

FY 2009 ACTIVITY PLAN – FRENCHMAN VALLEY APPRAISAL STUDY

Region: Great Plains

Date: July 27, 2006

NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

Appraisal Study Final Completion or Initiation of Feasibility Study

Total
Estimated
Cost: FY 2007

Federal	100,000
Non-Federal	100,000
Total	200,000

Location: Frenchman Valley of Republican River Basin and Adjacent Areas.

Description:

A. Water Resource Management /Development Problems and Opportunities

Enders Reservoir as been experiencing long term declining inflows and dependent irrigation districts have been experiencing long term declines in supply availability. In the last five years there have been no storage releases to the districts. This has led to concerns about long term supply availability and questions about the value of alternative ways of utilizing limited supplies. More efficient management may also help extend supplies and assist with meeting compact requirements. The project area has already experienced economic difficulties from water shortages and future declines plus use reductions for compact purposes seem likely to have further economic impacts.

B. Purpose, General Scope, Key Areas of Concern and Probable Solutions

A plan of study has been completed for an appraisal study to evaluate alternative program activities, structural measures, or incentives that can assist in optimizing existing facilities, providing lake level benefits, and providing recharge facilities for Enders Reservoir and the irrigated area it serves. At this point it is uncertain whether the study will be completed by FY 09 and whether, if it is complete, a feasibility study may be required to address any study recommendations. This Submission is a placeholder to note both possibilities.

C. Relationship to Other Project Purposes

Enders Reservoir is a Reclamation project and when flow is available is to provide water to the Frenchman Valley and H&RW irrigation districts. It is one of a number of Reclamation reservoirs in the Republican Basin, with others including Bonny (in Colorado), Swanson, Hugh Butler, Harry Strunk, Keith Sebelius (in Kansas), Lovewell (in Kansas), and Enders (operated by/with the US Army Corps of Engineers).

D. Work Proposed in FY 2009

The nature of the work needed will depend upon the completion status and results of the Appraisal Study. If the Appraisal Study is complete, it is estimated that work will be needed to implement recommendations, likely through a feasibility study.

Justification for Federal Involvement

There is a previous federal investment in the Enders Reservoir project and the benefits the project provides are threatened by declining inflows. The area is also subject to the requirements of an interstate compact and is threatened with substantial economic impacts from changes in water use.

Coordination with State, Federal, Tribes

The appraisal level study effort has had participants from a variety of sources, including: Frenchman Valley and H&RW Irrigation Districts, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Middle and Upper Republican Natural Resources Districts, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Cost Sharing

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is currently about to provide up to \$100,000 in cost share for the appraisal level study.

Study Authority: