

FILE THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BEHIND THIS DIVIDER.
PLEASE LIMIT YOUR ANSWERS TO FIVE PAGES OR LESS.
ATTACHMENTS, SUCH AS MAPS, BLUEPRINTS OR SCHEMATICS DO NOT COUNT
TOWARD THE FIVE PAGE MAXIMUM.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE:

- APPLICANT NAME
- PROJECT TITLE
- CONTACT PERSON & PHONE

NARRATIVE SECTION: FIVE PAGES OR LESS

1. All applicants: Please provide a discussion of your project, covering the following points:

Describe the project: detail the design of the project, how it will be implemented, and what objectives will be achieved. Emphasize especially the environmental objectives, benefits and outcomes. Tell us who will enjoy these benefits. How long-lasting will the results and benefits of this project be?

Describe the economic, social and/or public health impacts this project will have.

Describe how you will evaluate the success of the project.

If the project will require continuing maintenance and/or administration, discuss how you will fund these activities.

Provide a list of federal and state permits or approvals this project will require.

2. Applications proposing structural projects: Please provide the following additional information:

Include a site plan which shows the legal boundaries, existing features and structures, proposed and future developments. Be sure the plan includes a scale, north arrow and key. You must attach plans, profiles or cross-section sufficiently detailed to show that the structures will be designed in accordance with any applicable regulations, codes or standard practices and to allow reasonable estimation of cost.

Explain the rationale used to locate this project, and in developing the design submitted. Describe all analyses and field investigations made to substantiate the design of the project. Provide a detailed discussion of any yet-to-be completed requirements for preparing the final plan, including geologic or hydrologic investigation; soil mechanics; structural, embankment or foundation criteria.

The Trust reserves the right to request further information of any applicant as it deems necessary, as provided in Title 137 governing Trust activities. Reasonable time will be provided the applicant to respond to such requests. Failure to provide any information as requested will result in disqualification of an application.

Submit the original and six copies of the application form and all attachments to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, 2200 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503. Your application must be received in the Trust office by 5:00 PM on the deadline date announced each year to be considered for an award.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit materials in 8 1/2" x 11" format. You may be required to submit additional copies of materials which do not fit this format, or which require special processing to duplicate.

All information becomes a matter of public record once the application is filed.

Do not bind your applications. Applications submitted in three-hole punched format are greatly appreciated.



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 2nd 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@tribasinrd.org

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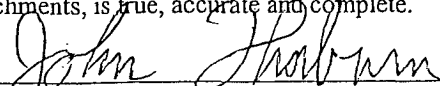
20. In 300 words or less provide an overview of the project for which you seek funding. If you are asking the Trust to fund only a portion of the project, indicate the components for which you seek funding.

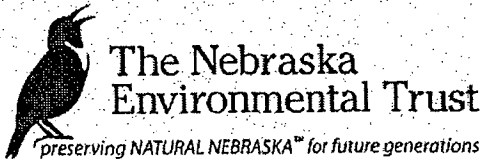
The Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) cannot single-handedly solve every environmental problem faced by the State of Nebraska and its residents. NETF dollars must be used to leverage local, state and federal dollars and to fill gaps between existing programs, rather than serve as the primary funding 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.

	Gen. Mgr.	9/5/03
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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H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

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 hydrophitic 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, hydrophitic species (saltcedar aka, *tamarisk*, Russian olive, aka *Eleagnus angustifolia* and purple loosestrife, aka *lithrum*) and improved management of riparian forest.

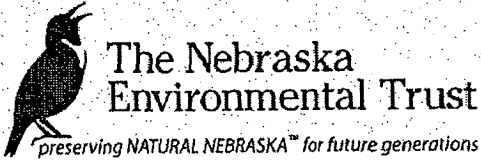
The impetus for this project came from two meetings of the Republican Basin Habitat Management Task Force. This group met in May and again in July, 2003 to discuss ways to more efficiently and effectively deliver conservation programs to landowners. This group is composed of representatives of local, 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



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

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

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

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, hydrophytic 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.

IN THIS SECTION, FILE IN ORDER:

1. BUDGET SUMMARY FORM(S)
2. BUDGET NARRATIVE & JUSTIFICATION
3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT of SPONSOR(S)

YOU MUST USE THE FORMS PROVIDED TO DESCRIBE THE BUDGET FOR YOUR PROJECT. IF YOU MODIFY THE FORM, OR FAIL TO COMPLETE ALL OF THE STEPS REQUESTED, YOUR APPLICATION MAY BE RULED INELIGIBLE.

YOU MAY PHOTOCOPY THE FORMS AS NEEDED. THEY ARE AVAILABLE ON DISK UPON REQUEST IN WORDPERFECT 6.1 FORMAT.

1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BUDGET SUMMARY FORM

It is important that we are able to determine from this summary the specific activities you expect to fund with your grant. Please contact the office if you have questions or would like assistance. This summary will be considered a binding attachment to your grant contract.

1. SPONSOR INFORMATION. Please complete as requested.

2. GRANT YEAR

Funding of Trust grants begins upon receipt of a signed grant contract, following the award date specified elsewhere in this packet. If your project will be accomplished in one year, you need to supply only one Budget Summary page. Circle the grant year, "1" for Item 2. Funding for some grants extends over two or three years. In this case, make copies of the form as needed and complete a summary form for each year of the project, and a summary showing the total for all years requested. This grand total summary sheet should be filed first, followed by years one, two and three. Circle the appropriate information on each page.

LINE 3. SOURCE OF FUNDS

Cell 3-B has been completed for you. In Cells 3-C, 3-D and 3-E, identify other sources of funds, donations or other resources as you did in your grant application.

4. BUDGET CATEGORIES: COLUMN A

In Column A, use Lines 5 through 19 to list the categories of expenditures you anticipate in this project. In most cases, you may use your usual accounting categories.

5-B THROUGH 19-E. INSERTING DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN CELLS

Next, complete the chart by inserting accurate dollar amounts in Cells 5-B through 19-E. Please indicate in-kind contributions by writing "in-kind" in the cell. You may not need to use all of the rows or columns. If you need more rows or columns, please copy the form as needed and number the pages.

COLUMN F AND LINE 20

Insert the total of each Line (5 through 19) in Column F. [NOTE: If you need more than one page per year as in the instruction above, write "CONTINUED" in Column F on page one. Insert totals in Column F on the last page only.] Total Columns B through F in line 20. Cell 20-F is the "grand total" of Column F and Line 20.

2. COMPLETE AND FILE THE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FORM NEXT. Follow the instructions printed on the form.

3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPONSOR FINANCIAL STATEMENT

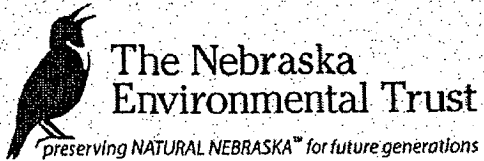
Last in this section file a financial statement showing revenue (income) and operating costs for the sponsor(s). Government agencies may show source(s) of income available, current income and maximum potential income along with an annual budget. Private organizations may include an operating budget for the current year, a projected budget for the coming year, their most recent financial statement and/or most recent Form 990 (non-profits only). Individual applicants may be asked to supply financial information at the discretion of the Trust. PLEASE LABEL EACH DOCUMENT CLEARLY.

Submit the original and six copies of the application form and all attachments to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, 2200 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503. Your application must be received in the Trust office by 5:00 PM on the deadline established by the Trust Board.

Sponsors are strongly encouraged to submit materials in 8 1/2" x 11" format. You may be required to submit additional copies of materials which do not fit this format, or which require special processing to duplicate.

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**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

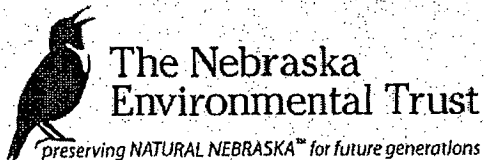
1. Have other sources of funding not listed in the Budget Worksheet been approached for project support? If yes, name them and explain the outcome of your request. **NO**

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?
2. Land Use Assessment	Estimate	NA
3. Habitat Quality Assessment	Estimate	NA
4. Invasive Species Eradication	Estimate/price quotes	NA
5. Public Information, Outreach	Estimate	NA
6. Long-term Management	Estimate	NA
7. Administration	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.

Signed [unclear]

**INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT
FOR THE
NEBRASKA REPUBLICAN RIVER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION**

This Agreement is entered by and between:

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
MIDDLE 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
BOSTWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

All of which are political subdivisions of and are in the State of Nebraska.

IT IS AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES HERETO, EACH ACKNOWLEDGING THE RECEIPT OF GOOD, ADEQUATE, AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, AS FOLLOWS:

1. **AUTHORITY:** The parties have made and entered this agreement pursuant to the authority conferred upon each under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-801 through §13-827. The Association will be an entity separate and distinct from the respective parties hereto, and no party hereto is the agent, employee or representative of the Association or any other party. The parties hereto agree that contracts entered into, obligations undertaken, and liabilities incurred by the Association will be the separate contracts, obligations and liabilities of the Association, and not the contracts, obligations or liabilities of the respective parties hereto. All Board meetings of this Association shall be conducted under the Nebraska Open Meeting Law.

2. **ASSOCIATION:** The parties herein and hereby create the Republican River Management Districts Association (hereinafter called "Association"). This agreement pursuant the purposes described herein shall govern the Association. For the purposes of this agreement, the Association

is a separate body corporate and politic from the individual District members of this Association.

3. PURPOSE: The purpose of the Association is to conserve, preserve, and protect the quantity, quality, and availability of water resources within the Republican Basin. The Association will inform and educate the public concerning the beneficial uses of water resources in the Republican River Basin. The Association may represent its members in matters related to the Republican River Compact. The Association's members will provide the authority, resources, services and facilities as appropriate and necessary to accomplish these purposes.

4. BOARD: The affairs, actions and conduct of the business of the Association shall be by a Board of Directors (hereinafter called the "Board"). Each member of the Board will be entitled to one vote and a majority of the votes cast on any issue will determine the issue, except where a higher percentage shall be specifically required by this Agreement or bylaws adopted by the Board. The Board will be composed of one ~~elected~~ representative of each party to this agreement. Each representative and any designated alternate will be duly and properly appointed by the governing body of each party to this agreement. Each board member will serve at the pleasure of his or her respective organization. The party will fill any vacancy that occurs in the board within 60 days through the appointment of a qualified replacement. The Board shall exercise authority over the Association in accordance with applicable laws and shall set policy, delegate executive, supervisory and organizational authority to its facilitators and committees. Meetings of the Board will be conducted quarterly, and at other times as deemed necessary by the Board. A majority of the members of the Board will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A lesser number attending at any meeting shall have power to adjourn.

5. COMMITTEES:
 - a. Technical Committee: The Technical Committee shall be a standing committee, which consists of the managers of all member districts. This committee may exercise only such powers and authorities that are delegated to it by the Board.
 - b. The Board shall have the power to establish other committees as may be necessary,

appropriate or beneficial to the conduct of the affairs of the Association.

6. FACILITATORS:

All facilitators will be selected annually from the Technical Committee.

- a. Co-Chairs: The co-chairs, one NRD manager and one Irrigation District manager, shall preside at all the meetings of the Board, shall decide all questions of order which shall generally be consistent with Robert's Rule of Order, and have such general powers and duties of supervision and management as shall be necessary and germane or required for the execution and prosecution of the affairs of the Association.
- b. Secretary: The Secretary to the Board shall keep, or cause to be kept, minutes of all meetings conducted by the Association, and shall be the keeper of the records of the Association.
- c. Treasurer: The Treasurer will prepare and submit in writing a quarterly report of the state of the finances of the Association and pay Association money only upon authorization of the Board. Payment of all accounts after authorization shall be made on check signed by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be bonded as required by law.
- d. In addition to the foregoing, the officers shall have such other and additional duties, powers, privileges and authority as the Board may, in bylaws or otherwise, determine appropriate or necessary and by Board actions delegate or direct.

7. POWERS: The Association shall have all the powers, privileges and authority exercised or capable of exercise by each of the individual and separate parties to this agreement to achieve the purposes of the Association as set forth in this agreement. The Association expressly declares that all other lawful powers conferred upon each of the individual and separate parties to this agreement, consistent with the authorization given under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-801 through §13-827, are hereby included. Provided further nothing in this agreement shall operate to relieve any party of any obligation or responsibility imposed upon it by law nor shall this agreement or its operation preclude any party from conducting or pursuing independent action in regard to each party's separate and independent obligations or responsibilities.

8. DURATION: The Association will commence business on or after July 1, 2000 and the Association and this agreement will continue in existence until the completion of all purposes stated herein or its end by vote of the parties as described in paragraph 11 hereof.

9. FINANCES AND BUDGET:

- a. Initial Contributions: Each entity hereto irrevocably commits \$100.00 to the initial operation of the Association, such contributions due to the Treasurer within 30 days of the first meeting of the Association.
- b. Annual Budget: Annually, beginning no more than 30 days after the formation of the Association and commencement of business, and continuing on July 1st of each year thereafter during the existence of this Association, the Board shall establish and adopt a budget for the prosecution and completion of the work undertaken by the Association. Upon completion of the budget, the Board will determine the assessment to be submitted to each party and will thereafter assess each party for said amounts.
- c. Special Assessments: Upon two-thirds vote of the Board, requests for additional funds from member districts may be made.
- d. Submission of Assessment: Upon receipt of the annual or special assessment, each party will have 60 days to accept the assessment or submit a written notice of withdrawal. In the event of such withdrawal, the withdrawing party will not be liable for the assessment imposed during the sixty days preceding the withdrawal.
- e. Third Party Solicitations: In addition, the Board shall be entitled to and shall have the power to solicit and obtain such contributions and other funds and monies as may be available to the Association from all persons, associations, and entities of any kind, including persons not a party to this agreement.

10. WITHDRAWAL: Any party may withdraw from this agreement and from representation on the Association upon written notification to the Chair of the Association. Such withdrawal shall be effective upon receipt of the written notification. Any party withdrawing from the agreement will

be entitled to immediately secure their own representation in any proceedings involving the subject matters herein described. Following written notification, the withdrawn member shall no longer be a party to, nor be bound by this agreement, except that (a) the withdrawn member shall not be entitled to any refund of any contribution or assessment previously paid to the efforts of the Association, and (b) the withdrawn member shall remain liable for its share of any costs properly approved and incurred by the Association through the effective date of withdrawal to the extent such costs exceed all sums available to the Association through the date of withdrawal. Such shares will be determined according to the allocation formula in effect for the assessment of parties as of the date of the withdrawal notice. The parties agree that a withdrawn party will not be liable or responsible for any costs, obligations or liabilities incurred by the Association after such party's withdrawal. In the event of any withdrawal, the Association will make such adjustments as are necessary in the composition of its Board and its future budgets and finances as are necessary to accommodate and continue the operation of the Association in the absence of such withdrawing member.

11. **TERMINATION:** This agreement and the Association created with this agreement, shall end upon the completion of its purposes and objects described herein or upon the vote of two-thirds of the Board for the termination of the Association and this agreement. At such time as two-thirds of the Board shall vote to terminate the Association and the agreement, all outstanding debts and obligations of the Association shall be paid, all property acquired by the Association shall be disposed of by distribution to the members, and all unused funds and appropriations shall be returned to the members in such proportion as represented by the pro rata share paid by each, based upon the contributions made by members during the last 36 months preceding the termination date.

12. **AMENDMENT AND MODIFICATION:** For all matters other than membership, this agreement may be amended or modified upon the approval of written modifications by all then remaining parties hereto in a writing signed by and duly adopted and approved by the governing bodies of each of the remaining parties hereto.

13. CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP: This agreement may be amended or modified to increase or decrease its membership upon approval by two-thirds vote of the members of the Board of directors of the Association. Any additional new members shall be required to have the written approval of its governing body and shall have admission to membership in the Association and as a party hereto approved by a duly adopted resolution of its governing body.

14. ADDITIONAL AND FURTHER CONTRACTS FOR SUPPORT AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE: The Association is authorized and empowered to seek and obtain contracts, agreements and other arrangements under which the Association shall receive support and assistance for pursuing its objects and purposes from such other persons and entities as the Association from time to time shall determine necessary.

15. INTEGRATION: This contract contains the entire agreement of the parties. No representations were made or relied upon by any party other than those expressly set forth herein. All prior and contemporaneous negotiations, discussions, memos and other writing are merged and incorporated herein, it being the intention of the parties that this is a final and full expression of their agreement. No agent, employee or other representative of any party hereto is empowered to alter any of the terms herein unless such alteration is done in writing and signed by all parties hereto.

16. ASSIGNMENT: No party hereto may assign its rights under this agreement without the express written consent of all other parties as represented by the Board at the time of the request for approval of the assignment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed and executed this agreement on the dates shown next to their respective signatures as follows.

Robert Ambrose
Upper Republican Natural Resources District

5/5/00
Date

Luyle Haag
Middle Republican Natural Resources District

5-9-00
Date

Ray Wollen
Lower Republican Natural Resources District

5-26-00
Date

Don O Nelson
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

5-17-00
Date

Keith Best
Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District

5-2-00
Date

Clarence Jonkowitz Jr
Frenchman Valley Irrigation District

5-2-00
Date

Roger P. Gillette
Fitchcock and Red Willow Irrigation District

5-2-00
Date

W E Bean
Bostwick Irrigation District

6-1-00
Date

BALANCE SHEET

REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

MICHAEL DELKA, TREASURER

BOSTWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT IN NE

P. O. BOX 446

RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA 68970

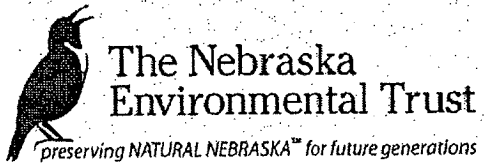
(402) 746-3424 Phone/fax

DATE		DEBIT	CREDIT	BAL.
1/1/03	Balance forward			\$1,077.67
3/19/03	Upper Republican NRD	200.00		1,277.67
4/15/03	NE Bostwick Irrig Dist	200.00		1,477.67
4/16/03	Dunbar-Peterson Ins. Agency		\$1,439.00	38.67
4/27/03	Middle Republican NRD	200.00		238.67
5/12/03	Tri-Basin NRD	200.00		438.67
5/8/03	Lower Republican NRD	200.00		638.67
5/15/03	Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation Dist.	200.00		838.67

Tri-Basin NRD

Line No.	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	Actual 2001 - 2002 (Column 1)	Actual/Estimated 2002 - 2003 (Column 2)	2003 - 2004 Budget Adopted (Column 3)
1	Beginning Balances, Receipts, & Transfers:			
2	Net Cash Balance	\$ 78,785.00	\$ 82,524.77	\$ 128,538.28
3	Investments	\$ 90,528.11	\$ 47,995.49	\$ 91.90
4	County Treasurer's Balance	\$ 3,600.89	\$ 2,736.83	\$ 5,057.71
5	Subtotal of Beginning Balances (Lines 2 to 4)	\$ 172,914.00	\$ 133,257.09	\$ 133,687.89
6	Personal and Real Property Taxes	\$ 357,327.33	\$ 421,593.34	\$ 409,265.07
7	Federal Receipts	\$ -	\$ 89,960.00	\$ -
8	State Receipts: Motor Vehicle Pro-Rate	\$ 1,003.83	\$ 932.77	\$ 600.00
9	State Receipts: State Aid (State Statute Section 77-27,136)	\$ 25,864.44	\$ 22,137.07	\$ 22,269.14
10	State Receipts: Other	\$ 141,369.08	\$ 143,640.48	\$ 511,755.46
11	Local Receipts: In Lieu of Tax	\$ 19.49	\$ 34.77	\$ -
12	Local Receipts: Other	\$ 165,893.50	\$ 196,694.31	\$ 255,069.77
13	Transfers In Of Surplus Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
14	Transfer In Other Than Surplus Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
15	Total Resources Available (Lines 5 thru 14)	\$ 864,391.67	\$ 1,008,249.83	\$ 1,332,647.33
16	Disbursements & Transfers:			
17	Operating Expenses	\$ 625,557.16	\$ 685,016.64	\$ 830,897.33
18	Capital Improvements (Real Property/Improvements)	\$ 68,467.67	\$ 168,540.09	\$ 374,000.00
19	Other Capital Outlay	\$ 37,109.75	\$ 21,005.21	\$ 62,750.00
20	Debt Service: Bond Principal & Interest Payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21	Debt Service: Payments to Retire Interest-Free Loans (Public Airports)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
22	Debt Service: Payments to Bank Loans & Other Instruments (Fire Districts)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
23	Debt Service: Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
24	Judgments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
25	Transfers of Surplus Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
26	Transfers Other Than Surplus Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
27	Total Disbursements & Transfers (Lines 17 to 26)	\$ 731,134.58	\$ 874,561.94	\$ 1,267,647.33
28	Balance Forward/Cash Reserve (Line 15 - Line 27)	\$ 133,257.09	\$ 133,687.89	\$ 65,000.00

PROPERTY TAX RECAP	Tax from Line 6	\$ 409,265.07
	County Treasurer's Commission at 1% of Line 6	\$ 4,092.65
	Delinquent Tax Allowance	\$ 20,463.25
	Total Property Tax Requirement	\$ 433,820.97



**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
Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories	Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund	NRRMDA members	NDNR	NGPC	
2. Land Use Assessment	25000	4000**	12500**	0	
3. Habitat Quality Assessment	5000	4000*	2000*	4000*	
4. Invasive Species Eradication	41000	500*	0	500*	
5. Public Information, Outreach	15000	2000**	1000**	1000*	
6. Long-term Management	0	0	0	0	
7. Administration	2000	1000*	250*	250*	
8.					
9. TOTALS	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
Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories	Groundwater Foundation	Trailblazer and Southwest RC and Ds	Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	County Weed Control Programs	
2. Land Use Assessment	0	0	4000**	0	
3. Habitat Quality Assessment	0	0	1500*	1500*	
4. Invasive Species Eradication	0	0	0	5000*	
5. Public Information, Outreach	2000*	500*	0	500*	
6. Long-term Management	0	0	0	0	
7. Administration	250*	250*	125*	500*	
8.					
9. TOTALS	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
Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories	USDA-NRCS	USDI-BOR	USDI-FWS		
2. Land Use Assessment	2000*	2000*	4000*		53500
3. Habitat Quality Assessment	2000*	2000*	4000*		26000
4. Invasive Species Eradication	1000*	7000	1000**		56000
5. Public Information, Outreach	500*	2000	500**		25000
6. Long-term Management	0	0	0		0
7. Administration	250*	250*	250*		5375
8.					
9. TOTALS	5750	13250	9750		165875

* 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

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
Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories	Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund	NRRMDA members	NDNR	NGPC	
2. Land Use Assessment	0	1000**	0**	0	
3. Habitat Quality Assessment	0	1000*	500*	1000*	
4. Invasive Species Eradication	0	500*	0	500*	
5. Public Information, Outreach	15000	2000**	1000**	1000*	
6. Long-term Management	0	0	0	0	
7. Administration	2000	1000*	250*	250*	
8.					
9. TOTALS	17000	5500	1750	2750	

* 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

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
Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories	Groundwater Foundation	Trailblazer and Southwest RC and Ds	Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	County Weed Control Programs	
2. Land Use Assessment	0	0	1000**	0	
3. Habitat Quality Assessment	0	0	500*	1000*	
4. Invasive Species Eradication	0	0	0	2500*	
5. Public Information, Outreach	2000*	500*	0	1000*	
6. Long-term Management	0	0	0	0	
7. Administration	125*	125*	125*	500*	
8.					
9. TOTALS	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

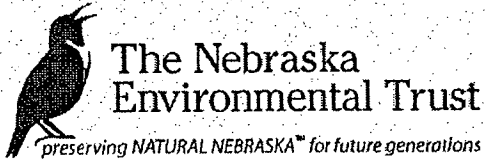
H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: TWO

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

* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

** Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR THREE

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

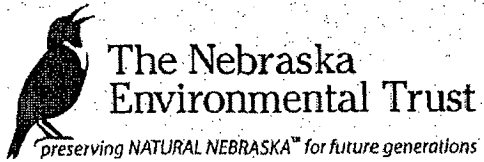
H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: THREE

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

* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

** Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



**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
Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories	Groundwater Foundation	Trailblazer and Southwest RC and Ds	Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	County Weed Control Programs	Contributions in-kind
2. Land Use Assessment	0	0	0	0	
3. Habitat Quality Assessment	0	0	0	0	
4. Invasive Species Eradication	0	0	0	2500*	
5. Public Information, Outreach	1000*	500*	0	1000*	
6. Long-term Management	1000*	500*	1000*	500*	
7. Administration	125*	125*	125*	500*	
8.					
9. TOTALS	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

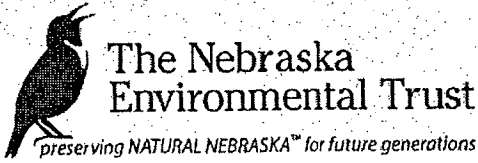
H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

BUDGET YEAR: THREE

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

* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

** Combination of in-kind and cash contributions



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION BUDGET SUMMARY

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

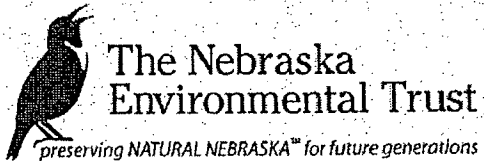
H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water and Habitat Conservation Project

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	
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



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

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

BUDGET YEAR: SUMMARY

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

* In-kind contributions of personnel and services

** Combination of in-kind and cash contributions

TIMELINE FOR THE PROJECT

In this section, file the timeline for the project. If your project will begin before Trust funding is awarded, and/or if your project will continue after a grant from the Trust would expire, indicate clearly the portions of the project for which you are requesting Trust support.

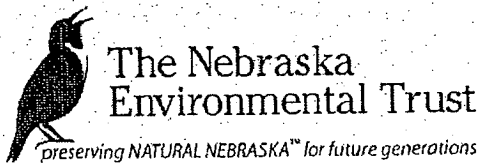
The Trust reserves the right to request further information of any applicant as it deems necessary, as provided in Title 137 governing Trust activities. Reasonable time will be provided the applicant to respond to such requests. Failure to provide any information as requested will result in disqualification of an application.

Submit the original and six copies of the application form and all attachments to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, 2200 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503. Your application must be received in the Trust office by 5:00 PM on the deadline date announced each year to be considered for an award.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit materials in 8 1/2" x 11" format. You may be required to submit additional copies of materials which do not fit this format, or which require special processing to duplicate.

All information becomes a matter of public record once the application is filed.

Do not bind your applications. Applications submitted in three-hole punched format are greatly appreciated.



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
*****	Timing for all activities planned after 7/1/2004 is contingent on grant approval *****
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

PROJECT PARTNERS

The Nebraska Environmental Trust encourages public-private partnerships. We are interested in knowing who the participants are in projects which we fund. We want to know the role each partner will play in a project. Please file a list of project partners, explaining each partner's role, in this section.

Also in this section, you may file letters of confirming the participation of these partners. You MUST include a letter confirming the participation of any partner identified as a co-sponsor. (A co-sponsor is a partner in the project who assumes responsibility for ensuring that the project, or a portion of the project, will be completed as described.)

The Trust reserves the right to request further information of any applicant as it deems necessary, as provided in Title 137 governing Trust activities. Reasonable time will be provided the applicant to respond to such requests. Failure to provide any information as requested will result in disqualification of an application.

Submit the original and six copies of the application form and all attachments to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, 2200 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503. Your application must be received in the Trust office by 5:00 PM on the deadline date announced each year to be considered for an award.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit materials in 8 1/2" x 11" format. You may be required to submit additional copies of materials which do not fit this format, or which require special processing to duplicate.

All information becomes a matter of public record once the application is filed.

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**The Nebraska
Environmental Trust**

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

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.

REAL ESTATE

Projects which propose the acquisition or development* of real property, or easements, must file the following information in this section:

1. The legal description of all property (or easements) to be acquired or developed. Provide this information on page one in this section. If this proposal seeks funding to purchase real estate, clearly state the total number of acres to be purchased at the top of this page.

2. A site plan which shows: the legal boundary or the site, existing features and structures, proposed and future developments, the scale, north arrow and key. Clearly label the plan. Provide this information on page two of this section.

3. Evidence of title and outstanding easements, liens or encumbrances. Please label this exhibit clearly.

4. If you propose a purchase, attach the option, purchase agreement or other instrument which you have negotiated with the current owner. Please label this exhibit clearly.

5. If you propose improvements to property which you do not own, attach a letter confirming the landowner's participation in the project. Please label this exhibit clearly.

The Trust will require assurances that threatened and endangered species habitat will not be compromised by a project prior to funding.

The Trust will require assurances that historic and cultural resources will not be compromised by any project prior to funding.

Grantees will be required to sign assurances to guarantee these conditions are met at their expense, if necessary.

The Trust will not assist government subdivisions in the acquisition of land through powers of eminent domain. We will require proof of willing seller agreement before funding a project.

*Development of real property includes the construction of buildings or additions to buildings; the construction of dams, trails, wetlands or other structures; planting or re-planting of vegetation.

Submit the original and six copies of the application form and all attachments to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, 2200 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503. Your application must be received in the Trust office by 5:00 PM on the deadline date announced each year to be considered for an award.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit materials in 8 1/2" x 11" format. You may be required to submit additional copies of materials which do not fit this format, or which require special processing to duplicate.

All information becomes a matter of public record once the application is filed.

Do not bind your applications. Applications submitted in three-hole punched format are greatly appreciated.



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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		