

# Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, & Environment 2026 Annual Report



of 2025 Data for the

Lower Platte River Basin Coalition's  
*Basin Water Management Plan*

**NEBRASKA**  
DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

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## 1. Introduction

In April 2013, The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (now the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, & Environment, aka DWEE)<sup>1</sup> and seven Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) entered into an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement to form the **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition** (Coalition). The Nebraska Association of Resource Districts (NARD) serves as the coordinator on behalf of the Coalition. The members of the Coalition are:

- Lower Platte South NRD,
- Lower Platte North NRD,
- Papio-Missouri River NRD,
- Lower Loup NRD,
- Lower Elkhorn NRD,
- Upper Elkhorn NRD,
- Upper Loup NRD, and
- DWEE.

The Lower Platte River Basin (Basin) overlies portions of central and eastern Nebraska (Figure 1). The Coalition recognizes the hydrologic connectivity of groundwater and surface water resources within the Basin and works together to manage the resources. The Coalition jointly developed and adopted the Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan (Plan) in 2018 to protect and sustain the long-term balance between the water uses and water supplies. The Plan requires reporting on an annual basis, which this report serves to fulfill.

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<sup>1</sup> Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy merged on July 1, 2025 to form the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.

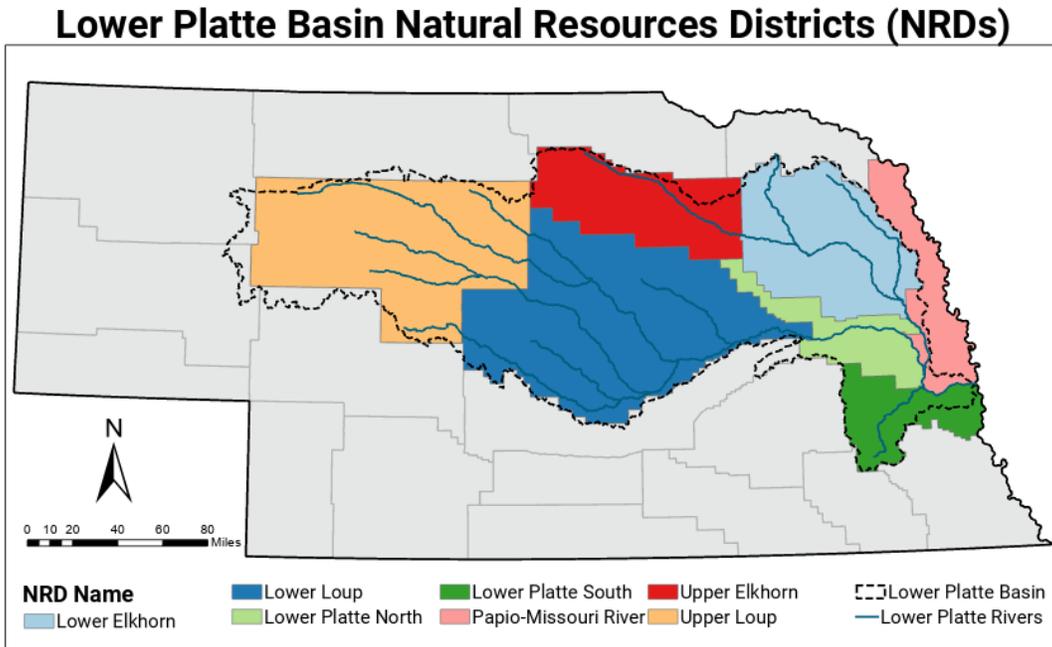


Figure 1. Map of Lower Platte River Basin Coalition NRDs

## 2. Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring

### A. DWEE Streamgauge Monitoring

DWEE is authorized to measure and monitor the water flowing in Nebraska streams. Within the Basin, DWEE maintains 21 streamgages (Table 1). Additional gages are maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Instantaneous and historical streamflow data for both DWEE and USGS gages may be accessed by visiting DWEE's interactive streamgaging map at [Data - DWEE Real Time Water](#). All website data are provisional and subject to revision unless otherwise denoted.

*Table 1. A listing of DWEE maintained streamgages*

DWEE Streamgages in the Lower Platte River Basin		
Station Name	Station Number	River Basin
Middle Loup River at Rockville	06780000	Loup
Mud Creek near Sweetwater	06783500	Loup
Turkey Creek near Dannebrog	06784800	Loup
Calamus River near Harrop	06787000	Loup
Calamus River near Burwell	06787500	Loup
North Loup River at Ord	06788500	Loup
Mira Creek near North Loup	06788988	Loup
Cedar River near Spalding	06791500	Loup
Cedar River near Fullerton	06792000	Loup
Beaver Creek at Loretto	06793500	Loup
Loup River at Columbus	06794500	Loup
Willow Creek near Pierce	00232500	Elkhorn
Elkhorn River near Atkinson	06796973	Elkhorn
South Fork Elkhorn River near Ewing	06798000	Elkhorn
Elkhorn River at Neligh	06798500	Elkhorn
Elkhorn River near Tilden	06798780	Elkhorn
Willow Creek near Foster	06799080	Elkhorn
Union Creek at Madison	06799230	Elkhorn
Pebble Creek at Scribner	06799385	Elkhorn
Logan Creek at Pender	06799450	Elkhorn
Elkhorn River near Winslow	06799510	Elkhorn

## B. DWEE Irrigation Canal Monitoring

In addition to streamgaging, DWEE monitors and measures major surface water diversions at 21 sites across the Basin (Table 2). Instantaneous and historical canal diversion data may be accessed at DWEE’s interactive streamgauge map at: [Data - DWEE Real Time Water](#).

*Table 2. A listing of DWEE irrigation canal measurement sites*

DWEE Irrigation Canal Measurement Sites		
Canal Name	Canal Number	River Basin
Calamus Fish Hatchery inlet from Calamus	19800	Loup
Farwell (Sherman Feeder) Canal from Middle Loup River	47000	Loup
Farwell Main Canal from Sherman Reservoir	48000	Loup
Farwell South Canal from Sherman Reservoir	49000	Loup
Fullerton Canal from Davis Creek Reservoir	54700	Loup
Kent Canal from North Loup River	76500	Loup
Loup River Power Canal Return at Columbus	82100	Loup
Inlet Canal to Davis Cr. Res. from Mirdan	88500	Loup
Middle Loup Canal No. 1 from Middle Loup	90000	Loup
Middle Loup Canal No. 1 Pump from Middle	90200	Loup
Middle Loup Canal No. 2 from Middle Loup	91000	Loup
Middle Loup Canal No. 3 from Middle Loup	92000	Loup
Middle Loup Canal No. 4 from Middle Loup	93000	Loup
Middle Loup Canal No. 4 from Sherman Feeder Canal	93200	Loup
Mirdan Canal from Calamus Reservoir	100500	Loup
Taylor-Ord Canal from North Loup River	107000	Loup
Taylor-Ord Canal inlet to Mirdan Canal	107100	Loup
Taylor-Ord Canal outlet from Mirdan Canal	107200	Loup
Burwell-Sumter Canal from North Loup River	108000	Loup
Ord-North Loup Canal from North Loup River	109000	Loup
Sargent Canal from Middle Loup River	130000	Loup

### C. Surface Water Pump Site Monitoring

The DWEE field office staff regularly inspect pump sites of permitted surface water diversions as a part of surface water monitoring. Depending on conditions and staffing, not all pump sites are inspected every year, and some pump sites may be visited more than one time per year. DWEE field offices within the Basin are in Lincoln, Norfolk, and Ord, Nebraska. Table 3 provides a listing of surface water pump site inspections conducted in 2025. The data are organized by NRD and provide information about the total number of surface water appropriations, the number of pump sites inspected, and, of those, how many sites were set up for irrigation at the time of the inspection. It should be noted that some pump site inspections occur outside of prime irrigation season, so sites without a pump set up may not have done so yet for the season.

*Table 3. Surface water pump site inspections conducted in 2025*

2025 Surface Water Pump Site Inspections			
NRD	Total Number of Permits	Number of Pump Site Inspections	Number of Pump Sites set Up for Irrigation
Lower Elkhorn	335	344	44
Lower Loup	742	703	346
Lower Platte North	132	130	20
Lower Platte South	137	126	11
Papio-Missouri River	52	56	9
Upper Elkhorn	72	75	16
Upper Loup	24	23	3
<b>Total</b>	1494	1457	449

## D. Surface Water Administration

Surface water administration is the enforcement of the prior appropriation doctrine principle of “first in time, first in right,” in times of shortage. Surface water administration began on April 23 and continued periodically through September 2, 2025. Here, DWEE issued closing notices for the benefit of the instream flow permits held by the Lower Loup NRD (LLNRD), Lower Elkhorn NRD (LENRD), and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). The closures applied to both storage and natural flow appropriations that have a priority date junior to December 22, 2017, for LENRD, July 28, 2017, for LLNRD and November 30, 1993 for NGPC. A summary of 2025 water administration is provided in Table 4.

Table 4. 2025 Lower Platte River Basin Surface Water Administration

2025 Lower Platte River Basin Surface Water Administration							
DWEE Water Division	Date of Closure	Date Reopened	Permit Type	Number of Affected Permits	Reason for Closure	Reason for Reopening	
2A- Loup River Basin	23-Apr	21-May	Direct Flow	19	LLNRD instream flow not met	Water for NGPC and LLNRD instream flow rights has been exceeded	
	23-Apr	21-May	Storage	1			
	14-May	21-May	Direct Flow	140	Not enough water for NGPC instream flow right		
	14-May	21-May	Storage	30			
	20-Aug	2-Sep	Direct Flow	20	LLNRD instream flow not met	Water for NGPC and LLNRD instream flow rights has been exceeded	
	20-Aug	2-Sep	Storage	1			
	26-Aug	2-Sep	Direct Flow	141	Not enough water for NGPC instream flow right		
	26-Aug	2-Sep	Storage	30			
2B- Elkhorn River Basin	14-May	21-May	Direct Flow	87	Not enough water for NGPC instream flow right		
	14-May	21-May	Storage	89			
	26-Aug	2-Sep	Direct Flow	18	LENRD instream flow not met		LENRD instream flow being met
	26-Aug	2-Sep	Storage	1			

## E. Surface Water Permits for Induced Groundwater Recharge (Previously Issued)

No new induced groundwater recharge permits were issued and no changes to existing permits occurred in 2025. Induced groundwater recharge permits have no reporting requirements as a condition of the permit. Currently, the City of Lincoln and the Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) are the only two appropriators holding induced groundwater recharge permits within the Basin.

Table 5 provides a summary of the induced groundwater recharge permits within the Basin. The associated municipal groundwater transfer permits, although not surface water, are also included. For example, the City of Lincoln has one induced groundwater recharge surface water permit, A-17312, with two associated municipal groundwater transfer permits for the Ashland wellfield. MUD has two induced groundwater recharge surface water permits, each with an associated municipal groundwater transfer permit, for each of its two wellfields: A-17310 and A-10538 in the south wellfield and A-17318 and A-17356 in the west wellfield.

*Table 5. City of Lincoln and MUD surface water permits for induced groundwater recharge*

Surface Water Permits for Induced Groundwater Recharge						
Permit Holder	Permit Number	Priority Date	Associated GW Municipal Transfer	Number of Wells	Rate in cubic feet per second (cfs)	Required Reporting
City of Lincoln	A-17312	1/21/1964	A-10367	31	704 - Summer	No
					200 - All Other Seasons	
		1/1/1970	A-16917	7	No additional streamflow	No
		1/1/1980		6	No additional streamflow	
		1/1/1990		2	No additional streamflow	
1/1 /1993	2	No additional streamflow				
MUD	A-17310	1/1/1970	A-10538	38	480	No
		1/1/1990		1	20	
	A-17318	10/6/1993	A-17356	42	160	No

## F. Groundwater Permits (Previously Issued by DWEE)

No new groundwater permits were issued in 2025. The data provided by permit holders of groundwater pumped in 2025, for the applicable permits listed in Table 7, are available electronically upon request. The types of groundwater permits shown are authorized as follows:

- “Municipal” is a Municipal Groundwater Transfer Permit pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-613.01, §§ 46-639 - 46-650
- “Industrial Transfer” is an Industrial Groundwater Transfer Permit pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 46-675 – 46-689
- “Municipal Notice of Intent” is a notice pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-655.01

Table 6 provides a summary of the permitted maximum water withdrawals for the City of Lincoln’s and MUD’s Municipal Groundwater Transfer Permits. The annual reports submitted by City of Lincoln and MUD for these permits are available upon request.

*Table 6. Municipal groundwater transfer permits held by the City of Lincoln and MUD*

Municipal Groundwater Transfer Permits					
Permit Holder	Appropriation Number	Priority Date	Maximum Daily Withdrawal	Total Annual Withdrawal	Required Reporting
City of Lincoln	A-10367	6/15/1931	60 million Gallons	NA	Yes
	A-16917	1/25/1990	50 million Gallons	NA	Yes
MUD	A-10538	2/15/1965	60 million Gallons	NA	Yes
	A-17356	3/1/1994	104 million Gallons	19 billion Gallons	Yes

*Table 7. DWEE groundwater permits (previously issued)*

DWEE Groundwater Permits (Previously Issued)				
Index Number	Permit Holder	Appropriation Number	Approval Date	Permit Type
3	Lincoln, City of	A-10367	5/28/1964	Municipal
4	Fremont, City of	A-10411	8/21/1964	Municipal
8	Wakefield, City of	A-10531	3/8/1965	Municipal
9	Plattsmouth, City of	A-10533	3/8/1965	Municipal
11	Metropolitan Utilities District	A-10538	6/9/1965	Municipal
17	Leigh, Village of	A-10578	5/10/1965	Municipal

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DWEE Groundwater Permits (Previously Issued)				
Index Number	Permit Holder	Appropriation Number	Approval Date	Permit Type
18	Laurel, City of	A-10579	5/10/1965	Municipal
24	Ashland, City of	A-10589	5/10/1965	Municipal
26	Lincoln, City of	A-10595	5/10/1965	Municipal
27	Columbus, City of	A-10596	5/10/1965	Municipal
32	Fremont, City of	A-12171	4/29/1971	Municipal
33	Fremont, City of	A-13909	2/19/1976	Municipal
34	Columbus, City of	A-15704	10/17/1980	Municipal
41	Wayne, City of	A-16525	1/16/1987	Municipal
42	Laurel, City of	A-16530	1/16/1987	Municipal
49	Howells, Village of	A-16888	12/8/1989	Municipal
51	Howells, Village of	A-16911	4/6/1990	Municipal
52	Lincoln, City of	A-16917	8/31/1990	Municipal
53	Wayne, City of	A-16927	6/25/1990	Municipal
54	Bruno, Village of	A-16964	7/12/1990	Municipal
57	Howells, Village of	A-17082	9/16/1991	Municipal
58	Valparaiso, Village of	A-17086	9/16/1991	Municipal
63	Valparaiso, Village of	A-17212	9/29/1992	Municipal
71	Columbus, City of	A-17325	12/11/1995	Municipal
72	Pleasant Dale, Village of	A-17351	4/11/1994	Municipal
73	Eagle, Village of	A-17352	10/27/1994	Municipal
74	Metropolitan Utilities District	A-17356	12/10/1998	Municipal
78	St. Paul, City of	A-17426	1/4/1996	Municipal
121	Clarkson, City of	A-17556	4/2/1998	Municipal
158	Humphrey, City of	A-17807	3/7/2001	Municipal
194	Palmer, Village of	A-17949	2/19/2002	Municipal
128	Ceresco, Village of	A-18018	8/27/2002	Municipal
199	Cuming County Rural Water District #1	A-18024	6/13/2005	Municipal
218	Weston, Village of	A-18070	6/13/2005	Municipal
212	Springfield, City of	A-18104	4/14/2006	Municipal
225	Cass County Rural Water District #2	A-18163	5/3/2006	Municipal
109	Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc.	I-4	10/22/1996	Industrial Transfer
110	Nebco, Inc.	I-5	9/27/1996	Industrial Transfer
270	Nebco, Inc.	I-5A	7/31/2006	Industrial Transfer
141	Hormel Foods Corp.	I-6	1/5/1999	Industrial Transfer

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DWEE Groundwater Permits (Previously Issued)				
Index Number	Permit Holder	Appropriation Number	Approval Date	Permit Type
423	Coleridge, Village of	MNI-22	1/22/2014	Municipal Notice of Intent
261	Waverly, City of	MT-13	9/12/2007	Municipal
262	Cuming County Rural Water District #1	MT-14	6/7/2006	Municipal
263	Pierce, City of	MT-15	7/12/2007	Municipal
264	Madison, City of	MT-16	1/11/2007	Municipal
268	Papillion, City of	MT-18	11/6/2018	Municipal
284	Louisville, City of	MT-23	9/29/2006	Municipal
332	Wayne, City of	MT-24	7/12/2007	Municipal
351	Palmer, Village of	MT-27	10/5/2007	Municipal
375	Broken Bow, City of	MT-35	11/30/2009	Municipal
391	Waverly, City of	MT-38	2/25/2011	Municipal
473	Archer Daniels Midland Company and Vantage Corn Processing, LLC	I-25	5/1/2020	Industrial Transfer

### 3. DWEE Surface Water and Groundwater Permitting Activities

#### A. Surface Water Permitting Activity

Details of surface water permitting activities are provided in *Table 8. Surface water applications approved in 2025 within the Lower Platte River Basin*

To summarize, the following surface water permitting activities occurred in 2025:

- Irrigation (IR) – Five permits were approved within the Basin. Three permits were approved outside the Basin. Twenty-seven permits were cancelled in full and eleven were cancelled in part within the Basin. Outside the Basin no permits were cancelled.
- Manufacturing Permits (MF) – Two temporary (one year) manufacturing permits were approved within the basin. No permits were approved outside the Basin. Outside the Basin one manufacturing permit was dismissed in 2025.
- Municipal Permits (MU) – One permit was granted outside the Basin in 2025. No permits were granted inside the Basin. No permits were cancelled.
- Storage Permits (ST) – Within the Basin, two permits were granted. No permits were cancelled in the Basin or outside the Basin.
- Transfers – Eight expedited and two non-expedited transfers were approved within the Basin.
- Irrigation District Filings – Farwell Irrigation District filed one Relinquishment and Reassignment.
- District Transfers – Two transfers were approved, one in Farwell Irrigation District and another in Sargent Irrigation District.
- Instream Flow (IF) – No permits were approved within the Basin. No permits were approved outside the Basin. No permits were cancelled.
- Domestic (DO) – Three permits were approved within the Basin. No permits were approved outside the Basin. No permits were cancelled.
- Flood Control (FC) – No permits were approved within the Basin. No permits were approved outside the Basin. No permits were cancelled.
- Recharge (RE) – Three permits were approved within the Basin. No permits were approved outside the Basin. Three permits expired inside the Basin.

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### New Surface Water Appropriations Granted in 2025

Table 8 below contains the surface water applications approved from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, within the Lower Platte Basin Coalition NRDs and the area within the Lower Platte Basin.

*Table 8. Surface water applications approved in 2025 within the Lower Platte River Basin*

Surface Water Applications Approved January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025									
NRD	Appropriation Number	Date Approved	Source	Diversion/ Reservoir Location	Use	Grant (cfs)	Grant in af	Acres	New Acres
Lower Elkhorn	A-20060	8/1/2025	Logan Creek Dredge	S2 T23 R8E	IR	2.7	N/A	189.2	189.2
Lower Elkhorn	A-20091	5/12/2025	Battle Creek	S23 T23 R3W	MF	0.22	10	N/A	N/A
Lower Elkhorn	A-20103	10/2/2025	Humbug Creek, Trib. To	S8 T24 R3E	ST	N/A	480	N/A	N/A
Lower Elkhorn	A-20106	11/6/2025	Buffalo Creek	S26 T24 R4W	IR	0.74	N/A	51.7	51.7
Lower Loup	A-20053	2/21/2025	Loup River, North	S13 T21 R19W	RE	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lower Loup	A-20054	2/21/2025	Loup River, North	S14 T21 R16W	RE	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lower Loup	A-20055	2/21/2025	Loup River, North	S22 T19 R14W	RE	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lower Loup	A-20087	6/11/2025	Loup River, North, Trib. To	S10 T15 R11W	DO	0.03	N/A	2	2
Lower Loup	A-20093	9/3/2025	Mira Creek	S26 T18 R13W	DO	0.11	N/A	1	1
Lower Loup	A-20096 <sup>1</sup>	6/26/2025	Calamus Reservoir	S6 T21 R16W	IR	N/A	N/A	91.8	NO
Lower Loup	A-20105	10/2/2025	Loup River, South	S4 T12 R18W	MF	0.77	10	N/A	N/A
Lower Platte South	A-20082	6/4/2025	Stevens Creek, Trib. To	S25 T10 R7E	ST	N/A	27.1	N/A	N/A

<sup>1</sup> Permit A-20096 is a supplemental irrigation permit.

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Surface Water Applications Approved January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025									
NRD	Appropriation Number	Date Approved	Source	Diversion/ Reservoir Location	Use	Grant (cfs)	Grant in af	Acres	New Acres
Lower Platte South	A-20102	11/6/2025	Haines Branch	S4 T9 R6E	DO	0.03	N/A	2	2
Papio-Missouri River	A-20098	7/18/2025	Bell Creek	S24 T18 R9E	IR	0.74	N/A	51.6	51.6
Papio-Missouri River	A-20088	5/16/2025	Bell Creek	S25 T18 R9E	IR	1.63	N/A	114	114

Table 9 provides a listing of new surface water applications that were approved within the seven NRDs in calendar year 2025 but are outside of the Lower Platte Basin. While the permits do not count as new uses within the Basin, these are included to meet the reporting requirements for those NRDs' Integrated Management Plans.

*Table 9. Surface water applications approved in 2025 outside of the Basin*

Surface Water Applications Approved between January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 (Outside of the Lower Platte River Basin but Within Coalition NRDs)									
NRD	Appropriation Number	Date Approved	Source	Diversion/ Reservoir Location	Use	Grant (cfs)	Grant (af)	Acres	
PMRNRD	A-20020	6/23/2025	Davis Creek	S23 T20 R10E	IR	0.26	N/A	18	
PMRNRD	A-20021	6/23/2025	Skinner Reservoir	S23 T20 R10E	IR	N/A	43	123	
PMRNRD	A-20095	6/23/2025	Davis Creek	S24 T20 R10E	IR	0.52	N/A	36.3	
PMRNRD	A-20109	12/18/2025	Missouri River	S27 T16 R13E	MU	0.67	10	N/A	

## Expired and Cancelled Surface Water Appropriations in 2025

Table 10 provides a listing for Basin surface water appropriations that expired, were cancelled in full, or cancelled in part in 2025. Table 11 lists any expired or cancelled appropriations that are outside of the Lower Platte River Basin but within Coalition NRDs. DWEE must follow statutory requirements when proceeding with any cancellation, in full or in part, of a surface water appropriation. The “Basis for Action” columns in both tables pertain to one of the authorities listed below.

- BUC (Beneficial Use Cancellation): The field offices investigate all new appropriations after the time period given in the approval order to perfect the water right. If for any reason the appropriation has not been perfected, and water has not been put to beneficial use as stated in the approval order, it may be cancelled in full or in part.
  - Authority upon which the action was based: *Neb. Rev. Stat. §46-229.02(7)* “A water appropriation that has not been perfected pursuant to the terms of the permit may be canceled by the department without complying with sections 46-229.01 to 46-229.04 if the owner of such appropriation fails to comply with any of the conditions of approval in the permit, except that this subsection does not apply to appropriations to which subsection (2) of section 46-237 applies.”
- PDNU (Preliminary Determination of Nonuse): This can occur after a field investigation finding the appropriation has not been used in the last five years, and if the owner does not successfully contest the preliminary determination of nonuse.
  - Authority upon which the action was based: *Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 46-229.02(1) through 46-229.02(6)* which state that if the DWEE makes a preliminary determination that an appropriation has not been used for more than five consecutive years, and the owner of said appropriation does not successfully contest the determination, then DWEE may cancel said appropriation in whole or in part.
- REL (Relinquishment): An appropriator can file a voluntary relinquishment of part or all of their water appropriation.
  - Authority upon which the action was based: Department of Natural Resources *Rules for Surface Water, Neb. Admin. Code. Title 457, Chapter 3*, which specifies that any appropriation, or part of any appropriation, may be voluntarily relinquished.
- Temporary permits: Temporary permits may not be granted for a term of more than one year. These permits expire one year from the order date and are cancelled without further action by the Department as of that date.

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*Table 10. Expired or cancelled surface water appropriations in 2025 within the Lower Platte River Basin*

Surface Water Appropriations Expired, Cancelled in Full or Cancelled in Part from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025												
NRD	Permit Number	Cancelled Date	Source	DWEE Action	Diversion Location	Use	Begin Acres	Cancelled Acres	Cancelled Grant (cfs)	Cancelled Grant (af)	Estimated Last Use	Basis for Action
Lower Elkhorn	A-14608	12/19/2025	Elkhorn River	Cancelled in Full	S17 T22 R6E	IR	64.5	64.5	0.93	N/A	Unknown	PDNU-11517
Lower Elkhorn	A-8988	6/6/2025	Logan Creek	Cancelled in Full	S5 T25 R6E	IR	72.3	72.3	1.03	N/A	Unknown	REL-11284
Lower Elkhorn	A-17141	10/2/2025	Logan Creek	Cancelled in Full	S11 T23 R8E	IR	89	89	1.27	N/A	Unknown	REL-11491
Lower Loup	A-11633*	9/3/2025	Loup River, North	Cancelled in Full	S29 T21 R17W	IR	53	53	0.75	N/A	2024	REL-10821
Lower Loup	A-11634*	9/3/2025	Loup River, North	Cancelled in Full	S29 T21 R17W	IR	29	29	0.41	N/A	2024	REL-10822
Lower Loup	A-16403R*	9/19/2025	Loup River	Cancelled in Full	S16 T15 R9W	IR	37.3	37.3	0.43	N/A	2021	REL-11262
Lower Loup	A-3472	3/21/2025	Looking Glass Creek	Cancelled in Full	S5 T17 R3W	IR	131.24	131.24	0.94	N/A	2000	PDNU - 10967
Lower Loup	A-9130	2/10/2025	Lost Creek	Cancelled in Full	S26 T17 R1E	IR	8	8	0.11	N/A	1989	REL-10945
Lower Loup	A-20010	9/19/2025	Spring Creek	Cancelled in Full	S8 T15 R9W	IR	19.7	19.7	0.28	N/A	Never	REL-11240

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Surface Water Appropriations Expired, Cancelled in Full or Cancelled in Part from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025												
NRD	Permit Number	Cancelled Date	Source	DWEE Action	Diversion Location	Use	Begin Acres	Cancelled Acres	Cancelled Grant (cfs)	Cancelled Grant (af)	Estimated Last Use	Basis for Action
Lower Loup	A-20037	9/17/2025	Loup River, North	Cancelled in Full	S22 T19 R14W	RE	0	0	100	N/A	N/A	Expired
Lower Loup	A-20038	9/17/2025	Loup River, North	Cancelled in Full	S14 T21 R16W	RE	0	0	100	N/A	N/A	Expired
Lower Loup	A-20039	9/17/2025	Loup River, North	Cancelled in Full	S13 T21 R19W	RE	0	0	100	N/A	N/A	Expired
Lower Platte North	A-7195*	3/31/2025	Shell Creek	Cancelled in Full	S29 T18 R1W	IR	42.6	42.6	0.31	N/A	2018	PDNU-10866
Lower Platte North	A-3599*	3/31/2025	Shell Creek	Cancelled in Full	S29 T18 R1W	IR	114.7	114.7	0.82	N/A	2018	PDNU-10865
Lower Platte North	A-10560	2/10/2025	Shell Creek	Cancelled in Full	S29 T18 R1W	IR	53.5	53.5	0.76	N/A	2012	PDNU-10863
Lower Platte North	A-15620A	2/28/2025	Shell Creek	Cancelled in Full	S2 T17 R3E	IR	112.8	112.8	1.61	N/A	Unknown	REL-10816
Lower Platte North	A-15620B	2/28/2025	Shell Creek	Cancelled in Full	S2 T17 R3E	IR	34.3	34.3	0.49	N/A	Unknown	REL-10817
Lower Platte North	A-2787A	2/12/2025	Shell Creek	Cancelled in Full	S30 T18 R1W	IR	11.5	11.5	0.08	N/A	2004	PDNU-10867

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Surface Water Appropriations Expired, Cancelled in Full or Cancelled in Part from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025												
NRD	Permit Number	Cancelled Date	Source	DWEE Action	Diversion Location	Use	Begin Acres	Cancelled Acres	Cancelled Grant (cfs)	Cancelled Grant (af)	Estimated Last Use	Basis for Action
Lower Platte South	A-14825 <sup>1</sup>	12/19/2025	Salt Creek Reservoir 35	Cancelled in Full	S27 T8 R7E	IR	46.4	46.4	N/A	40.6	Unknown	REL-11540
Lower Platte South	A-16571	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 66-A	Cancelled in Full	S29 T13 R4E	IR	34	34	N/A	16	Unknown	REL-11531
Lower Platte South	A-14824	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 87-A	Cancelled in Full	S7 T12 R4E	IR	20.7	20.7	N/A	107	Unknown	REL-11538
Lower Platte South	A-16321	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 86-A	Cancelled in Full	S6 T12 R4E	IR	128.7	128.7	N/A	68	Unknown	REL-11537
Lower Platte South	A-14827	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 82-B	Cancelled in Full	S7 T12 R4E	IR	13.8	13.8	N/A	62.5	Unknown	REL-11536
Lower Platte South	A-17731	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 66-A	Cancelled in Full	S29 T13 R4E	IR	75	75	N/A	21	Unknown	REL-11535
Lower Platte South	A-14826	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 6-B	Cancelled in Full	S16 T14 R4E	IR	52.7	52.7	N/A	146	Unknown	REL-11534
Lower Platte South	A-16139	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 4-C	Cancelled in Full	S28 T14 R5E	IR	112	112	N/A	82.7	Unknown	REL-11533
Lower Platte South	A-16140	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 3-A	Cancelled in Full	S6 T13 R5E	IR	25.5	25.5	N/A	100	Unknown	REL-11541

<sup>1</sup> Permits A-14825 through A-17261 are for storage use.

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Surface Water Appropriations Expired, Cancelled in Full or Cancelled in Part from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025												
NRD	Permit Number	Cancelled Date	Source	DWEE Action	Diversion Location	Use	Begin Acres	Cancelled Acres	Cancelled Grant (cfs)	Cancelled Grant (af)	Estimated Last Use	Basis for Action
Lower Platte South	A-16140 <sup>1</sup>	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 3-A	Cancelled in Full	S6 T13 R5E	IR	27.3	27.3	N/A	100	Unknown	REL-11541
Lower Platte South	A-17261	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 4-C	Cancelled in Full	S28 T14 R5E	IR	125.7	125.7	N/A	92.9	Unknown	REL-11532
Upper Elkhorn	A-3125	1/7/2025	Childs Reservoir	Cancelled in Full	S3 T24 R5W	IR	56.6	56.6	N/A	N/A	1975	REL-10862
Lower Loup	A-12397	9/3/2025	Loup River, North	Cancelled in Part	S25 T21 R18W	IR	254.4	39.3	0.56	N/A	Unknown	REL-10820
Lower Loup	A-9609	9/19/2025	Loup River	Cancelled in Part	S8 T15 R9W	IR	33.3	12.3	0.18	N/A	Unknown	REL-11261
Lower Loup	A-11680 <sup>2</sup>	3/21/2025	Loup River	Cancelled in Full	S6 T16 R4W	IR	35.6	13.6	0.2	N/A	2015	N/A
Lower Loup	A-16947	8/1/2025	Loup River	Cancelled in Part	S6 T16 R4W	IR	111	12	0.13	N/A	2012	REL-10933
Lower Loup	A-8133	4/18/2025	Looking Glass Creek	Cancelled in Part	S8 T17 R3W	IR	76.2	50.7	0.36	N/A	Unknown	REL-11202

<sup>1</sup> Permit right ID 7459 was a supplemental to natural flow permit.

<sup>2</sup> Permit A-11680 order of cancellation was rescinded on April 9, 2025.

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Surface Water Appropriations Expired, Cancelled in Full or Cancelled in Part from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025												
NRD	Permit Number	Cancelled Date	Source	DWEE Action	Diversion Location	Use	Begin Acres	Cancelled Acres	Cancelled Grant (cfs)	Cancelled Grant (af)	Estimated Last Use	Basis for Action
Lower Loup	A-17887	4/18/2025	Looking Glass Creek	Cancelled in Part	S8 T17 R3W	IR	66	50.7	0.36	N/A	Unknown	REL-11203
Lower Loup	A-17868A	8/1/2025	Loup River	Cancelled in Part	S6 T16 R4W	IR	101	12	0.04	N/A	2012	REL-10931
Lower Loup	A-17868B	8/1/2025	Loup River	Cancelled in Part	S6 T16 R4W	IR	49	1.6	0.02	N/A	2012	REL-10932
Lower Platte South	A-12145	3/31/2025	Elk Creek	Cancelled in Part	S21 T11 R5E	IR	14	3.6	0.05	N/A	Unknown	PDNU-10929
Papio-Missouri River	A-13397	12/8/2025	Elkhorn River	Cancelled in Part	S16 T14 R10E	IR	95.2	54.6	0.78	N/A	Unknown	REL-11496
Upper Elkhorn	A-7511	12/19/2025	Cedar Creek	Cancelled in Part	S3 T23 R6W	IR	17	8.2	0.06	N/A	Unknown	REL-11511

\* Represents that the cancelled right is included in the accretions table.

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*Table 11. Expired, cancelled or dismissed or denied surface water appropriations outside of the Basin*

Surface Water Appropriations Expired, Cancelled or Dismissed or Denied from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 Outside of Basin												
NRD	Permit Number	Cancelled Date	Source	DWEE Action	Location of Diversion	Use	Begin Acres	Cancelled Acres	Cancelled Grant (cfs)	Cancelled Grant (af)	Estimated Year of Last Use	Basis for Action
Papio-Missouri River	A-20083	7/18/2025	Blackbird Creek	Dismissed	S29 T25 R10E	Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	1.55	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Transferred Surface Water Permits in 2025

Table 12 summarizes the appropriations granted a “Non-Expedited” transfer. In 2025 there were two occurrences for this type of appropriation.

According to *Neb. Rev. Stat. 46-290(1)(a)* a “Non-Expedited Transfer” is restricted to the following: transfer of the originally stated location of such appropriation; the appropriation is used and will continue to be used exclusively for irrigation purposes.

Table 13 summarizes appropriations granted a location of use transfer (expedited transfer), The permit use code used in Tables 12 and 13 are defined as follows:

- IR (Irrigation) is a permit to divert water from natural flow for irrigation.

According to *Neb. Rev. Stat. §46-291(1)* “Expedited Transfers” are restricted to the following but not limited to: appropriations that are for irrigation; no increase in the number of acres that could legally be irrigated under the appropriation prior to the transfer; location of use may only change to adjacent lands; and the point of diversion may not change significantly.

*Table 12. Appropriation(s) approved for a change of appropriation (non-expedited transfer)*

Surface Water Appropriations Approved for a Non-Expedited Transfer from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025									
NRD	Permit Number	Approval Date	Source	Use	Diversion Location	Acres Transferred	Grant (cfs) Transferred	Increase in Acres?	Application Number
Lower Loup	A-13014R	9/3/2025	Loup River, South	IR	S25 T13 R19W	89	0.85	No	NEX-11208
Lower Loup	A-9609	9/19/2025	Loup River	IR	S8 T15 R9W	21	0.3	No	NEX-11239

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*Table 13. Appropriations granted a location of use transfer (expedited transfer)*

Surface Water Appropriations Approved for an Expedited Transfer from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025								
NRD	Permit Number	Approval Date	Source	Use	Diversion Location	Acres Transferred	Grant (cfs) Transferred	Application Number
Lower Loup	A-15793	11/6/2025	Oak Creek	IR	S35 T15 R13W	59.5	0.85	EXT-10923
Lower Loup	A-12397	9/3/2025	Loup River, North	IR	S25 T21 R18W	215.1	3.07	EXT-10818
Lower Loup	A-2467R	9/3/2025	Loup River, North	IR	S25 T21 R18W	75	1.07	EXT-10819
Lower Loup	D-236R	2/27/2025	Loup River, South	IR	S27 T12 R15W	95.91	1.37	EXT-10858
Upper Loup	A-2635A	4/14/2025	Loup River, North	IR	S36 T23 R21W	84.19	0.6	EXT-10881
Upper Loup	A-2263AR	4/14/2025	Loup River, North	IR	S36 T23 R21W	84.19	0.6	EXT-10882
Upper Elkhorn	A-2991	12/19/2025	Cedar Creek	IR	S3 T23 R06W	12.8	0.18	EXT-11480
Upper Elkhorn	A-7511	12/19/2025	Cedar Creek	IR	S3 T23 R06W	4.4	0.06	EXT-11481

## Surface Water Irrigation District Filings with DWEE

In 2025, the Farwell Irrigation District filed a “provisional Relinquishment and Reassignment of Acres” with DWEE. This is listed in Table 14 and is grouped by water source in Table 15. Here, the District is exercising the latitude provided by *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-229.04 (5)* to file, with DWEE, provisional relinquishments and reassignments of district land. These reassignments must occur within five years after an order of cancellation issued by the Department following the filing of a voluntary relinquishment of the water appropriation; to assign the right to use that portion of the appropriation to other land within the District or the area served by the company. The Department shall be notified of any such assignment within thirty days after such assignment. Such appropriators are bound by all terms and conditions set forth in the appropriation, and in no way does this relinquishment/reassignment allow any increase in the number of acres irrigated by surface water. There were two district transfers within the Lower Platte Basin. Tables 16 and 17 summarize District Transfers DST-10815 and 10930<sup>1</sup>, respectively. No other types of transfers were acted upon in 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 46-2,127 through 46-2,130* “After obtaining approval of an application for transfer and map pursuant to sections 46-2,122 to 46-2,126, the board of directors of any irrigation district, reclamation district, public power and irrigation district, rural water district, or mutual irrigation or canal company may transfer an appropriation of water distributed for agricultural purposes from a tract or tracts of land within the district or served by the company to another tract or tracts of land within the boundaries of the district or served by the company...” The Department does not issue an order for this action. The appropriator is responsible for following statutory requirements related to this type of transfer.

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Table 14. Farwell Irrigation District 2025 filings

Provisional Relinquishments and Reassignments Filed by Farwell Irrigation District							
Permit Number	Source	Provisional Relinquishment ID	Acres Provisionally Relinquished	Grant Provisionally Relinquished (cfs)	Reassignment ID	Acres Reassigned	Grant Reassigned
A-19662	Sherman Reservoir	PREL-10951	4	N/A	REA-10952	4	N/A

Table 15. Farwell Irrigation District's 2025 filings grouped by water source

Farwell Irrigation District, Provisional Relinquishments and Reassignments Filings by Water Source				
Water Source	Acres Provisionally Relinquished	Grant Provisionally Relinquished (cfs)	Acres Reassigned	Grant Reassigned
Sherman Reservoir	4	N/A	4	N/A

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*Table 16. District Transfer Approved by Middle Loup Public Power & Irrigation District*

District Transfer DST-10815: Approved on March 11, 2025 by Loup Basin Reclamation District, Sargent Irrigation District				
Associated Permit Numbers	Use	Source	Total Number of Acres Transferred Out	Total Number of Acres Transferred In
A-4841A	IR	Middle Loup River	30	30
A-10260C	IR	Sherman Reservoir		
A-12433	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-12632	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-15007	IR	Sherman Reservoir		
A-15029	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-16498	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-16499	IR	Sherman Reservoir		
A-16500	IR	George Semler Reservoir		
A-18421	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-19478	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-19664	IR	Middle Loup River		

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*Table 17. District Transfer Approved by the Farwell Irrigation District*

District Transfer DST-10930: Approved on April 2, 2025 by Loup Basin Reclamation District, Farwell Irrigation District				
Associated Permit Numbers	Use	Source	Total Number of Acres Transferred Out	Total Number of Acres Transferred In
A-4423	IR	Middle Loup River	192.1	192.1
A-5710	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-10470	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-16399	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-16806	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-17306	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-4423A	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-4923B	ST	Oak Creek		
A-10260A	IR	Sherman Reservoir		
A-16400	IR	Sherman Reservoir		
A-16814	IR	Sherman Reservoir		
A-17307	IR	Sherman Reservoir		
A-15660	IR	Turkey Creek		
A-18310	IR	Middle Loup River		
A-18311	IR	Sherman Reservoir		

## B. Groundwater Permitting Activity

The following is a list of all the types of groundwater permits authorized by statute to be issued by DWEE. In 2025, no groundwater permits were issued.

- Application to Drill Without Regard to Spacing –No cancellations or new permits issued.
- Industrial Groundwater Transfers –No cancellations or new permits issued.
- Industrial Transfer Notice –No cancellations or new permits issued.
- Municipal Groundwater Transfers –No cancellations or new permits issued.
- Municipal Notice of Intent –No cancellations or new permits issued.
- Permit to Violate Well Spacing –No cancellations or new permits issued.
- Permit to Transfer to Adjoining State –No cancellations or new permits issued.

*Table 18. 2025 Groundwater Permitting Activity for Lower Platte Basin*

Groundwater Permitting Activity from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025				
NRD	Permit Number	Date	Status	Comments
No new filings				

## 4. Estimated Stream Depletions for New Surface Water Permits

The Plan provides an overview of the agreed-upon methodology to calculate stream depletions for newly permitted irrigated acres. DWEE calculated stream depletions for new surface water uses and acres using this methodology. More details on the new permits are provided above in *Chapter 3, Table 8. Surface water applications approved in 2025 within the Lower Platte River Basin.*

The net stream depletion estimates by NRD are provided in Table 19. For permits with new acres, the Net Irrigation Requirement (NIR) based on corn was applied. For the new acres within the Basin, the NIR was calculated using the average Statewide values from 2018. All permits with a use of “ST” are to divert water from a reservoir for irrigation; therefore, depletions to streamflow are considered to occur in the non-peak season.

The permit use codes shown in Table 19 are defined as follows:

- IR (Irrigation) is a permit to divert water from either natural flow or storage for irrigation,
- MF (Manufacturing) is a permit to divert water for manufacturing, construction, or industrial uses,
- ST (Storage) is a permit to store water.

Table 20 provides a list of Seasonal Permits that hydrologically retime water for Basin accounting purposes.

The permit use codes shown in Table 20 are defined as follows:

- RE (Recharge)

Accretions may be due to 1) any new permits reported in 2016 or later but since expired or were canceled, or 2) other permits that were granted, and used after, but then cancelled. Table 21 provides a summary of accretions reported in 2025.

Table 22 provides a summary of depletions and accretions that were reported between the years 2016 through 2021, during the first increment of the plan. Table 23 provides the summary of the depletions and accretions that have occurred thus far in the second increment of the Plan.

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Table 19. Estimated stream depletion by NRD for newly permitted surface water uses and acres

Estimated Stream Depletion for New Surface Water Permits between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025								
NRD	Permit Number	Use	Source	Net Irrigation Requirement (In)	Permitted Acres	Annual Consumptive use in acre feet (af)	Peak Season Depletion (af)	Non-Peak Season Depletion (af)
Lower Elkhorn	A-20060	IR	Logan Creek Dredge	5.1296	189.2	$(5.1296 \times 189.2) / 12 = 80.88$	80.88	
	A-20091	MF	Battle Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	
	A-20103	ST	Humbug Creek, Trib. To	N/A	N/A	N/A		480
	A-20106	IR	Buffalo Creek	6.7272	51.7	$(6.7492 \times 51.7) / 12 = 29.08$	29.08	
Lower Loup	A-20105	MF	Loup River, South	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	
Lower Platte South	A-20082	ST	Stevens Creek, Trib. To	N/A	N/A	N/A		27.1
Papio-Missouri River	A-20098	IR	Bell Creek	5.6188	51.6	$(5.6188 \times 51.6) / 12 = 24.16$	24.16	
	A-20088	IR	Bell Creek	5.1628	114	$(5.1628 \times 114) / 12 = 49.05$	49.05	

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*Table 20. Seasonal permits providing hydrologic retiming within the basin*

Seasonal Permits that Provide Hydrologic Retiming from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025								
NRD	Permit Number	Use	Source	Net Irrigation Requirement (In)	Permitted Acres	Allowed Seasonal Use	Peak Season Depletion (af)	Non-Peak Season Depletion (af)
Lower Loup	20053	RE	Loup River, North	N/A	0	100 CFS Grant	0.00	0.00
	20054	RE	Loup River, North	N/A	0	100 CFS Grant	0.00	0.00
	20055	RE	Loup River, North	N/A	0	100 CFS Grant	0.00	0.00

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*Table 21. Estimated stream accretions for previously taken depletions that no longer occur*

Estimated Stream Accretions for Previously Taken Depletions that No Longer Occur									
NRD	Permit Number	Use	Source	Acres	WR Approval Year	Estimated Last Use	Original Depletion Peak/Non-Peak (af)	Resulting Stream Accretion (af)-Peak	Resulting Stream Accretion (af)-Non-Peak
Lower Platte North	A-7195	IR	Shell Creek	42.6	1955	2018	20.86	20.86	0
Lower Platte North	A-3599	IR	Shell Creek	114.7	1943	2018	56.16	56.16	0
Lower Loup	A-11633	IR	North Loup River	53	1969	2024	42.92	42.92	0
Lower Loup	A-11634	IR	North Loup River	29	1969	2024	23.09	23.09	0
Lower Loup	A-16403R	IR	Loup River	37.3	1985	2021	30.48	30.48	0

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Table 22. 2016 to 2021 estimated surface water stream depletions and accretions

2016-2021 Estimated Stream Depletions and Accretions for New Surface Water Permits																		
NRD	2016-2017		2018		2019				2020				2021				Net Total Depletions <sup>1</sup>	
	Depletions		Depletions		Depletions		Accretions		Depletions		Accretions		Depletions		Accretions			
	Peak	Non-Peak <sup>2</sup>	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak
Lower Elkhorn	117	NA	97	0	70	60	0	0	0	0	103.6	0	94.65	0	0	0	<b>275</b>	<b>60</b>
Lower Loup	0	NA	228	0	130	638	0	0	46	339	0	0	45.91	13.63	10.0	0	<b>440</b>	<b>991</b>
Lower Platte North	0	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	0	0	7.48	0	0	0	<b>7</b>	<b>61</b>
Lower Platte South	65	NA	10	0	0	0	10	0	2	18	0	0	14.90	10.00	2.0	0	<b>80</b>	<b>28</b>
Papio-Missouri River	67	NA	0.3	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10.3	0	0	0	0	0	<b>67</b>	<b>0</b>
Upper Elkhorn	0	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	0	0	0.39	0	0	0	<b>85</b>	<b>0</b>
Upper Loup	118	NA	345.32	89.41	0	0	65	0	9	0	38	89	0	0	0	0	<b>369</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Basin Total</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1324</b>	<b>1140</b>

<sup>1</sup> Net total depletions by NRD and by Basin have been rounded to the nearest whole number, after calculations, these totals may or may not exactly reflect the values in the table.

<sup>2</sup> Non-Peak season depletions were not calculated for the 2016-2017 report for any of the new surface water uses in any NRD and have not been evaluated at this time.

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Table 23. 2022 to 2025 estimated surface water stream depletions and accretions

2022 - 2025 Estimated Stream Depletions and Accretions Summary																		
NRD	2022				2023				2024				2025				Net Total Depletions <sup>1</sup>	
	Depletions		Accretions		Depletions		Accretions		Depletions		Accretions		Depletions		Accretions		Peak	Non-Peak
	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak	Peak	Non-Peak												
Lower Elkhorn	0	0	10	0	0	0	38	0	413.2	0	243.5	0	119.96	480	0	0	<b>242</b>	<b>480</b>
Lower Loup	146	17.4	83.9	9.5	46.1	0	19.2	0	200	0	0	0	10	0	96.49	0	<b>203</b>	<b>8</b>
Lower Platte North	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	33.4	348.2	0	66.03	0	0	77.02	0	<b>-30</b>	<b>282</b>
Lower Platte South	39.2	10	20	10	0	0	0	50	50.9	140.9	0	0	0	27.1	0	0	<b>70</b>	<b>118</b>
Papio-Missouri River	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	294.4	0	0	0	73.21	0	0	0	<b>368</b>	<b>18</b>
Upper Elkhorn	0	0	0	0	0	30.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>
Upper Loup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Basin Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>937</b>

<sup>1</sup> Net total depletions by NRD and by Basin have been rounded to the nearest whole number, after calculations, these totals may or may not exactly reflect the values in the table.

## 5. Basin Plan Implementation: Research, Projects, and Studies

### A. Data-Sharing Improvements

One of the most important aspects of Basin management is annual reporting and data sharing between Basin NRDs and DWEE. DWEE is engaged in an effort to collect statewide permitted acres annually. Currently the process requires individual contact with, and collection from, the 23 NRDs statewide. DWEE is in the planning stages of building a geographical information system (GIS) dashboard where NRDs could upload the spatial representations of their permitted acres. DWEE is also exploring the automation and combination of several data exchange processes between itself and the NRDs.

### B. Groundwater modeling and studies

#### **Lower Platte Missouri Tributaries (LPMT) Model, Sub-regional Models, and Studies<sup>1</sup>**

##### Lower Elkhorn Model (LEM)

In 2022, LENRD and DWEE jointly published a sub-regional model covering the LENRD region (Lower Elkhorn Model – LEM). Throughout 2025, DWEE tested the LEM for use in defining a hydrologically connected area in LENRD, which is expected to be finalized in 2026.

##### 3-District Model

In 2023, Lower Platte North, Lower Platte South, and Papio-Missouri River NRDs and DWEE received partial funding from the Water Sustainability Fund to build a sub-regional child model (3-District model) coupled with the regional LPMT model. This project was initiated in Fall 2023. Development of the framework for the child model and coupling with the LPMT model was completed in late 2024. Calibration of the resultant coupled model continued throughout 2025, and the model and documentation are expected to be finalized in 2026.

### C. Drought Planning

DWEE continues to assist in drought planning efforts throughout the state. In 2022, the Coalition decided to assemble a review of the existing drought actions in the Lower Platte

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<sup>1</sup> Goal 1, Objective 1.4, Action Item A: Utilize best available data and tools to develop refined extents of the hydrologically connected ground and surface waters in the Lower Platte River Basin.

River Basin. DWEE received and incorporated feedback from the NRDs on the drought review. DWEE is prepared to support any further drought planning efforts undertaken by the Coalition.

### **Lower Platte River Consortium<sup>1</sup>**

In 2016, Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, Omaha Metropolitan Utilities District, Lincoln Water System, and DWEE entered an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (ILCA) to form the Lower Platte River Consortium (Consortium). In 2019, the Consortium finalized the Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan (LPRDCP). The LPRDCP establishes a framework for coordination and communication amongst Consortium members to address drought across the Lower Platte River Basin. Information regarding the Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan is available here. <https://www.lpsnrd.org/drought-management> .

In 2024, the members of the Consortium updated and revised the Drought Contingency Plan. The updated Plan includes several new and prioritized drought mitigation activities and emphasizes public education and outreach. The Consortium adopted the updates in November 2024 and is preparing to implement the new and prioritized efforts described in the Plan. DWEE continues to update the Lower Platte Drought Monitoring Dashboard and has added some new features as specified in the updated Plan. Improvements to performance, data sources, and data representation are currently in progress. The dashboard can be accessed at: [Lower Platte Drought Monitoring Dashboard](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Goal 1, Objective 1.5-Evaluate variations in water inventory due to climate cycles, and Goal 2, Objective 1-Collaborate with state and local governments to identify opportunities to augment water supplies within the Lower Platte River Basin.