LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

2025 Report

Lower Platte River Basin Coalition

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

2024 REPORT AS REQUIRED BY THE DISTRICT'S VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2009, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD or District) adopted rules and regulations for the management of ground and surface water in what is known as the hydrologically connected area (HCA). The HCA was delineated by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) based upon the likelihood of hydrologic connection between surface water and shallow ground water. For LPSNRD, this area consists of all or parts of about 70 sections along both sides of Salt Creek roughly between Waverly and Ashland, and then along the south side of the Platte River from Ashland to Plattsmouth. The location of the HCA can be seen in all of the figures attached to this report.

As a natural extension of the above activities, the District developed its voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP) in conjunction with NDNR. Following approval by both LPSNRD and NDNR, the IMP became effective on May 15, 2014. For more detail regarding the development of the IMP, see LPSNRD-NDNR, 2014.

As part of the effort toward a more comprehensive management strategy, LPSNRD joined six other NRDs and NDNR to form the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition (LPRBC) to jointly develop a water management plan for the entire Lower Platte River basin. As of early 2018, all seven participating NRD Boards and NDNR had approved the Interlocal Agreement that continues the Coalition and adopts the first five-year plan. For more information on the LPRBC, refer to its website at https://lprbc.nebraska.gov/.

II. ACTIVITIES TO BE REPORTED

The activities reported in this document cover the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

A. CERTIFICATION OF GROUND WATER USES AND CHANGES TO THOSE CERTIFICATIONS

LPSNRD began certification of irrigated acres within its jurisdiction in 2009 and required that all such irrigated acres be certified with the District by January 31, 2011 in its updated Ground Water Rules and Regulations. Going forward, current regulations require that any new irrigated acres be certified with the District prior to being irrigated.

For the HCA, the process of certifying irrigated acres documented "historically irrigated acres," which were defined as acres irrigated with ground water prior to December 16, 2008; these acres within the HCA were required to be certified by March 31, 2010. In its initial documentation of historically irrigated acres, the District issued 34 separate certifications from 27 landowners in the HCA for a total of 2,964.48 acres. State law current at the time allowed for an annual

expansion in the HCA of 20% of the documented historically irrigated acres, meaning that LPSNRD could allow up to 592.9 acres of newly irrigated land in the HCA each year. District regulations have maintained that annual limit of expansion since that time, but LPSNRD never received applications for expansion which have approached that annual limit. Since the initiation of the LPRBC, LPSNRD has managed expansions and additional uses under the agreed upon formula for the cooperating NRDs. Currently, the LPSNRD can approve allowable expansion of irrigated acres in accordance with the allowable new depletions in each five-year increment as agreed upon by the Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition. At the beginning of the second five-year increment in 2022, LPSNRD had a total allowable new depletion amount of 2,098 acre-feet.

For the 2025 reporting period, there were no applications for expanded irrigated acres in the HCA. As a result, as of December 31, 2025, LPSNRD has a total of certified irrigated acres in the entire HCA which is the same as the previous report; the locations of those acres are shown in Figure 2. In 2025, the LPSNRD did not issue any new well permits in the HCA.

At the beginning of the second five-year increment, LPSNRD had a total allowable new depletion amount of 2,098 acre-feet. In 2022, there was a reduction of 32.474 acre-feet resulting in a balance of 2,065.526 acre-feet of allowable depletion. In 2023, there was an increase of 0.939 feet resulting in a balance of 2,066.465 acre-feet. In 2024, there was a decrease of 50.85 acre-feet, resulting in a balance of 2,015.615 acre-feet.

For 2025 (the fourth year of the second five-year increment), LPSNRD's remaining allowable depletion is calculated as follows:

2nd Five-Year Increment Remaining Allowable Depletion, Acre-Feet:	2,015.615
Estimated Peak Groundwater Accretion for 2025, Acre-Feet	0.00
Estimated Peak Surface Water Depletion for 2024, Acre-Feet:	0
Remaining Allowable Depletion for 2nd Five-Year Increment, Acre-Feet:	**2,015.615**

B. APPROVED TRANSFERS

There were no approved transfers in the HCA for this reporting period.

C. FLOW METER DATA

Beginning in 2011, the District included in its Ground Water Rules and Regulations the requirements that all wells pumping more than 50 gallons per minute (gpm) be fitted with a flow meter capable of totalizing the volume of water pumped. Owners of such wells are required to report their water usage on an annual basis by December 31 of each year.

Figure 2 shows the locations of wells within the HCA and their reported usage, broken up by well type (irrigation, commercial, aquaculture and other (the "other" classification includes any other recognized well category such as livestock, wetland restoration, etc.)). Note that irrigation

wells are most numerous, but that the total usage of commercial wells is generally the largest volume for a given year.

D. WELL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Like all other NRDs, LPSNRD permits wells which pump more than 50 gpm in its jurisdiction. For the 2025 reporting period, there were no new permits issued in the HCA.

E. OTHER PERMITS

There were no other permits issued in the HCA for this reporting period.

F. MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

LPSNRD HCA Municipal Usage Information		
System Name	Population Served	2025 Usage/Gallons
Ashland, City of	3,086	171,312,000
Cass County Rural Water District 1	3,263	178,031,000
Cass County SID 5 – Buccaneer Bay	1,417	66,998,605
Greenwood, Village of	568	22,381,600
Lincoln, City of	292,000	3,686,526,550*
Louisville, City of	1,301	128,981,990
Metropolitan Utilities District	600,000	2,090,189,000*
Middle Island Lake Association	92	6,432,000
Omaha Fish and Wildlife Club	850	2,616,162
Raven's Nest	70	8,073,00
Waverly, City of	4,279	237,183,141

*- Pumping usage information derived only from the wells located within the LPSNRD geographic boundary.

G. VARIANCES ISSUED

There were no variances issued in the HCA for this reporting period.

H. RETIREMENTS OF IRRIGATED ACRES OR OTHER WATER USES

There were no retirements of any water uses in the HCA for this reporting period.

I. WATER BANKING TRANSACTIONS

No water banking transactions have occurred in the HCA.

J. OFFSETS PROVIDED FOR DEPLETIONS RESULTING FROM INCREASED CONSUMPTIVE USES

LPSNRD has no data indicating any increased consumptive uses in the HCA.

K. REFERENCES

Lower Platte River Basin Coalition. 2017. Basin Water Management Plan. LPRBC/HDR/Flatwater Group/JEO Consulting. 57 p. plus attachments.

Lower Platte River Basin Coalition. 2022. Basin Water Management Plan—Second Increment (2022-2026) of Plan Implementation. 8 p. plus attachments.

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. 2021. 2020 Report as Required by the District's Voluntary Integrated Management Plan. 7 p.

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District & Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. 2014. Integrated Management Plan. 37 p.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ _____

David Potter, General Manager Date

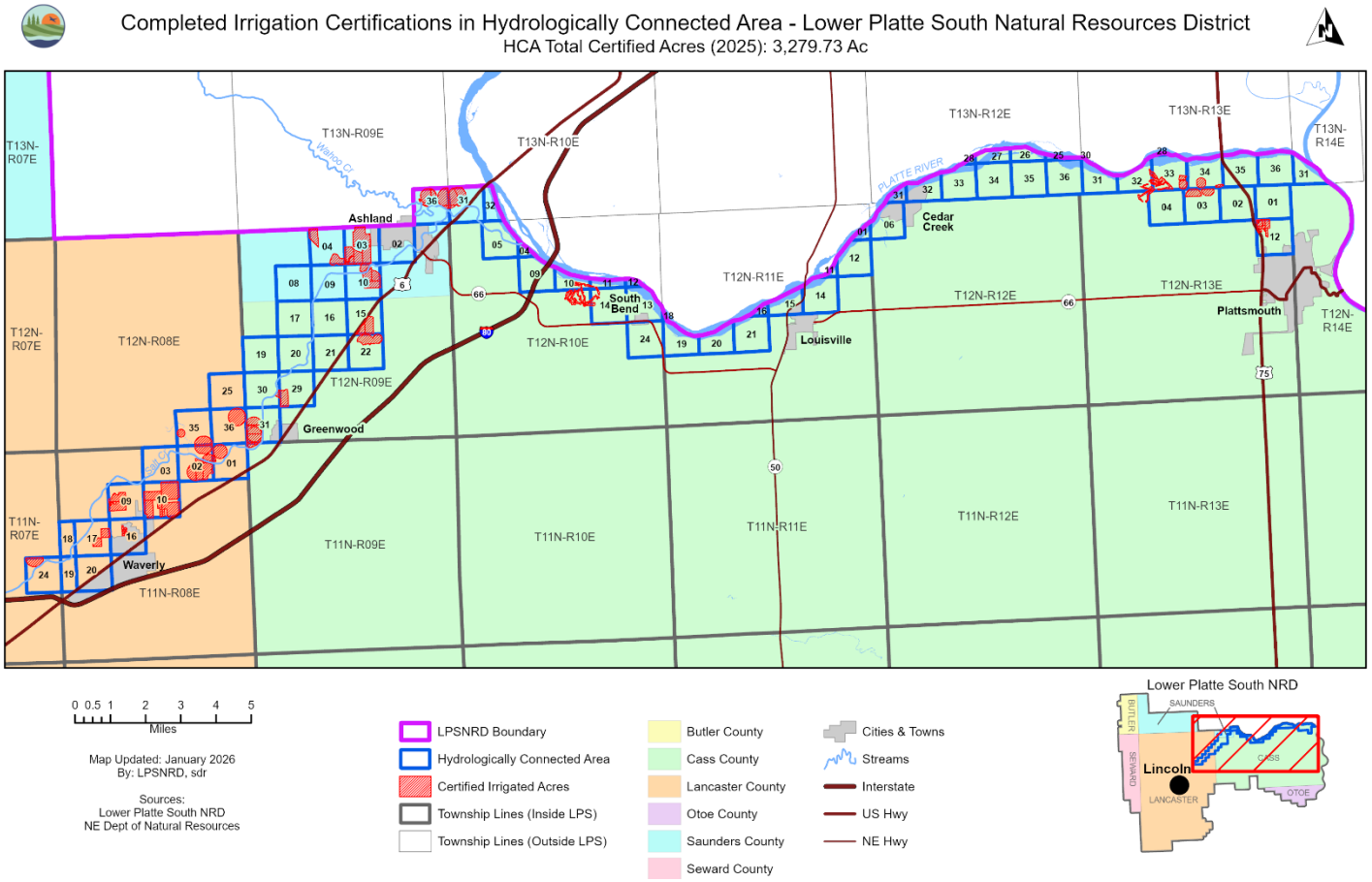
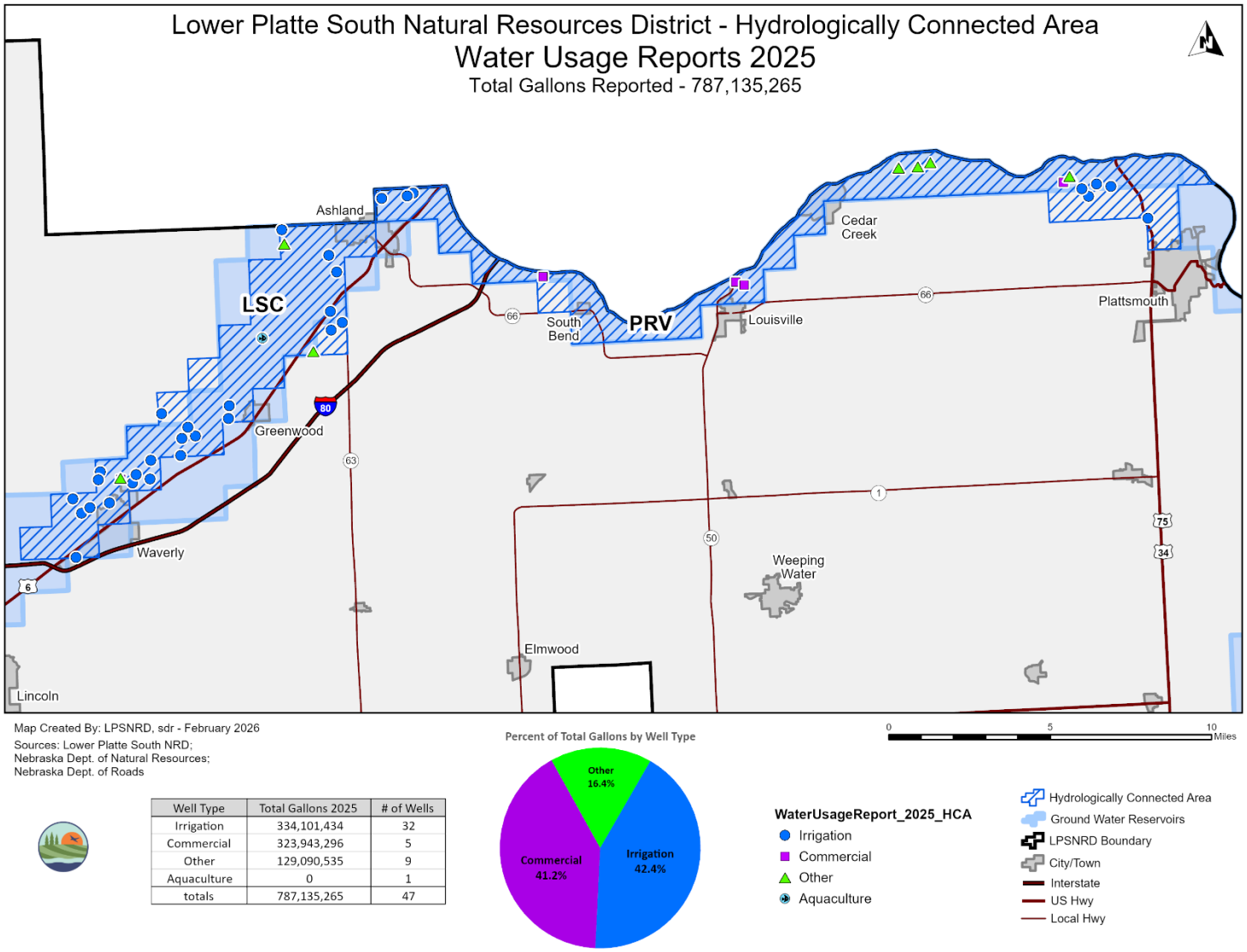


Figure 1. All certified irrigated acres within the HCA as of December 31, 2025



Well Type	Total Gallons 2025	# of Wells
Irrigation	334,101,434	32
Commercial	323,943,296	5
Other	129,090,535	9
Aquaculture	0	1
totals	787,135,265	47

Figure 2. 2025 Water Usage Reports