

## Republican Basin: Compact Call Year Decision Timeline

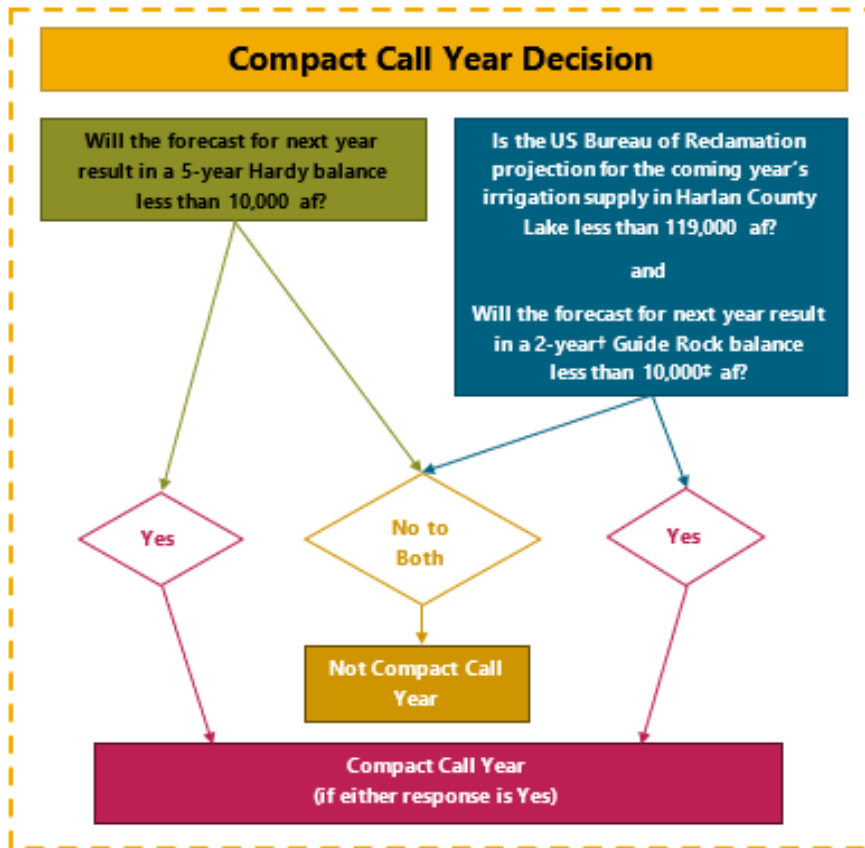


Figure 1. Compact Call Year Decision

### What is a Compact Call Year?

A Compact Call Year (CCY) is a year in which Nebraska Department of Natural Resources' (NeDNR) analysis 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 process decision-making procedure is illustrated in the figure to the left.

In a CCY, Nebraska must take additional action to meet its Compact obligations by reducing consumption or generating additional streamflow. This occurs through regulatory or non-regulatory actions; possible groundwater management actions are outlined in the 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, NeDNR may need to regulate and administer surface water in the Basin.

### What is a Forecast?

A forecast is the calculation of the maximum amount of water that may be available from streamflow for beneficial use in the short-term and long-term, while maintaining compact compliance. NeDNR follows the procedures in the *Memorandum* and determines the forecast for the 5-year balance at Hardy and the 2-year balance at Guide Rock.

### What is a Water-Short Year?

A Water-Short Year is a year in which the projected or actual irrigation water supply in Harlan County Lake is less than 119,000 acre-feet. This projection 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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### How does NeDNR use the forecast and Water-Short Year determination to decide if the following year will be a Compact Call Year?

The Compact Call Year decision process is depicted in Figure 1 and the procedures are in the *Memorandum*. Information NeDNR uses to make the decision includes:

- The 5-year forecast for the balance at Hardy, calculated by NeDNR (green box in Figure 1)
- Water-Short Year determination from the Bureau (top of blue box in Figure 1)
- The 2-year forecast for the balance at Guide Rock, calculated by NeDNR (bottom of blue box in Figure 1)

#### 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. There is a Water-Short Year **AND** the 2-year<sup>†</sup> forecast for the balance at Guide Rock is less than 10,000<sup>‡</sup> acre-feet. [†If it is beneficial to use the Alternative Water-Short Year Plan provisions from the Final Settlement Stipulation (i.e., if the previous two years have a greater balance than the last year alone), and 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 happens if there is a Compact Call Year?

1. **December:** NeDNR notifies the NRDs in writing that the following year will be a Compact Call Year and notifies the NRDs how much yield from potential management actions may be needed within the CCY.
2. **January:** The NRDs notify NeDNR in writing about planned management actions to ensure Compact compliance.
3. **January:** NeDNR issues orders to implement surface water controls.
4. **late February or early March:** NeDNR provides a written assessment of the NRDs’ planned management actions. If NeDNR determines that proposed management actions are insufficient to ensure compliance with the Compact, the IMPs, or the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan, the NRDs will implement additional controls to make up the remaining deficit.
5. **April:** NeDNR notifies Colorado, Kansas, and relevant federal agencies in writing about preliminary management actions and the anticipated water yield.
6. **May:** NeDNR provides preliminary accounting estimates to the NRDs, Kansas, Colorado, and the Bureau (this occurs monthly from May through December).
7. **June:** NeDNR notifies Colorado, Kansas, and relevant federal agencies in writing about management actions taken and to be taken, and the anticipated water yield.
8. **June 30:** Bureau finalizes Water-Short Year designation.
9. **Prior to October 1:** Nebraska and Kansas review accounting; Kansas can request remaining Compact compliance volume (RCCV).
10. **September-October:** NeDNR notifies the NRDs in writing about the assessment of NRD management actions and identifies specific additional management actions that are required by each NRD.

If you have questions about the Compact Call Year process, please contact Sam Capps, NeDNR, at 402-471-0376.