



TO: PRRIP WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FROM: PRRIP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
SUBJECT: PRRIP WATER ACTION PLAN PROJECTS STATUS AND SCORES
DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2019

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP or Program) has a water objective of reducing deficits to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-defined target flows by 130,000 to 150,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) by the end of the Program's First Increment in 2019. The three initial state projects—the Pathfinder Modification Environmental Account (EA) in Wyoming, Tamarack I in Colorado, and the Lake McConaughy 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 more than four years ago, the WAP included 14 potential water supply projects or project categories. Additional projects or project concepts developed after the 2014 WAP Update are also included here. Projects were previously prioritized on a 3-tiered system and were identified as active at the time, anticipated for future activity near the end of the First Increment or beyond, or inactive for the duration of the First Increment. This update eliminates the Tier 1, 2, and 3 designations, which have become less effective for prioritizing projects over time. Instead, the present update focuses on the current project status as active, future, or inactive as the end of the First Increment approaches in late 2019.

The table below summarizes the present status of each WAP project or project category. For the purposes of this memo, “active” projects are those that are currently operational or under construction. “Future” projects are currently in various stages of planning or design; some combination of these projects is needed to meet the First Increment Water Objective. Projects identified as “inactive” are those for which there is currently no ongoing pursuit or evaluation underway.

WAP Projects Brief Status Updates

Project	Location
Active Projects	
Nebraska Groundwater Recharge <ul style="list-style-type: none">Phelps County Canal<ul style="list-style-type: none">Program score = 2,700 AFY.Non-irrigation season recharge of divertible excess flows.Program allocation is 75 percent.CNPPID Water Service Agreement extended through 2023.	Nebraska



Project	Location
<p>Nebraska Groundwater Recharge (cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook recapture well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program score = 160 AFY. ○ Recaptures groundwater intentionally recharged through Phelps County Canal, can pump when there are deficits to USFWS target flows and no risk of ice issues. ○ Well permit issued by Tri-Basin NRD in 2015. • CPNRD canals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-irrigation season recharge of divertible excess flows through Thirty Mile, Cozad, and Orchard-Alfalfa canals. ○ Water Service Agreement for recharge diversions up to 5,000 AF per year extended through 2024. • NPPD canals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-irrigation season recharge of divertible excess flows through the Gothenburg and Dawson County canals. ○ Water Service Agreement extended through 2025. • Elwood Reservoir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program score = 2,800 AFY. ○ Primarily non-irrigation season recharge of divertible excess flows; recharge during irrigation season is possible at times. ○ Program allocation is 50 percent, with upper limit of 30,000 AF per calendar year diversions into reservoir for recharge. ○ CNPPID Water Service Agreement extended through 2023. • Broad-Scale Recharge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project developed at Cottonwood Ranch complex. ○ Engineering design and permitting completed in 2018, construction completed in 2019, project expected to be operational in 2020 after vegetation is established. ○ Initial Water Service Agreement with CNPPID through 2032. ○ No additional BSR projects are planned at this time. 	Nebraska
<p>Net Controllable Conserved Water (No Cost)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program score = 260 AFY. • Conservation measures that made this water available were funded by USBR grant, water credited to Lake McConaughy EA at no cost to the Program. 	Nebraska
<p>Pathfinder Municipal Account Lease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program score = 6,350 AFY. • Program leases base volume of 4,800 AFY, with option for up to 4,800 AF additional depending on hydrologic conditions. • Lease agreement with Wyoming Water Development Office extended through 2032. 	Wyoming



Project	Location
<p>Nebraska Water Leasing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPRND canals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface water lease from Thirty Mile, Cozad, and Orchard-Alfalfa canals. ○ From 2015-2017, water measured and returned to river at canal headgates during irrigation season. ○ During 2018 and 2019, pilot exchange project added leased water to Lake McConaughy EA following end of irrigation season. • CNPPID irrigators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project score = 1,900 AF. ○ 9 inches/acre into EA following end of irrigation season, enrollment now capped at 3,000 acres. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1,037 acres in 2016 (778 AF). ▪ 1,275 acres in 2017 (956 AF). ▪ 2,055 acres in 2018 (1,541 AF). ▪ 2,948 acres in 2019 (2,211 AF). ○ Lease agreement extended through 2023. • NPPD canal(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface water lease from Gothenburg and Dawson County canals. ○ Pilot exchange project in 2019 to add water to Lake McConaughy EA following end of irrigation season. 	Nebraska
Future Projects	
<p>Nebraska Groundwater Recharge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recharge Recapture Well Field Project(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recapture groundwater intentionally recharged through Phelps County Canal, Elwood Reservoir, and Cottonwood Ranch. ○ Conceptual design in progress in 2019. Construction of first wells anticipated in 2020. 	Nebraska
<p>Nebraska Water Leasing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNPPID Storage and/or NCCW Lease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water would be credited to Lake McConaughy EA. • North Platte Irrigator/Irrigation District Lease(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water would be delivered downstream and credited to Lake McConaughy EA. 	Nebraska
<p>Nebraska Water Management Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program sponsored conservation-related UNL-TAPS and PRECIP programs in 2017 and 2018. • Concept may be expanded to include irrigation system improvements to facilitate future water leasing projects. 	Nebraska



Project	Location
<p>Slurry Wall Gravel Pit Storage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GC recommended pursuit of full-scale initial slurry wall storage project, Lakeside pit acquired in 2017. Engineering design completed in 2019. Permitting and construction not to proceed at this time per GC consensus. 	Nebraska
Inactive Projects	
<p>J-2 Regulating Reservoirs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-feasibility, feasibility, and score analyses completed by 2013. Design activities continued into 2016, when GC placed project on hold due to escalating materials and construction costs and land acquisition issues. 	Nebraska
<p>Elm Creek Reregulating Reservoir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study completed in January 2011; based on extensive concerns, GC declined to move forward. 	Nebraska
<p>Acquire & Retire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single property with small Alliance Irrigation District allocation acquired in 2016, site improvements were constructed in 2018. Pursuits to acquire additional water from nearby properties were unsuccessful. Property was sold in 2019 per direction of GC. No further plans for this type of water acquisition at this time. 	Nebraska
<p>Glendo Reservoir Storage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available for Program use. Wyoming's allocation of Glendo storage water is needed to meet replacement water obligations in compliance with the 2001 Modified North Platte Decree. 	Wyoming
<p>Colorado Groundwater Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional recharge capacity for the Tamarack III project not expected to be added in the near future. 	Colorado
<p>Nebraska Groundwater Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility assessment for Funk Lagoon project completed in 2015, WAC recommended no further pursuit as WAP project. No other potential projects under consideration at this time. 	Nebraska
<p>Power Interference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new information developed since 2000 Reconnaissance-Level WAP. No plans to pursue during First Increment or beyond. 	Nebraska
<p>Wyoming Water Leasing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new information developed since 2000 Reconnaissance-Level WAP. No plans to pursue during First Increment or beyond. 	Wyoming
<p>LaPrele Reservoir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new information developed since 2000 Reconnaissance-Level WAP. No plans to pursue during First Increment or beyond. 	Wyoming