

# Republican River Basin-Wide Plan

## Summary of Current

### Integrated Management Plan Goals

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*\*\*Goals and objectives listed by all NRDs unless otherwise noted.\*\**

- 1.** Provide the Republican River Basin NRD's share of compliance responsibility and impact to stream flow be apportioned within the NRDs in an equitable manner, and to the extent possible, minimize the adverse economic, social, and environmental consequences arising from compliance activities.
- 2.** In cooperation with the State of Nebraska, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and Republican River Basin NRDs, maintain compliance with the Compact as adopted in 1943 and as implemented in accordance with the FSS Settlement Agreement approved by the United States Supreme Court on May 19, 2003. (URNRD, MRNRD, TBNRD)
- 3.** Ensure that water users within the Republican River Basin NRDs assume their share, but only their share, of the responsibility to maintain Nebraska's compliance with the Republican River Compact. (URNRD, MRNRD, LRNRD)
- 4.** Protect groundwater users whose water wells are dependent on recharge from the river or stream and the surface water appropriators on such river or stream from stream flow depletions caused by surface water uses and groundwater uses begun after the date the river basin was designated as fully appropriated. (URNRD, MRNRD)
- 5.** Reserve and protect any increases to stream flow available from regulation or supplemental programs, enacted or implemented to maintain Compact compliance, from any use that would negate the benefit of such regulation or programs, to the extent allowed by statute and the surface water controls of the IMP. (URNRD, MRNRD)
- 6.** To sustain a balance between water uses and water supplies within the Republican River Basin NRDs so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, and welfare of the NRDs can be achieved and maintained for both the near and long term. (LRNRD)

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. Prevent the initiation of new or expanded uses of water, with limited exceptions, that increase Nebraska's computed beneficial consumptive use of water within the Republican River Basin NRDs, as required for Compact compliance and by Nebraska law. (URNRD, MRNRD, LRNRD)
2. Make such additional reductions in groundwater use in Compact Call Years as are necessary, after taking into account any reduction in beneficial consumptive use achieved through basin-wide supplemental, incentive, and streamflow augmentation programs and other projects developed at the basin or district level with the expressed purpose or result of reducing consumptive use or increasing stream flow, to achieve a reduction in beneficial consumptive use in the NRDs to the required percentage of Nebraska's allowable groundwater depletions to stream flow in such years. Compact Call Years will be determined through the procedures outlined in the IMP. (URNRD, MRNRD, LRNRD)
3. Ensure that administration of surface water appropriations in the basin is in accordance with the Compact and in full compliance with Nebraska law and the surface water controls of the IMP. (URNRD, MRNRD)
4. Develop a program to provide offsets for new consumptive uses of water so that economic development in the NRDs may continue without producing an overall increase in groundwater depletions as a result of new uses. (URNRD, MRNRD)
5. Cooperate with the DNR to investigate and explore methods to manage the impact of vegetative growth on stream flow. (URNRD, MRNRD)
6. Achieve the required reductions in water use through a combination of regulatory and supplemental programs designed to reduce beneficial consumptive use. To the extent funds are available, incentive programs will be made available to as many water users as possible. (MRNRD, LRNRD)
7. The DNR shall ensure that administration of surface water appropriations in the basin is in accordance with the Compact and in full compliance with Nebraska law. (LRNRD)
8. The NRDs and the DNR will continue to investigate and explore augmentation projects that would add to or retime the water supply within the basin. Such augmentation and retiming projects include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:
  - a. Leasing or purchasing surface water and/or groundwater;
  - b. Augmentation wells, both within and outside of the Republican River Basin;
  - c. Exploring trans-basin diversion projects;
  - d. Conjunctive management of surface water irrigation projects.(LRNRD)
9. Reduce existing groundwater use within the NRDs by 20% from the 1998-2002 baseline pumping volumes under average precipitation conditions so that, when combined with stream flow augmentation and incentive programs, the NRD's groundwater depletions are maintained within

the required percentage of Nebraska's allowable groundwater depletions as computed through use of the Republican River Compact Administration Groundwater Model. (URNRD)

10. Cause the reductions in water use required for Compact compliance to be achieved through a combination of regulatory, incentive, and augmentation programs designed to reduce consumptive use. To the extent funds are available, incentive programs will be made available through targeted incentive programs. (URNRD)
11. The NRD's net depletions shall not exceed its appropriate allocation of the state's allowable groundwater depletions as determined by the Republican River Compact Administration Groundwater Model. (LRNRD)
12. Maintain, on average, the NRD's net depletions at or below the required percentage of the allowable groundwater depletion. (MRNRD)