

Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment Updates

- Merger and Reorganization
- Governor's Water Quality and Quantity Task Force
- ONE RED
- Data Center Task Force
- Perkins County Canal Project

Director

Jesse Bradley

Legal Services**Deputy Director**

Kevin Stoner

Deputy Director

Steve Goans

Inspection & Compliance

Livestock & Agriculture
Waste Compliance
Air Compliance
Onsite & Environmental
Safety
NPDES Compliance

Planning & Aid

State Revolving Fund
Weatherization, Waste, &
Air Grants
State Energy Programs &
Dollar Energy Saving Loans
Grants & Incentives

Chief Water Officer

Matt Manning

Drinking Water

Drinking Water Monitoring
& Compliance
Drinking Water Field
Services

Groundwater

Water Well Registration &
Permits
Geological Services

Flood Plain Management**Dam Safety****Integrated Water Planning**

Republican & Upper Platte
River Basins
Land Use & GIS
Lower Platte & Missouri
Tributary Basins
Hydrologic Analysis
Water Quality & Planning

Water Administration

Stream Gaging
Surface Water Permits &
Adjudications
Field Offices
Monitoring

Administrative
Public Information Office
Human Resources
Fiscal Services
Information Technology
Records Management

Permitting & Engineering

Engineering
Waste Permits
Air Construction Permits
Operating Permits
NPDES & State Permits

Monitoring & Remediation

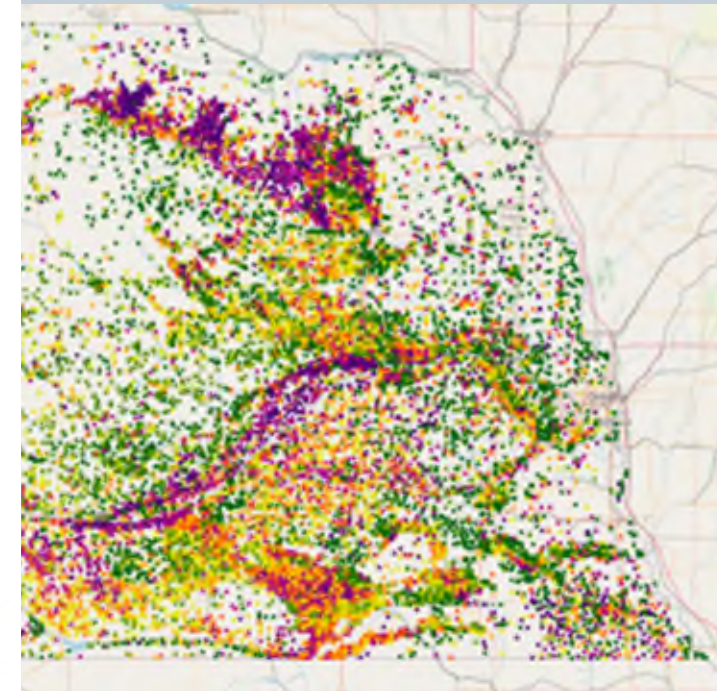
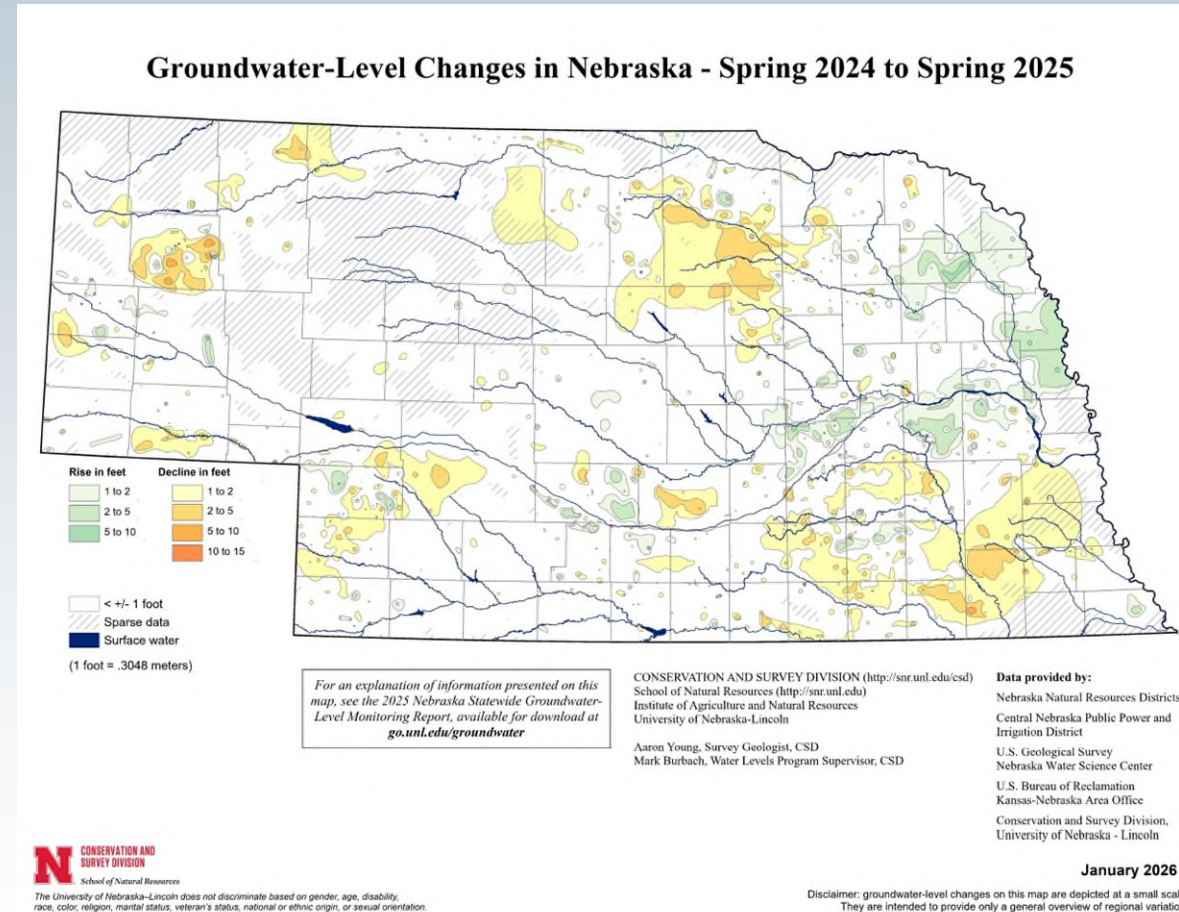
Petroleum Remediation
Superfund/VCP
RCRA/Federal Facilities
Emergency Response

DWEE Organization

Governor's Water Quality and Quantity Task Force

Background

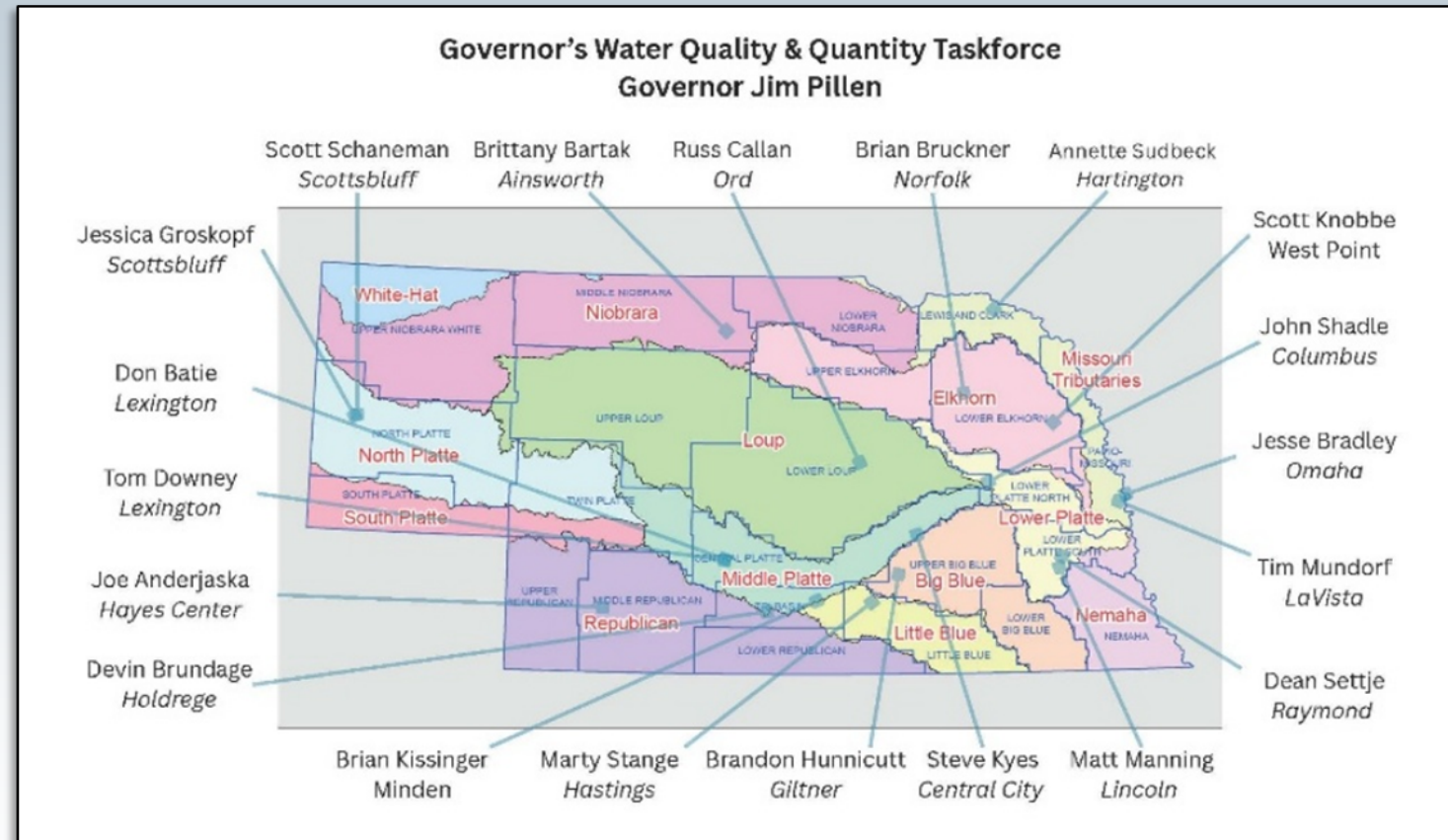
- Concerns over long-term groundwater quality and quantity
- Review existing programs and provide recommendations ... focus on innovation and education



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 ource: Nebraska
 inghouse 2024)

Background

- Made up of 20 members representing diverse range of expertise.
- Through four subcommittees, members worked to develop actionable solutions.
- Members participated in monthly discussions and received presentations from subject-matter experts, allowing them to develop a shared understanding of the issues, identify goals and corresponding action items.
- The Task Force prioritized proactive solutions including incentives, innovation, and education over new regulatory requirements.



Four Subcommittees

1. Methods and Resources
2. Water Conservation and Quantity
3. Financing and Incentives
4. Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access

Date	Meeting Type
June 2, 2025	Full Task Force
July 14, 2025	Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access
July 16, 2025	Methods and Resources
July 16, 2025	Water Conservation and Quantity
July 21, 2025	Financing and Incentives
Aug. 20, 2025	Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access
Aug. 21, 2025	Water Conservation and Quantity
Aug. 21, 2025	Methods and Resources
Aug. 22, 2025	Financing and Incentives
Sept. 24, 2025	Full Task Force
Oct. 21, 2025 (Virtual)	Water Conservation and Quantity
Oct. 22, 2025 (Virtual)	Methods and Resources
Oct. 23, 2025 (Virtual)	Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access
Oct. 23, 2025 (Virtual)	Financing and Incentives
Nov. 13, 2025	Financing and Incentives
Nov. 13, 2025	Methods and Resources
Nov. 19, 2025	Water Conservation and Quantity
Nov. 21, 2025	Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access
Dec. 16, 2025	Full Task Force
March 25, 2026	Full Task Force

Key Recommendations

- Increased statewide water measurement through voluntary efforts and cost-share opportunities
- Development of statewide education materials and increased individual engagements with producers
- Development of a nitrogen management education and certification program for fertilizer recommendations

Key Recommendations

- Promotion of in-season nitrate applications and advanced nitrogen-management technologies
- Proactive drinking water system protections and identification of regionalization opportunities

Key Recommendations

- Development of a statewide clearing house identifying water project needs and funding opportunities
- Leverage diverse funding mechanisms, including ONE RED

dwee.nebraska.gov/water-quality-and-quantity-task-force

ONE RED

YOUR LAND  **YOUR PLAN**

ONE RED

Ag Data Bank & Grants Program

ONE RED Background & Structure

- ONE RED Ag Data Bank and Grants Program **NOW** has **\$195 million**
- **ONE RED Ag Data Bank**
 - Establishing a Nebraska specific, secure agricultural data bank
- **Grants Program**
 - Provide incentives to farmers to adopt new practices that decrease overall farm inputs, increase soil health, and improve nitrogen management and water usage
 - Provide incentives for equipment that enable farmers to enhance the efficiency of their operation.
 - Sensors, probes, real time data platforms, etc.



Building on the strengths of Nebraska agriculture by supporting voluntary, producer-led efforts

Your Land. Your Plan.

For Corn, Sorghum, Soybean, and Canola Farmers

★ This program is limited to the first 7,500 farmers! ★



Do you have at least
80 acres in a Water
Quantity or Quality
Management Area?



Enroll in the ONE RED Data Bank!
(Max of 1,000 acres per operation)

ONE RED Ag Data Bank

Open in
October

What you need to enroll:

- ✔ Application
- ✔ W-9
- ✔ Signed contract

\$2,000 for
successfully
enrolling the
first year!

\$1,000 for
each year
after!

Last Seasons Information:

- Location
- Yield
- Cover crop use (Y/N)
- Type of tillage
- Applied water
- Applied nitrogen information

Next Seasons Information:

- Expected yield
- Anticipated applied nitrogen



You get to pick
the Approved
Service Provider
that you work
with!

ONE RED

YOUR LAND  YOUR PLAN

You'll get a
free nitrogen
use efficiency
score for every
field enrolled!



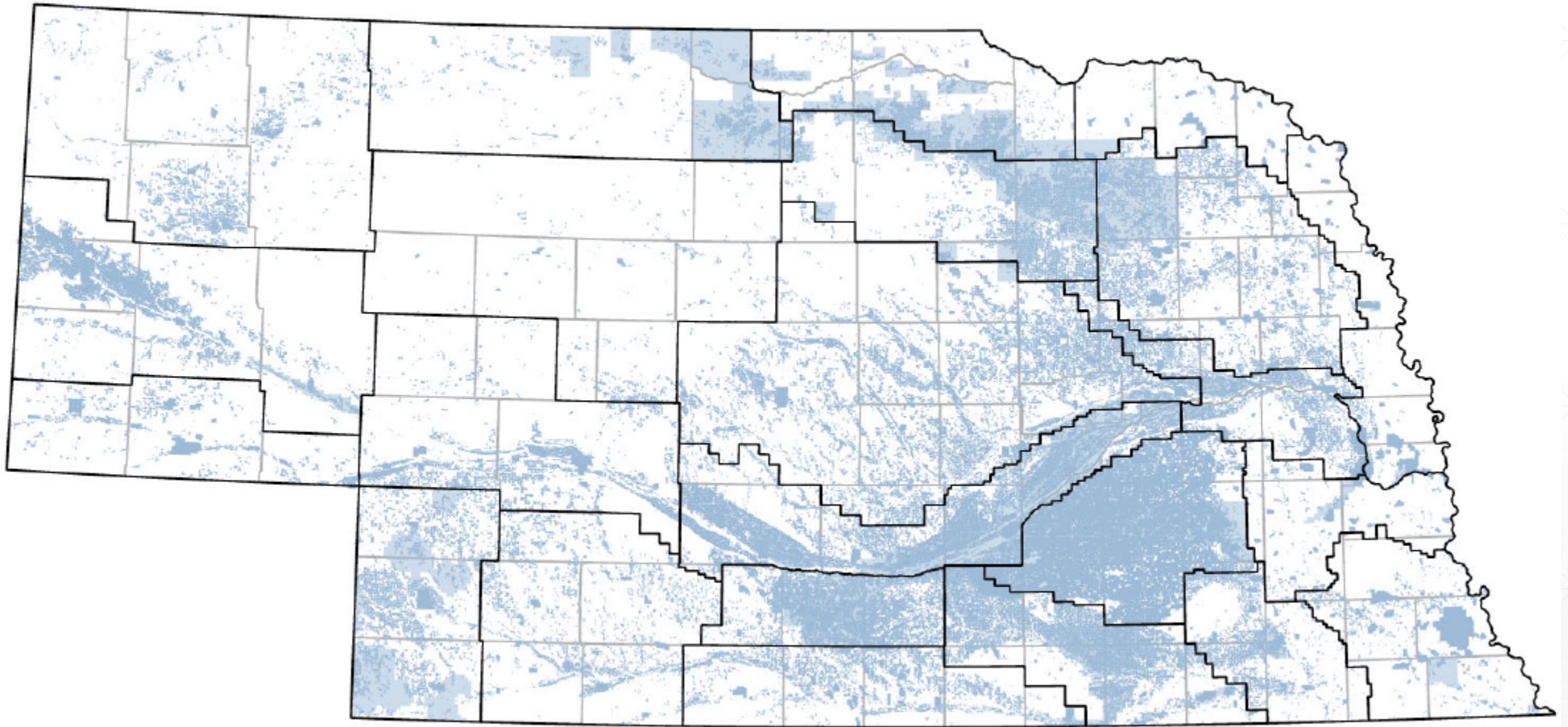
Get paid for
what you're
doing!



You still own
your data!



Water Quantity and Quality Management Areas



Are you in the ONE RED Ag Data Bank and want more money?
Stay for 3 years and earn more!

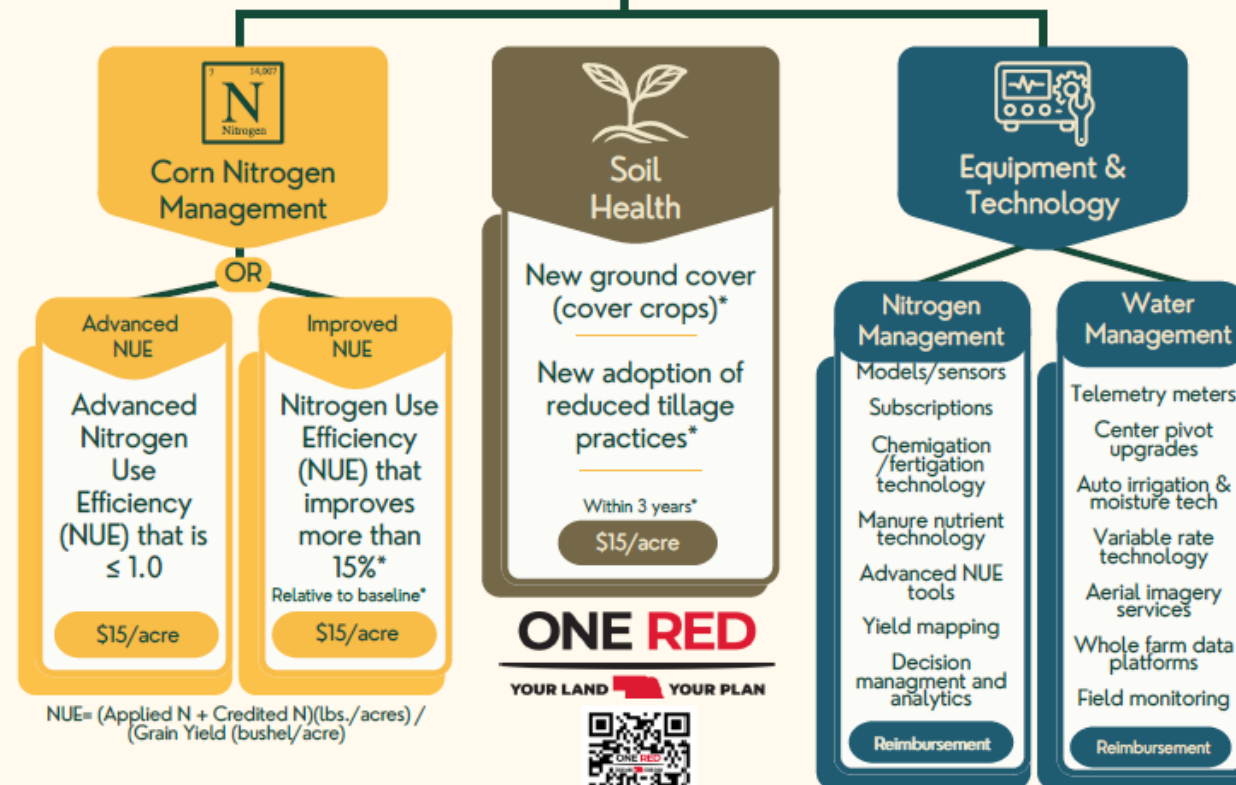
Apply to the Grants Program with a soil, water, and
manure sample to complete your nitrogen
management plan!

ONE RED Grants Program

Open in
January

You'll receive a \$10,000 in a ONE RED voucher to use in the
categories below. Plus an additional \$ per acre bonus
(\$2 for dryland & \$5 for irrigated)

An additional \$3,000
for irrigators to use for
water management!



ONE RED Journey

ONE RED Ag Data Bank & Grants Program

September Soft Launch

Soft launch at Husker Harvest Days
Finalizing partner workplans

November Partial Launch

Additional training for partners
Continued outreach and education

January Full Launch

Grants Program goes live

October Training

Outreach and education
Training our partners
Start advertising
Data Bank goes live

December Finalizing

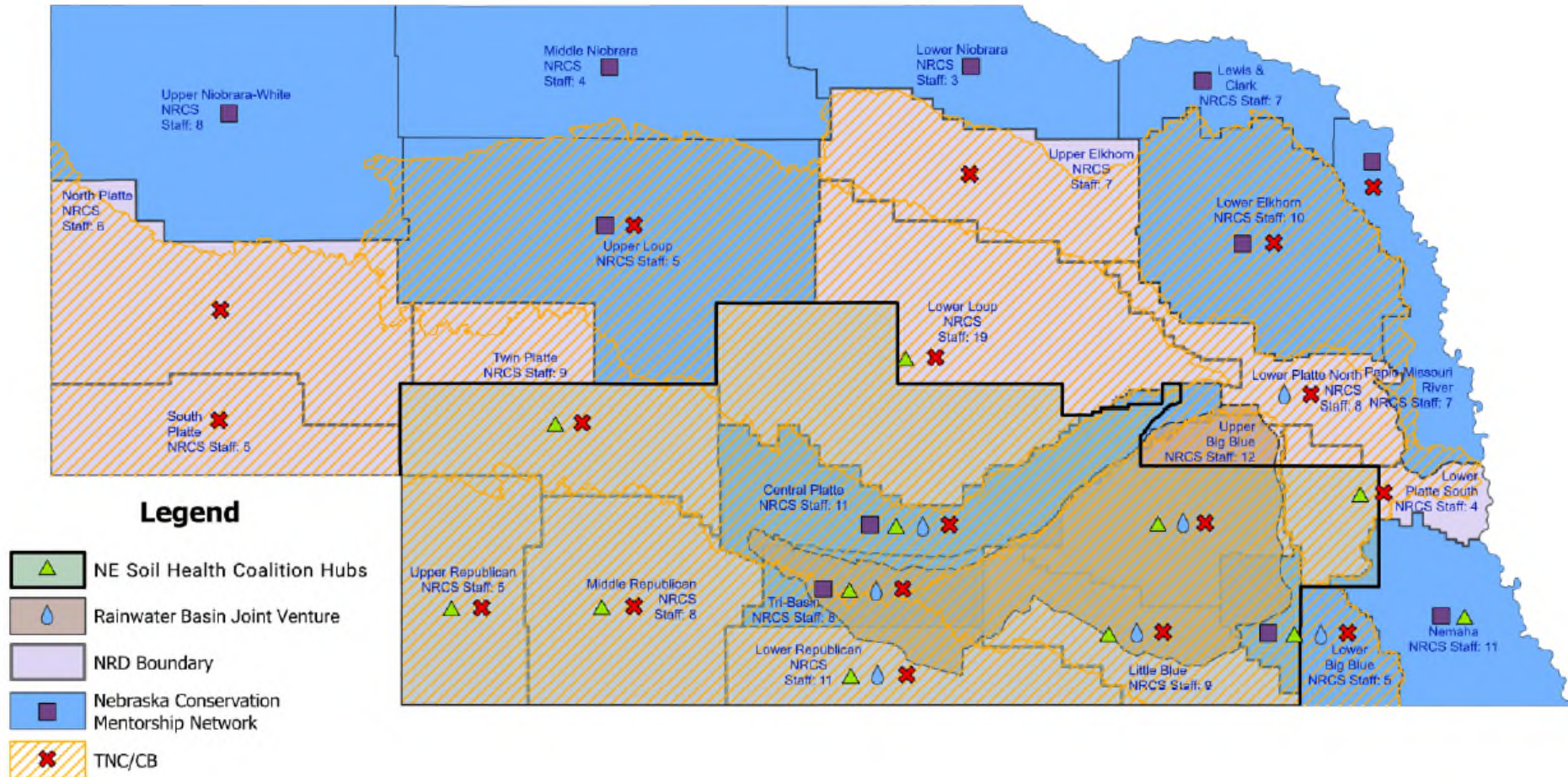
Continued outreach and education
Enrolling at Nebraska Ag Expo



ONE RED is building on the strengths of Nebraska agriculture by supporting voluntary, producer-led efforts.

ONE RED
YOUR LAND  YOUR PLAN

The ONE RED Network



Data Center Task Force Meeting

September 22, 2026



Task Force Goals – Executive Order No. 26-17

Section 4. Creation of a Data Center Task Force through the Department of Water, Environment, and Energy.

Direct the Department of Water, Environment, and Energy to establish a Data Center Task Force to analyze the impact that Data Centers will have on Nebraska's water and environment. Review existing state law and provide recommendations to the Legislature in 2027 to:

- (1) ensure that future Data Center projects will not degrade our natural resources; and
- (2) provide recommendations for common sense county zoning guidelines.

Questions for Consideration

1. What have we learned from past data center developments and what can we do better in the future?
 2. What should our communities and counties consider when approached by new data center developments?
 3. Are current protections sufficient for Nebraska water and energy ratepayers?
 4. How should long-term infrastructure and decommissioning costs be addressed?
 5. Does Nebraska currently have the necessary state policies in place to ensure data centers are built responsibly?
 6. What additional outcomes would you like to see from these Task Force discussion?
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First Meeting Overview

- Water and Environmental Permitting Considerations
 - State Agency Perspective: Jesse Bradley, DWEE Director
 - NRD Perspective: Dave Eigenberg, UBBNRD General Manager
- Energy Considerations
 - Nicole Sedlacek, NPPD Economic Development Manager
- Planning and Zoning Considerations
 - Candace Meredith, NACO Deputy Director

<https://dwee.nebraska.gov/data-center-task-force>

Next Meeting Schedule October 20, 2026, Columbus, NE

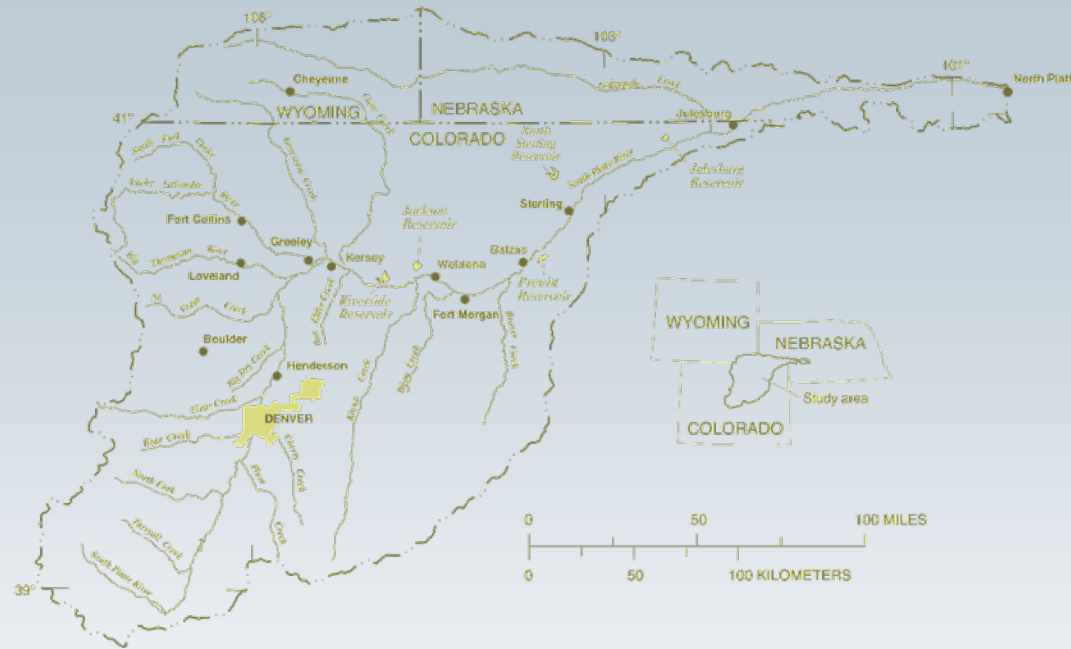
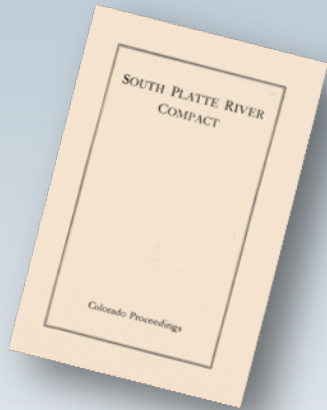


Community Benefit Agreement

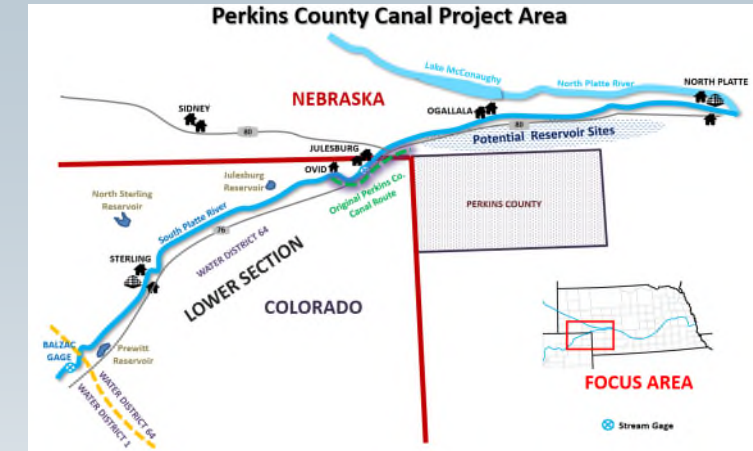
- Mandatory per LB1010 (2026), Neb. Rev. Stat. § 70-1506
 - Legally binding contract between data center owner/operator and host communities serving to mitigate local impacts of large infrastructure projects and other types of development
 - Tailored to meet the specific needs of the host community and to address the specific impacts of a project
 - Host community receives a combination of monetary benefits and non-monetary benefits
 - Developer receives increased community support and increased certainty in the approval process
- LB1010 also requires data center to bear all decommissioning costs of such data center

Per LB1010 (2026)

- Requires data center owner/operators to annually report to DWEE and the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature by Sept. 30:
 - (a) The name of the data center;
 - (b) The names of the developers and owners of the data center;
 - (c) The physical size of the data center in square feet;
 - (d) The location of the data center, including street address and county;
 - (e) The annual electricity demand of the data center;
 - (f) The annual water usage of the data center;
 - (g) The sales and use tax exemptions the data center utilizes or expects to utilize;
 - (h) Any incentive payments for the data center under the ImagiNE Nebraska Act and the Nebraska Advantage Act;
 - (i) All energy efficiency, load management, and conservation measures implemented by the data center;
 - (j) All commitments by the data center to use renewable energy; and
 - (k) The service life of the data center.
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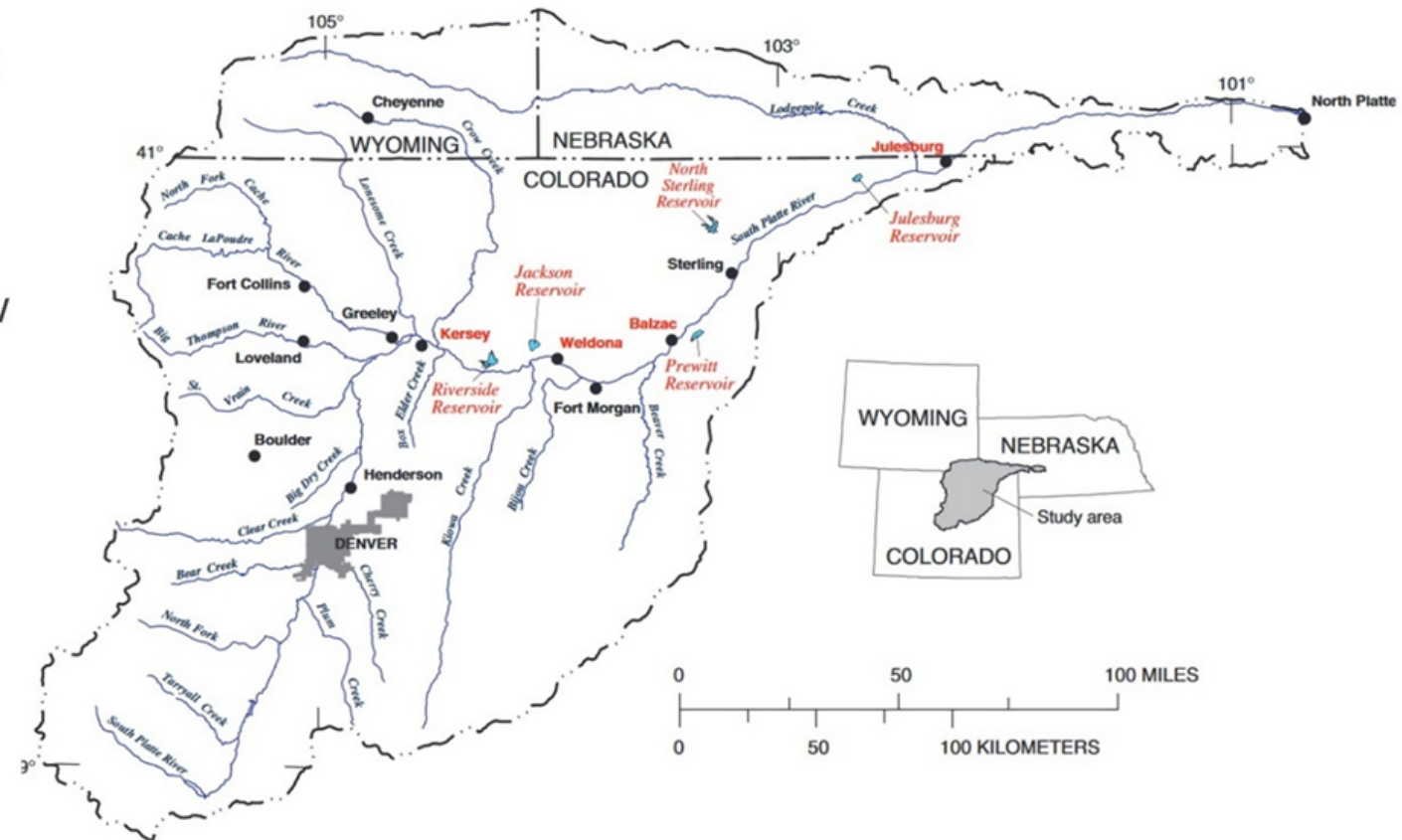
Base from U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Census Bureau digital data, 1974 to 1993



Perkins County Canal Project

South Platte Compact

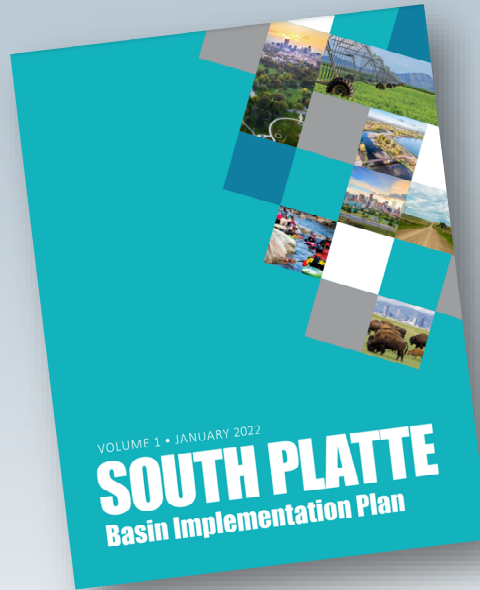
- Signed in 1923 and passed by Congress in 1926
- Establishes a 120 cfs (47 KAF) minimum flow during the irrigation season (Western Canal)
- Establishes a 500 cfs minimum flow during the non-irrigation season (Perkins County Canal, not currently developed)



Base from U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Census Bureau digital data, 1974 to 1993



COLORADO ACTIVITIES:



Colorado legislation, policies, and planning documents identify a substantial shortage (over **400 kaf** for agriculture and around **250 kaf** for municipal uses) needed to meet Colorado's 2050 demand in South Platte Basin (Colorado's South Platte Basin Implementation Plan 2022)

Figure 6. Baseline and 2050 Projected Average Annual Agricultural Diversion Demand, Demand Met, and Gaps

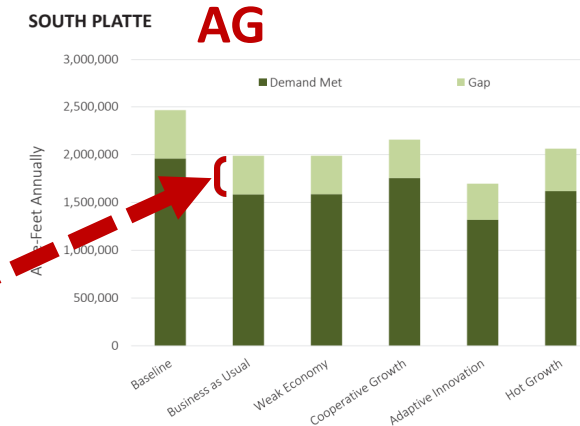
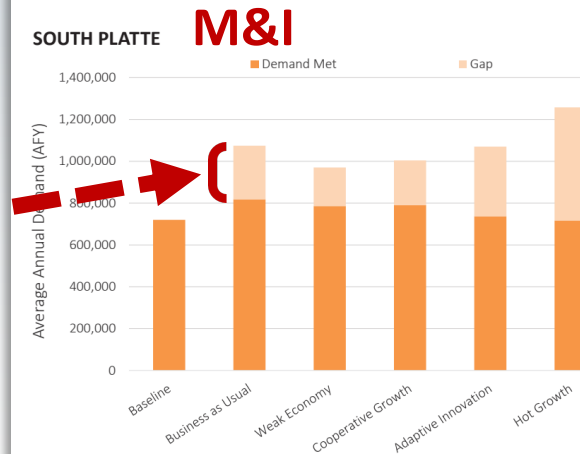
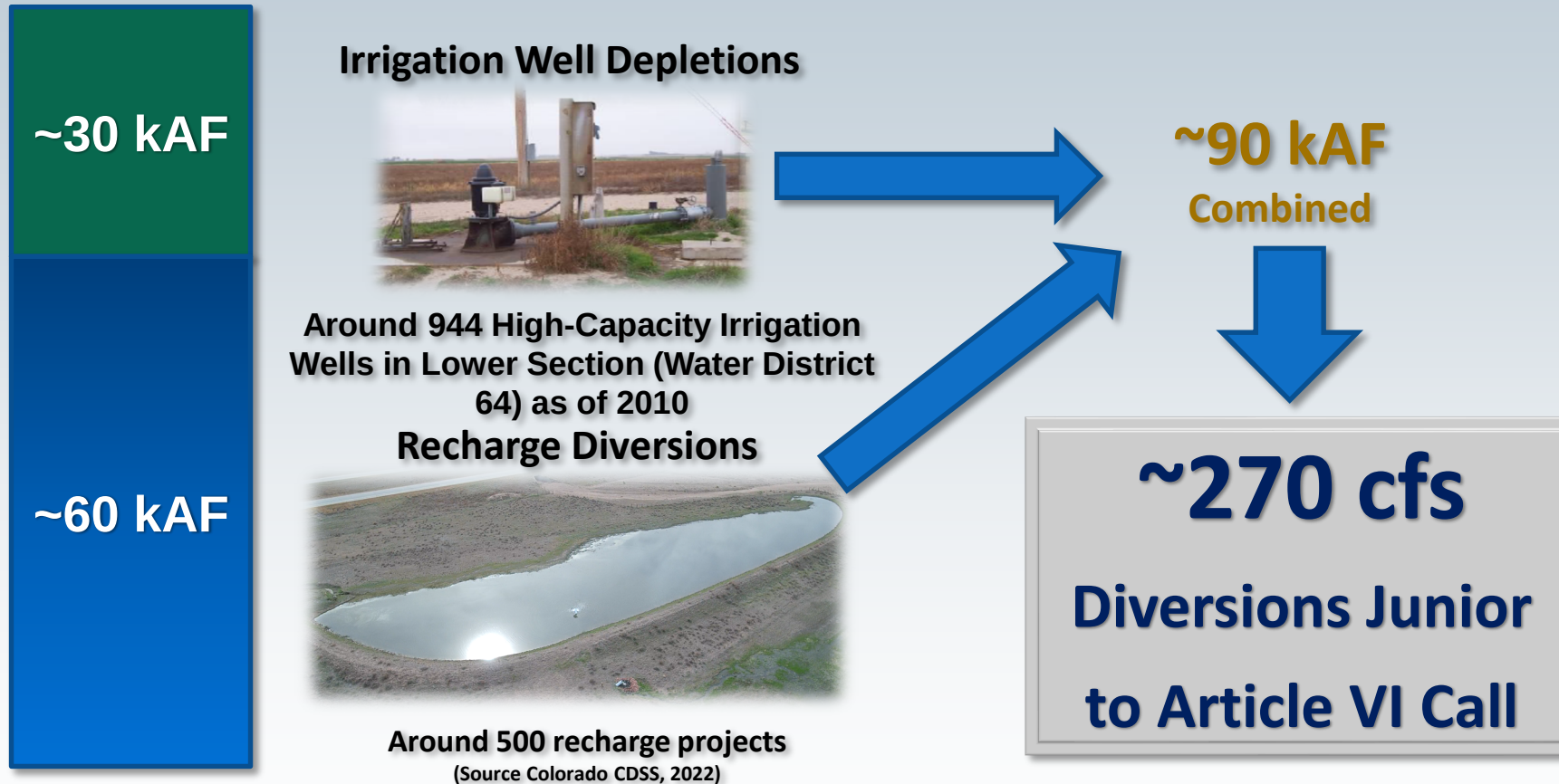


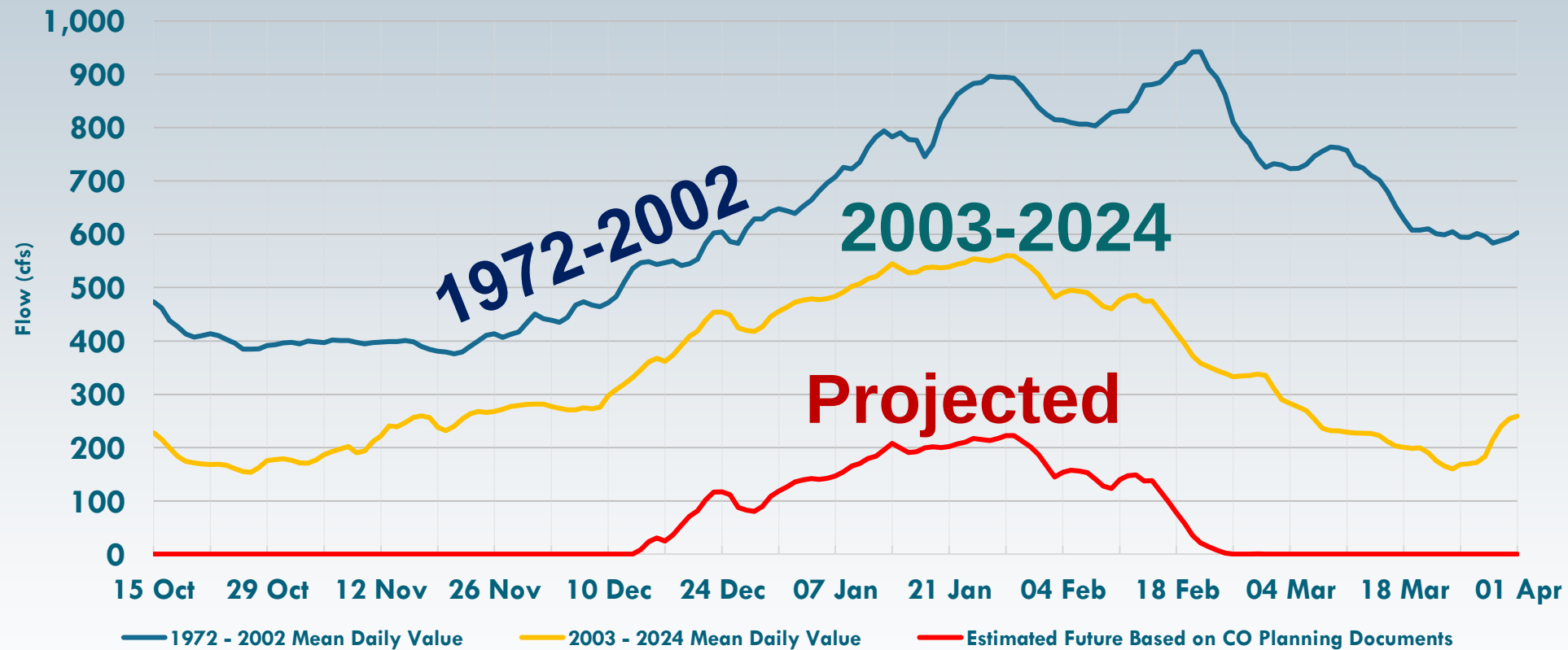
Figure 4. Baseline and 2050 Projected Maximum Annual M&I Demand Met and Gaps



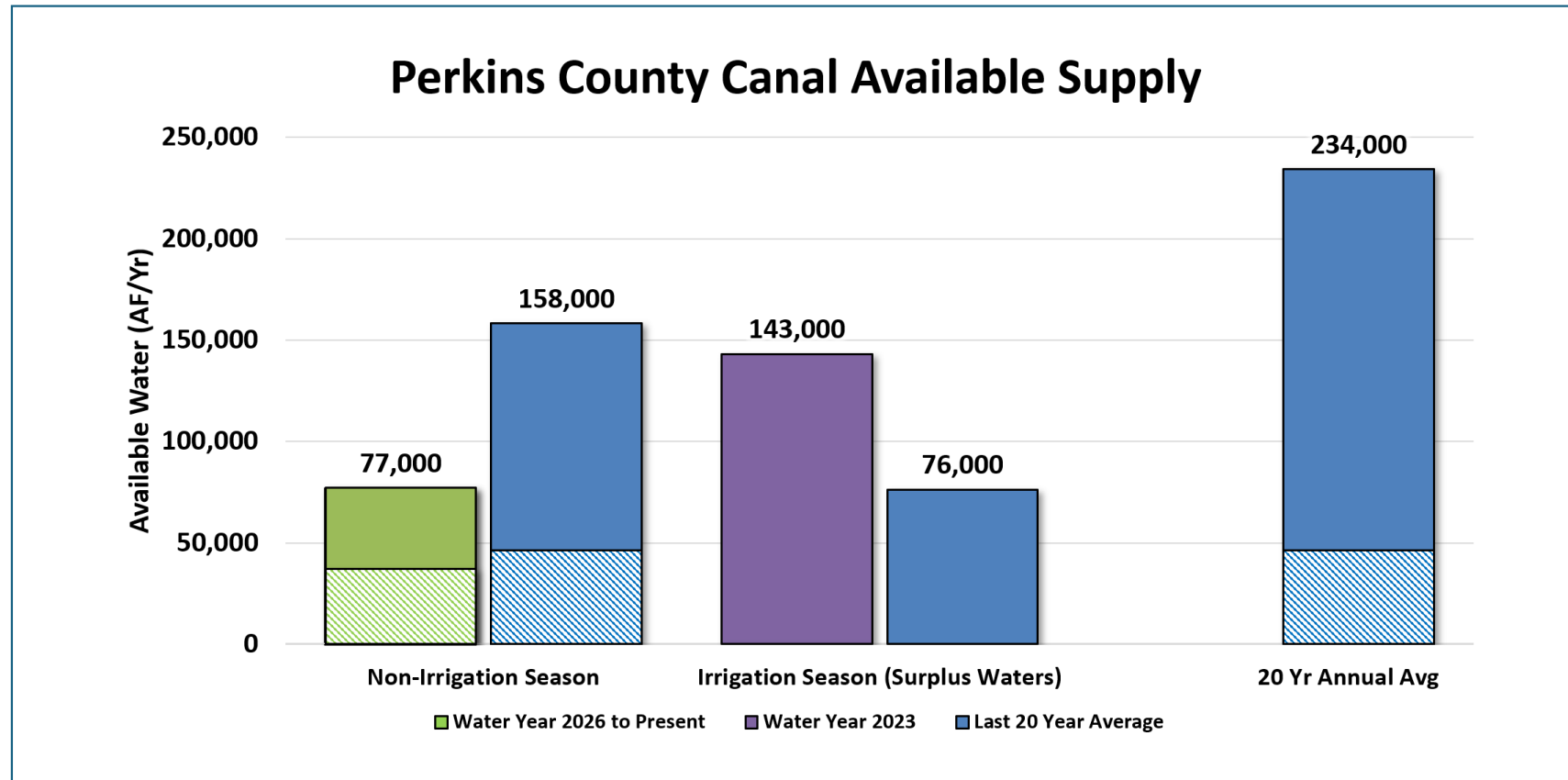
“Junior” Non-Irrigation Season Diversions in Colorado



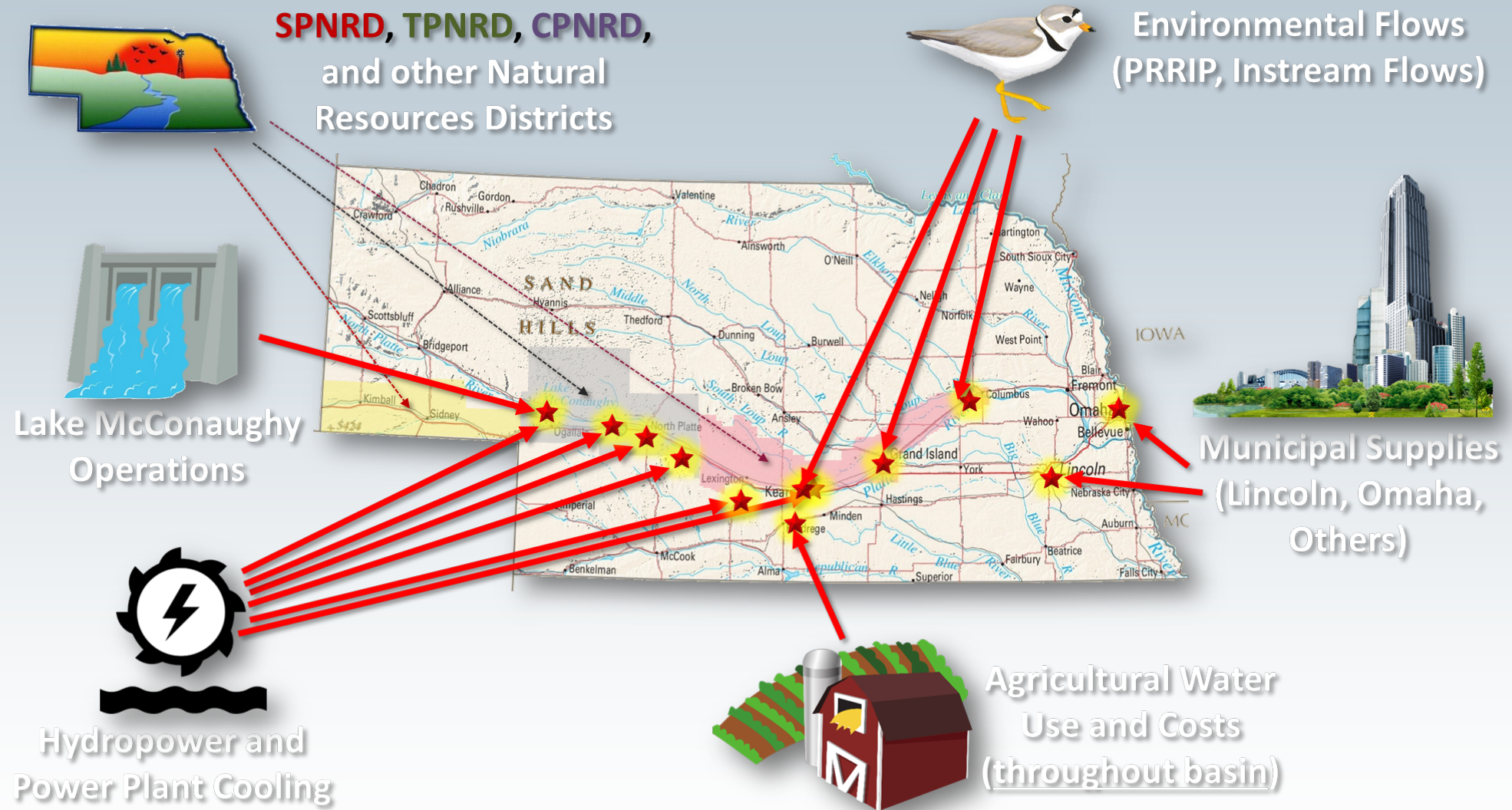
State Line Mean Daily Flow

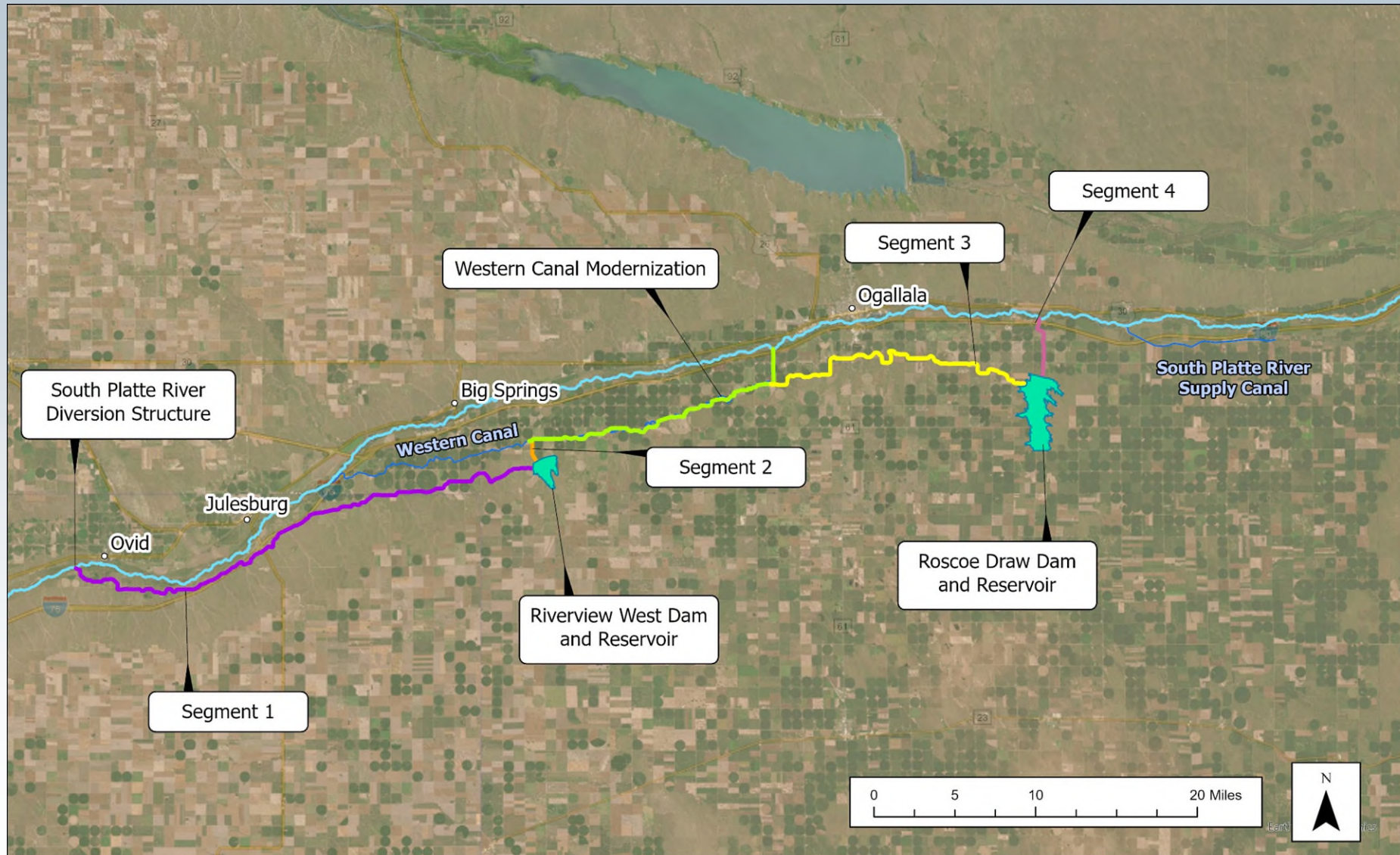


(Flow Data Source: Colorado CDSS, 2024)



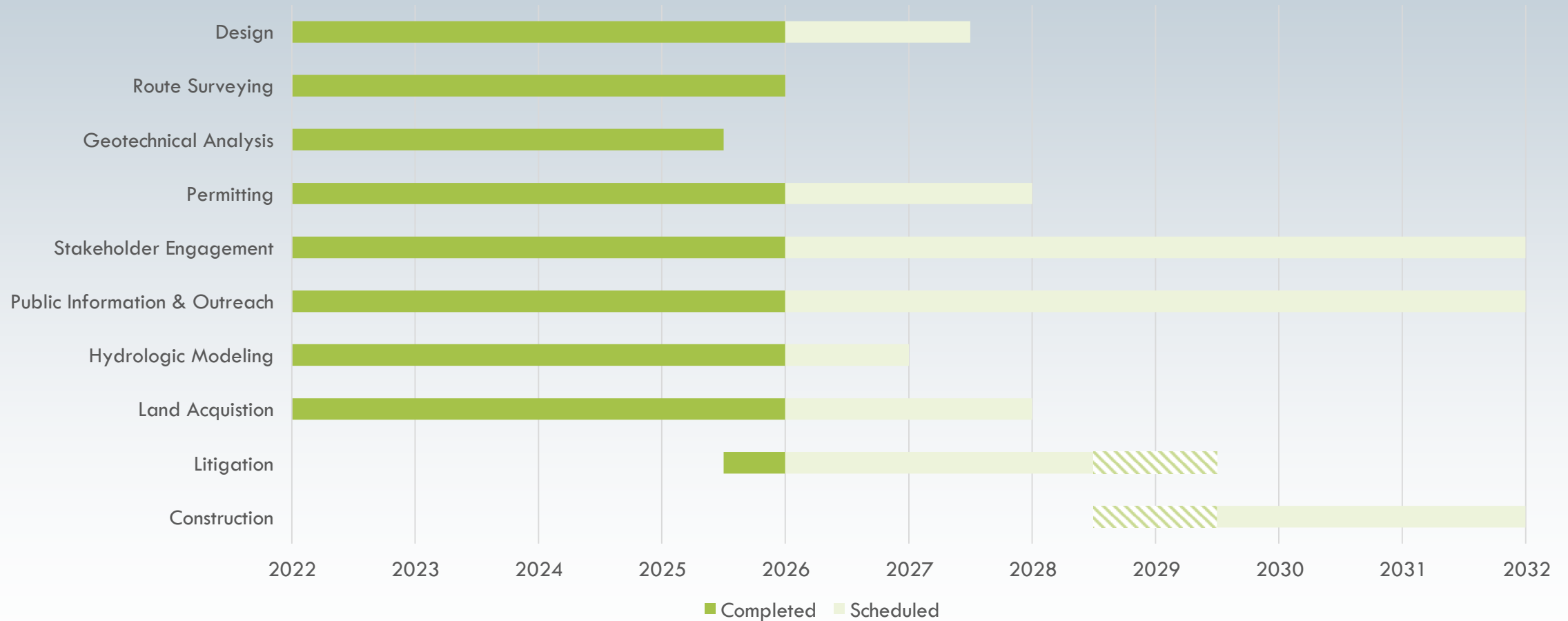
*Irrigation Season Surplus Waters based on available river flow above 120 cfs at Julesburg





Project Timeline and Progress

AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!



THANK YOU

DWEE.Nebraska.gov