

# February 2025 Platte Basin Hydrology Update

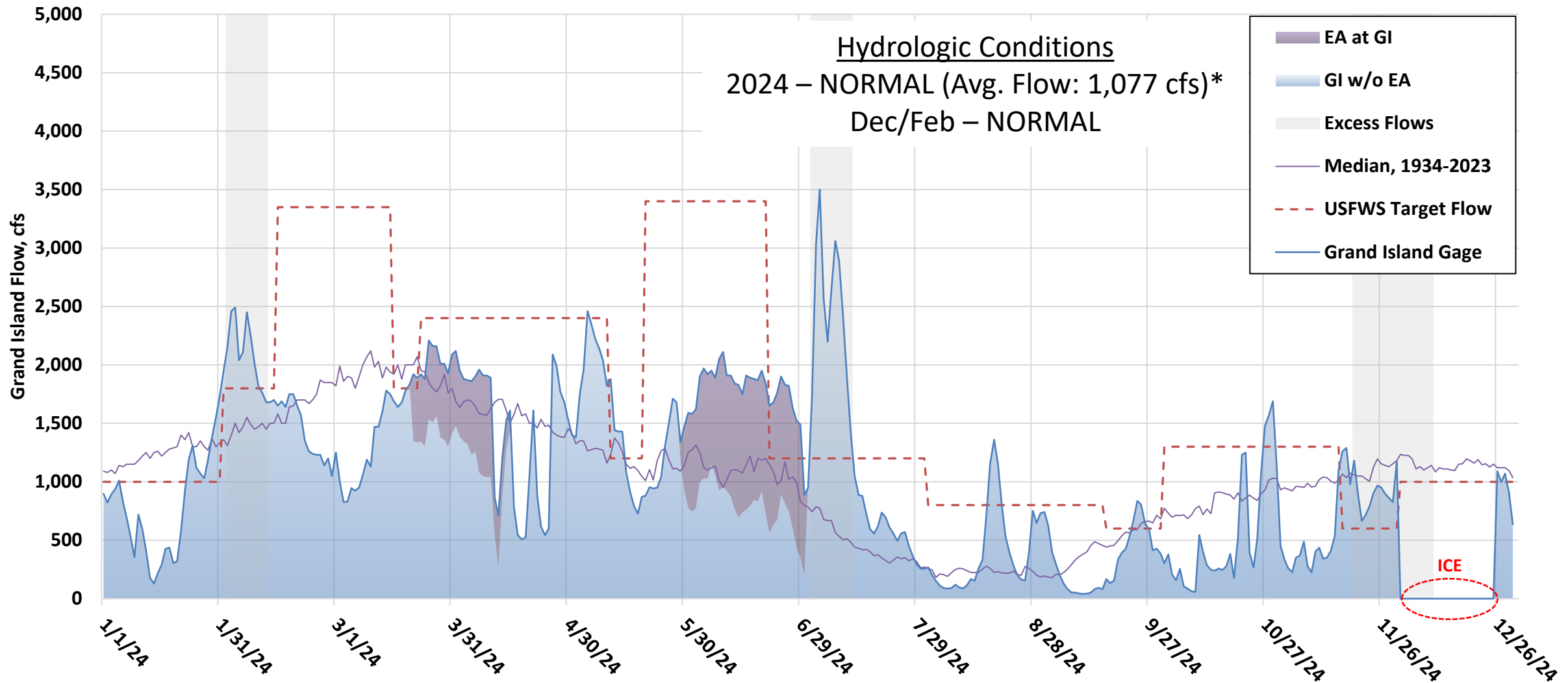
Ed Weschler, E.I.

Water Resources Engineer

Water Advisory Committee Meeting

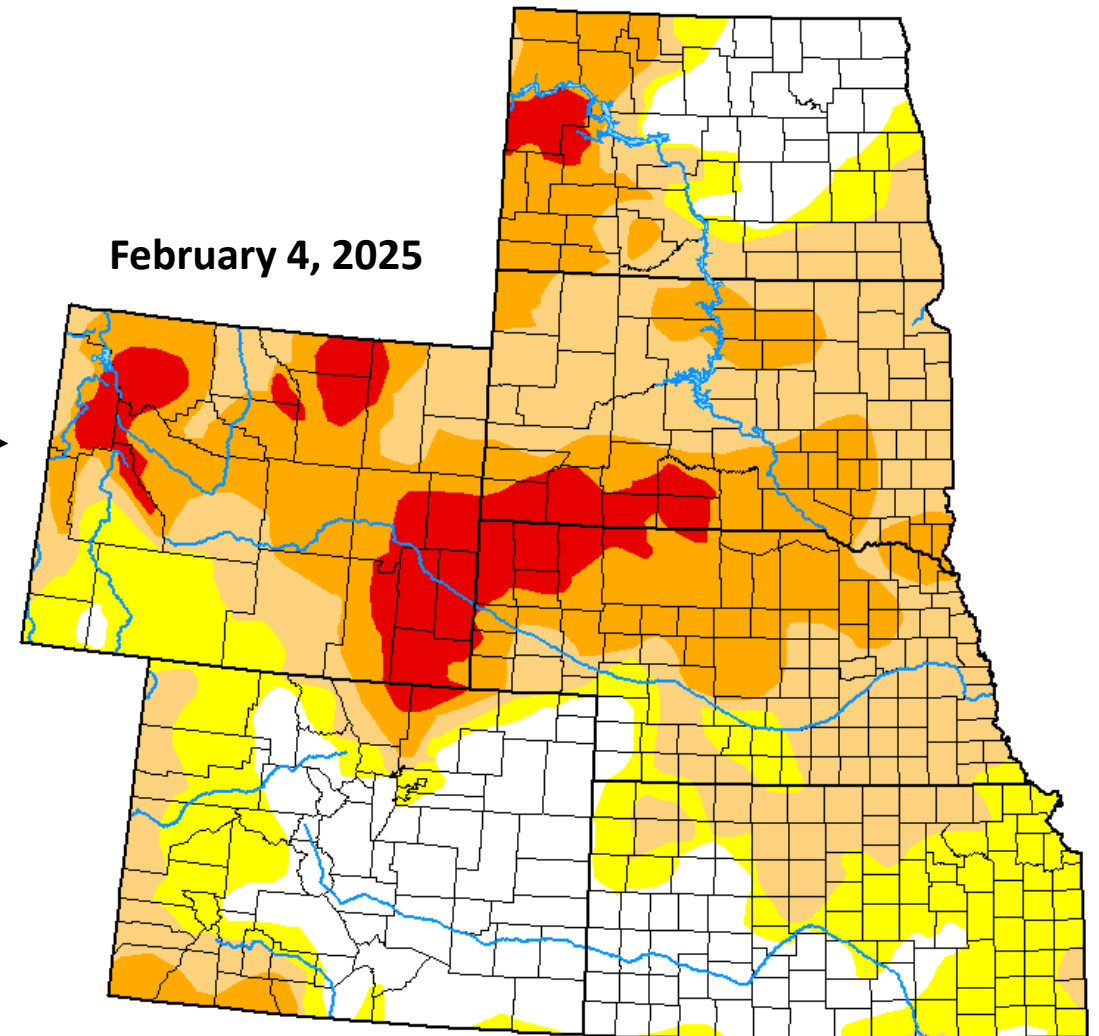
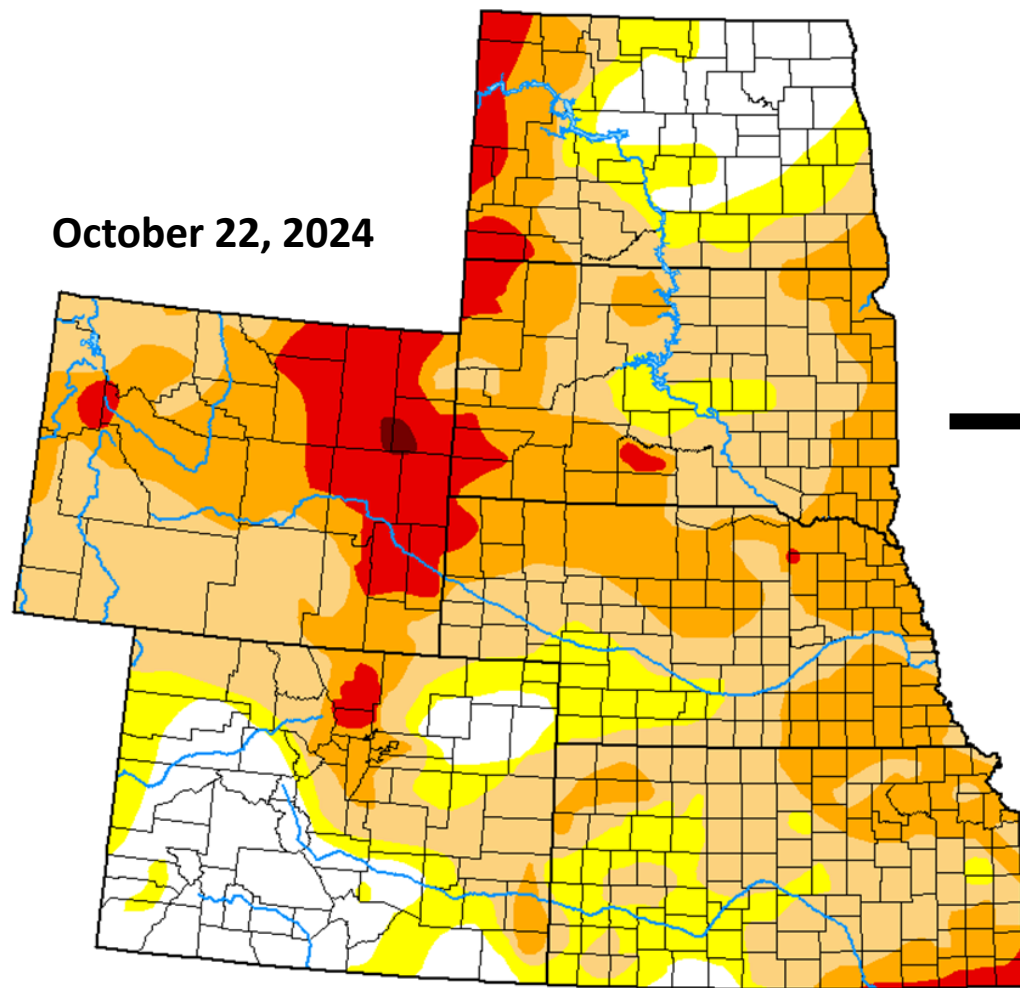
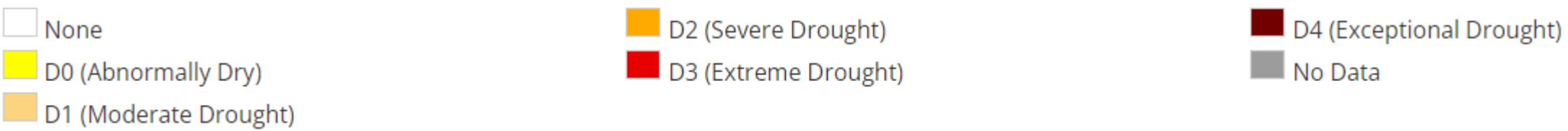
February 11, 2025

# 2024 Grand Island Year-to-Date Flow Summary



*\*preliminary, due to provisional data beginning  
10/23/24 and ice conditions from 12/1 – 12/25*

# Drought Classification

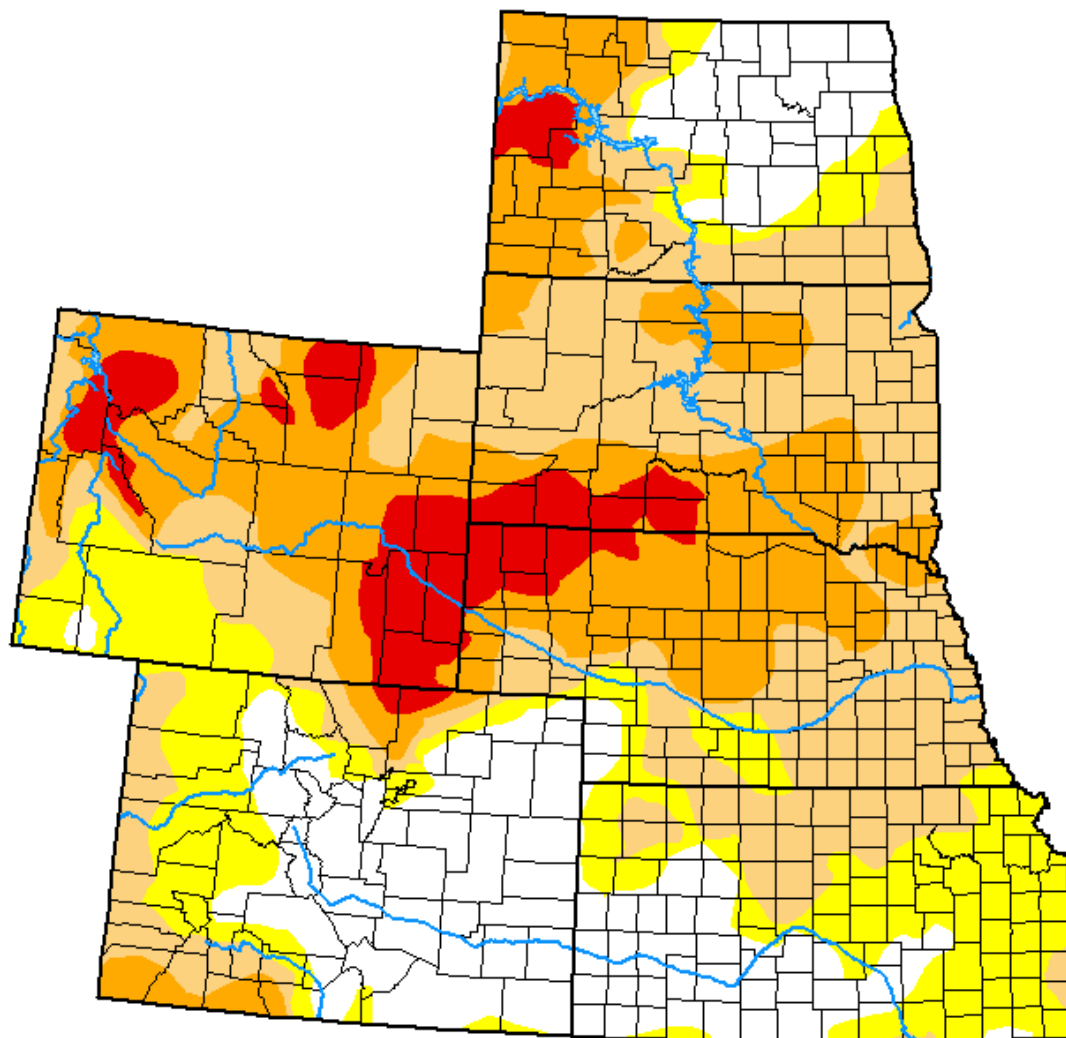


# U.S. Drought Monitor High Plains







February 4, 2025

(Released Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



## Intensity:

	None
	D0 Abnormally Dry
	D1 Moderate Drought
	D2 Severe Drought
	D3 Extreme Drought
	D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

## Author:

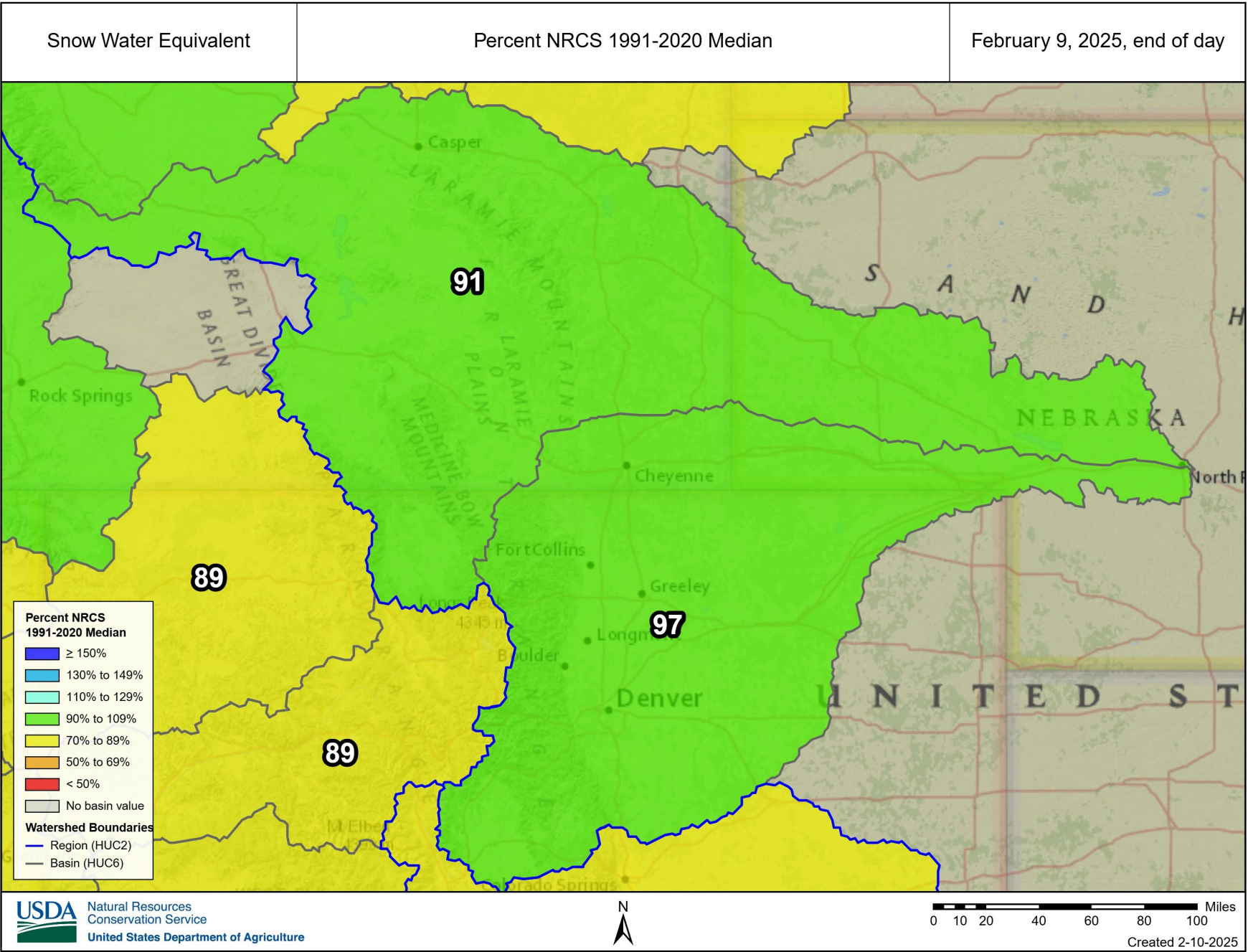
Lindsay Johnson  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

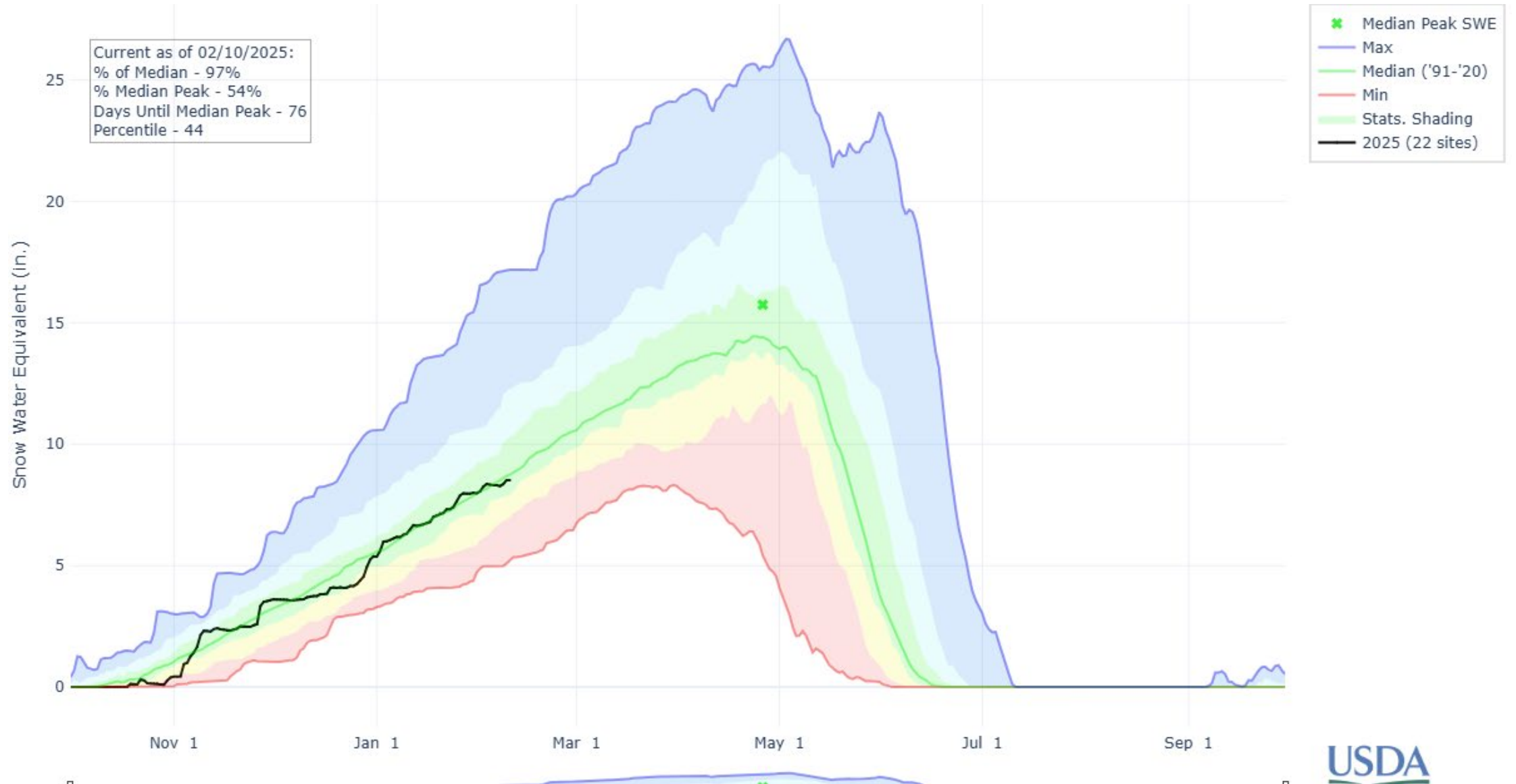


PLATTE RIVER  
RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION

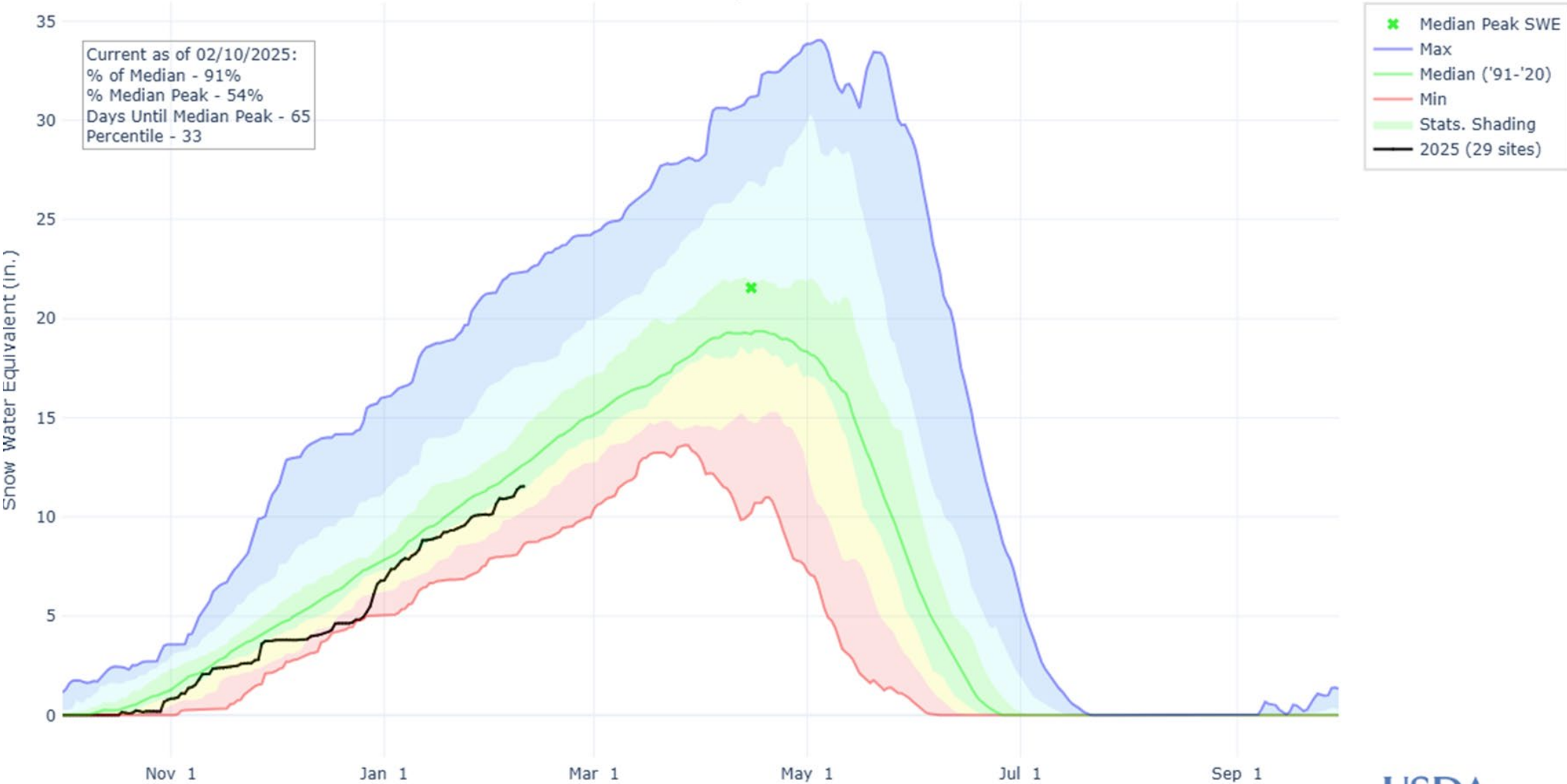




# South Platte Basin Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)



# North Platte Basin Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)





A photograph of a river at sunset. The water is dark with golden reflections from the low sun. A single bird stands in the shallow water on the left side of the frame. A large white rectangular box is positioned in the center-right, containing the text "Thank You!".

# Thank You!



# February 2025 Water Plan Updates

Seth M Turner, PE  
PRRIP Water Plan Coordinator  
Water Advisory Committee Meeting  
February 11, 2025

# Leasing, Recharge, and Recapture Project Operations

# Recharge and Recapture

- Recharge

- Excess Flows Nov 19-Dec 9
- Phelps
  - 658 AF (75% of total)
  - 1,402 AF cumulative in 2024
- Elwood
  - 3,485 AF (50% of total)
  - 5,423 AF cumulative in 2024
- Cottonwood Ranch
  - 346 AF (100% of total, south cells only)
  - 1,144 AF cumulative in 2024
- Remaining credit balances
  - Phelps/Elwood = \$8.62 million
  - Cottonwood Ranch = \$860,000

- Recapture

- 2,400 AF cumulative in 2024
- No pumping since July 6
- Prelim accounting suggests < 1 cfs net accretions in late summer



# Surface Water Leases

- CNPPID Irrigator Lease
  - 1-year extension approved in December (through 12/31/2025)
  - \$160/acre in 2025 (was \$100/acre last 4 years)
  - Enrollment open Jan 1-Feb 15
  - 1,024 acres enrolled as of February 10 (1,053 acres in 2024)
- CPNRD and NPPD Leases
  - Negotiations for longer-term leases (through Extension) still ongoing

# Cottonwood Ranch Recharge Project

- Modified agreement with CNPPID
  - Amendment No 1 to original 2018 Water Service Agreement approved by GC in December
  - CNPPID to handle all recharge operations and some maintenance
  - Rubicon gates to be integrated with CNPPID's SCADA system
  - EDO developing Operations Plan
  - Program reimburse costs
  - Expenses to be deducted from pipeline construction credit balance
- Several ongoing maintenance/repair activities
  - North vault valve actuator
  - Gate 6 flume cleanout and gearbox replacement
  - Installation of monitoring wells along eastern boundary of Cell 8
  - Outlet valve cavitation testing planned for late May

# Elwood Outlet Feasibility Study

- Contract amendment approved by FC in January
  - Phase 1: Outlet Design (30%)
  - Budget ~ \$141,000 (90/10 split between RJH and LRE Water)
- Scope of Work
  - Desktop geotech evaluation
  - Reevaluation of pipeline alignment alternatives only (no open channel)
  - Concept-level design drawings and cost opinion
    - Hydraulic calculations
    - Pipeline location, dimensions, materials
    - Intake, energy dissipation, and other structures
- Schedule
  - Anticipate selection of preferred alternative around May WAC meeting
  - Presentations to WAC in August, GC in September
- Items referred by Tri-Basin NRD