

Groundwater Well Large Water User Permit Requirements

Draft intended for overview purposes only. Each NRD has specific locally adopted rules and regulations addressing well permits and use. Many are under review and being updated - please contact the local NRD for specific rules & regulation details.

NRD	1. Does your district have a specific set of rules for large water user permits? (Y or N)	2. What amount of water use defines large water user?	3. Are Specific Hydrologic Investigations Required for new large permit applicants?	4. How many of these large user permits have been issued by your district in the past 5 years?	5. If available online, please provide link to rules and regs for Large Water User Permits.	6. If available, please link or provide in a separate attachment the form/checklist of information required as part of large user application.	7. Does your district require industrial well metering?	8. Is reporting industrial well use required?	9. Does your district have rules allowing for implementation of allocations and/or required offsets of industrial well pumping?
Central Platte	Y	>25 Million Gallons Annually	Y	3	https://www.cpnrd.org/wp-content/uploads/RULES-REGS_09_26_2024.pdf	Rules and Regulations B.1.3 - Well Construction Permit. plan to update rules and regs over the next few months, and this is an area of the rules we plan to expand on.	Y	Y	Y
Lewis and Clark	Y	>500 acre feet	Y	0	Chapter 5.2.6 https://lcnrd.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/water-resources/2014_lcnrd_quantity_rules_regs.pdf	N/A	New high capacity industrial wells	New high capacity industrial wells only	N/A
Little Blue	Y	> 500 Acre-Feet	Y	0	Groundwater_Management / Groundwater_Management_Area_R		Y	Y	Y
Lower Big Blue	Y	> 400 Acre-Feet	Y	0	Groundwater_Quantity_Rule; Groundwater_Quantity_Rules_and_F		Y - Only those which are LWUs	Y - Any well >50 gpm in Phase 2 Areas	Y
Lower Elkhorn	N	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y
Lower Loup	Y	>500 acft or 250 upgrade	Y	0	https://www.llnrd.org/sites/default/files/file_upload/L_L_NRD%20Groundwater%20Management%20Area%20Rules%20with%202024%20Changes%20and%20Appx.pdf		Y	Y	N
Lower Niobrara	Y	>500 acre feet per year	Y	0	https://lnnrd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/3-4-2019-Adopted-Rules-Regs.pdf		Y	Currently voluntary	N
Lower Platte North	Y	Class 3 (150 - 300 AF) Class 4 (>300 AF)	Y	0	https://lpnnrd.org/projects-and-programs/water-management/	https://lpnnrd.org/downloads/	New Wells after 2008	New Wells after 2008	N
Lower Platte South	Y	• In a GWR, over 1000GPM or 250-500 acre-feet • In RA, 250 GPM or more or 25-500 acre-feet • Over 500 acre-feet anywhere	Y	• 5 • 18 • 2	LPSNRD Rules and Regs	LPSNRD Rules and Regs	Y	Y	Y

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Lower Republican	Y	>25 Million Gallons Annually	N	0	6-4.4. If a new or expanded commercial or industrial use exceeds twenty-five (25) million gallons per year and they do not have a transfer permit, the user will be responsible for the Offset of all new or expanded Consumptive Uses. If the new or expanded commercial or industrial use has a transfer permit, the user is responsible for Offsetting all new or expanded uses above the amount granted in the industrial transfer permit.	NA	Y	Y	Y
Middle Niobrara	Y	>300 AF Annually	Y	0	www.mnrd.org	Attached	Y	Y	Y
Middle Republican	Y	>40 Acre-Feet Annually	Y	0	MRNRD.org - Downloads - r_r_effective_July_6_2026.pdf	Well permit application - reference to Rules and Regs.	Y	Y	Y
Nemaha	Y	>500 acre-feet annually	Y	0	https://www.nemahanrd.org/resources/ground-water-rules-and-regulations	https://www.nemahanrd.org/resources/ground-water-rules-and-regulations	N	N	Y
North Platte	Rules - but not specific to Large User		Y			Require an Operating Plan for all new ground water user requests, regardless of the amount of water to be used. Then an analysis is required and offset is determined from those results.			
Papio-Missouri River NRD	Y	>300 acre-feet/year	Y	One Industrial, two municipal, thirty nine (in series) dewatering currently in permitting process	https://www.papionrd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Appendix_N-Groundwater-Rules-Reg-2022.pdf	The applicant must submit additional information on all registered wells, test holes, and all surface water rights in a five-mile radius of the proposed water use, perform a District-approved aquifer pump test, and demonstrate the impacts from the proposed pumping on existing water users through the use of a groundwater flow model such as MODFLOW software or a similar software program approved by the District and as specified on the water supply well permit application form, and must submit a five-hundred dollar fee for District review.	N	N	N

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South Platte	Y	>25 Million Gallons Annually	Y	0	https://www.spnrd.org/s/Districtwide-Ground-Water-Management-Area-Rules-and-Regulations-2024-Adopted-51524-valid-61424.pdf	https://www.spnrd.org/s/Districtwide-Ground-Water-Management-Area-Rules-and-Regulations-2024-Adopted-51524-valid-61424.pdf	Y	Y	Y
Tri-Basin	Y	>240 acre-feet/year	Y	0	In process of revising rules-Hearing August 19	NA	Y	Y	Y
Twin Platte	Y	>25 Million Gallons Annually	Y	0	TPNRD Rules - Click Rules and Regs	Rule 4.01 - Currently Updating Rules.	Y	Y	Y
Upper Big Blue	Y	>500 Acre Feet Per Year	Y	1 approved, but permit was allowed to expire before well/s were constructed.	https://www.upperbigblue.org/sites/default/files/resource-files/1%20RULE%205%20FINAL%20EFFECTIVE%20DATE%205%2016%202025.pdf	separate attachment	Y	Y	Y
Upper Elkhorn	Y	>500 Acre Feet Per Year (new or expanding)	Y	0	https://uenrd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/gwmp_rules_regs_effective_october_1_2021.pdf	no separate form/attachment as of now	Y	Y	N
Upper Loup NRD	Y	>500 acre-feet annually	Y	0	revised+rules+and+regs+2024	1. We have updated our GW R&R – but are waiting to see any chemigation changes before having the public hearing. The biggest change to current R & R as currently stated on our website is a clear definition of the high volume well vs high capacity industrial / commercial well	Y	Y	Y
Upper Niobrara White	Y	>25 Million gallons annually	Y	0	https://unwnrd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/UNWNRD-GWMA-RR-2024.pdf	https://unwnrd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/UNWNRD-GWMA-RR-2024.pdf	Y	Y	Y
Upper Republican	Y	>40 acre-feet per year	Y - We do the analysis	1	https://www.unrd.org/sites/default/files/files/20/order_37_2026_rules_changes_0.pdf		Y	Y - we do the reporting	Y