

2024 IMP Annual Report of 2023 Data

By the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

To Meet the Requirements of the Integrated Management Plan
for those Portions of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
within the Republican River Basin

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to satisfy the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources' (NeDNR's) tracking and reporting requirements as described in the "Monitoring and Studies" section of the integrated management plan (IMP) for those portions of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) located within the Republican River Basin. This report has been filed annually following the adoption of the IMP in June 2012. The IMP requires that NeDNR track and report on the following items on an annual basis:

- a) Any surface water permits issued;
- b) Any dam safety permits issued;
- c) Any groundwater transfer permits issued;
- d) Reports of water diverted and, when available, water stored by surface water users; and
- e) The associated offsets for any new permits issued.

This report covers activities that occurred from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. Data from streamgages within Tri-Basin NRD are also provided with this report along with calculations of streamflow depletions using the Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) model.

The information contained in this report will assist in measuring the success of the IMP in meeting its goals and objectives.

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II. ACTIVITIES TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY

A. Summary

Items reported annually include any surface water or groundwater permitting activity occurring during the reporting period, including surface water use data. The NeDNR field offices use pump-site inspections of surface water appropriations to monitor surface water use when time and conditions allow.

B. NeDNR Permitting

In 2023, NeDNR did not issue any new surface water permits, dam safety permits, nor any new groundwater transfer permits in the Republican River Basin portion of the Tri-Basin NRD.

C. Water Diverted by Surface Water Users

In 2023, no water was reported as having been diverted from natural flow for irrigation purposes. Insufficient streamflow at irrigation time, not needing to irrigate due to sufficient rainfall, water administration activities due to RRCA Compact Call Year, or using groundwater instead of surface water are reasons for not irrigating with surface water rights in a given year.

There are no Federal reservoirs or non-Federal reservoirs with capacities greater than 200 AF within the Republican River Basin region of Tri-Basin NRD. Evaporation from small reservoirs (capacity to store 15 to 200 AF) is estimated on an annual basis to comply with the RRCA. The total estimated net evaporation for small reservoirs in the Republican River Basin portion of the Tri-Basin NRD for 2023 was 156.0 AF. Net evaporation is calculated by multiplying the presumptive average annual surface area of each small reservoir by the net evaporation measured at the nearest United States Bureau of Reclamation reservoir climate and evaporation station. The presumptive average annual surface area of each small reservoir is 25% of the area at the principal spillway elevation, as measured in 2012. The presumptive average surface area may change from year to year based on evaluations by the Dam Safety section of NeDNR.

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D. Associated Depletion Offsets

No offsets were necessary in 2023.

E. Estimated Depletions

There is no information to include on estimated depletions from permitted new or expanded water use or accretions from associated offsets for 2023.

III. STREAMGAGE DATA

Data for streamgages located on Muddy Creek at the Furnas-Gosper County line, Muddy Creek at Arapahoe, Turkey Creek at the Furnas-Gosper County line, and Turkey Creek at Edison, can be found in Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 4, respectively. Please note that the streamgage for Muddy Creek at Arapahoe was removed for a bridge construction project in August 2021 and replaced in June 2023. Streamgage data can be downloaded from <https://nednr.aquaticinformatics.net/>

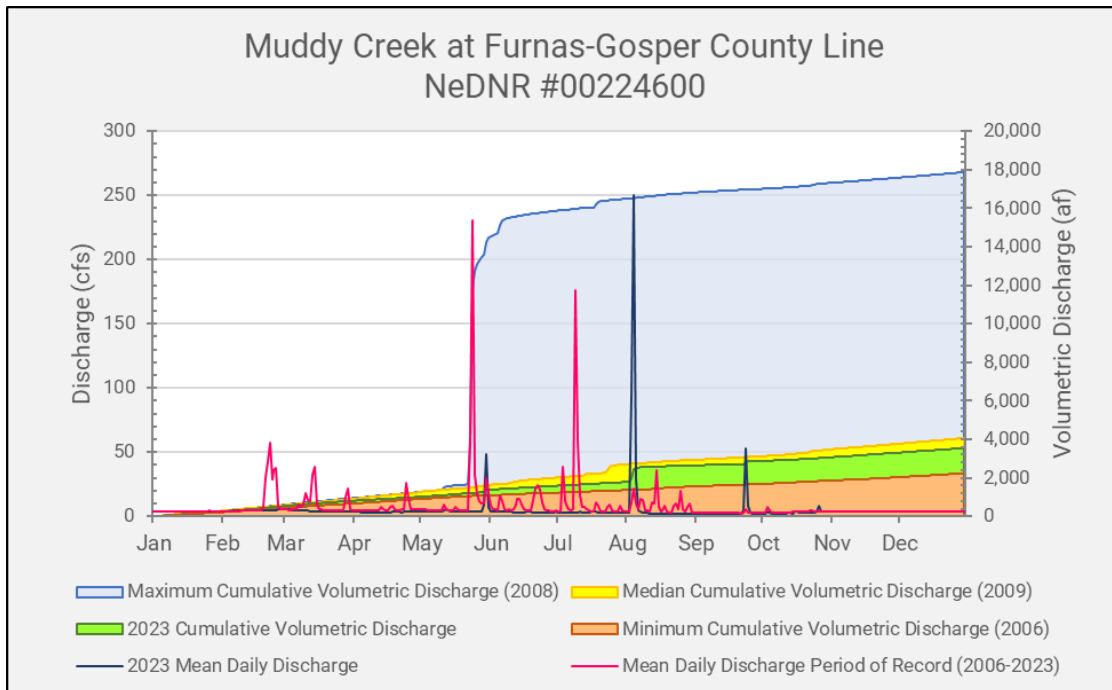


Figure 1. Streamgage Data for Muddy Creek at Furnas-Gosper County Line

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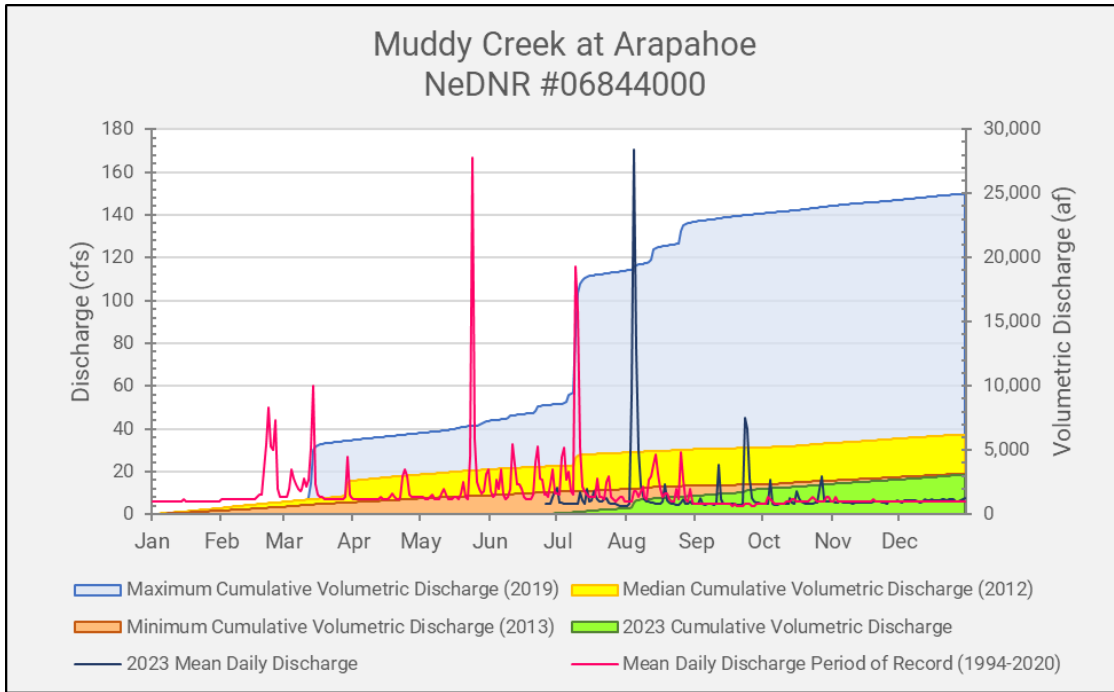


Figure 2. Streamgauge Data for Muddy Creek at Arapahoe (gage replaced June 2024)

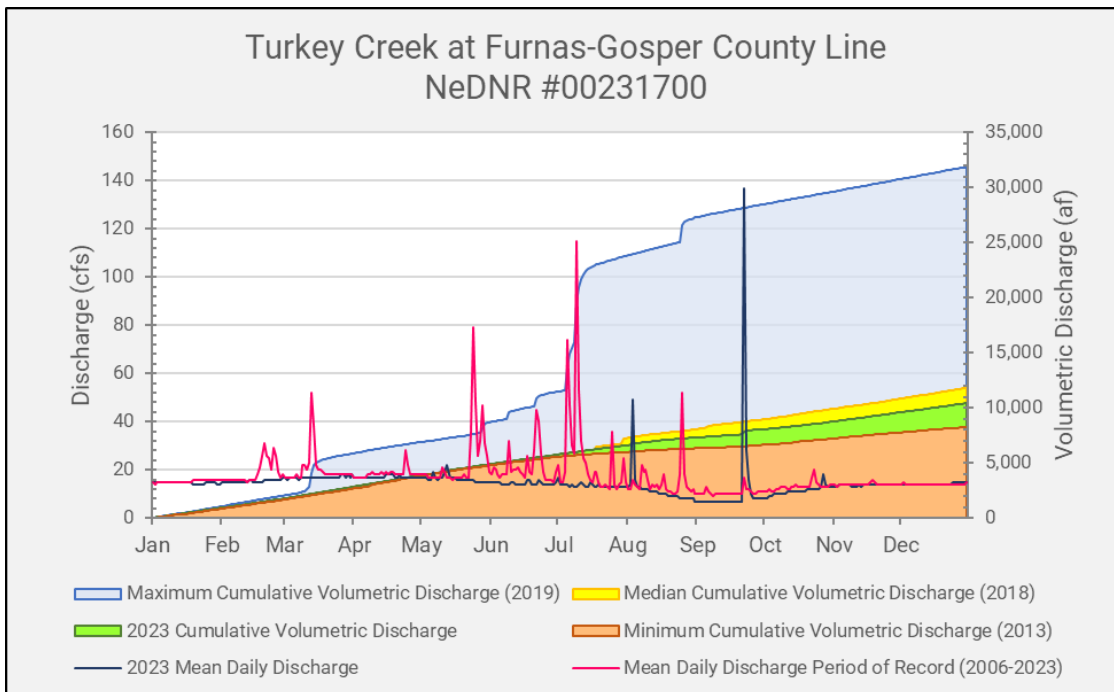


Figure 3. Streamgauge Data for Turkey Creek at Furnas-Gosper County Line

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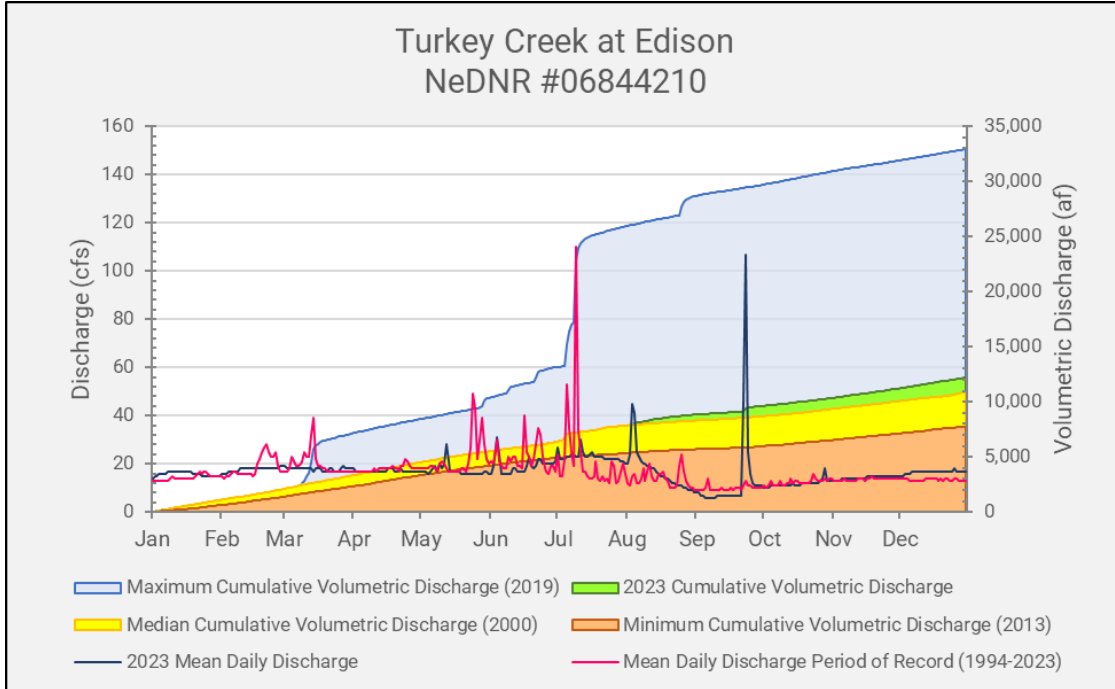


Figure 4. Streamgage Data for Turkey Creek at Edison

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IV. STREAMFLOW DEPLETION CALCULATIONS

This section of the report includes information on the calculated depletions to streamflow due to groundwater pumping within the Tri-Basin NRD and the imported water credit (Table 1 and Figure 6). The data shown in Table 1, Figure 5, and Figure 6 were calculated using the August 2020 RRCA accounting procedures. These calculations were completed using historical Tri-Basin NRD pumping data, imported water supply credit, and recharge data as inputs to the RRCA groundwater model. Net effect to baseflow for each calendar year was calculated by totaling the imported water supply credit and the streamflow depletion at the southern boundary of the Tri-Basin NRD. The net effects are summarized into a rolling three-year average to assess the progress towards achieving and sustaining a hydrologically balanced condition in accordance with the IMP. The three-year average net effect is positive for 2023 (Table 1 and Figure 6). In accordance with the IMP, these data will be used to assess the Tri-Basin NRD's progress towards meeting Goal A, Objective 1, of the IMP. In instances where the balance is negative, Tri-Basin NRD and NeDNR will set an objective for an offset up to 1000 acre-feet, and Tri-Basin NRD could begin augmentation pumping the same year. This report includes the final data approved by the RRCA through calendar year 2023.

Table 1. Calendar years 2014 to 2023 modeled streamflow depletion, imported water supply credit and net effect to baseflow in acre-feet and previous three-year average net effect to baseflow for 2015 through 2023. A negative value represents depletion, and a positive value represents accretion.

Year	Streamflow Depletion (AF)	Imported Water Supply Credit (AF)	Net Effect (AF)	3-year Average Net Effect (AF)
2015	-9,636	9,837	201	124
2016	-9,794	10,077	283	117
2017	-9,751	10,256	505	330
2018	-10,089	11,203	1,114	634
2019	-10,717	12,931	2,214	1,278
2020	-10,464	12,305	1,841	1,723
2021	-10,556	11,914	1,358	1,804
2022	-10,136	11,046	910	1,370
2023	-10,711	10,763	52	773

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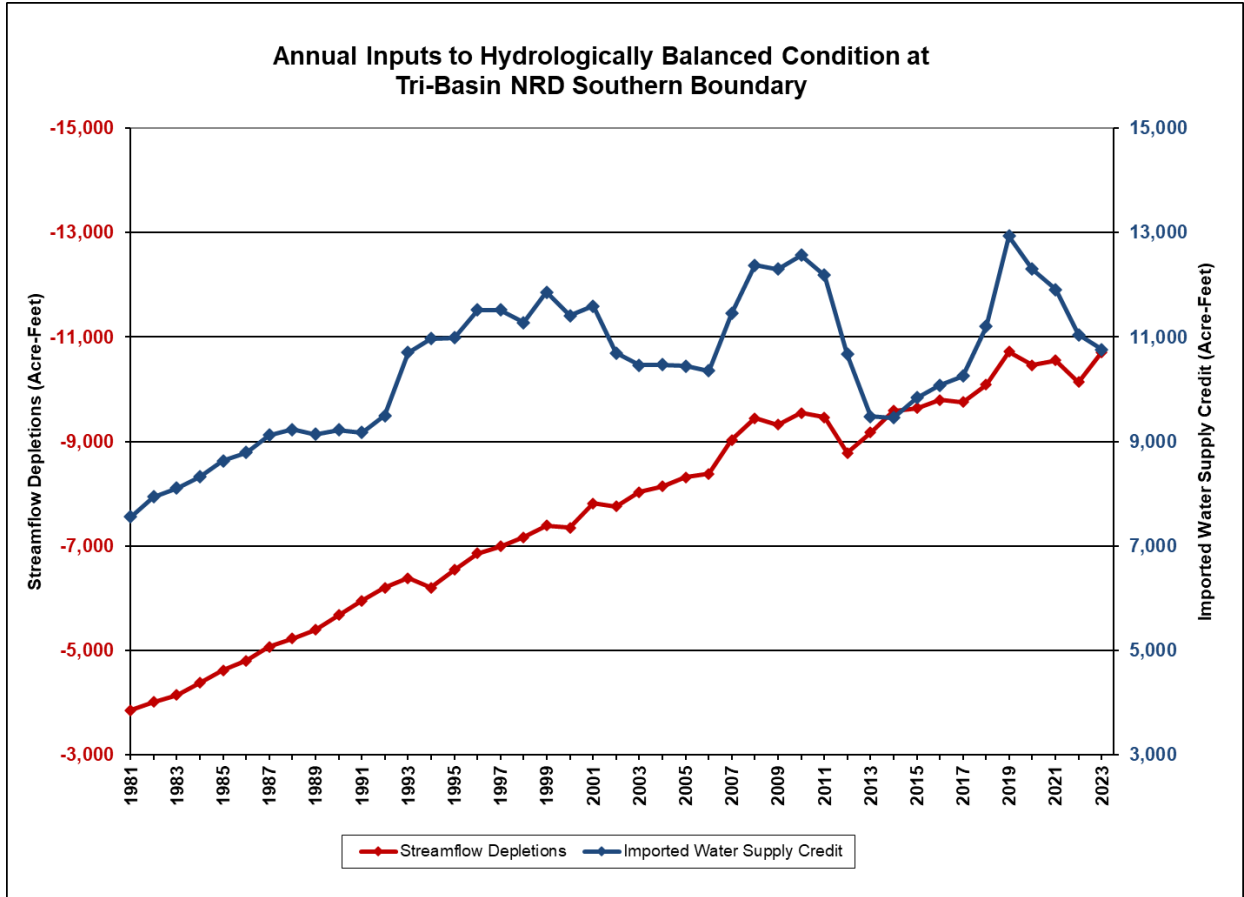


Figure 5. Modeled annual streamflow depletions and imported water supply credit for calendar years 1981 through 2023. These data were calculated using the August 2020 RRCA accounting procedures and the RRCA groundwater model. In order to show both streamflow depletions and imported water supply credit for comparison in one chart, the negative values on the left vertical axis pertain to the red line, representing stream depletion values, and positive values on the right vertical axis pertain to the blue line, representing imported water supply credit.

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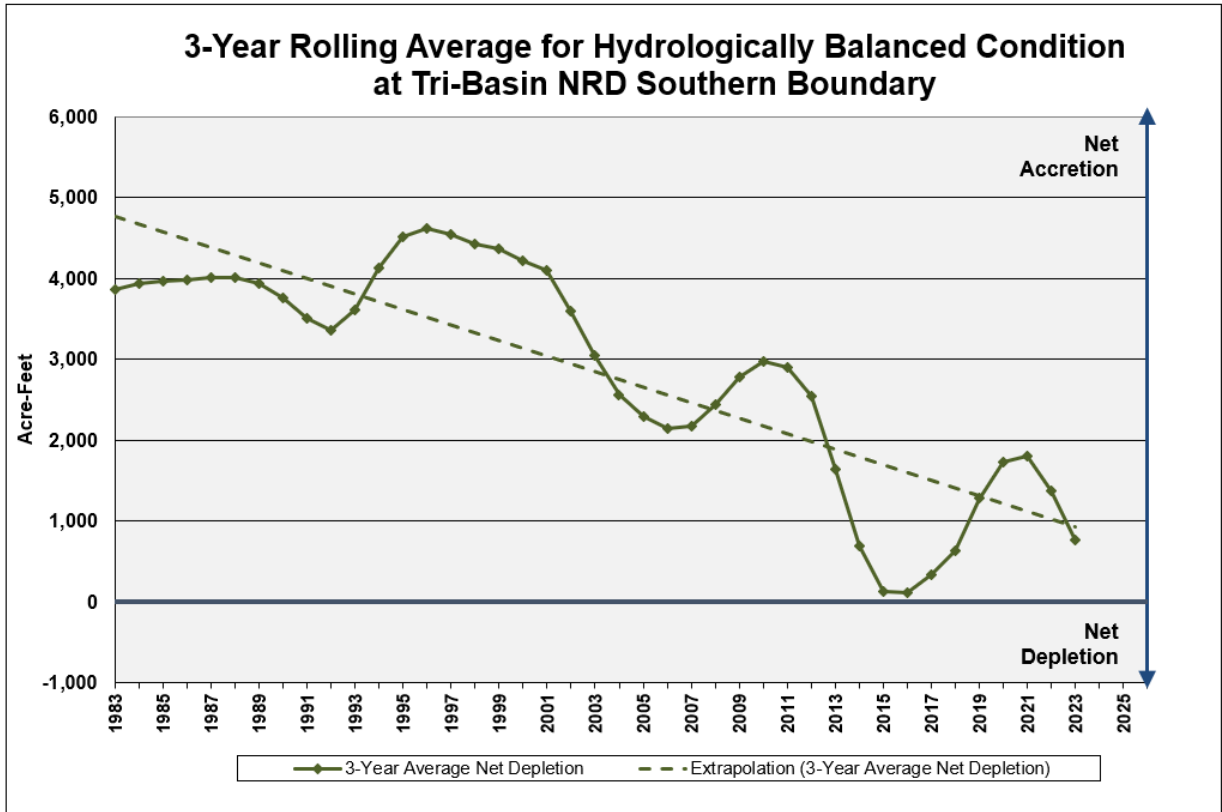


Figure 6. Three-year rolling average for hydrologically balanced condition at Tri-Basin NRD Southern Boundary for calendar years 1983 through 2023, as the total of modeled values of streamflow depletion and imported water supply credit using the August 2020 RRCA Accounting Procedures and the RRCA groundwater model.