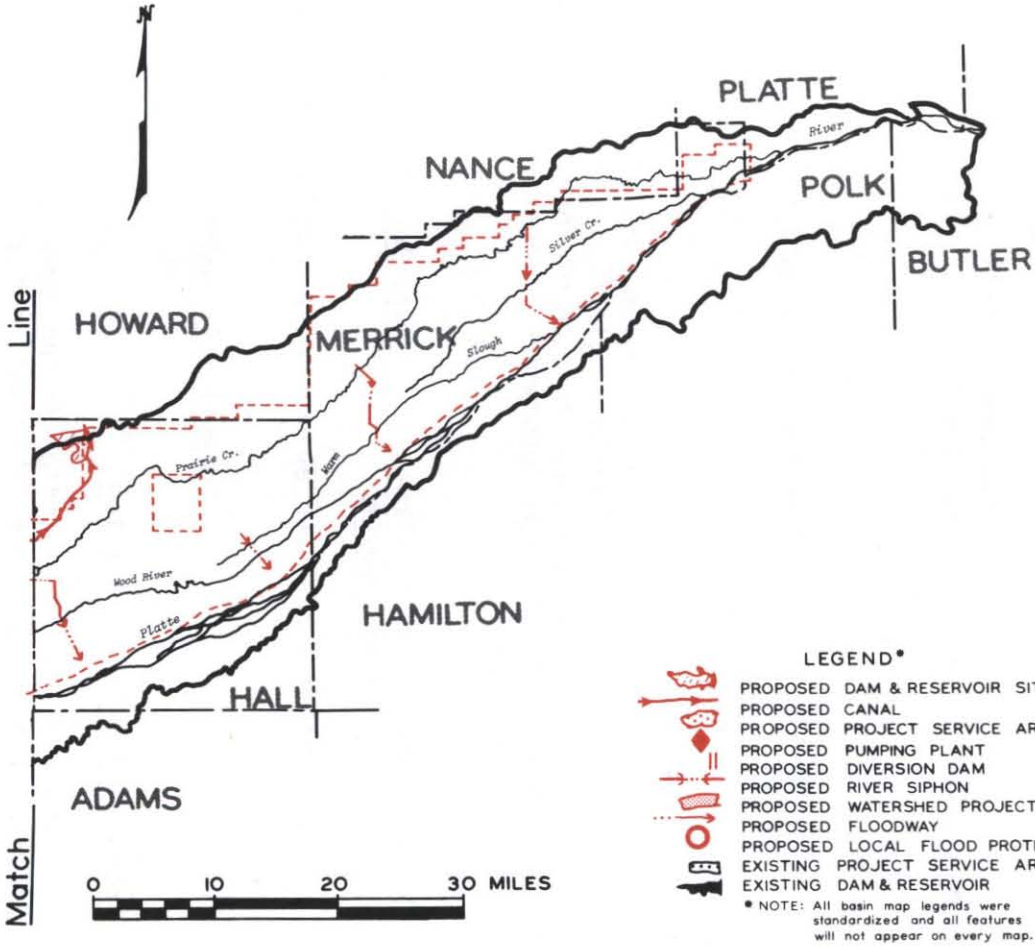
MIDDLE PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Sheet 1 of 2



MIDDLE PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Sheet 2 of 2



LEGEND*

- PROPOSED DAM & RESERVOIR SITE
- PROPOSED CANAL
- PROPOSED PROJECT SERVICE AREA
- PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
- PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
- PROPOSED RIVER SIPHON
- PROPOSED WATERSHED PROJECT
- PROPOSED FLOODWAY
- PROPOSED LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
- EXISTING PROJECT SERVICE AREA
- EXISTING DAM & RESERVOIR

* NOTE: All basin map legends were standardized and all features will not appear on every map.

CHAPTER 6. MIDDLE PLATTE RIVER BASIN

This Basin encompasses 5,130 square miles in the south-central part of the State. It includes the drainage areas of the streams tributary to the Platte River between the confluence of the North and South Platte Rivers and the mouth of the Loup River.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following projects included in the original Volume I has changed as noted below.

Spring Creek Watershed

This Soil Conservation Service project is under construction.

Fort Kearny Unit

This study by the Bureau of Reclamation of the high groundwater problem in the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District was in progress when the first edition of Volume I was published. Since then a report on the study recommending local rather than federal action has been published.

Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District E-65 Improvement Program

This project has been authorized and is awaiting construction.

Potential Projects

Nebraska Mid-State Division

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for planning and design of this multipurpose project.

Current Status. The Nebraska Mid-State Division was authorized in November, 1967 by the 90th Congress.* Both the Nebraska Mid-State Reclamation District and Congress have provided funds for post-authorization studies. Assuming adequate funding and acreage signup, these advanced planning investigations are scheduled for completion in fiscal year 1977. The Bureau of Reclamation has initiated an extensive study of the potential environmental impact. After completion of this study and execution of necessary repayment contracts for reimbursable costs, funds must be appropriated by Congress before construction can begin.

* P.L. 90-136

This project has been endorsed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as a part of the Nebraska State Water Plan.

Description of Project Area. This project is located north of the Platte River in Dawson, Buffalo, Hall, and Merrick Counties. The Platte valley through the Mid-State area is characterized by three distinct terraces. Lands north of the valley are sandhills or loess hills dissected by steep ravines.

The average annual precipitation is 22.62 inches. About 65 percent of this occurs during the growing season. In the early part of the summer, the rainfall is fairly well distributed, but later in July, August, and September, it is not uncommon to have long periods without adequate rainfall for crop growth.

The local economy is based largely on agriculture with corn, alfalfa, and cattle being the leading farm commodities. Principal industries operating in the Mid-State area are related to the processing and shipping of farm products.

Extensive private irrigation development has been accomplished in the proposed project service area by pumping from groundwater. A limited amount of irrigation water is being provided from surface water sources.

Project Description. This is a multipurpose project which would provide benefits from irrigation, groundwater stabilization, flood control, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Project facilities include a diversion dam on the Platte River, multipurpose reservoirs, an irrigation distribution system, and several floodways. Before construction is started, contracts for service to at least 140,000 acres must be signed.

Public Interest. The Nebraska Mid-State Reclamation District, formed in 1948, has levied taxes and obtained voluntary contributions to provide funds to aid project planning. As of November 1, 1974, agreements had been signed committing about 80 percent of the required 140,000 acres to the use of project water.

Local, state, and national groups have expressed concern over possible detrimental environmental effects of the project and, in some cases, have indicated their opposition. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission withdrew its letter of intent to cost-share certain recreation and fish and wildlife costs of the project. The Nebraska Mid-State Reclamation District has provided a letter of intent to cost-share recreation, fish, and wildlife activities in accordance with the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended.

NEBRASKA MID-STATE DIVISION

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	9 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$4,543,100	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$863,100
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/8 Percent	BY:	Nebraska Mid-State Reclamation District
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.25 to 1.00		
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	140,000 Acres	COSTS BASED ON:	1967 Prices

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrig.	Flood Control	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Direct Benefits	4,339	518	175.5	425	5,457.5
Indirect Benefits	204	-0-	-0-	-0-	204
Total Benefits	4,543	518	175.5	425	5,661.5

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrig.	Flood Control	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Power (Deferred)	Total
Project Costs	76,831	12,831	3,780	11,151	1,542	106,135
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	12,831	3,665	10,744	-0-	27,240
Reimbursable	76,831	-0-	115*	407*	1,542*	78,895*
Mo. R. Basin Power	32,481	-0-	-0-	-0-	1,542	34,023
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	-0-	115*	407*	-0-	522*
Local	44,350	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	44,350

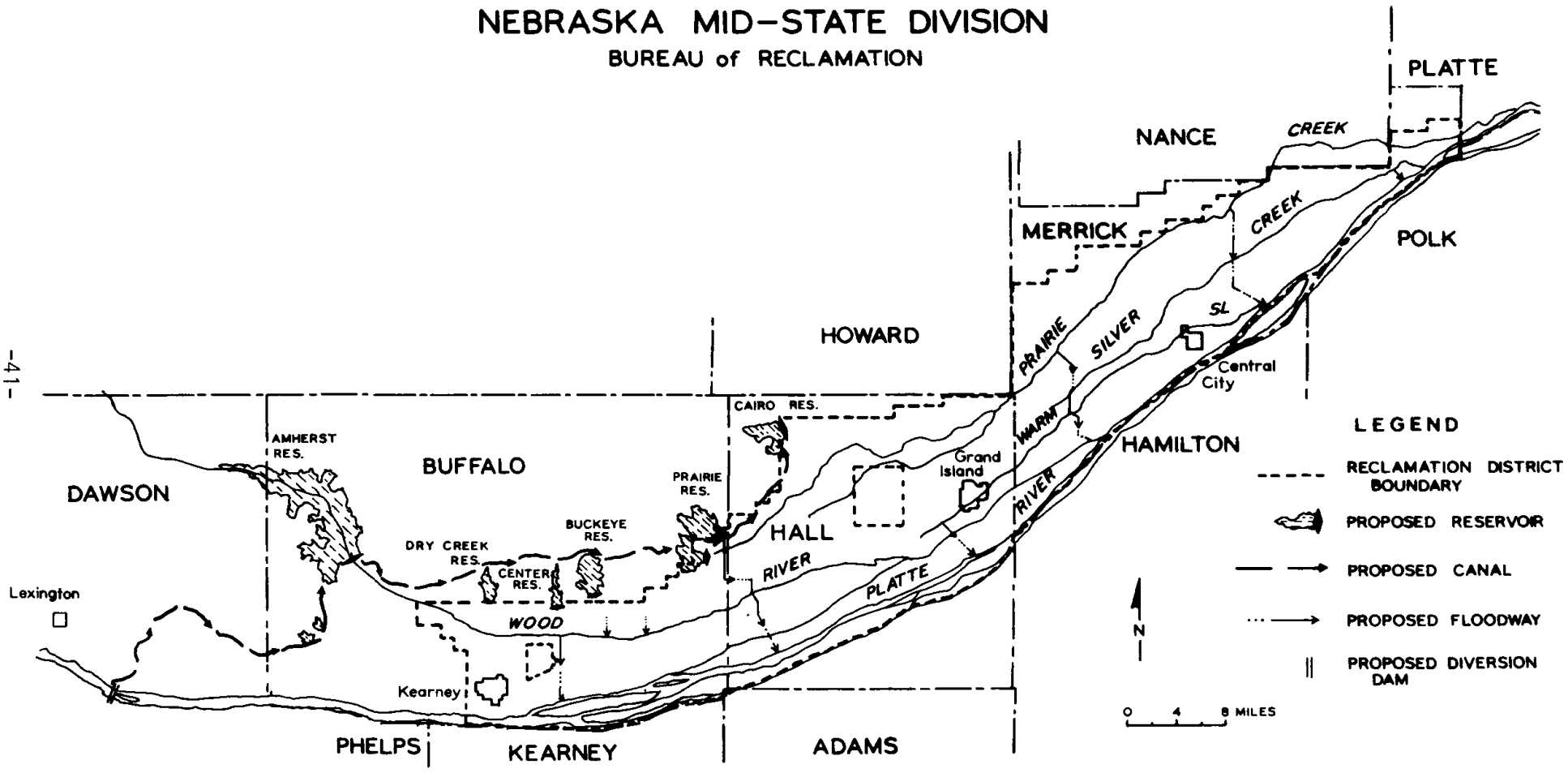
* Does not include repayable interest during construction

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	1.08 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.66 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Requirement:	2.44 ac.ft./ac.
Total Diversion Requirement:	341,500 ac.ft.
Return Flow:	Not Available
Streamflow Depletion:	Not Available

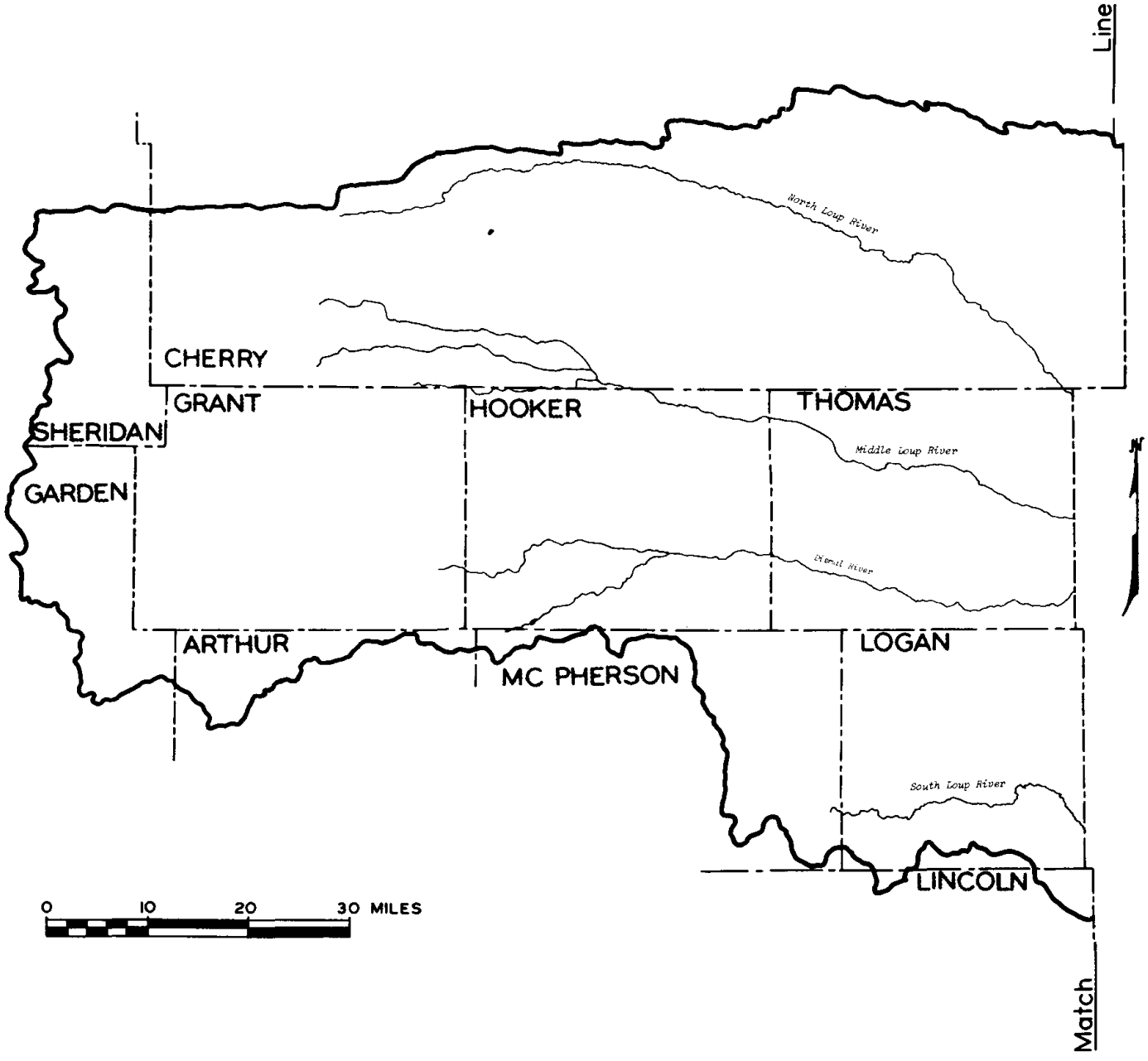
NEBRASKA MID-STATE DIVISION

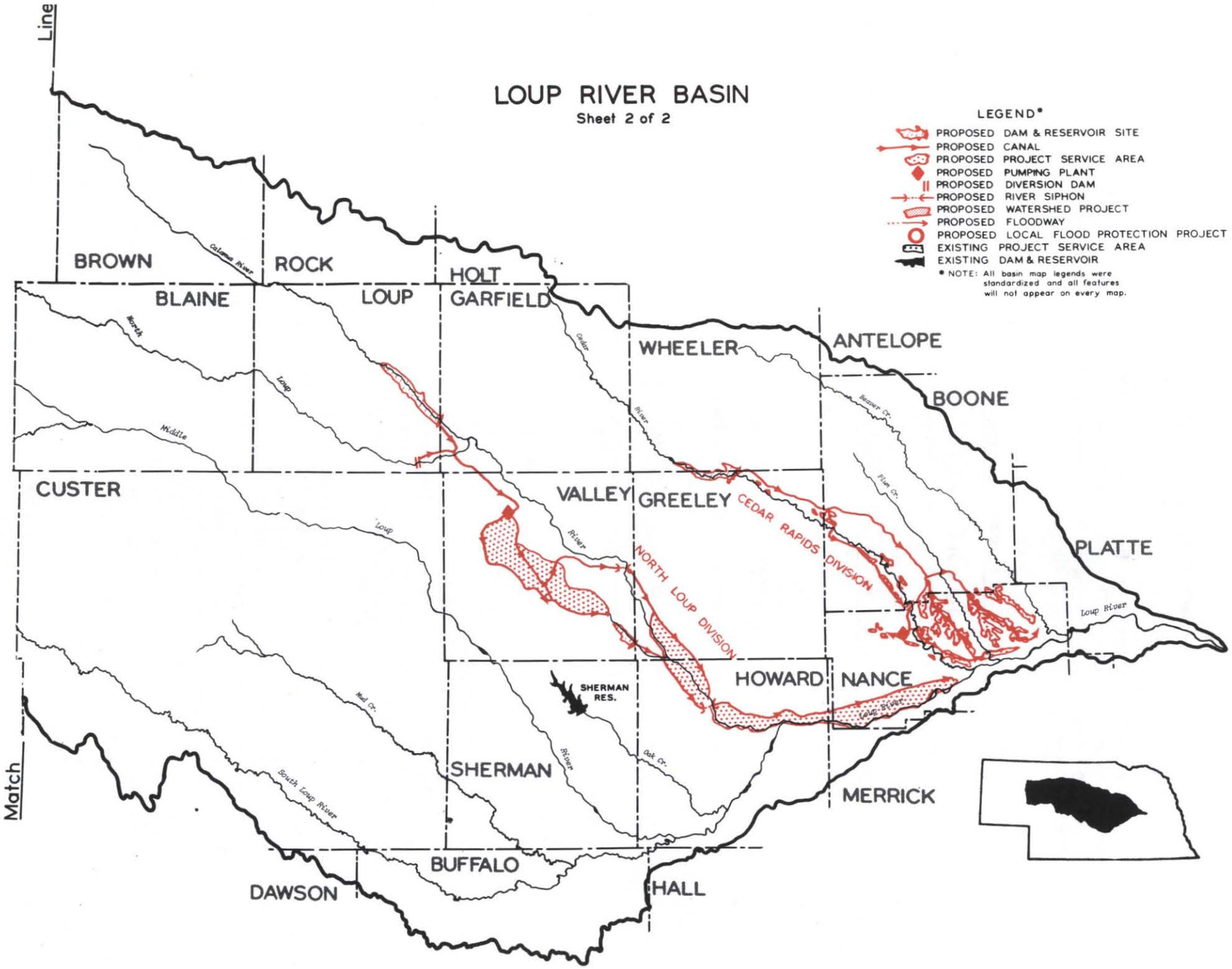
BUREAU of RECLAMATION



LOUP RIVER BASIN

Sheet 1 of 2




LOUP RIVER BASIN
Sheet 2 of 2
LEGEND*
PROPOSED DAM & RESERVOIR SITE
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED PROJECT SERVICE AREA
PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
PROPOSED RIVER SIPHON
PROPOSED WATERSHED PROJECT
PROPOSED FLOODWAY
PROPOSED LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
EXISTING PROJECT SERVICE AREA
EXISTING DAM & RESERVOIR
* NOTE: All basin map legends were standardized and all features will not appear on every map.
Line
Match
BROWN
ROCK
HOLT
BLAINE
LOUP
GARFIELD
WHEELER
ANTELOPE
BOONE
CUSTER
VALLEY
GREELEY
PLATTE
HOWARD
NANCE
SHERMAN
MERRICK
BUFFALO
DAWSON
HALL
SHERMAN RES.
CEDAR RAPIDS DIVISION
NORTH LOUP DIVISION
Loup River
Cedar River
North Loup River
Middle Loup River
South Loup River
Mud Cr.
Oak Cr.
Beaver Cr.
Plum Cr.

CHAPTER 7. LOUP RIVER BASIN

This Basin, located in the center of Nebraska, contains 15,230 square miles, about one-fifth of the State's total area. It extends from the Sandhills of southern Cherry and Sheridan Counties to the Platte River valley near Columbus.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following projects included in the original Volume I and the first revision has changed as noted below.

Loup River at Columbus Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project has been completed.

Mud Creek at Broken Bow Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project has been completed.

Beaver Creek at St. Edward Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project was terminated due to lack of local sponsorship.

Potential Projects

Cedar Rapids Division

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for investigation of this project. It would be a multipurpose project providing benefits from irrigation, flood control, fish and wildlife enhancement, and recreation.

Current Status. The Cedar Valley Public Power and Irrigation District first conducted reconnaissance studies of this project in the early 1940's. The Bureau of Reclamation conducted further investigations which found the project to be feasible in 1966, but it must now be re-evaluated using new planning procedures and current interest rates. There is also a need to study probable effects of further groundwater irrigation development on stream flow from which the project's water supply is taken. If the project is still found to be feasible, authorization and funding by Congress will be required. This project has been endorsed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as a part of the Nebraska State Water Plan.

Description of Project Area. This project would be located along the Cedar and Loup Rivers in Wheeler, Greeley, Boone, and Nance Counties. Surface soils in this area are generally silt and loess except north and west of the project lands in the upper Cedar River basin, where the mantle is dune sand.

Annual precipitation during the period of record has ranged from 13 to 38 inches, averaging about 24 inches. Precipitation from April through September averages about 19 inches, or 80 percent of the annual total. However, in the critical crop production months of July, August, and September, and occasionally June, there are extended periods of little or no moisture.

Significant surface water irrigation has not developed in the area because of several problems. Much of the land immediately adjacent to the river is not suitable for tilling or irrigation. Consequently, high pump lifts are required to irrigate the more suitable lands. Groundwater irrigation has developed rapidly in recent years in parts of the area where an adequate aquifer is present.

Project Description. Project features include a multipurpose dam and reservoir, a diversion dam, a pumping plant, canals, and an irrigation distribution system. The principal feature of the plan is the Spalding Dam and Reservoir, which would be located in Wheeler and Greeley Counties on the southeastern edge of the Sandhills. During normal operation, the river outlet works would release water as needed for the Belgrade Diversion Dam and for bypasses as required. The canal outlet works in the left abutment of the Spalding Dam would deliver irrigation water to the Spalding Canal, which would deliver the water to 51 laterals serving 21,300 acres of land. Headworks located at the Belgrade Diversion Dam would divert flows to serve a total of about 5,500 acres of irrigable land. The Timber Creek Canal Pumping Plant would receive water from Belgrade Canal and serve 1,085 irrigable acres in the Timber Creek valley.

Planned fish and wildlife features include purchase of 255 acres at Spalding Reservoir for upland game management, and 210 acres of land adjacent to Spalding Canal for construction of three fish and wildlife impoundments. Four waterfowl habitat ponds are planned for construction. The recreation and fish and wildlife features of this project would provide 50,000 recreation days, 16,850 fisherman days, and 450 hunter days annually.

Public Interest. Development of this proposed project has received strong support from its prospective beneficiaries. At the May 1968 election, Cedar Valley Reclamation District voters approved an ad valorem tax on tangible property. Some tax has been collected each year since that time. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission furnished a letter of intent to share in fish, wildlife, and recreation costs but later withdrew it.

CEDAR RAPIDS DIVISION

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	7 Years (Partial Water Delivery after 4 years)	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
		ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$133,800
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$1,254,300	BY:	Cedar Valley Reclamation Dist.
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/8 Percent		
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.40 to 1.00	COSTS BASED ON:	1964 Prices
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	26,800 Acres	LAND REQUIRED:	12,252 Acres

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Fish & Wildlife	Recreation	Flood Control	Total
Direct Benefits	1,207.6	58.9	37	14	1,317.5
Indirect Benefits	439.3	-0-	-0-	-0-	439.3
Total Benefits	1,646.9	58.9	37	14	1,756.8

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Fish & Wildlife	Recreation	Flood Control	Total
Project Costs	31,599	1,414	576	351	33,940
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	1,342	457	351	2,150
Reimbursable	31,599	72*	119*	-0-	31,790*
Mo. R. Basin Power	24,714	-0-	-0-	-0-	24,714
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	72*	119*	-0-	191*
Local	6,885	-0-	-0-	-0-	6,885

* Does not include repayable interest during construction

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	1.03 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.47 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Requirement:	2.94 ac.ft./ac.-Spalding
	3.45 ac.ft./ac.-Belgrade
Total Diversion Requirement:	76,800 ac.ft.
Streamflow Depletion:	61,400 ac.ft.-Spalding
	17,400 ac.ft.-Belgrade

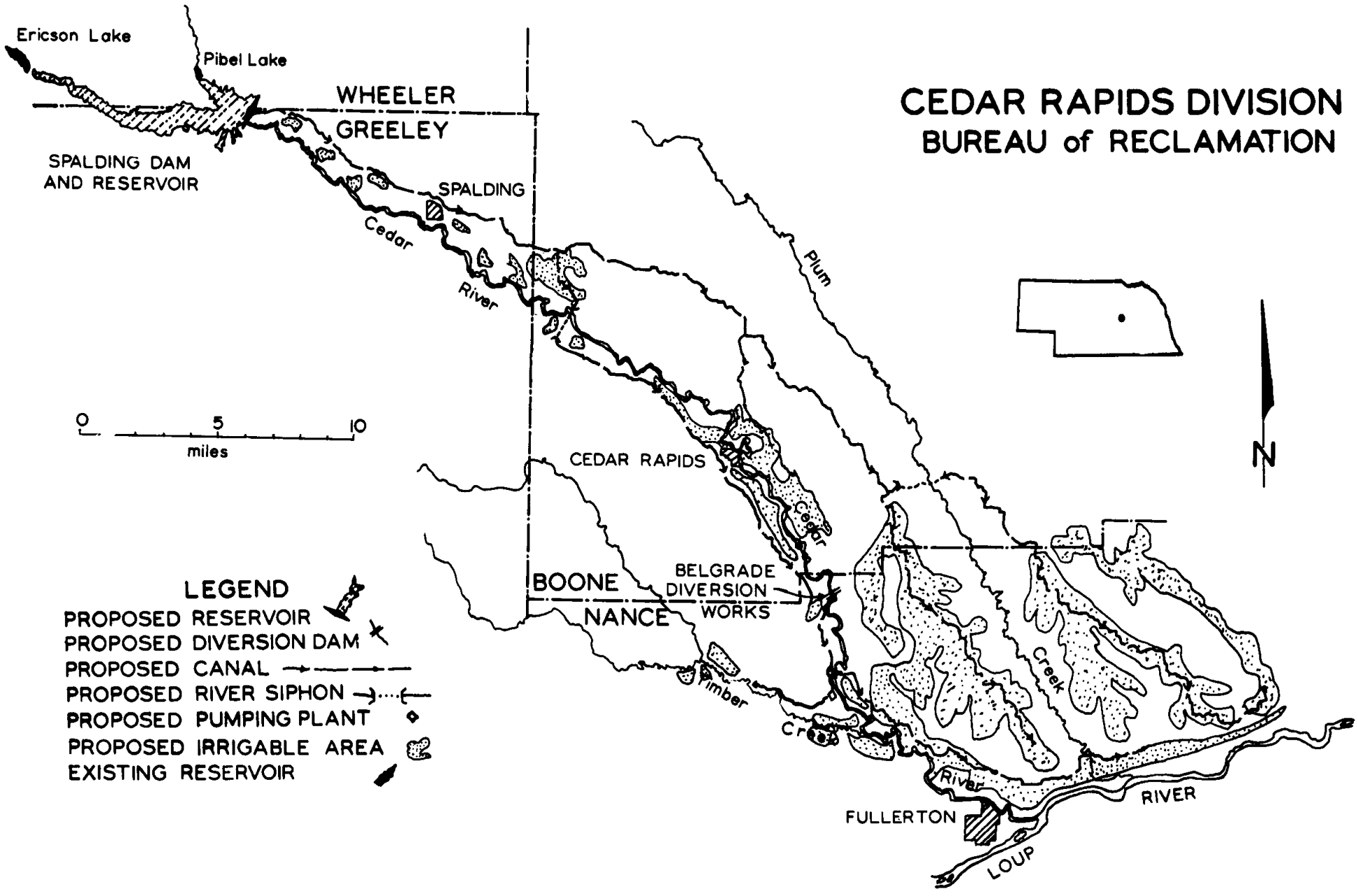
Table 4 - Dam & Reservoir Data

Spalding Dam
Height: 86 feet Length: 4,860 feet
Spillway Capacity: 2,680 c.f.s.
Drainage Area: 794 square miles

Spalding Reservoir

Capacity	Acre-Feet
Surcharge	26,820
Sediment	3,200/100 yr.
Conservation	46,000
Total	81,430*
Surface Area	**Acres**
Surcharge Pool	4,370
Conservation Pool	3,570

* Excludes Surcharge


CEDAR RAPIDS DIVISION
BUREAU of RECLAMATION
Ericson Lake
Pibel Lake
WHEELER
GREELEY
SPALDING DAM
AND RESERVOIR
SPALDING
Cedar
River
Plum
0
5
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miles
CEDAR RAPIDS
Cedar
BOONE
NANCE
BELGRADE
DIVERSION
WORKS
Timber
Creek
River
FULLERTON
RIVER
LOUP
N
LEGEND
PROPOSED RESERVOIR
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED RIVER SIPHON
PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
PROPOSED IRRIGABLE AREA
EXISTING RESERVOIR

North Loup Division

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for investigation and design of the North Loup Division, a multipurpose project to provide recreation, irrigation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

Current Status. This project was authorized by Congress in October, 1972.* The final environmental impact statement was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality on September 18, 1972. Preconstruction planning funds are being provided and advance planning investigations are scheduled for completion in fiscal year 1977. Funds must be appropriated by Congress before final design and construction can begin. This project has been endorsed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as a part of Nebraska's State Water Plan.

Description of Project Area. The potential North Loup Division of the Missouri River Basin Project is located in central Nebraska along the North Loup, Calamus, and Loup Rivers in portions of Loup, Garfield, Valley, Greeley, Howard, Merrick, and Nance Counties. The project area is made up of wide, flat river valleys and rolling hills. Surface drainage is well established.

The economy of the area is dependent upon agriculture and associated businesses. The area can reach its full potential for crop production only if adequate water is available.

The climate is suitable for the production of hay, grain, and livestock. Annual precipitation is nearly 21 inches with about 80 percent of this occurring during the growing season. A major part of the precipitation, however, falls in the early part of the growing season, leaving the later months relatively dry.

The major existing resource development in the area is the North Loup River Public Power and Irrigation District with 30,600 acres of irrigated land in the North Loup River valley.

Project Description. The project would include two storage reservoirs, a diversion dam, a pumping plant, canals, and a distribution system. Calamus Dam and Reservoir to be located 5-1/2 miles northwest of Burwell on the Calamus River would store flows of the Calamus River.

Davis Creek Dam and Reservoir would be located on a tributary to Davis Creek near the southeast corner of Valley County. Water would be diverted into Davis Creek Reservoir from Kent Diversion Dam on the North Loup River and Calamus Reservoir. It would provide some seasonal storage and re-regulate irrigation flows.

Six canals with a total length of 162 miles would be required to serve the 52,570 irrigable acres in the North Loup Division. A pumping plant would be required to lift water to an 8,700 acre area in the northern part of the district.

* P.L. 92-514

In addition to irrigation, the water stored in Calamus and Davis Creek Reservoirs would provide recreation and fish and wildlife benefits for people in the area as well as for those in other parts of the State. The recreation features of this project would provide 50,000 recreation days and 19,070 fisherman and hunter days annually.

Remaining Problems and Needs. There was concern earlier by downstream interests as to the effects of reduction of Loup River flows. This issue has been resolved. The project cost estimate includes provisions to compensate for power interference.

Public Interest. Potential beneficiaries of this proposed project have actively supported the investigations and are pressing for construction. A reclamation district and an irrigation district have been formed. The reclamation district has obtained funds to promote the project through contributions and taxation and provided a letter of intent to cost-share recreation, fish, and wildlife activities in accordance with Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended.

NORTH LOUP DIVISION

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	8 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$3,144,000	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$324,000
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/4 Percent	BY:	Twin Loups Reclamation and Twin Loups Irrigation Districts
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.23 to 1.00		
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	53,000 Acres	COSTS BASED ON:	1972 Prices
		LAND REQUIRED:	19,674 Acres

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Direct Benefits	3,127	37.5	28.7	3,193.2
Indirect Benefits	677.8	-0-	-0-	677.8
Total Benefits	3,804.8	37.5	28.7	3,871

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Project Costs	78,347[1/]	362	754	79,463
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	181	754	935
Reimbursable	78,347[1/]	181[2/]	-0-	78,528[2/]
Mo. R. Basin Power	64,497	-0-	-0-	64,497
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	181[2/]	-0-	181[2/]
Local	13,850	-0-	-0-	13,850

1/ Includes $1,207,000 assigned pumping power costs
2/ Does not include repayable interest during construction

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	1.06 to 1.07 acre-feet/acre
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.51 to 1.53 acre-feet/acre
Diversion Requirement:	2.64 acre-feet/acre
Total Diversion Requirement:	137,400 acre-feet

Table 4 - Dam and Reservoir Data

Calamus Dam

Height: 85 feet	Length: 6,400 feet
Spillway Capacity:	2,830 c.f.s.
Drainage Area:	110 square miles (contributing)

Calamus Reservoir

Capacity	Acre-Feet
Surcharge	26,400
Conservation	103,900
Sediment	6,500/100 yr.
Total	128,200*
Surface Area	Acres
Surcharge	5,777
Conservation	5,150

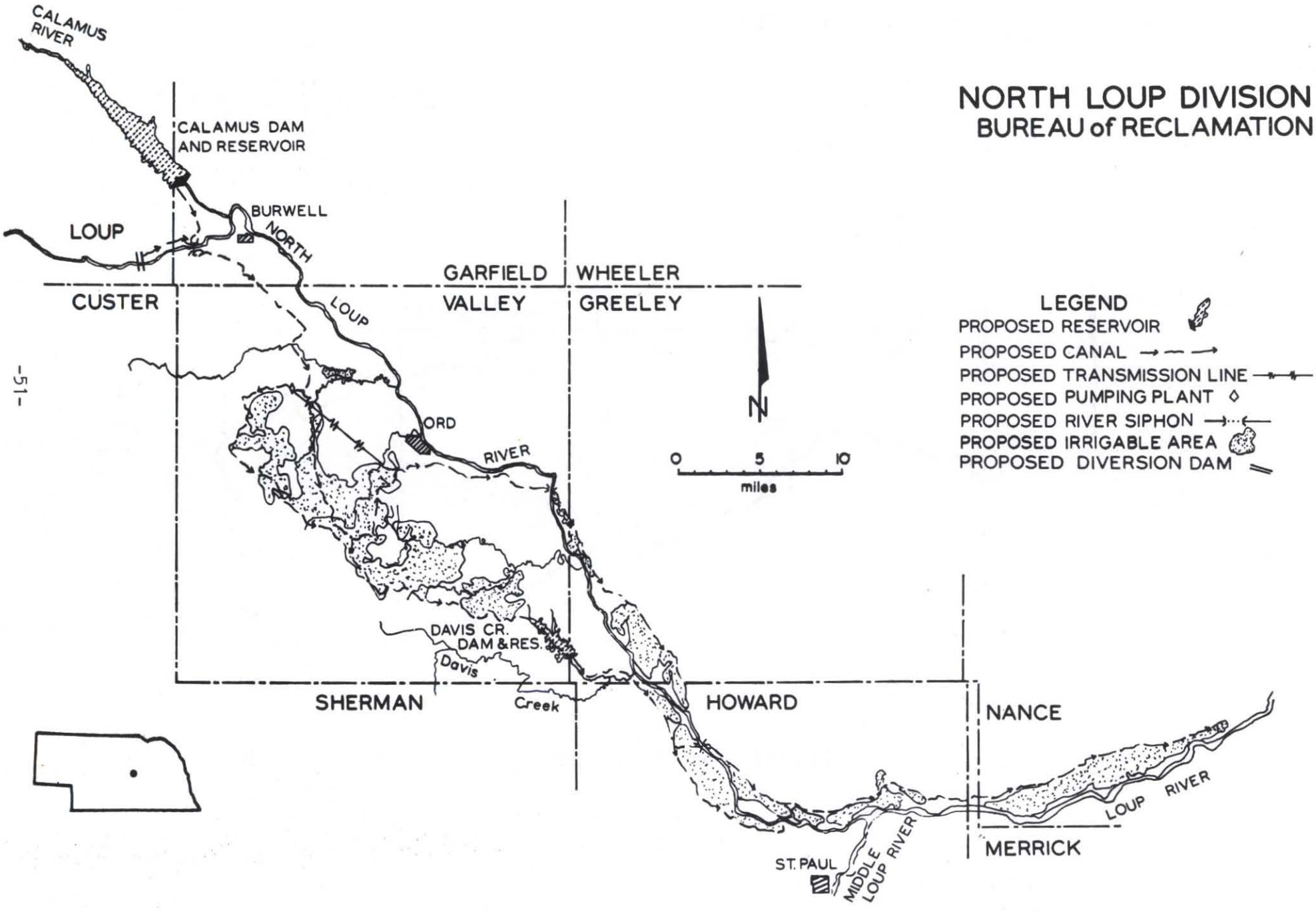
Davis Creek Dam

Height: 103 feet	Length: 2900 feet
Spillway Capacity:	430 c.f.s.
Drainage Area:	6.5 square miles

Davis Creek Reservoir

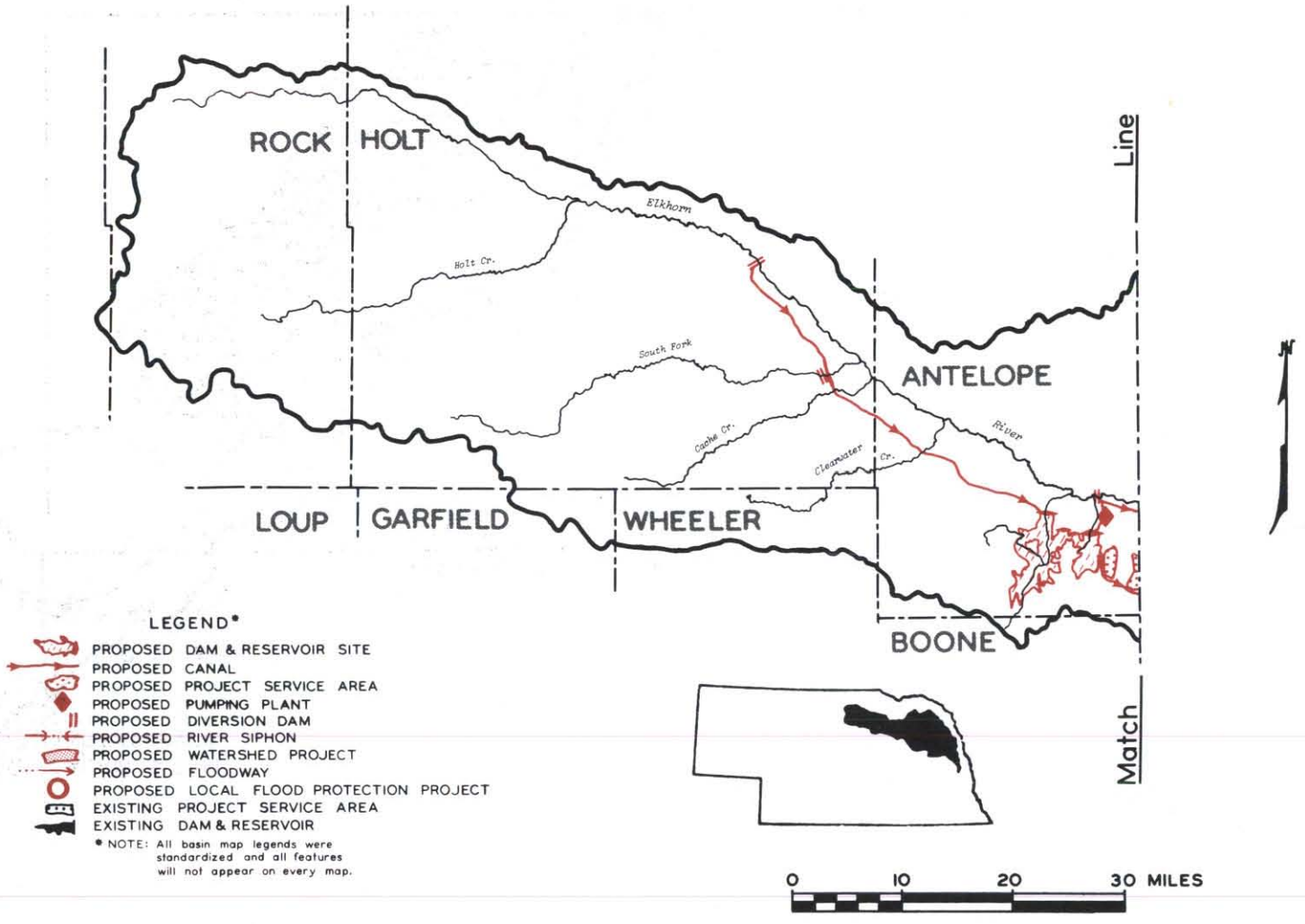
Capacity	Acre-Feet
Surcharge	7,900
Conservation	32,200
Sediment	1,200/100 yr.
Total	32,500*
Surface Area	Acres
Surcharge	1,312
Conservation	1,145

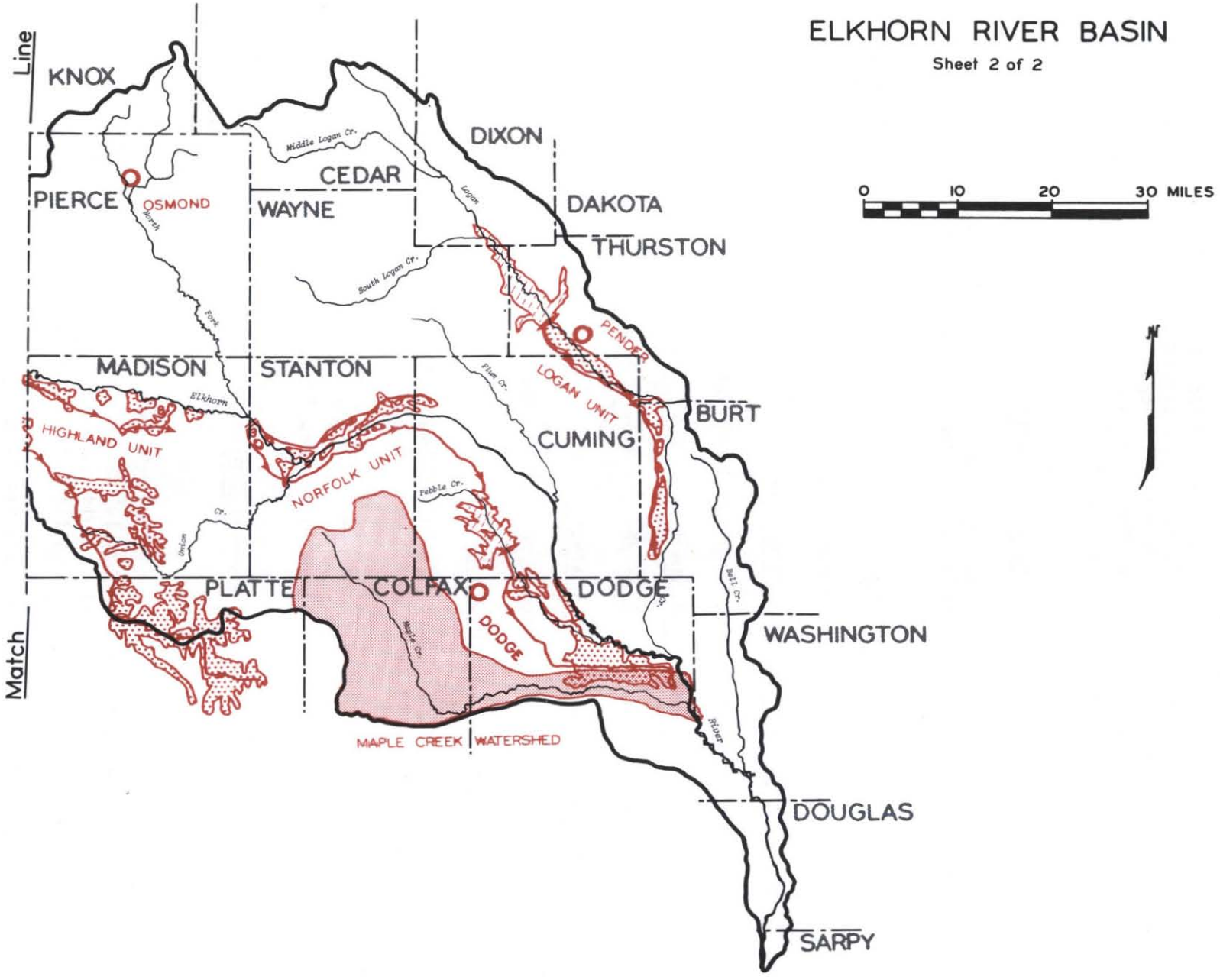
* Excludes Surcharge


NORTH LOUP DIVISION
BUREAU of RECLAMATION
CALAMUS RIVER
CALAMUS DAM AND RESERVOIR
BURWELL
LOUP
NORTH LOUP
GARFIELD
WHEELER
CUSTER
VALLEY
GREELEY
ORD
RIVER
DAVIS CR. DAM & RES.
Davis Creek
SHERMAN
HOWARD
NANCE
MERRICK
ST. PAUL
MIDDLE LOUP RIVER
LOUP RIVER
LEGEND
PROPOSED RESERVOIR
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE
PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
PROPOSED RIVER SIPHON
PROPOSED IRRIGABLE AREA
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
0 5 10
miles

ELKHORN RIVER BASIN

Sheet 1 of 2




ELKHORN RIVER BASIN
Sheet 2 of 2
0 10 20 30 MILES
N
Line
KNOX
PIERCE
OSMOND
CEDAR
WAYNE
DIXON
DAKOTA
THURSTON
PENDER
LOGAN UNIT
MADISON
STANTON
CUMING
BURT
HIGHLAND UNIT
NORFOLK UNIT
PLATTE
COLFAX
DODGE
WASHINGTON
DOUGLAS
SARPY
Match
MAPLE CREEK WATERSHED
Middle Logan Cr.
South Logan Cr.
Logan
North Fork
Elkhorn
Plum Cr.
Pebble Cr.
Union Cr.
Maple Cr.
Bell Cr.
River

CHAPTER 8. ELKHORN RIVER BASIN

The Elkhorn River rises in the eastern part of the Sandhills in north-central Nebraska and flows southeastward to join the Platte River about 30 miles upstream from its confluence with the Missouri River. The area of the Elkhorn River Basin is about 7,000 square miles, nearly 10 percent of the State's total area.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following projects included in the original Volume I and the first revision has changed as noted below.

Corporation Gulch Watershed

This project has been completed.

Battle Creek Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project has been deauthorized.

Giles Creek Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project is now inactive.

Meadow Grove Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project has been completed.

Wakefield Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project has been terminated due to lack of local sponsorship.

King Lake Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project was found to be infeasible.

Potential Projects

Highland Unit

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for planning the Highland Unit, a multipurpose project providing irrigation, recreation, flood control, and fish and wildlife benefits.

Current Status. The reconnaissance report on this project was favorable and feasibility studies were authorized and initiated in fiscal year 1973, but were terminated later that year because of a reassessment of national priorities. Through the efforts of the

local sponsors, funds were provided again in fiscal year 1974. A study is in progress to assess the probable effect of groundwater irrigation development on the streamflow from which the project water supply is taken as well as any effect on project feasibility. Completion of the feasibility study, authorization, and funding by Congress will be required before it can be constructed. A local organization with the requisite legal authority to sponsor the project must also be formed before construction can begin. This project has been endorsed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as a part of the Nebraska State Water Plan.

Description of Project Area. This project would be located in northeastern Nebraska in Holt, Antelope, Madison, and Platte Counties. It lies mostly within the loess hills on the edge of the Sandhills region.

Rainfall averages 26 inches annually with about 19 to 20 inches occurring during the period of April through September. However, it is not uncommon to have periods of little rainfall in late summer.

The economy of the area is based on agriculture, with considerable livestock feeding practiced. Most business activity stems from the processing and sale of farm products and associated retail trade. Manufacturing is a minor business activity in the area.

Project Description. Project plans include three diversion dams and feeder canals to an offstream dam and reservoir system, a pumping plant, and an irrigation distribution system. The two upper diversion dams would divert flows of the Elkhorn River and South Fork into Saint Clair Reservoir. A third diversion dam would divert part of the flows of the Elkhorn River to valley lands and part would be pumped into Saint Clair Reservoir for storage.

Saint Clair Reservoir would be created by a series of four dams on four small streams tributary to the Elkhorn River. The four impoundments would be interconnected by excavated channels and operate as a single reservoir.

The main canal would serve about 48,000 acres in Antelope, Madison, and Platte Counties. A second canal would supply water for 7,500 acres along the Elkhorn River valley in Antelope and Madison Counties.

Direct benefits would accrue from irrigation, recreation, flood control, and fish and wildlife enhancement. Irrigation would be the primary purpose, but recreation and fish and wildlife benefits would be significant. These features would provide 422,000 recreation days and 60,000 fisherman days annually. The project would provide only incidental flood control benefits.

Public Interest. In the 1950's, a group of individuals in the Elkhorn River Basin formed the Elkhorn Valley Water Resources Association and requested the studies which led to formulation of this proposed project. The Elkhorn Watershed Association, Inc. was organized recently to promote resource development, but there is no legal entity capable of sponsoring the non-federal obligations at the present time.

HIGHLAND UNIT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	7 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$2,727,000	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$359,000
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/8 Percent	COSTS BASED ON:	1964 Prices
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.28 to 1.00	LAND REQUIRED:	29,300 Acres
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	55,500 Acres		

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Flood Control	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Direct Benefits	2,804	319	7	60	3,190
Indirect Benefits	301	-0-	-0-	-0-	301
Total Benefits	3,105	319	7	60	3,491

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment By Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Flood Control	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Project Costs	62,114	5,727	153	1,310	69,304
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	5,143	153	1,310	6,606
Reimbursable	62,114	584	-0-	-0-	62,698
Mo. R. Basin Power	Not Avail.	-0-	-0-	-0-	--
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	595	-0-	-0-	595
Local	Not Avail.	-0-	-0-	-0-	--

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	0.90 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.29 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Requirement:	2.43 ac.ft./ac.
Total Diversion Requirement:	126,000 ac.ft.

Table 4 - Dam and Reservoir Data

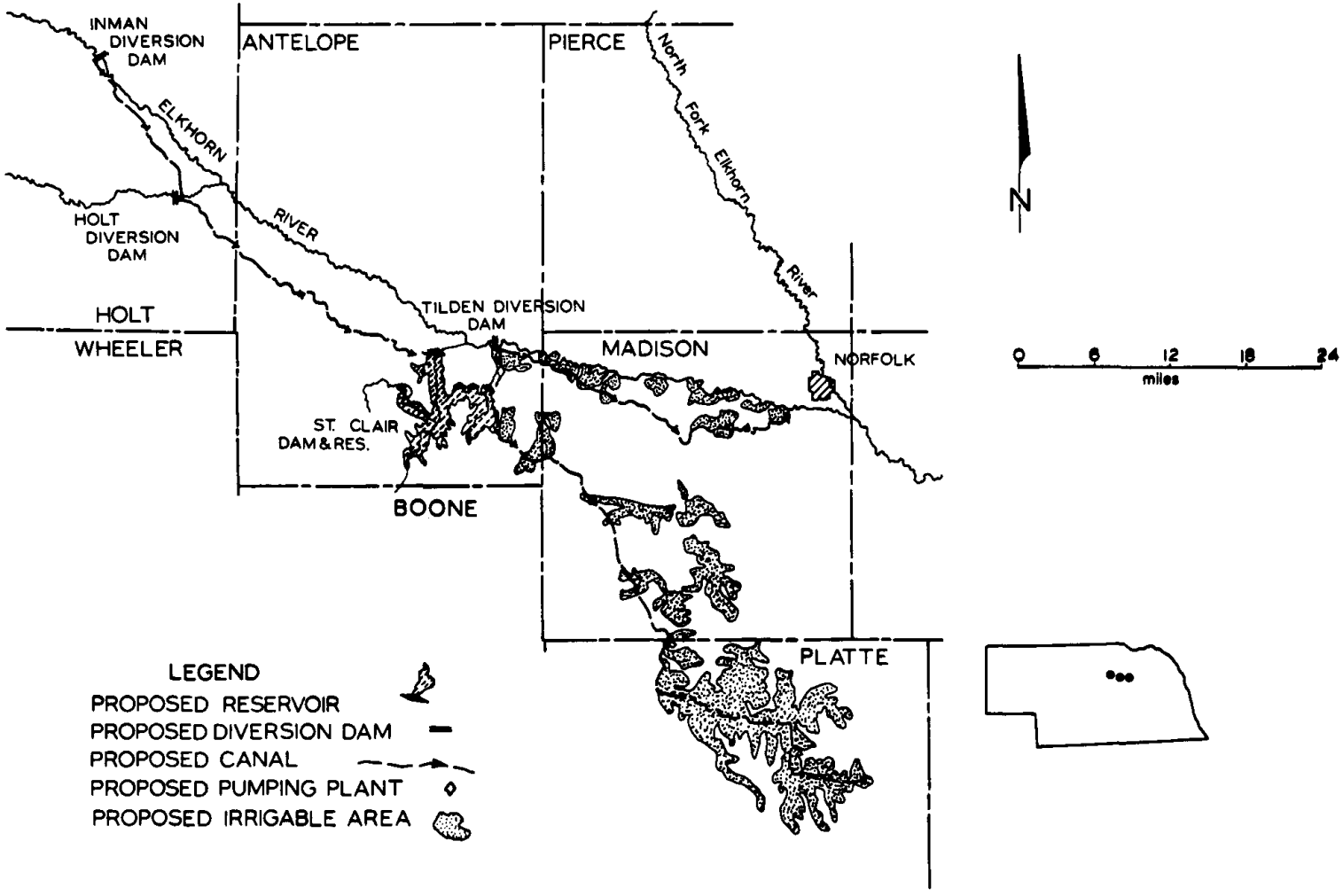
Saint Clair Dams (4)
Height: 64 to 100 feet Length: Not Avail.
Spillway Capacity: 1,760 c.f.s.
Drainage Area: 109 square miles

Saint Clair Reservoir

Capacity	Acre-Feet
Surcharge	60,000
Conservation	210,000
Total	310,000*
Surface Area	**Acres**
Surcharge	11,000
Conservation	9,600

* Excludes Surcharge

HIGHLAND UNIT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION



Logan Unit

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for planning the Logan Unit, a potential multipurpose project including flood control, fish and wildlife, recreation, and irrigation benefits.

Current Status. A reconnaissance report was published in April, 1966. Before any steps toward construction can be taken, a feasibility study must be authorized and completed. This project has been endorsed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as a part of the Nebraska State Water Plan.

Description of Project Area. The Logan Unit of the Elkhorn Division would be located in the Logan Creek valley of northeast Nebraska in Wayne, Dixon, Thurston, Cuming, and Burt Counties. Irrigable lands comprise suitable valley bottom lands, valley terraces, and uplands. The valleys vary in width up to a maximum of three miles. Poor drainage conditions exist in some parts of the valley. Rainfall averages 28 inches with approximately 21 inches falling during the months of April through September.

The economy of this area is basically agricultural. Most business activity stems from the processing and marketing of farm products.

A few flood protection facilities have been developed in this area for local protection, and consist mostly of channel straightening and some levee work around towns.

Project Description. Pender Dam and Reservoir would be located on Logan Creek in Dixon, Wayne, and Thurston Counties. The dam would be located approximately two miles north of the town of Pender.

The outlet works to the Bancroft Canal would be located near the right abutment of the dam and have a design capacity of 200 c.f.s. Bancroft Canal would have a length of 36 miles and would serve the total irrigable area of 11,700 acres.

Irrigation and recreation would be the major benefits of this project. The recreation and fish and wildlife features of this project would provide 750,000 recreation days and 42,500 fisherman days annually.

Remaining Problems and Needs. The decrease in stream flows due to project water depletions may reduce the stream's capacity to assimilate wastes and adversely affect the fishery. However, conditions during low flow periods would probably be improved by the regulated stream flow.

Public Interest. The drought of the middle 1950's adversely affected the local economy of this area and a group of individuals showed interest in irrigation and related resource development. This group was instrumental in securing the initiation of the reconnaissance investigations leading to this proposal and plan. However, no legal sponsoring district has been formed.

LOGAN UNIT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	6 Years	PROJECT LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$1,302,500	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$227,000
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/8 Percent	COSTS BASED ON:	1966 Prices
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.06 to 1.00	LAND REQUIRED:	17,125 Acres
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	11,700 Acres		

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Flood Control	Total
Direct Benefits	591	560	42.5	170	1,363.5
Indirect Benefits	19	-0-	-0-	-0-	19
Total Benefits	610	560	42.5	170	1,382.5

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Flood Control	Total
Project Costs	15,170	10,229	1,057	4,734	31,190
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	8,215	1,057	4,734	14,006
Reimbursable	15,170	2,014*	-0-	-0-	17,184*
Mo. R. Basin Power	Not Avail.	-0-	-0-	-0-	--
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	2,014*	-0-	-0-	2,014*
Local	Not Avail.	-0-	-0-	-0-	--

* Does not include repayable interest during construction

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	0.95 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.38 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Requirement:	2.32 ac.ft./ac.
Total Diversion Requirement:	25,500 ac.ft.

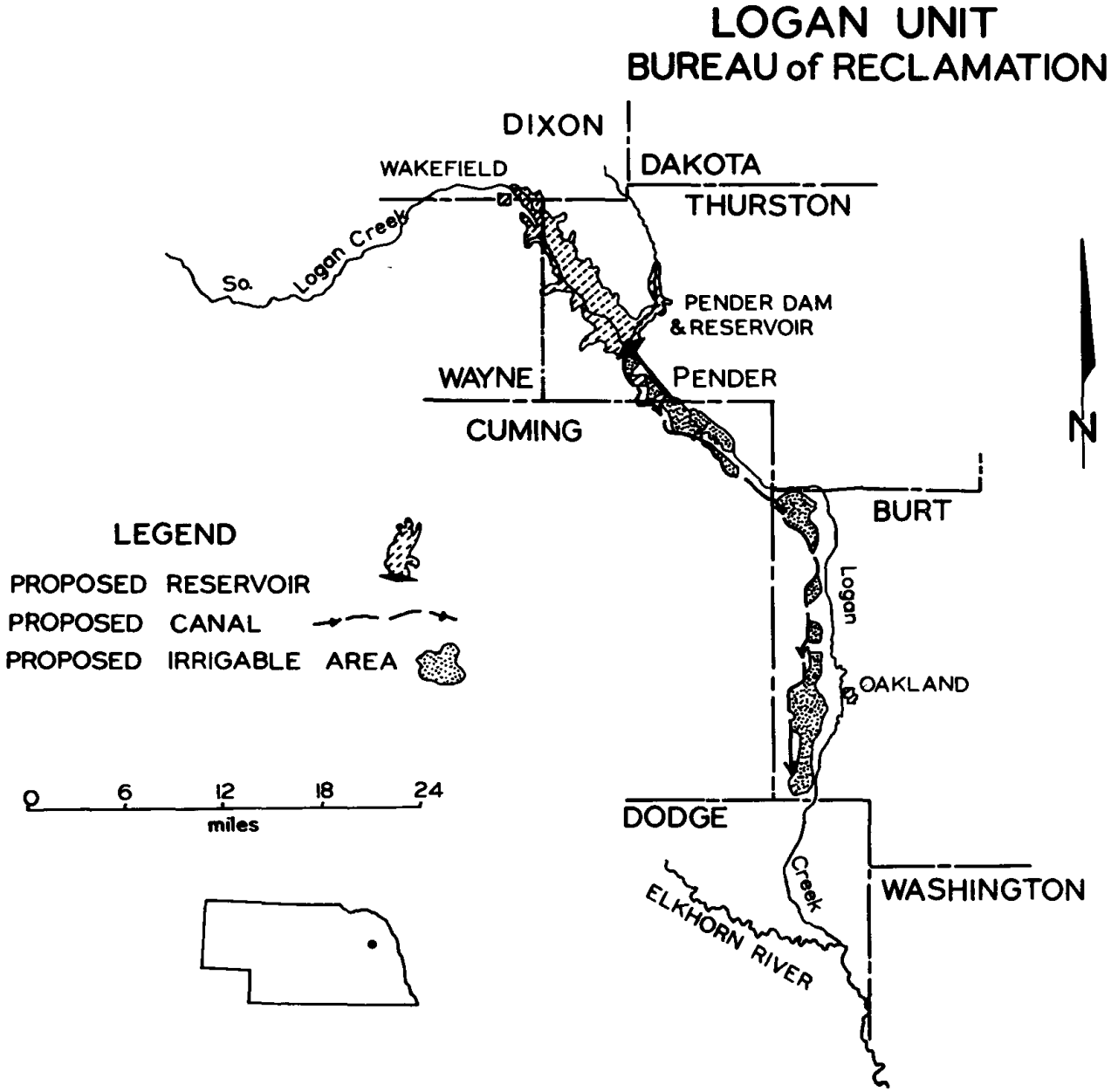
Table 4 - Dam and Reservoir Data

Pender Dam
Height: 65 feet Length: 10,000 feet
Spillway Capacity: 127,000 c.f.s.
Drainage Area: 745 square miles

Pender Reservoir

Capacity	Acre-Feet
Flood Control	136,000
Surcharge	42,700
Conservation	77,100
Sediment	15,000-100 yr.
Total	246,100*
Surface Area	**Acres**
Flood Control	12,400
Surcharge	13,665
Conservation	7,750

*Excludes Surcharge


LOGAN UNIT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION
DIXON
WAKEFIELD
DAKOTA
THURSTON
So. Logan Creek
PENDER DAM
& RESERVOIR
WAYNE
PENDER
CUMING
BURT
N
LEGEND
PROPOSED RESERVOIR
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED IRRIGABLE AREA
Logan
OAKLAND
0 6 12 18 24
miles
DODGE
Creek
WASHINGTON
ELKHORN RIVER

Norfolk Unit

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for investigation of the Norfolk Unit. The proposed project would be multipurpose providing primary benefits from irrigation and recreation.

Current Status. A reconnaissance report has been prepared on this unit, but before further steps can be taken toward eventual construction, Congress must authorize and appropriate funds for a feasibility study. This project has been endorsed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as a part of the Nebraska State Water Plan.

Description of Project Area. The project area includes parts of Madison, Stanton, Cuming, and Dodge Counties. This area is made up of valley bottom lands, valley terraces, and uplands. The soil is primarily silty loess. Upland areas are generally sloping and dissected by small drains. Poor drainage conditions exist in parts of the valley lands. Rainfall averages 28 inches annually, with approximately 21 inches falling during the months April through September.

The economy of this area is basically agricultural. Most business activity stems from the processing and marketing of farm products.

Water resource development has been limited in the area. A few local flood protection works consisting mostly of channel straightening and some diking around towns have been developed.

Project Description. Major features of the Norfolk Unit would be the Monterey Dam and Reservoir and the Warnerville Diversion Works. Monterey Dam would be located on Pebble Creek, a tributary of the Elkhorn River, approximately seven miles southwest of West Point in Cuming County. A canal originating at outlet works located near the right end of the dam embankment would serve 25,000 acres, mostly upland between Pebble and Maple Creeks, by gravity.

The Warnerville Diversion Dam, to be located on the Elkhorn River approximately four miles southeast of Norfolk, would consist primarily of an uncontrolled overflow spillway and two canal headworks. The Monterey Feeder Canal on the right end of the spillway would divert river flows to both deliver water to the Monterey Reservoir and serve 2900 acres with irrigation water enroute. The Norfolk Canal on the left end of the spillway would serve about 5100 acres of land on the north side of the river.

Direct benefits would be derived from irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and flood control. The recreation and fish and wildlife features of this project would provide 924,000 recreation days and 43,700 fisherman days annually. Flood control benefits would be incidental to the operation of the reservoir and would reduce annual damages on Pebble Creek about 30 percent.

Public Interest. The local people are concerned mainly about flood prevention and control. Interest in other project purposes has not been sufficient to lead to the organization of a district capable of sponsoring the project.

NORFOLK UNIT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	8 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$2,214,400	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$351,700
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/8 Percent	COSTS BASED ON:	1966 Prices
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.16 to 1.00	LAND REQUIRED:	21,515 Acres
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	33,000 Acres		

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Flood Control	Total
Direct Benefits	1,668	693	43.7	11	2,415.7
Indirect Benefits	163	-0-	-0-	-0-	163
Total Benefits	1,831	693	43.7	11	2,578.7

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Flood Control	Total
Project Costs	41,910	11,861	956	243	54,970
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	9,231	956	243	10,430
Reimbursable	41,910	2,630*	-0-	-0-	44,540*
Mo. R. Basin Power	Not Avail.	-0-	-0-	-0-	--
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	2,630*	-0-	-0-	2,630*
Local	Not Avail.	-0-	-0-	-0-	--

* Does not include repayable interest during construction

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	0.95 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.38 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Requirement:	2.41 ac.ft./ac.
Total Diversion Requirement:	74,600 ac.ft.

Table 4 - Dam and Reservoir Data

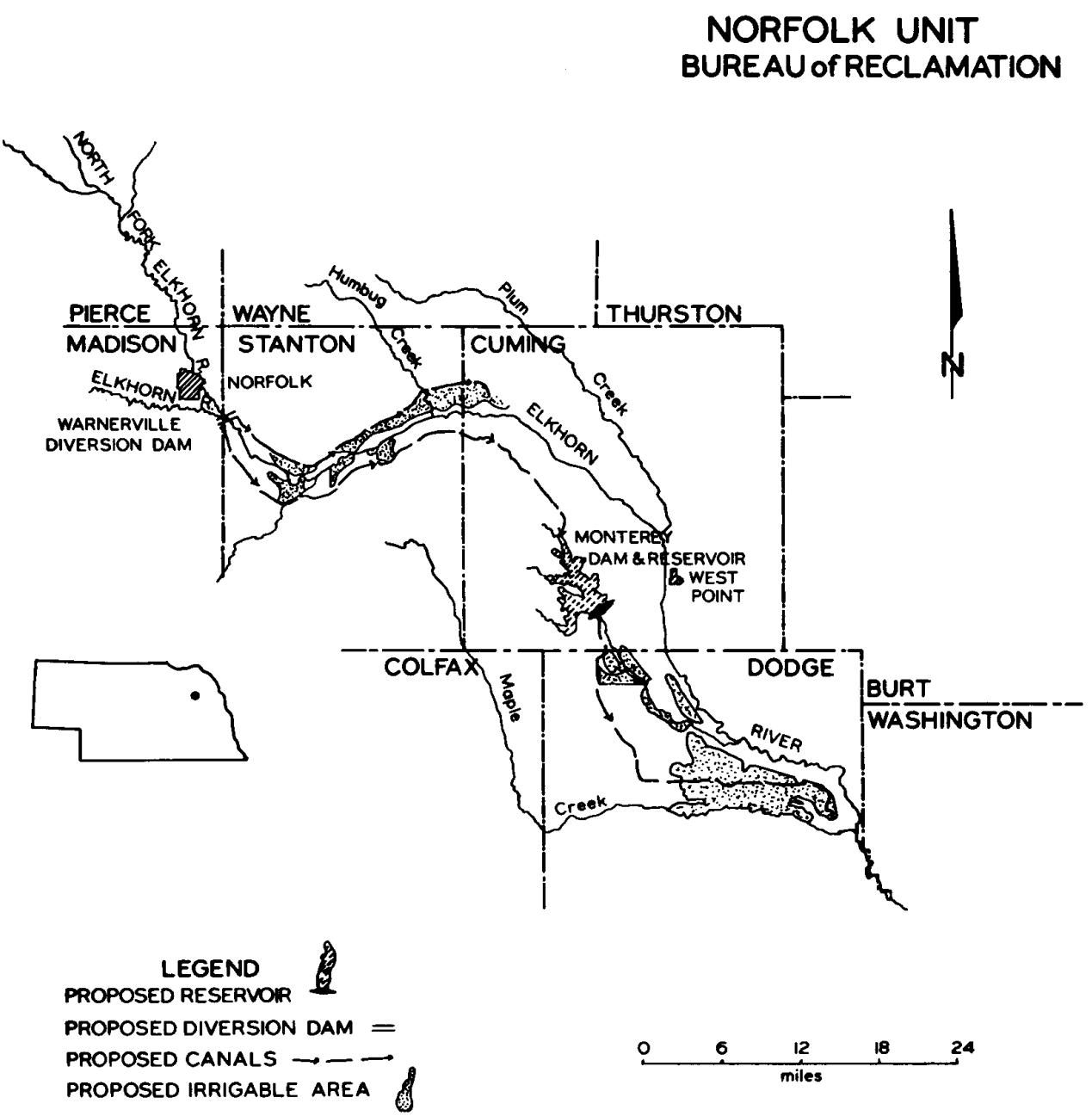
Monterey Dam

Height:	102 feet
Length:	10,100 feet
Spillway Capacity:	3,500 c.f.s.
Drainage Area:	79 square miles

Monterey Reservoir

Capacity	Acre-Feet
Flood Control	0
Surcharge	38,700
Conservation	113,500
Sediment	10,000/100 yr.
Total	211,100*
Surface Area	**Acres**
Surcharge	8,000
Conservation	7,300

*Excludes Surcharge


NORFOLK UNIT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION
NORTH FORK ELKHORN R.
PIERCE
MADISON
WAYNE
STANTON
Humbug Creek
Plum Creek
THURSTON
CUMING
N
ELKHORN R.
NORFOLK
WARNERVILLE DIVERSION DAM
ELKHORN
MONTEREY DAM & RESERVOIR
WEST POINT
COLFAX
Maple Creek
DODGE
BURT
WASHINGTON
RIVER
LEGEND
PROPOSED RESERVOIR
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
PROPOSED CANALS
PROPOSED IRRIGABLE AREA
0 6 12 18 24
miles

Projects in Planning

Maple Creek Watershed

This watershed project is located in Colfax, Dodge, and Stanton Counties. Preliminary investigations indicate a project involving 28 floodwater retarding structures, including three multipurpose structures with recreation water storage, would be feasible. Work plan investigations have been recently authorized.

Pender Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project would provide protection for the village of Pender from the floodwaters of Logan Creek. It would include a levee around three sides of the village at an estimated cost of about $1,900,000.

Current Status. The detailed project report and environmental impact statement are scheduled for completion early in 1975. The village of Pender has indicated a willingness to provide the local cooperation.

Osmond Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project would provide flood protection for the town of Osmond through channel improvement. In 1971 it was estimated the project would cost approximately $425,000.

Current Status. The reconnaissance report was completed in September, 1971. Further study has been deferred pending completion of Missouri River Basin Commission's study of the Platte River Basin in Nebraska.

Dodge Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project would provide flood protection for the town of Dodge through channel improvements, levees, and construction of a drain ditch. Estimated cost of the project in 1967 was $246,000.

Current Status. The reconnaissance report was completed in March, 1967. Further study has been deferred pending completion of the Missouri River Basin Commission's study of the Platte River Basin in Nebraska.

CHAPTER 9. LOWER PLATTE RIVER BASIN

The Lower Platte River Basin is that part of the Platte River drainage area, exclusive of the Elkhorn River drainage, extending from the mouth of the Loup River to the Missouri River. The 3,110 square miles in the Basin includes the valley of the Platte River, the drainage areas of Shell, Salt, and Wahoo Creeks, and a number of other smaller tributary streams.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following projects included in the original Volume I and the first revision has changed as noted below.

Platte River and Lost Creek, Schuyler Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project has been completed.

Shell Creek and Tributaries

This Corps of Engineers project is inactive.

Clear Creek Watershed Project

This project has been authorized and is awaiting construction.

Potential Projects

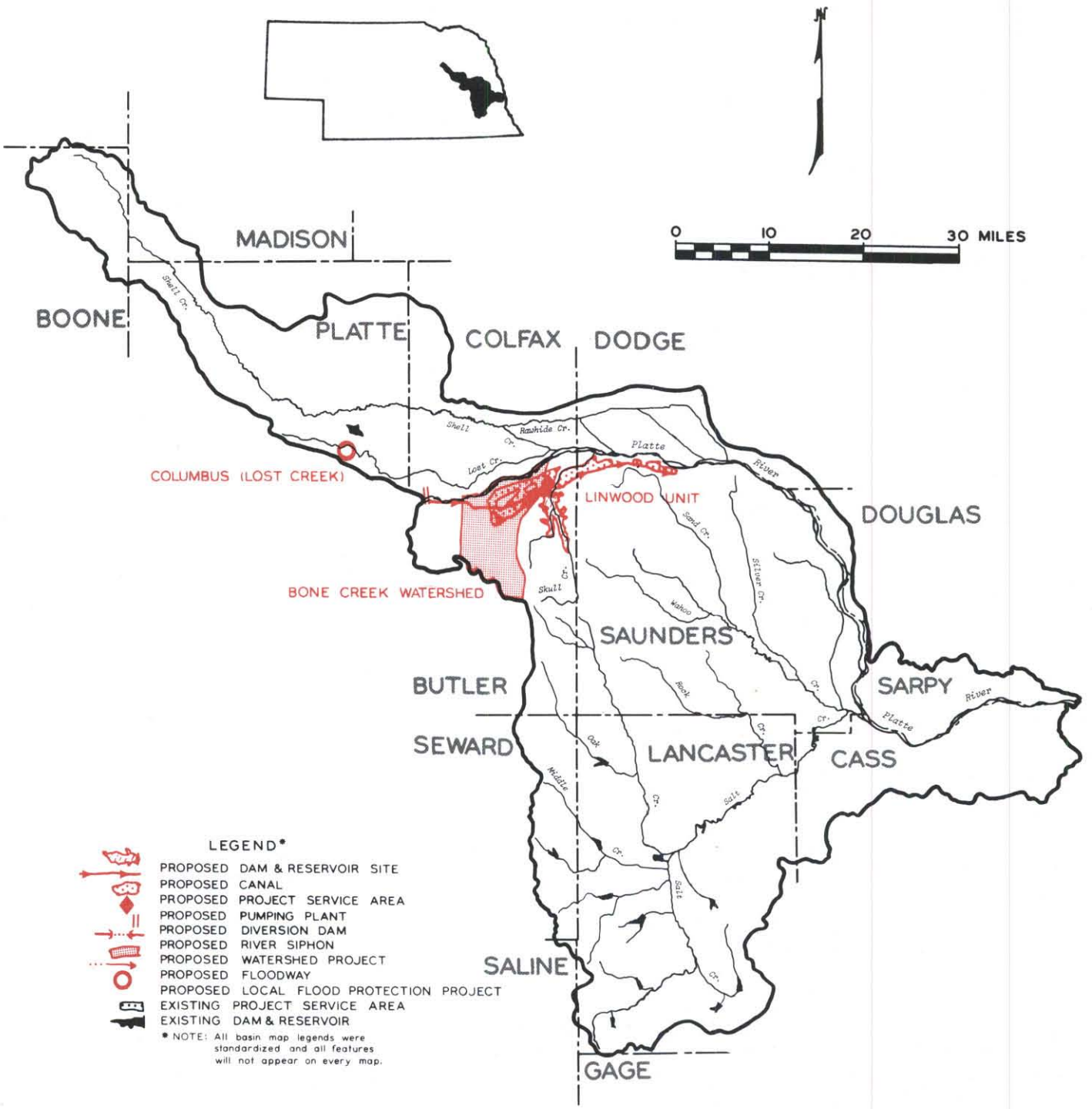
Linwood Unit

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency responsible for investigation of the irrigation functions of this project. The proposed project would be multipurpose with irrigation as the primary function.

Current Status. A favorable reconnaissance report was released in August, 1966. Before further steps toward construction can be taken, Congress must authorize and provide funds for a feasibility study. A local district with authority to sponsor the project must also be formed prior to any construction.

The irrigation potential of this area was explored briefly during the late 1940's and early 1950's by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Corps of Engineers later investigated the possibility of a flood control reservoir on Skull Creek above the village of Linwood and requested the Bureau of Reclamation to evaluate the desirability of including irrigation storage in this potential reservoir. Eventually this led to the reconnaissance investigation.

LOWER PLATTE RIVER BASIN



Description of Project Area. The project would be located along the south side of the Platte River in Butler and Saunders Counties. The topography of the area is characterized by valley lands walled by bluffs or rough loess hills to the south. Bottomlands are only slightly higher than the river and much of this area has a high water table. The surface of the proposed service area ranges from smooth to slightly undulating.

Periods of two or three weeks with little or no moisture often occur in the critical part of the growing season. Rainfall averages about 27 inches annually with about 75 percent of this falling during the months of April through September.

Water resource development is limited in the area. Present irrigation development is confined to pumping from wells.

The economy of the area is basically agricultural. Most business activity stems from the processing and sale of farm products and associated retail trades.

Project Description. The irrigation features of this project would consist of a diversion dam, two canals, and a pumping plant for the irrigation of a total of 10,600 acres of land. The construction and operation of these features would be integrated with a storage reservoir on Skull Creek proposed by the Corps of Engineers.

Water would be diverted into the Linwood Canal from the Columbus Diversion Dam on the Platte River to serve 7,700 acres of land south of the Platte River. A pumping plant near the Skull Creek Dam two miles southwest of Linwood would lift water 92 feet to the Octavia Canal and also into the Skull Creek Reservoir for later release. The Octavia Canal would serve 2,900 acres lying above the Linwood Canal.

Direct benefits which would be derived from this project include irrigation, recreation, and fish and wildlife. The recreation and fish and wildlife features of this project would provide 12,000 recreation days and 5,400 fisherman days annually.

Public Interest. Local people in the Skull Creek area are interested in securing adequate flood control, but no organization with legal authority to sponsor the project has been formed.

LINWOOD UNIT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	4 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$564,500	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$62,300
INTEREST RATE:	3 1/8 Percent	COSTS BASED ON:	1966 Prices
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.09 to 1.00	LAND REQUIRED:	2,066 Acres
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	10,600 Acres		

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Direct Benefits	529.5	12	5.4	546.9
Indirect Benefits	66.2	-0-	-0-	66.2
Total Benefits	595.7	12	5.4	613.1

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Project Costs	14,347	193	141	14,681
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	140.5	141	281.5
Reimbursable	14,347	52.5*	-0-	14,399.5*
Mo. R. Basin Power	Not Avail.	-0-	-0-	--
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	52.5*	-0-	52.5*
Local	Not Avail.	-0-	-0-	--

* Does not include repayable interest during construction

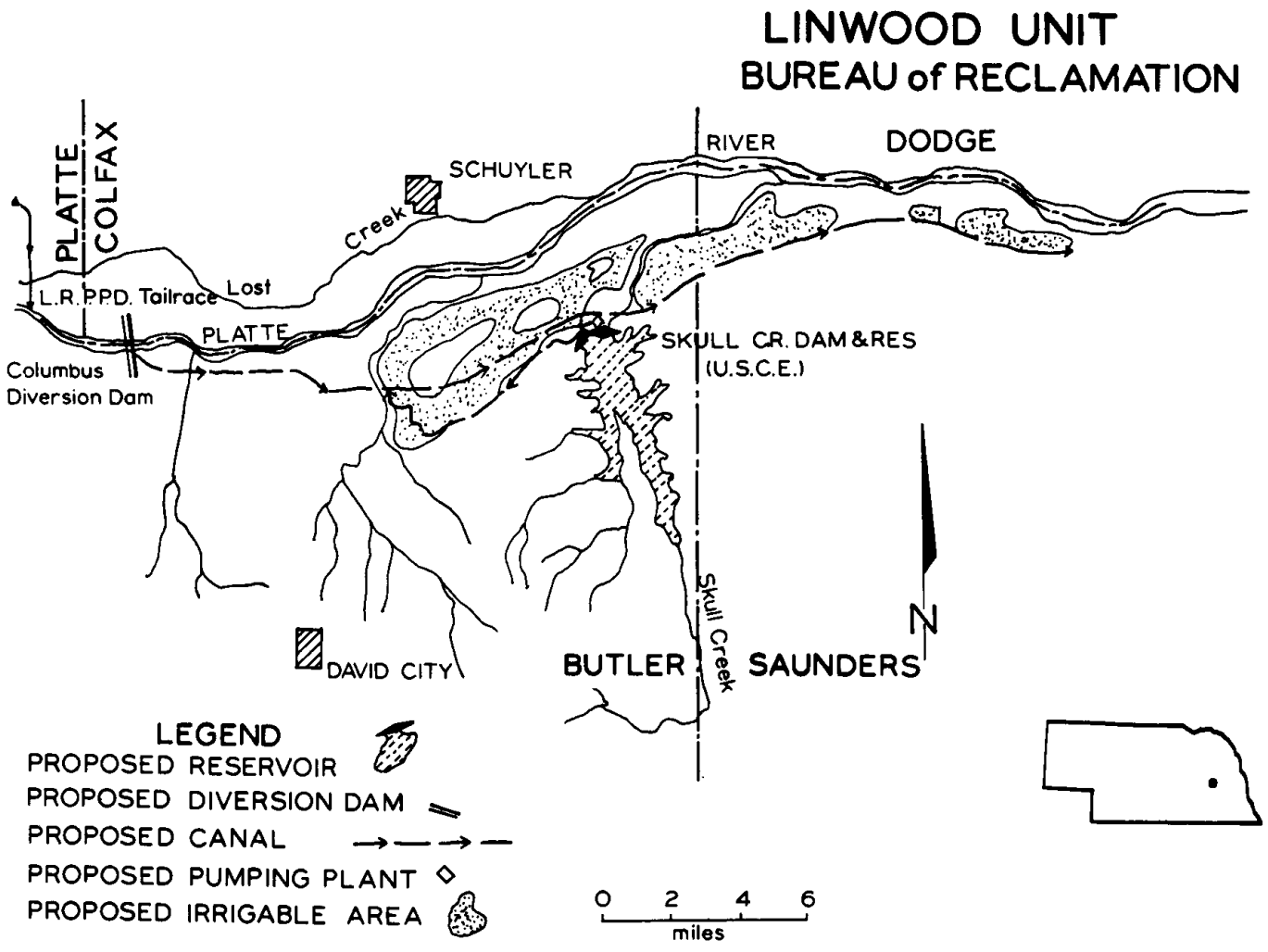
Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	0.85 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.21 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Requirement:	2.05 ac.ft./ac.
Total Diversion Requirement:	20,700 ac.ft.

Table 4 - Dam and Reservoir Data

Columbus Diversion Dam

Height:	20 feet	Length:	14,700 feet
Spillway Capacity:	90,000 c.f.s.		
Drainage Area:	Not Available		


LINWOOD UNIT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION
PLATTE
COLFAX
SCHUYLER
RIVER
DODGE
Creek
Lost
L.R.P.P.D. Tailrace
PLATTE
Columbus
Diversion Dam
SKULL CR. DAM & RES
(U.S.C.E.)
DAVID CITY
BUTLER
SAUNDERS
Skull Creek
N
LEGEND
PROPOSED RESERVOIR
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
PROPOSED IRRIGABLE AREA
0 2 4 6
miles

Projects in Planning

Bone Creek Watershed

The Bone Creek watershed located south of the Platte River in Butler County suffers flood and sediment damage on the Platte River valley lands in the lower reaches of the watershed. The preliminary investigation indicates a structural program including 6 floodwater retarding structures may prove feasible.

Lost Creek North of Columbus Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project would provide flood protection to Columbus and the area north of the city. The reconnaissance report recommends channel improvement for Lost Creek and an adjoining greenbelt area.

Current Status. The detailed project report and environmental impact statement are scheduled for completion in mid-1975. The city of Columbus has indicated a willingness to provide the local cooperation.

CHAPTER 10. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN

The Republican River Basin lies in the southwest corner of the State and occupies 9,650 square miles, about one-eighth of the State's total area.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following project included in the original Volume I and the first revision has changed as noted below.

Medicine Creek (Upper and Lower) Watershed

This project was under construction on January 1, 1975.

Potential Projects

Blackwood Creek Watershed

The Soil Conservation Service is the agency primarily responsible for investigation and design of the Blackwood Creek Watershed project. The principal purposes of the project are to prevent floodwater, erosion, and sediment damages.

Current Status. The Blackwood Creek Watershed Work Plan has been completed and is now undergoing formal review. Before the project can proceed further, it must be authorized by the Congress.

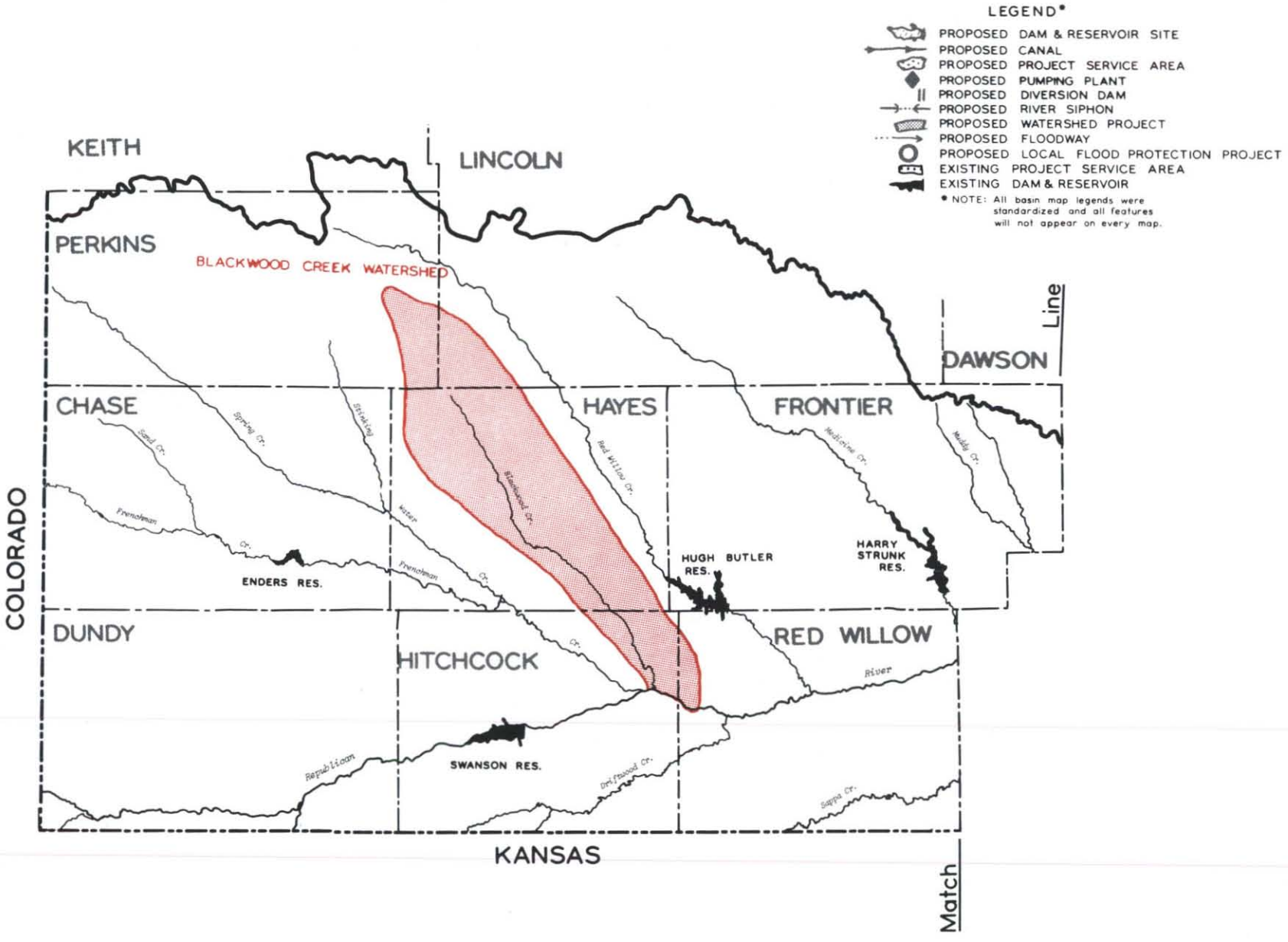
Description of Project Area. The Blackwood Creek Watershed is located in the Middle Republican Natural Resources District in Red Willow, Hayes, Hitchcock, Lincoln, and Perkins Counties. The watershed consists of two hydrologic and economic units, the Blackwood Creek Unit and the Perry Drain Unit. Blackwood Creek is a tributary of the Republican River. The watershed area consists of a series of narrow flattopped divides separated by steep-walled drainageways of considerable relief. The average annual precipitation for Blackwood Watershed is 20 inches. The average growing season is 147 days and 65 percent of the rainfall occurs during that period.

The economy of the area is agriculturally based with grain and livestock farms as the major units. The distribution of land use in the watershed is approximately 41 percent cropland, 56 percent rangeland, and 3 percent devoted to other uses. The principal crops grown include wheat, corn, alfalfa, and grain sorghum.

Project Description. The project will consist of land treatment measures and 13 floodwater retarding structures, of which 9 are in the Blackwood Creek Unit and 4 in the Perry Drain Unit.

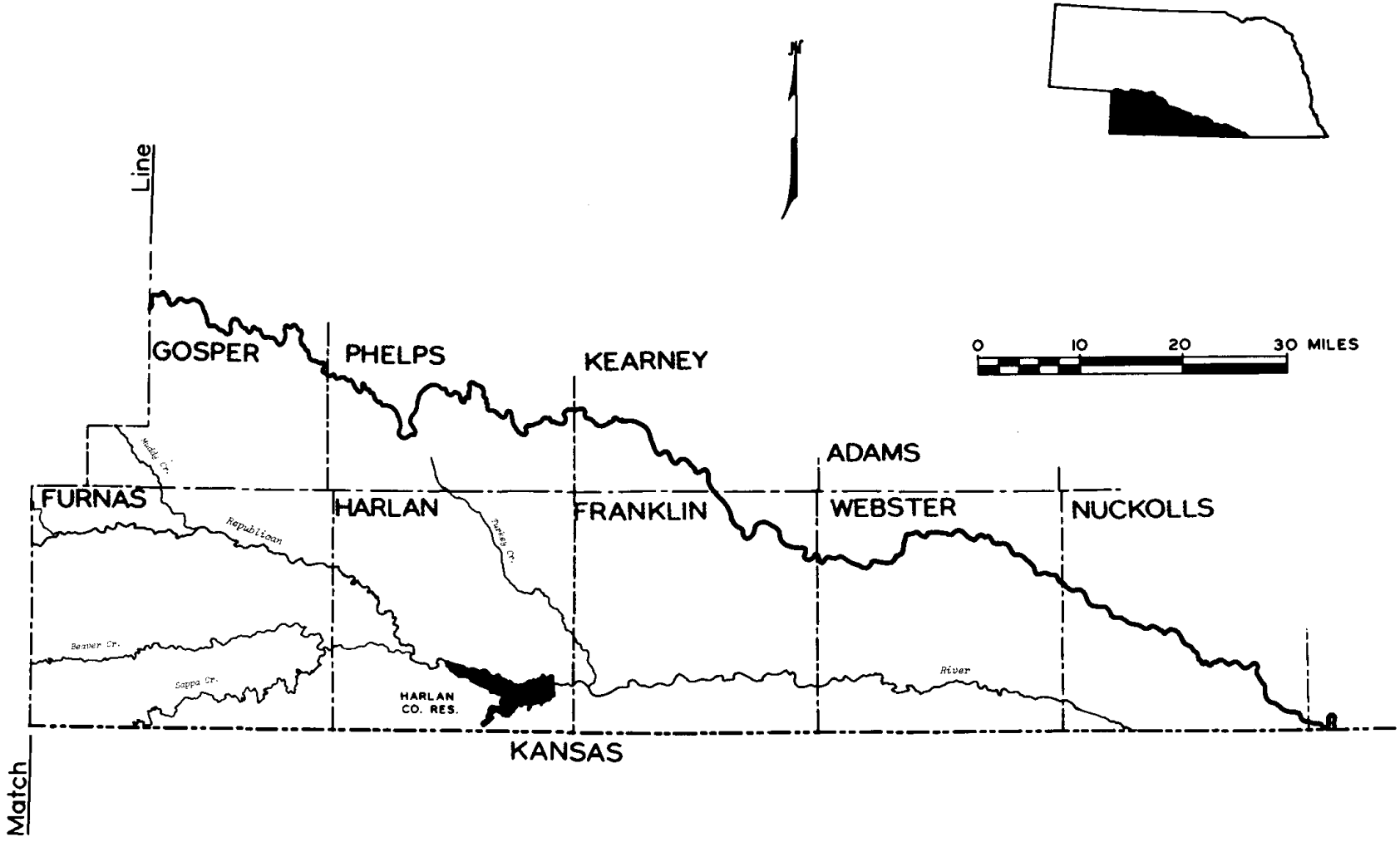
REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN

Sheet 1 of 2



REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN

Sheet 2 of 2



Structural and land treatment measures will reduce the floodwater damages by about 57 percent and will reduce erosion and sediment damages by about 70 percent.

Public Interest. The Perry Drainage District and the Middle Republican Natural Resources District are the local organizations sponsoring this project.

BLACKWOOD CREEK WATERSHED

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	5 Years	INTEREST RATE:	6 7/8 Percent
PROJECT INSTALLATION COST:	$4,276,700	BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	2.2 to 1.0
FEDERAL:	$1,367,500	ECONOMIC LIFE:	50 Years
NON-FEDERAL:	$2,909,200	COST BASED ON:	1973 Prices
O. & M. BY:	Middle Republican Natural Resources District Perry Drain District		

Table 1 - Average Annual Structural Benefits

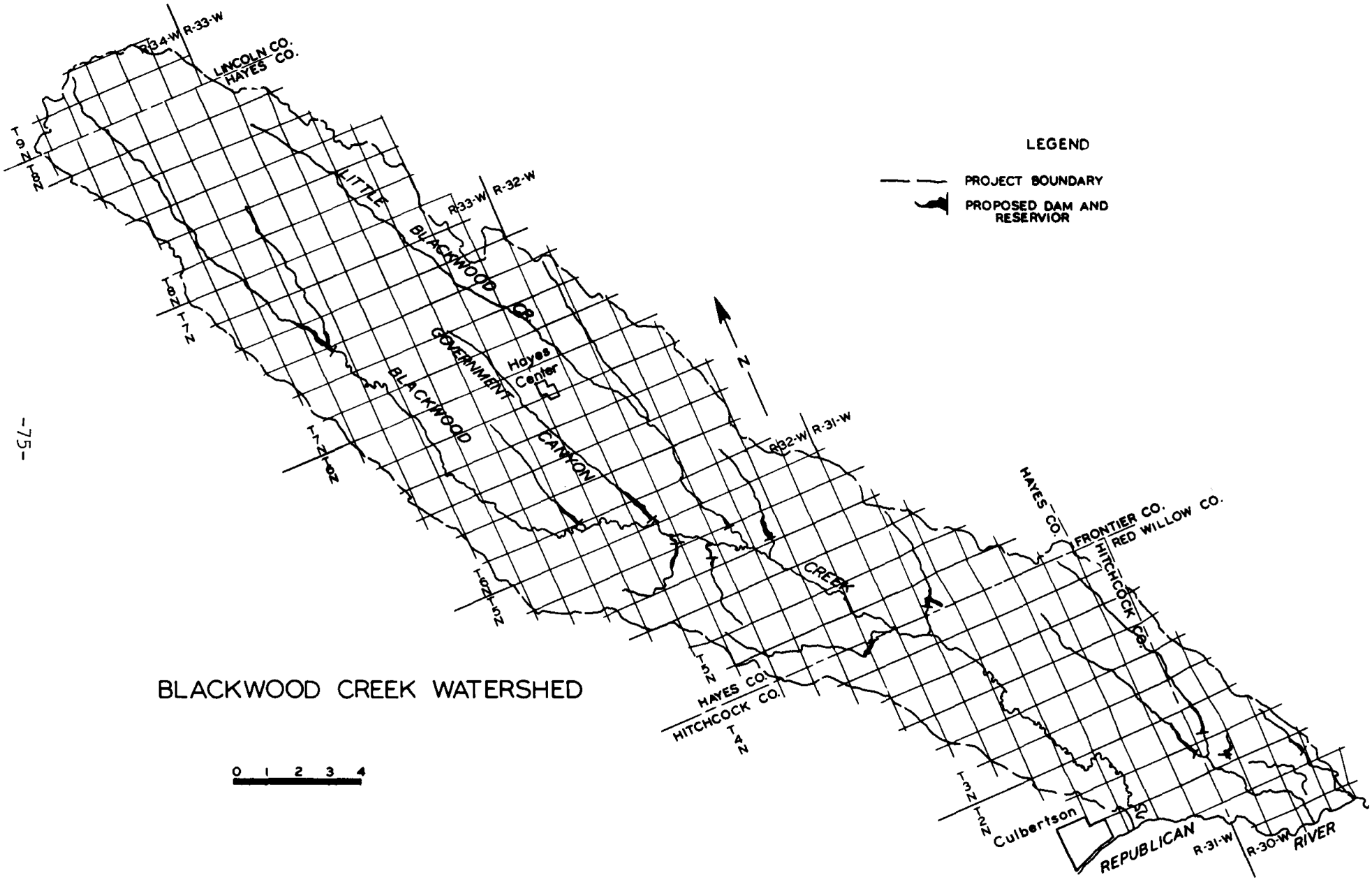
Flood and Erosion Control	More Intensive Land Use	Incidental Ground-water Recharge	Secondary	Total
$66,600	$21,400	$3,200	$91,300	$182,500

Table 2 - Average Annual Structural Costs

	Installation	O. & M.	Total
Structures	$70,770	$3,750	$74,520
Administration	10,280		10,280
Total	81,050	$3,750	$84,800

Table 3 - Reservoir Data

Number of Structures	Total Controlled Drainage Area (Acres)	Storage Capacity (Acre-Feet)		
		Initial	Sediment	Flood Control
13	97,500	21,215	2,692	18,523



BLACKWOOD CREEK WATERSHED

Projects in Planning

Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District Rehabilitation Project

The Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District is located in Hitchcock, Red Willow, Furnas, and Harlan Counties. The district's laterals were designed and constructed as a system of unlined open ditches. Excessive maintenance costs prompted the district to request a survey of the irrigation system pursuant to application for a loan under the Rehabilitation and Betterment Act of October 7, 1949. The results of the survey support the need and justification for rebuilding approximately one-half of the open ditch laterals using closed pipe.

Revised guidelines for Rehabilitation and Betterment Programs have delayed approval of the loan application. The Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District continues to support the program and the report will be revised to reflect the revised guidelines.

Frenchman-Cambridge Division Supplemental Water Supply Studies

The Frenchman-Cambridge Division is made up of 5 units operated by 3 irrigation districts. A total of 66,093 irrigable acres in the 3 districts extend from Swanson Lake on the Republican River and Palisade, Nebraska, on the Frenchman River to the inlet of Harlan County Reservoir.

Studies indicate three conditions threaten the effective water supply of the Frenchman Unit in the western portion of the division. These include (1) irrigation well development depleting the base flow of Frenchman Creek into Enders Reservoir, (2) channel losses in Frenchman Creek, and (3) canal and lateral losses.

The Frenchman Valley, Nebraska Appraisal Report was drafted in fiscal year 1974 and is currently being reviewed. The report will present alternate water use management plans which will consider development of a source of supplemental water and water salvage operations and recommend that feasibility studies be initiated.

CHAPTER 11. LITTLE BLUE RIVER BASIN

This Basin is located in south-central and southeastern Nebraska between the Republican, Middle Platte, and Big Blue River Basins. It occupies an area of 2,650 square miles, second smallest in the State.

Potential Projects

Little Blue Unit

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for investigation of the Little Blue Unit, a proposed multipurpose project to provide flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife, and irrigation benefits.

Current Status. A favorable feasibility report completed in 1966 must be reevaluated to be responsive to new multiple-objective planning guidelines. If it is found the project is still feasible, authorization and funds for construction must be provided by the Congress.

Description of Project Area. The potential Little Blue Unit is located on the Little Blue River in Clay, Nuckolls, Thayer and Jefferson Counties in south-central Nebraska. The area encompassing the Little Blue Unit is comprised of loess mantled uplands with a well-developed drainage pattern, narrow terraces, and narrow flood plains. The average annual precipitation is 27 inches of which about 83 percent occurs during the six-month growing season from April through September.

The economy is agriculturally based with livestock, wheat, and corn being the chief exports of the area. Most of the industrial firms in the area are engaged in processing local agricultural products.

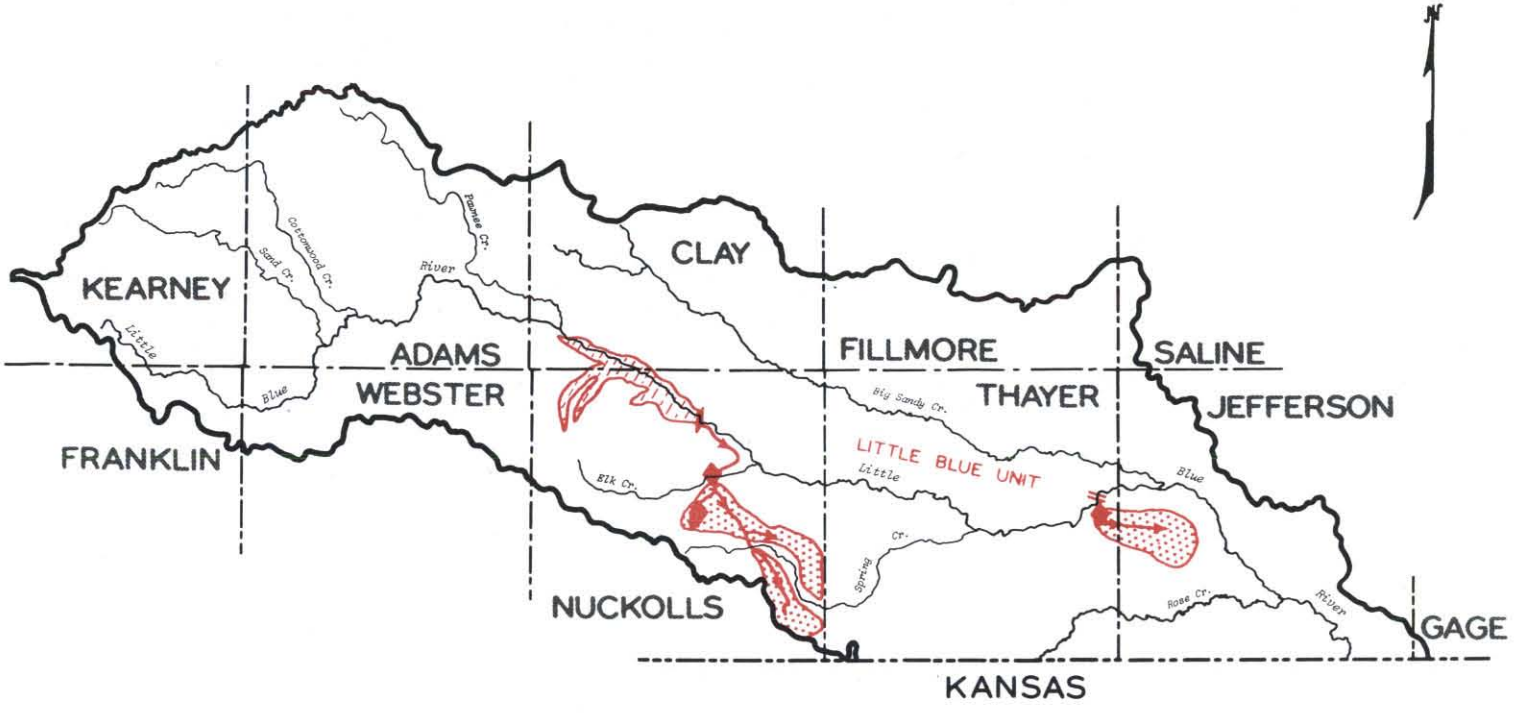
Project Description. Project features include a multipurpose dam and reservoir, three pumping plants, six small relift pumps, a diversion dam, canals, and distribution systems. Angus Dam and Reservoir, located about three miles northwest of the town of Angus, would provide storage for project purposes.

A canal heading in the right abutment would deliver water to two pumping plants required to lift the water into the distribution systems serving irrigable lands in southeastern Nuckolls County.

Gilead Diversion Dam and Pumping Plant, to be located on the Little Blue River approximately 35 miles southeast of Angus Dam, would divert water to irrigable lands in Thayer and Jefferson Counties.

Angus Dam and Reservoir would significantly reduce downstream flood damages to valley lands, several cities and towns, a number of roads and highways, and utilities and railroad lines. The recreation and fish and wildlife features of this project would provide 225,000 recreation days, 55,500 fisherman days, and 1,500 hunter days annually.

LITTLE BLUE RIVER BASIN



LEGEND*

- PROPOSED DAM & RESERVOIR SITE
- PROPOSED CANAL
- PROPOSED PROJECT SERVICE AREA
- PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
- PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
- PROPOSED RIVER SIPHON
- PROPOSED WATERSHED PROJECT
- PROPOSED FLOODWAY
- PROPOSED LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
- EXISTING PROJECT SERVICE AREA
- EXISTING DAM & RESERVOIR

* NOTE: All basin map legends were standardized and all features will not appear on every map.

0 10 20 30 MILES

Public Interest. Nuckolls, Thayer, and Jefferson Counties have assessed special tax levies to financially assist the sponsors in promoting the unit.

The Little Blue River Irrigation and Flood Control Committee was organized in 1956 and has actively supported the proposed project. The Little Blue Irrigation District was formed in 1961 to demonstrate the local interest in irrigation.

LITTLE BLUE UNIT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	6 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$3,731,700	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$259,500
INTEREST RATE:	5 1/8 Percent	BY:	Little Blue Irrigation Dist.
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.25 to 1.00		
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	20,000 Acres	COSTS BASED ON:	1965 Prices
		LAND REQUIRED:	22,260 Acres

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Flood Control	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Irrigation	Total
Direct Benefits	1,778	341.9	170.2	1,899.5	4,189.6
Indirect Benefits	-0-	Not Avail.	-0-	461.2	461.2
Total Benefits	1,778	341.9	170.2	2,360.7	4,650.8

Table 2 - Project Costs and Payment by Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Flood Control	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Irrigation	Total
Project Costs	22,106	3,789	1,918	35,736	63,549 1/
Non-Reimbursable	22,106	2,882.5	1,728	-0-	26,716.5
Reimbursable	-0-	906.5 2/	190 2/	35,736 3/	36,832.5
Mo. R. Basin Power	-0-	-0-	-0-	--	--
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	906.5	190	-0-	1,096.5
Local	-0-	-0-	-0-	--	--

1/ Includes $150,000 for non-reimbursable road relocation, but excludes investigations of $419,000
2/ Does not include repayable interest during construction
3/ The district will repay within its ability; the balance will be paid by Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

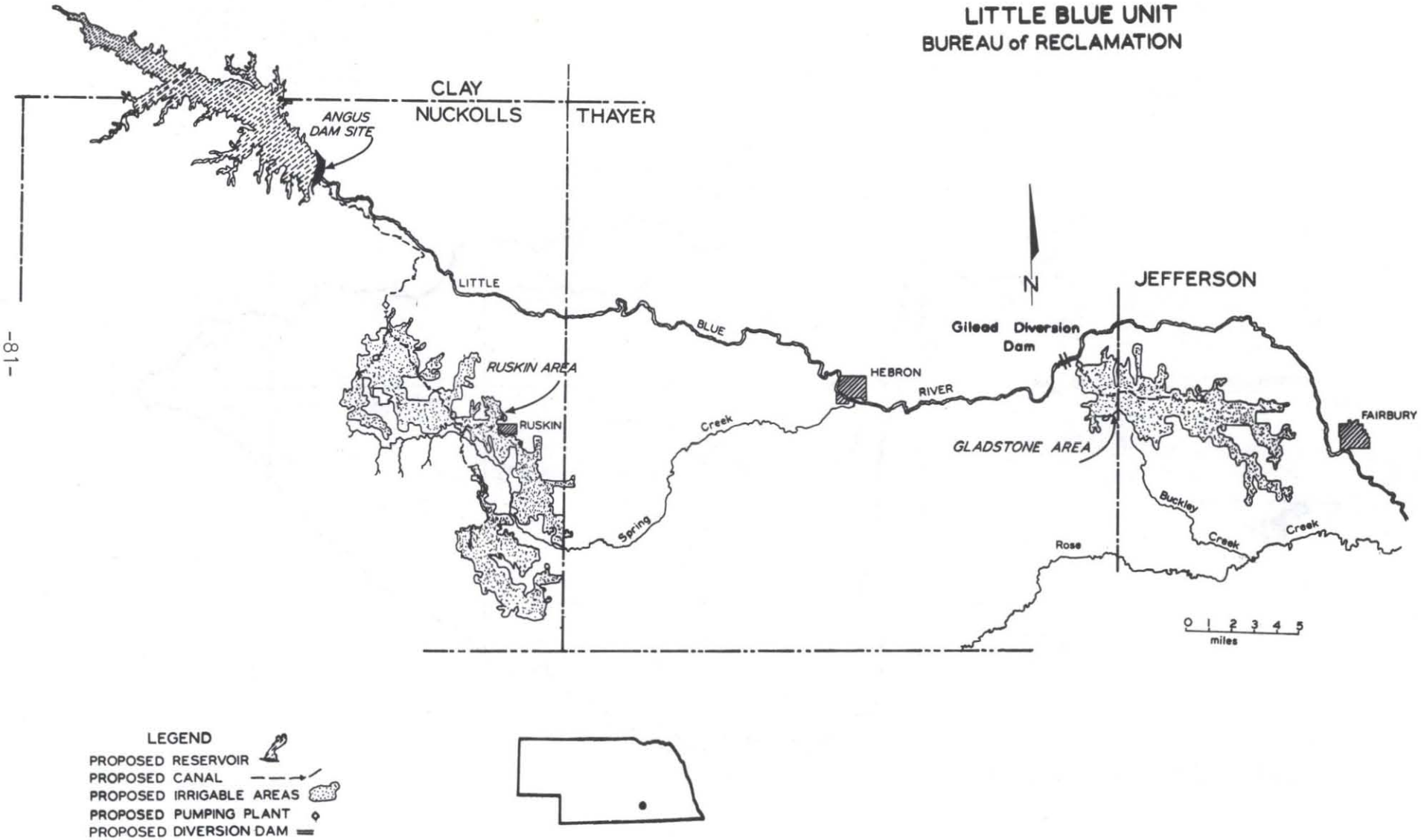
Crop Irrig. Req.:	Ruskin 0.80 ac.ft./ac.; Gladstone 0.71 ac.ft./ac.
Farm Del. Req.:	Ruskin 1.23 ac.ft./ac.; Gladstone 1.09 ac.ft./ac.
Diversion Req.:	Ruskin 1.82 ac.ft./ac.; Gladstone 1.49 ac.ft./ac.
Total Div. Req.:	31,600 acre feet
Return Flow:	11,300 acre feet
Streamflow Depletion:	26,400 acre feet

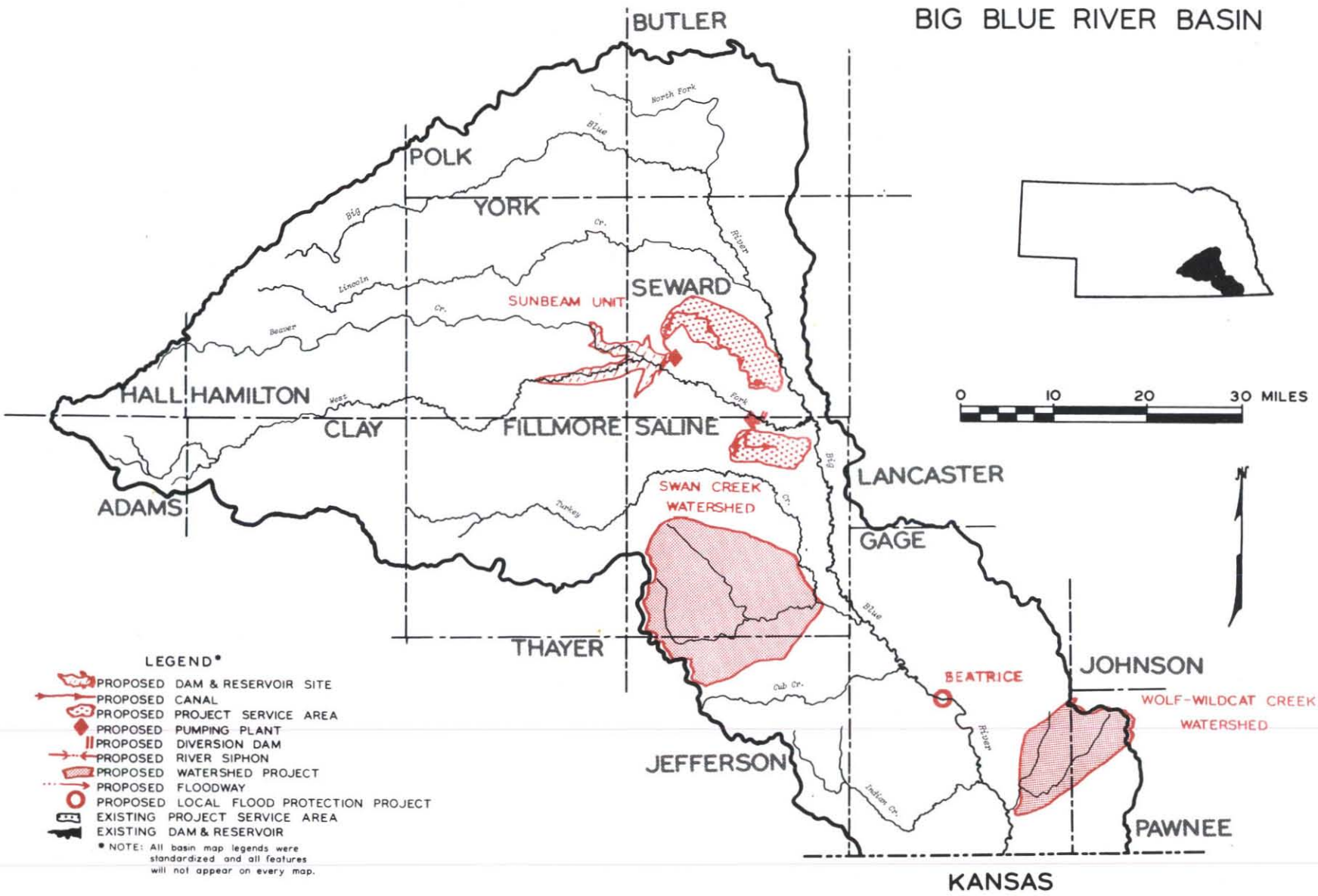
Table 4 - Dam and Reservoir Data

Angus Dam
Height: 120 feet Length: 11,160 feet
Spillway Capacity: 158,800 c.f.s. Drainage Area: 1,098 square mi.

Angus Reservoir

Capacity	Acre Feet
Flood Control	337,000
Surcharge	56,000
Conservation	94,800
Sediment	26,000/100 years
Total	440,000
Surface Area	**Acres**
Flood Control Pool	12,964
Surcharge Pool	14,006
Conservation Pool	5,080


LITTLE BLUE UNIT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION
CLAY
NUCKOLLS
THAYER
JEFFERSON
ANGUS DAM SITE
LITTLE
BLUE
RIVER
RUSKIN AREA
RUSKIN
HEBRON
Gilead Diversion Dam
GLADSTONE AREA
FAIRBURY
Spring Creek
Buckley Creek
Rose Creek
N
0 1 2 3 4 5
miles
LEGEND
PROPOSED RESERVOIR
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED IRRIGABLE AREAS
PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM


BIG BLUE RIVER BASIN
BUTLER
POLK
YORK
SEWARD
HALL
HAMILTON
CLAY
FILLMORE
SALINE
ADAMS
LANCASTER
GAGE
THAYER
JEFFERSON
JOHNSON
PAWNEE
KANSAS
SUNBEAM UNIT
SWAN CREEK WATERSHED
WOLF-WILDCAT CREEK WATERSHED
BEATRICE
North Fork
Blue
Big
Lincoln
Beaver
West
Fork
Turkey
Cub Cr.
Indian Cr.
River
0 10 20 30 MILES
LEGEND*
PROPOSED DAM & RESERVOIR SITE
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED PROJECT SERVICE AREA
PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
PROPOSED RIVER SIPHON
PROPOSED WATERSHED PROJECT
PROPOSED FLOODWAY
PROPOSED LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
EXISTING PROJECT SERVICE AREA
EXISTING DAM & RESERVOIR
* NOTE: All basin map legends were standardized and all features will not appear on every map.

CHAPTER 12. BIG BLUE RIVER BASIN

This Basin is located in southeastern Nebraska between the Little Blue and Nemaha River Basins. It occupies an area of 4,570 square miles.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following projects included in the original Volume I and the first revision has changed as noted below.

Clatonia Creek Watershed

This project was under construction on January 1, 1973.

Potential Projects

Sunbeam Unit

The Bureau of Reclamation is the agency primarily responsible for planning this multipurpose project.

Current Status. A feasibility report prepared in 1968 recommended authorization for construction of the Beaver Crossing Dam and Reservoir with irrigation deferred to a future date, but recent changes in interest rates and planning requirements made reevaluation necessary. A status report published in April, 1972 indicated the project would be feasible with initial inclusion of the irrigation function. Funds for future studies are required before further progress can be made.

Description of Project Area. The proposed Sunbeam Unit is located in southeastern Nebraska in York, Seward, and Saline Counties.

The region is characterized by extensive areas of rolling loess tablelands dissected by well entrenched drainageways. These drainageways are spaced approximately one-half to one mile apart leaving relatively large areas of level to gently sloping land suitable for irrigation.

Precipitation during the April through September period averages 21 inches, which is about 75 percent of the annual total.

Wheat, corn, and livestock have been the primary sources of farm income with livestock producing an increasingly larger share of total farm income in recent years. The urban communities serve principally as trade and service centers for the surrounding agricultural area.

Water resource development in the area has been mostly limited to private groundwater irrigation. A small watershed project has been constructed near Dorchester and several others are under construction downstream from the project area.

Project Description. Project plans as presented in the 1968 feasibility report included Beaver Crossing Dam and Reservoir with deferred facilities for two pumping plants, a diversion dam, and distribution systems to serve 30,000 acres. Beaver Crossing Reservoir would store and regulate the flows of the West Fork of the Big Blue River.

The Goehner Pumping Plant to be located near the left abutment of the dam would lift water to irrigable lands in Seward County between the Big Blue River and the West Fork. The Dorchester Diversion Dam and Pumping Plant would be located on the West Fork about 20 miles below the Beaver Crossing Dam. This pumping plant would lift water to irrigable lands in Saline County.

Reformulation studies using the new multiobjective guidelines would emphasize the conjunctive use of surface and groundwater to stabilize the declining groundwater table in the area, and the recreational needs near the two most populated urban areas in Nebraska.

Approximately 480 acres would be purchased specifically to provide for wildlife purposes along with 120 acres for recreational purposes. The recreation and fish and wildlife features would provide 141,300 fisherman days, 325,000 recreation visitor days, and 6,150 hunter days annually.

Public Interest. No entity with the required legal powers has been formed to sponsor development of this project. There is widespread interest in this project throughout the Basin, but concerted opposition has developed by those who would be displaced by the proposed reservoir.

SUNBEAM UNIT

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	5 to 6 Years	ECONOMIC LIFE:	100 Years
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST:	$5,068,000	ANNUAL O.M.&R.:	$232,000
INTEREST RATE:	5 3/8 Percent	COSTS BASED ON:	1971 Prices
BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.37 to 1.00	LAND REQUIRED:	24,570 Acres
IRRIGATION SERVICE AREA:	30,000 Acres		

Table 1 - Average Annual Project Benefits
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Flood Control	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Direct Benefits	3,451	1,969	325	304	6,049
Indirect Benefits	930	-0-	-0-	-0-	930
Total Benefits	4,381	1,969	325	304	6,979

Table 2 - Project Costs and Repayment By Source
(Thousand Dollars)

	Irrigation	Flood Control	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife	Total
Project Costs	53,417	22,225	2,843	2,820	81,305
Non-Reimbursable	-0-	22,225	2,467	2,683	27,375
Reimbursable	53,417[1/]	-0-	376[2/]	137[2/]	53,930
Mo. R. Basin Power	--	-0-	-0-	-0-	--
Non-Federal (Public)	-0-	-0-	376	137	513
Local	--	-0-	-0-	-0-	--

1/ The district will repay within its ability; the balance will be paid by the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program.
2/ Does not include repayable interest during construction.

Table 3 - Average Annual Water Requirements

Crop Irrigation Requirement:	0.86 ac.ft./ac. - Goehner
	0.86 ac.ft./ac. - Dorchester
Farm Delivery Requirement:	1.32 ac.ft./ac. - Goehner
	1.32 ac.ft./ac. - Dorchester
Diversion Requirement:	1.55 ac.ft./ac. - Goehner
	1.50 ac.ft./ac. - Dorchester
Total Diversion Requirement:	43,400 ac.ft.
Return Flow:	4,800 ac.ft.
Streamflow Depletion:	44,200 ac.ft.

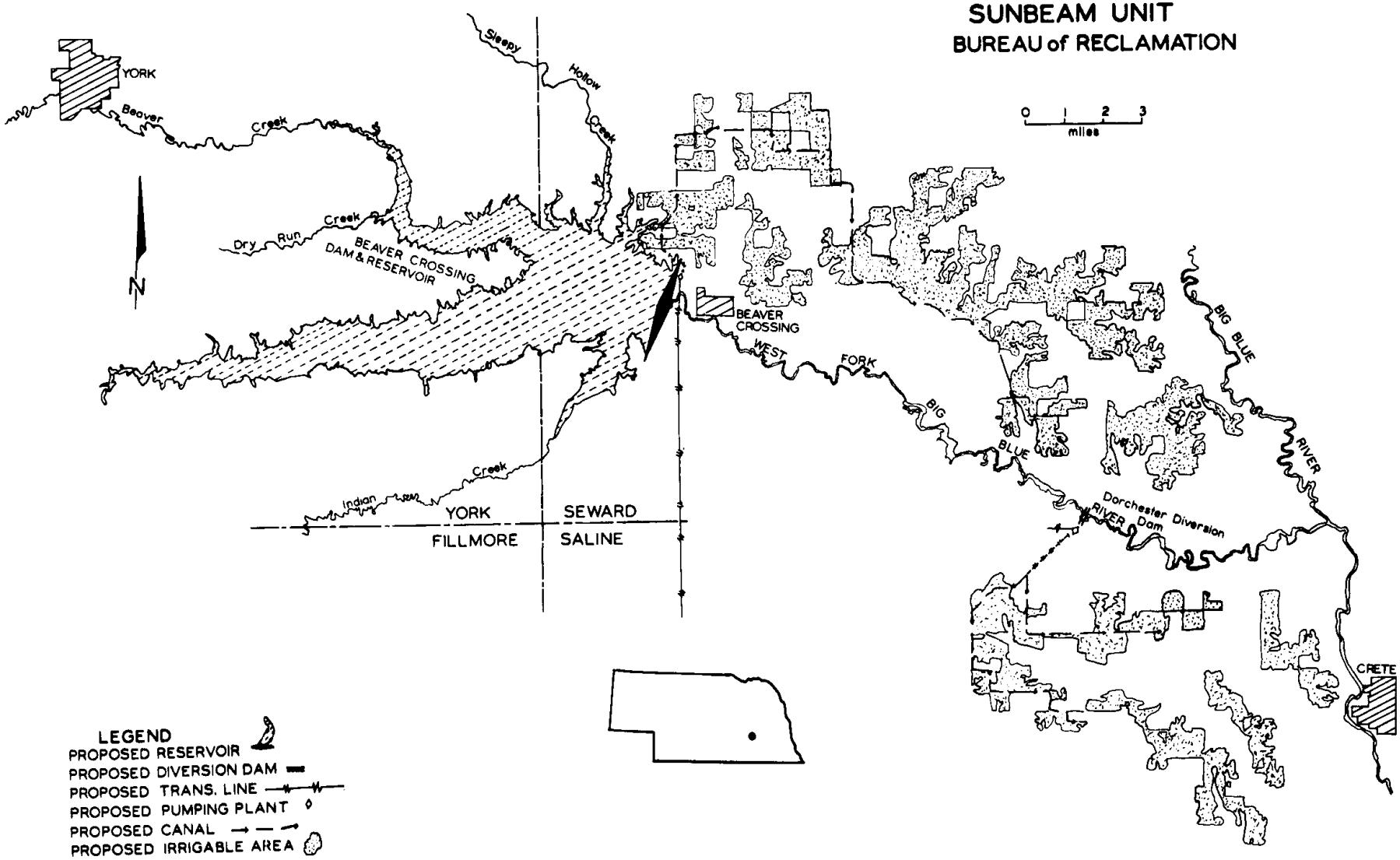
Table 4 - Dam and Reservoir Data

Beaver Crossing Dam

Height: 112 feet	Length: 15,650 feet
Spillway Capacity:	20,130 c.f.s.
Flood Control Outlet Capacity:	25,800 c.f.s.
Drainage Area:	1,154 square miles

Beaver Crossing Reservoir

Capacity	Acre-Feet
Flood Control	413,200
Surcharge	340,339
Conservation	119,200
Sediment	46,000/100 yr.
Total	538,300
Surface Area	**Acres**
Flood Control	17,686
Surcharge	24,708
Conservation	7,813


SUNBEAM UNIT
BUREAU of RECLAMATION
0 1 2 3
miles
YORK
Beaver Creek
Sleepy Hollow Creek
Dry Run Creek
BEAVER CROSSING DAM & RESERVOIR
BEAVER CROSSING
WEST FORK BIG BLUE
BIG BLUE RIVER
Dorchester Diversion
RIVER Dam
CRETE
Indian Creek
YORK
FILLMORE
SEWARD
SALINE
N
LEGEND
PROPOSED RESERVOIR
PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
PROPOSED TRANS. LINE
PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
PROPOSED CANAL
PROPOSED IRRIGABLE AREA

Projects in Planning

Swan Creek Watershed

This proposed project is located in Jefferson and Saline Counties. Preliminary investigations indicate a project including structural measures for flood control may be feasible. Construction of two structures identified in the preliminary investigation has been started to take advantage of a highway project by the Department of Roads. Other structures will be included in the normal work plan investigations, which have been authorized for this project.

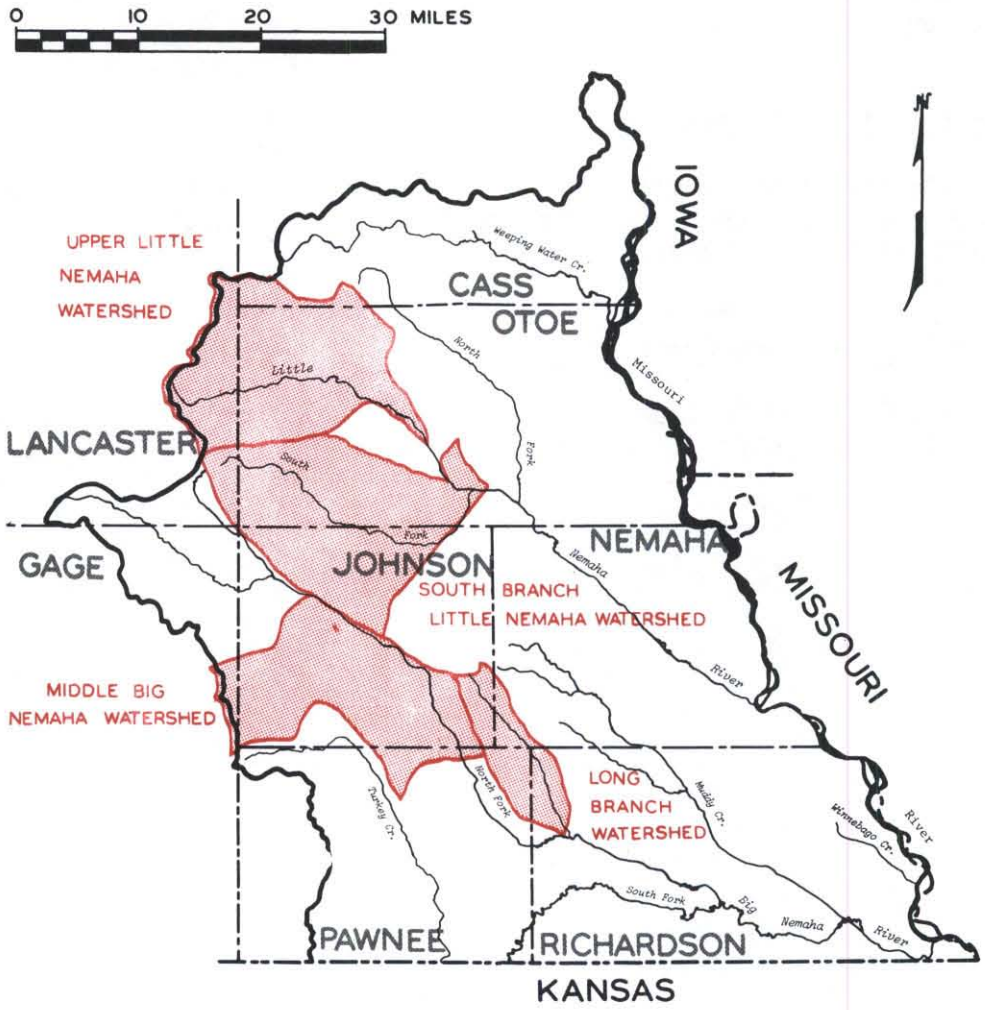
Wolf-Wildcat Creek Watershed

This watershed is located in the southeastern portion of the Basin in Gage and Pawnee Counties. Preliminary investigations were favorable and work plan authorization has been granted.

Beatrice Local Flood Protection

This Corps of Engineers project has been authorized for restudy, which will begin when funds are available.

NEMAHA RIVER BASIN



LEGEND*

- PROPOSED DAM & RESERVOIR SITE
- PROPOSED CANAL
- PROPOSED PROJECT SERVICE AREA
- PROPOSED PUMPING PLANT
- PROPOSED DIVERSION DAM
- PROPOSED RIVER SIPHON
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- PROPOSED LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
- EXISTING PROJECT SERVICE AREA
- EXISTING DAM & RESERVOIR

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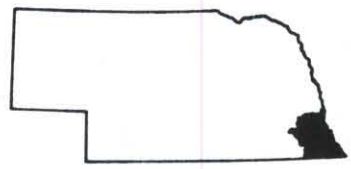


CHAPTER 13. NEMAHA RIVER BASIN

This Basin, which encompasses 2,760 square miles in the southeastern corner of the State, includes the drainage area of all streams entering the Missouri River between the mouth of the Platte River and the Kansas-Nebraska state line, with the exception of the portion of the Big Nemaha River drainage lying in Kansas.

Status of Former Potential Projects

The status of the following projects included in the original Volume I and the first revision has changed as noted below.

Little Nemaha River Levee Project

This Corps of Engineers project is inactive.

Winnebago-Bean Creek Watershed

This project has been authorized and is awaiting construction.

South Fork Watershed

This project has been authorized and is awaiting construction.

Potential Projects

Long Branch Watershed

The Soil Conservation Service is the agency primarily responsible for investigation and design of the Long Branch Watershed project. This proposed multipurpose project is designed to produce recreation, flood control, and erosion control benefits.

Current Status. The Long Branch Watershed Work Plan has been completed and is now undergoing formal review. Before the project can proceed further, it must be authorized by Congress.

Description of Project Area. The Long Branch Watershed is located in the Nemaha Natural Resources District in Pawnee, Richardson, Nemaha, and Johnson Counties. The watershed consists of 4 hydrologic units which are Long Branch, Kirkham, Round Grove, and a small area east of Humboldt which drains directly into the Nemaha River. Long Branch is a tributary of the North Fork Big Nemaha River. The watershed topography varies from gently sloping ridge crests to moderately steep valley sides. The average annual precipitation for Long Branch Watershed is 34 inches. The average growing season is 170 days and 70 percent of the rainfall occurs during that period.

The economy of the area is agriculturally based with relatively small family farms engaged in generalized farming. The distribution of land use in the watershed is approximately 70 percent cropland, 22 percent rangeland, 5 percent woodland, and 3 percent devoted to other uses. The principal crops grown include corn, grain sorghum, wheat, alfalfa, and introduced grass pastures.

Project Description. The project will consist of land treatment measures, 12 grade stabilization structures, 12 floodwater retarding structures, and 1 multipurpose structure. The multipurpose structure, to be located about 2 miles northwest of the town of Humboldt, will provide flood control and recreation benefits.

Structural and land treatment measures will reduce the floodwater damages by about 66 percent and will reduce overbank deposition and flood plain scour by about 84 percent.

Public Interest. The Nemaha Natural Resources District is the local organization sponsoring the project.

LONG BRANCH WATERSHED

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:	8 Years	INTEREST RATE:	5 5/8 Percent
PROJECT INSTALLATION COST:	$2,728,900	BENEFIT-COST RATIO:	1.47 to 1.0
FEDERAL:	$1,932,770	ECONOMIC LIFE:	50 Years
NON-FEDERAL:	$ 796,130	COST BASED ON:	1974 Prices
O. & M. BY:	Nemaha Natural Resources District		

Table 1 - Average Annual Structural Benefits

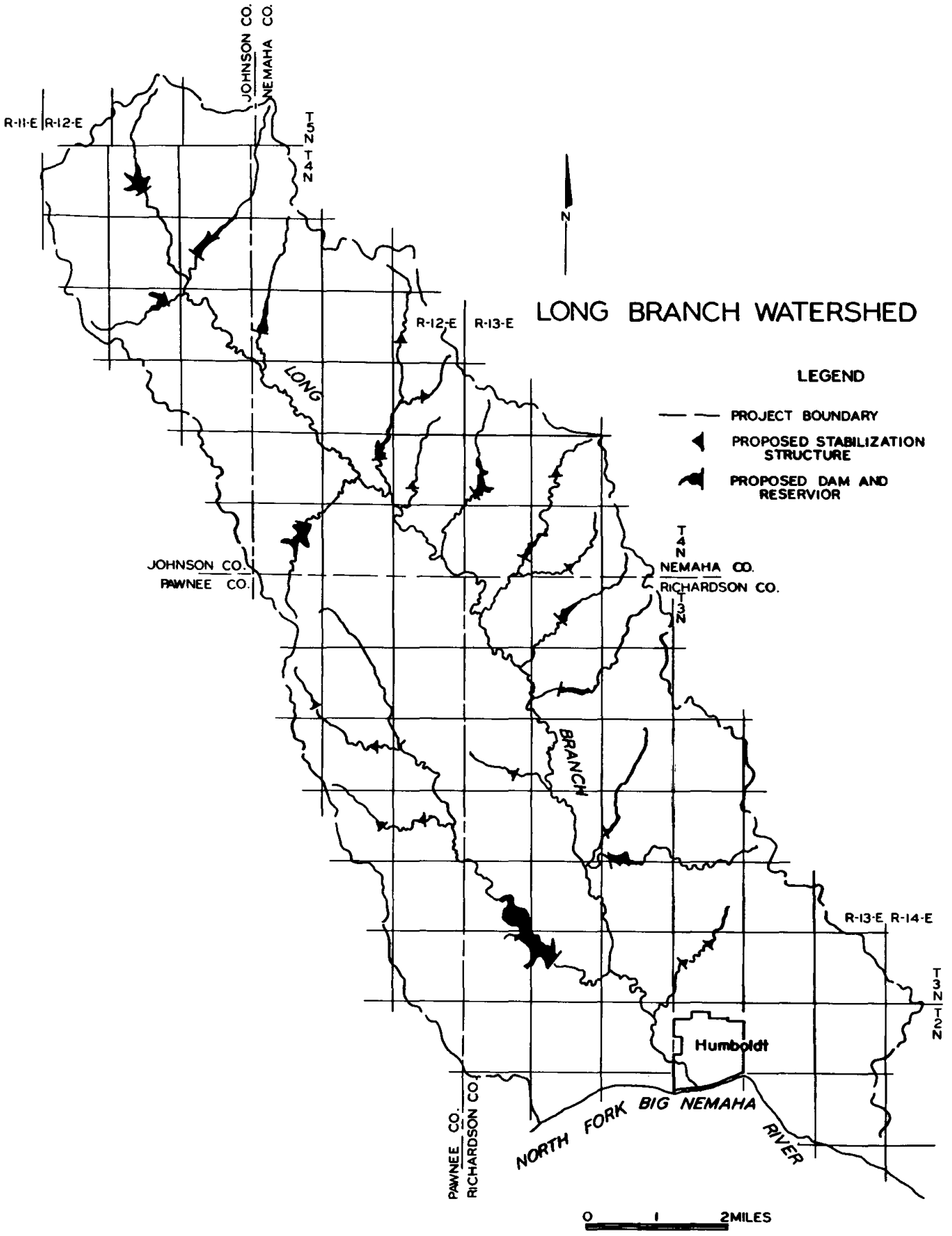
Flood and Erosion Control	Recreation	Redevelopment	Secondary	Total
$161,600	$37,800	$9,300	$13,800	$222,500

Table 2 - Average Annual Structural Costs

	Installation	O. & M.	Total
Structures	$124,030	$11,700	$135,730
Administration	15,920		15,920
Total	$139,950	$11,700	$151,650

Table 3 - Reservoir Data

Number of Structures	Total Controlled Drainage Area (Acres)	Storage Capacity (Acre-Feet)			
		Initial	Sediment	Recreation	Flood Control
25	20,000	9,069	1,636	1,475	5,958


LONG BRANCH WATERSHED
LEGEND
PROJECT BOUNDARY
PROPOSED STABILIZATION STRUCTURE
PROPOSED DAM AND RESERVIOR
N
JOHNSON CO.
NEMAHA CO.
R-11-E
R-12-E
T5N
T4N
R-12-E
R-13-E
LONG
BRANCH
JOHNSON CO.
PAWNEE CO.
T4N
NEMAHA CO.
RICHARDSON CO.
T3N
R-13-E
R-14-E
T3N
T2N
Humboldt
PAWNEE CO.
RICHARDSON CO.
NORTH FORK BIG NEMAHA RIVER
0
1
2 MILES

Projects in Planning

Middle Big Nemaha Watershed

This proposed project is located mostly in southwestern Johnson County. The preliminary investigation of the project was favorable and work plan investigations have been authorized.

South Branch Little Nemaha Watershed

This proposed project located in Otoe and Johnson Counties includes the drainage area of the South Fork Little Nemaha River and Muddy Creek. The preliminary investigation of the project was favorable and work plan investigations have been authorized.

Upper Little Nemaha Watershed

This proposed project is located in Otoe, Lancaster, and Cass Counties. The preliminary investigation of the project was favorable and work plan investigations have been authorized.

CHAPTER 14. OTHER STUDIES OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Inter-State and Regional Studies

There are a number of inter-state and inter-basin projects which have been proposed. These include the Sedgwick-Sand Draws Watershed Project, the R. W. Beck Plan, "A New Water Resource Plan for the Great Plains", the Parsons Company's "North American Water and Power Alliance" known as NAWAPA, and a plan proposed by Lewis G. Smith, "Western States Water Augmentation Concept."

Water needs continue to mount and unless shifts are made between competing uses, inter-state and inter-basin project proposals will become more numerous and more important in the future.

Sedgwick-Sand Draws Watershed Project

The Soil Conservation Service in Colorado is primarily responsible for the planning of this watershed project. The watershed consists of 16 southeasterly-trending drainageways which originate mainly in Nebraska and flow into the South Platte River in Colorado. Slightly more than one-half of the watershed area, essentially the upstream half, is located in the South Platte Natural Resources District in Nebraska.

Structural measures planned for this watershed include 10 single purpose floodwater retarding structures, 3 grade stabilization structures, 3 floodways, and 10 canal inlet structures, all to be located in Colorado. The project is also to include a program of land treatment for watershed protection to be established by the individual landowners and operators involved, a considerable amount to be located in Nebraska.

A plan has been developed and is currently being reviewed.

The Beck Plan

The Beck Plan involves the diversion of water from the Missouri River just below Fort Randall Dam and the movement of this water through a series of dams and/or canals 200 miles up the Niobrara River to a point just north of Alliance, Nebraska. From this point, the water would flow by gravity in a major canal through western Nebraska, across the Platte River and south through Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas to a point near Hobbs, New Mexico. The canal would have an estimated capacity of 17,000 c.f.s. and would be approximately 148 feet wide, 22 feet deep, and about 940 miles long.

The total estimated cost of this undertaking, based on 1967 price levels, would be nearly 3.5 billion dollars.

NAWAPA

The North American Water and Power Alliance Plan involves the collection and distribution of water from rivers in Alaska, the Yukon, and British Columbia to water-deficient areas of Canada, the United States, and northern Mexico. In addition to serving water supply functions, provisions would be included to stabilize the level of the Great Lakes and provide other navigation benefits. Thirty-three states, including Nebraska, would benefit directly from the project.

The proponents of NAWAPA say it would annually deliver 78 million acre-feet of water to the United States, make 30 million kilowatts of power available for sale, and could increase national income from agriculture, mining and manufacturing by $30 billion.

The total cost of this development, based on 1964 or earlier price levels, is estimated to be as much as $100 billion.

Western States Water Augmentation Concept

The Western States Water Augmentation Concept is similar to NAWAPA, but includes distribution to only the 17 states west of the Iowa-Nebraska boundary.

Water would be collected in the Liard-MacKenzie Basin in Northern Canada and conveyed south within the Rocky Mountain Trench. Distribution of the water would be handled through natural channels, canals and tunnels.

The total cost of this system is estimated to be around $75 billion based on 1967 price levels.

Studies in Nebraska

The studies listed by agency below could produce potential projects in this State. They are only listed briefly because formal project reports are not available at this time.

Missouri River Basin Commission

Platte River Basin Study - Nebraska. This is a joint state-federal study under the Commission's direction which will provide a comprehensive plan for management of the water and related land resources in the Platte River Basin of Nebraska. Many state and federal agencies are participating in funding and developing the plan, and local citizen participation has been included in the planning process. Potential projects which may be feasible within the next 30 years as well as long range needs will be identified. The study is scheduled for completion by July 1, 1975.

Bureau of Reclamation

Nebraska State Water Plan Studies. These are studies to provide information used in the preparation of Nebraska's State Water Plan.

Niobrara River Basin Reappraisal Study. This revision of a previous report is deferred pending development of new Water Resources Council planning guidelines. The study investigated resource development potential in the Gordon, Page, Keya Paha, and Ponca areas.

Corps of Engineers

Niobrara River Basin, Nebraska, Wyoming, and South Dakota Review Study. The investigation of this area is directed primarily toward developing multipurpose storage reservoirs to provide silt detention, erosion control, flood control, recreation, municipal and industrial water supply, and review of other related water resources problems. Preliminary studies indicate that the best opportunity to develop the basin's water resources is through diversion into the Platte River system. Therefore, this study is deferred pending completion of the Platte River Level B study.

Big Blue River Basin, Nebraska and Kansas. A survey report presenting the results of an investigation of potential irrigation, flood control, water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife developments was completed in November 1972. The report finds that structural improvements cannot be economically justified at this time and recommends local implementation of non-structural measures. Currently the report is in the Office of the Chief of Engineers for correlation of Agency and State comments.

Nemaha and Little Nemaha River Basin, Nebraska and Kansas. An investigation and a report of flood and erosion control measures in the basin were completed in November 1973. The report states that additional structural improvements in the basin cannot be economically justified at this time and recommends local implementation of non-structural measures. The report is in the office of the Chief of Engineers for correlation of Agency and State comments.

Republican River - Harlan County Lake Review Study. A report on the review of Harlan County Lake operations and other aspects was prepared in June 1973. The report states that neither modification of reservoir operations nor additional storage projects are warranted at this time. This report is in the Office of the Chief of Engineers for correlation of Agency and State comments.

Platte River and Tributaries, Nebraska. A number of studies in the Platte River Basin have been combined to coordinate with the Missouri River Basin Commission's study of the Platte River Basin in Nebraska. Those included are:

Platte River, Nebraska
Elkhorn River, Nebraska

Lost, Dry, and Twin Creeks, Nebraska
Loup River, Nebraska
Salt Creek and Tributaries, Nebraska
Wood River and Prairie Creek, Nebraska
Shell Creek, Nebraska

Missouri River from Three Forks, Montana, to Sioux City, Iowa. A study concerning main stem reservoir operations, navigation, bank erosion, flood control, and the feasibility of additional hydroelectric power is underway. Completion of this investigation is scheduled for February 1977. Special studies have been initiated in accordance with Section 32 of Public Law 93-251, 93rd Congress, of a potential bank stabilization project in the reach from Yankton, South Dakota, to Sioux City, Iowa.

Missouri River, Gavins Point Reservoir and Niobrara River, Nebraska and South Dakota Review Study. With the completion of a multiple study of sedimentation problems in Lewis and Clark Lake, high groundwater levels in the lower reach of the Niobrara River, bank erosion, and flooding, a report was prepared in June 1973 recommending no modification of Lewis and Clark Lake or installation of structural improvements be undertaken at this time. The report is in the Office of the Chief of Engineers for correlation of Agency and State comments.

South Platte River and Tributaries, Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska Review Study. All flood control studies initiated prior to July 1, 1972 have been integrated into one regional planning study. Studies are being continued on the remaining problems in the basin. The scheduled completion date is December 1976.

North Platte River Basin, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming Review Study. Work on this study is suspended pending receipt of funds.

Metropolitan Omaha, Nebraska - Council Bluffs, Iowa. This study of the seven-county metropolitan area is scheduled for completion in July 1975. The study will develop comprehensive water resources management plans for four alternative futures. Plans to meet the goal of zero discharge of pollutants will be also reported.

Soil Conservation Service

Niobrara Basin Study. A report of this study has been completed.

Little Blue Basin Study. The report of this study has been completed.

Nemaha Basin Study. The report has been completed and is presently being reviewed.

Loup Basin Study. This study was initiated in August, 1968 and has been integrated into the Level B Study of the Platte River Basin.

Republican Basin Study. This study is scheduled for completion before July 1, 1975.

Preliminary Watershed Studies. Applications for preliminary planning in the following watersheds have been approved and planning priorities have been assigned.

Watershed	River Basin
Squaw-Camp Creeks	Nemaha
Peru-Brownville	Nemaha
Turkey Creek	Nemaha
Big Muddy	Nemaha
Lower Big Nemaha	Nemaha
Lower Little Nemaha	Nemaha
Wahoo Creek	Lower Platte
Southern Sarpy	Lower Platte
Stevens-Callahan	Lower Platte
Northeast Cass	Lower Platte
Rock Creek	Lower Platte
Weeping Water	Nemaha