



**The Nebraska  
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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

3. County(s) where project is located: Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Red Willow, Hitchcock, Hayes, Lincoln, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Phelps, Harlan, Franklin, Kearney, Webster, Nuckolls

4. Nearest town: McCook, Holdrege, Red Cloud, et al

5. Total Amount Requested: \$111,000

6. Years of funding requested (select one): 3

**Contact Person:**

7. Name: John Thorburn

8. Title: general manager

9. Organization: Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

10. Address, City, State & Zip: 1308 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Holdrege NE 68949

11. Daytime Phone: 308-995-6688

12. Alternate phone: 308-991-1106

13. Fax: 308-995-6992

14. E-mail [jthorburn@tribasinprd.org](mailto:jthorburn@tribasinprd.org)

15. Sponsor web page: [tribasinprd.org](http://tribasinprd.org)

16. Is this a continuation request for a project previously funded by the Trust: NO

Is this a resubmission of a project application previously not funded by the Trust: NO

17. Please indicate which category best describes the applicant:

Selections are: Other (specify): A coalition of natural resources districts, irrigation districts and other water interests within the Republican basin

18. Will this project receive federal funds or require a federal review or permit? YES If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role: US Fish and Wildlife Service will provide technical assistance, US Bureau of Reclamation will provide technical and financial assistance. No federal permits will be needed to carry out this project.

19. Will this project receive other State of Nebraska funds or require a state review or permit? NO  
If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role:



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20. In 300 words or less provide an overview of the project for which you seek funding. If you are asking the Trust to fund only a portion of the project, indicate the components for which you seek funding.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) cannot single-handedly solve every environmental problem faced by the State of Nebraska and its residents. NETF dollars must be used to leverage local, state and federal dollars and to fill gaps between existing programs, rather than serve as the primary funding source for projects. This project proposes to use NETF funds along with other local, state and federal funds to fully implement a new multi-agency project that addresses two fundamental problems in the Republican basin: reducing water consumption and arresting loss and degradation of wildlife habitat. This project will produce concrete results that will be visible to the public. The information and outreach component will make contact with several hundred basin residents. One result of this project could be a cooperative, interstate effort to address habitat and water issues in the entire Republican basin.

The *Kansas v Nebraska* lawsuit settlement will require landowners in the Republican basin reduce water use. Both mandatory and voluntary measures are needed to keep Nebraska in compliance with the settlement. Encouraging landowners to voluntarily change land use and management will reduce consumptive water use and make compliance with the settlement less painful and more politically palatable. This project will integrate existing personnel, conservation programs and technical resources into a unified effort that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of these resources and produce visible and measurable improvements to riparian and upland ecosystems.

NETF funds are sought to pay for equipment, satellite imagery, educational materials and a portion of meeting expenses. These items are needed to start the project. They will amount to about 40% of overall costs during the first two years of the project. The project will continue to operate using partner resources after the grant expires until a permanent program for long-term habitat management is established.

On behalf of the sponsor(s) named above, I hereby certify that the information contained in this application, including all attachments, is true, accurate and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature of Sponsor Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Name printed or typed: John Thorburn General Mgr., Tri-Basin NRD



# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

## NARRATIVE SECTION

H1. Project Sponsor: NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

In five pages or less, provide a discussion of your project. Be sure to cover the points specified in the instructions.

### Introduction

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) cannot single-handedly solve every environmental problem faced by the State of Nebraska and its residents. Now, during a period of funding shortfalls and budget cutbacks, NETF dollars must be used to leverage local, state and federal dollars and to fill gaps between existing programs, rather than serve as the primary funding source for projects. This project proposes to use NETF funds along with other local, state and federal funds to implement a new multi-agency project that addresses two fundamentally important problems in the Republican River basin: reducing water consumption and arresting loss and degradation of wildlife habitat. This project will produce concrete results that will be visible to the public. The information and outreach component will make contact with several hundred basin residents. One end result of this project could be a cooperative, interstate effort to address habitat and water issues in the entire Republican basin.

### The Problem

Water use has been an issue in the Republican River Basin for more than a decade. A drought in the early 1990s caused many residents of the basin to recognize that water supplies are limited and need conservation. The state of Kansas sued Nebraska and Colorado in 1998, claiming that both states had used more than their share of basin water supplies. The lawsuit ground on for several years until all parties recognized an opportunity to negotiate a compromise solution to issues raised in the lawsuit. After more than a year of negotiations, teams representing the three states and the federal government agreed on terms for a settlement of the interstate lawsuit.

One feature of the settlement is a requirement that Nebraska limit water use during times when Harlan County Reservoir contains less than 130,000 acre-feet of water in storage. Under these circumstances, it is estimated that Nebraska irrigators must reduce consumptive water use by as much as 20%. Republican basin landowners can help state and local government comply with the settlement by reducing water use through voluntary conversion of irrigated cropland to less-water intensive uses.

It is anticipated that state and local government will need to initiate both voluntary and mandatory measures to insure that Nebraska complies with the lawsuit settlement and doesn't overuse its allocation of basin water supplies. Three Republican Basin Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) have temporarily or permanently suspended well drilling to limit development of new irrigated land within the basin. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and basin NRDs will develop a joint action plan for management of interconnected water resources that will include proposals for regulatory actions to regulate water use.

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Regulatory measures will be needed to limit water use, but voluntary actions by landowners, encouraged through cost-share and conservation incentive payments, will also be an important part of Nebraska's water conservation strategy in the Republican Basin. Improved techniques for management of riparian habitat, particularly eradication of invasive hydrophytic species such as saltcedar, can significantly reduce water use by riparian plant communities. Conversion of irrigated cropland, both temporarily and permanently, to grassland and/or dryland cropland will also save large amounts of water.

## The Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

The Republican River Management Districts Association (NRRMDA) is initiating the Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project with a single goal: to conserve water within the Republican River basin through the creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

We seek to achieve this goal by pursuing two strategies:

- 1) Encourage private landowners to convert irrigated cropland to grassland habitat, and
- 2) Work with landowners to improve riparian habitat through eradication of invasive, hydrophytic species (saltcedar aka, *tamarisk*, Russian olive, aka *Eleagnus angustifolia* and purple loosestrife, aka *lithrum*) and improved management of riparian forest.

The impetus for this project came from two meetings of the Republican Basin Habitat Management Task Force. This group met in May and again in July, 2003 to discuss ways to more efficiently and effectively deliver conservation programs to landowners. This group is composed of representatives of local, state and federal conservation agencies. The strategies proposed for this project were developed by this group. Members of this group will also provide the focus for interagency cooperation, which is crucial to this project.

This project will utilize existing resources, both human and financial, to the greatest extent possible. Existing conservation programs will be used to provide incentives to private landowners to create, enhance and protect wildlife habitat. Current conservation agency staff will be utilized to provide technical assistance to landowners and sign them up in conservation programs. County weed control superintendents will work with federal agency personnel to eradicate invasive species on public land.

One way that Nebraska Environmental Trust funds will be used will be to provide tools to personnel that help them identify landowners of properties with high conservation potential, explain opportunities for conservation and help them to develop plans for habitat creation and enhancement that result in voluntary water use reduction on private lands. Personnel are in place in local, state and federal conservation agencies to work with landowners to review options for participation in conservation programs. These personnel could work more efficiently with new GIS-based conservation planning tools. These tools will help them identify and prioritize potential customers in terms of habitat and water conservation benefits that will result from their enrollment in programs. The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture has pioneered development of these conservation planning tools and is willing to help adapt them for use in the Republican basin in Nebraska. Land use and habitat quality surveys will be needed to help

Electronic Grant Application  
April 2003



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identify potential and existing habitat and to establish the baseline condition against which future progress will be measured. The NE Department of Natural Resources will work with the University of Nebraska to analyze 2002 and 2003 satellite photos to classify land use and identify existing habitat areas.

Another strategy to reduce water use in the basin will be an aggressive program to locate and, where possible, eradicate invasive, hydrophitic plants such as saltcedar, russian olive and purple loosestrife. County Weed Control Superintendents will identify and locate infestations of invasive plants using GPS equipment. Where invasive species infest public lands (particularly reservoirs), weed control superintendents will work with agency personnel to eradicate them. Where infestations are identified on private lands, they will provide technical assistance and make special aquatic spraying equipment available to treat infested areas. Signage will be placed on public lands to raise awareness about invasive species. These signs will include the NETF logo and will recognize the Trust's contribution to this project. All equipment purchased using NETF funds will be similarly marked.

Information related to the various strategies will be presented to the public using a variety of educational materials, such as brochures, signage, radio commercials, even "table tents" in restaurants. All educational materials developed for this project will prominently display the NETF logo. Personnel from cooperating partners will also meet with landowners in one-on-one situations, as well as in focus groups and traditional public meetings. NETF contributions to this project will be gratefully acknowledged during these meetings. Development of educational materials, focus groups and public meetings will be conducted with assistance from the Groundwater Foundation.

Focus group meetings will provide opportunities for landowners and agency personnel to discuss the issues of conservation incentives and program delivery. We believe that these discussions will provide project partners with insights about which existing conservation programs or combinations of programs will generate the greatest response from landowners. Focus group discussions and meetings with individual landowners during the first two years of the project will help partners determine whether additional incentives are needed to increase landowner enrollment of irrigated cropland in conservation programs.

Another part of the outreach component of this project will be an economic comparison between the net return to landowners from cropland and wildlife habitat. This study will provide data that will help landowners to make objective decisions about the pros and cons of enrolling land into conservation programs.

### Project Outcomes and Evaluation

The main outcomes that will result from this project will be:

- 1) Enrollment of land in conservation programs,
- 2) Improvement in the quality of riparian habitat, and



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3) Development of new or additional incentives that will encourage landowners to set aside irrigated land and improve management of riparian areas. These incentives may also be expanded to those parts of the Republican basin that lie in Kansas and Colorado.

One result of public meetings and landowner contacts will be that agency technical personnel will recommend to the NRRMDA ways to encourage landowners to create or enhance existing wildlife habitat. These recommendations will be developed after the project has operated for two years.

Another result will be development of habitat management and monitoring strategies that will insure long-term gains from habitat creation and enhancement. Long-term habitat management planning is essential to making sure that water conservation gains will be held. We will also monitor riparian areas for invasive species to determine whether they are spreading or being successfully extirpated.

Project partners will also determine after two years whether it is useful to expand the Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project into Kansas and Colorado to make this a basin-wide habitat conservation initiative. Top natural resources officials from Kansas and Colorado have expressed their willingness to cooperate in such an effort. A multi-state Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) area is one possible outcome of a multi-state expansion of this project.

The success of the project will be evaluated in several ways. First, sign-up rates in conservation programs during the project period will be compared to sign-ups in the same programs in the three-year period prior to initiation of the project to determine whether the project generates greater rates of utilization of these conservation programs. Second, the quality of riparian habitat and total acres in the basin devoted to habitat will be remeasured on a regular basis to determine changes from baseline conditions.

Sign-up sheets will be passed around to record attendance at all meetings. Partners will report in-kind contributions to the primary sponsor on a quarterly basis via email and regular mail.

### Conclusion

The settlement of the *Kansas v Nebraska* lawsuit will require landowners in the Republican basin in Nebraska to reduce water use under certain circumstances. Mandatory and voluntary measures will be needed to keep Nebraska in compliance with the lawsuit settlement. Reducing consumptive water use by encouraging landowners to voluntarily convert irrigated cropland to wildlife habitat and to improve the way that they manage riparian areas will make compliance with the terms of the settlement less painful and more politically palatable. This project will integrate existing personnel, existing conservation programs and existing technical resources into a single effort that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of these resources and produce visible and measurable improvements to riparian and upland ecosystems.



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NETF funds are sought to pay for equipment, satellite imagery, educational materials and a portion of meeting expenses. These items are necessary to get the project started and will amount to about 40% of overall costs during the first two years of the project. It is anticipated that the project will continue to operate using partner resources after the grant expires until a more permanent program for long-term habitat management, along the lines of the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, is established.



# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

## APPLICATION BUDGET SUMMARY

H1. Project Sponsor: NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

**BUDGET YEAR: SUMMARY**

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D	COLUMN E	COLUMN F
Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories	Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund	NRRMDA members	NDNR	NGPC	Continued on Next page
2. Land Use Assessment	25000	5000**	12500**	0	
3. Habitat Quality Assessment	5000	5000*	2500*	5000*	
4. Invasive Species Eradication	41000	1000*	0	1000*	
5. Public Information, Outreach	35000	5000**	2500**	2500*	
6. Long-term Management	0	1000*	0	1000*	
7. Administration	5000	2500*	500*	500*	
8.					
9. TOTALS	111,000	19,500	18000	10000	

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

\*\* Combination of in-kind and cash contributions





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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET SUMMARY**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

**BUDGET YEAR: SUMMARY**

<b>COLUMN G</b>	<b>COLUMN H</b>	<b>COLUMN I</b>	<b>COLUMN J</b>	<b>COLUMN K</b>	<b>COLUMN L</b>
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	Groundwater Foundation	Trailblazer and Southwest RC and Ds	Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	County Weed Control Programs	Continued on Next page
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	0	0	5000**	0	
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	0	0	2000*	2500*	
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	0	0	0	10000*	
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	5000*	1500*	0	2500*	
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	1000*	500*	1000*	500*	
<b>7. Administration</b>	500*	500*	375*	1500*	
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	6500	2500	8375	17000	

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services  
\*\* Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET SUMMARY**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

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**BUDGET YEAR: SUMMARY**

COLUMN M	COLUMN N	COLUMN O	COLUMN P	COLUMN Q	COLUMN R
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	USDA-NRCS	USDI-BOR	USDI-FWS		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	2500*	2500*	5000*		57500
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	2500*	2500*	5000*		32000
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	2500*	20000	2500**		78000
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	2500*	5000	2500**		64000
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	500*	500*	500*		6500
<b>7. Administration</b>	500*	500*	500*		12875
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	11000	31000	16000		250875

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

\*\* Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR ONE**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: ONE

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D	COLUMN E	COLUMN F
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	<b>Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund</b>	<b>NRRMDA members</b>	<b>NDNR</b>	<b>NGPC</b>	Continued on Next page
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	25000	4000**	12500**	0	
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	5000	4000*	2000*	4000*	
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	41000	500*	0	500*	
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	15000	2000**	1000**	1000*	
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>7. Administration</b>	2000	1000*	250*	250*	
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	88000	11500	15750	5750	

- \* In-kind contributions of personnel and services
- \*\* Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR ONE**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: ONE

COLUMN G	COLUMN H	COLUMN I	COLUMN J	COLUMN K	COLUMN L
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	Groundwater Foundation	Trailblazer and Southwest RC and Ds	Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	County Weed Control Programs	Continued on Next page
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	0	0	4000**	0	
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	0	0	1500*	1500*	
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	0	0	0	5000*	
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	2000*	500*	0	500*	
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>7. Administration</b>	250*	250*	125*	500*	
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	2250	750	5625	7500	

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

\*\* Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR ONE**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: ONE

COLUMN M	COLUMN N	COLUMN O	COLUMN P	COLUMN Q	COLUMN R
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	USDA-NRCS	USDI-BOR	USDI-FWS		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	2000*	2000*	4000*		53500
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	2000*	2000*	4000*		26000
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	1000*	7000	1000**		56000
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	500*	2000	500**		25000
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	0	0	0		0
<b>7. Administration</b>	250*	250*	250*		5375
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	5750	13250	9750		165875

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR TWO**

**H1. Project Sponsor: NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD**

**H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project**

BUDGET YEAR: TWO

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D	COLUMN E	COLUMN F
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds</b>	Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund	NRRMDA members	NDNR	NGPC	Continued on Next page
<b>Budget Categories</b>					
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	0	1000**	0**	0	
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	0	1000*	500*	1000*	
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	0	500*	0	500*	
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	15000	2000**	1000**	1000*	
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>7. Administration</b>	2000	1000*	250*	250*	
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	17000	5500	1750	2750	

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR TWO**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: **TWO**

COLUMN G	COLUMN H	COLUMN I	COLUMN J	COLUMN K	COLUMN L
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	Groundwater Foundation	Trailblazer and Southwest RC and Ds	Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	County Weed Control Programs	Continued on Next page
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	0	0	1000**	0	
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	0	0	500*	1000*	
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	0	0	0	2500*	
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	2000*	500*	0	1000*	
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>7. Administration</b>	125*	125*	125*	500*	
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	2125	625	1625	5000	

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

\*\* Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR TWO**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

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BUDGET YEAR: TWO

COLUMN M	COLUMN N	COLUMN O	COLUMN P	COLUMN Q	COLUMN R
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds</b>	USDA-NRCS	USDI-BOR	USDI-FWS		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Budget Categories</b>					
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	500*	500*	1000*		4000
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	500*	500*	1000*		6000
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	1000*	7000	1000**		12500
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	1000*	2000	1000**		26500
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	0	0	0		0
<b>7. Administration</b>	125*	125*	125*		4750
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	3125	10125	4125		53750

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR THREE**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: THREE

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D	COLUMN E	COLUMN F
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	<b>Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund</b>	<b>NRRMDA members</b>	<b>NDNR</b>	<b>NGPC</b>	Continued on Next page
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	5000	1000**	500**	500*	
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	0	1000*	0	1000*	
<b>7. Administration</b>	1000	500*	0	0	
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>2500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1500</b>	

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR THREE**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: THREE

COLUMN G	COLUMN H	COLUMN I	COLUMN J	COLUMN K	COLUMN L
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	Groundwater Foundation	Trailblazer and Southwest RC and Ds	Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	County Weed Control Programs	Continued on Next page
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	0	0	0	2500*	
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	1000*	500*	0	1000*	
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	1000*	500*	1000*	500*	
<b>7. Administration</b>	125*	125*	125*	500*	
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	2125	1125	1125	4000	

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services  
 \*\* Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR THREE**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

**BUDGET YEAR: THREE**

COLUMN M	COLUMN N	COLUMN O	COLUMN P	COLUMN Q	COLUMN R
<b>Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories</b>	USDA-NRCS	USDI-BOR	USDI-FWS		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	0	0	0		0
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	0	0	0		0
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	500*	6000	500**		9500
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	1000*	1000**	1000**		12500
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	500*	500*	500*		6500
<b>7. Administration</b>	125*	125*	125*		2750
<b>8.</b>					
<b>9. TOTALS</b>	2125	7625	2125		31250

\* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

\*\* Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND**  
**APPLICATION BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

1. Have other sources of funding not listed in the Budget Worksheet been approached for project support? If yes, name them and explain the outcome of your request. **NO**

2. If any of the contributing partners listed in the Budget Worksheet have not confirmed participation, list the date when confirmation will be made. Explain how you will implement the project if these sources do not confirm participation.

Written confirmation of participation by all partners will be secured no later than October 15, 2003.

3. If any of the project costs identified in Column B of the Budget Worksheet have been expended or if debt has been incurred for these costs or a sponsor or partner is obligated for these costs in any other way: List these costs here. Explain clearly why Trust grant funds are requested for these costs. **NA**

1. CATEGORY/COMPONENT (from Column A of the Budget Summary)	BASIS USED TO DETERMINE COST	ATTACHMENT? LABEL?
<b>2. Land Use Assessment</b>	Estimate	NA
<b>3. Habitat Quality Assessment</b>	Estimate	NA
<b>4. Invasive Species Eradication</b>	Estimate/price quotes	NA
<b>5. Public Information, Outreach</b>	Estimate	NA
<b>6. Long-term Management</b>	Estimate	NA
<b>7. Administration</b>	Estimate	NA



## NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

### PROJECT SPONSOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

Please see the instructions for section C-3. Attachments to this document may be necessary to complete this section. Include these attachments with your hard copy submission.

The Republican River Management Districts Association is a coalition formed through an inter-local agreement between natural resources districts, irrigation districts and other groups interested in water conservation within the Republican River Basin. It is supported solely by dues from member districts. A copy of the interlocal agreement and the most recent financial statements are attached.

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) will administer the grant on behalf of the sponsor. Tri-Basin NRD derives income from local property taxes, state aid and state and federal grants. The current district levy is 2.6 cents per \$100 of property valuation. That compares to the state-imposed levy limit of 4.5 cents per \$100 of valuation.



# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

## TIMELINE

H1. Project Sponsor: NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

See instructions for section D.

Month/Year	Task Description:
5/28/2003	First meeting of Republican Basin Water and Habitat Task Force held in Cambridge NE
7/15/2003	Follow-up "scoping" meeting of Republican Basin Water and Habitat Task Force held in Cambridge NE
9/3/2003	Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project grant draft sent to potential partners for review and comment.
3/2004	Meeting of Republican Basin Water and Habitat Task Force to discuss NETF grant implementation (if approved) or alternative strategies.
6/1/2004	Commence identification of invasive species infestations on public lands
6/1/2004	Economic analysis of habitat conservation begins
*****	<b>Timing for all activities planned after 7/1/2004 is contingent on grant approval *****</b>
7/1/2004	Commence development of land use categories and acquire satellite imagery for land use survey.
7/1/2004	Commence ground-truthing for habitat quality survey
9/15/2004	Weed control superintendents meet with state and federal personnel to develop eradication plan for invasive species on public lands.
9/15/2004	Republican Basin Water and Habitat Task Force meets to discuss needs for educational materials and to develop habitat priorities matrix. Assignments given to partner personnel to develop materials and matrix.
11/1/2004	First version of Republican Basin habitat priorities matrix presented to partners for review
11/15/2004	"Focus group" meetings between landowners and agency personnel begin. Topic= how to increase participation in conservation programs
11/15/2004	First version of land use survey and habitat quality survey presented to partners for review and cross-checking
1/15/2005	Final version of Republican Basin habitat priorities matrix presented to partners
1/15/2005	First versions of educational materials presented to partners for review
1/15/2005	First draft of economic analysis presented to partners for review
3/15/2005	Final version of land use survey and habitat quality survey presented to partners
3/15/2005	First version of GIS tool for agency/ landowner interactions presented to partners for review
3/15/2005	Weed control superintendents and agency personnel begin implementation of invasive species eradication plan.
5/15/2005	Final version of GIS tool for agency/ landowner interactions presented to partners for use
5/15/2005	Final draft of economic analysis presented to partners
7/2005	"Field days" held on public lands to inform public about invasive species and demonstrate eradication methods.
11/15/2005	Focus group meetings between landowners and agency personnel continue
1/2006-3/2006	Public information meetings held basinwide on invasive species, habitat management, habitat economics
3/15/2006	Weed control superintendents and agency personnel continue to implement invasive species eradication plan.
3/15/2006	Focus group meetings between landowners and agency personnel conclude
7/2006	More "field days" held on public lands to inform public about invasive species and demonstrate eradication methods.
9/15/2006	Republican Basin Water and Habitat Task Force meets to begin development of habitat conservation participation recommendations. Assignments given to partner personnel to develop recommendations.
1/2007-3/2007	Basinwide public information meetings on invasive species, habitat management, habitat economics continue
3/15/2007	Agency personnel present habitat conservation incentive recommendations to NRRMDA



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# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

## PARTNERS

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

Please see the instructions for filling out section E. Letters of confirmation should be included with your hard copy submission.

Partner	Contribution
NDNR	Funds and technical assistance for land use survey, personnel time for outreach meetings
NGPC	Technical assistance for land use and habitat quality surveys, personnel time for all grant activities
Groundwater Foundation	Technical assistance for development of educational materials, personnel to assist with public meetings and focus group meetings
Trailblazer and Southwest RC and Ds	Personnel to assist with public meetings and focus group meetings
Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	Software for GIS tools, technical assistance with habitat quality survey
Participating County Weed Control Programs	Technical assistance for habitat quality assessment, invasive species eradication and public outreach
USDA-NRCS	Technical assistance for all grant activities, particularly land use and habitat quality surveys
USDI-BOR	Funding for herbicides and biological invasive species control, funding for educational materials, personnel time for all grant activities
USDI-FWS	Technical assistance for all grant activities, particularly land use and habitat quality surveys

Letters of intent to participate in this project are expected from all project partners. They will be submitted to the NE Environmental Trust no later than October 15, 2003.



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**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND  
REAL ESTATE / SITE PLAN**

**H1. Project Sponsor:** NE Republican River Management Districts Association c/o Tri-Basin NRD

**H2. Project Name:** Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

This section will not apply to every project. Please see instructions for section F. Attachments should be sent with the hardcopy submission.

Legal Description	County	#Acres
NO REAL ESTATE WILL BE PURCHASED OR ACQUIRED IN ANY WAY	\	\