

HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD

1972 – Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts formed.
1976 – Ground Water (GW) Management Act Passed.
1977 – Established GW Management Area and Certified Acres.
1978-1979 – Established GW Metering program.
1978 -1979 Well spacing: 3300 ft. from existing irrigation well and 1320 ft. from existing stock or domestic well in township designated as critical. Allocation set at 20 inches per acre per year including incentives for installing meters prior to 1980.
1980-1982 – Meters required on all wells. Allocation set at 22 inches per year.
1983-1987 – Allocation reduced to 20 inches per year for flood irrigation and 16 inches per acre per year for sprinkler irrigation.
1988-1992 – Allocation reduced to 15 inches per acre per year for all irrigation wells.
1992 – Well spacing in critical townships increased to 5,280 ft. from existing irrigation wells.
1993-2004 – Allocation reduced to 14.5 inches per acre per year.
1997 – The Board of Directors having found that depletion of the groundwater supply in the Management Area are so excessive that the public interest cannot be protected solely through the implementation of the controls previously adopted, no additional well permits shall be issued for lands within the Management Area. No additional groundwater allocation may be added for wells located within the Management Area.
Republican River Compact Lawsuit and Settlement Agreement– The Dept. of Water Resources preliminarily designated the Republican River Basin NRDs under LB 108 in September 1996, at the request of the Republican River NRDs. The

process for a Joint Action Plan was initiated under LB 108 and was placed on hold during the lawsuit with Kansas from May 1998 to July 2003, at the request of the Nebraska Attorney General. In July of 2003, a final determination of conflicts under the LB 108 process was made and the development of rules and regulations under the Joint Action Planning process began. In July of 2004 a “Fully appropriated” designation was made under LB 962 which replaced the Joint Action Planning process. In May 2005 the Upper Republican NRD adopted an Integrated Management Plan, effective for the 2005 thru 2007 irrigation seasons, pursuant to LB 962.
2005-2007 – Allocation reduced to 13.5 inches per acre per year.
2007-current – Adopted revised Integrated Management Plan, that through reduced water use and implementation of incentive programs and surface water leases funded through authorities granted in LB 701, will ensure the State’s compliance with the Republican River Compact and Settlement. In cooperation with the Middle and Lower Republican NRDs, surface water was leased from Frenchman-Valley, Riverside, and Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation Districts, allowing the State to maintain its consumptive use within its allocation for the 2007 year, as well as reduce the amount of the State’s overuse in the 2003-2007 five year accounting period.
2008-current. Allocation reduced to 13 inches per acre per year for 5 year allocation period. Involved in ongoing invasive weed removal along Republican River riparian corridor. Continuing study of Republican River basin augmentation project. Developing water short year compliance options for Integrated Management Plan with Department of Natural Resources. Developed district retirement program for certified acres that are not irrigated.

UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD STAFF

NRD Office, Imperial

Jasper Fanning, General Manager
Deb Hayes, Administrative Assistant
Dirk Dinnel, Assistant Manager
Mike Nesbitt, Conservation Programs Coordinator
Heather Francis, Conservation and Information Specialist
Todd Burrell, Conservation Technician (Chase Co.)
John Lemon, Conservation Technician (Dundy Co.)
Wilma Zimbelman, Receptionist

NRCS Field Office Secretaries

Becky Spady, Imperial
Patty Clough, Grant

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