



Natural Resources Commission

Presentation to
Water Funding Task Force Meeting

Grand Island, Nebraska

September 5-6, 2013



Rex Gittins and Kent Zimmerman
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission



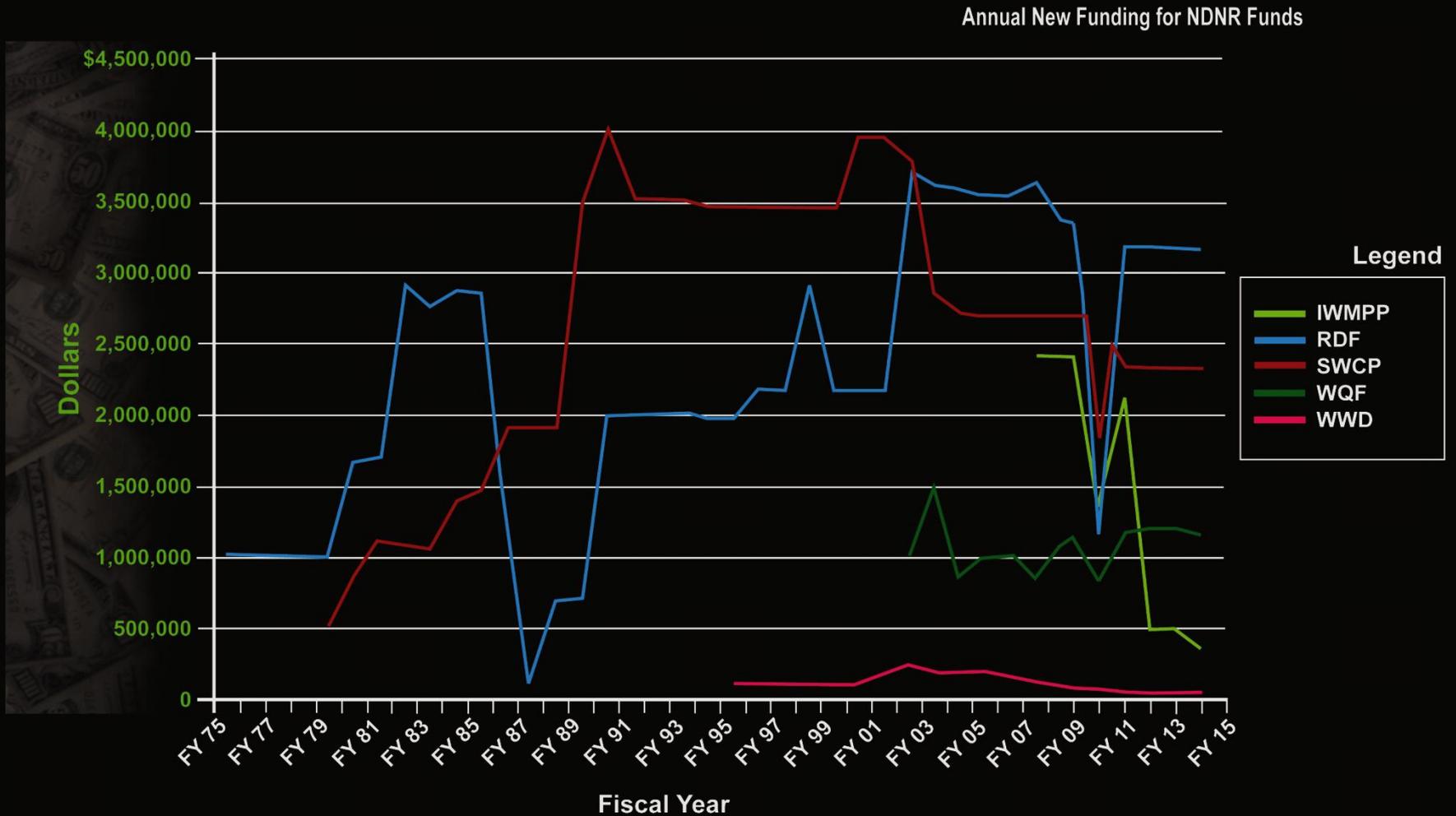
Six State Funds that help

**Conserve,
Protect
and
Enhance...**

*Nebraska's
natural resources*

- Nebraska Resources Development Fund
- Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund
- Natural Resources Water Quality Fund
- Water Well Decommissioning Fund
- Nebraska Soli and Water Conservation Fund
- Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Fund

Annual New Funding for Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Funds



Water Well Decommissioning Fund



- **Established in 1994**
- **Administered at State level by DNR and at the local level by NRDs**
- **The State Fund cost shares with the decommissioning of abandoned water wells**
- **Abandoned water wells pose a direct threat to groundwater quality and are a safety hazard to humans**

Natural Resources Water Quality Fund



- **Created in 2001 to provide State funds to NRDs for their water quality programs**
- **Fund receives money from the receipt of portions of fees levied by Nebraska Department of Ag. for pesticide registration and applicator licenses**
- **NRDs are required to provide a \$3 match for each \$2 of State funds**
- **DNR Rules and Regulations govern administration (50% proportionate fertilizer sales, 20% equally, 20% groundwater quality management areas, and 10% special projects)**

Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund



- **Established in 1977**
- **Administered at State level by DNR and at the local level by NRDs**
- **The State Fund provides financial assistance for approved conservation measures (can't exceed 75%)**
- **DNR determines eligible practices, established operating procedures and annually allocates the funds to the NRDs**
- **Can only be used when available Federal funds are fully committed**

Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund



- **Established in 1963 as a revolving state fund to help local sponsors acquire needed land rights (only one in four rights)**
- **Minimum of 75% of land in drainage area above structure must be adequately treated**
- **Within 120 days after acquiring title sponsor must prepare conservation plan**
- **Sponsor may lease portions of tract suitable for agriculture production with rental income going to conservation practices or returned to Fund**

Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund

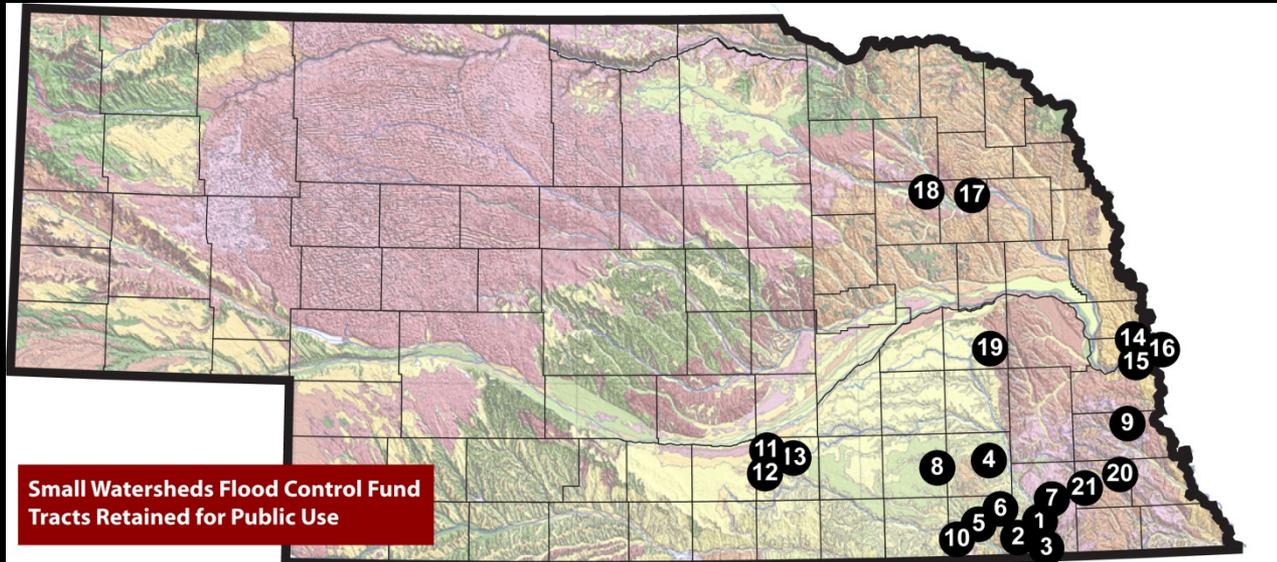
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- **Tracts must be resold within ten years first offered to local subdivisions of government**
- **If no interest is shown it's then auctioned to highest bidder**
- **All proceeds from sale are returned to Fund**

Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund

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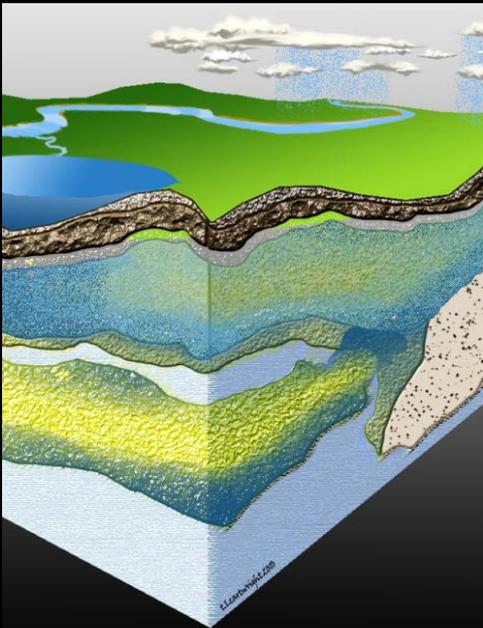


**Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund
Tracts Retained for Public Use**

Project	Structure	Acres	Location	Retained by
1. Big Indian Watershed	11-A	356.5	4 miles South, 1 mile West of Wymore	Lower Big Blue NRD
2. Big Indian Watershed	5E & 5F	353.0	3 1/2 miles West of Odell	Game and Parks Commission
3. Big Indian watershed	16-C	320.0	3 1/2 miles West, 4 miles North of Odel	Game and Parks Commission
4. Walnut Creek	2	17.7	2 1/2 miles North, 1 mile East of Crete	Lower Big Blue NRD
5. Cub Creek	12-A	134.9	2 miles East, 3 miles North of Jansen	Lower Big Blue NRD
6. Cub Creek	9-B	84.5	3 miles South, 1/4 mile East of Plymouth	Lower Big Blue NRD
7. Mud Creek	4-J	433.6	3 1/2 miles East, 1 1/2 North of Holmesville	Game and Parks Commission
8. Swan Creek	2	160.0	7 miles East of Milligan	Game and Parks Commission
9. Wilson Creek	2X & 2-23	40.0	3 miles East of Otoe	Game and Parks Commission
10. Buckley Creel watershed	3-F	97.6	1 mile East, 1/2 mile North of Reynolds	Little Blue NRD
11. 32-Mile Watershed	D	107.0	3 1/2 miles East, 5 miles South of Kenesaw	Little Blue NRD
12. 32-Mile Watershed	D	4.1	3 1/2 miles East, 5 miles South of Kenesaw	Little Blue NRD
13. 32-Mile Watershed	H	160.0	3 miles South, 1/2 mile East of Juniata	Little Blue NRD
14. Sarpy R-O-W	R-613	18.0	2 1/2 miles North, 1 mile East of LaPlatte	Sarpy County
15. Missouri River Levee	R-616	8.5	Bellevue	Papio-Missouri River NRD
16. Missouri River Levee	R-616	79.5	Bellevue	City of Bellevue
17. Pilger Watershed	1-B	118.2	1 mile North, 1 mile East of Pilger	Lower Elkhorn NRD
18. Corporation Gulch	1-A	107.3 plus lots	Norfolk	City of Norfolk
19. North Oak Watershed	6-C	160.0	1 mile South, 2 miles East of Brainard	Lower Platte South NRD
20. South Branch Little Nemaha	27	46.8	2 miles West, 4 miles South of Cook	Nemaha NRD
21. Middle Big Nemaha	46	194.2	2 miles South, 2 1/2 miles East of Crab Orchard	Game and Parks Commission

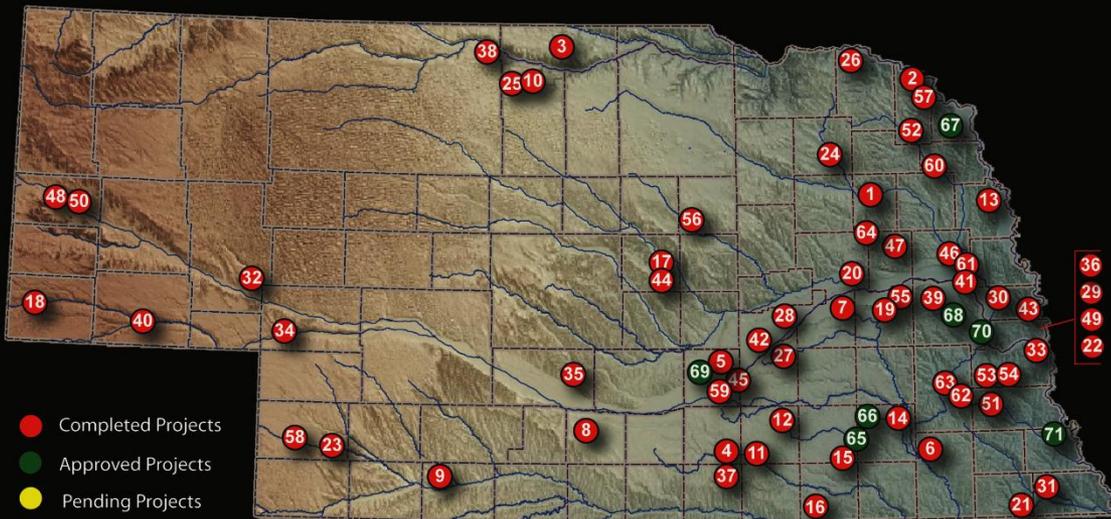
Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Fund

- Fund was created in 2006 and slated to end after FY2015
- Grant program for NRDs
- Funds are allocated based on guideline adopted by the NRC
- Funds approved must be supported by minimum revenue match (20% total project cost)
- DNR responsible for evaluating requests



Nebraska Resources Development Fund

71 Nebraska Resources Development Fund Projects since 1974 that have received funding from the following sources:



Nebraska Resources Development Fund



Federal Programs



Local Entities and Others



Total funding: \$251 million

Considerations and Required Findings of Facts

DNR - Review RDF Proposal & Application

- Evaluation Standards, Specification and Guidelines are adopted by DNR
- Staff along with personnel from other state agencies determine project eligibility by reviewing each application for economic, environmental, financial and technical feasibility
- Makes Recommendations for approval or rejection
- Makes Recommendations for Type of Assistance: Grant; Loan; Combination of Each



Considerations and Required Findings of Facts

(continued)

NRC - Review/Ranking/Approval/Cost Share

- **Ranks Competing Projects**
- **Sets Level of Assistance**
- **Priority of Funding**
- **Annual Obligation of Funds**
- **Adjustments in Apportionments**
- **Changes in Project Scope / Costs**



Considerations and Required Findings of Facts

(continued)

DNR - Administration

- **Develop Contract**
- **Monitor Project Progress and Perform Administration**
- **Monitor Completed Projects**



Legislative Appropriations Bill – LB 195, 2013

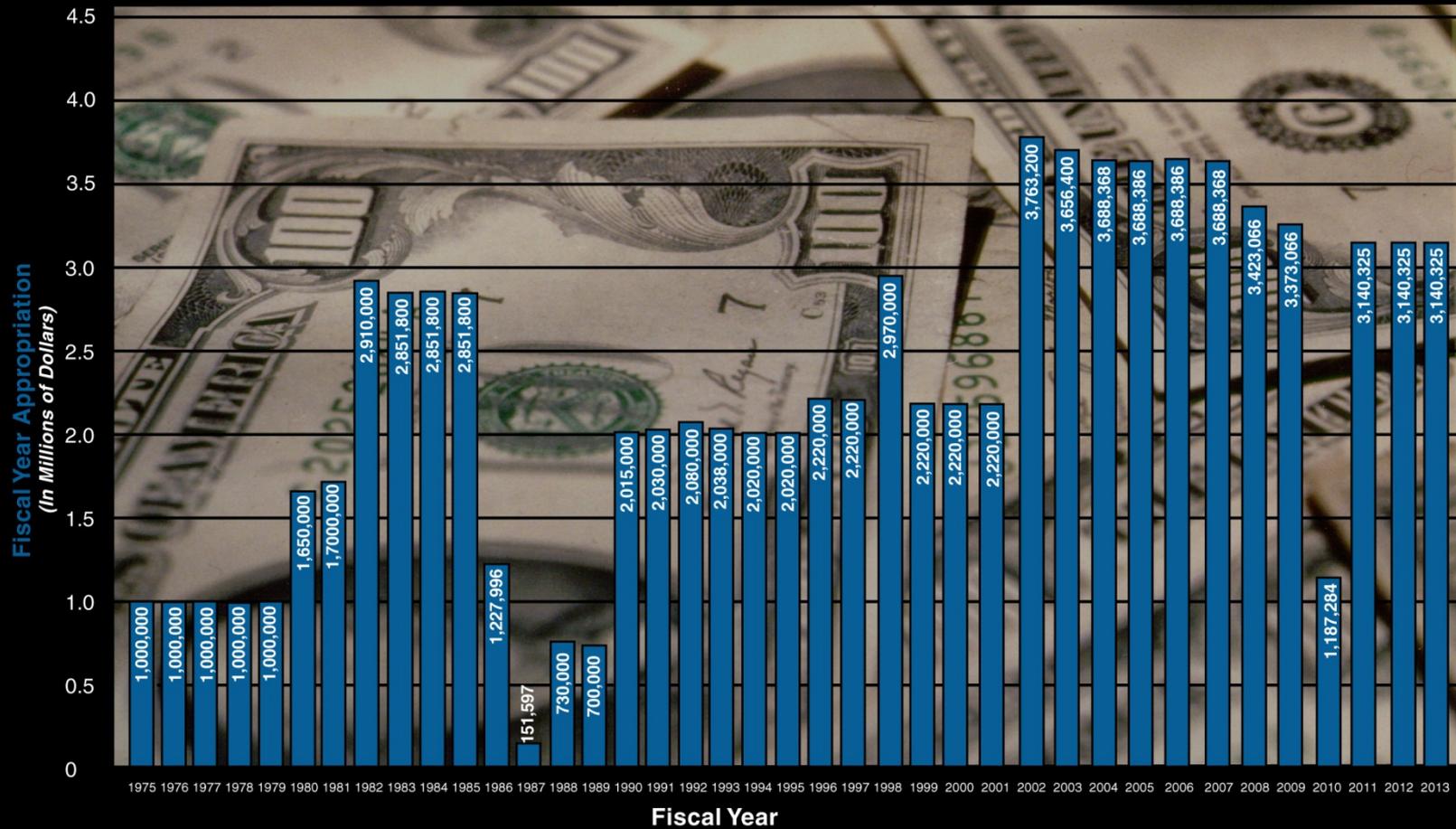


...”The total amount of funds allocated for projects less the amounts obligated for such projects shall not exceed \$18,500,000.” ...

Allocation – The tentative total project grant, subject to future legislative funding.

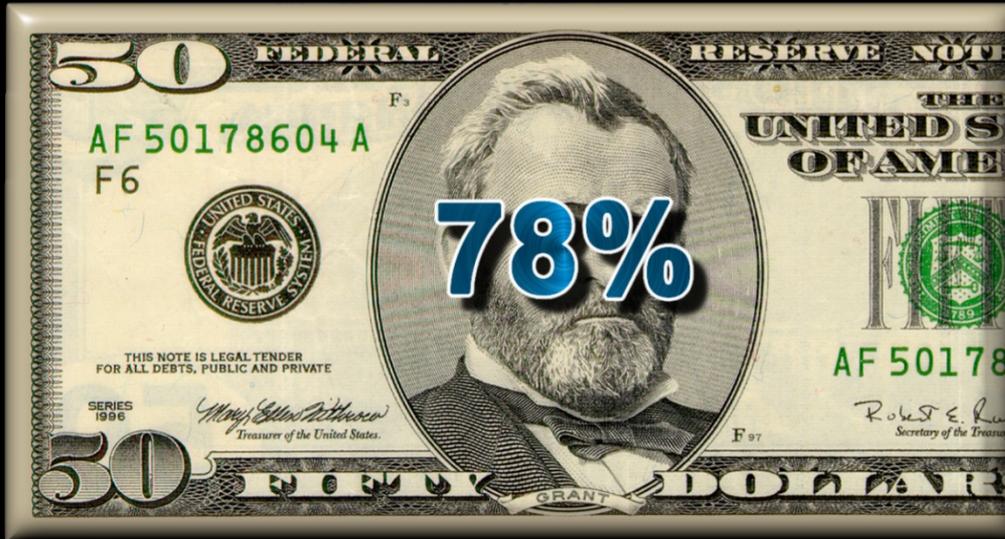
Obligation – Commitment of actual funds already appropriated by the legislature.

Nebraska Resources Development Fund



Nebraska Resources Development Fund

It is estimated that approximately **\$1.41 billion** in benefits will accrue from the funded NRDF Projects during their project life periods (estimated at the minimum 50 years). These benefits can be separated into three categories:



Flood Reduction/Erosion and Sediment Control



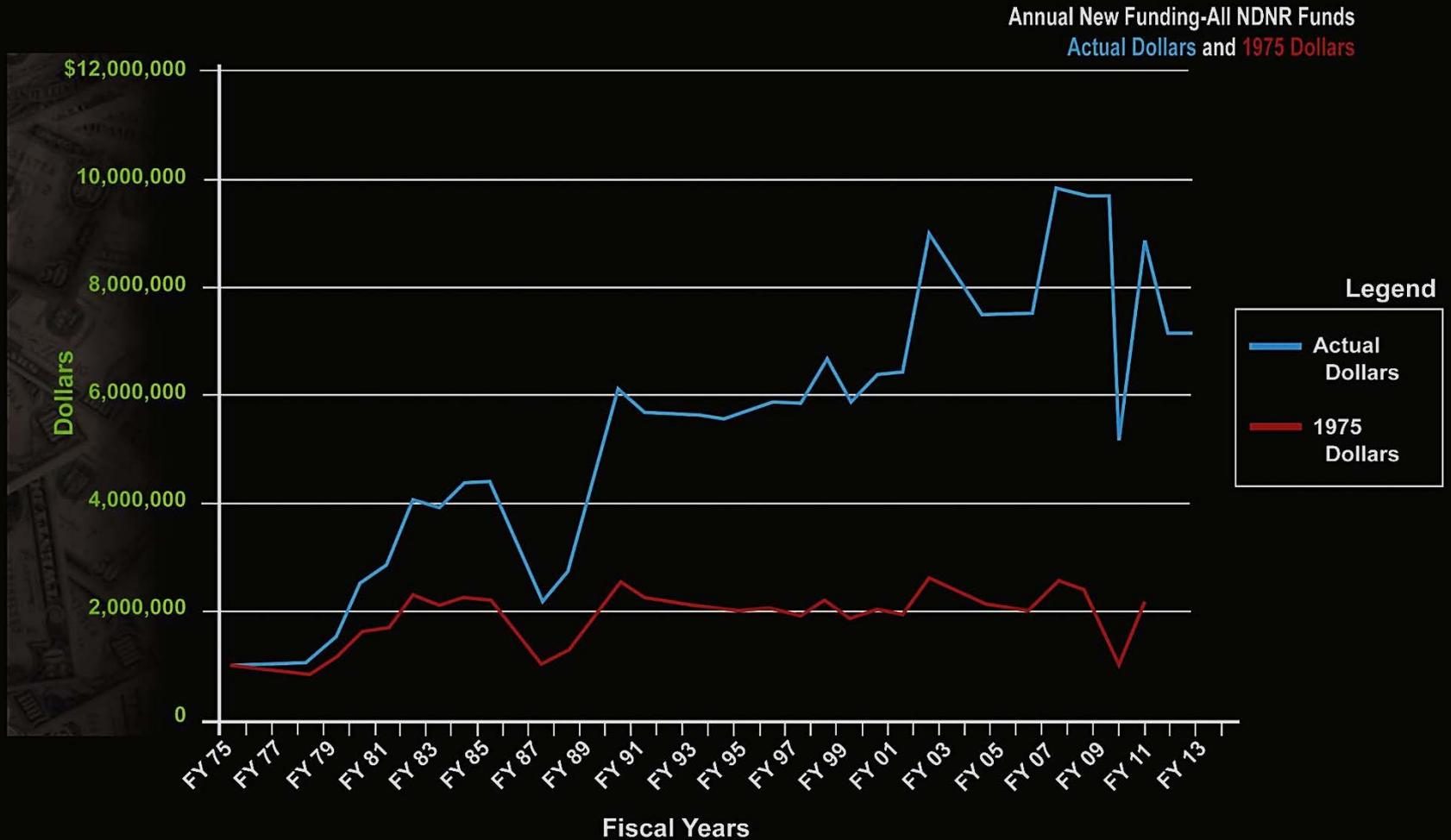
**Recreation/
Fish & Wildlife**



**Groundwater
Recharge/
Irrigation
Water Mgt.**

Annual New Funding for Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Funds

(Not including Water Resources Cash Fund)





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DNR TODAY

Activities Related to the New Fully Appropriated Basin Evaluation Methodology

- Timeline for Assessment and Potential Modification of Department's Rules Related to its Determination of Fully Appropriated Basins, Subbasins, or Reaches
 - Includes supporting reports and presentations
- Department's Draft Rules and Methods Related to its Determination of Fully Appropriated Basins, Subbasins, or Reaches
 - Final Draft Rules for September 17, 2013, bearing clean version without redline changes
 - Final Draft Rules with redline showing changes to the April 8, 2013, proposed draft rules
 - Final Draft Rules with redline showing changes to the current rules
 - Department's Current Rules adopted December 4, 2006
 - Draft Methods
- Letter sent April 8, 2013, regarding Draft Revised Rules Title 457, Chapter 24
- Public Comment Forums May 13-16, 2013
 - Color version of presentation given
 - Printable version of presentation given
 - Report of Public Response (June 2013)
- Public Notices
 - Public Comment Meetings on Changes to Rules and Methods May 13-16, 2013
 - Rulemaking Hearing related to the Determination of Fully Appropriated Basins, Subbasins, or Reaches September 17, 2013
 - Letter sent August 14, 2013, regarding the Rulemaking Hearing on the Final Draft Rules

News Releases, Public Notices, Orders, and Updates

News Releases: DNR Issuing Opening Notices to Surface Water Users in the Republican River Basin

Public Notice: Meetings related to the Water Funding Task Force established through LB 517 - September 5 - 6, 2013 **NEW**

2013 Republican River Compact Administration Annual Meeting in Colby, KS - September 11-12, 2013 **NEW**

Meetings related to the Water Funding Task Force established through LB 517 - August 28-30, 2013 **NEW**

Rulemaking Hearing related to the Department's Determination of Fully Appropriated Basins, Subbasins, or Reaches - September 17, 2013 **NEW**

Additional Items of Interest

- Nebraska Resources Newsletter - Current Issue
- A complete listing of Presentations by the Integrated Water Management Staff
- Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network (NeRAIN)

INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

Annual Basin Evaluation and Report

Approved Plans

Meetings and Notices

Maps

Publications/Studies/Research

FLOODPLAIN & DAM SAFETY

Floodplain Management

Floodplain Mitigation

Survey

Dam Safety

Ice Report

Nebraska Silver Jackets Program

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Resources Development Fund

Small Watershed Fund

Water Quality Fund

Water Well Decommissioning

Soil & Water Conservation Fund

Interrelated Water Mgt Plan/Program

COMPACTS, DECREES, and INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

Republics Settlement

North Platte Settlement

MISSOURI RIVER BASIN ACTIVITIES

WATER FUNDING TASK FORCE (LB 517)

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Resources Development Fund

The Nebraska Resources Development Fund Act of 1974 created a fund to assist with the development and wise use of Nebraska's water and land resources. The Nebraska Resources Development Fund can be used to provide grants and/or loans to political subdivisions of the state or an agency of the state, or it can be used by the Department of Natural Resources to acquire an interest in a project in the name of the state. The Act created a conjunctive administrative system with certain responsibilities delegated to the Natural Resources Commission, and other responsibilities delegated to a statutorily created "Advisory Board." On February 15, 1985, the Director of Natural Resources assumed the responsibilities and duties of the Advisory Board in accordance with the provisions of L.B. 1106.

▶ [Title 256: Resources Development Fund.](#)

▶ [Nebraska Resources Development Fund Brochure \(May 2013\)](#)

▶ [Resource Development Fund Quarterly Report Form](#)

• The Quarterly Report Form can be filled out on-line. When the form is complete you can print the form. If you have questions contact [Program Administrator](#).

▶ [NRDF Guidelines \(January 2000- Updated February 2009 for Title 256: Regulations Governing the Administration of the Resources Development Fund\)](#)

• [Annual Revisions of the NRDF Guidelines \(December 2012\)](#)

▶ [Project Proposal and Application Forms.](#)

▶ [Project Location Map](#)

▶ [2012 RDF Biennial Report](#)

▶ [NRDF Review Committee Structure](#)

▶ [Six State Funds Overview Brochure](#)

▶ [Program Description and Objectives \(July 2009\)](#)

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Thank You

Questions ?



