

X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise Internet Agent 6.5.3  
Date: Fri, 03 Jun 2005 10:42:45 -0600  
From: "Jack Wergin" <JWERGIN@gp.usbr.gov>  
To: <sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us>, "Jill Manring" <JMANRING@gp.usbr.gov>, "Marvin Swanda" <MSWANDA@gp.usbr.gov>, <dsmith@mnrnd.org>, <lhutch@ngpc.state.ne.us>, <urnrd@urnrd.org>  
Subject: Frenchman Valley Meeting

A working group meeting for the Frenchman Study will be held at 10:00 on Tuesday, June 7th at Reclamation's McCook Field Office.

Attached is the draft agenda for the meeting.

Also attached is the draft flip chart notes, including a short project description and a draft goals and objectives. As shown on the draft agenda, we will review these notes at the meeting.

I will also be sending you the following three reports in separated emails:

1. Appraisal Report, Frenchman Unit, Nebraska, Frenchman-Cambridge Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, January 1977.
2. Rehabilitation and Betterment Program, Concluding Report, July 1978, Frenchman Unit, Frenchman-Cambridge Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program.
3. Groundwater Availability in the Hitchcock-Red Willow, Frenchman Valley, and Meeker-Driftwood Irrigation Districts, Southwest Nebraska, 1978.

Please forward this information to others in your agencies as you see fit.

Contact Jill Manring at 308-389-5328 or myself at 308-389-5322 if you have any questions.

Hope to see you next Tuesday.

Jack



[050405-FV-Meeting-notes.DOC](#)



[060705-Agenda.doc](#)

POTENTIAL WATER POLICY LEGISLATION DRAFT STATE LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET COMMITMENTS

Draft 9/7/02

BUDGET AND  
COMMITMENTS -  
FY 06 AND FY 07  
COMBINED

<b><u>NDNR Administration/Database Development/Preparation</u></b>	
3 NDNR Staff Positions and Office Overhead (Hydrologist, Lawyer, Water Administrator) (Also transferred one staff to coordinate IMPs)	\$400,000
<b><u>Additional DNR Equipment/Supplies, Travel etc.</u></b>	\$200,000
- Printer	
- Plotter	
- Computers and Software	
- Furniture	
- Extra Travel	
- Printing/Copying/Publishing/Postage	
<b><u>Development of a Database for Integrated Management</u></b>	\$370,000
- Development of Database Architecture	
- Collection of the Data	
- Contract/Consultant for Improved DNR Recordkeeping Updating, Capability Enhancement	
a) Copy well registrations from microfilm to electronic media/scanning and scan & index NRD plans and documents	(\$15,000)
b) Have sw paper files coded, & electronic display (primarily coding) - Storing & displaying electronic images - Assist in coping, digitizing SW maps, processing SW applic	(\$240,000) S?
c) Platte River Water Decision Support System	(\$55,000) S
d) IWIP Contract	(\$60,000)
e) Other	(?)
<b><u>Specialized Studies/Evaluation - General</u></b>	
<b>Studies/Work Activities by UNL</b>	\$554,577
- Consumptive Use Research	(\$8,000)
- Water conservation education package	(\$12,000) S
- FY05 Specific Yield and Transmissivity	(\$41,361)
- Provide econ info to assist in fully approp & other determinations	(?)
- Hydraulic Conductivity Specific Yield & Transmissivity Mapping & Index/ make electronic UNL well log, pump test & other datasets	(\$144,927)
- Box Butte County/Niobrara Regional Hydrologic Model	(\$65,637)
- CALMIT Land Use-Remainder of State	(\$282,652)
<b><u>Contracts for Technical Studies or Modeling</u></b>	\$560,000
- Geotechnical Work - test holes, aquifer tests, etc.	(?)
- Local Specialized Study Funds	
- UNWNRD	
- Future COHYST Model Maintenance	(\$80,000) ?
- Future DNR COHYST Study	(\$60,000) ?
- Other	---
Loup-Elkhorn GW Model	(\$240,000)
- Alternate Supplies (Blue Basin Study)	(\$50,000) S
- 24 Stream Gages and record keeping	(\$130,000) S
<b><u>Planning and Implementation</u></b>	\$100,000
- Staff to Assist NRDS	(?)
- Development of Technical Information for Joint Mgmt Plans (model runs, economic analyses, etc.)	(?)
- Frenchman Valley Study	(\$100,000) S
<b>SUBTOTAL - CONTRACTUAL / STAFF / ADMIN.</b>	<b>(\$2,184,577)</b>
<b><u>Assistance/Incentives for Implementation Plans</u></b>	
<b><u>Incentives/Payments</u></b>	
- Other Incentives	(\$415,423) S
- CREP Commitments	(\$5,000,000)
- Republican Pilot Project / Equip	(\$1,000,000)
<b>SUBTOTAL - INCENTIVES / ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>(\$6,415,423)</b>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>\$8,600,000</b>

\$1,100,000 in FY 05 Carryover is included in this budget

S=Soft Commitment

Note: This budget places all uncommitted funds in the "Other Incentives" category



# Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

2200 N. 33rd St. / P.O. Box 30370 / Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

Phone: 402-471-0641 / Fax: 402-471-5528 / [www.outdoornebraska.org](http://www.outdoornebraska.org)

June 14, 2005

Jack Wergin  
Jill Mannring  
Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 1607  
203 West 2nd  
Grand Island, NE 68802-1607

RECEIVED  
JUN 16 2005  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Greetings Mike, Jill;

At the June 7 meeting on the Frenchman Valley study, you requested any follow-up recommendations should be sent to you. In that regard, I have a couple of recommendations I think should be incorporated into the plan.

First, I believe the geographic scope of the study area should include the groundwater aquifer that includes at least 98 percent of the wells that are hydrologically connected to the Frenchman River and its tributaries. It is important to evaluate all sources of depletions to the Frenchman River system as fully as possible. When looking at future water use options that include recharge to groundwater in the current irrigation district for groundwater irrigation, it seems that effects of all groundwater use need to be identified.

Second, I believe some level of water quality review should be included in the study. If there are any specific problems or "hot spots" that are evident in the geographic scope, they should be identified (e.g. nitrates, pesticide). If some are identified, then some assessment should be made to determine if any recommendations as a result of the Frenchman Basin study would have a positive or negative influence on water quality. I would think that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control could assist with this part of the project by documenting water quality issues and reviewing the study findings.

Thank you for the opportunity to interact on this study. We believe the outcome of this study will provide important guidance in how we use water for greater benefits in the Frenchman River system.

Sincerely,

Larry Hutchinson  
Water Resource Program Manager  
402, 471-5554

C: Steve Gaul (NDNR)  
Darrol Eichner, Bill Christensen, Chad Taylor, Kirk Nelson (NGPC)

## Flip Chart Notes from the May 4, 2005 Frenchman Valley Meeting

### Game and Parks Interest

- Composition of fisheries
  - Chemical renovation
- Future reservoir water supply
- “Quality of Life” – Effects of decreasing population
- Cabin Owner interest
- Higher minimum pool, El. 3089.40 - Approximately 14,000 AF
- Preferred minimum pool, El. 3099.0
- Loss of habitat areas
- Water temps/ algae blooms increase with lower levels
- Fish kill/ human health with lower lake levels
- Capital investments for fisheries/ parks
- Need for creal user surveys (update?)
- Noxious weed problems with lower lake levels
- Off-road vehicle use
- Consistent water levels El. 3090.0? – 5/2002 last time reservoir was at this level
- Boat ramps
- Aesthetics
- Congestion in lake, parks area
  - Boating safety
  - Non-resident use
- Valuation of recreation facilities
- Non-resident economic benefit to local area
- 1968 – last time reservoir filled
- Who pays for benefits?

### NRD Interest

- No “new” restrictions on groundwater pumping
- Third party impacts from “new” restrictions
- Additional controls & regulations
- Who pays for benefits?
- Stay compliant with Compact

### District Objectives/Goals

- Reservoir Water Supply
  - Natural flows cover half the district
  - Water right is 130 cfs. Current supply is 40 cfs.
- Reliability of reservoir supply and natural flow supply
- Financial Reliability of District
- Benefits to non-district area/ beneficiaries pay for benefits

## Frenchman Valley Meeting

McCook Field Office

May 4, 2005 – 10:30 a.m.

Agency	Name	Phone	Email
<b>Bureau of Reclamation</b>			
	Alice Johns	308-389-5301	ajohns@gp.usbr.gov
	Steve Ronshaugen	308-389-5304	sronshaugen@gp.usbr.gov
	Mike Kube	308-389-5321	mkube@gp.usbr.gov
	Jill Manring	308-389-5328	jmanring@gp.usbr.gov
	Jack Wergin	308-389-5322	jwergin@gp.usbr.gov
	Marv Swanda	308-345-1027	mswanda@gp.usbr.gov
	Bill Peck	308-345-1029	wpeck@gp.usbr.gov
	Craig Scott	308-345-1030	cscott@gp.usbr.gov
<b>Nebraska Department of Natural Resources</b>			
	Roger Patterson	402-471-2366	rpatterson@dnr.state.ne.us
	Steve Gaul	402-471-3955	sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us
	Jeff Shafer	402-471-0586	jshafer@dnr.state.ne.us
	Brad Edgerton	308-697-3730	ndwrcamb@swnebr.net
<b>Frenchman Valley &amp; H &amp; RW Irrigation Districts</b>			
	Don Felker – FV, HRW ID	308-345-5773	
	Jerry Kotschwar - FVID	308-278-2792	
	Kenneth Albert - FVID	308-278-2327	
	Roger Kolbet - H&RW ID	308-278-2239	
	Don Ruggles - H&RW ID	308-364-2750	
<b>Middle Republican NRD</b>			
	Dan Smith	308-367-4281	dsmith@mrnr.org
<b>Nebraska Game &amp; Parks Commission</b>			
	Larry Hutchinson	402-471-5554	lhutch@ngpc.state.ne.us
	Irvin Long	308-345-6507	ilong@ngpc.state.ne.us
	Bill Christensen	308-394-5118	enderssra@ngpc.state.ne.us
	Hal Walker	308-423-2080	hchatch@ngpc.state.ne.us
	Keith Koupal	308-865-5326	
	Darrol Eichner	308-284-8803	deichner@ngpc.state.ne.us

**ACTIVITY PLAN – EXAMINATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE ENDERS RESERVOIR/CULBERTSON CANAL REGION**

Region: Great Plains  
Date: August 18, 2004

**NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM**

Special Study

Total	
Estimated	FY2007
Cost:	
Federal	\$110,000
Non-Federal	\$110,000
Total	\$220,000

Location: Enders/Culbertson Canal region of the Republican River Basin in Nebraska

Description:

- A. Water Resource Management/Development Problems and Opportunities  
More efficient management of Republican River Water Supplies can help extend water supplies and meet interstate compact needs in an area with water shortages.
- B. Purpose, General Scope, Key Areas of Concern and Probable Solutions  
This study will analyze water management opportunities in an area that has dramatically reduced ground water and surface water supplies from those available when Enders Reservoir was first constructed. Thus efficient and effective management of locally available supplies is highly important for area water users. The study is also occurring in an area where there has been a recent settlement of an interstate lawsuit and where intensive efficient management of interrelated groundwater and surface water supplies will be vital to meeting compact needs and the needs of the area economy.
- C. Relationship to Other Project Purposes:  
The Republican Basin has multiple federal multipurpose water projects and multiple irrigation districts. The project has the potential to contribute to all purposes through more efficient use of water.
- D. Work Proposed in FY 2007  
The start time for this special study is uncertain.

Justification for Federal Involvement: This is part of a multi-state basin with an interstate compact and a recent lawsuit settlement. It has multiple federal projects and operation of

the projects, irrigation district operations and management of groundwater and surface water are vital to the local economy.

**Coordination With State/Federal/Tribes** This project will be coordinated with local irrigation districts and local 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 and local Irrigation 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.

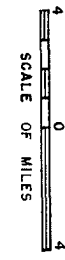
**Study Authority:**

**GPRA Links:**

UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION - LM REGION  
 PICK - SLOAN MISSOURI BASIN PROGRAM  
 FRENCHMAN CAMBRIDGE DIVISION  
**FRENCHMAN UNIT**  
 LOCATION MAP

DENVER, COLORADO JULY 1976

DRAWING NO. 328-700-225



**EXPLANATION**

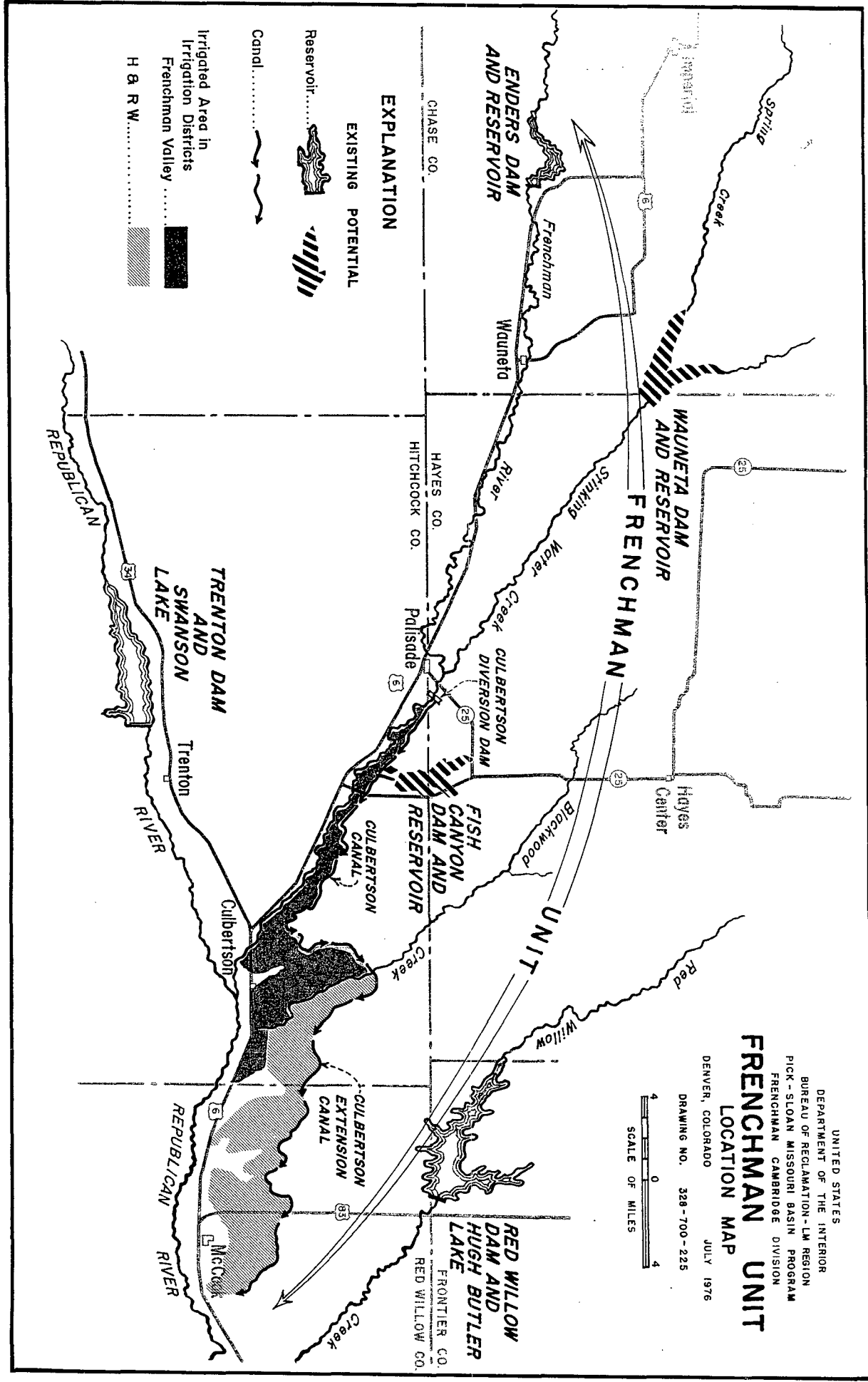
EXISTING POTENTIAL

Reservoir.....

Canal.....

Irrigated Area in  
Irrigation Districts  
Frenchman Valley.....

H & R W.....





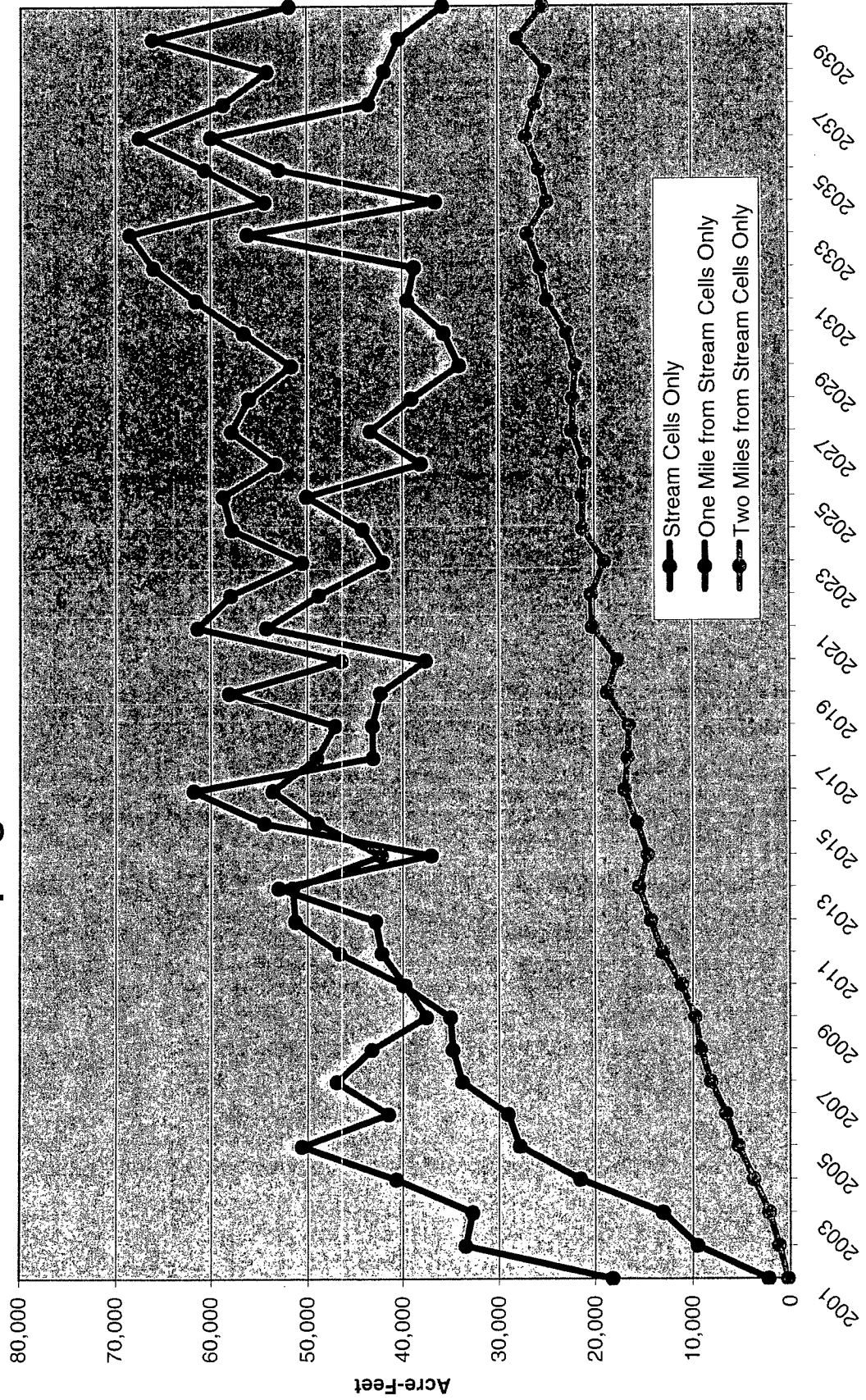
FRENCHMAN VALLEY STUDY  
June 7, 2005 – 10:00

McCook Field Office

Draft Agenda

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Review Agenda
- 3) Review of interests identified at May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting
- 4) Purpose of Study – review of Nebraska DNRs request for assistance
- 5) Study Area
- 6) Review of study goals and objectives
- 7) Planning Process –
  - Develop Plan of Study
  - Outline Utilize Existing Data
  - Funding Schedule
  - Task Schedule – Milestones
  - Scopes of work – Identification of Tasks
  - Public Involvement
- 8) Discussion of baseline alternative (Future without condition)
- 9) Discussion of Assumptions and Constraints
- 10) Identification/discussion of existing studies and reports.
- 11) Next Meeting

# Baseflow Impact Reductions due to Eliminating Pumping in or near Stream Cells



# Baseflow Impact Reductions due to Shutting off Pumping at Different Distances from Stream, Moderate Drought Conditions 2007-2046

