

ACTIVITY PLAN - EXAMINATION OF CONJUNCTIVE USE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CENTRAL PLATTE AREA.

Region: Great Plains
Date: August 18, 2004

NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

Special Study

Total	
Estimated	FY2009
Cost:	
Federal	\$110,000 150,000
Non-Federal	\$110,000 150,000
Total	\$220,000 300,000

Location: Central Platte NRD and ~~NPB~~ NPPD Service Area in Central Platte Region of Nebraska

Description:

- A. Water Resource Management/Development Problems and Opportunities
More efficient management of Platte River water supplies can help extend water supplies and meet cooperative agreement and diverse water user needs in an area with water shortages. The groundwater mound built up through years of surface water project operation presents an opportunity to use existing water supplies conjunctively to supplement users in times of shortage.
- B. Purpose, General Scope, Key Areas of Concern and Probable Solutions
This study will analyze water management opportunities in an area whose water availability and use is central to a cooperative agreement between the states of Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and the federal government. Interrelated factors such as new wells, surface water diversions, recharge from surface sources, water use efficiencies through canal lining and strategically supplementing surface irrigation with groundwater are some of the pieces of a complex puzzle. Future management that results in both equity and optimum economic and environmental use will take forethought and analysis.
- C. Relationship to Other Project Purposes:
The Platte River Basin has multipurpose surface water projects and extensive groundwater development. The project has the potential to contribute to all users through more efficient use of water.
- D. Work Proposed in FY-2009

~~The start time for this special study is uncertain. Phase I is complete. Phase II~~
~~will be completed. Phase III will be underway, evaluating~~
~~management scenarios. implementing management scenarios, which~~
~~may include structural management monitoring~~
 Potential Management scenarios may include structural solutions.

Justification for Federal Involvement: This is part of a multi-state basin with an interstate agreement. Power and irrigation district surface water management and natural resources district management of groundwater vital to the local economy.

Coordination With State/Federal/Tribes This project will be coordinated with Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Nebraska Public Power District 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 also have or plan activities in the area which are likely to qualify as match. *The total costs of phase II is estimated at \$626,000 of which \$315,000 would be funded*

Congressional District and Delegation: The project is in Nebraska's third congressional district. Congressman Tom Osborne represents the District. *from a grant from the NE Env. Trust. The remainder will be funded by DNR, NPPD, or CPNRD.*

Study Authority:

GPRA Links:

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