

local and state agencies have pledged to the project and the in-kind services they provided this fiscal year. Since most of the organizations contributing to the CREP program do not use the same fiscal year as the federal government and have a wide variety of fiscal years, it was necessary to estimate the amount of in-kind services provided by some organizations.

In-kind Services by Organization for Federal FY 2004-2005

*Oct 1 2005 to Sept 30, 2006*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Bostwick Irrigation District	\$494,473	\$478,069.00*
Pathfinder Irrigation District	\$190,500	\$208,292.00*
Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District		\$4,206.27
Nebraska Public Power District	\$143,120	\$180,971.00
Nebraska Department of Agriculture	\$13,500	\$26,695.00
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	\$887,000	\$4,257,985.60
Nebraska Game and Parks	\$130,000	\$471,293.50
Central Platte Natural Resources District	\$345,460	\$989,800.16*
North Platte Natural Resources District	\$100,000	\$251,035.63*
Twin Platte Natural Resources District	\$32,000	\$32,000.00*
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District	\$217,250	\$150,903.03*
Lower Republican Natural Resources District	\$366,000	\$332,356.00*
Middle Republican Natural Resources District	\$151,116	\$143,235.00*
Upper Republican Natural Resources District	\$100,000	\$180,000.00*
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,170,419</b>	<b>\$7,115,896.19</b>

*943861*  
*452433*  
*19359.87*  
*330278*  
*52520*  
*5,416,676.60*  
*647847.83*  
*1349807.20*  
*576,321.32*  
*64000*  
*301806.06*  
*508492*  
*271075*  
*405000*

\* The in-kind services provided by these organizations did not facilitate accounting in the federal fiscal year and were estimated.

*11,744,477*

## SUMMARY OF NON-FEDERAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

The State of Nebraska agreed to contribute not less than 20 percent nor more than 50 percent of the overall annual program costs, through cash contributions or in-kind services. The in-kind services include current water conservation activities, water quality activities, and wildlife enhancement activities, proportioned out to reflect the amount of CREP area within each organization's individual jurisdiction. The table below indicates the level of support that various local and state agencies have pledged to the project and the in-kind services they provided. Since this report does not cover a full year and since most of the organizations contributing to the CREP program do not use the same fiscal year as the federal government and have a wide variety of fiscal years, it was necessary to estimate the amount of in-kind services provided by some organizations.

*March - Sept 2005*

### In-kind Services by Organization for Federal FY 2004-2005

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Bostwick Irrigation District	\$494,473	\$465,792.00*
Pathfinder Irrigation District	\$190,500	\$244,141.00*
Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District		\$15,153.62
Nebraska Public Power District	\$143,120	\$149,307.00
Nebraska Department of Agriculture	\$13,500	\$25,825.00
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	\$887,000	\$1,158,691.03
Nebraska Game and Parks	\$130,000	\$176,554.33
Central Platte Natural Resources District	\$345,460	\$360,007.11*
North Platte Natural Resources District	\$100,000	\$325,285.69*
Twin Platte Natural Resources District	\$32,000	\$32,000.00*
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District	\$217,250	\$150,903.03*
Lower Republican Natural Resources District	\$366,000	\$176,136.00*
Middle Republican Natural Resources District	\$151,116	\$127,840.00*
Upper Republican Natural Resources District	\$100,000	\$225,000.00*
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,170,419</b>	<b>\$3,652,635.81</b>

\* The in-kind services provided by these organizations did not facilitate accounting in the federal fiscal year and were estimated.

Project # 05-161 - Nebraska Augmentation Program for  
 USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Efforts - matching  
 expenditures April 1, 2005 to June 30 2007 and other periods  
 DNR Staff Time = 198084.16 Plus LAST Bill # ~~210~~<sup>180</sup> 586.42

<sup>CRP</sup> DNR Cash match \$1,345,412 (Through July 13, 2007)

Other Agency In-Kind <sup>CRP</sup> Estimating Below are For March 2005 to September 30, 2006 Time period  
 Game and Parks Commission 647,842.83

Nebraska Department of Agriculture	52,520.00
Bozwick Irrig Dist	943,861.00
Patn Funder Irrig Dist	452,433.60
Central Nebr Public Power & Irrig Dist	19,359.87
Nebraska Public Power District	330,278.00
Central Platte NRD	1,349,807.20
North Platte NRD	576,321.32
Twin Platte NRD	64,000.00
Tri-Basin NRD	301,806.06
Lower Republican NRD	508,492.00
Middle Republican NRD	2,710,75.00
Upper Republican NRD	405,000.00

Other DNR In-Kind \* 433,289.20

\* Includes <sup>Republican Basin water</sup> Bozwick Buyout, EQIP Match <sup>Water Quality Fund</sup> Soil and Water Conservation Fund <sup>and some other</sup> For <sup>CRP</sup> March 2005 to Sept 30

*Asked other agencies to provide information on their expenditures for current water conservation activities, water quality activities and wildlife enhancement activities*

## **FINAL SUMMARY NARRATIVE – PROJECT 05-161 – NEBRASKA AUGMENTATION PROGRAM FOR USDA CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM EFFORTS**

This grant supplied Nebraska Environmental Trust funding for initial state administrative support of a major effort that is helping to reduce the quantity of water being used in selected areas of the Platte and Republican River Basins in Nebraska while providing additional conservation/environmental benefits.

That effort, the Nebraska Platte-Republican Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), has been in effect since April 4, 2005. The Nebraska Platte-Republican CREP is a combined program of the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency and the State of Nebraska whose goal is to improve water quality and quantity, and create or restore wildlife habitat by converting irrigated cropland to non-irrigated habitat. The elimination of irrigation reduces the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and atrazine that leaches into the ground and surface water and the vegetative buffers reduce run-off into streams and rivers. The Platte-Republican CREP resource area covers an approximate 2-mile stretch on either side of the Republican and Platte Rivers. It extends from the Wyoming border to Central Nebraska to include 100,000 cropland acres near the Republican and Platte rivers and their tributaries.

In total up to \$ 122 million in federal funds are to be made available to the program. Five million dollars in state funds have also been appropriated for program cost share, although most of that has not yet been spent. To date 45,289 acres have been enrolled in the program. The program has been successful in reducing consumptive water use. The 434 contracts and 42,014 acres enrolled in the program as of September 30, 2006 were examined to determine consumptive water use savings as of that point in time. A total of 238 of those contracts were on acres that had been served by groundwater and consumptive use savings on those acres were estimated to be 28,162 acre feet. As of July 13, 2007, \$1,345,412 in State funds had been expended to meet the State's portion of the 50% cost-share of practice establishment. In-kind services by natural resources districts, irrigation districts and other organizations were also quite high, ~~running to nearly \$3 million in FY 04-05, not including Nebraska Department of Natural Resources contributions.~~ *CREP separate* *depending upon how counted.*

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is responsible for approving the Water Use Contract to retire the use of water on the land enrolled in CREP for a period of ten to fifteen years. The Water Use Contract is a binding legal document between the applicant and the State to secure the beneficial use of the water historically applied to the land for the contract period. When the contract expires full use of the water enrolled in CREP is returned to the applicant. CREP applications and the accompanying Water Use Contracts that are associated with the use of natural flow surface water appropriations must also have an approved temporary surface water transfer before the Water Use Contract can be approved.

The \$30,000 provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust was used to help offset personnel costs for the project and the expenditures requiring Environmental Trust Fund reimbursement were completed by no later than March 2006. The project is expected to continue into the future and is not expected to end until all anticipated contracts have been signed and their provisions successfully completed.

Additional detail on the CREP program in Nebraska, including program progress reports, is provided at the Department of Natural Resources website under the web address <http://www.dnr.state.ne.us/CREP/CREP.html> . An October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006 detailed progress report for the project is both found on that website and is appended to this application.



**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program  
Nebraska Platte-Republican Resources Area**

**Overview**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the State of Nebraska launched a \$158 million Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreement for the Platte-Republican Resources Area. The Platte-Republican CREP will reduce irrigation water use, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat through establishment of vegetative cover. Saving water will also replenish streams, rivers and reservoirs, and enhance wildlife.

CREP uses federal and state resources to safeguard environmentally sensitive land through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Land enrolled in CRP is planted primarily to grasses and trees to improve water and soil quality and wildlife habitat. CRP was authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. CREP provides rental payments and other financial incentives to encourage producers to enroll voluntarily in 10- to 15-year CRP contracts.

**Benefits**

The Platte-Republican Resources Area CREP will significantly reduce the consumptive use of water for irrigation and the amount of agricultural chemicals

and sediment entering waters of the state from agricultural lands and transportation corridors. The reduction of ground and surface water use and of non-point source contaminants, through establishment of permanent vegetative cover, will also enhance associated wildlife habitat, both terrestrial and aquatic.

**Goals**

The goals of the Platte-Republican CREP are to:

- Reduce the application of water for cropland irrigation in the priority area by 125,000 acre-feet annually from current irrigated usage levels.
- Increase surface and ground-water retention by a target amount of 85,000 acre-feet of water annually within priority area reservoirs, groundwater tables and streams.
- Provide up to 15,000 additional acres of conservation buffers and restored wetlands.
- Reduce the application of commonly used triazine products on crops by approximately 93,000 pounds annually.
- Reduce leaching of nitrate compounds into project area streams and groundwater by 5,900,000 pounds annually.

- Reduce the agricultural application of phosphate products by farmers by approximately 2,440,000 pounds annually, when fully enrolled, from existing application rates in the priority area.
- Assist community public water supplies (surface and groundwater) by reducing nitrogen and phosphorus levels from agricultural activities.
- Provide educational assistance to project priority area irrigators to develop a more efficient use of applied water, nutrients, and herbicides.
- Provide up to 85,000 additional acres of native grassland habitat for wildlife in the priority area, increasing the populations of pheasants and other ground nesting birds by 25 percent in the area.
- Reduce the total consumption of fossil fuels for irrigation by 350,000 gallons and electricity use by 10 million kilowatt hours.

**Program Cost**

The expected combined federal and state obligation is approximately \$158 million for optional 10- to 15-year contracts

## Fact Sheet

### Conservation Enhancement Program

#### Nebraska Platte-Republican Resources Area

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### **Program Cost, continued**

with \$122 million coming from FSA and \$36 million from Nebraska. This does not include any costs that may be borne by producers.

### **Eligible Areas and Eligibility Requirements**

The project area includes the Platte and Republican Rivers and their tributaries in southern and western Nebraska. Producers who are located in the project area and meet the eligibility requirements identified for the Nebraska CREP may be eligible. To find out if your operation is located within the project area, contact your local FSA office.

To be eligible for CREP, the applicant must also satisfy the basic eligibility criteria for CRP.

Irrigated and non-irrigated cropland may be eligible for enrollment. For irrigated cropland to be eligible it must meet land eligibility requirements:

- Cropland that has been cropped 4 out of the 6 years, in 1996-2001.
- Cropland that is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity and capable of being irrigated when offered for enrollment.
- A Nebraska State Water Use Contract is entered into between the producer and the State of Nebraska covering the irrigated cropland acres.

For non-irrigated (dryland) cropland to be eligible for enrollment, the land must meet the above eligibility requirements and be a center-pivot corner enrolled with the adjacent irrigated center-pivot cropland area.

### **Approved Conservation Practices**

The following conservation practices may be eligible for land enrolled into the Nebraska Platte-Republican CREP:

CP2 - Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses;  
CP4D - Permanent Wildlife Habitat;  
CP21 - Filter Strips;  
CP22 - Riparian Buffer;  
CP23 - Wetland Restoration;  
CP23A - Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain;  
CP25 - Rare and Declining Habitat.

### **Acres Limitations**

For the Platte-Republican CREP, enrollment is permitted for up to 100,000 acres of eligible cropland. Cropland and conservation practice limitations are:

CP2, CP4D, and CP25: up to 85,000 acres;  
CP21 and CP22: up to 10,000 acres;  
CP23 and CP23A: up to 5,000 acres.

For the Platte River Basin Area:

- Up to 5,000 of surface irrigated acres may be enrolled in the designated area above Lake McConaughy.

### **Sign-up and Contract Duration**

Sign-up for the CREP will be announced later by the state and will continue until enrollment goals are attained, or through Dec. 31, 2007, whichever comes first. Land enrolled in the program remains under contract for a period of 10 to 15 years, as specified in the contract.

Applicants must generally have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to enrollment. Persons with an existing CRP contract or an approved offer with a contract pending are ineligible for CREP until that contract expires.

### **CREP Payments**

Nebraska CREP participants may be eligible for the following payments from USDA:

- Annual rental payments based on irrigated rental rates for each eligible enrolled irrigated acre in which a State Water Use Contract has already been secured.

## **Fact Sheet**

Conservation Enhancement Program  
Nebraska Platte-Republican Resources Area

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### **CREP Payments, continued**

- Annual rental payments based on dryland cropland rental rates for each eligible enrolled dryland crop acre.
- Cost-share payments for 50 percent of the eligible reimbursable costs for establishment of approved conservation practices.
- A one-time Signing Incentive Payment of \$10 for each eligible acre enrolled for each full year of the contract for practices CP21 and CP22. For example, 10-year CRP contract would receive \$100/ acre payment.
- A one-time Practice Incentive Payment equal to 40 percent of the total eligible cost of practice installation for practices CP21 and CP22.
- A one-time incentive payment equal to 25 percent of the cost of restoring the hydrology of the site for practices CP23 and CP23A.

### **CREP and CRP**

CREP is not the only option that farmers may select to enhance their land; applicants may still enroll in the general CRP or continuous CRP. However, CREP provides additional benefits not available through the general and/or continuous CRP.

### **For More Information**

For more information on the Nebraska CREP, contact your local FSA office. Additional information is also available on FSA's Web site at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# CREP Updated Water Use Contract Approvals

~~May 31, 2007~~

## CREP CRP-1 Contracts Approved by FSA

	CREP Contracts	CREP Acres
<b>Total Both Basins</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>45289.08</b>
<b>Republican</b>	338	36414.38
Groundwater Only	223	26466.50
Groundwater and/or Surface Water	115	9947.88
<b>Platte</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>8874.70</b>
<b>Below Lake McConaughy</b>	36	2120.50
Groundwater Only	20	1199.50
Groundwater and/or Surface Water	16	921.00
<b>Above Lake McConaughy</b>	96	6754.20
Groundwater Only	16	1610.20
Groundwater and/or Surface Water	80	5144.00



Department of Natural Resources  
Crep Accounting Report

From: 1/1/2005

To: 7/31/2007

CREP

Refresh

Crep ID	Date	Amount	Total
<u>7</u>	11/15/2005	802.00	
	11/15/2005	672.00	
	05/24/2006	3407.00	
	06/30/2006	.00	
	06/30/2006	.00	
			4881.00
<u>9</u>	03/17/2006	6355.00	
	03/17/2006	6355.00	
	03/17/2006	2349.00	
	10/05/2006	875.00	
			15934.00
<u>10</u>	03/14/2006	564.00	
	03/14/2006	565.00	
			1129.00
<u>11</u>	04/14/2006	1343.00	
	04/14/2006	1240.00	
			2583.00
<u>12</u>	03/14/2006	1214.00	
	03/14/2006	1214.00	
			2428.00
<u>13</u>	11/22/2005	769.00	
	03/03/2006	311.00	
	03/07/2006	313.00	
	07/25/2006	409.00	
	07/25/2006	1161.00	
	07/25/2006	410.00	
	07/25/2006	1162.00	
	09/08/2006	474.00	
	09/08/2006	473.00	
			5482.00
<u>14</u>	11/22/2005	2026.00	
	05/24/2006	1610.00	
	05/24/2006	1610.00	
			5246.00
<u>15</u>	05/24/2006	2574.00	
	10/05/2006	469.00	
			3043.00
<u>16</u>	08/28/2006	1813.00	

<u>753</u>	05/29/2007	843.00	
			843.00
<u>761</u>	01/19/2007	3643.00	
	05/23/2007	633.00	
			4276.00
<u>762</u>	11/14/2006	1143.00	
	11/14/2006	792.00	
	02/01/2007	2053.00	
	02/01/2007	1423.00	
	07/13/2007	304.00	
	07/13/2007	440.00	
			6155.00
<u>763</u>	05/29/2007	548.00	
			548.00
<u>772</u>	04/11/2007	2716.00	
	04/11/2007	1194.00	
			3910.00
<u>780</u>	01/19/2007	2236.00	
			2236.00
<u>781</u>	03/01/2007	2307.00	
			2307.00
<u>791</u>	06/22/2007	3562.00	
			3562.00
<u>792</u>	04/30/2007	185.00	
			185.00
<u>802</u>	07/25/2007	3752.00	
			3752.00
<u>810</u>	06/13/2007	2878.00	
			2878.00
<u>816</u>	05/11/2007	551.00	
	05/18/2007	233.00	
			784.00
<u>840</u>	05/18/2007	2560.00	
			2560.00
<u>852</u>	06/12/2007	5181.00	
			5181.00
<u>858</u>	07/13/2007	101.00	

~~101.00~~  
 1345412.00

**SUMMARY OF INVOICES SUBMITTED  
FOR REIMBURSEMENT**

Invoice # or Date	Vendor	Description of Services	Budget Category	Invoice Amount
TOTAL:				\$

Project # \_\_\_\_\_ Project Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Report for period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF NEBRASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF  
 NATURAL RESOURCES  
 PUBLIC NOTICE  
 In accordance with Sections 84-1408 through 84-1414, Neb. Rev. Stat., the Water Policy Task Force will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 30, 2007, at the Sandhills Convention Center/Quality Inn, 2102 South Jeffers Street, North Platte, Nebraska.  
 An agenda of the matters to be considered at the meetings are being kept continually current and available for public inspection on the Department of Natural Resources web site at [www.dnr.state.ne.us](http://www.dnr.state.ne.us).  
 Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and service necessary for participation by contacting the Administrative Officer at P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676, (402) 471-2363, by July 26, 2007.

RECEIVED  
 JUL 24 2007  
 DEPARTMENT OF  
 NATURAL RESOURCES

Proof of publication

AFFIDAVIT

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss:

Joyce Sawatzki, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is an employee of The Omaha World-Herald, a legal daily newspaper printed and published in the county of Douglas and State of Nebraska, and of general circulation in the Counties of Douglas, and Sarpy and State of Nebraska, and that the attached printed notice was published in the said newspaper on the 22 day of July 2007, and that said newspaper is a legal newspaper under the statutes of the State of Nebraska. The above facts are within my personal knowledge. The Omaha World-Herald has an average circulation of 188,248 Daily and 235,161 Sunday, in 2007.

(Signed) Joyce Sawatzki Title: Account Executive

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 23<sup>RD</sup> day of July, 2007.

GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska  
 MARCIA A. GUSTAFSON  
 My Comm. Exp. May 24, 2008

Marcia A. Gustafson  
 Notary Public

Printer's Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Affidavit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Paid By \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT AGENDA**  
**WATER POLICY TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**July 30, 2007**  
**10 am to 4 pm**  
**Quality Inn / Sandhills Convention Center**  
**North Platte, Nebraska**

1. Agenda Review/ Notice of Meeting / Approval of Minutes of March 19 Meeting
2. Surface Water and Ground Water Subcommittee Related Activity
3. Presentation and Discussion: Water Management and Funding Needs Assessment Status Update
4. Discussion: Need for Measurement of Water Use Across the State
5. Presentation: Upper Big Blue NRD Large Water User Rules as they Affect Ethanol Plants
6. Discussion: NRD Activities to Provide Offsets for Ethanol Plants
7. Discussion: Water Banking: Issues, Interests and Potential Task Force Activities
8. Discussion: Future Task Force Activity and Scheduling
9. Public Comment

**Gaul, Steve**

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**From:** Jeff Palik [jpalik@oaconsulting.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2007 10:47 AM  
**To:** Gaul, Steve  
**Subject:** Sutton Erosion Control

Steve,

I am working with the City of Sutton, Nebraska on a local flooding and erosion problem they are having. There is currently approximately 80 acres of gravity irrigated crop land that is located near the northwest corner of the City. During rain events, the runoff from this area comes into the City flooding local yards, ditches, and culverts depositing large amounts of silt in the process. The City is continually cleaning up this silt, and homeowners are getting concerned with the threat flooding.

The City of Sutton is looking at alternates to address this problem. Some of these options include re-routing the runoff so it goes around the city, constructing a small dam to control the amount of discharge and catch the silt, constructing waterways to slow the runoff down and act as a silt trap, or possible combinations of these solutions. Are there any funding programs available that could cost share in this type of project through your office? If not, do you have any suggestions on possible other agencies to contact?

I appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Thanks.

Jeff R. Palik | Civil Engineer | Olsson Associates  
201 East 2nd Street | P.O. Box 1072 | Grand Island NE 68802-1072 | [jpalik@oaconsulting.com](mailto:jpalik@oaconsulting.com)  
TEL 308.384.8750 | FAX 308.384.8752

- 1) Co to Upper Big Blue WRD on Sediment and Erosion Control Act Comp out
- 2) Natural Resources Development Fund Grant
- 3) Soil & Water Conservation Fund
- 4) Small Watersheds Fund

7/25/2007

DNR 010268