

4. Plan Implementation Schedule

Section Overview

As required by *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-755 (5)(b)*, the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan (Plan) includes a schedule indicating the end date by which the goals and objectives are to be achieved and the management actions to be taken to achieve the goals and objectives. The Plan’s goals, objectives and action items are described in detail with the “Goals and Objectives” section (page [#]). Tables 4.1 through 4.4 in this Plan Implementation Schedule section specify a schedule for each action item.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-755 (5)(b) also requires that the Plan include measurable hydrologic objectives (MHOs) to help assess whether reasonable progress has been made towards the Plan’s goals and objectives. The MHOs will be evaluated as described under “Evaluation of Progress” (page [#]). The Plan’s MHOs are listed under Action Item 1.3.2 in Table 4.1.

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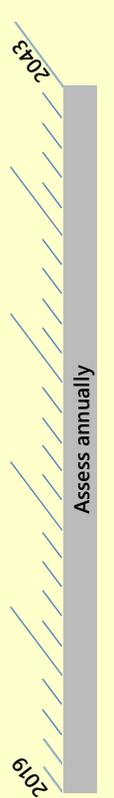
Table 4.1. Implementation schedule for Goal 1. Additional details about Goal 1 and its objectives and action items are described beginning on page [##]. The Plan's MHOs ("Measurable Hydrologic Objectives," page [##]) are included in this table as part of Action Item 1.3.2 and are indicated by a yellow background.

Objective		<i>Plan language</i>	<i>Years in which addressed</i>
Goal 1: Maintain Nebraska's compliance with the Republican River Compact and applicable state laws			
Coordinate basin-wide plan management actions with Nebraska's Compact compliance efforts and adherence to applicable state laws			
1.1.	Action items		
	1.1.1.	Review each basin-wide plan management action prior to implementation to ensure it does not negatively impact efforts to achieve Compact compliance in the most efficient and cost-effective way practicable while adhering to state laws	2018* When appropriate 2044**
	1.1.2.	Implement appropriate offsets for any basin-wide plan action that would exceed Nebraska's allocation under the Compact	2018* When appropriate 2044**
1.2.	Understand the effects of management actions for Compact compliance on water supplies for Nebraska's water users		
	Action item		
	1.2.1.	Qualitatively evaluate the net effect on water supplies of any management actions that are taken for Compact compliance	2019 Annually when appropriate 2043
1.3.	Assess progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the Plan, and share the results of this assessment with the Public and the Nebraska Legislature		
	Action items		
	1.3.1.	Within five years after the adoption of this Plan, and every five years thereafter, conduct a technical analysis of the actions taken to determine the progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the Plan	2023 Every 5 years 2028 2033 2038 2043

* From the effective date of this Plan ("Effective Date and Time Frame of the Plan," page [##])
** All Plan actions must be completed no later than April 17, 2044 ("Effective Date and Time Frame of the Plan," page [##])
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(Table 4.1, continued from previous page)

Goal 1: Maintain Nebraska's compliance with the Republican River Compact and applicable state laws		<i>Years in which addressed</i>
Objective	Plan language	
1.3.	1.3.2.	As indicated for each MHO, below
	<i>Measurable Hydrologic Objectives</i>	<p>MHO A: Maintain each NRD's net groundwater depletions to streamflow within its portion of Nebraska's allowable groundwater depletions to streamflow</p> <p>Assessment: For the previous Compact averaging period (2 or 5 years, as determined by Compact accounting procedures), has each NRD's groundwater net depletions to streamflow for the RRCA model area, remained within its portion of Nebraska's allowable groundwater depletions to streamflow, as specified in the IMPs?</p> <p>MHO is being achieved: if assessment results in "yes" for NRDs</p>



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Goal 1: Maintain Nebraska's compliance with the Republican River Compact and applicable state laws	
Objective	Plan language
1.3.	Years in which addressed
Action items	
Measurable Hydrologic Objectives	
<p>MHO B: Limit net groundwater depletions to streamflow to a relatively constant level over the long-term both across the basin as a whole and within each NRD</p> <p>Assessment: Understanding that interannual variability will continue as it has in the past, have trends in the overall average condition of long-term groundwater depletions to streamflow for the RRCA model area remained relatively constant over typical wet and dry cycles (approximately 12 years)?</p> <p>MHO is being achieved: if assessment results in "yes" for the Basin and for all NRDs</p>	<p>2023 2028 2033 2038 2043 Assess every 5 years</p>

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Objective	Plan language	Years in which addressed
1.3.	<p>MHO C: Ensure there is always enough groundwater for all groundwater uses within the timeframe of this plan, either by stabilizing groundwater levels or managing declining groundwater levels</p> <p>Assessment: Understanding that interannual variability will continue as it has in the past, is one of the following conditions true for each NRD, either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that trends in long-term average groundwater levels have remained approximately constant over a typical wet and dry cycle (approximately 12 years), or (b) that they are declining at a rate such that at the end of the 25-year Plan period, groundwater modeling of the remaining aquifer saturated thickness within the hydrologically connected area (estimated as the average modeled saturated thickness for the years 2038 through 2049) indicates sufficient amounts of water exist to allow for crop irrigation, municipal, and industrial uses of groundwater? <p>MHO is being achieved: if assessment results in "yes" for all NRDs</p>	

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Objective	Plan language	Years in which addressed
<p>Goal 1: Maintain Nebraska's compliance with the Republican River Compact and applicable state laws</p>	<p>1.3.</p> <p><i>Action items</i></p> <p><i>Measurable Hydrologic Objectives</i></p> <p>MHO D: Continue existing and initiate new actions that reduce the need for special regulations in the Rapid Response Area for Compact compliance</p> <p>Assessment: During the previous year, has groundwater pumping within the Rapid Response Area of any NRD been curtailed to ensure Compact compliance?</p> <p>MHO is being achieved: if assessment results in "no" for all NRDs</p> <p>MHO E: Continue existing and initiate new actions that reduce the need for administration of surface water use for Compact compliance</p> <p>Assessment: During the previous year, has surface water use within the Basin been administered to reduce surface water use to ensure Compact compliance?</p> <p>MHO is being achieved: if assessment results in "no"</p>	 

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Goal 1: Maintain Nebraska's compliance with the Republican River Compact and applicable state laws		Years in which addressed	
Objective	Plan language		
1.3.	1.3.3. Following each five-year technical analysis (Action Item 1.3.1), share the results of the analysis and any recommended Plan modifications with the public	2023 2028 2033 2038 2043	Every 5 years
	1.3.4. Following each five-year technical analysis (Action Item 1.3.1) and any resulting modifications to the Plan, submit a report to the Legislature of the results of the analysis and progress made under the Plan	2024 2029 2034 2039 2044**	Every 5 years

** All Plan actions must be completed no later than April 17, 2044 ("Effective Date and Time Frame of the Plan," page 7#)

Table 4.2. Implementation schedule for Goal 2. Additional details about Goal 2 and its objectives and action items are described beginning on page [#].

Goal 2: Maximize Nebraska's efficient and beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply, increase certainty for long-range planning of water supplies to reduce the need for regulatory actions, and increase collaborative efforts among water management entities and stakeholders across the Basin		
Objective	Plan language	Years in which addressed
Understand the feasibility and potential impacts of Plan actions and establish a standard procedure for projects		
2.1.	2.1.1. For each planned new water management project in the Plan, evaluate hydrologic and regulatory feasibility and potential economic and environmental impacts	
	2.1.2. For each project evaluated in accordance with Action Item 2.1.1 in a given year, include a summary of the evaluation in the Annual Report of that year's activities	
	2.1.3. For projects that are feasible and beneficial, apply for necessary permits, establish new or utilize existing infrastructure, then begin operations	
Improve the efficiency of use, availability, and reliability of water supplies for current irrigators		
2.2.	Action items	
	2.2.1. Work with irrigation districts and individual groundwater and surface water irrigators to improve the efficiency of the Basin's surface water delivery systems and irrigation water use, when it is both feasible and beneficial to Nebraska's Compact accounting balance	

* From the effective date of this Plan ("Effective Date and Time Frame of the Plan," page [#])
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Goal 2: Maximize Nebraska's efficient and beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply, increase certainty for long-range planning of water supplies to reduce the need for regulatory actions, and increase collaborative efforts among water management entities and stakeholders across the Basin		<i>Years in which addressed</i>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Plan language</i>	
2.2.	Action items	
	Participate in projects to improve the reliability, availability, and sustainability of water supplies in the Basin, which may include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Voluntary reduction of irrigated acres (temporary or permanent) b. Interbasin transfers c. Conjunctive management projects such as aquifer recharge or streamflow augmentation 	
2.3.	Provide opportunities for collaboration among the Basin's water users	
	Action items	
	Hold an annual public meeting to discuss Plan implementation and exchange information about the Basin	
	Work cooperatively to investigate and address conflicts between water users resulting from implementation of this Plan by following the procedures for addressing conflicts that are outlined in this Plan	

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Goal 2: Maximize Nebraska's efficient and beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply, increase certainty for long-range planning of water supplies to reduce the need for regulatory actions, and increase collaborative efforts among water management entities and stakeholders across the Basin			
Objective	Plan language		Years in which addressed
2.4.	Promote conservation programs available to the water users in the Basin		
	Action items		
	2.4.1.	Work together to identify, investigate, and discuss existing and potential new water conservation programs	
	2.4.2.	Collaborate to promote conservation program opportunities to the Basin's water users	
2.5.	Understand how various water management activities of independent decision-makers affect water supplies		
	Action items		
	2.5.1.	Study the effects of conservation practices on streamflow, if feasible	
	2.5.2.	Periodically analyze the future impacts to streamflow of past pumping to determine the lag time of these residual impacts	

* From the effective date of this Plan ("Effective Date and Time Frame of the Plan," page f#)

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Goal 2: Maximize Nebraska's efficient and beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply, increase certainty for long-range planning of water supplies to reduce the need for regulatory actions, and increase collaborative efforts among water management entities and stakeholders across the Basin		<i>Years in which addressed</i>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Plan language</i>	
2.5.	Action items	
	2.5.3.	
Evaluate the feasibility and potential outcomes of establishing water markets in the Basin		
2.6.	Action items	
	2.6.1.	
	2.6.2.	

* From the effective date of this Plan ("Effective Date and Time Frame of the Plan," page #7) (continued on next page)

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Goal 2: Maximize Nebraska's efficient and beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply, increase certainty for long-range planning of water supplies to reduce the need for regulatory actions, and increase collaborative efforts among water management entities and stakeholders across the Basin

Objective	Plan language	Years in which addressed	
2.7.	<p>Support the NRDs in management of allocations for irrigation purposes and surface water irrigation districts in management of the allotment of their water supply</p>		
		<p>2.7.1. Periodically evaluate, as part of each five-year technical review, the impact of the groundwater allocation and surface water allotment systems as a whole</p>	
		<p>2.7.2. As needed, based on the evaluation described in Objective 2.7.1, recommend changes or improvements to the groundwater allocation and/or surface water allotment systems</p>	
2.8.	<p>Conserve water for future use during a drought</p>		
		<p>2.8.1. Organize and participate in a basin-wide drought planning exercise</p>	
		<p>2.8.2. Following the drought planning exercise (Objective 2.8.1) evaluate whether to recommend any changes to the IMPs or this Plan related to conservation of water for future use during a drought</p>	

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Table 4.3. Implementation schedule for Goal 3. Additional details about Goal 3 and its objectives and action items are described beginning on page [#].

Goal 3: Positive public relations, including information sharing, within and outside the Basin		<i>Years in which addressed</i>
Objective	Plan Language	
3.1.	Improve information sharing with decision-makers and the public about solutions formed within the Basin	
	3.1.1. Use existing resources to share information about Basin progress and activities with outside entities	2018* When appropriate 2044**
	3.1.2. Educate civic leaders and the public on implementation efforts within the Basin	2018* When appropriate 2044**
	3.1.3. Educate civic leaders and the public about the policies and institutional infrastructure that contribute to the development and implementation of solutions	2018* When appropriate 2044**
	3.1.4. Propose and support changes to laws, policies, and rules that would incentivize reduced water consumption	2018* When appropriate 2044**
3.2.	Improve information sharing with water users who are reliant on the Basin's water supplies	
	3.2.1. Share data and information related to the Republican River Compact with the public in an easily accessible, user-friendly format	2019 Annually 2043
	3.2.2. Annually prepare and exchange reports containing data and information about water supplies and uses in the Basin, and make these reports publically accessible	2019 Annually 2043

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Objective		Plan language		Years in which addressed
Goal 3: Positive public relations, including information sharing, within and outside the Basin				
3.2.	Action items			
	3.2.3.	Regularly communicate with the Plan's Stakeholder Advisory Committee about implementation progress and potential Plan revisions	2019	2043
	3.2.4.	Encourage and support water users to share information about their management practice improvements with other water users and the public	2019	2043



Table 4.4. Implementation schedule for Goal 4. Additional details about Goal 4 and its objectives and action items are described beginning on page [#].

Goal 4: When possible, pursue projects that not only benefit water supplies and uses, but also create benefits for fish, wildlife, recreation, and conveyance within the Republican River Basin		<i>Years in which addressed</i>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Plan language</i>	
4.1.	Where feasible and beneficial, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and public outdoor recreational opportunities	
	Action items	
	4.1.1. Partner with wildlife-focused organizations on projects that benefit the organizations' habitat and wildlife interests while also helping to fulfill other goals of this Plan	When appropriate 2018* / 2044**
	4.1.2. Promote public recreation on the river, when doing so can also help to fulfill other goals of this Plan	When appropriate 2018* / 2044**
	4.1.3. Cooperate in projects to assess and restore riparian wetlands while also helping to fulfill other goals of this Plan	When appropriate 2018* / 2044**
4.2.	Where feasible and beneficial, reduce the effects of undesirable vegetation on water conveyance	
	Action	
	4.2.1. Cooperate in removing undesirable vegetation impacting water conveyance and managing reinfestation	When appropriate 2018* / 2044**

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