

Ground Water Management Plan
2005 Revision
November 9, 2004

46-709. Ground water management plan; required; contents. Each district shall maintain a ground water management plan based upon the best available information and shall submit amendments to such plan to the Director of Natural Resources for review and approval.

The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the identification to the extent possible of:

(11) Ground water management objectives, including a proposed ground water reservoir life goal for the district. For management plans adopted or revised after July 19, 1996, the ground water management objectives may include any proposed integrated management objectives for hydrologically connected ground water and surface water supplies but a management plan does not have to be revised prior to the adoption or implementation of an integrated management plan pursuant to section 46-718 or 46-719;

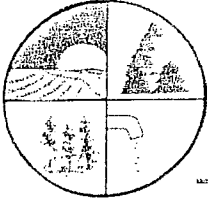
Current Reservoir Life Goal

The ground water reservoir life goal of this plan is 75 years, or until the year 2068. This means maintaining an adequate supply of ground water of acceptable quality for 75 years to meet overall needs essential to the general welfare of citizens and the present and future development of agriculture.

Proposed Reservoir Life Goal

To sustain a balance between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety and welfare of the river basin can be achieved and maintained for both the near term and the long term.

(46-715 language for developing an integrated management plan after being declared fully appropriated)



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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

DATE: November 3, 2004

TO: Middle Republican NRD Cooperating Agencies

FROM: Kara Gall, Information and Education Coordinator

RE: 2004 MRNRD Long Range Implementation Plan

Enclosed you will find the draft version of the 2004 Middle Republican NRD Long Range Implementation Plan. Please review and be prepared to approve it at the December meeting with corrections if needed. Since this is only a draft, I will give you a copy of the final plan when it is approved. Several of the pages will be in color and written notations will be replaced in the final copy.

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Distribution List

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Game and Parks Commission State Office	1
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Statement of Adoption

This Long Range Implementation Plan was adopted by the Middle Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors at their regular meeting held on September 9, 2004 at McCook, Nebraska.

Gayle Haag, Chair

Christy Peterson, Board Secretary

This 2004 Long Range Implementation Plan has been prepared to outline and explain the Middle Republican Natural Resources District's programs and projects, activities for FY 2004-2005, and activities planned for the next five fiscal years.

Recorded minutes of all district meetings are on file at the Middle Republican Natural Resources District office at 220 Center Ave., Curtis, Nebraska.

The regular meeting date for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District is the second Tuesday of each month.

Questions about handicap access or provisions for persons with disabilities should be directed to:

Manager
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P.O. Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025
308-367-4281
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www.mrnr.org

Chapter One - INTRODUCTION

I. Authorities For Planning

The responsibilities of a natural resources district are broad and complex. Careful and effective planning results in definite goals and a clear plan of action. Goals, courses of action, and objectives are set forth in the Middle Republican Natural Resources District's Master Plan and this Long Range Implementation Plan. These plans are authorized under sections 2-3276 and 2-3277 of the Natural Resources District law (chapter 2, article 32).

Section 2-3276 – Districts; Master Plan; Prepare and Adopt; Contents; Review; Filed. By August 1, 1979, each natural resources district shall prepare and adopt a master plan to include but not be limited to a statement of goals and objectives for each of the purposes stated in section 2-3229. The Master Plan shall be reviewed and updated as often as deemed necessary by the district, but in no event less often than once each 10 years. A copy of the Master Plan as adopted and all revisions and updates thereto shall be filed with the Department of Natural Resources.

Section 2-3277 – Districts; Long Range Implementation Plan; Prepare and Adopt; Contents; Reviewed; Filed; With Whom; Commission; Develop Guidelines. Each district shall also prepare and adopt a Long Range Implementation Plan which shall summarize planned district activities and include projections of financial, manpower, and land right needs of the district for at least the next five years and the specific needs assessment upon which the current budget is based. Such Long Range Implementation Plan shall be reviewed and updated annually. A copy of the Long Range Implementation Plan and all revisions and updates thereto as adopted, shall be filed with the Department of Natural Resources, the Governor's Policy Research Office, and the Game and Parks Commission on or before October 1 of each year. The Department of Natural Resources shall develop and make available to the districts suggested guidelines regarding the format and general content of such Long Range Implementation Plan.

2. Purposes

Natural resources districts were assigned broad authorities and responsibilities under section 2-3229 of the Natural Resources District law, which states:

"The purposes of natural resources districts shall be to develop and execute, through the exercise of powers and authorities contained in this act, plans, facilities, works and programs relating to:

1. *erosion prevention and control,*
2. *prevention of damages from flood water and sediment,*
3. *flood prevention and control,*
4. *soil conservation,*
5. *water supply for any beneficial use,*
6. *development, management, utilization, and conservation of ground water and conservation of ground water and surface water,*
7. *pollution control,*
8. *solid waste disposal and sanitary drainage,*
9. *drainage improvement and channel rectification,*
10. *development and management of fish and wildlife habitat,*

11. *development and management of recreational and park facilities,*
12. *forestry and range management...*"

The general purpose of this Long Range Implementation Plan is to plan programs and activities for the management, utilization, and development of land and water resources within the Middle Republican Natural Resources District over the next five years, and inform others of the district's intentions. This will allow for better coordination with other entities and agencies (Table 1).

Statutory purposes of the Long Range Implementation Plan for natural resources districts are:

- to summarize planned district activities,
- to list financial, manpower, and land rights needs for the current year,
- to project these same needs for the next five years.

Additional purposes of the Long Range Implementation Plan are:

- to guide decisions for district actions,
 - to inform the public of district plans,
 - to guide annual budget preparations.
-

Table 1

Legislative Responsibilities and MRNRD Responses

AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVES
A. <u>Erosion Prevention and Control</u>	Reduce soil erosion to acceptable limits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administer the Nebraska Erosion and Sediment Act 2. Approve conservation plans for private lands 3. Administer cost-share assistance programs 4. Assist with the implementation of best management practices 5. Provide educational and technical assistance
B. <u>Floodwater and Sediment Management</u>	Reduce flood and sediment damage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sponsor Dry Creek Pilot Project (PL-566) 2. Sponsor Dry Creek South Project (PL-566) 3. Sponsor Upper Medicine Creek Project (PL-566) 4. Sponsor Lower Medicine Creek Project (PL-566) 5. Sponsor Blackwood Creek Project (PL-566) 6. Sponsor McCook Flood Control Project (NRDF)
C. <u>Flood Prevention and Control</u>	Construct flood control structure only when feasible and cost share comparison is favorable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine feasibility of flood control projects for areas where perpetual flood damage occurs 2. Assess public interest in projects 3. Make applications for federal or state flood control assistance
D. <u>Soil Conservation</u>	Conserve and protect soil resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage landowners to apply best management practices 2. Review and approve local soil and water conservation plans 3. Assist landowners in the implementation of best management practices 4. Provide farmers and ranchers cost share assistance for soil conservation practices
E. <u>Water Supply</u>	Monitor, maintain and improve the quality and quantity of surface and ground water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote beneficial and efficient use of all water resources 2. Monitor, inventory and evaluate the quality and quantity of surface and ground water on a continuing basis 3. Comply with state and federal permit requirements for impoundment or use 4. Assist patrons with information for proper design and construction of water development projects
F. <u>Development, Management, Utilization and Conservation of Ground and Surface Water</u>	Ground and surface water will be managed in a beneficial and efficient manner to provide for future needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure static water levels of the ground water reservoir annually 2. Take water quality samples annually 3. Cooperate with state and federal agencies in maintaining ground water quality and quantity databases 4. Implement and maintain ground water management areas as needed to address water quality and quantity concerns 5. Implement Integrated Management Plan for hydrologically connected ground and surface water

Legislative Responsibilities and MRNRD Responses

AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVES
G. <u>Pollution Control</u>	Maintain or improve the present quality of air and water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out the permit and inspection requirements of the Nebraska Chemigation Act 2. Report point source contamination to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control 3. Provide technical and cost share assistance for landowners to implement best management practices to reduce potential pollution 4. Promote eco-fallow and conservation tillage systems on cropland
H. <u>Drainage Improvement and Channel Rectification</u>	Assist with development of drainage or channel improvements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete a thorough environmental impact study when contemplating major drainage improvements or rectification work
I. <u>Development and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat</u>	Preserve, develop and manage fish and wildlife habitat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperate with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in implementing the WILD Nebraska Program 2. Consider incorporating fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement in district projects where feasible 3. Cooperate with private groups or organizations and individuals to improve fish and wildlife habitat
J. <u>Development and Management of Recreational and Park Facilities</u>	Assist communities with the development of recreational and park facilities for public use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide financial and advisory assistance to communities that are developing outdoor recreation facilities for the public
K. <u>Forestry and Range Management</u>	Develop, improve and maintain rangelands and woodlands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide trees and a tree planting service 2. Administer forestry cost share assistance programs 3. Promote planned grazing systems and proper range management practices for livestock grazing operations
L. <u>Solid Waste Disposal and Sanitary Drainage</u>	Assist local and county governments with the administration of solid waste and sanitary drainage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Furnish soils, water and other geologic information to counties, cities and towns when requested 2. Comply with rules and regulations for solid waste and sanitary drainage in district operations and programs

3. Description of the District

A. Physical Description

Located in southwestern Nebraska, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District consists of all of Hayes, Hitchcock, and Red Willow Counties, most of Frontier County, and the southern one-fourth of Lincoln County (Figure 1). The district is bounded by the Kansas state line on the south and is 72 miles wide (from east to west) and 63 miles long (from north to south). The city of McCook is the largest municipality.

Total Land Area: 3,805 square miles or 2,449,380 acres

Elevations: 2,500 to 3,100 ft. above sea level

Precipitation: The average annual precipitation ranges from 19 inches in the west to 22 inches in the east. Nearly three fourths of the precipitation falls from April to September with frequent variations between seasons. Drought conditions are not uncommon. Southwest Nebraska has been in a severe drought for the past five years. (See Figures 2-5.)

Surface Water: Major rivers are the Republican and the Frenchman. Other tributaries are Medicine, Blackwood, Red Willow, Stinking Water, Muddy, Driftwood, and Beaver Creeks. Flood control and irrigation supply dams are located at Swanson Reservoir west of Trenton on the Republican River, Red Willow Lake north of McCook on the Red Willow Creek, and Harry Strunk Lake north of Cambridge on the Medicine Creek. Another dam is at Enders Lake on the Frenchman River west of the district boundary. These dams supply surface water for irrigation to 73,875 acres of crops located in the Middle Republican NRD.

Soil Types: Soils range from sandy in the north and west to silt in the south and east.

Land Use: Land use ranges from ranching in the north and west to farming in the south and east. Nearly 52% of the land consists of grazed pasture and rangeland, while 46% is considered cropland. The remaining 2% are in urban areas, trees, water, roads and farmsteads

Crops: The major crops are corn, wheat, and sorghum, all grown under dryland and irrigated conditions. Corn is the primary crop. Grain and forage are grown as livestock feed.

Livestock: Beef cattle are the most common livestock with hog production on the rise.

Water: Ground water is in abundance in most areas except south of the Republican River. As of October 2004, 3,549 irrigation wells were registered.

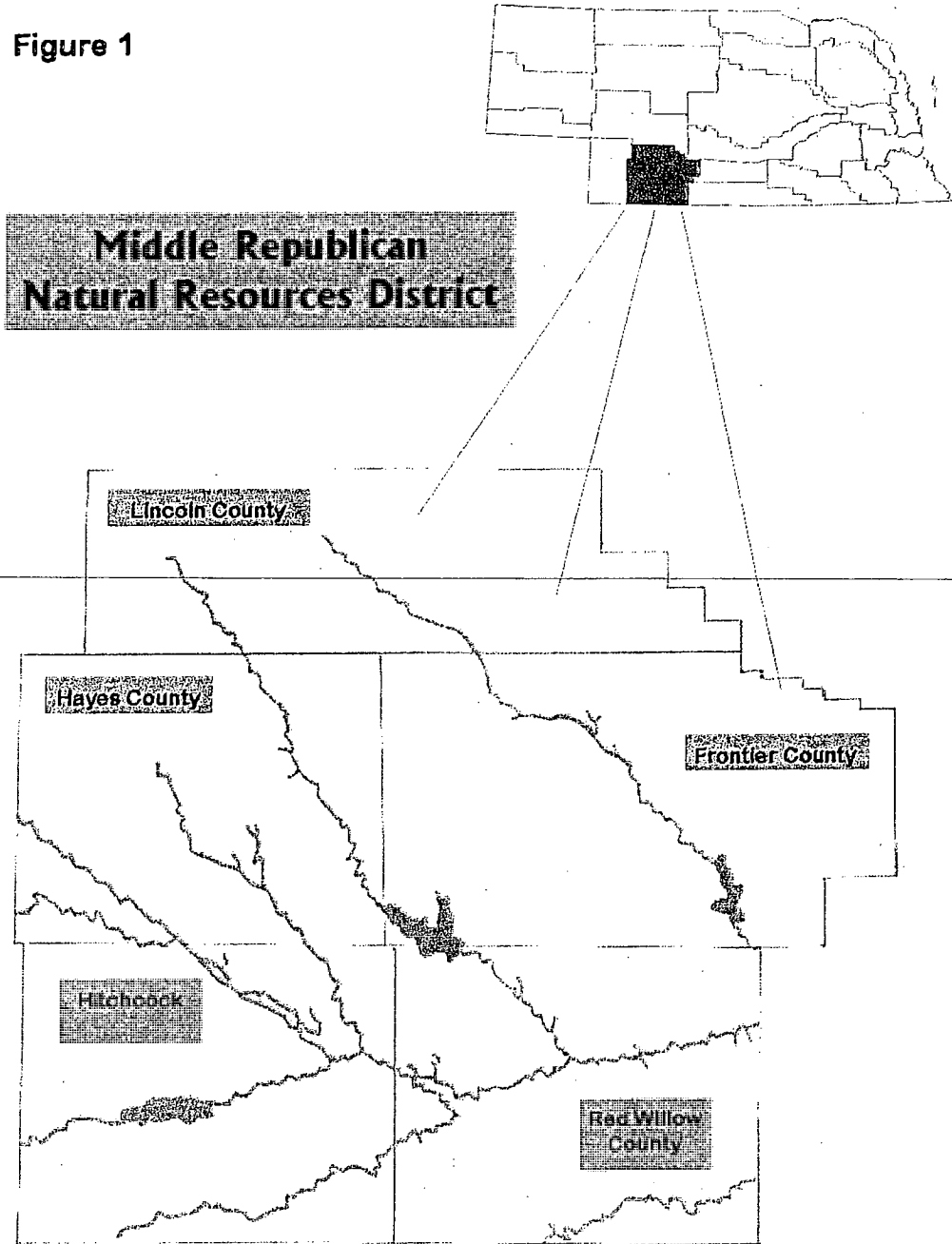
Climate: The climate is one of limited precipitation, low humidity, frequent wind shifts, and frequent sharp temperature changes. The Rocky Mountains to the west have a major effect on the district's climate.

Population: The 2000 census reported 19,302 people (Figure 5). There are no major changes anticipated in population in the near future. Population numbers have seen major

declines in the district in the previous 50 years. The average age of residents exceeds the national average.

Economy: Most occupations are related to or are dependant on agriculture. There is some light industrial development in and around McCook. Hitchcock and Red Willow Counties are state leaders in crude oil production.

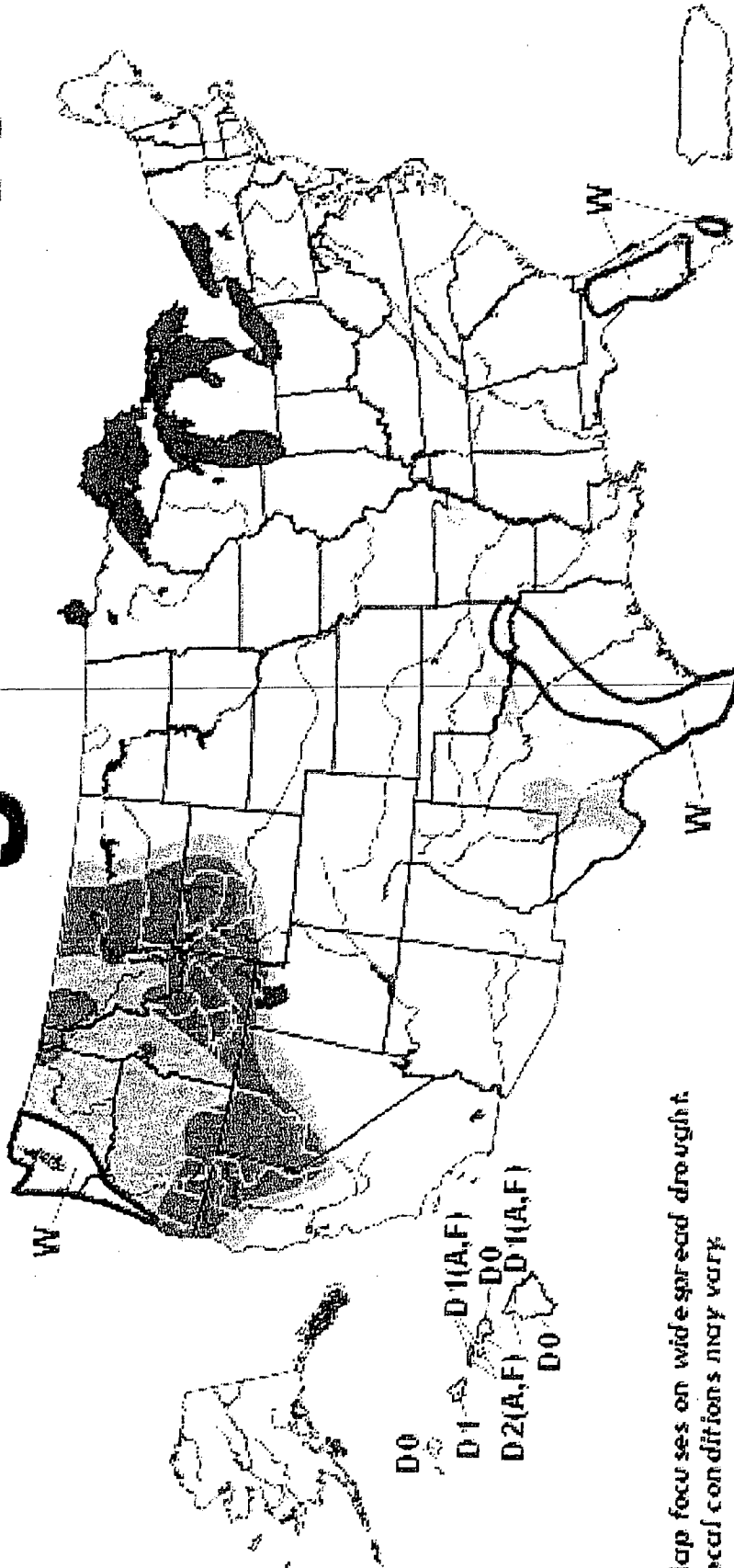
Figure 1



September 4, 2001

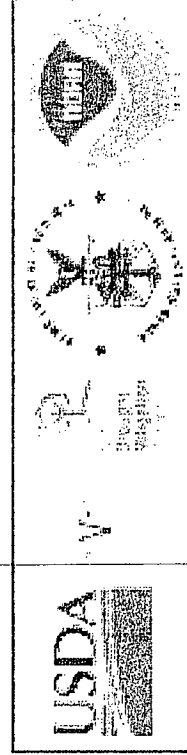
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

U.S. Drought Monitor



Map focuses on widespread drought.
Local conditions may vary.

- Drought Impact Types:**
- D0 Abnormally Dry
 - D1 Drought-Moderate
 - D2 Drought-Severe
 - D3 Drought-Extreme
 - D4 Drought-Exceptional
 - Delineates Overlapping Areas
- Abnormal Impact Types:**
- A = Agriculture
 - W = Water (Hydrological)
 - F = Fire danger (Wildfires)
- (No type = All 3 impacts)

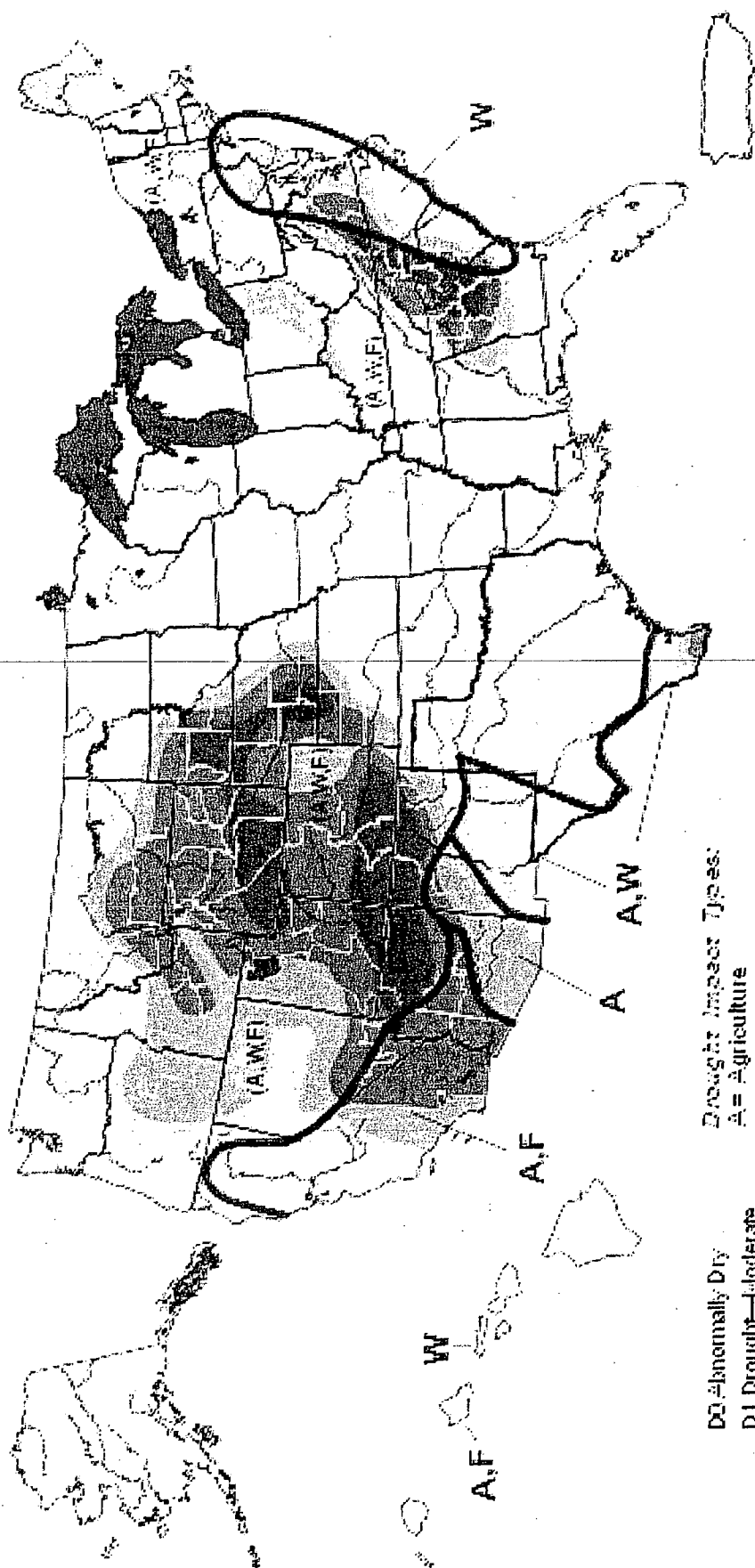


See accompanying text summary for forecast statements
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/monitoring/monitor.html>

Released Thursday, September 6, 2001
Author: Rich Tinker, NOAA/NCEP

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 3, 2002
 valid 8 a.m. EDT



- Drought Impact Types:**
- A = Agriculture
 - W = Water (Hydrological)
 - F = Fire danger (Wildfires)
 - ☑ Delineates dominant impacts (No type = All 3 impacts)
- Drought Impact Types:**
- D0 Abnormally Dry
 - D1 Drought—Moderate
 - D2 Drought—Severe
 - D3 Drought—Extreme
 - D4 Drought—Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

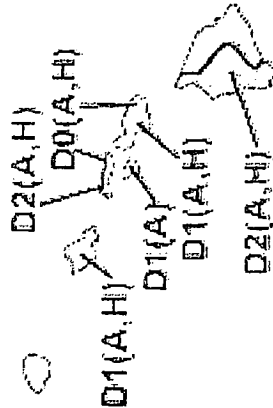
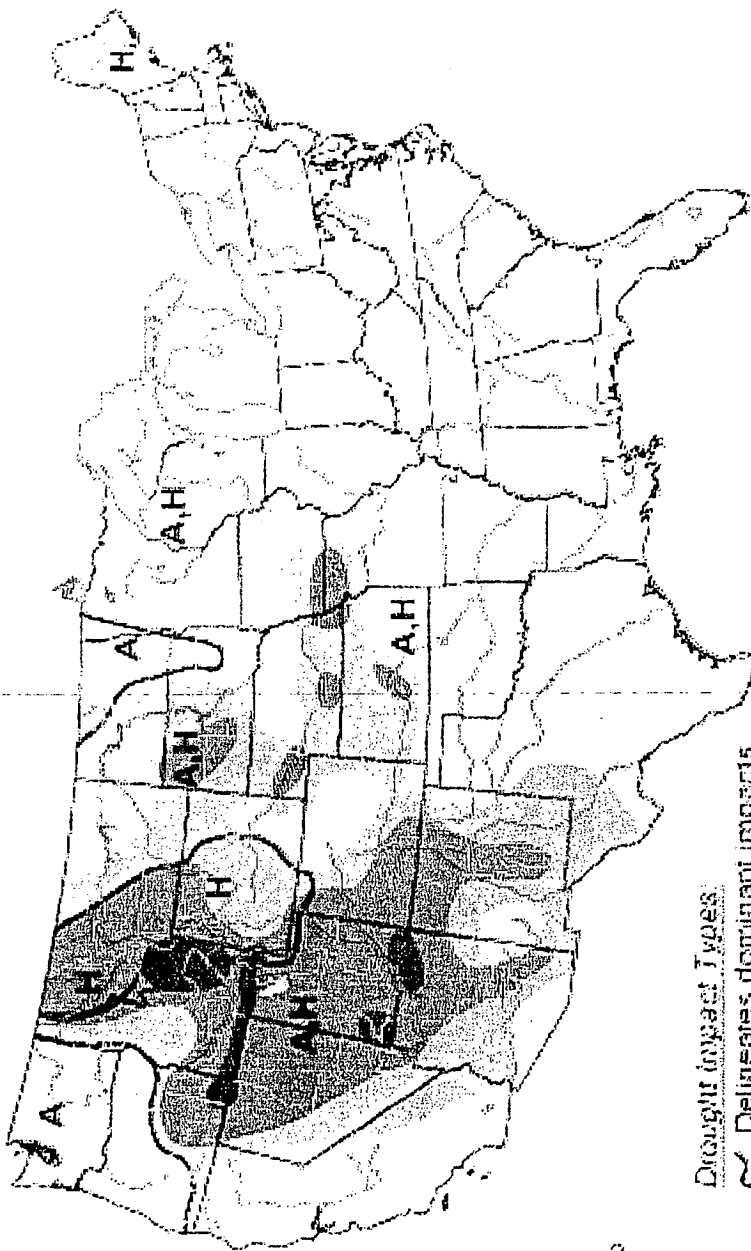


Released Thursday, September 5, 2002
 Author: Douglas LeComte, NOAA/NCEP

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 2, 2003
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Drought - Moderate
 D2 Drought - Severe
 D3 Drought - Extreme
 D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
 ~ Delineates dominant impacts
 A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
 H = Hydrological (water)
 [No type = Both impacts]

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

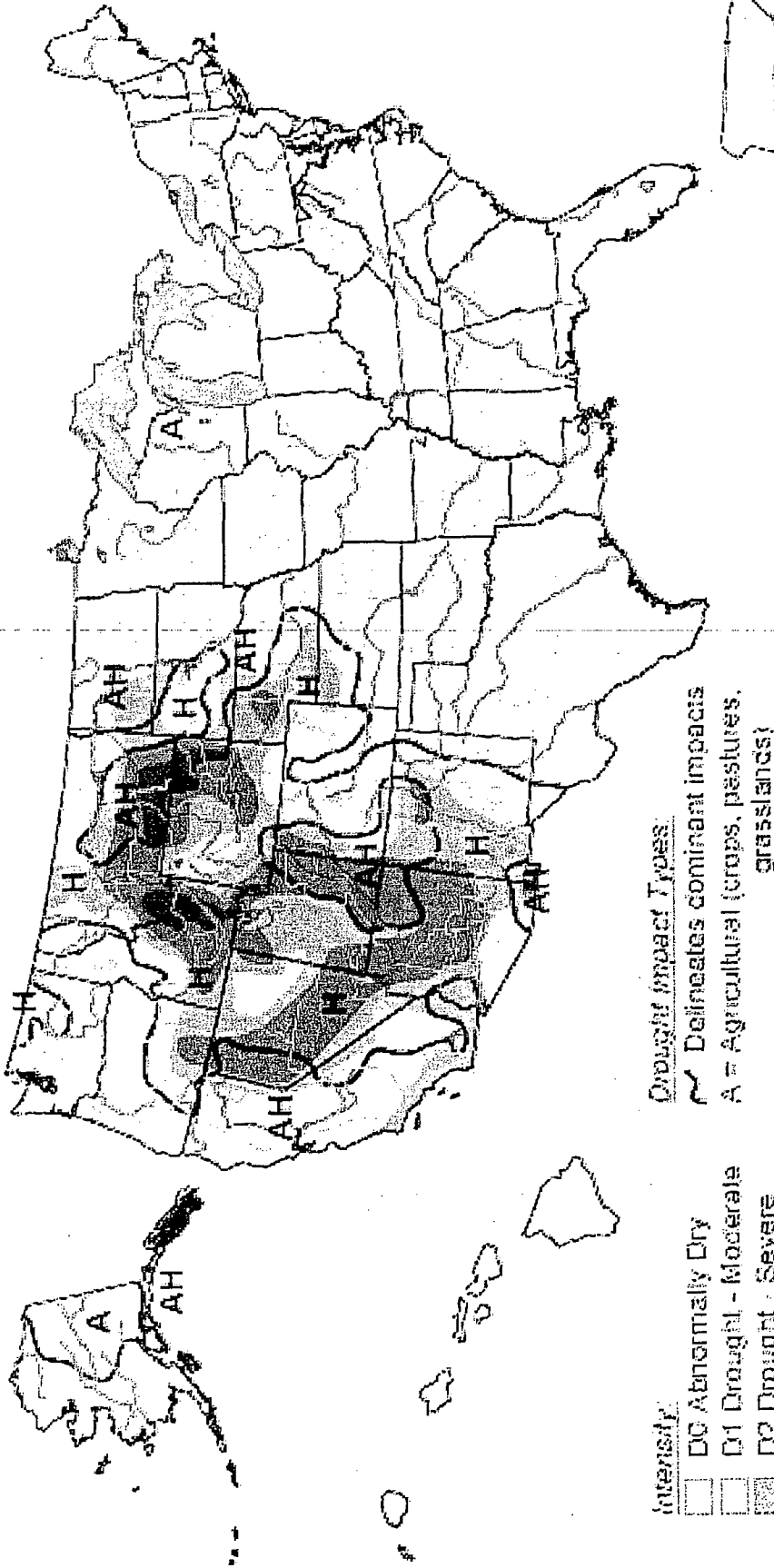


Released Thursday, September 4, 2003
 Author: Mark Svoboda, NDMC

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 7, 2004
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)
- (No type = Both impacts)

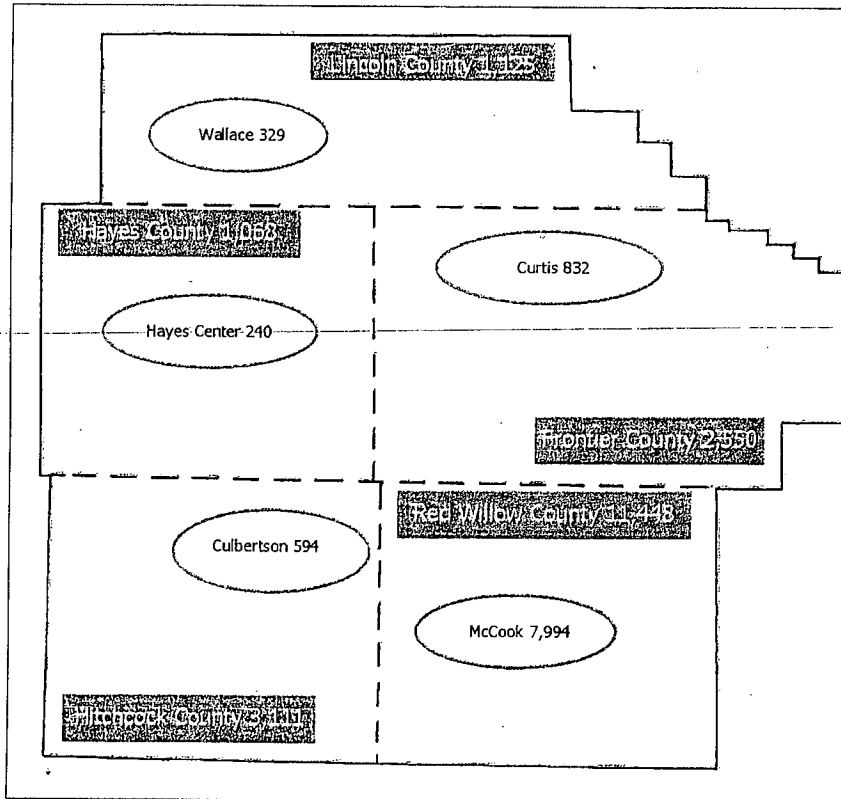
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Released Thursday, September 9, 2004
Author: Doug Le Comte, GPC/NOAA

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Figure 6

Middle Republican Natural Resources District Population Data—2000 Census



The numbers shown above are the populations for each county in the district as well as the largest city/town in each county.

B. Governing Board

When the Middle Republican Natural Resources District began operations on July 1, 1972 as a political subdivision of the state, it accepted all assets, liabilities, and obligations of the former special purpose districts of which it replaced. This consolidation included all or most of Frontier, Palisade, Red Willow and Hitchcock County Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and the Upper and Lower Medicine Creek, Blackwood Creek, Dry Creek Pilot, and Dry Creek South Watershed Conservancy Districts. A small part of the Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District was also merged. The Perry Drainage District merged into the Middle Republican NRD on March 30, 1976.

1. Board of Directors:

The board consists of eleven members who are elected at large. Five of the board seats will be up for election in 2004. Six seats will be up for election in 2006. The board of directors is responsible for adopting all policies, projects, and programs of the natural resources district. Current board members are:

Gayle Haag, Chair	Bartley
Wayne Madsen, Vice-Chair	Trenton
Duane Dodson, Treasurer	Maywood
Joe Anderjaska	Hayes Center
Kevin Fornoff	Hayes Center
Del Harsh	Cambridge
Dennis Hoyt	Culbertson
Stan Moore	Bartley
Mike Peters	McCook
Don Roberts	McCook
Kelly Wertz	Trenton

2. Staff:

The headquarters staff is responsible to the board of directors and carries out day-to-day operations of the district. Field office secretaries are provided by the district to the four Natural Resources Conservation Service field offices located within the boundaries of the Middle Republican NRD. Other technical, maintenance, and operational employees will be hired primarily for seasonal work on a part-time basis. Current staff members are:

Daniel Smith	General Manager
Kara Gall	Information and Education Coordinator
Richard Karre	Technical Supervisor
Mike Keahey	Technician
Robert Merrigan	Assistant General Manager
Christy Peterson	Office Supervisor & Secretary to the Board
Mary Tidyman	Secretary/Receptionist
Kathy Barger	Field Office Secretary (Hayes County)
Betty Fritsch	Field Office Secretary (Red Willow County)
Carol Lashley	Field Office Secretary (Hitchcock County)
Mardee Studnicka	Field Office Secretary (Frontier County)

3. District Documents

Natural resources districts are required to write and develop other plans besides this Long Range Implementation Plan. The district also cooperates on plans with other units of Government. These plans, other rules, and regulations adopted by the district, interlocal agreements, and policy documents are described below for further reference.

General

1. Master Plan – This plan contains the board of director's general policy statement, district goals and objectives, and areas of responsibility. This plan was first adopted in 1979 and was rewritten and adopted in 1989 and 1999.
2. Annual Report – The Annual Report is a summary of district activities for the calendar year and is included as a supplement to the District's February newsletter.

Flood Control

1. Upper and Lower Medicine Creek Watershed Work Plans – These plans outline work plans for constructing nine floodwater retarding structures and implementing land treatment practices. Developed in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service under PL566, this project is located in Lincoln and Frontier Counties. The three remaining structures 440, 220 and 270 will not be completed. In June of 2004 the board took action to close this watershed project due to the inability to obtain the required storage permits from the Department of Natural Resources. The Department is unable to issue these permits because of the terms and conditions of the Republican River Compact Settlement.
2. Blackwood Creek Watershed Work Plan – This is a plan of work for constructing 13 floodwater-retarding structures and implementing land treatment practices. This was developed in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service under PL566 and is located in Hayes, Hitchcock, and Red Willow Counties. The remaining structures P1 and 31-A will not be completed. In June of 2004 the board took action to close this watershed project due to the inability to obtain the required storage permits from the Department of Natural Resources. The Department is unable to issue these permits because of the terms and conditions of the Republican River Compact Settlement.
3. Kelly Creek Flood Control Project Plan – This contains a plan of work for constructing two floodwater-retarding structures and a discharge channel within the City of McCook. The west dam and channel are in operation, but the east dam has never been built.

This project was developed in cooperation with the former Natural Resources Commission (now the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources) with funding assistance from the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. The Middle Republican Natural Resources District, the City of McCook, and Red Willow County provided local sponsorship.

Ground Water Management

1. Ground Water Management Plan – This plan contains an inventory of existing data on ground water resources, goals for ground water quality and quantity, triggers for regulatory actions, describes ground water monitoring and programs, and provides guidance for ground water management for the next few years. The former Department of Water Resources (now DNR) approved it on January 4, 1994. This plan will be revised after completion of an Integrated Management Plan in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources.
2. Local Action Plan - Ground Water Quality Management Area/Red Willow and Hitchcock Counties – Approved on June 17, 1992 by the Director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, this plan contains the plan of action in a 450 square mile area, to prevent the average level of nitrate/nitrogen in the ground water from reaching 10 milligrams per liter.
3. Integrated Management Plan – Following the adoption of LB 962 in April of 2004, with an effective date of July 16, 2004, the process to be followed by the NRD was changed from a Joint Action Plan under the old statutes to an Integrated Management Plan. A public hearing, for the revision of the Rules and Regulations for the Ground Water Management Area, which included the Integrated Management Plan, was held on October 6, 2004 and the plan was adopted November 9, 2004. The effective date of this plan will be December 6, 2004.

Erosion Control

Middle Republican Natural Resources District Program to Reduce Erosion and Sediment Damages – This is a plan developed in compliance with the Nebraska Erosion and Sediment Act. Approved by the former Natural Resources Commission in 1987, the rules and regulations were updated and approved on January 17, 1995.

Rules and Regulations

1. Enforcement of the Ground Water Management and Protection Act - Revised in March of 2000, these rules and regulations were adopted in order to administer and enforce the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, and effectuate the policy of the state to conserve ground water resources.
2. Ground Water Management Area. First adopted in 1998, revised in 1999, 2000 and 2003, the latest revision includes rules and regulations related to the settlement of the Republican River Compact Settlement. This revision, adopted on November 9, 2004, adds rules for allocation and transfer and includes the Integrated Management Plan jointly approved by the NRD and the Department of Natural Resources.
3. Stays. On July 26, pursuant to the authorities granted to the Department of Natural Resources by LB 962, the Department placed an immediate stay on the issuance of water well construction permits for new wells and on the use of an existing well to increase the

number of acres historically irrigated. These stays replaced the District's Rules and Regulations for the Temporary Suspension in the Drilling of New Wells, adopted in June of 2002. The authority for a temporary suspension was repealed by LB 962.

4. Chemigation – The Middle Republican NRD will carry out an inspection and permit program in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in order to implement and administer the Nebraska Chemigation. The MRNRD conducts district-wide random and periodic chemigation system inspections to insure compliance with the Nebraska Chemigation Act rules and regulations.

Agreements Under the Interlocal Cooperation Act or Joint Public Agency Act.

1. An agreement to form the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts in December of 1974. This was amended to provide for a pension plan in February of 1976.
2. An agreement to form the Nebraska Republican River Management Districts Association in June of 2000.
3. An agreement with the Nebraska Association of Resources District to provide an accident and health insurance plan in July of 1995.
4. An agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service No. 68-6526-1-396 to provide for an Irrigation Water Management Specialist approved in October 2000.
5. An agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service No. 74-6526-0-360 to provide for local EQIP funds in July 2002.
6. An agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to provide for cost-share funds from the Water Well Decommissioning Fund in August 2001.
7. An agreement with the Village of Trenton to provide cost-share assistance and to seal abandoned wells in August 2001.
8. An agreement with the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts to act as an agent for the acquisition, payment, and distribution of seedling trees approved in October 2001.
9. An agreement with the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to provide for the operation and maintenance of the McCook and Curtis automated weather stations approved in June 1986.
10. An agreement with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to provide a program for the establishment or enhancement of wildlife habitat approved in May 2000.
11. An agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to provide the necessary components in order to successfully implement the Settlement of the

Kansas vs. Nebraska Lawsuit and comply with the requirements of the Republican River Compact.

12. Technical Service Providers – An agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide field office secretaries to the Frontier, Hayes, Hitchcock and Red Willow County NRCS Offices. This agreement also includes dollars to allow the NRCS to hire temporary seasonal employees to provide field offices with technical assistance.

Policy Statements

1. General Policy Statement - March 1998
2. Personnel Policy Statement – May 2004
3. Bylaws – July 2001

Chapter Two – PLANNED ACTIVITIES FY 2004-05

The following programs are not listed in any order of priority or cost. A more detailed description can be found in the district's Master Plan. Previous year's accomplishments for programs and activities can be found in the district's Annual Report.

Ground Water Management

The Ground Water Management Plan, approved by the director of the former Department of Water Resources in January 1994, is the basis for ground water management in the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. It includes a Ground Water Reservoir Life Goal that states:

“The ground water life goal of this plan is 75 years, up to the year 2068. This means an adequate supply of ground water of acceptable quality must be maintained for up to 75 years to meet overall needs essential to the general welfare of the citizens and the present and future development of agriculture.”

Areas of ground water decline exist within the Middle Republican Natural Resources District and at this time, observation well readings have indicated a decline in ground water levels in six of the last seven years. Declines of up to 10 feet have shown up in areas of northwest Hayes County and southwest Lincoln County. An area from near Moorefield southeast to Orafino in Frontier County continues to show declines of over 10 feet.

The irrigation development rate in this area increased prior to the implementation of the temporary suspension on well drilling in June of 2002. Nitrate/nitrogen ground water contamination has been identified and a ground water quality management area in Red Willow and Hitchcock Counties has been established to address this concern (Figure 6). Some brine pollution resulting from oil drilling has been found in small, localized areas.

The potential continues to exist for future problems with ground water contamination and ground water level declines. This may come from increased irrigation and continued oil field development. The economy will continue to influence these developments and will determine when and to what extent it will take place.

Management of ground water within the Middle Republican Natural Resources District boundaries continues to be an on-going process. The district reevaluates its ground water programs each year and makes adjustments accordingly. Many changes have occurred as a result of the Republican River Lawsuit Settlement. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, at the districts request, took a water quality survey in Hayes, Frontier, and Lincoln Counties in 1995. Based on the results of the survey no additions were made to the existing Ground Water Quality Management Area.

With the adoption of revised rules and regulations for the Ground Water Management Area and the Integrated Management Plan in November of 2004, the District will revise the Ground Water Management Plan to reflect those changes and the revisions made by LB 962 to the Ground Water Management and Protection Act.

The following is a summary of on-going programs relating to ground water quantity and quality. Refer to the appropriate plan or its rules and regulations for more details on planned future actions or triggers to implement regulatory actions.

Ground Water Monitoring

- Continue static water level measurements in observation wells across the district each spring and fall. Presently 130 observation wells are measured each year, a few of which are privately owned (see Figure 7 & Table 2).
- Collect 40 water samples each year for water quality analysis. Results of these tests will be used for irrigation and domestic purposes.
- Continue to take monthly static water levels from six recorder wells.
- Continue the present water quality monitoring done in cooperation with the United States Geologic Service for the Ground Water Quality Management Area in Red Willow and Hitchcock Counties. The system consists of six nested well sites and 75 individual collection points.
- Conduct random collections of water samples for water quality analysis in areas where contamination problems are suspected and further information is required.

Measurement of Ground Water Discharges – This program places greater emphasis on the use of water meters or other reliable means to measure the volume of water pumped from the ground water reservoir by irrigation and industrial wells. A cost-share program for metering wells was initiated in 1998. District rules require that all regulated wells will have meters installed by the end of 2004. These meters are used to report annual consumptive use for the Republican River Compact.

Point Source Pollution – Operational in 1993, this practice documents any incidence of known point source pollution and requires reporting to the appropriate state agency.

Ground Water Quality Management Area – This requires continuation of the activities in the Red Willow and Hitchcock Counties Ground Water Quality Management Area, which addresses nitrate/nitrogen contamination. This plan was initiated in 1993 and will continue to be in operation for the foreseeable future.

Abandoned Wells – Improperly abandoned wells within the boundaries of the district will continue to be surveyed. This activity was originally started in 1995 in Hayes County and has continued in all counties. The survey will be updated, as staff time is available. It is roughly estimated that 2,300 improperly abandoned wells exist in the district.

Ground Water Quality Management Area Requests – In accordance with the Ground Water Management Plan, a land area of 36 square miles in size showing a significant level of contamination will be a trigger for more corrective action.

Meter Maintenance Program - The adoption of the Ground Water Management Area in 1998 included rules that required the installation of flow meters on all regulated wells by the end of 2004. In 2002 the Middle Republican Natural Resources District began a meter maintenance program that provided for the inspection and servicing of meters on a three-year schedule. This program is contracted with the firm of T.C.M. of Aurora Nebraska. The

district also provides for major repairs of meters. Meters are brought into the district office and landowners are only charged for the parts needed for repair

Figure 7

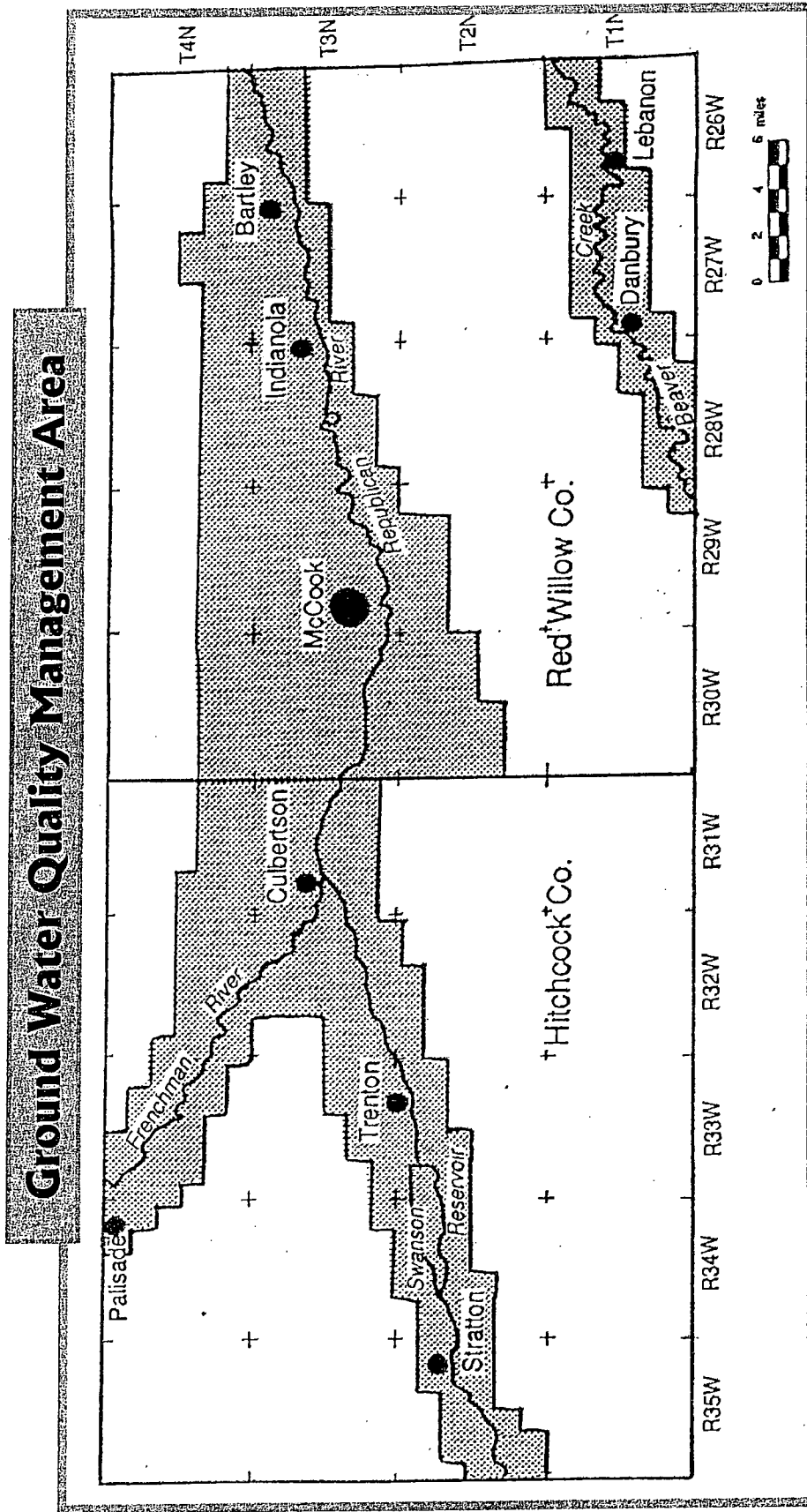
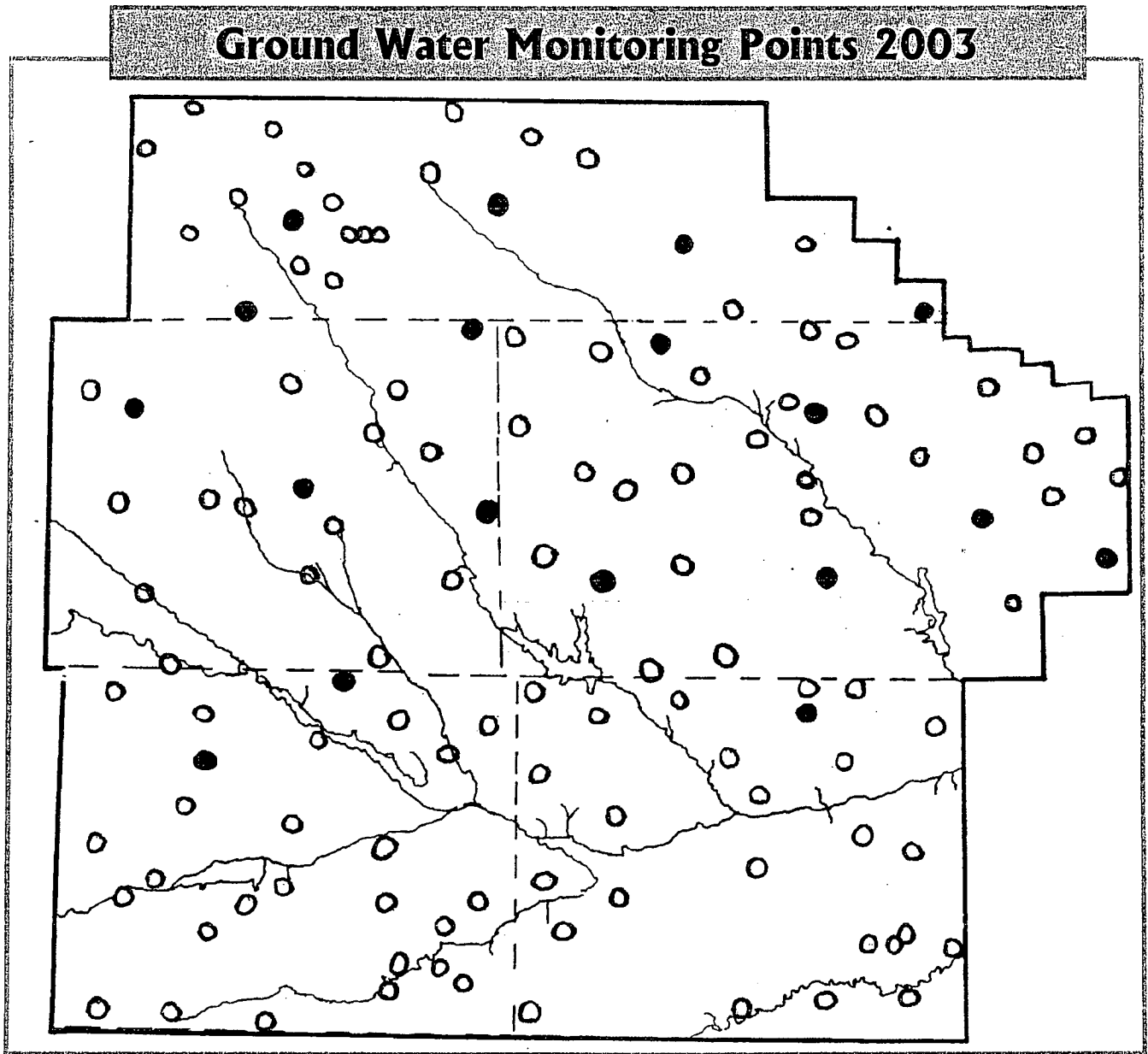
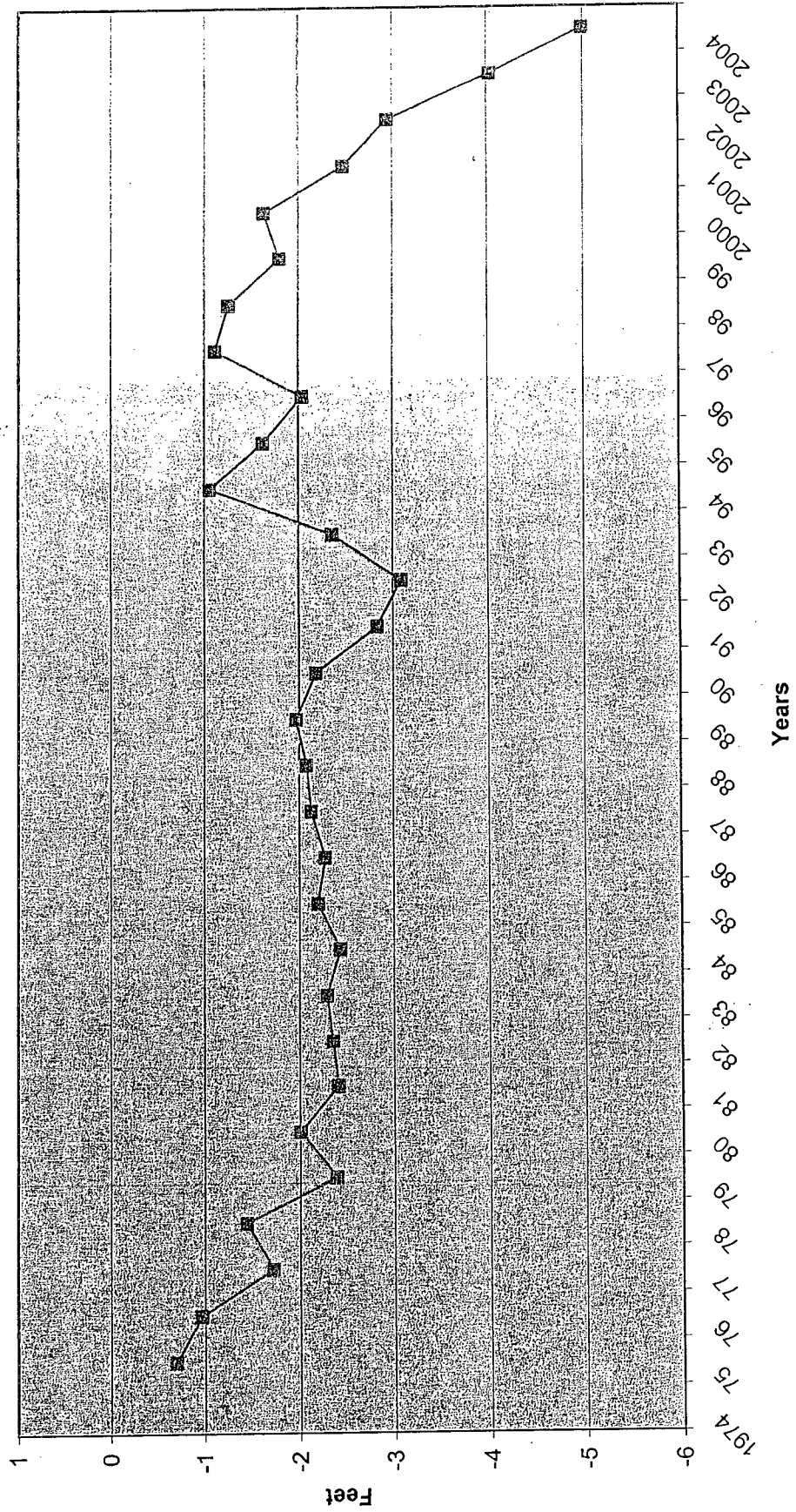


Figure 8



- Private Static Water Well**
- Observation Well**
Platte—Republican Inventory

Cumulative Change Spring Measurements 2004



Nebraska Republican River Management Districts Association – An interlocal agreement has been entered into between the Middle Republican Natural Resources District, Upper Republican Natural Resources District, Lower Republican Natural Resources District, Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, Frenchman Valley Irrigation District, Hitchcock and Red Willow Irrigation District, and Bostwick Irrigation District all of which are political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska. This association was formed through authorities stated in the Interlocal Cooperation Act. This association is a separate body from the individual district members of this association. The purpose of the association is to conserve, preserve, and protect the quantity, quality, and availability of water resources within the Republican River Basin. Members will inform and educate the public concerning the beneficial uses of water resources in the Republican River Basin and will represent matters related to the Republican River Compact. The association's members will also provide the authority, resources, services, and facilities as deemed appropriate and necessary to accomplish these purposes. In 2004 advisory members were appointed representing business, recreation, communications, and other interests.

This organization continues to serve the interests of the basin and will sponsor information and education programs in 2004-2005. These programs will provide patrons with information about rules and regulations adopted by the district and is working to develop a analytical model that will help producers in the decision making process of resources allocation while maximizing farm profitability. This model is being developed by Bruce Dodson, of Agri Affiliates, Inc., with the assistance of the University of Nebraska. Using climatic data from UNL and producer supplies data, producers can calculate the most profitable utilization of a limited irrigation water resource.

Ground Water Management Area – These rules and regulations for the district-wide Ground Water Management Area underwent a major revision in 2004. Following a public hearing in October, the district adopted the revision on November 9th, 2004. This revision added rules for allocations of ground water and transfers of ground water and included a section to address integrated management. The purposes of the management area are to (1) protect ground water quantity and (2) prevent or resolve conflicts between users of ground water and appropriators of surface water, when ground water and surface water are hydrologically connected, through the implementation of controls to meet the goals and objectives identified in the Integrated management Plan for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Land Treatment & Irrigation Management

The goal of the land treatment and irrigation management programs is to promote and administer programs that encourage implementation of best management soil and water conservation practices. This will be done by:

- Encouraging practices that divert, collect, and store storm runoff water or irrigation wastewater. This allows controlled water to be used, reused or to seep into the ground water reservoir.
- Answer inquiries and complaints regarding improper runoff of irrigation water originating from ground water sources. Solutions will be sought resulting in less ground water use through various land treatment practices.

Chemigation Inspection and Permit Program

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District will continue to administer a chemigation inspection and permit program as directed by the Nebraska Chemigation Act of 1986. Anyone applying fertilizer or chemicals through an irrigation system that has the capability to back flow into the ground water must meet certain requirements according to this act. This requires:

- Certification training,
- The use of proper and approved equipment, and
- A permit.

All chemigation equipment must be inspected before a permit can be issued, which is renewable annually. The district conducts spot inspections each year on current, existing permitted systems to check equipment condition. All systems will be spot checked at least once every three years. Other spot inspections may be made as staff time and circumstances permit.

Flood Control

1. Watershed Projects – Throughout the early years of the District, maintenance and construction of flood control projects was a major priority. With the moratoriums on new surface water permits enacted by the Department of Natural Resources, it is unlikely that the district will build any more structures. While there were sites remaining to be built, the district has closed out the work plan for the Upper and Lower Medicine Creek watershed and the Blackwood Creek watershed. Operation and Maintenance of the existing structures will continue to be a primary function of the District.
2. Project Operation and Maintenance – It is district policy to inspect all watershed and flood control structures annually as well as after a major rainfall. An inspection report will be filed and a schedule completed to carry out the required work. Scheduled work will vary from year to year but \$10,000 is budgeted annually. PL566 projects scheduled to be inspected annually are the Dry Creek Pilot, Dry Creek South, Blackwood Creek, Lower Medicine Creek, and Upper Medicine Creek. Other flood control projects are the McCook Flood Control Project, Perry Drainage Ditch, and Indianola Levee.

Cost Sharing Assistance for Soil and Water Conservation Practices

1. Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund (NSWCF) – The Middle Republican Natural Resources District will locally administer the NSWCF. Normally the program pays 50% of the total cost to install soil and water conservation practices while the landowner pays the remaining 50%. Terraces, diversions, grass seeding, reuse pits, planned grazing systems, and improved irrigation systems are all examples of approved NSWCF conservation practices. Funding for this program has been reduced due to budget concerns and shortfalls of the State of Nebraska. 50 to 75 applications are expected to be approved each year for NSWCF cost share assistance. The district is allocated approximately \$101,000 for FY 2004-2005.

2. Local Soil and Water Conservation Program (LCP) – The Middle Republican Natural Resources District has budgeted approximately \$65,000 in LCP funds for FY 2004-05 to supplement the NSWCF. Practice requirements and standards are similar to the requirements established for the state and federal programs. The decommissioning of abandoned wells, water meter installations, terrace enlargements, and tree plantings are accepted practices as part of the LCP. Approximately 100 applications are received each year.
3. Flow Meter Cost Share – District regulations require the installation of flow meters on all regulated wells by the end of 2004 and on all replacement wells prior to their use. The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program has dedicated funds for meters in the Republican River basin. Approximately \$1,000,000 in cost share funds has passed through this program in previous years. Additionally, approximately \$50,000 has been available from the district for cost-share on meters that were not otherwise eligible for NSWCP assistance. Local funding for the current year on flow meters will be \$3,000. Cost-share funds for meter installation will not be available after December 31, 2004.
4. EQIP Leveraging – The Middle Republican Natural Resources District has entered into an agreement under the Interlocal Cooperation Act with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide supplemental cost-share for federal EQIP programs.
5. Water Well Decommissioning Fund – This fund provides for reimbursement of some of the districts expenditures related to the proper sealing of abandoned wells. The district provides 60% of the cost-share for this program.

Tree Planting

One of the most popular and visible programs for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District is the tree-planting program. Approximately 45,000 trees are sold or distributed to landowners, schools, and community groups each spring. More than 1.3 million trees have been distributed in the district since 1972. Each year the district also contracts for more than 100,000 feet of plastic mulch to be laid for moisture conservation and weed control. Tree plantings are established for erosion control, windbreaks, wildlife habitat, woodlot or aesthetic purposes.

Equipment and Supply Services

1. Grass Drills – The district has several grass drills available for customers to rent. This helps in the establishment of vegetative cover or to plant alfalfa.
2. Gopher Bait and Bait Applicators – Because unwanted gophers are a big problem, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District sells poison bait and has bait applicators available to rent. This bait is considered a restricted use pesticide so purchasers must be certified pesticide applicators and abide by all applicable rules and regulations affecting the purchase and use of this pesticide.

3. Miscellaneous Supplies – Flags and other various supplies are also for sale in the district office to assist landowners in the implementation of best management practices.

Road Structures

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District cooperates with counties or other entities to replace bridges or crossings with “road dams.” This is dependant on feasibility and the availability of funds.

Category I – This category includes smaller type dams where benefits such as erosion control, sediment retention, ground water recharge, and grade stabilization will be realized. Cost-share assistance is available on Category I structures at 30% of actual construction costs up to \$10,000 on approved sites.

Category II – This category includes larger type dams where additional benefits such as flood control and surface water conservation in addition to erosion control, sediment retention, ground water recharge, and grade stabilization would be realized. The district will cost-share on approved structures of this type at 50% of actual construction costs up to \$50,000.

The district will not cost share on any road dam that does not meet the safety or design criteria of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Department of Roads, or other responsible state or federal agencies.

Recreational Facilities/Outdoor Classrooms

The district will help sponsor community recreation facilities at 20% of the actual cost up to \$3,000. Plans must be approved by the board of directors and will be consistent with good land and water management. Facilities must be open to the public and a long-term maintenance program must be in place. The district reserves the right to request valid documentation of actual work costs or work performed from other agencies before approval is given.

WILD Nebraska Program

The Middle Republican NRD has entered into an agreement under the Interlocal Cooperation Act with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission for the portion of the WILD Nebraska program that establishes or improves habitat on privately owned land. This replaces the former Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. Aspects of the program include:

- Contracts – Contracts ranging up to 20 years will be made with landowners who want to establish or improve wildlife habitat on their land. A transition payment is made to the landowner based upon the type of habitat involved and habitat improvement material needed. Financial assistance may also be available for materials.
- Funding – The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission is responsible for 75% of the funding for the WILD Nebraska Program. This will come from the sales of habitat stamps and other miscellaneous fees. The Middle Republican Natural Resources District
- will contribute the remaining 25% and has \$29,000 budgeted for this program in FY2004-05. The district goal is to have 1,500 acres enrolled in this program.

- Cooperative Agreements – Agreements will be entered into with landowners, Pheasants Forever Chapters, Environmental Trust Programs, NE Game & Parks Commission, and others to improve wildlife habitat. All agreements are subject to fund and material availability.

Other Programs

Funding is also received from the Department of Agriculture for the buffer strip program and Pheasants Forever for the Corners for Wildlife Program.

Staff

A permanent staff is maintained to implement the Middle Republican Natural Resources District's various programs and projects. Other part-time employees are hired during peak workloads on a seasonal basis or as needed.

General Manager – The general manager is responsible for planning, budgeting, personnel, contracting, funding grants, political liaison, and overall daily operations of the district.

Assistant Manager – The assistant manager is responsible for the general operations of district programs including ground water management and monitoring, wildlife habitat program, tree planting, conservation cost-share programs, project maintenance, ground water management area coordination, and data storage.

Office Supervisor – The office supervisor is the secretary to the board of directors, acts as the GIS Coordinator, serves as office secretary and as the district bookkeeper.

Secretary/Receptionist – The secretary/receptionist is responsible for answering phones and greeting customers, in addition to other duties such as payroll and chemigation administration.

Technical Supervisor – The technical supervisor will coordinate the tree planting and storage program, the chemigation program, take water samples and well measurements, supervise work crews, operate and maintain equipment, and perform inspections and maintenance of flood control structures in addition to servicing irrigators flow meters.

Technician – The technician will perform chemigation equipment inspections, operate and maintain district equipment, take water samples and well measurements, plant and store trees, perform maintenance of flood control structures, and gather field data.

Information and Education Coordinator – The information and education coordinator will write and edit the district newsletter, Sprinkles and Splashes, act as the webmaster for the district web site, coordinate educational programs and provide educational materials to district schools and educators, coordinate district scholarship programs, coordinate judging contests and the Mid-Plains Regional Envirothon Contest, coordinate awards programs, and create and distribute all other district publications, plans and reports.

Information and Education

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District provides various programs and services to district residents, schools, communities, and other groups. *Requests for all programs are subject to approval by the board of directors.*

- ☞ Soil Stewardship – Materials prepared and distributed by the National Association of Conservation Districts are provided free of charge to district churches, schools and other groups by request.
- ☞ Land and Range Judging Contests/Nebraska Envirothon – The district will cosponsor all land and range judging contests and the Nebraska Envirothon when held within its boundaries and will cooperate with other groups/agencies to make those events successful.
- ☞ Honor Conservation, Outstanding Tree Planter, and Grassland Award – Honor conservation award, Outstanding Tree Planter, and Outstanding Grassland recipients may be selected district-wide. All recipients will receive a photo or print from the Middle Republican NRD commemorating their award selection. Presentations will be made at the annual Director's Luncheon in December or at the annual Southwest Nebraska Water Conference in March. Selected recipients accomplishments may be forwarded on for state and national award selection.
- ☞ Natural Resources Education – The district will cosponsor natural resources education programs at district schools. Other cosponsors may be schools, NRCS offices, and county cooperative extension offices.
- ☞ Post High School Scholarships – Scholarships of \$200 each are awarded each year to one student attending McCook Community College and one student attending the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. Selection is based on:
 - Preference is given to a natural resources or agriculture major,
 - Preference is given to district residents
 - Be either a first or second year student,
 - Show a financial need,

The Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors will make the scholarship selections.

- ☞ Range Camp, 4-H Sandhills Academy, and Groundwater University – Camp scholarships equal to the camp registration fee will be available to district students attending the Nebraska State Range Camp and the 4-H Sandhills Academy at Halsey each year as well as the Groundwater Foundation's Groundwater University. Two scholarships are available from each county each year. Other camps, workshops, or seminars dealing with natural resources and leadership may also qualify. The Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors will make the scholarship selections.
- ☞ Educator Scholarships – The district will provide two scholarships to district educators attending continuing education workshops relating to natural resources

conservation or agriculture. These scholarships are worth \$150 each. Recipients must intend to teach at a school located in the Middle Republican Natural Resources District during the upcoming school year.

The Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors will make the final scholarship selections.

- Arbor Day Programs – Each year trees will be given to students, schools and community groups in observance of Arbor Day. This program is dependant on the number of trees available each year. Each fifth grade student attending a school located in the MRNRD will receive a tree to take home and plant.
- Newsletters and Media - The district will publish and distribute the district-wide quarterly newsletter, Sprinkles and Splashes. News items will be released periodically to the media including press releases distributed after most board meetings. Media representatives are always welcome at all open district meetings and advance notice will be given. Interviews will be granted as time and circumstances permit.
- Web Site – The Middle Republican NRD has created an internet web site located at www.mrnrd.org. Information pertaining to district news, programs, upcoming events, and the regular board of directors meetings will be published.
- Training Programs – In cooperation with schools or other agencies, the district will host or sponsor training or work experience as work and funds permit.
- Outdoor Classrooms – The district will work with schools or community groups in the establishment of outdoor classrooms as materials and funds are available.
- Demonstrations and Tours – The district will cosponsor and cooperate on demonstration projects about natural resources management that are consistent with its goals and policies. Tours will be organized for special projects. Participation will depend upon the nature and purpose of the tour.
- In-Service Training and Education – Staff and board members will attend workshops, demonstrations, meetings, and seminars periodically to stay updated on topics of interest.
- Legislative Information – Legislative activities will be monitored at the state and national levels. Testimony will be provided for proposed legislation when appropriate.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Support

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District cooperates with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and contributes to their programs by:

1. Field Office Secretarial Assistance – The Middle Republican Natural Resources District will employ and assign a secretary to the NRCS field offices in Curtis, McCook, Trenton, and Hayes Center. Reimbursement is made each year to the Twin Platte NRD for secretarial assistance for the North Platte Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office. The Middle Republican NRD will determine salaries.
2. Part-Time Technical Assistance – The NRCS field offices at Curtis, McCook, Trenton, and Hayes Center will be allocated 450 hours each for seasonal temporary employees to facilitate field layout and other technical work. Reimbursement may be made to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in North Platte for support of the North Platte NRCS field office, if appropriate. The district determines all salaries.
3. Irrigation Water Management Specialist – The Middle Republican Natural Resources District will continue a cooperative agreement with the NRCS to provide an Irrigation Water Management Specialist. The district will fund this position at \$17,500 annually.
4. Technical Service Providers – In 2003 the District entered into a cooperative agreement with the NRCS for funding for technical service providers. This agreement was renewed for the 2004-2005 year. Using a match from our existing services the district was able to receive \$10,000 in federal funds to provide support for farm bill activities. Five part time employees work with NRCS employees to assist with planning and layout of conservation practices.

Chapter Three – ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT NEEDS

Personnel

Staff time requirements by project and program have been estimated for FY2004-05 and are shown in Table 3. These figures are estimates of time spent in these activities.

Administration time covers several aspects of the daily business activities including planning, budgeting, grant applications, public relations, correspondence, daily transactions, record keeping, leave time, and paid holidays.

Contracted services for FY2004-2005 will include meter servicing as well as tree planting and mulch installation. The budget approved for FY2004-2005 includes funding for an additional technician. The workload associated with the Ground Water Management Area and the Integrated Management Plan has created the need for this position.

Funding

Personnel needs, salaries, program funding, and other matters are reviewed each year and a work budget is then prepared to summarize the projected financial planning. The board of directors must accept this report before an annual budget can be prepared and filed. The FY2004-05 Work Budget and Projected Requirements and Revenues are shown on Tables 4 and 5. Budget reductions at the state level will continue to have an impact on the district budget.

The Water Quality Fund for FY2004-2005 will provide about \$44,400 in state funds to be used for eligible activities of the district. This requires at least a 150% match in local funds. Eligible expenditures for the district in FY2003-2004 were \$37,194.86. These expenditures including the local match are shown in Table 6.

Using the taxing authority provided by LB 962, the district raised taxes in the 2004-2005 budget by \$150,000. This increase will be used to support the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan and provide for approximately \$100,000 to support existing incentive programs or develop new programs.

Table 3

Annual Planned Use Of Personnel By Hours 2003-04

Based Upon: Public Hours	Project or Program							PT
	Manager	Asst. Manager	Office Supervisor	Info & Ed Coordinator	Secretary/ Receptionist	NRCS Secretaries	NRD Techs	
Administration	520	320	620	200	1520	800	100	300
Information and Education	100	100	200	1400	80	320	240	500
NRCS Support	100	100	50	40	40	6320	400	2400
Wildlife Habitat	40	100	50	40	40	80	480	0
Flood Control	100	40	40	40	40	0	240	0
Project O & M	40	40	0	40	40	0	600	600
Cost-Share Programs	100	300	40	80	40	320	160	0
Tree Planting	40	40	40	40	80	320	800	1000
Totals	2080	2080	2080	2080	2080	8320	8240	5500

Table 4

Work Budget
FY2004-05

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cost-share	68,000
Ground Water Management	120,000
Habitat/Incentives	137,500
Capitol Outlay	85,000
Personnel	448,390
Gen. Operations	220,300
Inventory	156,000
Debt Srv.	0
Transfers	0
Total Expenditures	1,235,190
Cash Reserve	65,000
Total Required	1,300,190

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cash	27,875
Investments	124,231
County Treasurer's Balance	49,690
Federal	15,000
State	107,700
State Republican River Settlement	100,000
Local	67,876
Sales	200,000
Property Tax	607,818
Total Revenue	1,300,190

Table 5

Water Quality Fund Use
FY 2003-2004

Receipts		\$37,194.86
Expenditures		
Administration		\$54,309.43
GM/50% AM/50% OS/50% I&E/20%		
Technical		\$11,303.25
25%		
Chemigation		\$17,804.00
787 Renewal, 98 New		
Ground Water Management		\$26,399.00
COOP USGS	1500	
COOP UN-L	2000	
COOP NRCS	17500	
Meter Program		\$26,059.00
Local Cost-Share		\$45,780.00
SW24840 GW20940		
Local Cost-share Meters		\$0.00
Professional Education		\$655.00
Information & Education		\$1,710.00
Total Expenditures		\$184,019.68
Required Match	\$55,792.29	
Actual Local Match	\$146,824.82	

Chapter Four – PROJECTED NEEDS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS

Personnel –

The following staff positions are envisioned in the next five years. All units listed are full time equivalents and the years listed are fiscal years. The increase in technicians for FY 2004-2005 is projected to support increase activity in ground water management.

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>05-06</u>	<u>06-07</u>	<u>07-08</u>	<u>08-09</u>	<u>09-10</u>
Manager	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Manager	1	1	1	1	1
Office Supervisor	1	1	1	1	1
Secretary/Receptionist	1	1	1	1	1
Technicians	3	3	3	3	3
Field Office Secretaries	4	4	4	4	4
<u>Info & Ed Coordinator</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Fulltime	12	12	12	12	12
Part Time Seasonal Employees	7	7	8	8	8

Contracted Services –

The ability to use contracted services for the following district programs will allow the district to limit the need for additional personnel.

- Meter Repair and Servicing
- Tree Planting
- Mulch Installation

Integrated Management-

With the adoption of the revised rules and regulations for the Ground Water Management area and the Integrated Management Plan, ground water activities will be the most pressing need over the next five years. Reporting of data to the State, meter maintenance, record keeping and administration of controls will require additional staff time and expenditure of funds.

Watershed Operation and Maintenance-

While the work plans for the Blackwood Creek watershed and the Upper and Lower Medicine Creek watersheds has been closed, operation and maintenance activities for the existing structures will continue. The possibility of major repairs due to a storm event will require that the district continue to inspect these structures and make necessary repairs.

Funding –

Table 6 consists of the MRNRD's projected requirements and revenues for each fiscal year through 2009-2010. All items are listed as \$1,000 units. Increases in personnel costs and ground water management activities will be offset by reducing cost-share dollars and increasing property taxes. Continued support for ground water management activities from the State will be needed.

Table 6

Projected Requirements and Revenues
(\$1,000 Units)

EXPENDITURES

	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Cost-share	58	47	48	35	40
GW Management	200	200	190	190	180
Habitat	40	35	35	30	30
Capitol Outlay	60	55	60	55	60
Personnel	462	477	490	505	520
Gen. Operations	350	360	370	380	390
Debt Srv.	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	1170	1174	1193	1195	1220
Cash Reserve	65	65	65	65	65
Total Required	1235	1239	1258	1260	1285

REVENUES

	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	08-09
Cash	30	30	30	30	30
Investments	125	110	100	95	95
Co. Tres. Balance	45	45	45	45	45
Federal	5	5	5	5	5
State	105	105	110	110	115
State RR Settlement	75	75	75	75	75
Local	230	230	235	235	240
Property Tax	620	639	658	665	680
Total Revenue	1235	1239	1258	1260	1285