

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN

A. BACKGROUND

B. PLAN - STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE

1. **Develop a process to forecast Nebraska's allocation for the basin based on expected inflows to Harlan County Lake and other climatic indicators.**
2. **Adjust consumptive use to fit within the forecast allocation.**
 - a. Distribution of allocation (consumptive use) among NRDs based on differences in crop irrigation requirements
 - b. Use methodologies that are flexible enough to allow for increased allocation when rainfall is received above amounts anticipated in the development of the forecast (drought is abating or ending).
3. **Ensure NRDs have all tools needed to manage their consumptive use within their allocation**

C. OBJECTIVES

1. **Long-term**
2. **Immediate**

D. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS – TACTICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. **Groundwater Controls – NRDs**
2. **Surface Water Administration – DNR**
3. **Provide sources of funding (state, local) to enable the NRDs to reduce consumptive use through:**
 - a. **Phreatophyte Control**
 - b. **Federal Programs to Temporarily or Permanently Retire Irrigated Acres.**

c. Other Measures Identified in Compact Settlement Agreement
Potentially Available in the Long Term

- i. Supplementing water for Nebraska Bostwick Irrigation District by providing alternate supplies from below Guide Rock or from outside the Basin
- ii. Reducing use of storage by Nebraska Bostwick Irrigation District above Guide Rock
- iii. Dry year leasing of water rights that divert at or above Guide Rock

4. Streamflow Augmentation