

# FLOWING FORWARD AT DWEE

Updates from the Nebraska Department of Water,  
Energy, and Environment  
February 5, 2026

Chief Water Officer, Matt Manning

# AGENCY MERGER

DEE + DNR = DWEE

July 1, 2025

# Director

Jesse Bradley

## Legal Services

### Deputy Director

Kevin Stoner

### Deputy Director

Steve Goans

### Inspection & Compliance

Livestock & Agriculture  
Waste Compliance  
Air Compliance  
Onsite & Environmental  
Safety  
NPDES Compliance

### Chief Water Officer

Matt Manning

#### Drinking Water

Drinking Water Monitoring  
& Compliance  
Drinking Water Field  
Services

#### Integrated Water Planning

Republican & Upper Platte  
River Basins  
Land Use & GIS  
Lower Platte & Missouri  
Tributary Basins  
Hydrologic Analysis  
Water Quality & Planning

**Administrative**  
Public Information Office  
Human Resources  
Fiscal Services  
Information Technology  
Records Management

#### Permitting & Engineering

Engineering  
Waste Permits  
Air Construction Permits  
Operating Permits  
NPDES & State Permits

#### Planning & Aid

State Revolving Fund  
Weatherization, Waste, &  
Air Grants  
State Energy Programs &  
Dollar Energy Saving Loans  
Grants & Incentives

#### Groundwater

Water Well Registration &  
Permits  
Geological Services

#### Flood Plain Management

#### Dam Safety

#### Water Administration

Stream Gaging  
Surface Water Permits &  
Adjudications  
Field Offices  
Monitoring

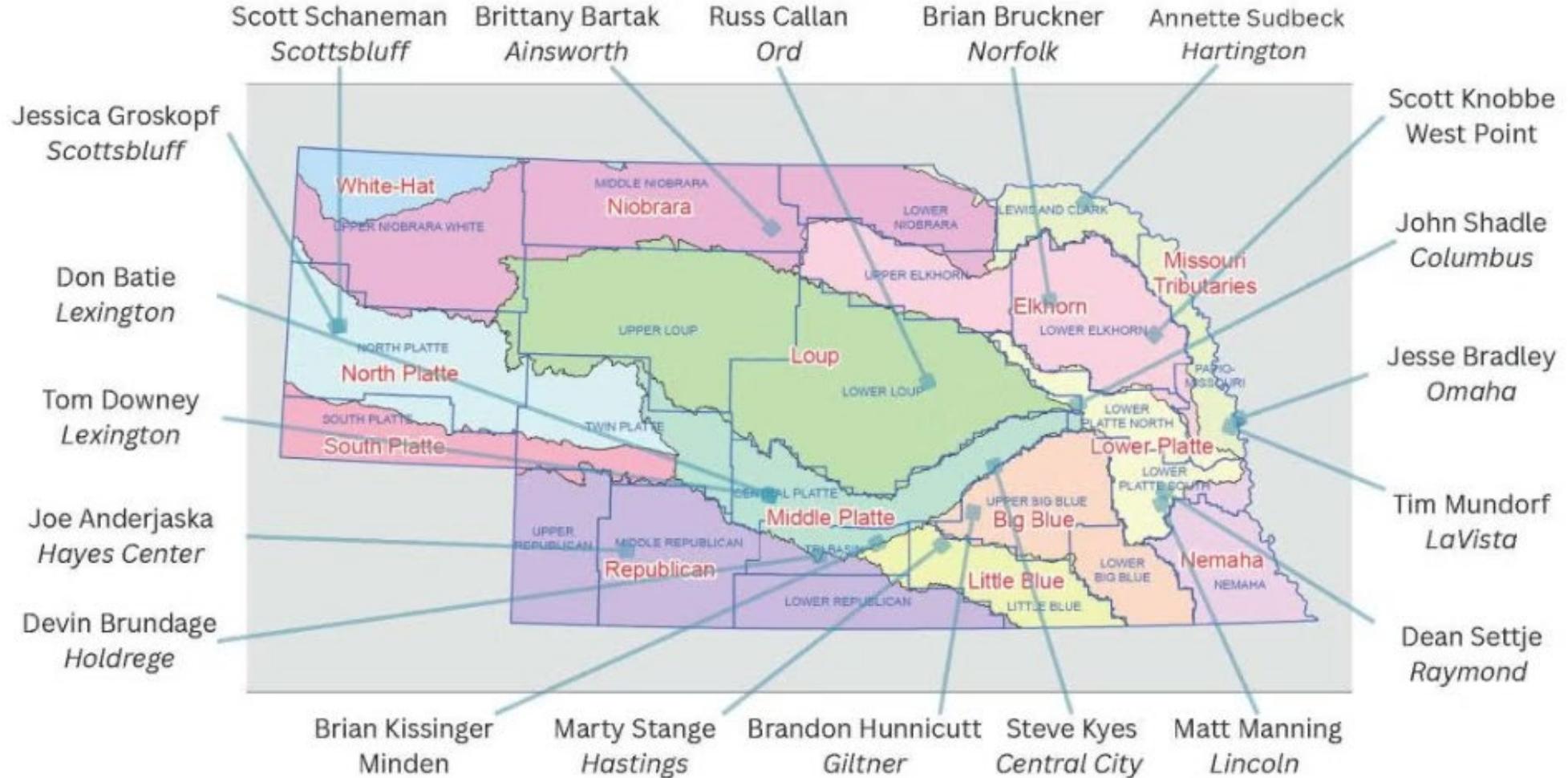
#### Monitoring & Remediation

Petroleum Remediation  
Superfund/VCP  
RCRA/Federal Facilities  
Emergency Response

## DWEE Organization

# GOVERNOR'S WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY TASK FORCE

### Governor's Water Quality & Quantity Taskforce Governor Jim Pillen



## Four Subcommittees

1. Methods and Resources
2. Conservation and Quantity
3. Financing and Incentives
4. Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access

## Key Discussion Points:

- Statewide Education and Increased Individual Engagements with Producers
- Increase Water Measurement Across the State
- Fertilizer (Nitrate) Application Education Requirements & Promotion of In Season Application Practices
- Focus on Proactive Drinking Water System Protection and Identification of Regionalization Opportunities

# ONE RED

- Designing a practical, *farmer-first* program that safeguards data and positions Nebraska as a national leader in advancing transparent verifiable data solutions.
- Building on the strengths of Nebraska agriculture by supporting voluntary producer-led efforts



# ONE RED

## Three-Pronged Approach

Data Bank

Regenerative Agriculture

Precision Agriculture



ONE RED has funding for Producers in multiple ways!

### DATA BANK

**A** Nebraska-specific Farming Data Bank that is Secure and Trusted

Producers pick approved service provider to submit data



These funds are available when aggregated data is shared

### REGENERATIVE AG INCENTIVES

**B** Full or cost-share funds to implement regenerative practices such as soil sampling, water meters, or moisture probes

### PRECISION AG GRANTS

**C** Full or cost-share funds for new or established technology and systems for advancing sustainable production such as automated irrigation, real time nitrogen management, or yield mapping

ONE RED is building on the strengths of Nebraska agriculture by supporting voluntary, producer-led efforts.



Website: <http://dee.ne.gov/ndeqprog.nsf/onweb/cprg>

# Industry Roundtables

Focused on collaboration and ways to combine efforts with Industry that adds value for producers

- Nebraska Ethanol Board
- Nebraska Corn Board
- Renewable Fuels Nebraska
- Ethanol Facilities



# Agricultural Cooperatives Stakeholder Roundtable

Engaging with agricultural cooperatives to discuss design of the Data Bank that supports grain aggregation, simplifies producer data collection, enables access to low-CI and renewable fuel markets, and creates new value streams for cooperative members

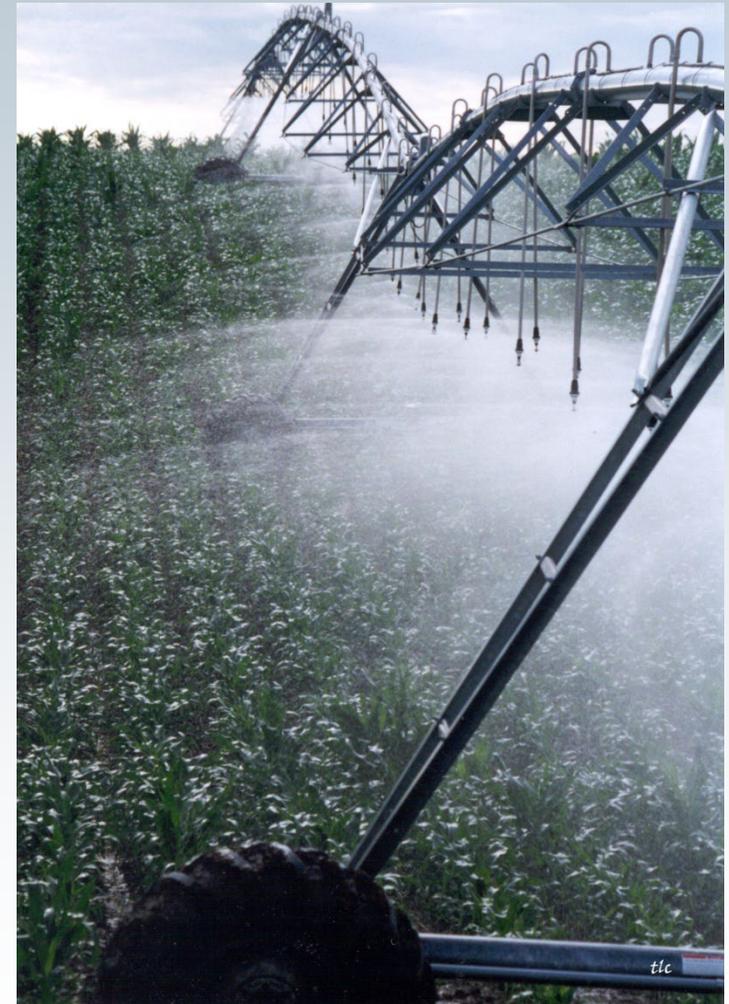
- Central Valley Ag
- Frontier Cooperative
- CPI Cooperative
- County Partners Cooperative
- Farmer Cooperative
- Aurora Cooperative



# Pivot Irrigation & Agricultural Equipment Manufacturers Roundtable

Engaging with pivot and agricultural equipment manufacturers in discussions of programs and technologies that align with precision agriculture technologies and creates new value propositions for producers and technology providers.

- Valmont
- Reinke
- Lindsay
- T-L Irrigation Company



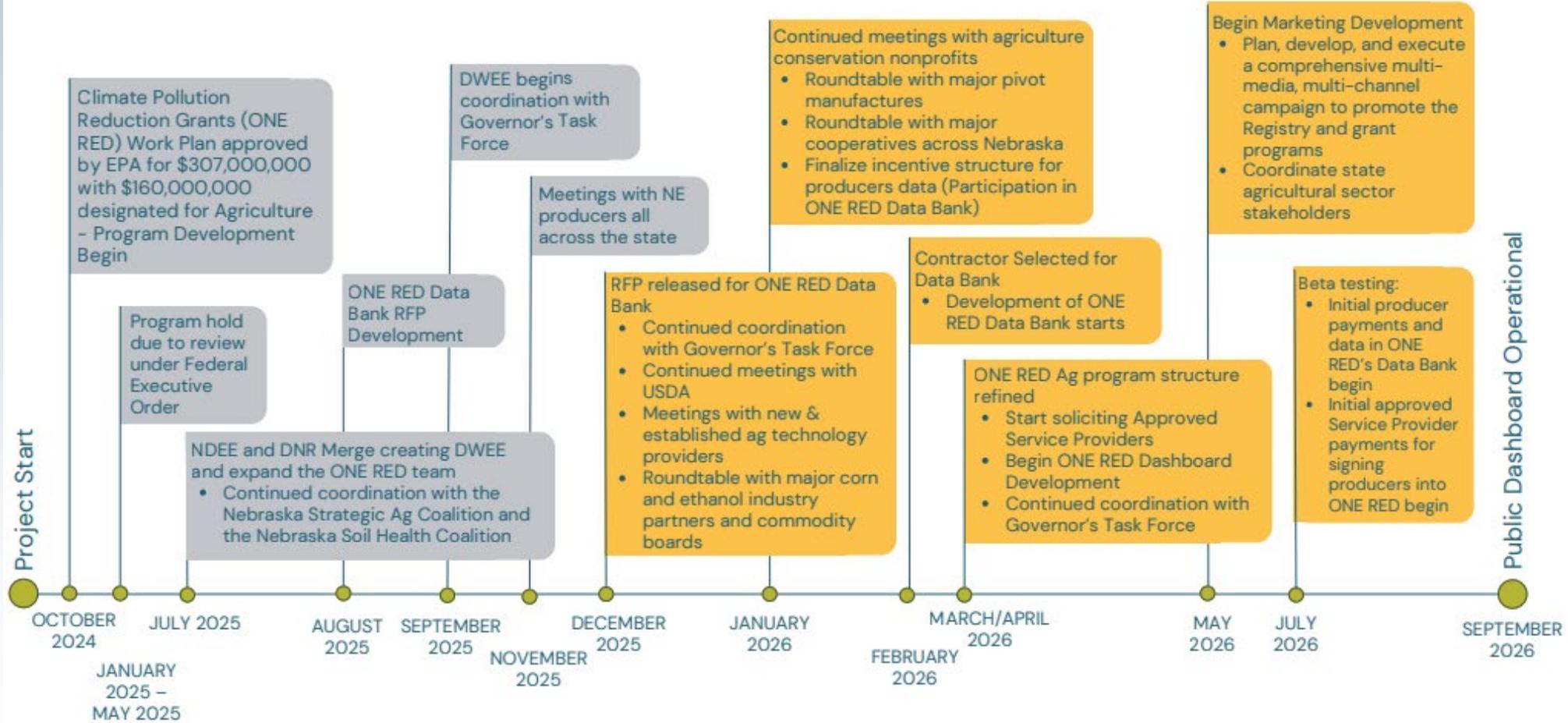
# Technology Conversations

Programs is to incentivize and derisk the adoption of technology-enabled nitrogen management practices

- Programs to help shift the producer mindset to efficiency and ROI
  - Nebraska Corn Board
  - Natural Resources Districts
  - USDA
  - Nebraska Department of Ag
  - Multiple Non-Profits
  - Multiple Irrigation Districts
  - Private Industry



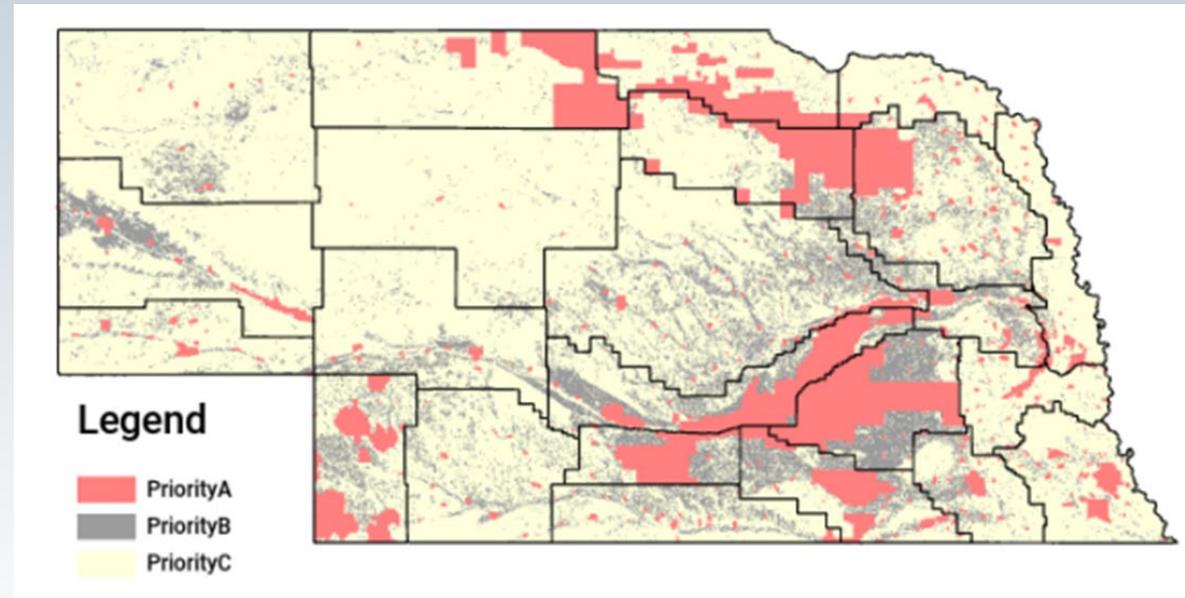
ONE RED is building on the strengths of Nebraska agriculture by supporting voluntary, producer-led efforts.

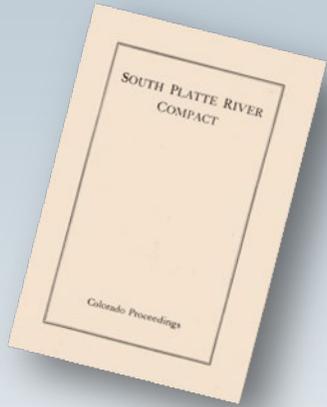


# NITROGEN REDUCTION INCENTIVE ACT (NiRIA)

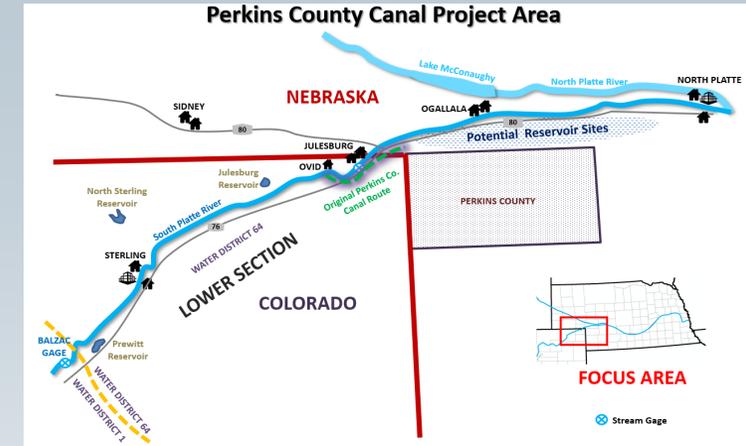
# Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA) Program

- 2025
  - Over 1,300 applications totaling about \$1.8M
    - 146,141 acres
      - Most in Priority A & B areas with corn
    - \$718,000 has been paid out already
- 2026
  - Added two new crops (Sorghum & Wheat)
  - Funded with support from Corn Board
  - Created an online application
  - Over 800 applications totaling about \$1.2 M\*
    - 95,801 acres\*
- **Discussing Launch of New Nitrogen Use Efficiency program with Corn Board**





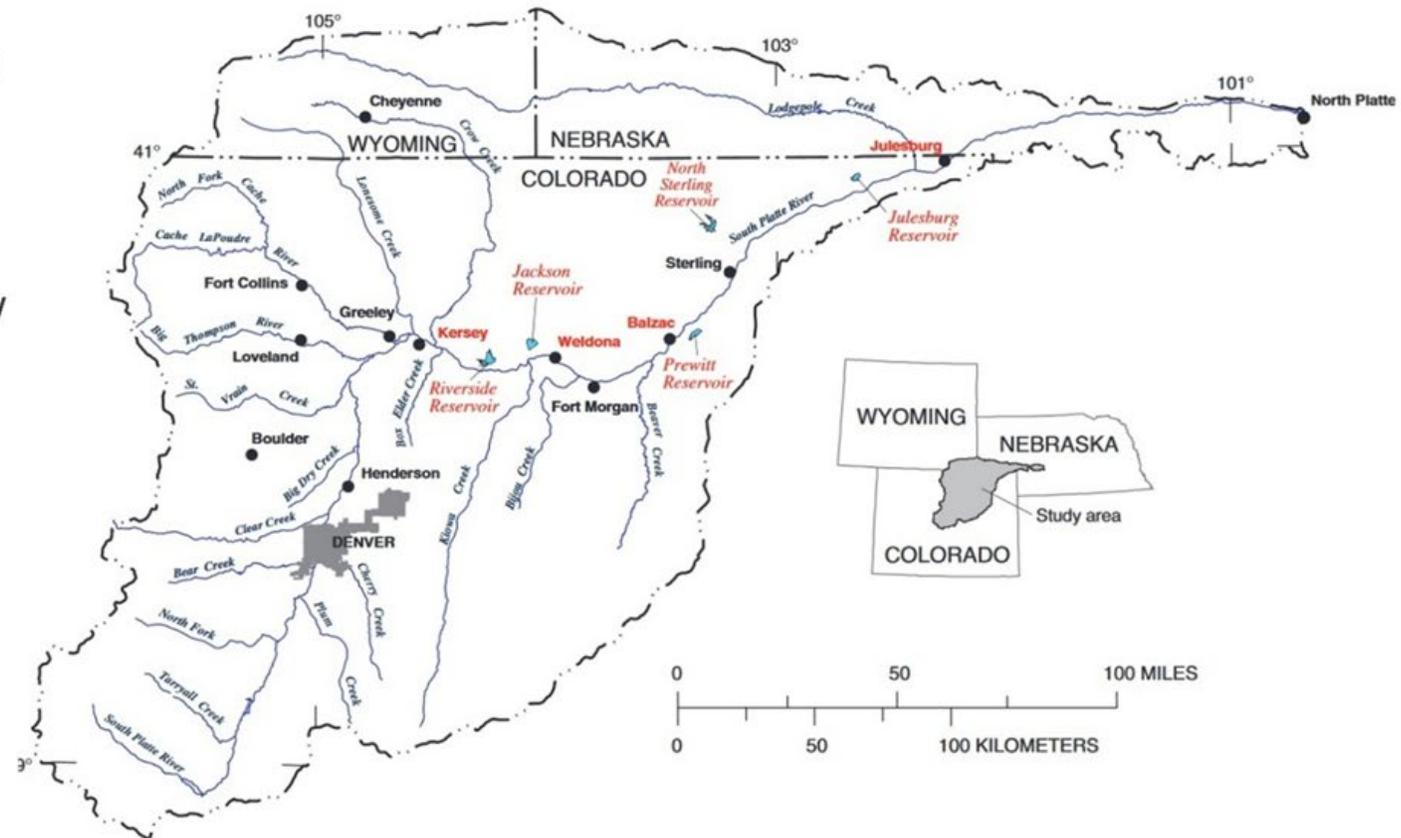
Base from U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Census Bureau digital data, 1974 to 1993



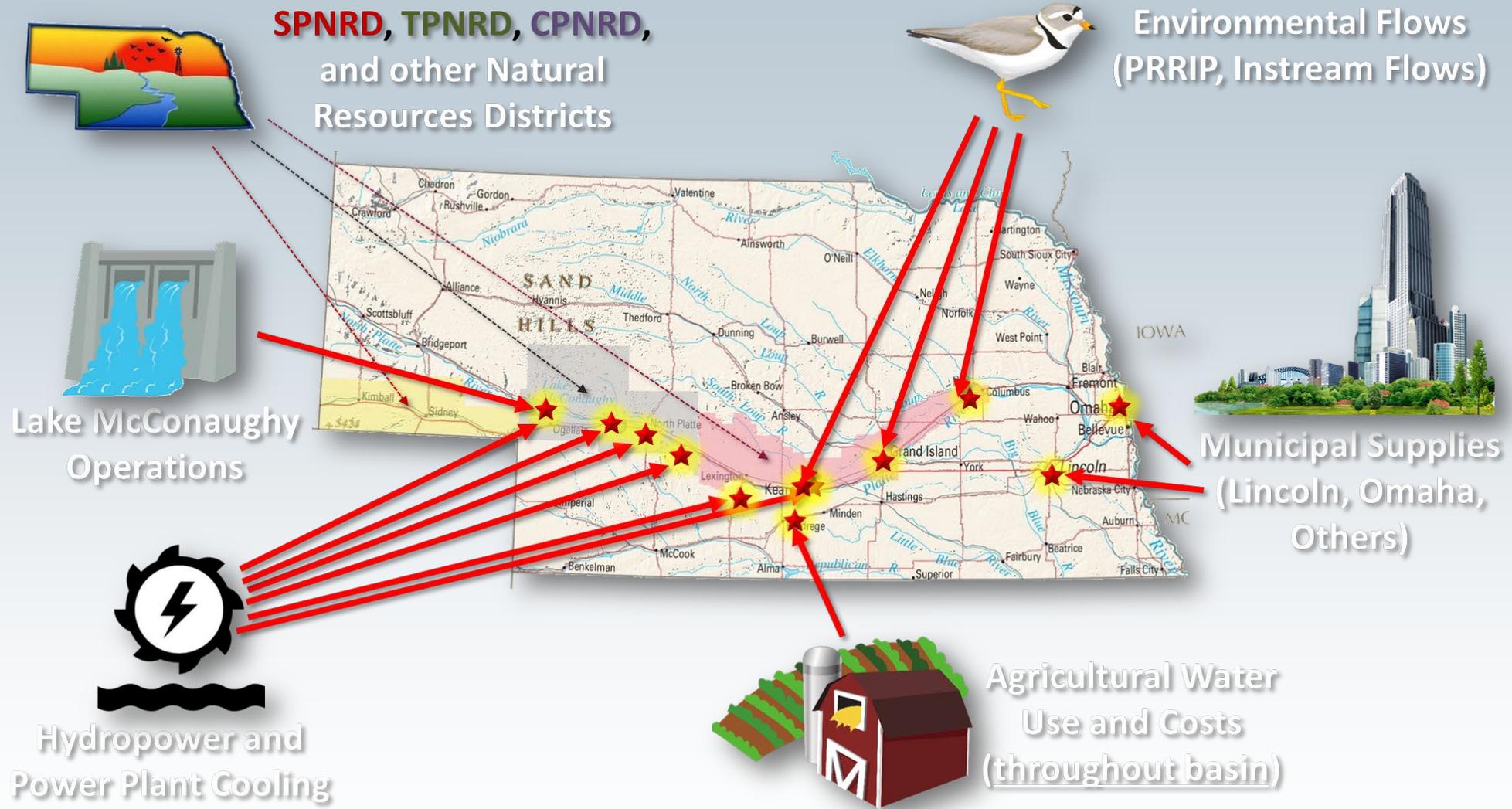
# Perkins County Canal Project

# South Platte Compact

- Signed in 1923 and passed by Congress in 1926
- Establishes a 120 cfs (47 KAF) minimum flow during the **irrigation season** (Western Canal)
- Establishes a 500 cfs minimum flow during the **non-irrigation season** (Perkins County Canal, **not currently developed**)

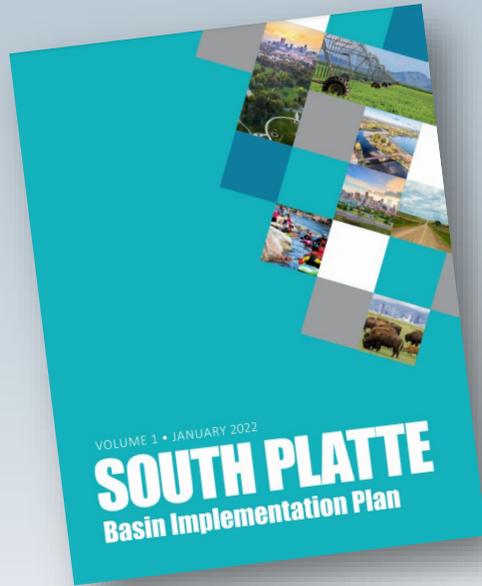


Base from U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Census Bureau digital data, 1974 to 1993





## COLORADO ACTIVITIES:



Colorado legislation, policies, and planning documents identify a substantial shortage (over **400 kaf** for agriculture and around **250 kaf** for municipal uses) needed to meet Colorado's 2050 demand in South Platte Basin (Colorado's South Platte Basin Implementation Plan 2022)

Figure 6. Baseline and 2050 Projected Average Annual Agricultural Diversion Demand, Demand Met, and Gaps

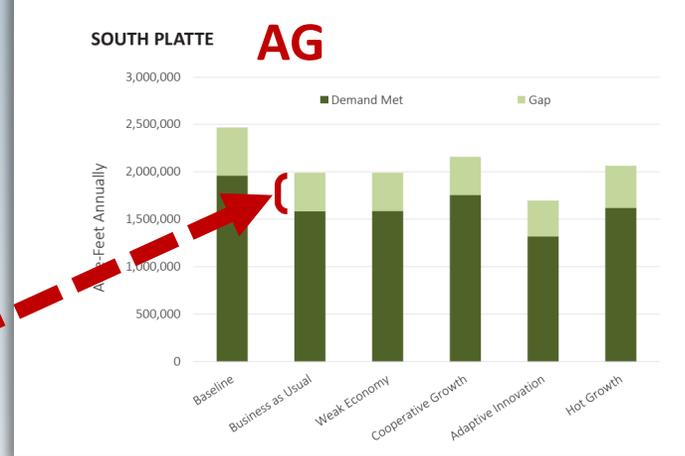
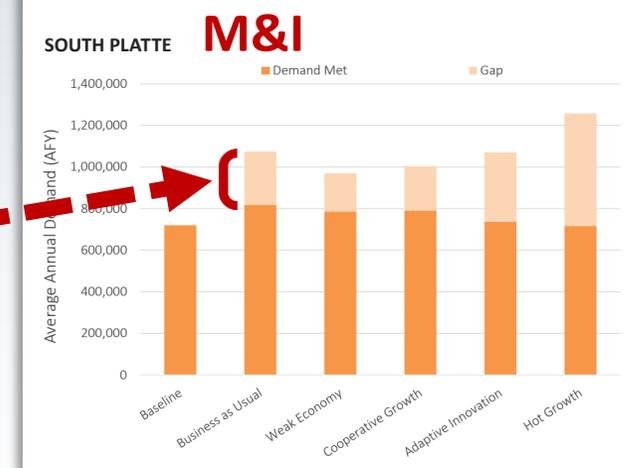


Figure 4. Baseline and 2050 Projected Maximum Annual M&I Demand Met and Gaps



# Projects Currently Under Construction

Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project

90k AF Storage  
\$561M

Chimney Hollow

Chimney Hollow - Nov. 14, 2022

77k AF Storage  
\$380M

Gross Reservoir Expansion Project

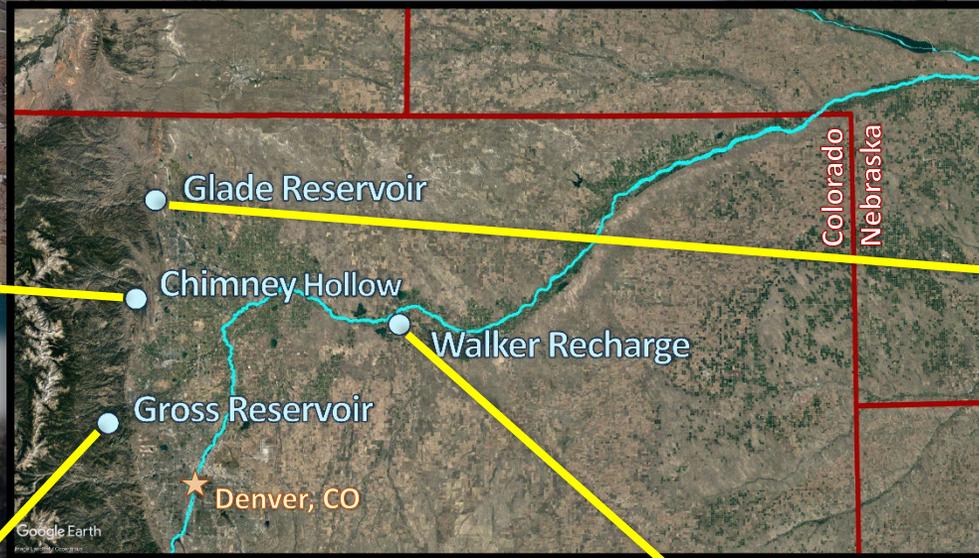
Glade Reservoir Flyover

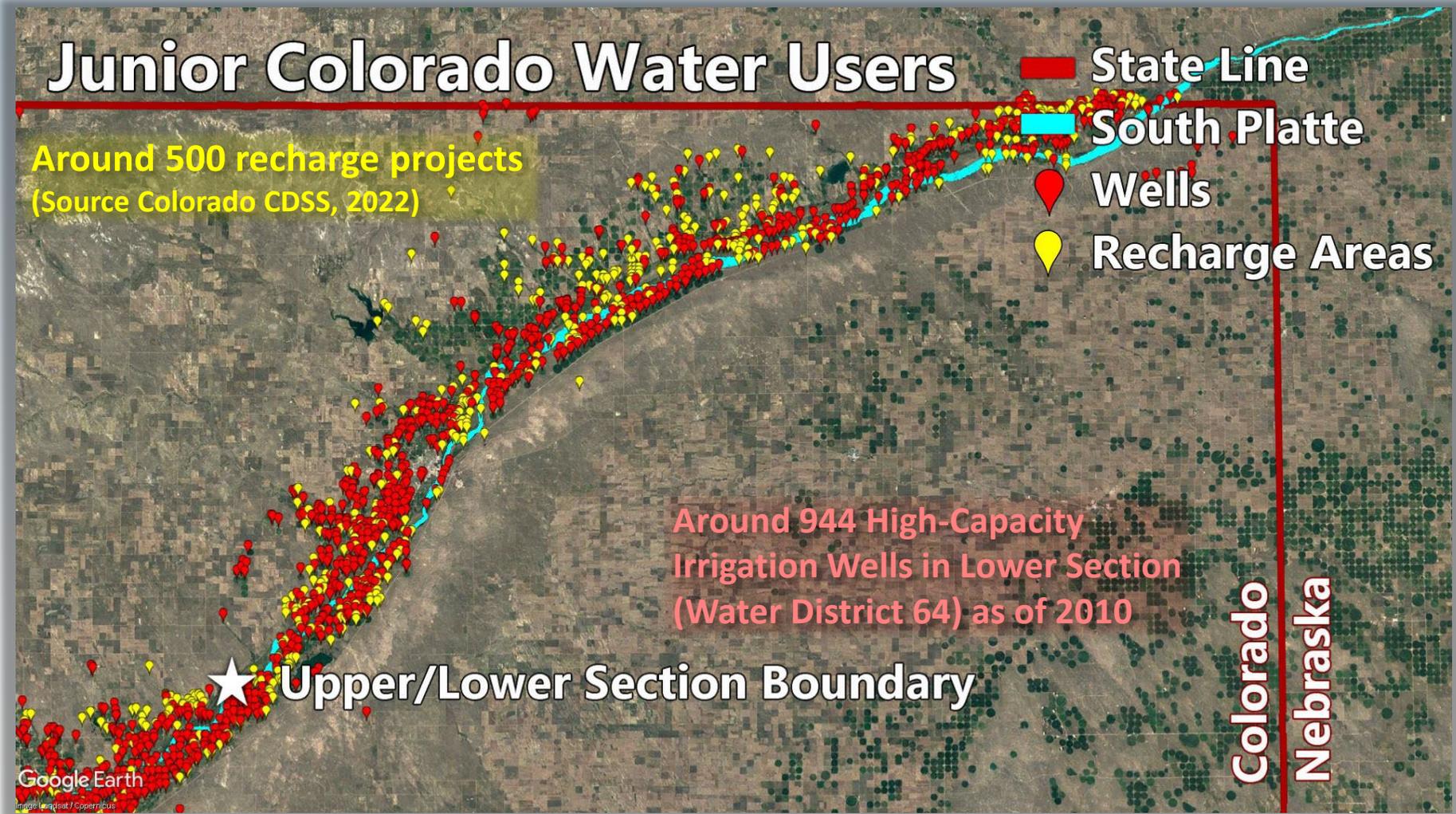
170k AF Storage  
Part of \$2.25B NISP Project

Glade Reservoir

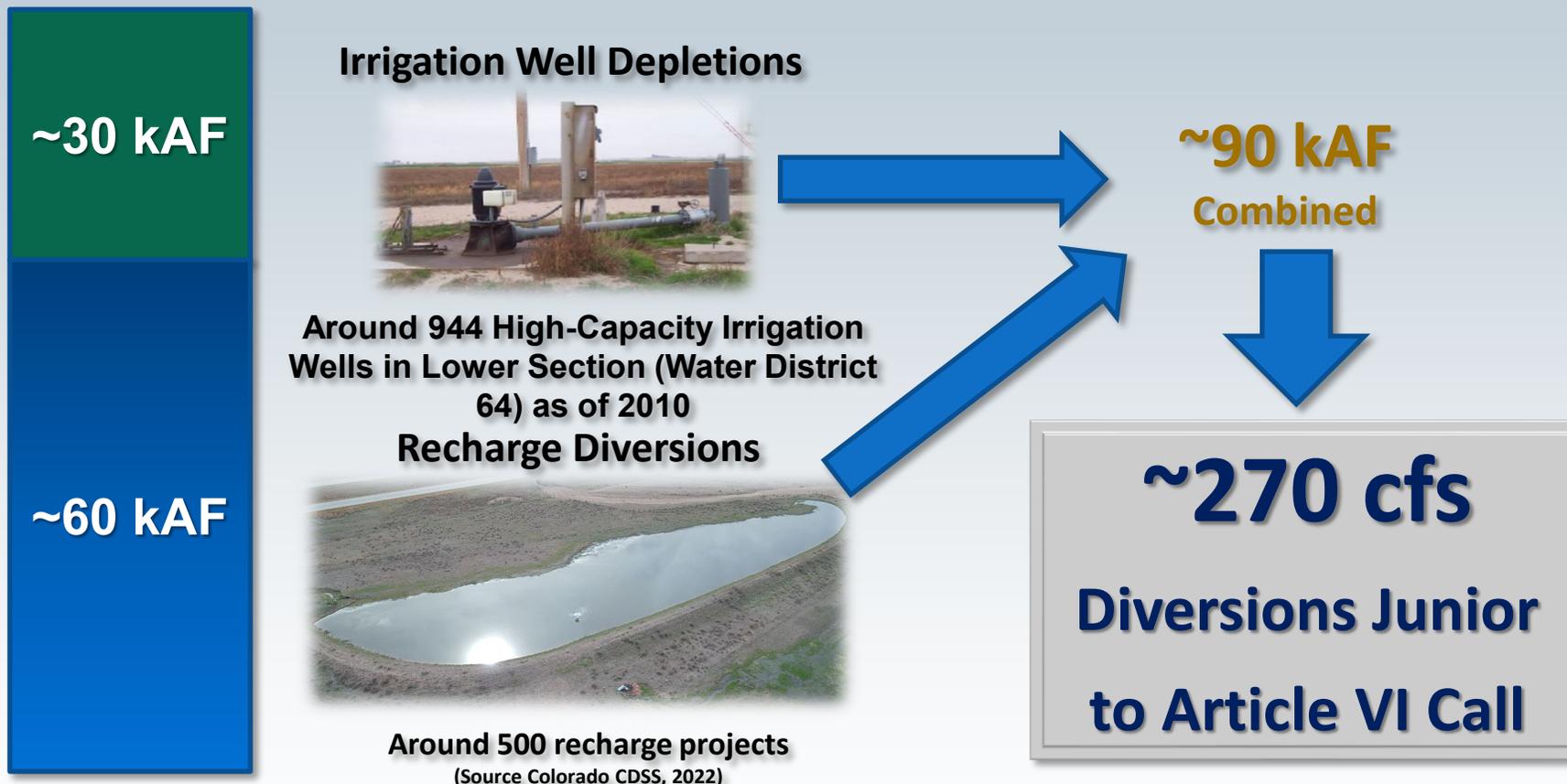
30k AF Diversion  
\$7M

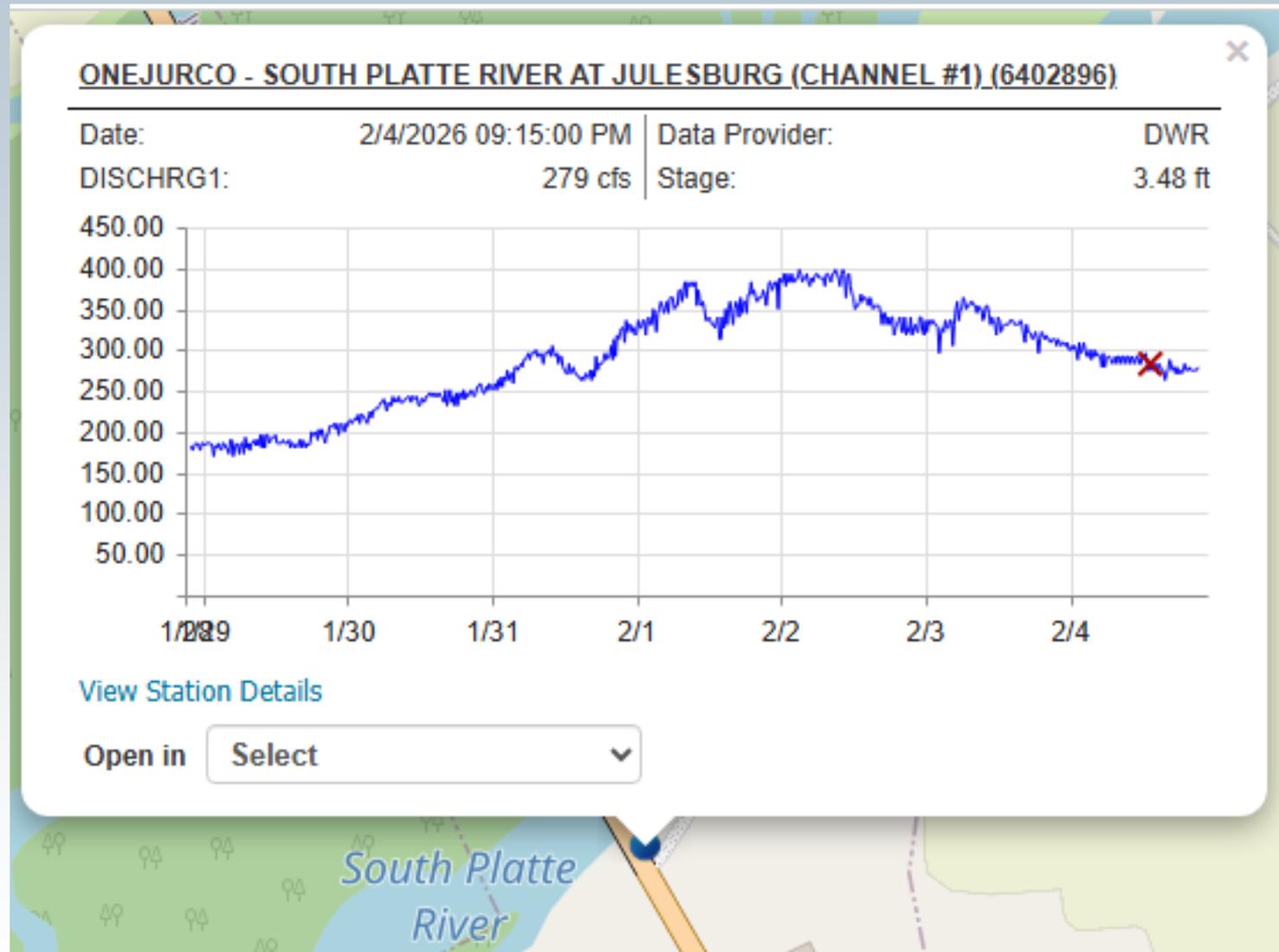
Walker Recharge Project



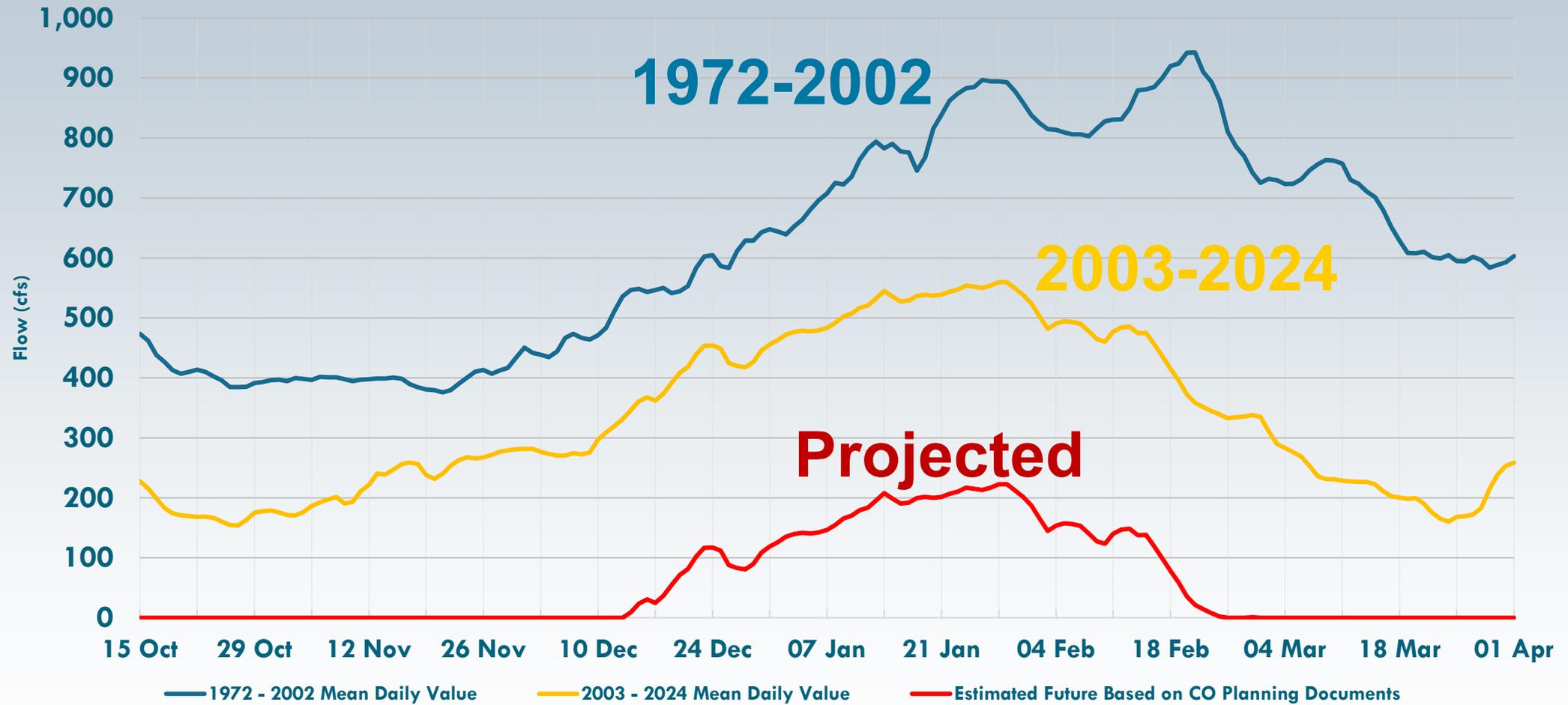


# “Junior” Non-Irrigation Season Diversions in Colorado





## State Line Mean Daily Flow



(Flow Data Source: Colorado CDSS, 2024)

# Project Components



Design



Surveying



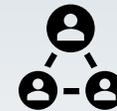
Geotechnical Analysis



Permitting



Stakeholder Engagement



Public Information & Outreach



Hydrologic Modeling

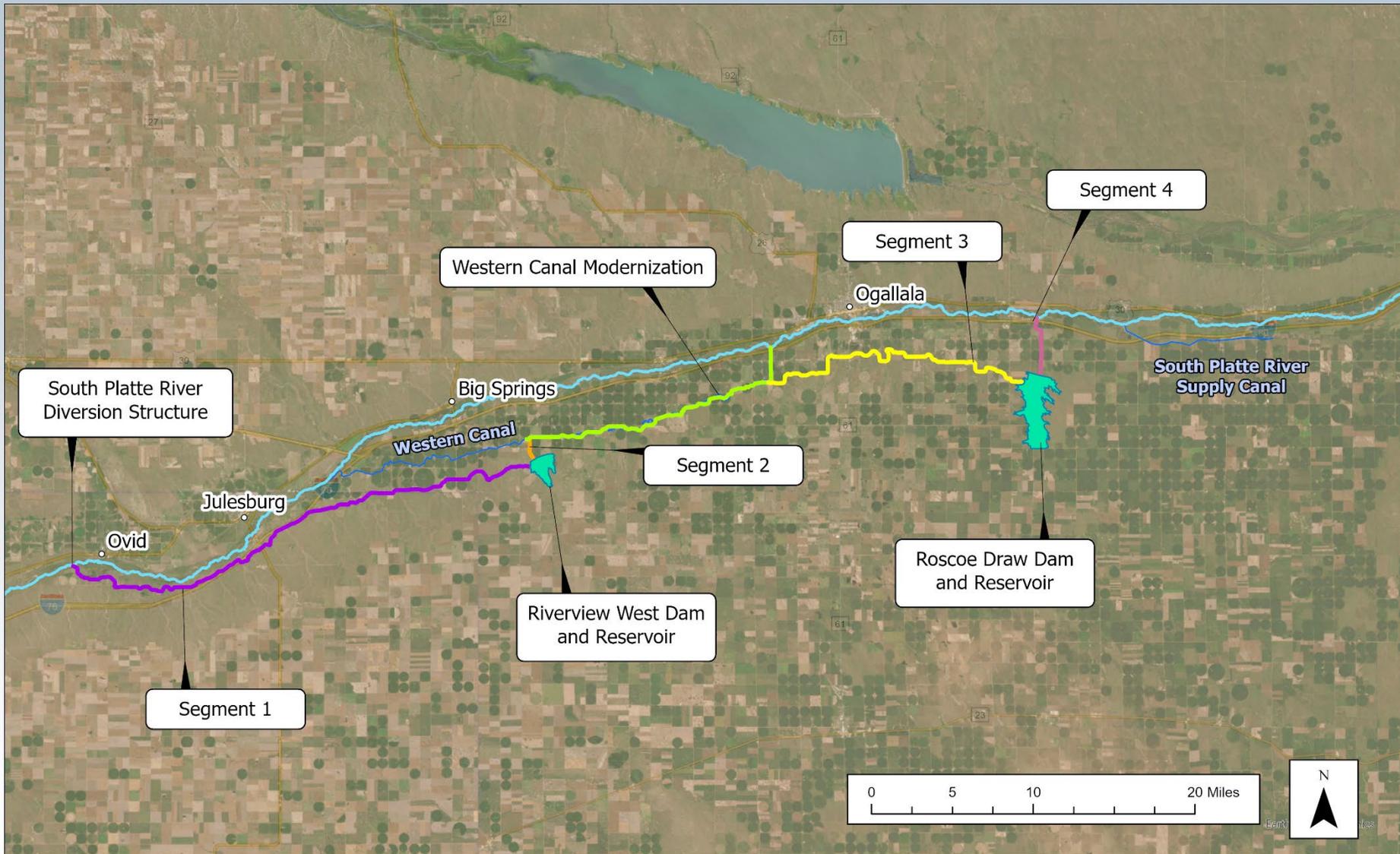


Land Acquisition



Construction

# Full Map



# Stakeholder Engagement

## PROGRESS →

- Stakeholders include NRDs, irrigation districts, public power and irrigation districts, municipalities, and others.
- Signed 3 MOUs with CNPPID, NPPD, & CPNRD
  - Specified number of irrigated acres
  - Specified location of irrigated acres
  - First of a planned series of MOUs to develop operational and management guidelines
- Separate MOA with Western Irrigation District on canal improvements

Western Irrigation District.



**CENTRAL**  
Nebraska Public Power  
and Irrigation District



**TWIN PLATTE**  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT



**Nebraska Public Power District**  
*Always there when you need us*

**CPNRD**

**CENTRAL PLATTE**  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

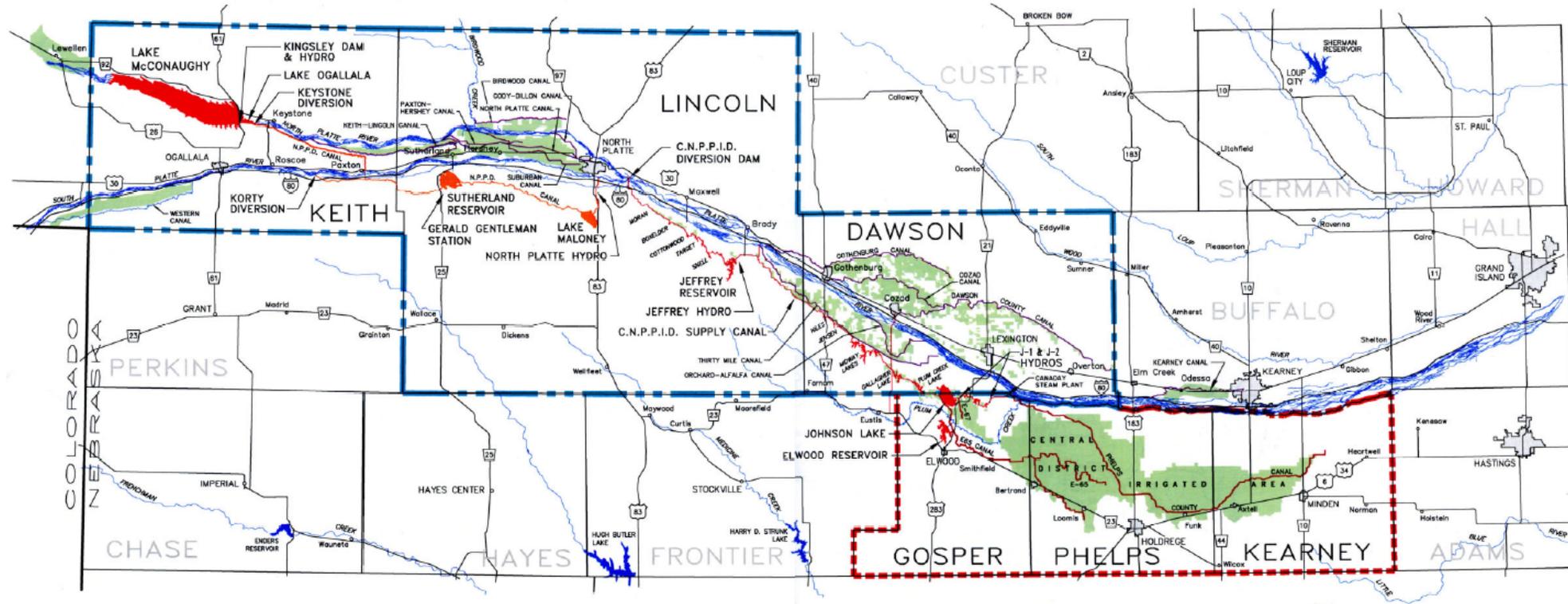


**SOUTH PLATTE**  
Natural Resources District



**LINCOLN**  
Transportation and Utilities

## THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

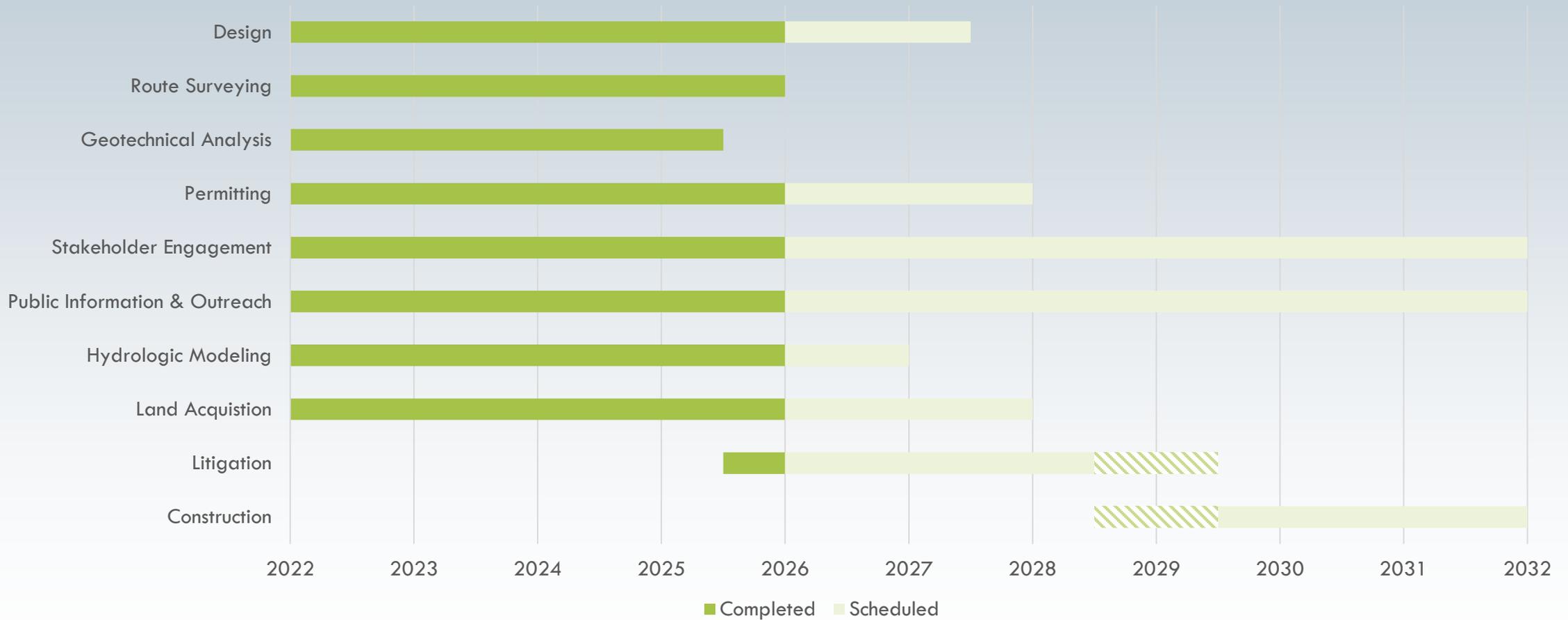


0 10 Mi

— = SURFACE IRRIGATION

# Project Timeline and Progress

**AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!**



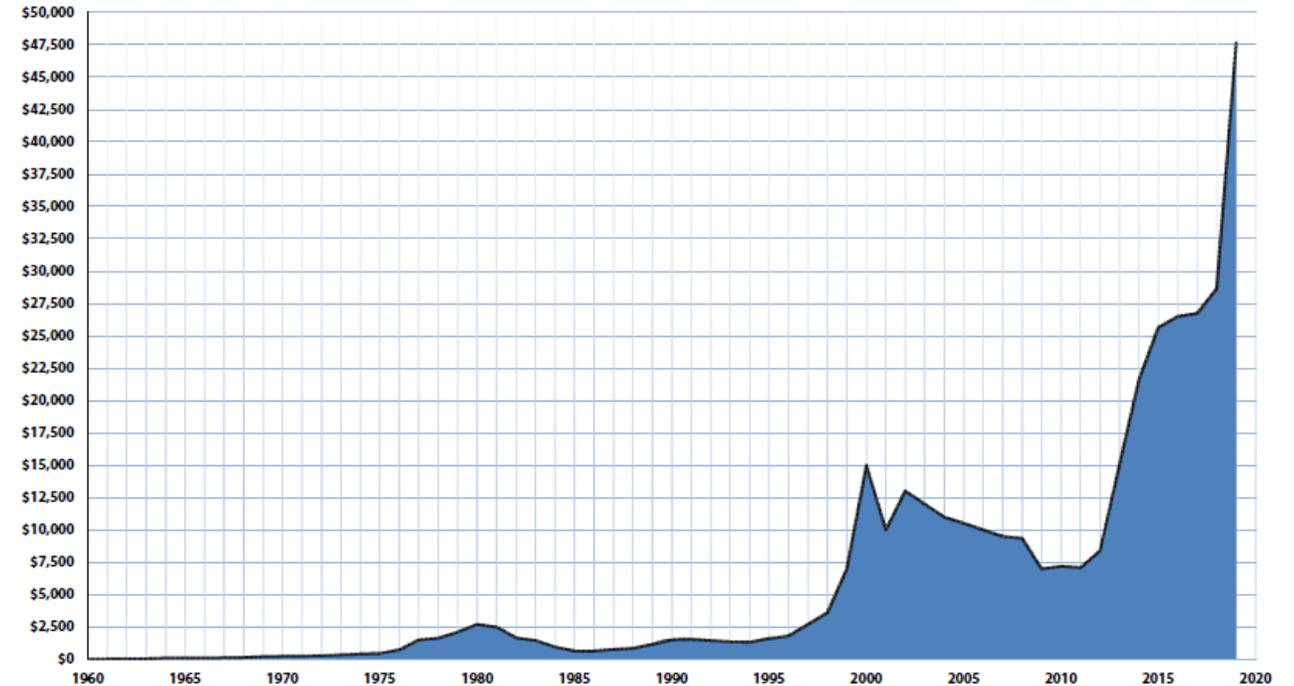
# Value of Water in Colorado



- 2019 Final Quota was 70%, so water valued at about **\$67,900/acre-ft** (\$47,500/0.7)
- 2024 Final Quota was 80%, so water valued at about **\$73,500/acre-ft** (\$58,772/0.8)

## Market Prices Per Acre-Foot Unit (Historical)<sup>(1)</sup> District Enterprise Fund

Years ended September 30,  
Unaudited



<sup>(1)</sup> Northern Water allottees of C-BT Project water may transfer and sell their respective acre-foot units to other parties within Northern Water boundaries. These transactions are subject to rules and regulations of the Board. The above table represents data gathered by voluntary action and serves as an indicator of how the price of C-BT Project acre-foot units has fluctuated on the open market through the years. Actual transaction prices may vary.

Northern Water

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# THANK YOU

[DWEE.Nebraska.org](http://DWEE.Nebraska.org)