

and Nebraska) responsibilities of the Compact " ... to provide for the most efficienct use of the Water of the Basin for multiple purposes ... "

Study Partners

Bureau of Reclamation, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Frenchman Valley and H & RW Irrigation Districts, Middle Republican NRD, Upper Republican NRD, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Description of the Study Area and Background

The study area includes the entire Frenchman Creek drainage basin and continues east to include the Frenchman Valley and Hitchcock & Red Willow Irrigation Districts as detailed in Figure 1. The area is bounded on the south by the Republican River and on the east by Red Willow Creek. The Northern boundary is the Platte River. The north and west boundaries are defined to correspond with the RRCA Ground Water Model Domain.

The study area has been initially defined as the entire drainage basin of the Frenchman Valley and extending east to the project area of the H & RW Irrigation District, which ends just east of McCook, Nebraska. (See Appendix XX) BASE MAP [INSERT]

Figure 1: Base map showing the extent of the Ender's Dam Modeling Study Land Description

The type of lands in the study area includes uplands, terraces and river valleys. Percentages of land within these categories are approximately 23, 70 and 7 percent, respectively. Uplands are mantled with loess that is deep and well drained. Terraces include fluvial sediments and loess, while river valleys are dominated by fluvial sediments. Land use of the study area is largely agricultural or recreational.

History

In May of 1998, the State of Kansas filed a motion with the U. S. Supreme Court alleging that Nebraska violated the Compact by allowing the proliferation and use of groundwater wells hydraulically connected to the Republican River and its tributaries, and by failing to protect the surface flows from other unauthorized appropriations.

In December, 2001 the Special Master assigned to the case agreed to postpone the progression of the case in order to allow the three Compact States, Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska, to engage in settlement negotiations. These negotiations culminated in a settlement package that was approved by the Governors and Attorneys General of all three states in December, 2002.

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Purpose

The purpose of this investigation is to build sub-regional data sets and ground water and surface water models to illustrate water management scenarios and to optimize the economic and environmental benefits of the water resources in the study area while minimizing environmental impacts.

Objectives

Provide:

lake level benefits from Enders Reservoir
recharge benefits through the use of Enders Reservoir
alternative water management scenarios as management tools to aide
partners/stakeholders in future planning

Evaluate:

economic benefit of flood control provided by Enders Dam choices for optimizing existing facilities related to Enders Reservoir and the irrigated area it serves choices for providing lake level benefits from Enders Reservoir choices for providing recharge benefits through use of Ender Reservoir

Optimize:

economic benefits:

to the study area of irrigation, including surface and groundwater irrigation

to the study area of recreation, fish and wildlife environmental benefits:

to the study area of recreation, fish and wildlife, and water quality facilities operations:

to benefit the State of Nebraska for Republican River Compact requirements.

related to Enders Reservoir and the irrigated area it serves

Authority

The Frenchman Valley Appraisal Study is authorized under Federal Reclamation Laws (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, and acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto). This study is programmed and funded from the Nebraska Investigations Program.

The Frenchman Valley Basin is a subbasin of the Republican River Basin, which is governed by the 1942 Republican River Compact (Compact), entered by the States of Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. This study also meets the States (Colorado, Kansas,

Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>Page</u>	
I	Purpose	
II	Objectives	
III	Authority	
IV	Study Partners	
V	Description of the Study Area and Background	
VI	Previous Investigations and Reports	W.
VII	Scope of Work	
	Plan Formulation and Alternatives	
	Study Schedules and Milestones	
VIII	Assumptions and Constraints	
XI	Study Costs and Cost Sharing Agreement	
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Appendix

List of Figures

List of Tables

Plan of Study

For

Enders Dam Modeling Study

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

November, 22 2006

Steve Gaul

From: Steve Gaul [sgaul@dnr.ne.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 11:17 AM

To: Jack Wergin; Dick Luckey

Subject: Frenchman Valley Conference Call

Our conference call has been scheduled for 1:30pm CST on 10-18-06. All participants will need to dial 877-229-1563 and enter conference code number 10180654. Jack, I do not have an e-mail address for Mark Phillips, so I would appreciate it if you would forward this message on to him. Dick, you should have received some material on the Frenchman Valley Study from me in a separate e-mail.

Steve