



Department of Natural Resources

NEBRASKA'S WATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCE

Providing the sound science and support for  
managing Nebraska's most precious resource.

# Voluntary Integrated Management Plans

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Tim Freed Sr., MS, Integrated Management Coordinator

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

# Overview

- Background
- Roles of agencies/stakeholders
- IMP Components
- IMP Process
- INSIGHT Web Tool

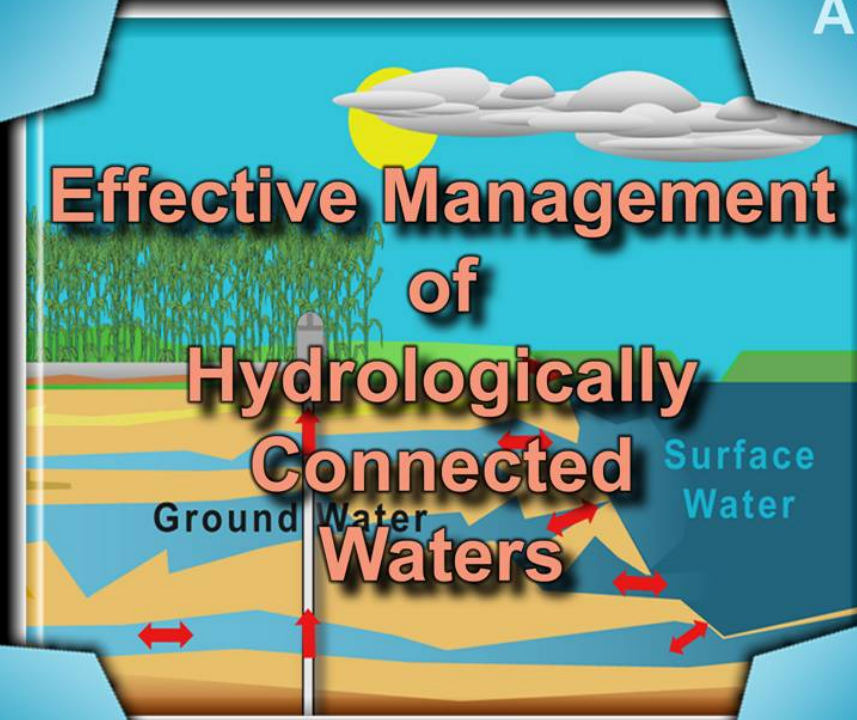
**Ground Water  
Correlative  
Rights**

**Surface Water  
Prior  
Appropriations**

**Effective Management  
of  
Hydrologically  
Connected  
Waters**

**Ground Water  
Regulated by  
NRDs**

**Surface Water  
Regulated by  
DNR**



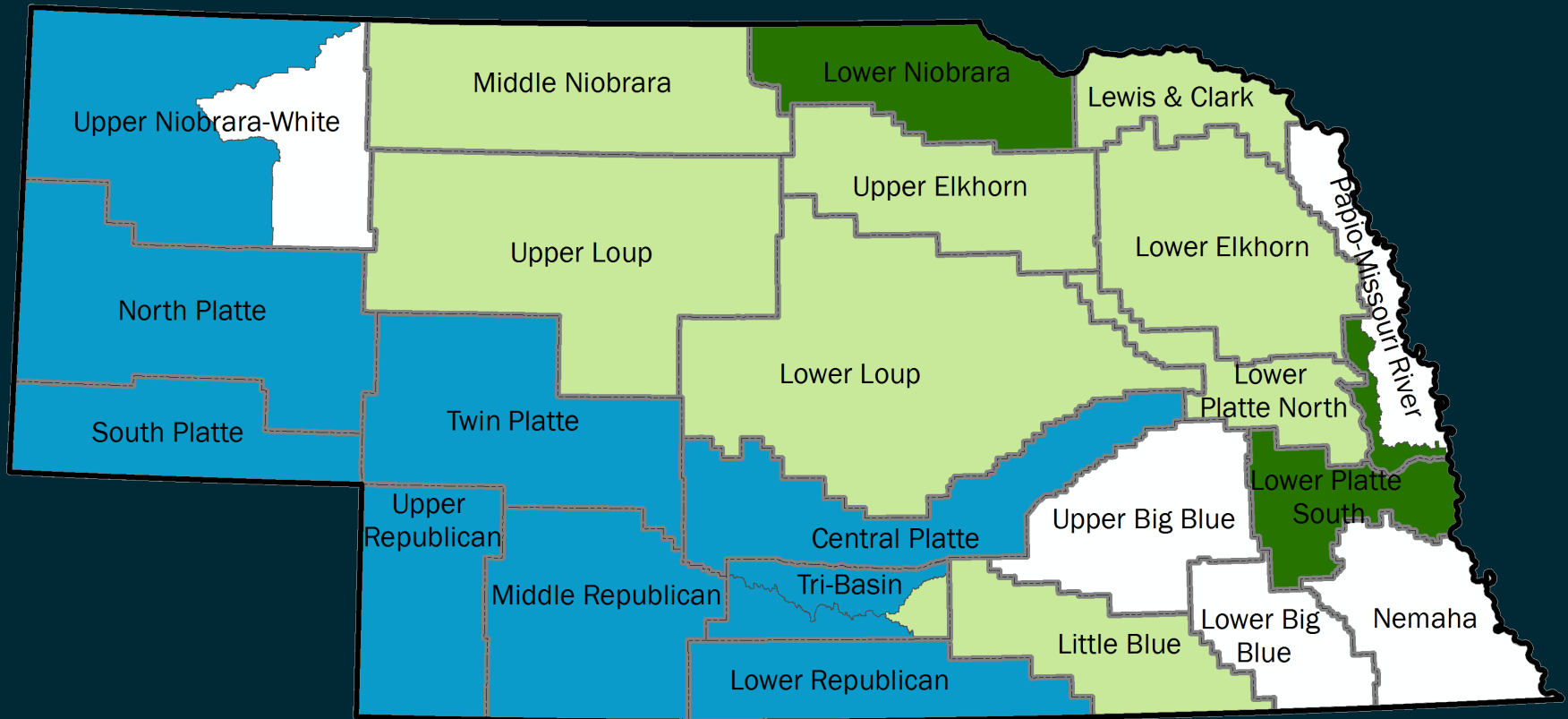
# Background

- LB962 (2004)—Legally acknowledged hydrologically connected ground and surface waters
- Process for NRDs and NDR to work together to developing IMPs
  - IMPs initially in fully or over-appropriated basins
  - LB 764 (2010)-inclusion of voluntary IMP process

# Background

- Voluntary IMP overarching objective
  - Achieve and sustain a balance between water uses and water supplies for the long term
- Protect existing water uses
- Proactive approach to water management
  - Example: If FA designation occurs in future, the Department and NRD may amend the IMP

# Status of IMPs in Nebraska



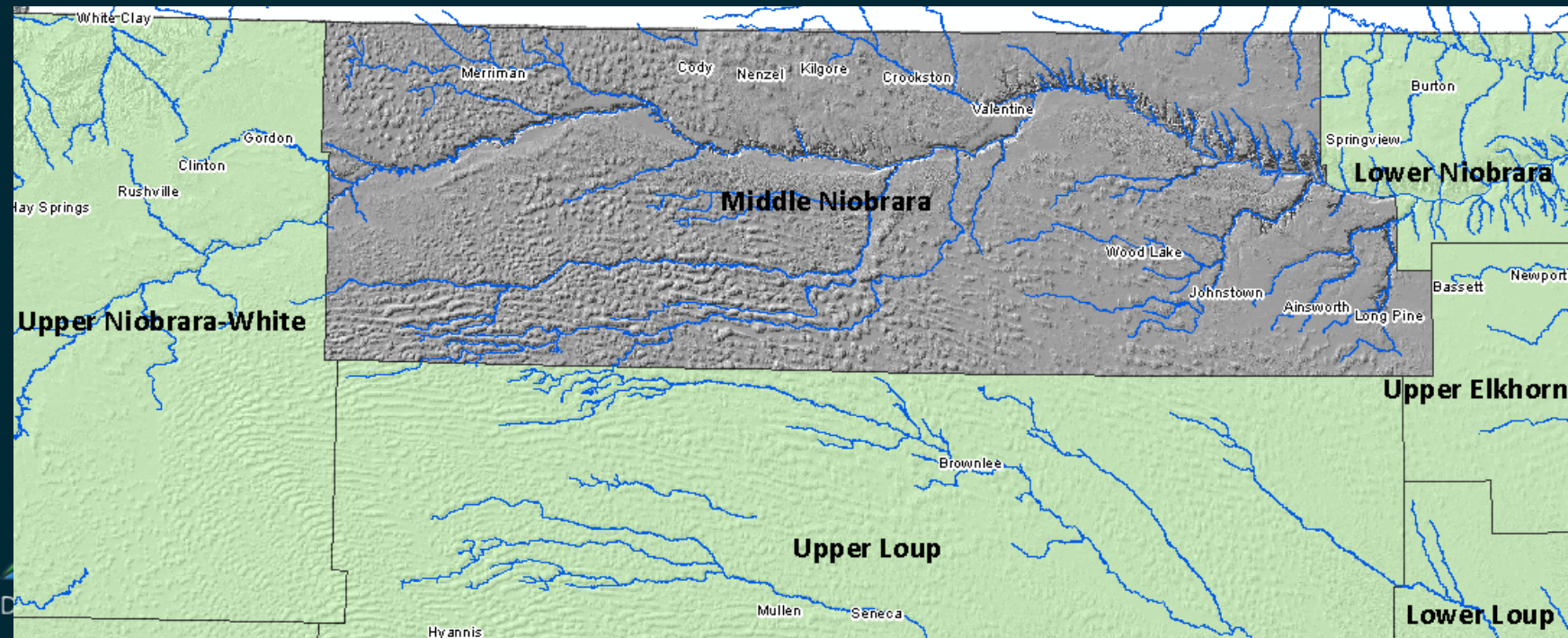
Required, Adopted    Voluntary, In Development  
Voluntary, Adopted    NRD Boundary

# ROLES

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# NRD Role

- As a partner in writing the IMP
- Groundwater monitoring and controls
- Link for local involvement in the strategic development of the IMP





# NDNR Role

- Also a joint partner in writing the plan
- Surface water monitoring and controls
- Provide technical support

# NDNR's IMP Goals

- Build a foundation of data and tools to more effectively managed water uses/supplies
- Framework for efficient, transparent, comprehensive data acquisitions and exchanges
- Identify opportunities to better adapt to changing conditions
- Listen to local inputs to increase understanding of future water uses/needs

# Stakeholder Roles

- Attend meetings and convey local water issues/concerns
- Provide input to development of IMP goals and objectives
- Inform/educate local groups about IMP process

# IMP DEVELOPMENT

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# Components of an IMP

## ➤ Required components

- Goals/Objectives
  - Purpose to achieve a balance between uses and supplies
- Map of Geographic Area
- One or more GW controls (§ 46-739)
- One or more SW controls (§ 46-716)
- Monitoring Program

## ➤ Additional components

- Action items to achieve goals/objectives
- Evaluation and review process
- Education and outreach plan
- Incentive programs

# Goals, Objectives and Action Items

- **Goals:** Define what a group wants to accomplish
  - Provide the context from which meaningful objectives and action items are developed
- **Objectives:** Define the measurable outcomes that a group seeks to accomplish in working toward goals
- **Actions items:** Describe the specific tasks that the NRD and NDNR will undertake

# Controls

- Statutes require that IMPs have one or more GW and one or more SW control
  - Appropriate to achieve goals and objectives

## GW controls authorized by § 46-739

- Limit GW expansion
- Transfers
- Municipal/Industrial Tracking
- Well-spacing
- Meters
- Educational requirements
- Certified Acres
- Allocations
- Rotations
- Acres Reduction

## SW controls authorized by § 46-716

- Increased Monitoring
- Variance/Transfers
- Conservation Measures
- Moratoriums

# Voluntary IMP Process

- NRD contacts NDNR to initiate process
- Determine integrated management area
- Stakeholder Meetings - Consultation
  - Develop Goals and Objectives
  - Develop action items to achieve goals and objectives
- NRD/NDNR draft IMP



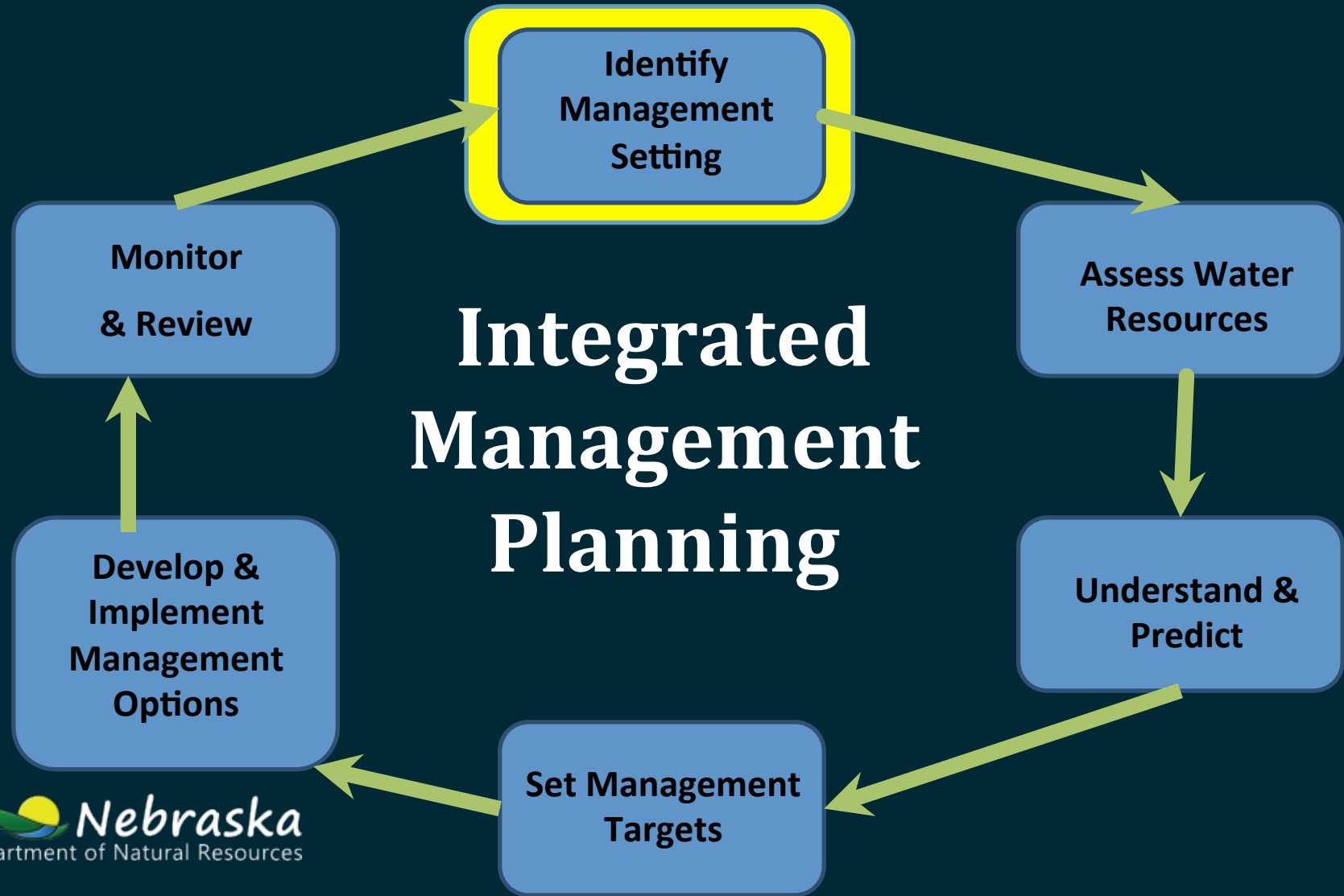
# IMP Process

- Letter exchange between NRD and NDNR agreeing to draft plan
- Set and publish hearing date
- Joint public hearing
- NRD/NDNR consider testimony, if no changes to required components of plan...
- Publish orders to make IMP effective

# IMPs Generally

- Evolve as the need arises
- No mandatory restrictions on new development
  - Irrigation
  - Municipal
  - Industrial
- Include local input and concerns
- Do not regulate water quality

# IMP Long-term process



# The INSIGHT Web Tool

INSIGHT - Insight

data.dnr.ne.gov/insight/

Official Nebraska Government Website

## INSIGHT

An Integrated Network of Scientific Information & Geo-Hydrologic Tools

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

HOME ABOUT MODELING DATA

Welcome to INSIGHT! The data and charts represent our second release which contains updated data and new features for viewing and downloading data. The "Getting Started with INSIGHT" box explains more about using the new features. See the updated methodology and the data available through the Modeling Data page for more detailed information. The data is in review and will be finalized by the end of the year.

SELECT REGION

### Getting Started with INSIGHT

Begin by exploring hydrologic data for supplies, demands, and nature and extent of use for the state of Nebraska in the charts and graphs found below. If you would rather learn more about one of the state's basins and corresponding subbasins, start by double-clicking the map to zoom in to the basin level. The red dot in the center of the map will hover over the basin whose data will be displayed. Use your mouse to pan to the basin of interest by clicking and dragging until the red dot is in that basin or simply click on the basin you wish to view. You may double-click again to zoom in to the subbasin level and use your mouse to pan to or click on the subbasin of interest. The plus and minus buttons in the upper left of the map also allow you to zoom in and out. Alternatively, you can select a basin or subbasin from the SELECT REGION drop down menu above the map on the right.

Drop down Menus

Supply Demand Nature & Extent of Use

### Chart: Precipitation Rates and Volumes by Basin

Season: Annual

Basin	Volume of Precipitation (Acre-Feet)	Rate of Precipitation (Inches/Year)
BIG BLUE	~6,000,000	~28
ELKHORN	~10,000,000	~25
LITTLE BLUE	~4,000,000	~28
LOUP	~16,000,000	~15
LOWER PLATTE	~5,000,000	~28
MISSOURI TRIBUTARIES	~1,000,000	~28
NIobrARA	~12,000,000	~22

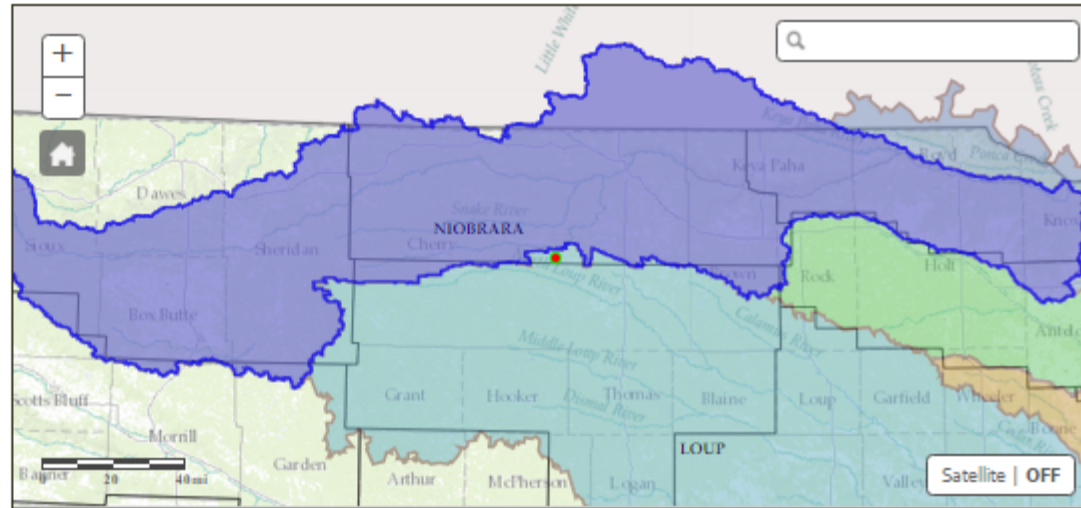
Supply

Basin water supplies represent the *streamflow* water supply that is available for total use within a river basin or subbasin. If no surface water or groundwater use was occurring by humans in a basin, the basin water supply would be represented by the streamflow data captured at a streamflow gaging station. However, streamflow is impacted by human activity; therefore, to calculate a total basin water supply, four water supply components are added together. These four water supply components include:

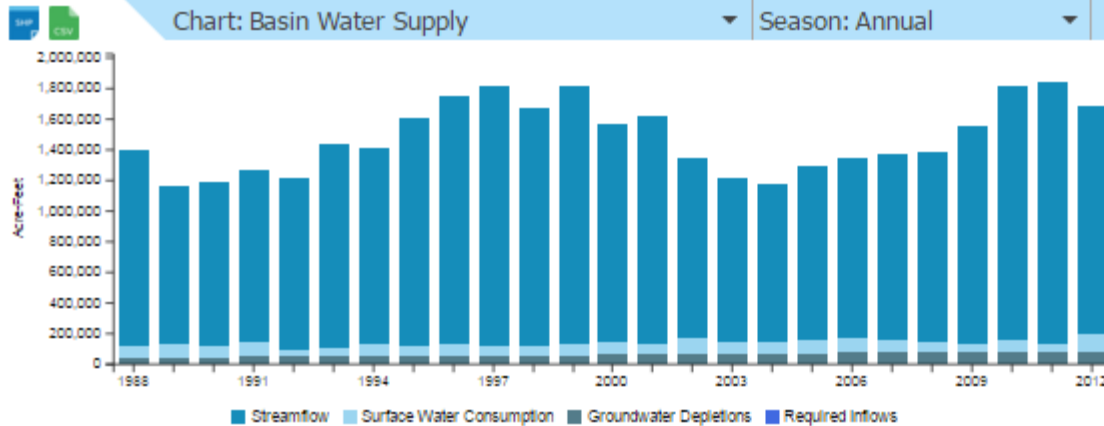
# The INSIGHT Web Tool

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Basin Overview | Big Picture | **Supply** | Demand | Nature & Extent of Use | Balance



NIOBARA

### Supply

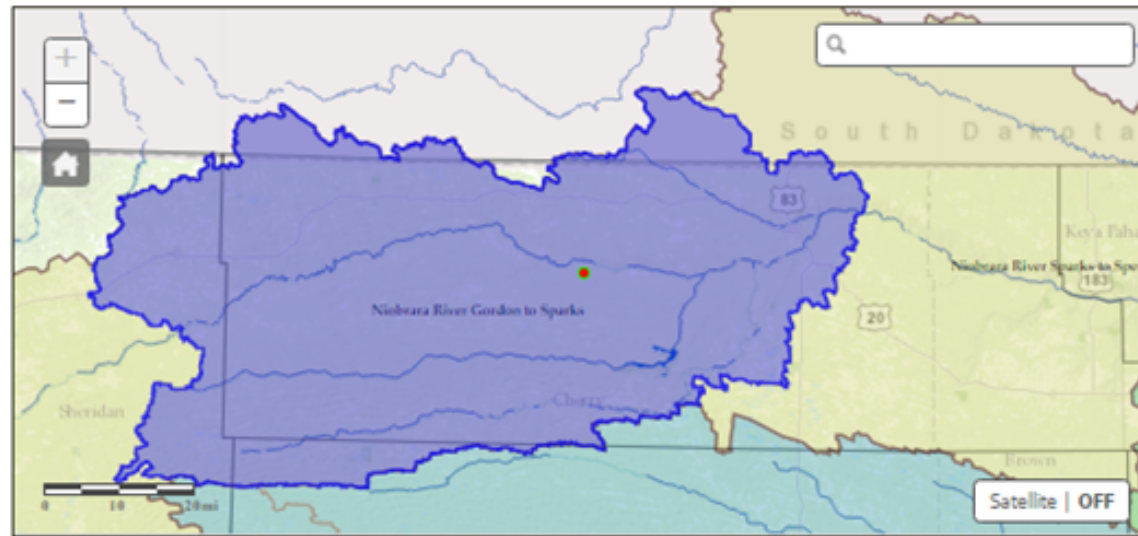
For INSIGHT purposes, basin water supply represents the streamflow that is (or would have been) present if no surface water or groundwater use was occurring by humans. To recreate the streamflow that would have occurred without human activity, the depletive effects of surface water consumptive use and groundwater depletions are added to the actual stream gage measurements.

For basin level calculations of basin water supply, the stream gage measurement from the most downstream point is combined with

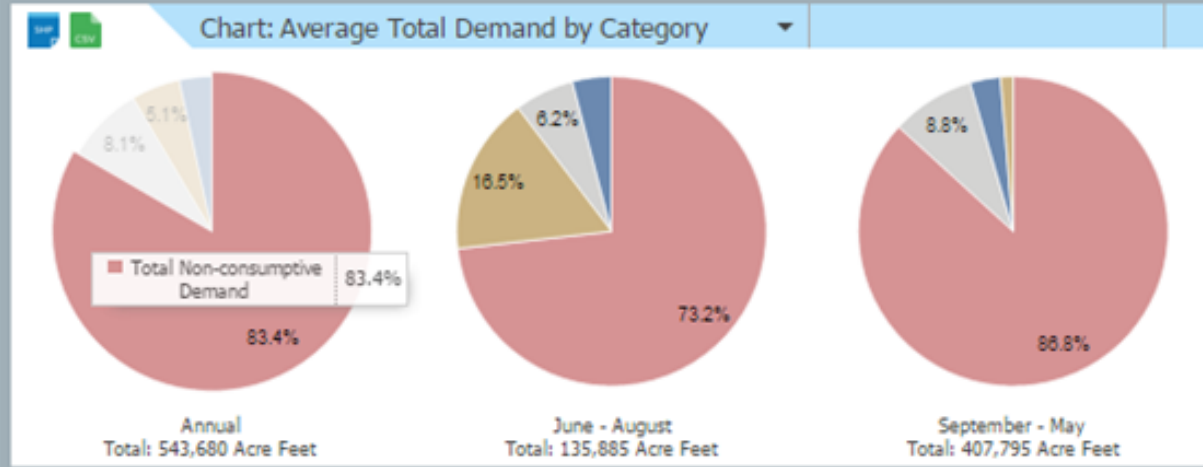
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Big Picture Supply Demand Nature & Extent of Use Balance



Niobrara River Gordon to Sparks

### Nature & Extent of Use

The Nature and Extent of Use tab provides information on the general distribution of water demands for a given basin. This tab provides information on the source that supplies water demands (i.e., aquifer/groundwater pumping or stream/surface water diversion) and the sector that uses the water (i.e., municipal, industrial, irrigation). This tab also includes information on the distribution of irrigated acreage including breakdowns of acres irrigated by surface water, groundwater, and commingled.

The charts found in this tab include:

# Integrated Water Management

- Voluntary IMP
- Balance water uses and supply
- NRDs and NDNR joint effort
- Stakeholder Input
- Continuous Process





Tim Freed Sr., M.S.

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