

UPPER PLATTE RIVER DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN (UPRDCP)



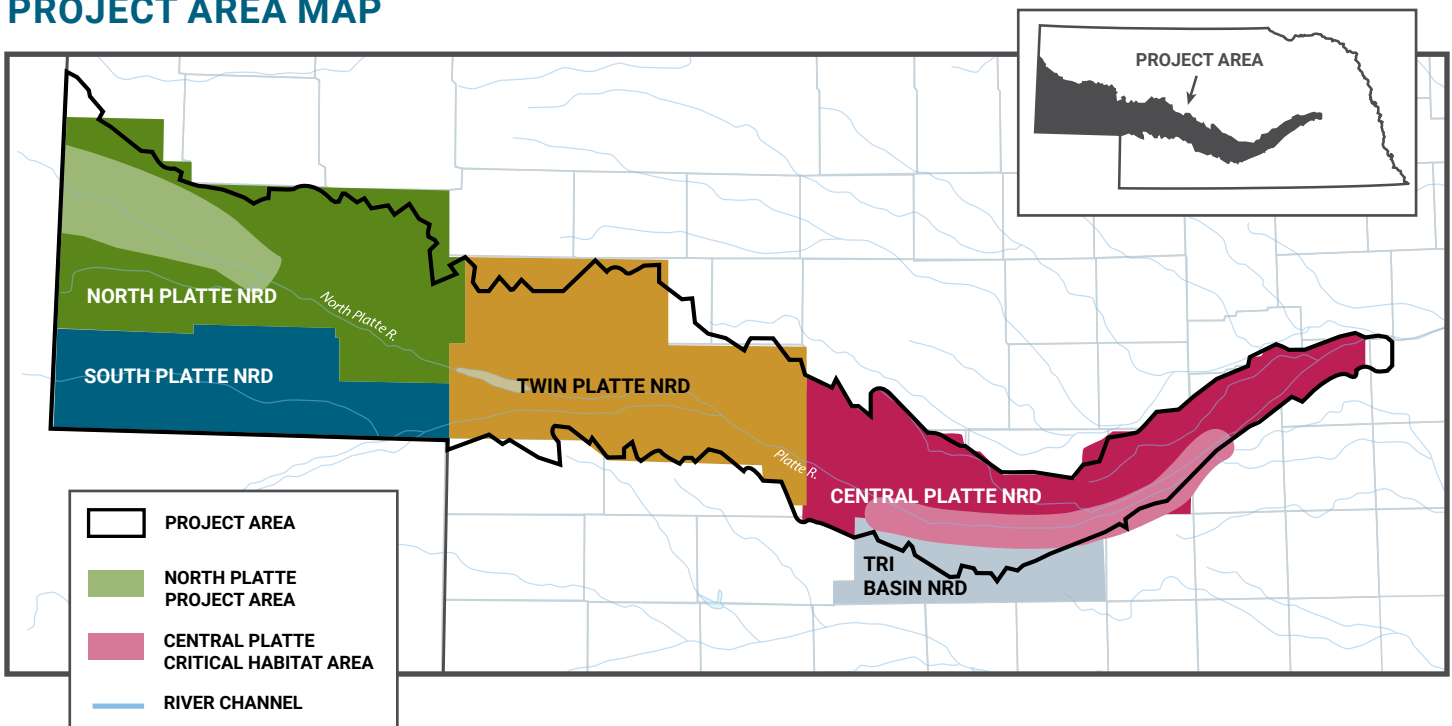
INTRODUCTION/WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Six water management agencies including the Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD), North Platte Natural Resources District (NPNRD), South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD), Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD), Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD), and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR), collectively referred to as the Platte Basin Coalition (Coalition), have partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation and begun a collaborative effort to develop a Drought Contingency Plan for the Upper Platte Basin in Nebraska.

The Coalition is developing this plan in order to refine the understanding of drought vulnerabilities and impacts in the Upper Platte Basin. The plan will serve to provide more robust monitoring and forecasting tools paired with timely triggers, new mitigation strategies, and responsive actions that will create sound operational framework and improve critical water supply needs of the area during drought periods. This plan will support, contribute, and utilize pre-existing Integrated Management Plans and Drought Mitigation or Contingency Plans.

The Drought Contingency Plan will cover the Upper Platte River Basin from the western borders of Nebraska to Columbus, Nebraska, where the Loup River and Platte River merge. The Upper Platte River Basin houses around 250,000 residents and eight million irrigated acres. The water supply in this area is used for multiple purposes including domestic, livestock, industrial, cooling, hydropower, irrigation, habitat, and recreational.

PROJECT AREA MAP



DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN ELEMENTS



GROUPS/ROLES

Four different stakeholder groups have been identified to assist with different aspects of the plan development process



The Primary Stakeholder Group consists of members from each agency of the Coalition and a designated representative from the US Bureau of Reclamation. This group will guide the plan development and will have the ultimate authority and responsibility for plan content approval.



The Technical Work Group will consist of representatives from ground and surface water management agencies that have extensive experience and knowledge of the ground and surface water resources in the basin. This group will provide technical guidance during plan development and evaluation of mitigation and response actions.

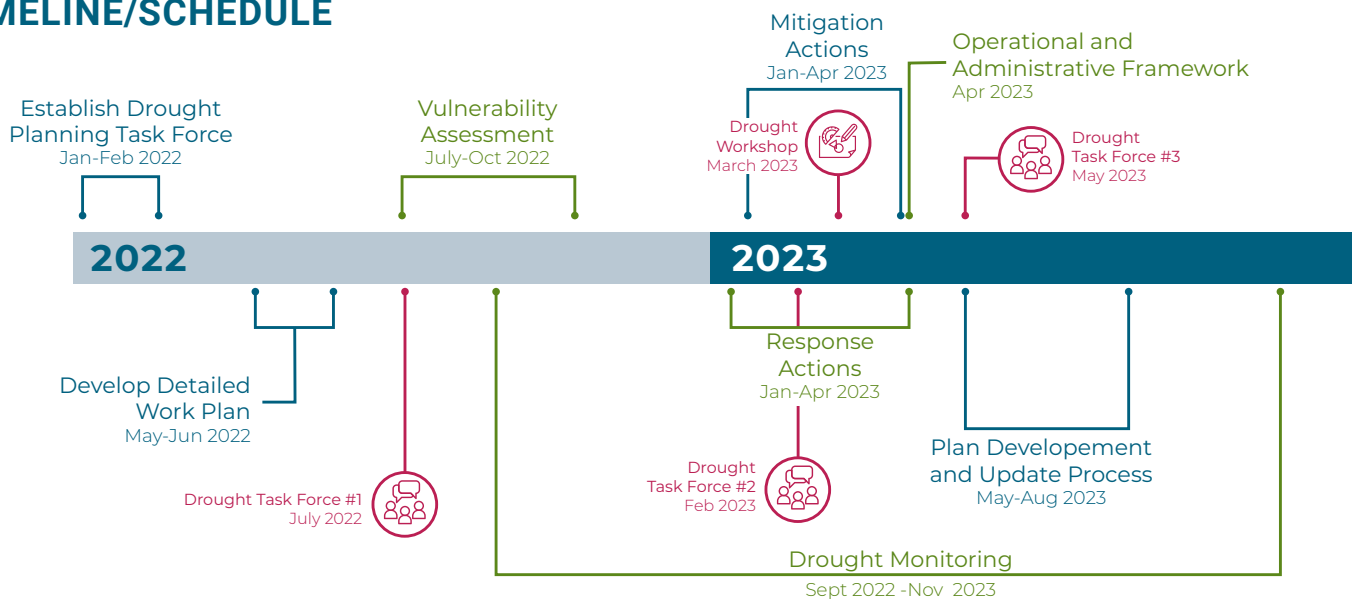


The Drought Task Force is expected to provide focused input to the plan development team, representing specific areas of interest and experience. This group is comprised of a diverse group of water-related interests, including agriculture, environmental/wildlife, financial, groundwater irrigators, groundwater users, irrigation districts, municipalities, public power districts, surface water users, and recreation users. The Drought Task Force will be utilized to provide specific feedback regarding vulnerabilities and impacts of drought in the Upper Platte basin and will assist in the development of mitigation and response actions for the final Plan.



The general public will be invited to observe and provide comment on discussion points at all Drought Task Force meetings and will also be able to provide feedback through the project

TIMELINE/SCHEDULE



WATERSMART

The Bureau of Reclamation continues to work cooperatively with states, tribes, and local entities to plan and implement actions to ensure sustainable water supplies through their WaterSMART initiatives. The Drought Response Program is one of those WaterSMART initiatives focused on assisting water managers to proactively develop comprehensive drought plans and implement projects that will build long-term resiliency to drought. Through this program Reclamation has partnered with the Platte Basin Coalition to provide financial assistance in the development the Upper Platte Basin Drought Contingency Plan.

For more information on WaterSMART initiatives, visit: usbr.gov/watersmart

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

For any questions about the plan development process or to submit comments and feedback, contact:

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