

Report on 2025 Activities in the Upper Platte River Basin

Upper Platte River Basin-Wide Plan Annual Meeting
August 6, 2026

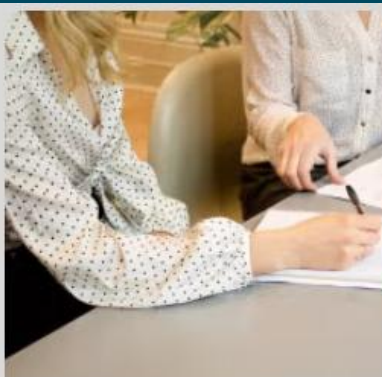
Sam Capps & Caitlin Kingsley
Integrated Water Planning Division

NEBRASKA

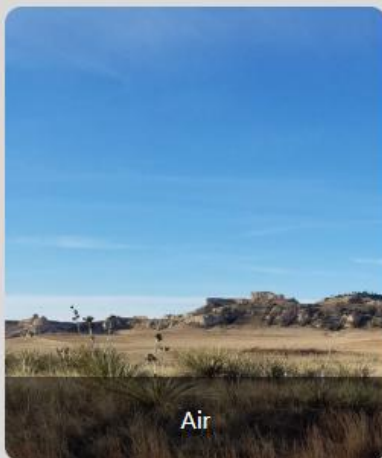
Good Life. Great Resources.

DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

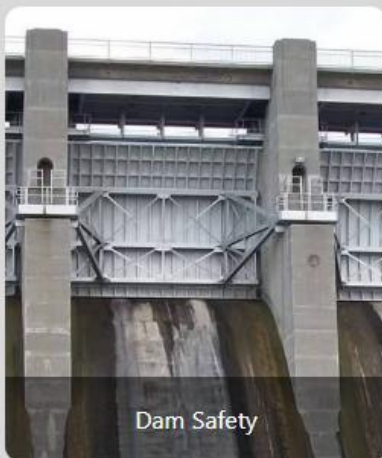
Protecting and enhancing Nebraska's water, energy, and environmental resources through science-based decision-making, strong partnerships, and cooperative efforts.



Aid



Air



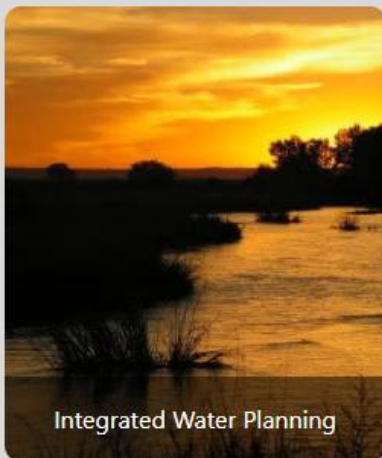
Dam Safety



Drinking Water and Water Wells



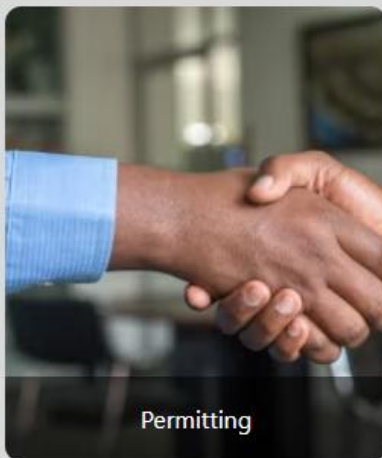
Floodplain Management



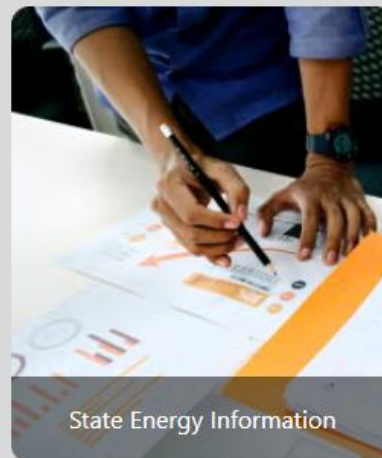
Integrated Water Planning



Land & Waste



Permitting

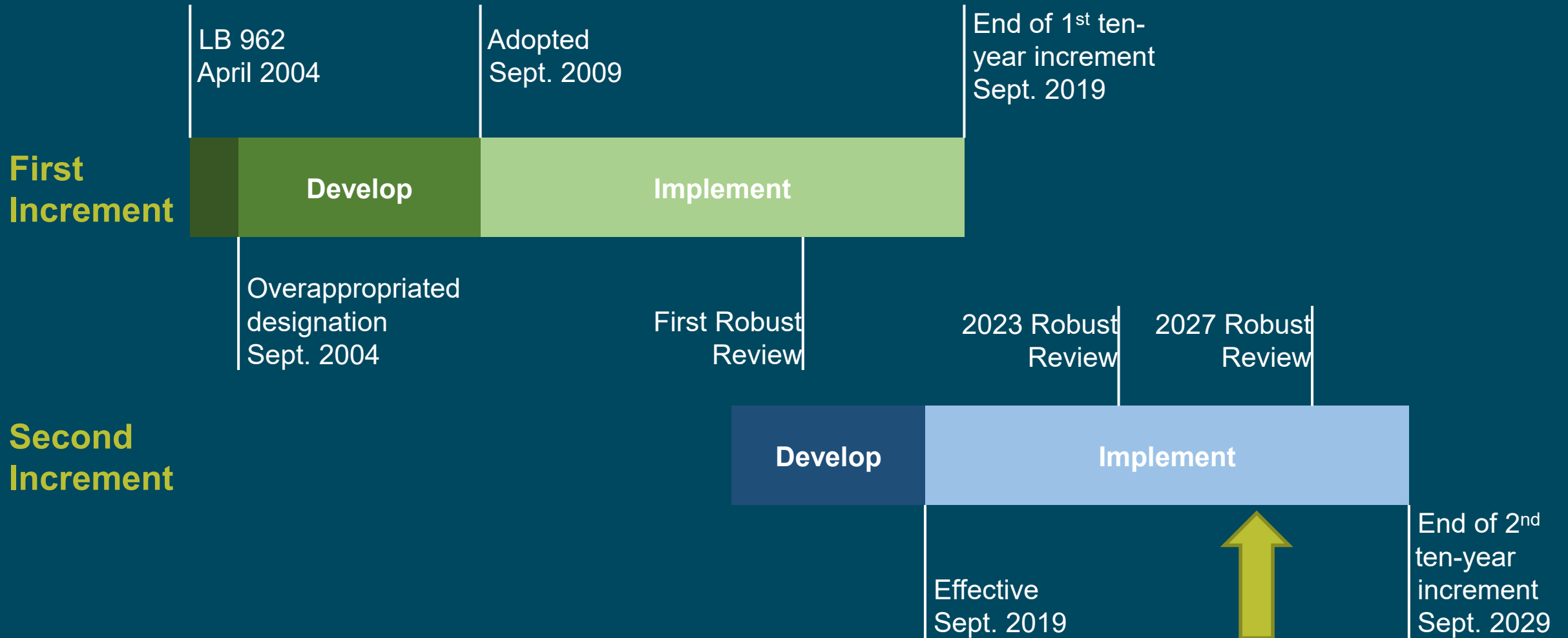


State Energy Information



Surface Water

Upper Platte Basin-Wide Plan Timeline



Report on 2025 Permitted Activities

Summary of 2025 Department Permitted Activities in the Upper Platte River Basin

- Twenty (20) new surface water permits approved
 - Nineteen (19) for temporary excess flow recharge
 - One (1) for temporary manufacturing
- One (1) dam plan approved
- No new net depletions to the basin

Surface Water Permits Approved in 2025

- Temporary permit A-20084 **repurposes** storage water in the Lake McConaughy Environmental Account for infrastructure testing at the Cottonwood Ranch Complex.

Appropriation Number	Approval Date	S-T-R W	Source or Canal	Use	Grant in CFS	Grant in AF	Surface Water or Groundwater Mitigation	Associated Variance
A-20084	4/4/2025	S03-T14-R38W	Kingsley Reservoir Environmental Account (A-2374, A-17695)	Temporary Manufacturing	75	150	**	VAR-11093

- ** Variance granted pursuant to 457 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 23 § 001.04

Surface Water Permits Approved in 2025

- Temporary recharge permits contain limitations that ensure the diversions will not impact state protected flows or species target flows.

Appropriation Number	Approval Date	S-T-R W	Source or Canal	Use	Grant in CFS	Grant in AF	Surface Water or Groundwater Mitigation	Associated Variance
A-20061	2/21/2025	S14-T18N-R47W	Lisco Canal	Temporary Recharge	40	-	*	VAR-10928
A-20062	2/21/2025	S03-T21N-R54W	Castle Rock Canal	Temporary Recharge	88	-	*	VAR-10922
A-20063	2/21/2025	S10-T23N-R60W	Gering (Mitchell-Gering) Canal	Temporary Recharge	75	-	*	VAR-10914
A-20064	2/21/2025	S01-T20N-R53W	Chimney Rock Canal	Temporary Recharge	27	-	*	VAR-10912
A-20065	2/21/2025	S10-T23N-R60W	Mitchell (Mitchell-Gering) Canal	Temporary Recharge	100	-	*	VAR-10927
A-20066	2/21/2025	S27-T23N-R57W	Enterprise Canal	Temporary Recharge	40	-	*	VAR-10921
A-20067	2/21/2025	S10-T23N-R58W	Farmers (Tri-State) Canal	Temporary Recharge	294	-	*	VAR-10913
A-20068	2/21/2025	S32-T22N-R54W	Minatare Canal	Temporary Recharge	40	-	*	VAR-10915
A-20069	2/24/2025	S18-T14N-R36W	Keith-Lincoln Canal	Temporary Recharge	80.56	-	*	VAR-10966

- * Variance granted pursuant to 457 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 23 § 001.03

Surface Water Permits Approved in 2025

Appropriation Number	Approval Date	S-T-R W	Source or Canal	Use	Grant in CFS	Grant in AF	Surface Water or Groundwater Mitigation	Associated Variance
A-20070	2/24/2025	S13-T14N-R34W	North Platte Canal	Temporary Recharge	201	-	*	VAR-10963
A-20071	2/24/2025	S18-T14N-R33W	Paxton-Hershey Canal	Temporary Recharge	102.78	-	*	VAR-10964
A-20072	2/24/2025	S12-T14N-R33W	Suburban Canal	Temporary Recharge	77.47	-	*	VAR-10965
A-20073	2/24/2025	S14-T12N-R43W	Western Canal	Temporary Recharge	176.26	-	*	VAR-10962
A-20074	2/21/2025	S10-T23N-R58W	Northport (via Tri-State) Canal	Temporary Recharge	150	-	*	VAR-10920
A-20075	2/21/2025	S18-T10N-R23W	Dawson County Canal	Temporary Recharge	100	-	*	VAR-10992
A-20076	2/21/2025	S19-T12N-R26W	Gothenburg Canal	Temporary Recharge	100	-	*	VAR-10994
A-20077	2/21/2025	S08-T13N-R36W	Korty Canal	Temporary Recharge	1,200	-	*	VAR-10993
A-20078	2/27/2025	S08-T13N-R29W	Tri-County Canal	Temporary Recharge	950	-	*	VAR-11049
A-20079	2/27/2025	S28-T22N-R55W	Central Canal	Temporary Recharge	33	-	*	VAR-11045

➤ * Variance granted pursuant to 457 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 23 § 001.03

Dam Plan Approved in 2025

➤ Oliver Dam Stilling Basin Replacement

- This permit did not modify the storage capacity or hydraulics of the dam and therefore does not result in a new consumptive use.

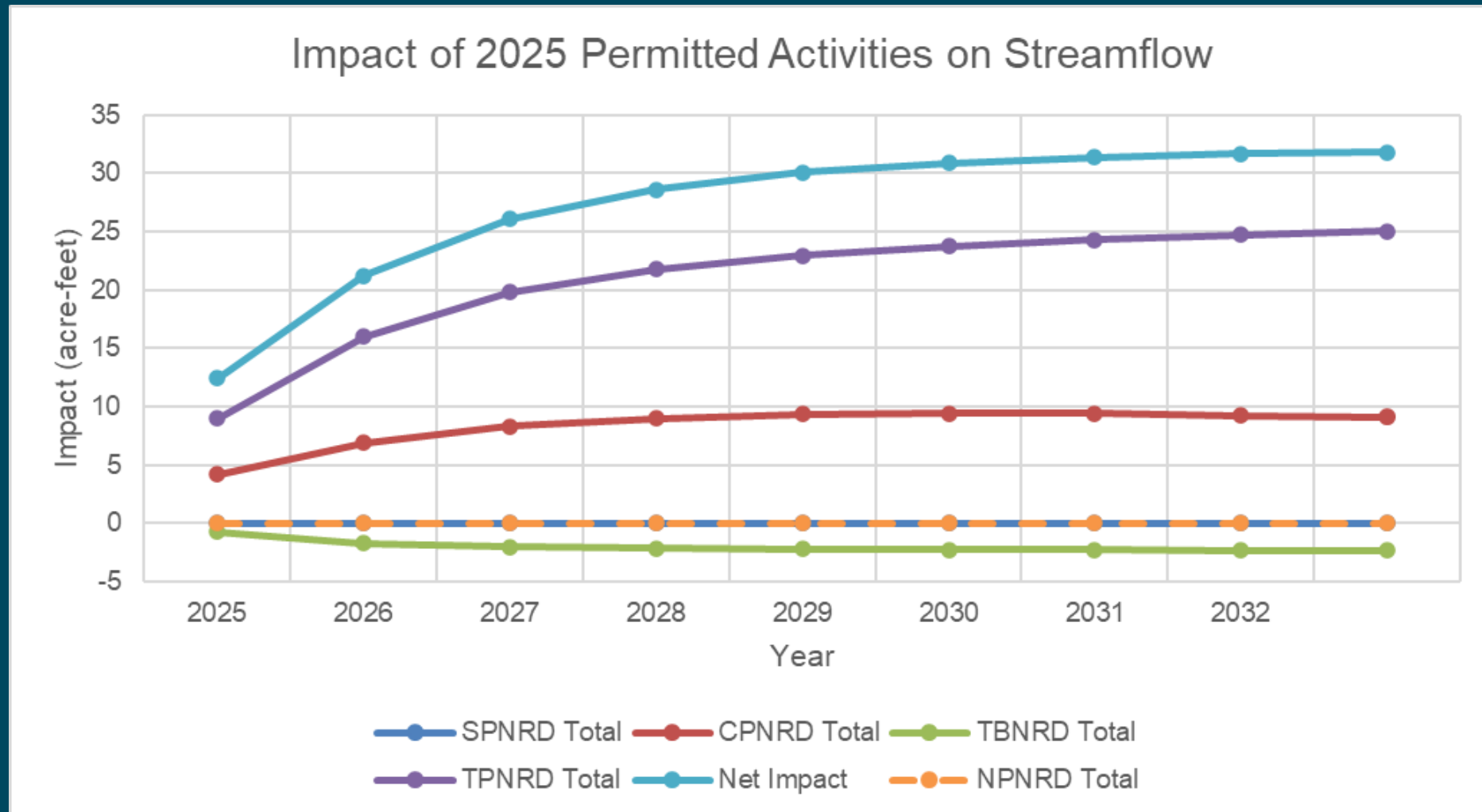
Plan Number	Order Date	Dam Status	S-T-R W	Project Name	Source	Use
P-21556	3/31/2025	Existing	S36-T15N-R57W	Oliver Dam Stilling Basin Replacement	Lodgepole Creek	Irrigation

Analysis of 2025 NRD Permitted Transfers

	CPNRD (74 Permits)			NPNRD (0 Permits)			SPNRD (0 Permits)			TBNRD (5 Permits)*,**			TPNRD (16 Permits)			All NRDs
Year	Depletion	Mitigation	Net Effect	Depletion	Mitigation	Net Effect	Depletion	Mitigation	Net Effect	Depletion	Mitigation	Net Effect	Depletion	Mitigation	Net Effect	Total Net Effect
2025	-10	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	-6	5	-1	-10	19	9	12
2026	-22	29	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	-9	8	-1	-17	33	16	22
2027	-32	40	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	-10	9	-1	-22	42	20	27
2028	-40	49	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	-11	10	-1	-28	49	22	30
2029	-48	57	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	-12	11	0	-32	55	23	32
2030	-54	64	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	-12	12	0	-36	60	24	33
2031	-60	69	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	-13	12	0	-39	64	24	33
2032	-65	74	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	-13	13	0	-42	67	25	34

**One transfer was excluded from the analysis due to a substantial difference in results between methodologies. This transfer will be further assessed in the 2027 Robust Review.

Impacts of 2025 Transfers on Streamflow



Project Updates

Drought Contingency Planning in the Basin

- Upper Platte River Drought Contingency Plan (UPRDCP) completed and adopted in December 2025
 - Project website: <https://dwee.nebraska.gov/water-planning/upper-platte-river-drought-contingency-plan>
- The UPRDCP establishes a framework for coordination and communication among the Upper Platte River NRDs and the Department to address drought. The Plan also provides a “menu” of drought mitigation and response actions for each NRD to select from and incorporate into their drought plans.
- BWP Action Item 1.3.4 specifies that the Basin drought contingency plan will serve as a guide for plans to be developed by each individual NRD as part of this action item.

Robust Review

➤ Purpose:

1. An evaluation of the impact of pre- and post-July 1, 1997, development, and progress towards Plan goals/objectives/action items.

➤ Outcomes:

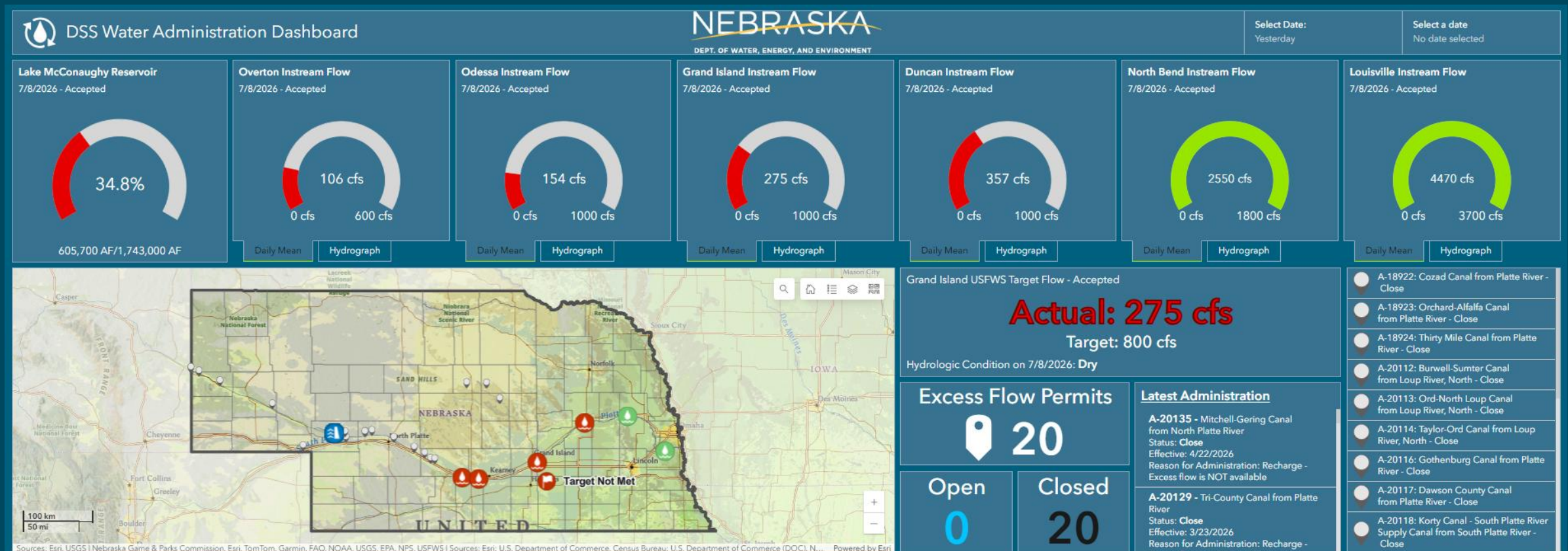
1. A 50-year estimate of the **streamflow depletions** associated with pre- and post-1997 levels of water use development within the hydrologically connected area of the overappropriated basin within each NRD and within the entirety of each NRD.
2. A 50-year estimate of **streamflow accretions** associated with management actions implemented by each NRD and Department within the hydrologically connected area of the overappropriated basin within each NRD and within the entirety of the NRD.
3. A summary of the **net streamflow depletions** within the overappropriated basin resulting from groundwater pumping within each NRD.

2027 Robust Review Updates

- Overarching 2027 Robust Review Scope of Work reviewed by the POAC Technical Committee and the POAC Administrators
- The Platte Basin Coalition is preparing to establish contracts with Consultants for 2027 Robust Review support
- Aiming to update all data through 2025

Decision Support System (DSS) for Excess Flows

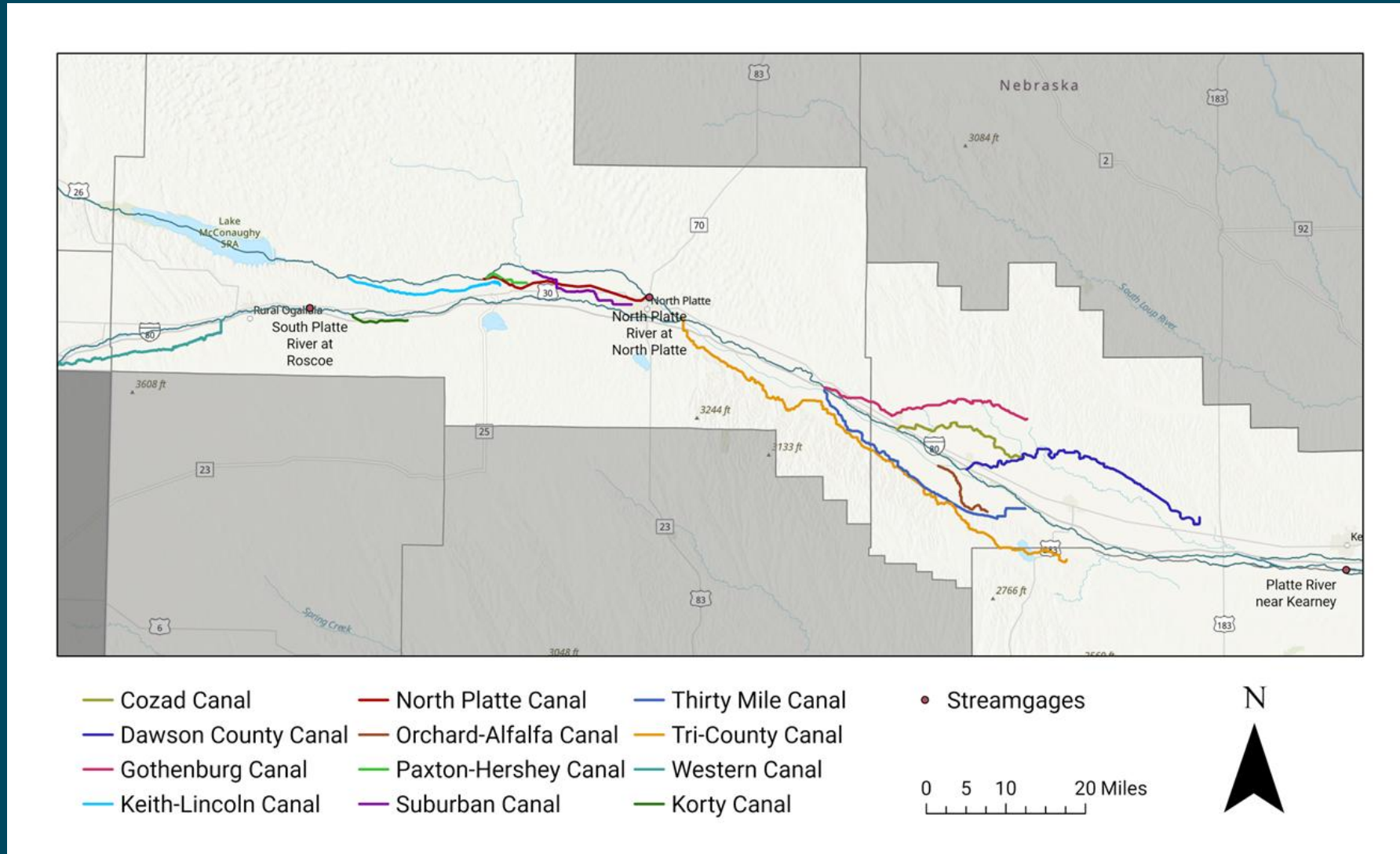
- The DSS landing page, dashboard, and StoryMaps have been migrated to the DWEE Portal. DSS login and data are not affected by the migration.



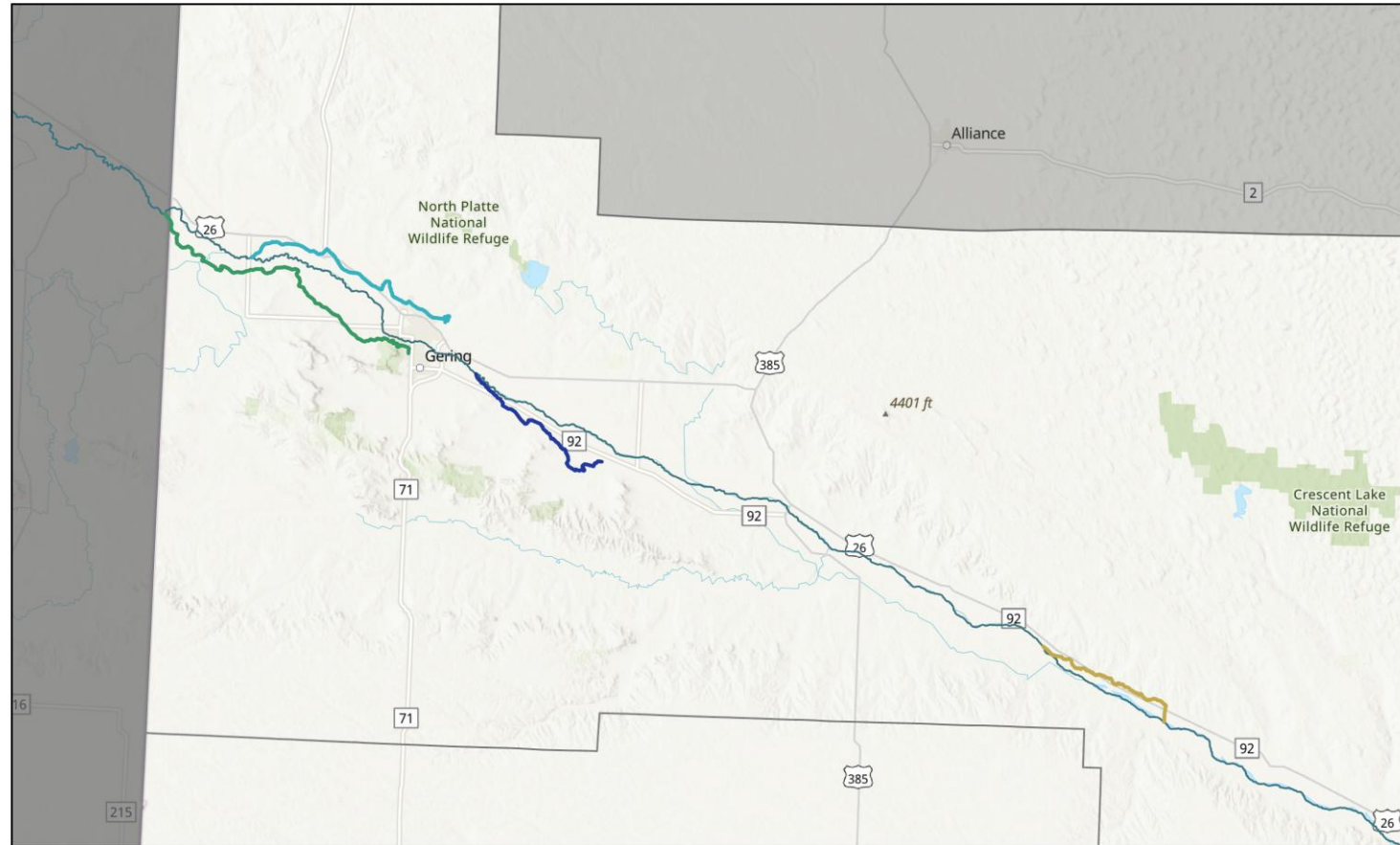
Excess Flow Communications

- When excess flows are available, Water Administration sends notice to the owner/operator of the recharge appropriation
 - Open effective date & time
 - Allowed diversion rate in cfs
 - Water source & carrier
- When excess flows are no longer available, Water Administration issues a closing notice
- DSS contains the latest administration for each active excess flow permit

Canals With Active Excess Flow Permits in 2026



Canals With Active Excess Flow Permits in 2026

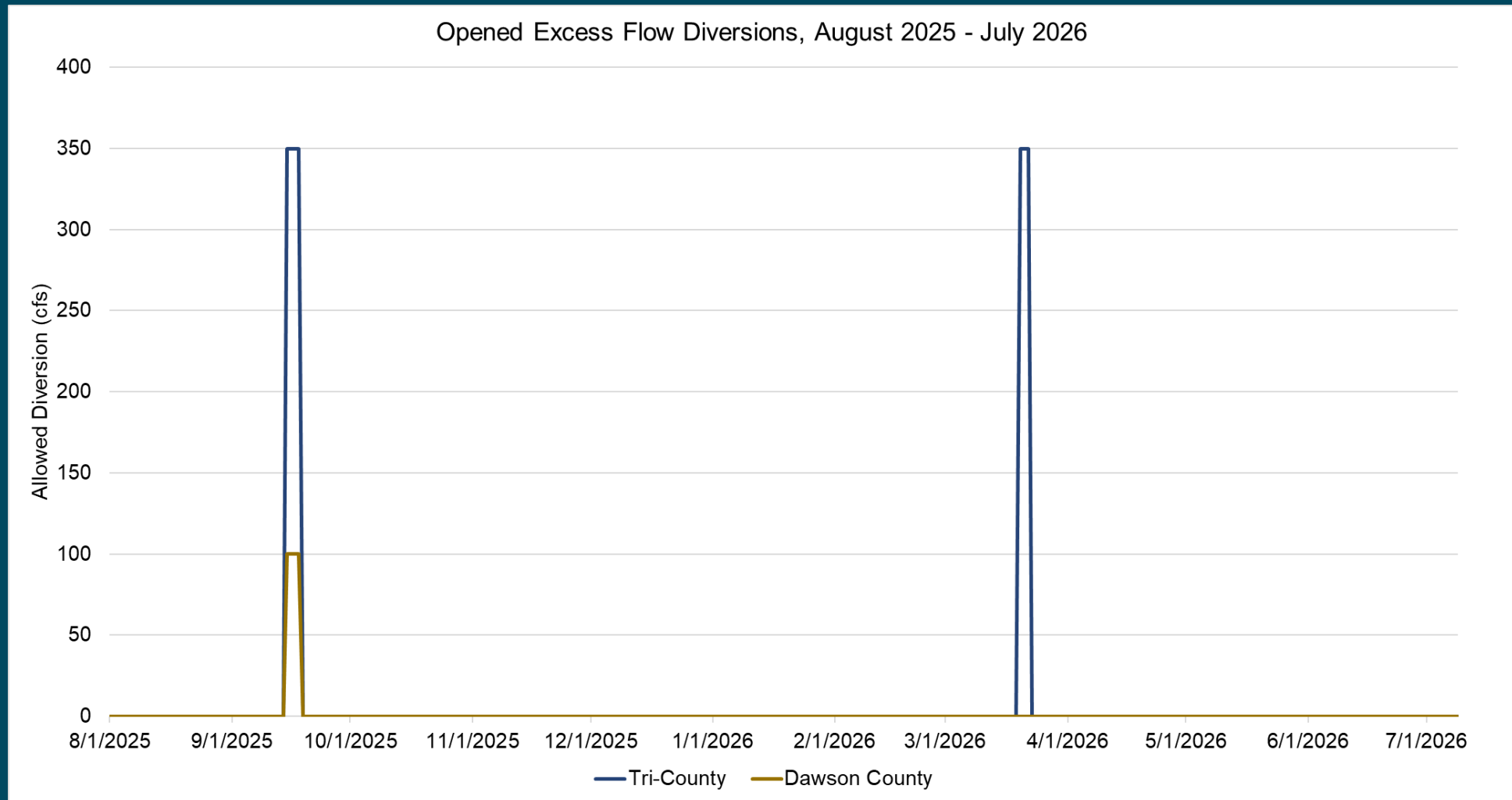


— Mitchell and Gering Canal — Castle Rock Canal
— Enterprise Canal — Lisco Canal

0 4 8 16 Miles



Recent Excess Flow Events



THANK YOU

Sam Capps, Integrated Water Management Coordinator

Caitlin Kingsley, Environmental Specialist III

Jack Mensinger, Environmental Specialist III

Ann Clay, Environmental Specialist III