



TO: PRRIP WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FROM: PRRIP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
SUBJECT: WAP LEASING AND RECHARGE PROJECT UPDATES
DATE: JANUARY 22, 2020

This document provides a summary of recent activities related to Program water leasing and recharge projects. Unless otherwise specified, reports are based on invoices, data files, or other information provided by the districts or letters from Nebraska DNR confirming credits to the Lake McConaughy EA.

CPNRD Groundwater Recharge and Surface Water Lease Projects

Thirty Mile, Cozad, and Orchard-Alfalfa canals

- Groundwater Recharge
 - Limited diversions at Orchard-Alfalfa in September 2019.
 - No late fall or early winter activity due to high groundwater levels and canal damage from 2019 flooding.
 - 1,463 AF lagged accretions from previous years' recharge.
- Surface Water Lease
 - 14,096 AF credited to Lake McConaughy EA in October 2019.
 - Pursuing 30-year conservation program. If not in place before irrigation season, anticipate implementation of the pilot exchange program again for 2020.

NPPD Groundwater Recharge and Surface Water Lease Projects

Gothenburg and Dawson County canals

- Groundwater Recharge
 - Gothenburg: 2,407 AF net recharge (diverted 9/13-10/14).
 - Dawson County: 3,483 AF net recharge (diverted 9/10-9/18 and 9/26-10/28).
 - Plan to divert for recharge at Dawson County Canal in the spring.
- Surface Water Lease
 - 3,121 AF credited to Lake McConaughy EA in October 2019.
 - Plan to lease the same or slightly higher volume in 2020.

CNPPID Groundwater Recharge and Irrigator Lease

Phelps County Canal, Elwood Reservoir, and Cottonwood Ranch

- Groundwater Recharge
 - Phelps: No late fall or early winter activity due to monitoring well levels above threshold. Continuing to track regularly to see if conditions change.
 - Elwood: 5,463.9 AF reservoir inflows for recharge (diverted 9/12-9/28). No additional late fall or early winter recharge activity. Operational changes associated with recharge keep water levels in the reservoir higher for longer periods of time. CNPPID is monitoring some new seepage areas near the pump station before refilling the reservoir.



- Cottonwood Ranch BSR: Construction complete, first fill diversions anticipated late summer 2020 after vegetation established on berms.
- Irrigator Lease
 - 2,201 AF credited to Lake McConaughy EA in October 2019.
 - 3,018 acres enrolled for 2020, with expected yield of 2,263.5 AF.

Pathfinder Reservoir

- 38,293 AF total released in August-September 2019 (Source: email from Jeff Cowley, Wyoming SEO, 11/19/2019).
 - 33,493 AF from Environmental Account.
 - 4,800 AF from Municipal Account Lease.
 - NOTE: The Program paid for 9,600 AF from the Municipal Account in 2019 with the provision that if available storage in the Lake McConaughy EA was insufficient to accept the full volume, payment for the additional 4,800 AF would be retained by WWDO as pre-payment for the 2020 base delivery.
- 34,643 AF credited to Lake McConaughy EA after transit losses (Source: Kingsley Reservoir Summary spreadsheet distributed by Shane Wright, Nebraska DNR, 10/11/2019).