

Republican Basin: Compact Call Years and Water-Short Years

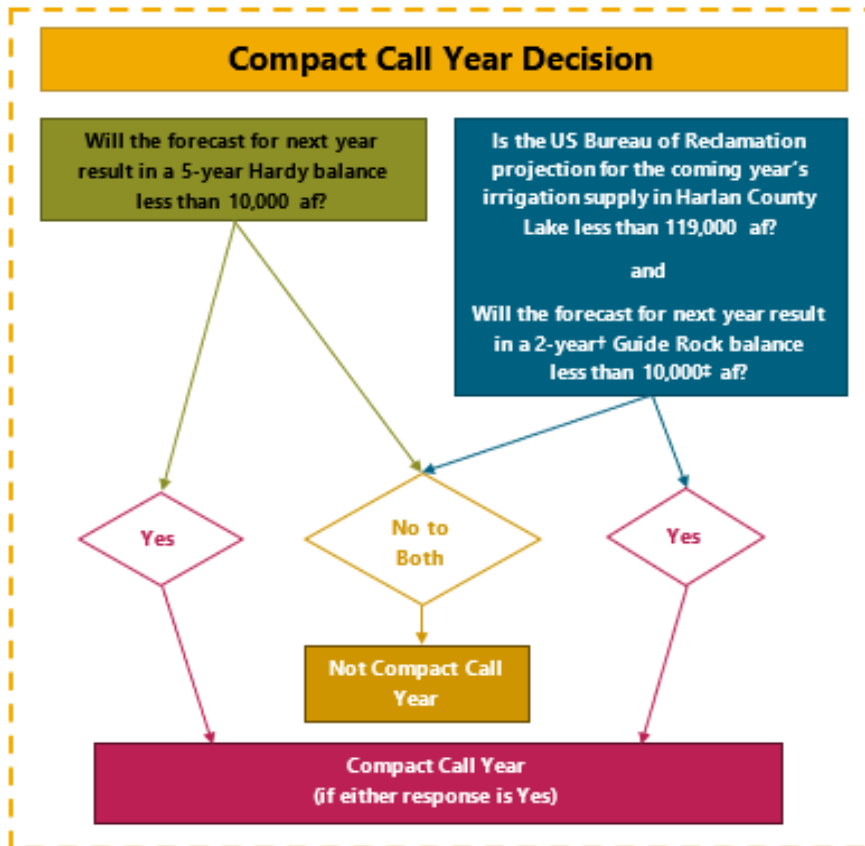


Figure 1. Compact Call Year Decision

What is a Compact Call Year?

A Compact Call Year (CCY) is a year in which the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's (DWEE) Forecast of Allowable Depletions (Forecast) indicates Nebraska may not be in compliance with the Republican River Compact (Compact) unless additional management actions are taken. Forecast procedures are in the *Monitoring & Studies Technical Memorandum for the URNRD, MRNRD, and LRNRD IMPs (Memorandum)*. The CCY decision-making procedure is illustrated in Figure 1.

In a CCY, Nebraska may need to take additional action to meet its Compact obligations by reducing consumption and/or generating additional streamflow. This occurs through regulatory or non-regulatory actions; possible groundwater management actions are outlined in the DWEE and NRDs' Integrated Management Plans (IMPs). For groundwater, the NRDs may need to establish more restrictive, temporary allocations and curtail groundwater pumping in the Basin. For surface water, DWEE may need to regulate and administer surface water in the Basin.

A Compact Call Year will be triggered if:

1. The 5-year forecast for the balance at Hardy is less than 10,000 acre-feet, **AND/OR**
2. The projected irrigation supply in Harlan County Lake is less than 119,000 AF **AND** the 2-year[†] forecast for the balance at Guide Rock is less than 10,000[‡] acre-feet. [[†]If an Alternative Water-Short Year Plan has been approved by the RRCA, then substitute "3-year" for "2-year" in the Guide Rock test. [‡]In the second consecutive Compact Call Year, the 10,000 acre-feet threshold for the Guide Rock test will be reduced to 5,000 acre-feet. For the third and subsequent consecutive Compact Call Years, this value will be reduced to **zero**.]

What is Water-Short Year Administration?

Water-Short Year (WSY) Administration occurs in a year in which the projected or actual irrigation water supply in Harlan County Lake is **less than 119,000** acre-feet. The projected irrigation water supply is calculated by the US Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) using methodology described in the *Harlan County Lake Operation Consensus Plan*, one of the documents approved by the US Supreme Court for management of the Republican River Basin. The final Water-Short Year calculation is done in July, using data collected from January through June of that year. The Bureau provides the three Compact states (Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska) with monthly updates of the projected or actual irrigation supply from Harlan County Lake.

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Water-Short Year Administration and Compact Call Years

Nebraska has certain requirements during Water Short Year Administration, including additional limitations on the consumptive uses above Guide Rock. The Compact states resolved that if Nebraska has designated the year a Compact Call Year and if, on or by June 30, either:

- a. The sum of total irrigation supply in Harlan County Lake and any carry-over water (referred to as Remaining Compact Compliance Volume) is **greater than or equal to 119,000 AF**, OR
- b. Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District's (KBID) total irrigation supply in Harlan County Lake is **greater than or equal to 68,000 AF**,

then there will be no additional limitations on Nebraska's consumptive uses above Guide Rock. In these cases, the Water-Short Year Administration may stand, but Nebraska's compliance is **not** measured by the 2-year balance above Guide Rock. Table 1 provides some example situations showing the relationship between Water-Short Year Administration, Compact Call Years, and the applicability of the 2-year above Guide Rock balance.

Table 1. Example situations demonstrating the relationships between Water-Short Year Administration, Compact Call Years, and the 2-year above Guide Rock balance for Compact compliance.

Total irrigation supply in Harlan County Lake (AF)	Water Short Year Administration	Compact Call Year	KBID supply in Harlan County Lake (AF)	2-year Guide Rock Compliance Balance applicable	5-year Hardy Compliance Balance applicable
119,000	No	Yes	N/A	No	Yes
119,000	No	No	N/A	No	Yes
110,000	Yes	Yes	68,000	No	Yes
110,000	Yes	No	68,000	Yes	Yes
110,000	Yes	Yes	60,000	Yes	Yes
110,000	Yes	No	60,000	Yes	Yes

Timeline During Compact Call Years and/or Water-Short Years (WSY):

1. **December:** DWEE generates a forecast of allowable depletions for the following year. If the Compact Call Year conditions are met, DWEE notifies the NRDs in writing.
2. **January-March:** NRDs notify DWEE in writing about planned management actions. DWEE provides a written assessment of the NRDs' planned management actions.
3. **April (WSY):** DWEE notifies Colorado, Kansas, and relevant federal agencies in writing about preliminary management actions and the anticipated water yield.
4. **May:** DWEE begins providing monthly accounting estimates to the NRDs, Kansas, Colorado, and the Bureau. Monthly estimates continue through December.
5. **May 31 (if also following a Compact Call Year):** Nebraska makes good faith efforts to ensure that management actions to supply water to KBID in Harlan County Lake as identified by October of the preceding Compact Call Year are completed.
6. **June (WSY):** DWEE notifies Colorado, Kansas, and relevant federal agencies in writing about preliminary management actions and the anticipated water yield.
7. **June 30:** Bureau finalizes Water-Short Year Administration designation.
8. **Prior to October 1:** Nebraska and Kansas review accounting; Kansas can request remaining Compact compliance volume (RCCV).
9. **September-October:** DWEE notifies the NRDs in writing about the assessment of NRD management actions and identifies specific additional management actions that are required by each NRD.