



TO: WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
SUBJECT: WATER ACTION PLAN PROJECT STATUS AND SCORES
DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2018

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP or Program) has a water objective of reducing shortages to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-defined target flows by 130,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to 150,000 AFY by the end of the Program's First Increment in 2019. The three initial state projects—Pathfinder Modification in Wyoming, Tamarack I in Colorado, and the Lake McConaughy Environmental Account (EA) in Nebraska—collectively meet 80,000 AFY of that objective. The Program was tasked with implementing a Water Action Plan (WAP) to meet a milestone of developing projects to fulfill the remaining 50,000 AFY to 70,000 AFY of shortage reduction.

This document provides a brief update to project status information that was presented in the 2014 Water Action Plan (WAP) Update. In that report, completed nearly three years ago, the WAP included 14 potential water supply projects or project categories. Projects were prioritized on a 3-tiered system and were identified as presently active, anticipated for future activity near the end of the First Increment or beyond, or inactive for the duration of the First Increment.

The table below summarizes the present status of each WAP project or project category as of early 2018. A similar update was presented to the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and the Governance Committee (GC) in early 2017. **New updates are highlighted in red.**

List of WAP project tiers and project status updates

Tier	Project	Location	Status
Tier 1	J-2 Regulating Reservoirs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program score = 30,600 AFY • On hold, per GC action on 11/02/2016. 	Nebraska	Active INACTIVE
	Elm Creek Reregulating Reservoir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study completed in January 2011. • Presented to WAC in April 2011 and GC in June 2011. Based on extensive concerns, GC declined to move forward. • Review memo prepared for GC in November 2015. It is anticipated that costs to build the Elm Creek Reregulating Reservoir would be subject to the same cost escalation factors as the J-2 Regulating Reservoirs. 	Nebraska	Inactive



Tier	Project	Location	Status
	<p>Slurry Wall Storage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open surface gravel pits or confined alluvial aquifer storage. • Active pursuit as a partial replacement for above-ground storage reservoirs • In March 2017, GC recommended pursuit of full-scale initial slurry wall storage project. • Lakeside pit acquired in 2017. Contractor for engineering design and construction administration selected in 2017. Fieldwork and design initiated early 2018; permitting and construction anticipated in 2019; full operation by early 2020. 	Nebraska	Active
	<p>Nebraska Groundwater Recharge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phelps County Canal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Program score = 2,700 AFY ◦ Plan to develop a second recapture well in 2018. This will increase score. • Cook recapture well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Program score = 160 AFY • CPNRD canals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Non-irrigation season recharge of divertible excess flows through Thirty Mile, Cozad, and Orchard-Alfalfa canals. ◦ Score analysis in progress, expect to complete in 2018. • NPPD canals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Non-irrigation season recharge of divertible excess flows through the Gothenburg and Dawson County canals. ◦ Score analysis anticipated late 2018. • Elwood Reservoir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Non-irrigation season recharge of divertible excess flows. ◦ Modeling of groundwater recharge completed in late 2017. ◦ Score analysis anticipated in 2018. ◦ Plan to develop recapture well in 2018. This will increase score. 	Nebraska	Active



Tier	Project	Location	Status
	Nebraska Groundwater Recharge (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad-Scale Recharge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility analyses at Cottonwood Ranch complex in 2016. Contractor for engineering design and construction administration selected in early 2017. Final design to be completed in early 2018, followed by permitting and construction in late 2018. Expect to be operational in early 2019. 		
	Net Controllable Conserved Water (No Cost) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program score = 260 AFY 	Nebraska	Active
	Net Controllable Conserved Water (Purchased) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers made by CNPPID were not accepted by the GC in 2013 	Nebraska	Inactive
	Pathfinder Municipal Account Lease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program score = 4,000 AFY 	Wyoming	Active
	Glendo Reservoir Storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlikely to become available in near future. Preliminary inquiries regarding unused Glendo contract irrigation water (delivered to Nebraska) unsuccessful. 	Wyoming	Inactive
	Colorado Groundwater Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamarack III 	Colorado	Future
Tier 2	Nebraska Water Leasing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPRND canals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active since 2013. Surface water from Thirty Mile, Cozad, and Orchard-Alfalfa canals during irrigation season. Score analysis in progress, expect to complete in 2018. Site screening analysis in 2017 to identify potential sites for re-timing transferred surface water. 	Nebraska	Active/Future



Tier	Project	Location	Status
	<p>Nebraska Water Leasing (cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNPPID irrigators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Originally capped at 2,000 acres for pilot program. Increased to 2,100 acres for 2018. ○ 9 inches/acre into EA. ○ 1,037 acres in 2016 (778 AF). ○ 1,275 acres in 2017 (956 AF). ○ 2,055 acres in 2018 (1,541 AF). • CNPPID storage lease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft WSA from 2014. • NPPD canal(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dawson County Canal. ○ Transfer application submitted in July 2013, not yet approved by Nebraska DNR. 		
	<p>Acquire & Retire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance Canal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One property acquired. ○ Current primary focus for additional land. ○ PRRIP property irrigated in 2017. Check structure to improve irrigation to be installed prior to 2018 season. EDO expects to be on site to take irrigation flow measurements on scheduled dates in 2018. • Emphasis on North Platte above McConaughy. • Canals without Federal water contracts. • Will evaluate opportunities as they come about, but not actively soliciting outside of Alliance. 	Nebraska	Active
	<p>Nebraska Water Management Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options such as deficit irrigation may be pursued. • Program sponsored UNL-TAPS program in 2017. • Budget includes additional sponsorships in 2018. 	Nebraska	Future



Tier	Project	Location	Status
	Nebraska Groundwater Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funk Lagoon<ul style="list-style-type: none">WAC recommended no further pursuit as WAP project in October 2015.	Nebraska	Future
Tier 3	Power Interference <ul style="list-style-type: none">Not included in First Increment budget; no plans to pursue.	Nebraska	Inactive
	Wyoming Water Leasing <ul style="list-style-type: none">No plans to pursue during First Increment (export issues).	Wyoming	Inactive
	LaPrele Reservoir <ul style="list-style-type: none">Not included in First Increment budget; no plans to pursue.	Wyoming	Inactive