

2021 Annual Report

Rock Creek Augmentation Project

The following report is required by Nebraska state statute pursuant to LB758, approved and signed into law in 2018. It requires annual reporting on stream flow augmentation projects. The Rock Creek Augmentation Project, constructed by the Upper Republican NRD in 2012, is adjacent to the headwaters of Rock Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Republican River in Dundy County, Nebraska.

The annual report is required to contain the following information: Amount of water pumped; amount of land leased and for what purpose; revenue from land leases; amount of payments made in-lieu of taxes; financial details including the amount of debt, outstanding bonds and loans, and the project budget; whether the project is achieving its intended purpose; the effect of the project on groundwater supplies; and projections for use of the project in the future and the effect of the project on groundwater supplies. The information below pertains to calendar year 2021.

Amount of Water Pumped: 65.4 acre feet

Amount of Land Leased: 6,169 acres are subject to prescribed grazing

Land Lease Revenue: \$76,287.35

In-Lieu of Tax Payments: \$34,913.03

Amount of Debt: \$20,823,755.65

Amount of Outstanding Bonds and Loans: \$16,747,018.88

Project Budget: The FY 21-22 budget for the project is \$1.5 million

Achieving Intended Purpose: The project helped the State achieve Republican River Compact compliance while lessening administration of surface water and preventing groundwater irrigation shutdowns in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017. The project was not operated in 2018-2021.

Effect on Groundwater Supplies: The project had a positive effect on groundwater supplies because no water was pumped for stream flow enhancement in 2021. Groundwater levels rose an average of 1.1” at 40 monitoring wells on and

adjacent to the property from spring of 2020 to spring of 2021. The measured wells include off-project, neighboring wells that were pumped for irrigation.

Future Projections and Effects on Groundwater Supplies: Project operations are not anticipated in 2022.