

Date Time: Mar. 1. 2007 5:34PM

File No. Mode	Destination	Pg(s)	Result	Page Not Sent
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Reason for error

- E. 1) Hang up or line fail
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- E. 4) No facsimile connection



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Ann Bleed
Acting Director

March 1, 2007

IN REPLY TO:

Stephen A. Ronshaugen
U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Great Plains Region
P.O. Box 1607
Grand Island, Nebraska 68802-1607

Dear Steve:

As we have discussed with you, the State of Nebraska is considering the options of leasing water from the Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District to help the State comply with the Republican River Compact. The amount of water to be purchased would be around 26,000 acre feet or whatever would be available for irrigation out of Harry Strunk Reservoir this year. This amount would be accounted as outflow from the Harry Strunk Reservoir.

The water could be delivered either through the Cambridge Canal and then back to the river or through the river with the consumptive use portion of the water being protected from downstream surface water appropriators, through Harlan County Dam and down to Guide Rock for irrigation by the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District. Irrigation use is considered to be a beneficial use of water in Nebraska. The water will be released in such a manner as to mimic the historic releases of water for irrigation from mid-June to late August.

The temporary leasing of this water will not diminish the water rights of the Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District.

The State would be willing to consider paying the costs of NEPA compliance and the administration of the contract. However we cannot make a commitment to be responsible for these costs until we know what the costs are likely to be. Obviously either the Bureau or the State would have to consult with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. We would be willing to making any arrangement on the consulting that works best.

Thank you for considering this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Ann Bleed
Director of Natural Resources

cc: Roy Patterson
Brad Edgerton

administrative directors/bleed