

# GOAL 1: Incrementally achieve and sustain a fully appropriated condition.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Offset impacts of streamflow depletions to (A) surface water appropriations and (B) water wells constructed in aquifers dependent upon recharge from streamflow to the extent those depletions are due to water use initiated after July 1, 1997.

ACTION ITEMS	<p><b>A. Offset depletions to streamflows for new or expanded uses initiated after July 1, 1997, in the overappropriated basin.*</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify depletions and accretions</li> <li>2. Develop methodologies and gather and evaluate data that could be used to estimate depletions and accretions to streamflow</li> <li>3. Identify projects that may be used to enhance water supply</li> <li>4. Reduce consumptive water use through retirement of irrigated lands, water use allocation, and/or management options.</li> <li>5. Establish uniform methods for calculating depletions and offsets for conduction water banking of both ground water and surface water, stools developed as part of COHYST and other methods.</li> <li>6. Establish uniform methods for identifying and regulating water use on acres irrigated with both surface water and ground water.</li> <li>7. Ensure that offsets of depletions occur at the equivalent time, amount, and location of the depletion.</li> </ol>	<p><b>B. Identify depletions.*</b></p> <p>Determine how the depletion estimates from the COHYST model, as well as any other methodologies, need to be revised when additional data or model improvements become available. Determine whether the depletion estimates should be revised as additional information is collected, as refinements are made to consumptive use estimates, as revisions are made in the COHYST models, or as deemed appropriate by the NRDs and DNR. Other data and methods may be used to determine consumptive use and depletions as long as DNR and the NRD(s) agree on the data or method used.</p>
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2. Actively pursue funding for offsets and develop and maintain data and analytical tools, such as the Cooperative Hydrology Study (COHYST) and other programs and projects needed to implement this Plan.

ACTION ITEMS	A. Work together to maintain and improve COHYST.	B. Work to secure necessary funding for existing and proposed projects that will advance the goals of this Plan.
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\*Summarized for purposes of this document. See Basin-Wide Plan dated September 11, 2009, for full content.

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## OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

### 3. Continue to develop the methodology to calculate the difference between the current and fully appropriated levels of development in each NRD.

ACTION ITEMS	<p>A. Determine the overall difference between current and fully appropriated levels of development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. take into account cyclical supply, including drought;</li> <li>2. identify the portion of the overall difference that is due to conservation measures;</li> <li>3. identify the portion of the overall difference due to water use initiated prior to July 1, 1997; and</li> <li>4. identify the portion of the overall difference due to water use initiated or expanded on or after July 1, 1997.</li> </ol>	<p>B. Identify the overall difference between the current and fully appropriated levels of development. Identify portions of the overall difference due to water use initiated prior to July 1, 1997, conservation measures and/or other possible causes including but not limited to drought, invasive vegetation, crop rotation, and canal operations, diversions and returns. Complete a peer review process of any analysis to determine the difference between the current and fully appropriated levels of development.*</p>	<p>C. The COHYST model, and other models or tools, will be used to refine estimates of the overall difference between the current and fully appropriated levels of development. The estimates will be adjusted as additional information is collected, as refinements are made to consumptive use estimates, as revisions are made to the COHYST model, or as deemed appropriate by the NRDs and DNR.</p>	<p>D. Use a water budget/consumption approach to determine the overall difference. It can be a useful tool in that it allows for a comprehensive understanding of the water supplies and uses in the basin.</p>
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### 4. Conduct a technical analysis to determine whether the controls adopted in the respective plans or other management actions taken by the NRD are sufficient to offset depletions due to post- July 1, 1997, water uses and whether the provisions of this Plan and the IMPs are adequate to sustain progress toward a fully appropriated level of water use.

ACTION ITEMS	<p>A. In the second and any subsequent increments of this Plan, the IMP for each NRD shall specify the extent to which any remaining overall difference between fully and overappropriated status results from consumptive uses with in each individual NRD.</p>	<p>B. The IMP for each of the Platte River Basin NRDs that is adopted for any subsequent increment of the overappropriated basin planning process shall describe how progress toward the depletion reduction objective for that particular NRD is to be measured.</p>
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## OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

### 5. Use available funds to offset depletions due to water uses initiated prior to July 1, 1997, that are identified as part of the overall difference between current and fully appropriated levels of development.

ACTION  
ITEMS

A. Cooperate with the federal government to utilize programs such as CREP and EQUIP that promote reductions in consumptive use.

B. Encourage Platte River Basin NRDs, agencies, and water users to participate in these programs.

### 6. Adopt and implement IMPs in each Platte River Basin NRD

ACTION  
ITEMS

A. The IMP for each Platte River Basin NRD shall:\*

1. Be consistent with this Basin-Wide Plan.
2. Identify management options that will help to achieve the goals and objectives of this Plan.
3. Ensure that depletion used by new or expanded uses within each Platte River Basin NRD are offset.
4. Describe how progress toward the depletion reduction objective for that Platte River Basin NRD is to be measured.
5. Include actions that will offset depletive impacts of post-July 1, 1997
6. Allow for the transfer of certified acres across NRD boundaries, while not increasing streamflow depletions to the Platte River

B. If DNR and a Platte River Basin NRD determine that management actions taken have not provided the offsets required to meet the goals of the Basin-Wide Plan they will revise the individual district IMP.



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# GOAL 2: Prevent reductions in the flow of a river or stream that would cause noncompliance with an interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Prevent streamflow depletions that would cause noncompliance by Nebraska with the Nebraska New Depletions Plan (NDP) included within the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program), for as long as the Program exists.

### ACTION ITEMS

A. Ensure that the ground water and surface water controls adopted in the individual district IMPs are sufficient to ensure that the state will remain in compliance with state and federal laws as well as decrees and other formal state agreements.

B. Collectively, as defined in the Nebraska NDP, offset the new depletions caused by new uses within the Platte River Basin NRDs.



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# GOAL 3: Keep the Plan current.

## OBJECTIVES

### 1. Meet at least annually to review progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of this Plan and those portions of individual NRD IMPs that implement this Plan.

ACTION ITEMS

A. The first annual meeting will be held within one year of when this Plan is adopted at a time and place designated by DNR and the Platte Basin NRDs. Thereafter, the annual meeting will be held in June or July of each year, unless agreed to otherwise.

B. Discussion shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. revisions to this Plan;
2. revisions to the IMPs (the individual IMPs may be amended more frequently);
3. new data and information, including items like consumptive use calculations for municipal, livestock and industrial uses
4. disputes related to implementation of IMPs; and/or
5. any other topic on which the DNR and the Platte Basin NRDs have mutually agreed.

C. A proposed agenda will be made available to the public, along with any available supporting documents, at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

D. As a result of actions taken at the annual meeting, the plan may be revised as necessary.

E. Stakeholder and/or public feedback concerning the Basin-Wide Plan or individual IMPs will be considered.\*

### 2. Gather and evaluate data and information to measure the effectiveness of controls, incentives and/or other programs in the individual NRD IMPs used to implement this Plan.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Jointly conduct a study to identify the impact of soil and water conservation measures on streamflows. Specifically, assess the impact on streamflow depletions from conservation measures, as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-715(4)(c).

B. Review current methodologies, as well as proposed new methodologies, and evaluate at the annual meeting discussed in goal 3, objective A.

C. Revise Plan, if such revisions will ensure its goals and objectives will be achieved in the timeliest and most efficient cost-effective manner possible.



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# GOAL 4: Work cooperatively to identify and investigate disputes between ground water users and surface water appropriators and, if determined appropriate, implement management solutions to address such issues.

## OBJECTIVES

### 1. Identify disputes between ground water users and surface water appropriators.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Surface water appropriators or ground water users may present data and other supporting information identifying the nature and scope of potential disputes at the annual meeting.

B. The Platte River Basin NRDs and DNR may present data and other supporting information identifying the nature and scope of potential disputes at the annual meeting.

### 2. Investigate and address issues between ground water users and surface water appropriators, based on investigation results.

ACTION ITEMS

A. The DNR and the Platte River Basin NRDs shall determine whether specific disputes identified via goal 4, objective 1, have a hydrologic impact.

B. The DNR and the Platte River Basin NRD(s) will investigate a given dispute in order to determine whether the issue should be addressed through modification of the Basin-Wide Plan or individual IMPs, or by other means.

C. If it is determined, as a result of the investigation, that the issue is not a basin-wide issue, the issue will be turned over to the appropriate affected NRD(s) and/or DNR.

D. The DNR and/or the affected Platte River Basin NRD(s), as determined in goal 4, objective 2, section B, working with the affected water user(s), shall develop management solutions, as appropriate, to address the issue(s).

E. The DNR and the affected Platte River Basin NRD(s) shall update the Basin-Wide Plan and/or individual IMP, as appropriate.



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