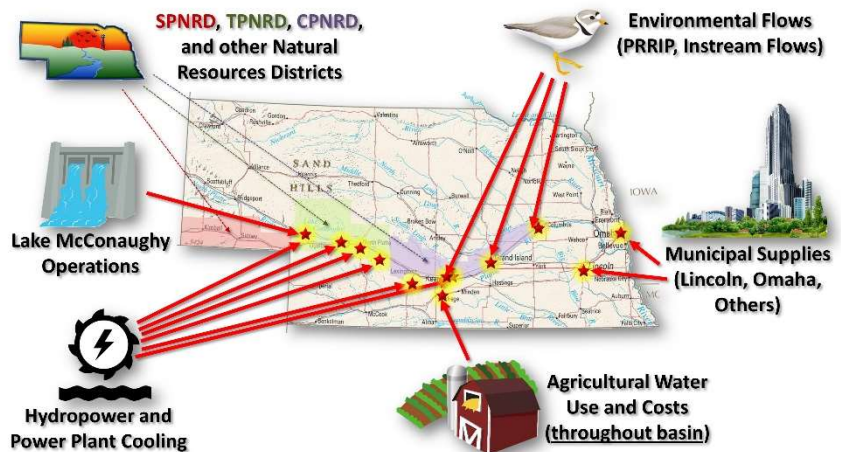


## Benefits, Beneficiaries, and Costs of Inaction

### Primary Benefits:

- **Municipal** – firming and protecting supplies for more than 1 million people in the Basin
- **Agricultural** – increased water supply reliability for Nebraska irrigators, and less threat of future increases in regulation
- **Environmental** – enhanced flows for birds and fish and improved conveyance for flows during critical periods
- **Hydropower and Cooling** – greater security for hydropower generation and cooling water for Nebraska’s largest power producer



### Beneficiaries:

- **Farmers** – Nebraska irrigators throughout the Platte River Basin
- **Cities and Towns** – Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney, Grand Island, and other communities rely on Platte River water for drinking water and commercial uses, as well as power generation and cooling
- **Natural Resources and Habitat** – piping plovers, least turns, whooping cranes, sandhill cranes and other animal and plant species
- **Lake McConaughy and North Platte River Users** – every drop of South Platte River water protected provides an equal benefit to the North Platte River system, including to Lake McConaughy levels

### Costs of Inaction:

- **Water Supply Shortages** – 90% reductions in South Platte River flows – a reduction of around 300,000 acre-feet per year – enough water to fill Memorial Stadium 1,000 times
- **Rural Hardships** – yield reductions, crop failures, and increased migration out of farming communities due to limited irrigation supplies, and the domino-effect on local businesses
- **Jeopardized Municipal Supplies** – both large and small communities along the Platte have to pursue costly alternatives if river flows decrease, and treatment costs could skyrocket
- **Harm to Threatened Species** – reduced flows for the protection of fish and wildlife and reduced conveyance capacity during critical times
- **Electricity Rate Increases** – higher power rates resulting from impacts to hydropower and cooling supplies
- **The negative impacts to Nebraska are estimated to be well in excess of \$1Billion**

