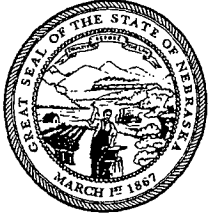


STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

October 3, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

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

Dear Fred,

This letter is in response to your July 9, 2003 letter seeking input on the Bureau's FY 06 Investigations/Planning Program. There are two general topics of investigation for which we anticipate Bureau assistance may be of help at that time. Those are: 1) examination of water management opportunities in the Enders/Culbertson canal area, and 2) examination of conjunctive use opportunities in the Central Platte area.

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 06 Nebraska Investigations budget for that effort.

The 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 that another \$110,000 be included in your FY06 Nebraska Investigations budget for that effort.

Last year we requested that your FY05 request include funds for a study of Platte River Decision Support System options. We noted at that time that we did not have funding to continue an extensive examination of decision support system options. We continue to have development of a decision support system as a long term goal, but again do not see any short to medium term

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Fred Ore
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likelihood of funding availability. **At this time we request that \$10,000 be kept in the FY06 Nebraska Investigations budget for a study of a Platte River Decision Support System options in case any funds should become available. That brings our total request for FY06 Nebraska Investigations funding to \$230,000.**

Thank you for your offer of assistance. 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,


Roger K. Patterson
Director

sg
Enclosures

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

Region: Great Plains
Date: October 3, 2003

NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

Special Study

Total	
Estimated	FY2006
Cost:	
Federal	\$110,000
Non-Federal	\$110,000
Total	\$220,000

Location: Central Platte NRD and 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 recent drought highlighted the need to continue 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 2006
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 are vital to the local economy.

Coordination With State/Federal/Tribes This project will be coordinated with the Nebraska Public Power District and the Central Platte Natural Resource District.

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 and public power 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: October 3, 2003

NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

Special Study

Total	
Estimated	FY2006
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 2006
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: