ANNUAL INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN REPORT

2025

JOINTLY PREPARED BY THE LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT AND THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Submitted at the Lower Platte South Board Meeting/IMP Annual Review
August 26, 2026

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

NEBRASKA
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2025 ANNUAL REPORT FOR LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT and NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jointly prepared by the Lower Platte South NRD and the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
Submitted on August 26, 2026

Introduction

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) and the former Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, now the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) jointly adopted a voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP), which became effective on May 15, 2014. The over-arching purpose of the IMP is to jointly manage groundwater and surface waters within the LPSNRD in order to sustain a balance between water uses and supplies for the near and long term. An in-depth public involvement plan, which included focus groups, a 13-month stakeholder process, a virtual town hall, and outside agency outreach, was an integral part in developing goals and objectives for the IMP.

The 2025 Annual Report covers the progress made towards IMP implementation for both the LPSNRD and DWEE in 2025. It is consistent with Chapter 9 of the IMP, that outlines the procedures for review and potential modification of the IMP. LPSNRD and DWEE report on data collected, report on new groundwater or surface water permits and uses, and review progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the IMP.

As a part of the process, the LPSNRD and NDWEE staff met to discuss progress made in 2025 towards the goals and objectives of the plan, action steps for the next two years (see the "Jointly Identified Actions" section), and whether modifications to the IMP were needed. The LPSNRD and NDWEE have initiated the process for modifications to achieve consistency between the IMP and the Lower Platte Basin Water Management Plan, which was finalized in October 2017.

The LPSNRD and NDWEE worked collaboratively to write this report. Highlights from the report were presented to the LPSNRD Board and the public on August 26, 2026, at LPSNRD's regularly scheduled Board meeting. Notice of the Board meeting was published in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on August 14, 2026, and a public announcement of the IMP review was posted on both the LPSNRD and DWEE websites at least one week prior to the Board meeting.

Because the LPSNRD regulates groundwater and the DWEE regulates surface water, some sections were individually written. Wherever possible, sections were written jointly to reflect our partnership for integrated groundwater and surface water management. The 2025 annual report provides transparency to the public and us about the progress made by LPSNRD and DWEE in implementing the IMP as a means to protect interconnected groundwater and surface water resources for the near and long term.

Monitoring and Data Collection

Surface Water Monitoring

Streamgaging

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) owns and operates 21 streamgages in LPSNRD (Table 1: USGS Streamgages, LPSNRD locations. All but one (Weeping Water Creek at Union, NE) are located in the IMP surface water management area (Figure 1: USGS Streamgages map). Streamflow data on these gages is available on the USGS's National Water Information System (NWIS) at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/. DWEE regularly assesses the need for modifications to the network in the IMP area.

Table 1: USGS Streamgages, LPSNRD locations.

Gage Name	Gage Number	Begin Date	LPSNRD funding assistance
Salt Creek at Roca, Nebr.	06803000	5/14/1951	yes
Salt Creek at Pioneers Boulevard at Lincoln, Nebr.	06803080	6/20/1994	yes
Haines Branch at SW 56th St at Lincoln, Nebr.	06803093	6/20/1994	yes
Middle Creek at SW 63rd St at Lincoln, Nebr.	06803170	6/20/1994	yes
Oak Creek at Air Park Road at Lincoln, Nebr.	06803486	5/21/1987	yes
Salt Creek at Fairgrounds at Lincoln, Nebr.	06803495	6/20/1994	no
Salt Creek at 27th ST, Lincoln, Nebr.	06803500	5/11/1942	yes
Little Salt Creek near Lincoln, Nebr.	06803510	5/11/1942	yes
Salt Creek at 70th Street at Lincoln, Nebr.	06803513	5/31/1994	yes
Stevens Creek near Lincoln, Nebr.	06803520	10/14/1968	yes
Rock Creek near Ceresco, Nebr.	06803530	4/1/1970	yes
Salt Creek at Greenwood, Nebr.	06803555	1/16/1952	no
Wahoo Creek at Ashland, Nebr.	06804700	2/22/1990	yes
Weeping Water Creek at Union, Nebr.	06806500	1/11/1950	yes
Antelope Creek at 27th St at Lincoln, Nebr.	06803300	3/14/2012	yes
Deadman's Run at 38th Street at Lincoln, Nebr.	06803502	08/27/2014	no
Salt Creek near Ashland, Nebr.	06805000	10/01/2007	yes
North Oak Creek at Valparaiso, Nebr.	06803430	8/12/2016	yes
North Oak Creek near Touhy, Nebr.	06803420	8/12/2016	yes
Platte River near Ashland, Nebr.	06801000	8/20/1928	no
Platte River at Louisville, Nebr.	06805500	6/22/1952	yes

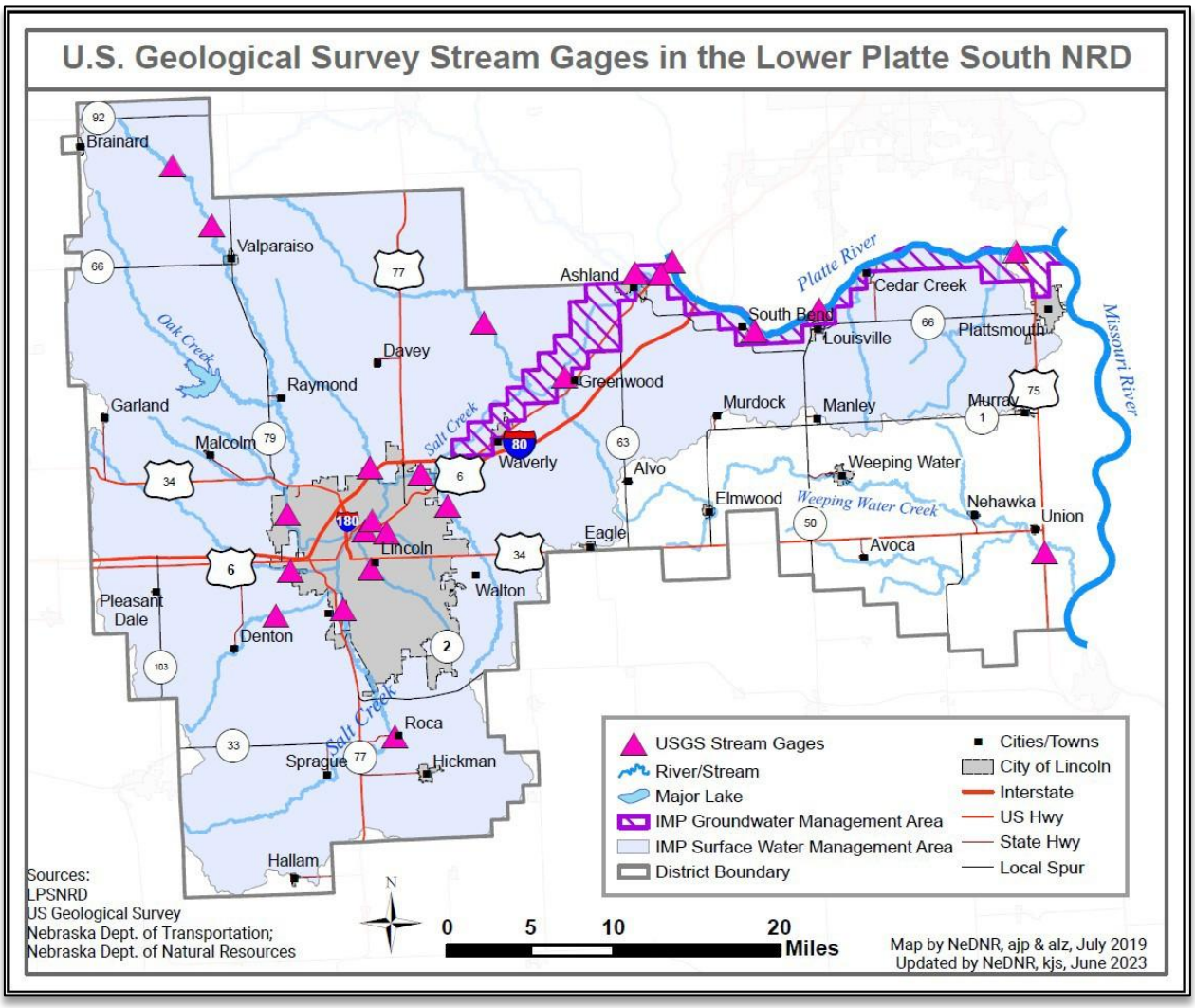


Figure 1: USGS Streamgages map, LPSNRD locations.

The LPSNRD and USGS cooperate to collect surface water/streamflow data. There are currently 24 USGS stream gages active in LPSNRD. The District provides funding and support for operation and maintenance of 16 of these gages. In addition, the LPSNRD has cooperatively shared groundwater data with UNL, USGS, adjoining NRDs, and DWEE. Streamgage data for select gages is included below. One gage is located on Salt Creek near Roca, one is on Salt Creek near 27th St. in Lincoln, and one is on the Platte River (Platte River at Louisville). These locations have long periods of record (near or over 50 years) and provide general insight into water supply trends over time.

The mean annual daily discharge over the period of record for the select streamgages is shown in Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5.

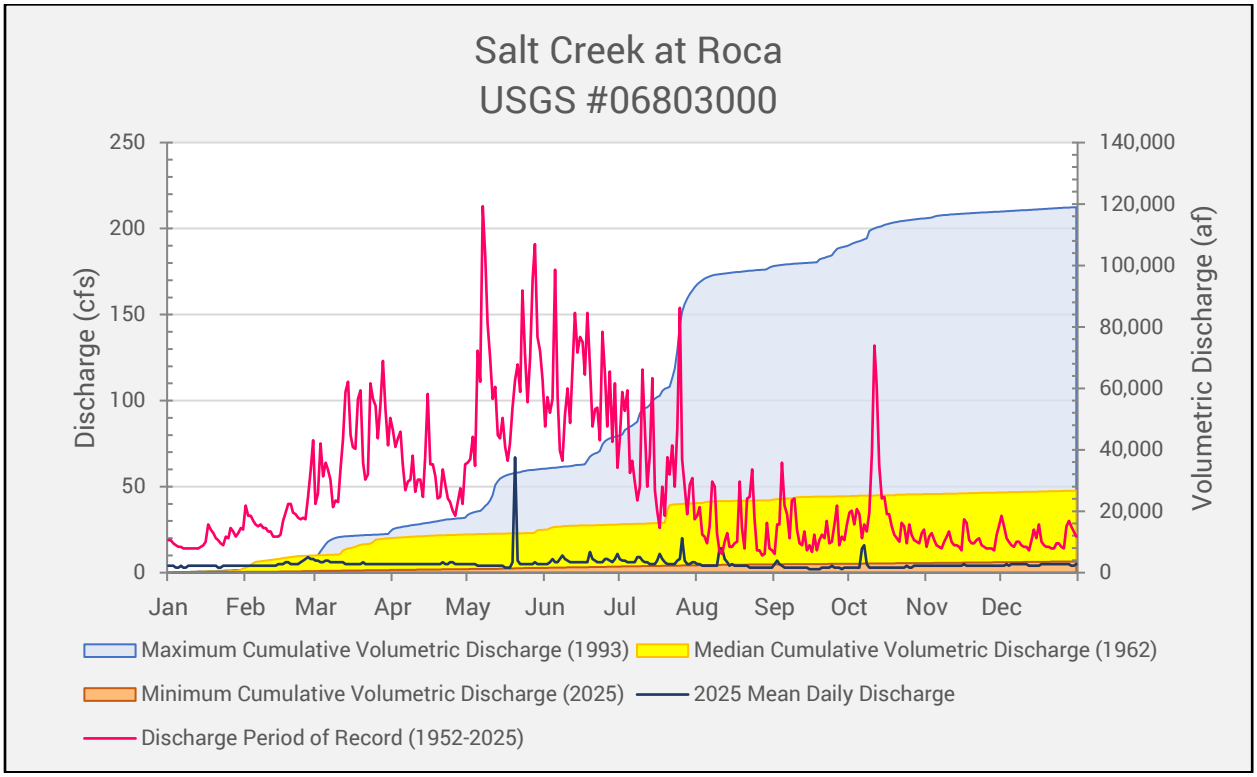


Figure 2: Streamgage measurements for 2025 for Salt Creek at Roca, NE (USGS-NWIS).
Minimum cumulative volumetric discharge occurred in 2025, so 2025 is not shown.

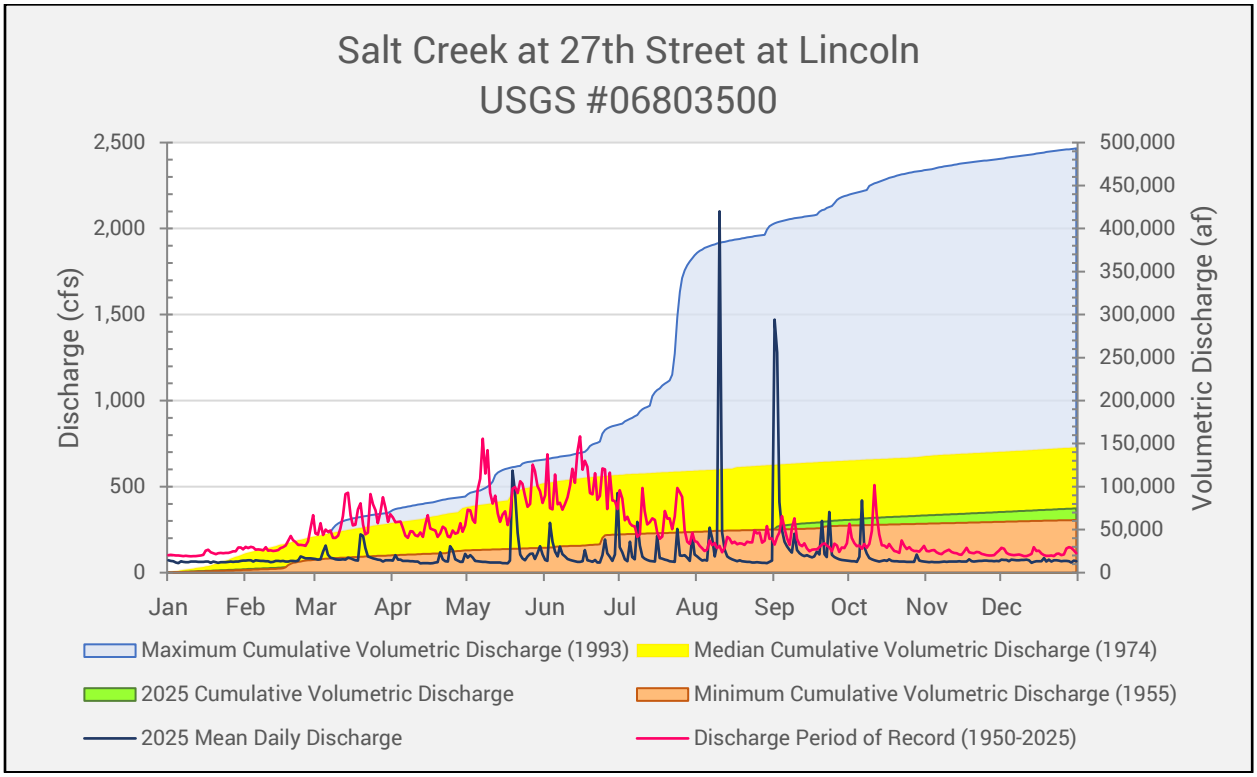


Figure 3: Streamgage measurements for 2025 for Salt Creek near 27th St, Lincoln, NE (USGS-NWIS).

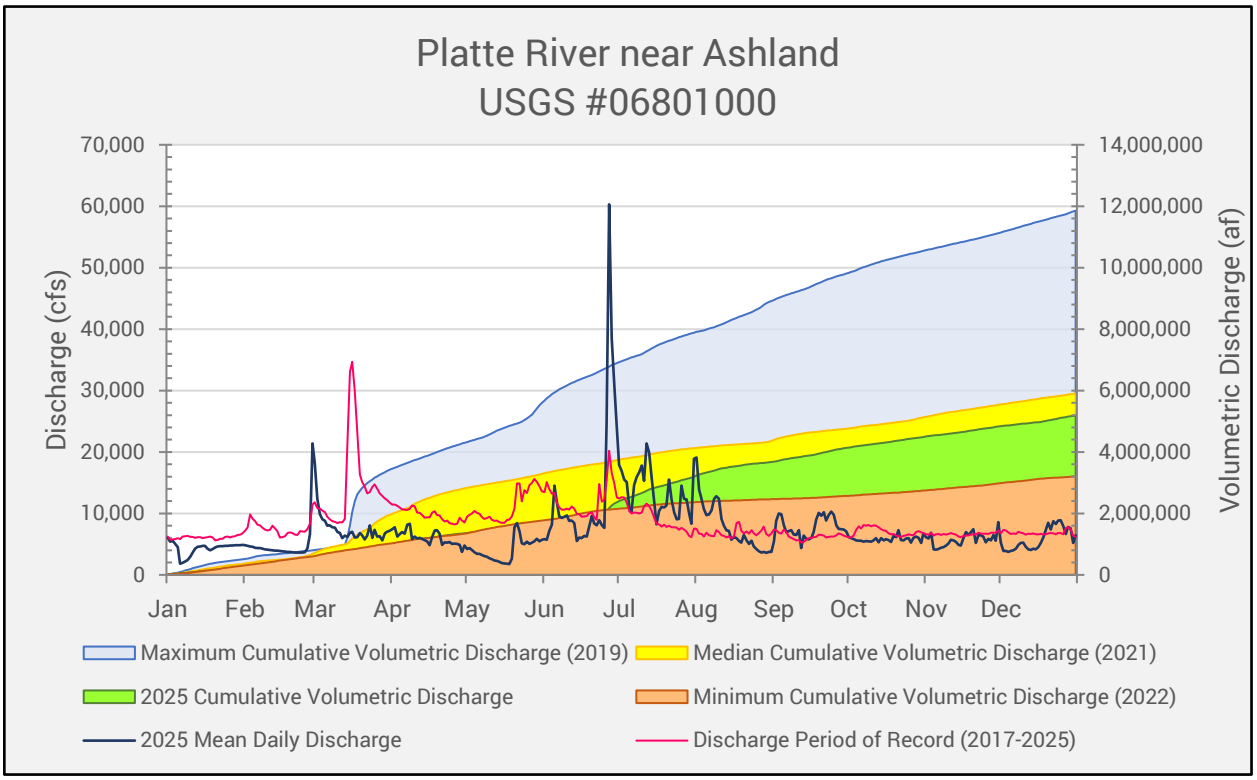


Figure 4: Streamgage measurements for 2025 for the Platte River at Ashland, NE (USGS-NWIS).

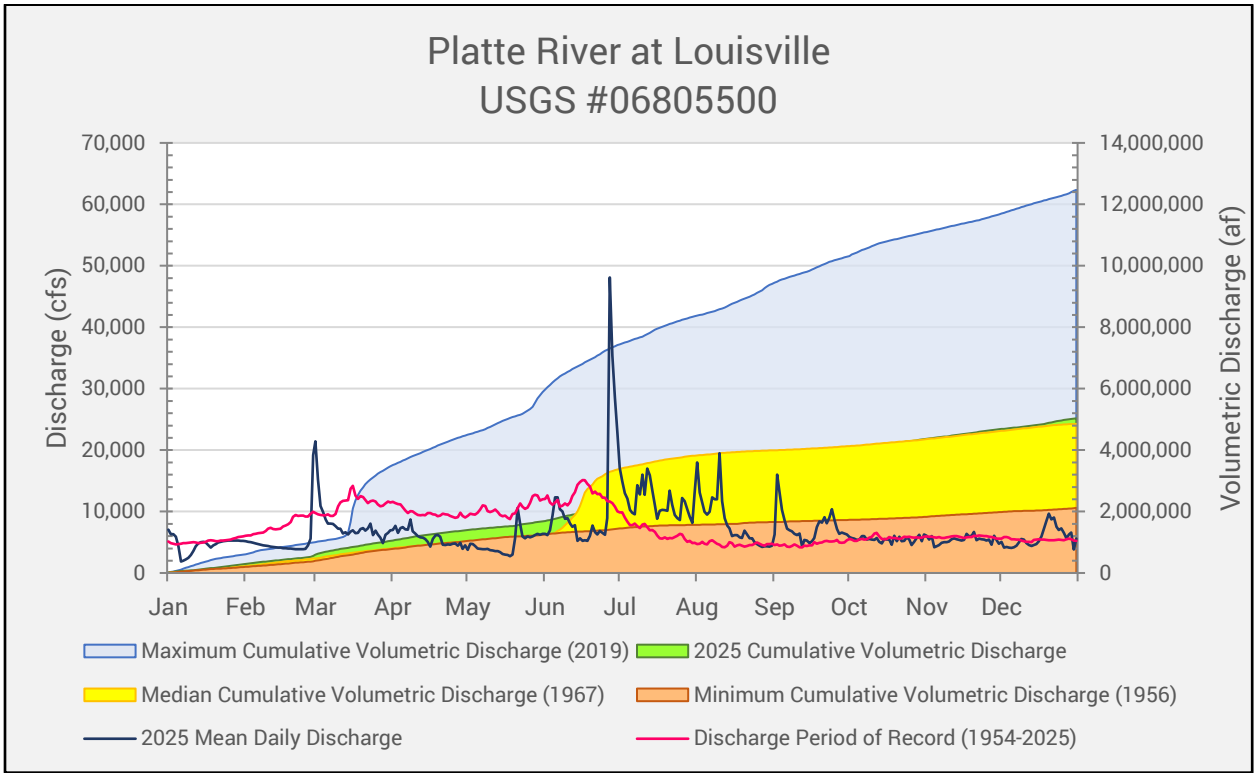


Figure 5: Streamgage measurements for 2025 for the Platte River at Louisville, NE (USGS-NWIS).

Surface Water Permitting Actions

DWEE continued to monitor and administer surface water appropriations and maintain records for new, cancelled, or transferred surface water permits. Figure 6 shows the general location of the irrigation permits cancelled in full during 2025. Table 2 provides a summary of the 2025 irrigated acres change from all surface water permitting actions.

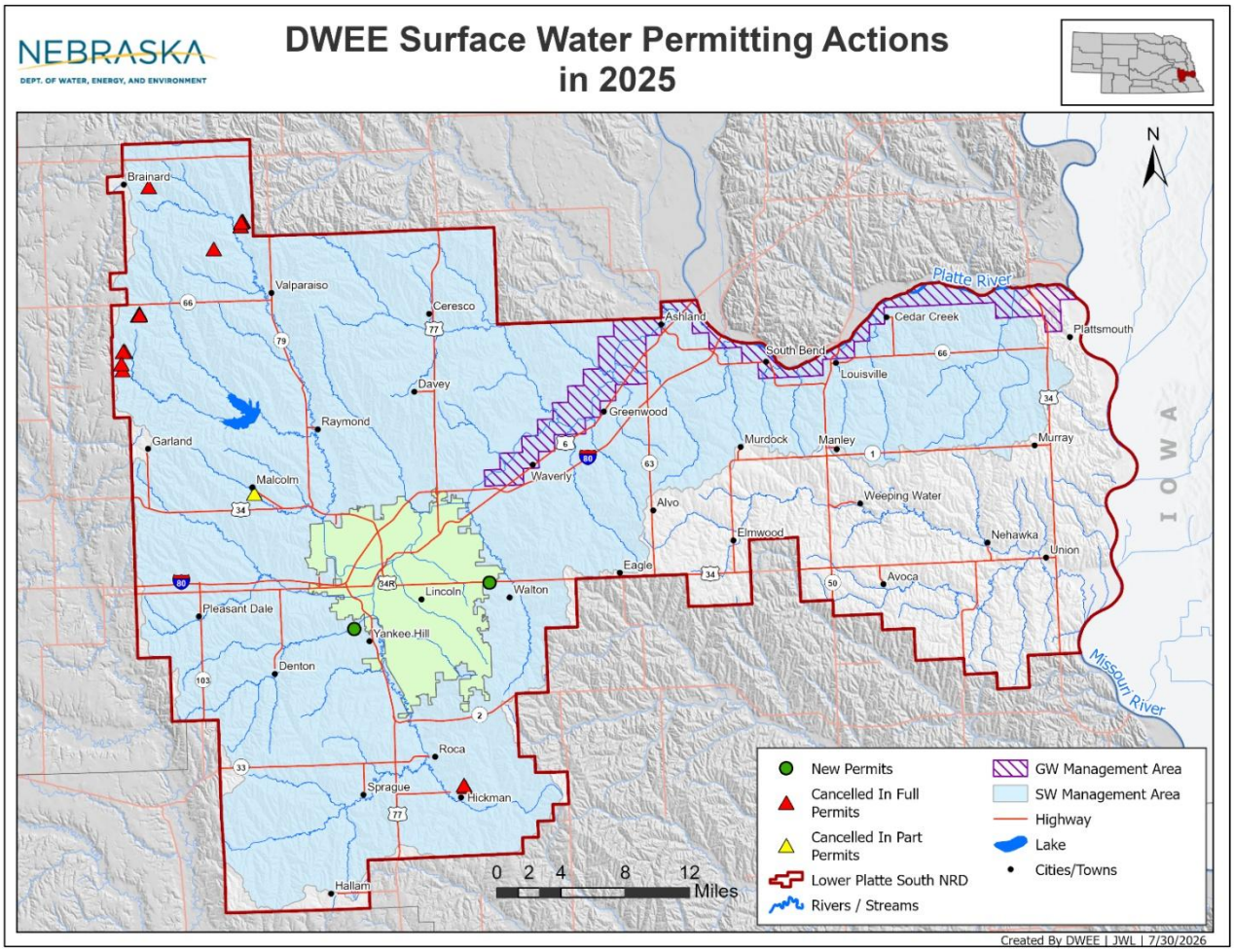


Figure 6: DWEE surface water permitting actions occurring in 2025 within LPSNRD.

Surface water controls only apply to the area of the District within the Surface Water IMP area shown on Figure 6. Eleven irrigation permits were cancelled in the IMP area, and none were cancelled outside the area. There were two new surface water permits that were approved within the Basin during 2025. One was for storage and one was for domestic use.

Table 2: 2025 Irrigated acres changes associated with surface water permitting actions.

2025 Irrigated Acres Changes Associated with Surface Water Permitting Actions		
Geographic Area	**Newly Permitted Acres**	**Cancelled Acres**
Lower Platte River Basin	2	666.3
Missouri River Tributaries Basin	0	0
Total (Whole NRD)	2	666.3

Table 3: 2025 Cancelled surface water permits.

Surface Water Appropriations Expired, Cancelled-in-Part or Cancelled-in-Full in 2025 Within the IMP Area											
Appropriation Number	Cancel Date	Source	NDWEE Action	Location of Diversion or Reservoir	Use	Begin Acres	Cancelled			Estimated Date of Last Use	Basis for NDWEE Action
							Acres	Grant in cfs	Grant in af		
A-14825[1]	12/19/2025	Salt Creek Reservoir 35	Cancelled in Full	S27 T8 R7E	IR	46.4	46.4	N/A	40.6	Unknown	REL-11540
A-16571	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 66-A	Cancelled in Full	S29 T13 R4E	IR	34	34	N/A	16	Unknown	REL-11531
A-14824	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 87-A	Cancelled in Full	S7 T12 R4E	IR	20.7	20.7	N/A	107	Unknown	REL-11538
A-16321	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 86-A	Cancelled in Full	S6 T12 R4E	IR	128.7	128.7	N/A	68	Unknown	REL-11537
A-14827	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 82-B	Cancelled in Full	S7 T12 R4E	IR	13.8	13.8	N/A	62.5	Unknown	REL-11536
A-17731	12/19/2025	Oak-Middle Reservoir 66-A	Cancelled in Full	S29 T13 R4E	IR	75	75	N/A	21	Unknown	REL-11535
A-14826	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 6-B	Cancelled in Full	S16 T14 R4E	IR	52.7	52.7	N/A	146	Unknown	REL-11534
A-16139	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 4-C	Cancelled in Full	S28 T14 R5E	IR	112	112	N/A	82.7	Unknown	REL-11533
A-16140	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 3-A	Cancelled in Full	S6 T13 R5E	IR	25.5	25.5	N/A	100	Unknown	REL-11541
A-16140[2]	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 3-A	Cancelled in Full	S6 T13 R5E	IR	27.3	27.3	N/A	100	Unknown	REL-11541
A-17261	12/19/2025	North Oak Reservoir 4-C	Cancelled in Full	S28 T14 R5E	IR	125.7	125.7	N/A	92.9	Unknown	REL-11532

Table 4 summarizes new surface water applications that were approved within the Lower Platte South NRD in calendar year 2025. No surface water rights were transferred in 2025.

[1] Permits A-14825 through A-17261 are for storage use.

[2] Permit right ID 7459 was a supplemental to natural flow permit.

Table 4: DWEE 2025 Approved surface water applications in LPSNRD IMP area

Surface Water Appropriations Approved in 2025 Within the IMP area								
Appropriation Number	**Date Approved**	**Source**	**Location of Diversion or Reservoir**	**Sub-Basin**	**Use**	**Grant in cfs**	**Grant in af**	**Acres**
A-20082	6/4/2025	Stevens Creek, Trib. To	S25 T10 R7E		ST	N/A	27.1	N/A
A-20102	11/6/2025	Haines Branch	S4 T9 R6E		DO	0.03	N/A	2

Voluntary Surface Water Use Reporting

DWEE invites surface water irrigation permit holders within LPSNRD to participate in the voluntary reporting program. Participants could submit information via an online form or by directly calling DWEE. Sixty-four reports from a possible 200 water rights were received in 2025 for a response rate of about 32%. The data collected through the voluntary water use reporting program includes information about whether a surface water permit holder irrigated that year, if they used groundwater or surface water, how many acres they irrigated, what types of crops were grown, and reasons for not irrigating (if applicable).

Surface Water Pump-Site Visits

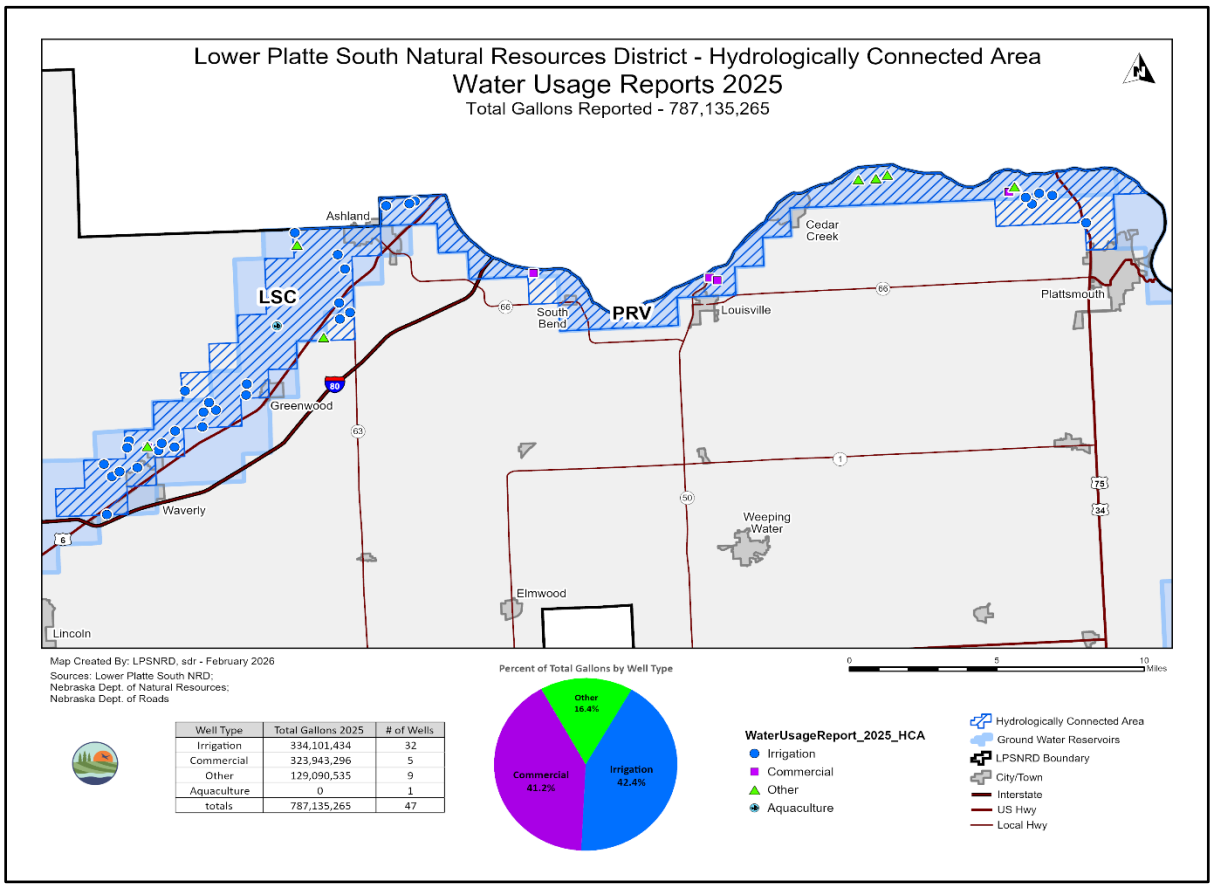
The DWEE Field Office staff regularly inspect surface water pump sites around the state with the goal of inspecting each pump site annually. Sometimes sites may be visited more than once per year for administration purposes. In 2025, DWEE Field Office staff inspected 182 of a possible 200 irrigation permit pump-sites (91%). 38 sites were set up for surface water irrigation at the time of inspection.[3]

[3] Includes multiple visits to same site for water administration

Groundwater Monitoring

IMP Groundwater Management Area

The IMP Groundwater Management Area is limited to the Hydrologically Connected Area (HCA). There are a total of 374 wells in the HCA. Flow measurement meters and water use reports are required for any well used with the capacity to pump 50 gallons per minute or greater. Of these, there are 32 irrigation wells, 5 commercial wells, and 10 other wells which, when combined, account for nearly 787 million gallons of groundwater pumped. Also in the HCA area, there are 259 registered domestic wells, and 68 registered public water supply wells. Municipal water wells in the HCA include wells for Waverly, Ashland, Louisville, Lincoln, Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha Fish & Wildlife Club, Cass SID #5, and Cass Rural Water District #1.



Well Type	Total Gallons 2025	# of Wells
Irrigation	334,101,434	32
Commercial	323,943,296	5
Other	129,090,535	9
Aquaculture	0	1
totals	787,135,265	47

Figure 7: LPSNRD 2025 Groundwater use in the hydrologically connected area (HCA).

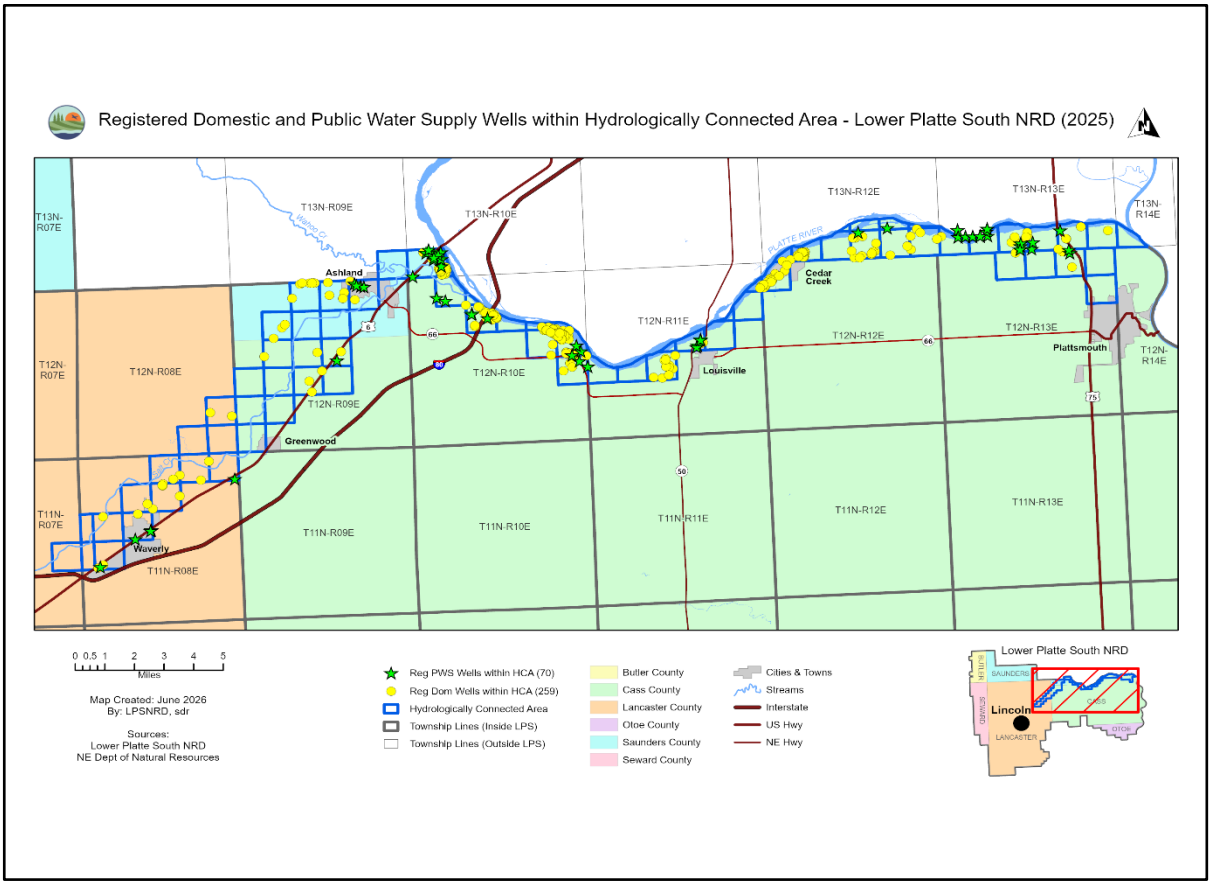


Figure 8: LPSNRD 2025 Registered domestic and public supply wells (HCA).

Metering and Groundwater Level Monitoring

All active wells with capacity to pump over 50 gallons per minute (gpm) are metered before use. There were 390 such wells in LPSNRD at the close of 2025. LPSNRD collected records of usage from these wells and all public water supply (PWS) wells. The calculated total pumping for 2025 from these metered wells (not including PWS wells) was 3.64 billion gallons, with 302 irrigation wells accounting for 52% of the total measured pumping. In addition, LPSNRD inspected and read 203 groundwater well meters during 2025. LPSNRD also collected groundwater level data from 148 wells in the spring and fall of 2025 and all those wells are part of LPSNRD's official water level network. Of those, 49 wells showed an increase, and 99 wells showed a decline from spring 2024 to spring 2025; the maximum decline was 7.57 feet while the maximum increase was 8.25 feet, with an average static water level decrease of 0.46 feet. Figure 9 shows a spatial representation of groundwater level changes.

The average change by groundwater reservoir is shown in Table 5.

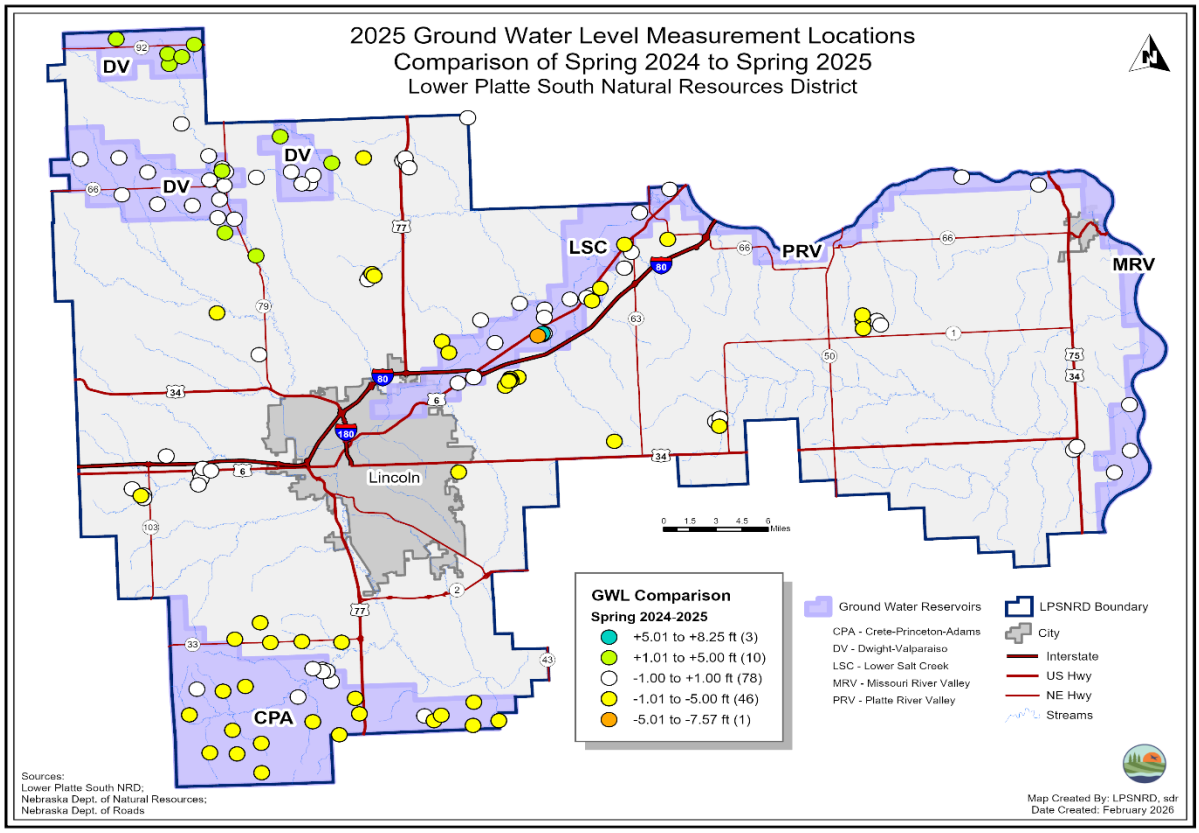


Figure 9: 2025 Groundwater level measurement comparison, spring 2024 and spring 2025.

Table 5: Groundwater reservoir average well level change, spring 2024 to spring 2025.

Average Well Level Change by Groundwater Reservoir	
GW Reservoir	**Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 (ft)**
Crete-Princeton-Adams	-1.17
Dwight-Valparaiso	0.71
Lower Salt Creek	-0.65
Missouri River Valley	-0.22
Platte River Valley	-0.74
Remaining Area	-1.01

Groundwater Permitting Activities

LPSNRD issued 13 well permits throughout the District in 2025 for varied uses, as reported in Table 6. In 2025, 6 wells were completed, none of which were located in the hydrologically connected area. All statutory well-spacing minimum requirements were followed for all new and replacement wells.

Table 6: LPSNRD 2025 Approved or completed groundwater wells.

Well Type	Approved Well Permits, 2025	Completed Wells, 2025[2]
Irrigation	4	3
Commercial	0	0
Domestic	0	0
Public Water Supply	3	1
Livestock	0	
Other	6	3
Totals	**13**	**7**

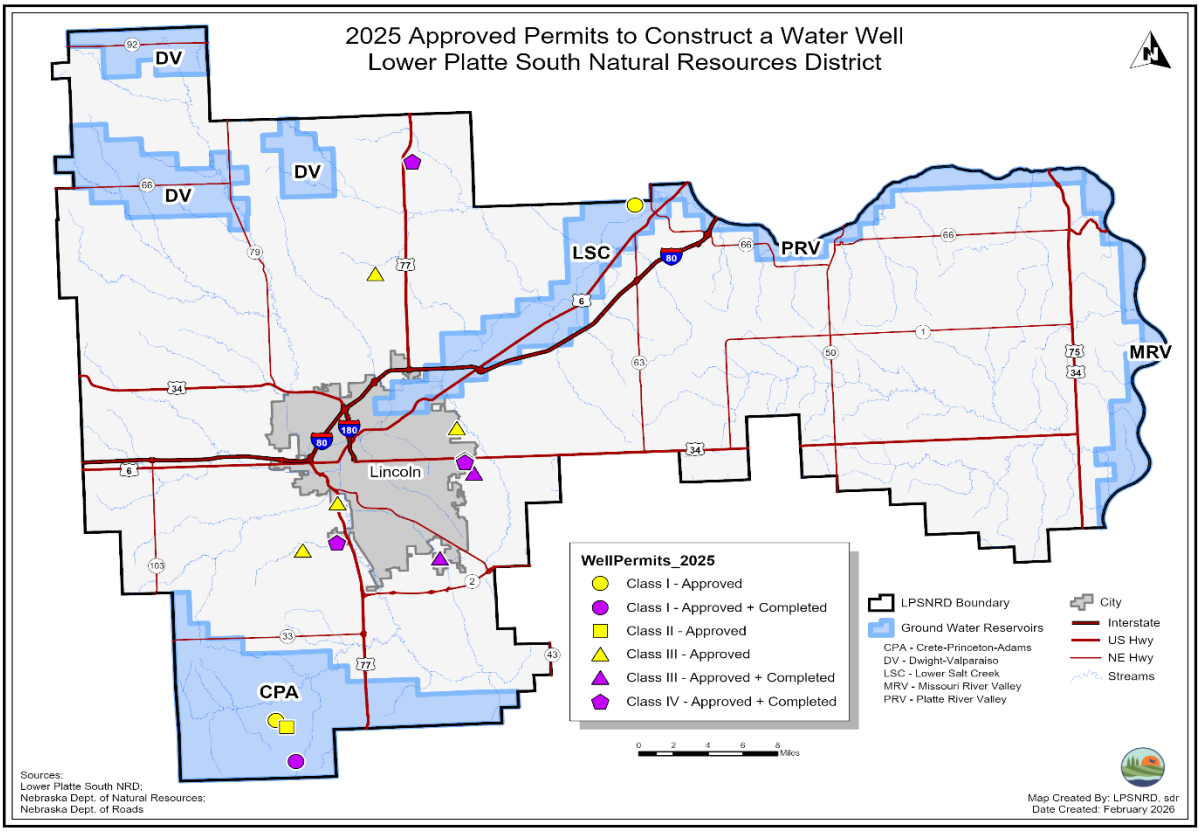


Figure 10: LPSNRD 2025 Groundwater well permits approved or completed.

[2] Wells completed in 2025 may have been approved in a prior year

Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) Monitoring and Actions

In 2025, LPSNRD did not certify any additional groundwater irrigated acres within the HCA. As specified in the IMP, newly certified groundwater irrigated acres within the HCA did not exceed the amount agreed to under the terms of the Platte River Basin Coalition agreement. The total number of certified acres in the HCA is 3,279 and the extent of these acres is shown in Figure 11. The district-wide extent of certified acres is shown in Figure 12. There was one variance request in 2025.

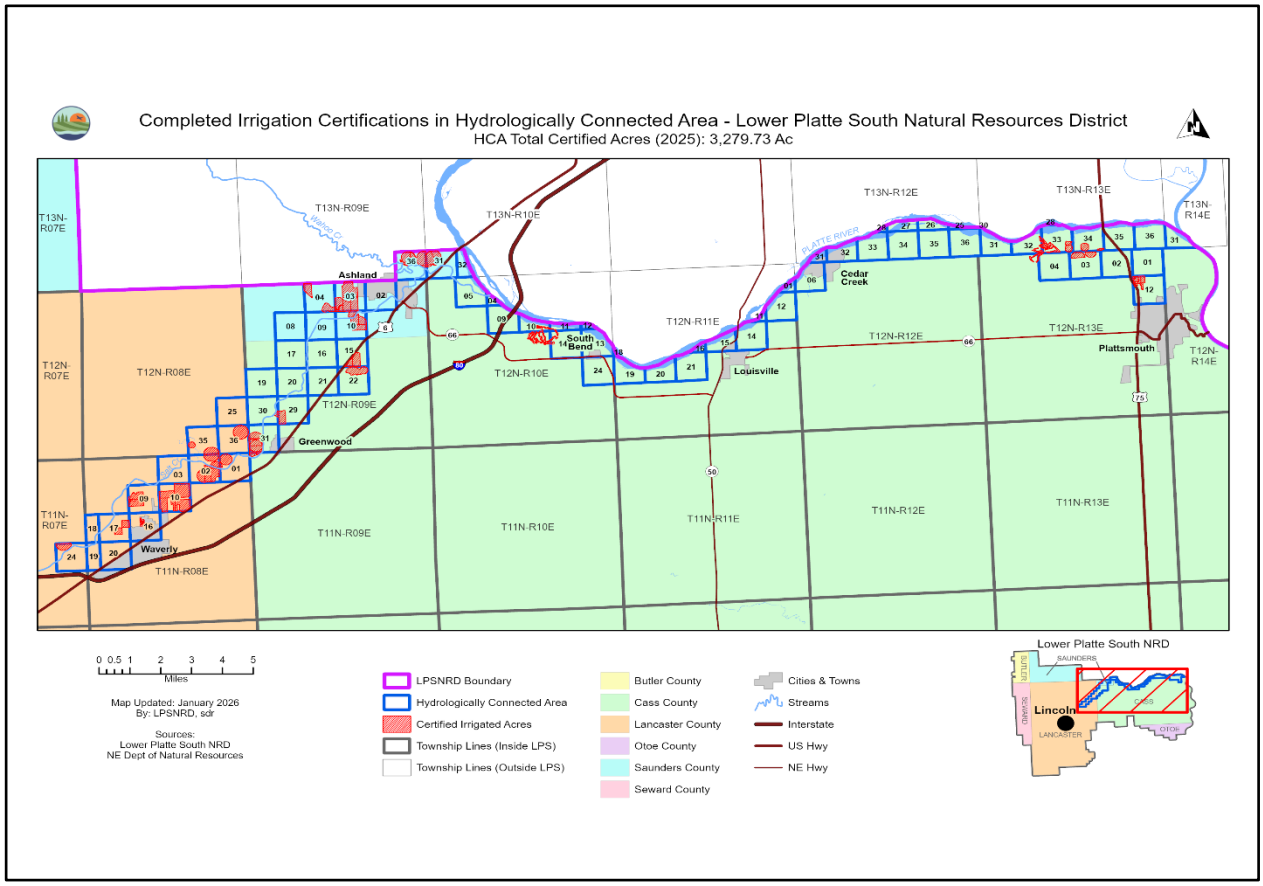


Figure 11: 2025 HCA Certified groundwater irrigated acres, LPSNRD.

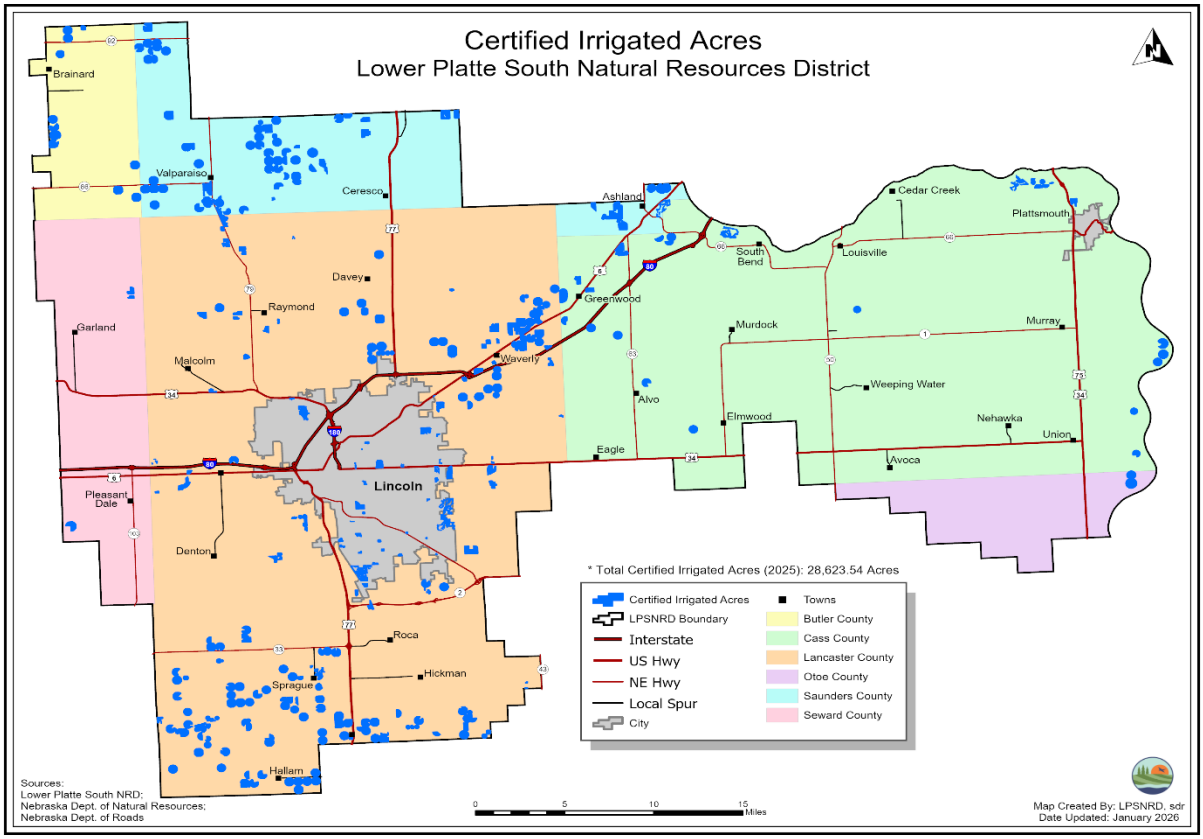


Figure 12: 2025 LPSNRD certified groundwater irrigated acres.

2025 IMP Regulatory Actions

LPSNRD Groundwater Acres Limitations

The expansion of irrigated acres in the HCA continues to be allowed as agreed by the conditions of the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition. A temporary moratorium on the Dwight-Valparaiso area was lifted in 2014 following designation of the Dwight-Valparaiso-Brainard Special Management Area (SMA). A rule to not allow an increase in irrigated acres continues to apply for the entire SMA, and pumping allocations for irrigated land continue to be in effect for the western portion of the Special Management Area.

DWEE Surface Water Acres Limitations

Pursuant to the IMP, as of January 1st for each year DWEE sets its surface water limitations to 1/3 the number of acres that the LPSNRD allows for groundwater irrigated acres. A limit of 198 surface water acres has been and continues to be in place for the LPSNRD's surface water management area. The surface water limit has remained consistent since the IMP was adopted, since LPSNRD's groundwater acres limit (593 acres) has stayed consistent throughout this time.

Future limits on water use

The LPSNRD and DWEE have been and will continue to hold discussions about the method of limiting water development, relative to the adoption of the Lower Platte Basin Water Management Plan (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan has established limits on new basin wide water development and by individual NRDs for a five-year increment that ended in 2021. These limits are based on stream depletions rather than irrigated acres limitations. In 2023, LPSNRD continued to cooperate with the other Basin NRDs and agreed to implement the second five-year increment based on remaining new uses from the first increment. Preparations are underway to determine allowable depletions for the third increment of the Plan. The LPSNRD and DWEE will continue to work together to ensure compliance with the Basin Plan, including updating the IMP surface water and groundwater control language to be consistent with the BWP and other Basin NRDs.

Studies and Planning

The following studies were continued or recently completed by the LPSNRD and DWEE to gather and evaluate data, information, and methodologies that could be used to increase understanding of surface water and groundwater supplies and uses within, and, as appropriate, outside LPSNRD. These studies help to meet the goals and objectives that were developed through the IMP stakeholder process.

LPSNRD Groundwater Management Plan Update

LPSNRD is currently in the process of updating their Groundwater Management Plan. LPSNRD hired HDR Consulting to facilitate the update of the Plan. 2025 activities included public open houses, stakeholder meetings, additional data review and modeling, and report composition. The new plan is anticipated to be completed and approved by the end of 2026, followed by any necessary modifications to the Groundwater Rules and Regulations.

Three-Dimensional Hydrogeologic Framework Project

In mid-2021, LPSNRD applied for and received in late 2021 a Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) grant for a Three-Dimensional Hydrogeologic Framework Project. LPSNRD provided matching funds for project. A contractor was selected in early 2022, and the project was completed in December 2023. The project builds on work completed and/or underway by the Lower Elkhorn, Papio-Missouri River, and Lower Platte North NRDs.

Lower Platte Missouri Tributaries 3 District Groundwater Model (LP-3D)

In 2023, Lower Platte North, Lower Platte South, and Papio-Missouri River NRDs and DWEE received partial funding from the Water Sustainability Fund to build a sub-regional child model (3-District model) coupled with the regional LPMT model. The three NRDs and DWEE have contracted with JEO Consulting, HDR Consulting, and Longspring Consulting to develop a subregional groundwater model. This model incorporates Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey data that has been collected throughout the NRDs. This is following in the footsteps of the Lower Elkhorn NRD groundwater model, a first of its kind effort in Nebraska. The resulting groundwater model will allow the DWEE and NRDs to build on the significant data collection investments that have been made over the past decade and utilize this information to better inform future planning efforts. Development of the framework for the child model and coupling with the LPMT model was completed in late 2024. Calibration of the resultant coupled model continued throughout 2025. As of July 2026, the LP3D Groundwater Model is completed. Final model documentation is being completed. The modeling project is anticipated to be completed in 2026.

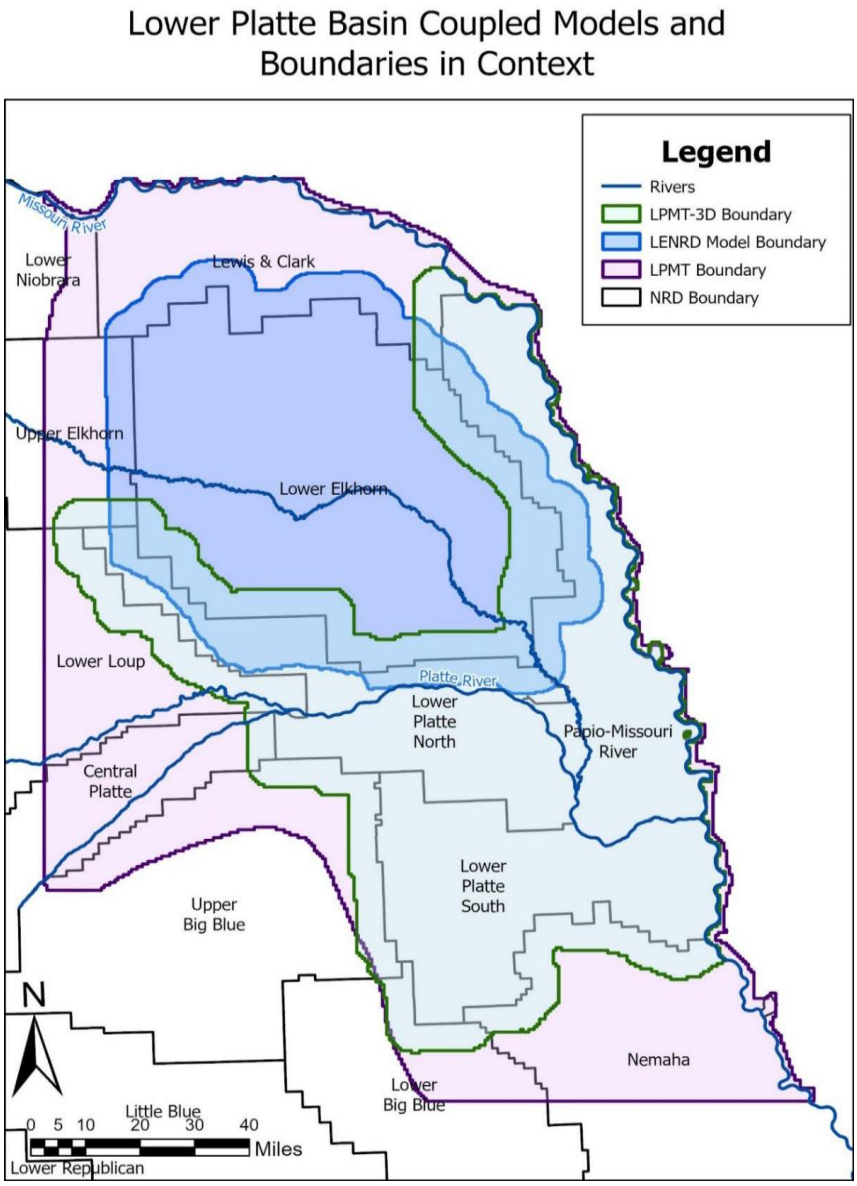


Figure 13: Lower Platte and Missouri tributaries models' geographic locations.

USGS Trend Analysis on Continuous Water Quality

The Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA), of which LPSNRD and NDWEE are members, has been working with the US Geological Survey (USGS) to collect continuous water quality data in the Lower Platte Basin for the past 15 years. Enough data has been collected to begin an analysis of water quality trends that may be occurring. Representing specific watersheds, the data for this study were collected from four streamgages: the Platte River at Louisville, Elkhorn River at Waterloo, Platte River at Leshara, and Salt Creek near Ashland. Data were collected for water temperature, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. Nitrate data were collected at all sites except for the Salt Creek near Ashland location.

As part of this study's statistical analyses, two methodologies will be used. The first will be a trend analysis to identify any overall trends, and the second will be a linear regression done on any extreme and average trends. Once the linear regression has been completed, these trends can then be compared to any other identified trends within the period. This should provide a more complete picture of how water quality in the Lower Platte River Basin varies seasonally, during wet and dry years, and year-to-year over the study period. This trend analysis should be completed in late 2026 and help with determining the effectiveness of long-term management plans.

Water Inventory and Water Use/Supply Management

LPSNRD Accomplishments

LPSNRD continues to collect and share data and works to improve the database that houses the information, reviewed groundwater well permits relative to aquifer capacity and sustainability, and continues an open dialogue with public water suppliers on current and future water supplies and supported storm water capture and reuse projects in the district. Additionally, LPSNRD participates with the Lower Platte River Weed Authority and the Lancaster County Weed Authority on invasive species control relative to water supply.

DWEE Accomplishments

The Integrated Network of Scientific Information and Geohydrologic Tools (INSIGHT) web portal (https://DWEE.nebraska.gov/INSIGHT/) is a water use, supply, and balance tool developed by DWEE and released in 2014. INSIGHT aids water managers and other interested parties in better understanding current and future water demands, effectiveness of water management strategies, and critical areas of water shortage. A user can access information pertaining to water supplies and demands (precipitation, irrigation, hydropower, etc.), as well as view maps with associated charts that show overall water balance (current, near-term, or long-term) at a subbasin scale. A valuable INSIGHT feature is that all the datasets used to compile the water balance analyses are also stored within the web portal and are available for download. DWEE continues to update the current INSIGHT analysis, adding other basins to the web portal as new data become available. At this time, DWEE has compiled data for the Lower Platte River, from North Bend, NE, to Louisville, NE, covering a large portion of the LPSNRD IMP area. INSIGHT data has been updated for the Upper Platte and Lower Platte River Basins and Subbasins within the last few years.

DWEE is currently developing other data improvement initiatives, including a tool using GIS to calculate stream depletions throughout the Lower Platte Basin.

Education/Outreach

DWEE Activities

DWEE's statewide public outreach activities are broadly focused and intended to provide all interested citizens with a better understanding of how integrated water management affects them in their daily lives. In 2025, DWEE participated in Husker Harvest Days and the Nebraska State Fair. Volunteers from DWEE also participated in outreach to children at Family Nature Nights hosted by LPSNRD at area elementary schools.

LPSNRD Activities

Each February, LPSNRD compiles a Groundwater Management Plan Review, a report of all groundwater activities completed in the previous calendar year. The report includes results of well sampling and measuring, progress made in ongoing groundwater programs, the status of each groundwater management area, and more. The review is presented as a summary to the LPSNRD Board of Directors, and the complete review is posted on LPSNRD's website, http://www.lpsnrd.org. The posted review is promoted on the LPSNRD website home page and in LPSNRD's newsletter.

As noted on the following page under Collaboration with Other Entities, LPSNRD continues hydrogeologic assessment activities with the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA).

The NRD continues to host "Test Your Well Nights" events for specific areas and plans one or two each year. Private well owners can bring water samples for nitrates testing. LPSNRD collaborated with local FFA chapters and science students to test the water. There was one "Test Your Well Night" event held in calendar year 2025 in Ashland on March 6.

LPSNRD promotes its groundwater activities through social media platforms Instagram and Facebook. Information is shared about groundwater levels, samples, data loggers, and monitoring wells.

LPSNRD continually seeks to maintain public awareness of information about groundwater levels, available cost-sharing, and conservation best management practices through its publications, website, and LPSNRD media.

LPSNRD, in conjunction with DWEE, held quarterly coordination meetings to discuss IMP and related action items. In 2025, meetings were held on March 29, July 10, and September 12.

Collaboration with Other Entities

Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment

Both LPSNRD and DWEE participated in the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) program in 2025, a cooperative endeavor for hydrogeologic data research and modeling. LPSNRD continued financial and administrative handling in FY 2025 of ENWRA, which is organized through an interlocal cooperative agreement with the six NRDs in eastern Nebraska. In FY 2024 ENWRA concluded the Groundwater Recharge Mapping and Focus Area Assessments Water Sustainability Fund contract #5312, a collaborative effort with the Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL CSD) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in order to better understand and map aquifer recharge in Eastern Nebraska. ENWRA partners also held planning meetings for a 2025 follow-up grant application scope for the ENWRA region plus six specific community areas in each ENWRA NRD. Additionally, LPSNRD continues to collaborate with UNL CSD on the test hole drilling program (2025 actions included planning agreement renewals with added geophysical and other hydrogeologic services) and with the 10 NRDs in the Interlocal for the Nebraska GeoCloud Project through cooperation with ENWRA.

Lower Platte River Basin Coalition

LPSNRD and DWEE are active participants in the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition (LPRBC), a group comprised of the seven Lower Platte River Basin NRDs and DWEE. The group's purpose is to develop and implement a voluntary water management plan for the Lower Platte River Basin. Plan components will be subsequently incorporated into individual IMPs to provide consistency in water management actions across NRD boundaries. Both DWEE and LPSNRD have representatives that serve on the Coalition's managers and technical committees and Board. The second 5-year increment of the voluntary water management plan will end in December 2026, but the Coalition has agreed to extend the current increment for an additional year. The plan's third increment will begin in 2028 following the completion of new modeling and the reassessment of hydrologically connected areas in the various NRDs. For more information about the Coalition, please see https://lprbc.nebraska.gov/.

Lower Platte River Consortium

LPSNRD and DWEE are committed and participating members of the Lower Platte River Drought Consortium (LPDC). The LPDC was formed through an interlocal agreement in 2016 and also includes Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, Omaha's Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.), and Lincoln Water System (LWS) as members. The Consortium is working together to develop regional solutions for the Lower Platte River to improve water supply reliability and drought resiliency.

The Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan (LPRDCP) is a collaborative project among these six water management agencies along with the Bureau of Reclamation. The LPRDCP was submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation for review and was finalized in October 2019. The Coalition completed the five-year Plan Review and update in 2024.

Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance

The Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) is a group comprised of the seven agencies, including the Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, DWEE, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska State Military Department, and the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Both LPSNRD and DWEE are active participants. The LPRCA is dedicated to working with people to protect the long-term vitality of the Lower Platte River Corridor. The mission of the LPRCA is to foster the development and implementation of locally drawn strategies, actions, and practices to protect, enhance, and restore the vitality of the Lower Platte River's resources. Created in 1996 through an interlocal agreement, the Alliance uses a variety of tools to assist counties, communities, governments, resource management organizations, and the public to meet Lower Platte River Corridor management challenges. These tools include public awareness events, educational workshops, recreation studies, water quality studies, floodplain studies, land-use planning assistance, and a variety of other projects. For more information about the LPRCA, please see www.lowerplatte.org.

Other Collaborations

In 2022 and 2023, LPSNRD worked with the former Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to obtain a Section 319 grant over three years to establish a Drinking Water Protection Specialist position. This position was filled in July 2023, and the specialist worked with several communities, especially Waverly, on protection and management of drinking water sources. This project grant will end in April 2026.

Jointly Identified Actions for Succeeding Two Years

As the IMP states, LPSNRD and DWEE will jointly identify action steps for the succeeding two years as a part of its annual reviews process. The following actions were identified by the LPSNRD and DWEE as priorities for the next two years. These actions will help ensure that progress continues towards meeting the goals and objectives of the IMP.

LPSNRD

1. Continue to monitor groundwater level changes through its network of groundwater monitoring wells.
2. Continue to meter and require annual pumping reports for groundwater wells that have capacity to pump over 50 gpm, as well as public supply wells, and assimilate the data into a comprehensive dataset.
3. Continue to collect information on municipal, rural water, and non-municipal industrial water use, land use and population changes, and changes in climate.
4. Develop recommendations for the development and management of geographic areas with limited aquifers.
5. Conduct discussions with municipalities and rural water districts on coordinating services with regional systems and on water shortage action plans.
6. Update Groundwater Management Plan

DWEE

7. Continue surface water monitoring activities including tracking surface water permit changes, pump site inspections and the voluntary surface water use reporting program.
8. Continue technical analyses and development of tools (INSIGHT) for water management, expanding the network to eastern Nebraska as data become available.
9. Continue development of the Lower Platte Missouri Tributaries models and convey progress and outcomes to LPSNRD.

LPSNRD and DWEE

10. Continue to participate in basin-wide or regional groups such as ENWRA, the Lower Platte River Consortium, Lower Platte River Basin Coalition, and the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance.
11. DWEE and LPSNRD have exchanged letters agreeing to amend the IMP to achieve consistency with the Lower Platte Basin Water Management Plan, specifically with stream depletion-based limits on new groundwater and surface water uses. We have paused to allow modeling work to be completed in conjunction with the next increment of the Basin-wide Plan, and will resume the IMP update informed by the updated science regarding hydrologically connected areas.
12. Continue respective public outreach activities and seek additional opportunities for joint public outreach events and publications.
13. Continue to evaluate the need for modifications to the LPSNRD streamgage network.

14. Continue to conduct quarterly coordination meetings with LPSNRD and DWEE staff to discuss IMP and related action items. Include LPSNRD Water Resources Subcommittee members on coordination meetings twice per year.
15. Ongoing Annual reporting and tracking requirements for IMP and Basin Plan.