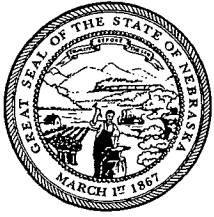


# STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Roger K. Patterson  
Director

August 18, 2004

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns  
Governor

Alice Johns  
Area Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Great Plains Region  
Nebraska-Kansas Area Office  
P.O. Box 1607  
Grand Island, Nebraska 68802-1607

Dear Alice:

This letter is in response to your July 20, 2004 letter seeking input on the Bureau's FY 07 Investigations/Planning Program. At this time we do not know whether any of the items requested in the FY 06 General Investigations/Planning Program request I sent your office on October 3, 2003 have received funding. Therefore, my primary interest is in seeing that we receive assistance on those projects. The amounts requested are therefore based on the assumption that those items are not funded in FY 06. There are three general topics of investigation for which I most anticipate Bureau assistance may be of help at that time. Those are: 1) examination of water management opportunities in the Enders/Culbertson canal area, 2) examination of conjunctive use opportunities in the Central Platte area, and 3) assistance in analyzing Platte River Water Decision Support System options.

The work in the Enders/Culbertson canal area would examine how to best manage remaining supplies and would concentrate on topics such as recharge. It would be for topics clearly outside the scope of the current appraisal study effort in the basin and could contribute to better management in a basin working on implementation of an interstate lawsuit settlement. We are requesting that \$110,000 be included in your FY 07 Nebraska Investigations budget in order to complete that effort.

The continuing work in the Central Platte region would examine and analyze conjunctive use/interrelated water management activities in an area that is vital to implementation of a cooperative agreement between Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and the Federal Government. Local natural resources districts in the region may also be working on implementation of plans to address management of interrelated groundwater and surface water. There is likely to be some need for analysis in support of formulation and implementation of local plans. We are requesting

clrshare\patterson  
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor • P.O. Box 94676 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676 • Phone (402) 471-2363 • Telefax (402) 471-2900

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

DNR 012040

Alice Johns  
August 18, 2004  
Page 2

that \$110,000 be included in your FY07 Nebraska Investigations budget in order to complete that effort.

We also ask that your FY07 request include funds for a study of Platte River Decision Support System options. We continue to have development of a decision support system as a long term goal, but are likely to have only limited ability to match fund. My request at this time is that \$20,000 be included in the FY07 Nebraska Investigations budget for a study of Platte River Decision Support System options in case any funds should become available. That brings our total request for FY07 Nebraska Investigations funding to \$240,000.

Thank you for your offer of assistance. Again, these amounts are based upon the assumption that we do not receive the FY 06 budgeted amounts we had previously requested. If any additional needs should arise, or if additional state matching potential should become available, we will contact you. We greatly appreciate the Bureau's past assistance and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger K. Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Roger K. Patterson  
Director

Enclosures

## ACTIVITY PLAN – EXAMINATION OF PLATTE RIVER DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM OPTIONS

Region: Great Plains  
Date: August 18, 2004

### NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

#### Special Study

Total FY 2007  
Estimated  
Cost:  
Federal: \$ 29,000  
Non-Federal: \$ 20,000  
Total: \$ 40,000

Location: Platte, North Platte and South Platte River Basins in Nebraska

#### Description:

- A. Water Resource Development Problems and Opportunities  
Accurate prediction of water availability and needs along the Platte River system can make result in more efficient use among a spectrum of water users. This project represents an opportunity to optimize water use in the states most heavily used basin.
- B. Purpose, General Scope, Key Areas of Concern, and Probable Solutions  
This study will analyze methods of providing better predictive capabilities for water availability and water need in the Platte River Basin and provide an outline of a potential water decision support system that would meet Nebraska needs. The purpose of the project is to allow Nebraskans to better manage water in an area that has multiple demands and limited supply and where just in time delivery can provide considerable value.
- C. Relationship to Other Project Purposes  
  
This project has the potential to contribute to more efficient water use for all purposes along the Platte.
- D. Work Proposed in FY 2007  
  
Initial work on this project would involve a review of 1) a detailed examination of specifically how a water decision support system could be used to assist Platte River Water users, and 2) an examination of various

potential DSS systems and the costs and effort that would be involved in implementing each.

Justification for Federal Involvement: This is part of a multi-state basin with an interstate agreement, significant endangered species concerns and power/energy uses of water. Agricultural water uses are a vital component of the local economy and the source of many livelihoods in the basin.

Coordination with State/Federal/Tribes: This project will be coordinated with Central Nebraska Public Power District, Nebraska Public Power District and a number of natural resources districts.

Cost Sharing: The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources/State of Nebraska has and plans expenditures in the area that would likely qualify as match. Although they have not yet been contacted about this particular application, local natural resources districts also have or plan activities in the area which are likely to qualify as match.

Congressional District and Delegation: The project is in Nebraska's Third Congressional District. Congressman Tom Osborne represents the District.

**ACTIVITY PLAN –EXAMINATION OF CONJUNCTIVE USE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CENTRAL PLATTE AREA.**

Region: Great Plains  
Date: August 18, 2004

**NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM**

**Special Study**

Total Estimated	FY2007
Cost:	
Federal	\$110,000
Non-Federal	\$110,000
Total	\$220,000

Location: Central Platte NRD and CNPPID/NPPD Service Area in Central Platte Region of Nebraska

**Description:**

- A. Water Resource Management/Development Problems and Opportunities  
More efficient management of Platte River water supplies can help extend water supplies and meet cooperative agreement and diverse water user needs in an area with water shortages. The groundwater mound built up through years of surface water project operation presents an opportunity to use existing water supplies conjunctively to supplement users in times of shortage.
- B. Purpose, General Scope, Key Areas of Concern and Probable Solutions  
This study will analyze water management opportunities in an area whose water availability and use is central to a cooperative agreement between the states of Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and the federal government. Interrelated factors such as new wells, surface water diversions, recharge from surface sources, water use efficiencies through canal lining and strategically supplementing surface irrigation with groundwater are some of the pieces of a complex puzzle. Future management that results in both equity and optimum economic and environmental use will take forethought and analysis.
- C. Relationship to Other Project Purposes:  
The Platte River Basin has multipurpose surface water projects and extensive groundwater development. The project has the potential to contribute to all users through more efficient use of water.
- D. Work Proposed in FY 2007  
The start time for this special study is uncertain.

Justification for Federal Involvement: This is part of a multi-state basin with an interstate agreement. Power and irrigation district surface water management and natural resources district management of groundwater vital to the local economy.

Coordination With State/Federal/Tribes This project will be coordinated with Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Nebraska Public Power District and local natural resources districts.

Cost Sharing: The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources/State of Nebraska has and plans expenditures in the area that would likely qualify as match. Although they have not yet been contacted about this particular application, local Natural Resources Districts also have or plan activities in the area which are likely to qualify as match.

Congressional District and Delegation: The project is in Nebraska's third congressional district. Congressman Tom Osborne represents the District.

Study Authority:

GPRA Links:

**ACTIVITY PLAN – EXAMINATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE ENDERS RESERVOIR/CULBERTSON CANAL REGION**

Region: Great Plains  
Date: August 18, 2004

**NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM**

Special Study

Total	
Estimated	FY2007
Cost:	
Federal	\$110,000
Non-Federal	\$110,000
Total	\$220,000

Location: Enders/Culbertson Canal region of the Republican River Basin in Nebraska

Description:

- A. Water Resource Management/Development Problems and Opportunities  
More efficient management of Republican River Water Supplies can help extend water supplies and meet interstate compact needs in an area with water shortages.
  
- B. Purpose, General Scope, Key Areas of Concern and Probable Solutions  
This study will analyze water management opportunities in an area that has dramatically reduced ground water and surface water supplies from those available when Enders Reservoir was first constructed. Thus efficient and effective management of locally available supplies is highly important for area water users. The study is also occurring in an area where there has been a recent settlement of an interstate lawsuit and where intensive efficient management of interrelated groundwater and surface water supplies will be vital to meeting compact needs and the needs of the area economy.
  
- C. Relationship to Other Project Purposes:  
The Republican Basin has multiple federal multipurpose water projects and multiple irrigation districts. The project has the potential to contribute to all purposes through more efficient use of water.
  
- D. Work Proposed in FY 2007  
The start time for this special study is uncertain.

Justification for Federal Involvement: This is part of a multi-state basin with an interstate compact and a recent lawsuit settlement. It has multiple federal projects and

operation of the projects, irrigation district operations and management of groundwater and surface water are vital to the local economy.

Coordination With State/Federal/Tribes      This project will be coordinated with local irrigation districts and local natural resources districts.

Cost Sharing: The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources/State of Nebraska has and plans expenditures in the area that would likely qualify as match. Although they have not yet been contacted about this particular application, local Natural Resources Districts and local Irrigation Districts also have or plan activities in the area which are likely to qualify as match.

Congressional District and Delegation:      The project is in Nebraska's third congressional district. Congressman Tom Osborne represents the District.

Study Authority:

GPRA Links: