

# **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOINTLY DEVELOPED INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PORTION OF THE UPPER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT WITHIN THE UPPER PLATTE RIVER BASIN**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

This report is intended to satisfy the Department of Natural Resources' (Department) tracking and reporting requirements as described in the Monitoring and Studies section of the jointly developed Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the portion of the Upper Big Blue NRD (UBBNRD) within the Upper Platte River Basin. This IMP requires that the Department track and report on the following items on an annual basis: 1) any surface water permits issued; 2) any dam safety permits issued; 3) any groundwater permits issued; and 4) the associated offsets for any new permits issued. The Department is also required to report items every five (5) years; they include: 1) National Agricultural Statistics Service livestock data; 2) U.S. Census Bureau population data; 3) inventory of sandpits; 4) inventory of reservoirs of less than fifteen (15) acre-feet; 5) any retirements of irrigated acres or other water uses; and 6) offsets provided for depletions resulting from increased consumptive use related to the items listed above.

The items tracked and reported will be used by the UBBNRD and the Department to measure the success of the controls and other action items in meeting the goals and objectives of the IMPs. Two evaluation components for measuring success are described in the IMP. The tracking, reporting, and evaluation processes are described in more detail in the Monitoring and Studies section of the IMP. In addition to the evaluation processes, the information that is tracked and reported will also be used by the State to help meet requirements of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP).

The 2021 report is the eleventh report to be filed following the approval of the IMP in October 2010. This report contains information on the above-listed items from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020.

### **II. ACTIVITIES TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY**

Items reported annually include permits that are issued by the Department. When a surface water or groundwater permit is reviewed, the Department assesses the potential of the permitted action to increase, decrease, or not affect water use. Depending on the circumstances, the applicant may be required to take action that would mitigate the effects of any increase in water use. Described in this section are the permits issued by the Department and the associated review of potential changes in water use.

The Department issued no surface water, groundwater, or dam safety permits in 2020; therefore, there is no change in water use with respect to permitted activities.

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These data, in addition to NRD-permitted activities, are incorporated by the Department into the annual reporting under the Nebraska New Depletions Plan.

### III. ACTIVITIES TO BE REPORTED ON A FIVE (5)-YEAR BASIS

For purposes of the PRRIP, the Department is responsible for tracking certain activities within the Upper Platte River Basin portion of the UBBNRD on a five-year basis. The activities to be tracked include National Agricultural Statistics Service livestock data, U.S. Census Bureau population data, sandpits and other reservoirs smaller than fifteen (15) acre-feet (those not requiring a permit), any retirements of irrigated acres or other water uses, and offsets provided for depletions resulting from increased consumptive use related to those items. In 2019, these data were compiled and analyzed as part of the Upper Platte River Basin Robust Review<sup>i</sup>. The Department has determined through this analysis that any changes in livestock population, human population, or sandpits and small reservoirs has had a de minimis impact on consumptive use in the Upper Platte River Basin portion of the District. The next scheduled Robust Review of the Upper Platte River Basin will be in 2023, at which time it will serve to fulfill the five-year reporting requirements of the IMP.

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<sup>i</sup> The 2019 Upper Platte Basin Robust Review  
[http://upjointplanning.nebraska.gov/media/RobustReview/20190612\\_RobustReviewReport\\_FINALE.pdf03.2](http://upjointplanning.nebraska.gov/media/RobustReview/20190612_RobustReviewReport_FINALE.pdf03.2)