

ACTIVITY PLAN – EXAMINATION OF PLATTE RIVER DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM OPTIONS

Region: Great Plains
Date: August 18, 2004

NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

Special Study

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

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

Description:

- A. Water Resource Development Problems and Opportunities
Accurate prediction of water availability and needs along the Platte River system can make result in more efficient use among a spectrum of water users. This project represents an opportunity to optimize water use in the states most heavily used basin.
- B. Purpose, General Scope, Key Areas of Concern, and Probable Solutions
This study will analyze methods of providing better predictive capabilities for water availability and water need in the Platte River Basin and provide an outline of a potential water decision support system that would meet Nebraska needs. The purpose of the project is to allow Nebraskans to better manage water in an area that has multiple demands and limited supply and where just in time delivery can provide considerable value.
- C. Relationship to Other Project Purposes

This project has the potential to contribute to more efficient water use for all purposes along the Platte.
- D. Work Proposed in FY 2007

Initial work on this project would involve a review of 1) a detailed examination of specifically how a water decision support system could be used to assist Platte River Water users, and 2) an examination of various

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

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

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

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

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