

An aerial photograph of a river and surrounding wetlands. The river flows from the bottom left towards the top right. The banks are covered in dense, green and brown vegetation. In the background, there are flat, open fields and some small structures.

Water Plan Updates

**Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
Governance Committee Meeting
December 5, 2023**

Water Milestone Summary

- Extension Water Objective
 - Reach 120,000 AFY deficit reductions at Grand Island ASAP
 - 80,000 AFY from 3 initial state water projects
 - 40,000 AFY from implementation of Water Action Plan projects (by 2024 or 2025)

Active Projects – Approved Scores

Project	Score (AFY)
Pathfinder Municipal Account Lease	6,350
Elwood Reservoir recharge	2,800
Phelps County Canal recharge	2,700
CNPPID Irrigator Lease*	710
No-Cost NCCW	260
Cook Well	160
Total =	12,980
*Approved score = 1,900 AFY	

Active Projects – Estimated Scores

Project	Score (AFY)
CPNRD surface water exchange	12,000
NPPD surface water exchange	2,870
Cottonwood Ranch broad-scale recharge	2,700
Recapture Well pilot network	1,140
NPPD canals groundwater recharge	900
Total =	19,610

Approved + Estimated + Concept Scores

Project	Score (AFY)
Active Projects - Approved Scores	12,980
Active Projects - Estimated Scores	19,610
Expanded Recapture/Elwood Outlet Concept	4,500
Total =	37,090

Extension Water Activities

- Shift in focus to controllable water supplies
 - Surface water leases/exchanges
 - Recapture wells to enhance recharge projects
- Lake McConaughy EA
 - No water shortages, even when surface supplies limited
 - Adequate supplies in EA for test flow releases, e.g., germination suppression
- Water objective
 - Deficit reduction goal not yet achieved
 - NOT hindering science activities

North Platte Chokepoint Study

- Anderson Consulting Engineers team
- Task Orders #2 and #3 in progress
- Update and calibration of baseline model (to 2017) in SRH-2D is complete
 - 10-mile reach
 - Next step: Integrate sediment transport
- Geomorphic assessment (completion late January 2024)
 - Data collection, field observations (October 2023), desktop analyses
 - Channel evolution, future behavior, potential upstream sediment sources
 - Tri-County diversion dam, historical dredging practices, sediment wedge

North Platte Chokepoint Study

- Refined alternatives analysis (completion late January 2024)
 - Bring short-listed alternatives to similar levels of info
 - Updated cost info
 - Emphasis on “new” alternatives such as South Platte storage
 - Includes no action/status quo alternative
 - Select alternatives for detailed analysis in final phases of study

Expanded Recapture Reconnaissance Study

- LRE Water team
- Plum Creek assessment
 - TBNRD facilitated land access
 - Inter-Fluve extensive field observations
 - 5 stream segments
 - Surveyed 54 cross-sections
 - LRE installed pressure transducers
 - Locations previously monitored by USGS
 - Upstream and downstream of Plum Creek near Smithfield gage
 - LRE completed baseflow separation analysis
 - Data processing/analysis in progress

Expanded Recapture Reconnaissance Study

- Elwood Outlet
 - LRE and RJH site visit with CNPPID
 - Identified primary flow path and outlet structure location
 - RJH developing costs, will explore other options
- Recapture Well Siting
 - LRE initiated review of hydrogeologic data, previous recapture wells
 - Will develop GIS model to evaluate ideal locations
 - Saturated thickness
 - Flow paths to river
 - Location of utilities