

**No-Cost Net Controllable Conserved Water**

Source: Conserved water Score: 260 AF *Operations* started: 2001 *Mechanism*: Storage

History

No-Cost Net Controllable Conserved Water (NCCW) in Lake McConaughy was made available through the implementation of conservation projects in compliance with a 1992 settlement agreement between the Central Nebraska Public Power Irrigation District (CNPPID) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The project concept was defined in the 1997 Cooperative Agreement, began operating in water year 2001, and became a formal Water Action Plan project with the inception of the Program in 2007.

Operations

The No-Cost NCCW resulted from the following conservation measures implemented in the CNPPID system:

* Canal distribution and delivery improvements such as installation of pipelines, canal compaction, canal lining, structure automation, etc.
* On-farm efficiency improvements including installation of center pivots and flow meters, modification of irrigation schedules, etc.
* Operational adjustments to Elwood Reservoir to minimize seepage losses.

These measures have reduced demands downstream of Lake McConaughy. As a result, water that would have



**Supply Canal Diversion Dam**

been released from Lake McConaughy before the conservation measures now remains stored in the reservoir. Each year, the CNPPID makes a request to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to add the water saved through the No-Cost NCCW project to the Lake McConaughy Environmental Account (EA) on October 1. This water is credited to the Program on an annual basis.

Yield and Score

Since the onset of the project, a yield of 314 AFY has been credited to the Program in the Lake McConaughy EA on October 1 of most years. The 314 AFY project yield is routinely verified by CNPPID. Per the terms of the CNPPID’s 1998 FERC license, the NCCW project list was reviewed periodically to determine any new, modified, or replaced conservation measures that would result in a change in the water savings or costs. The validity of the assumptions used to estimate the water savings were also reviewed. In successive reviews, the annual yield estimate was consistently 314 AFY. Based on the Program’s scoring analysis methodologies, the project is credited with a score of 260 AF at Grand Island.

Financials

Per Article 402 of the CNPPID’s 1998 FERC license for the Kingsley Dam Project, the volume of NCCW water resulting from conservation projects partially funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is to be added to the Environmental Account (EA) in Lake McConaughy each year at no cost to the Program.

A picture containing sky, outdoor, grass, water

Description generated with very high confidence**Table 1: No-Cost NCCW Yields**

**Center Pivot Irrigation (credit: cropwatch.unl.edu)**

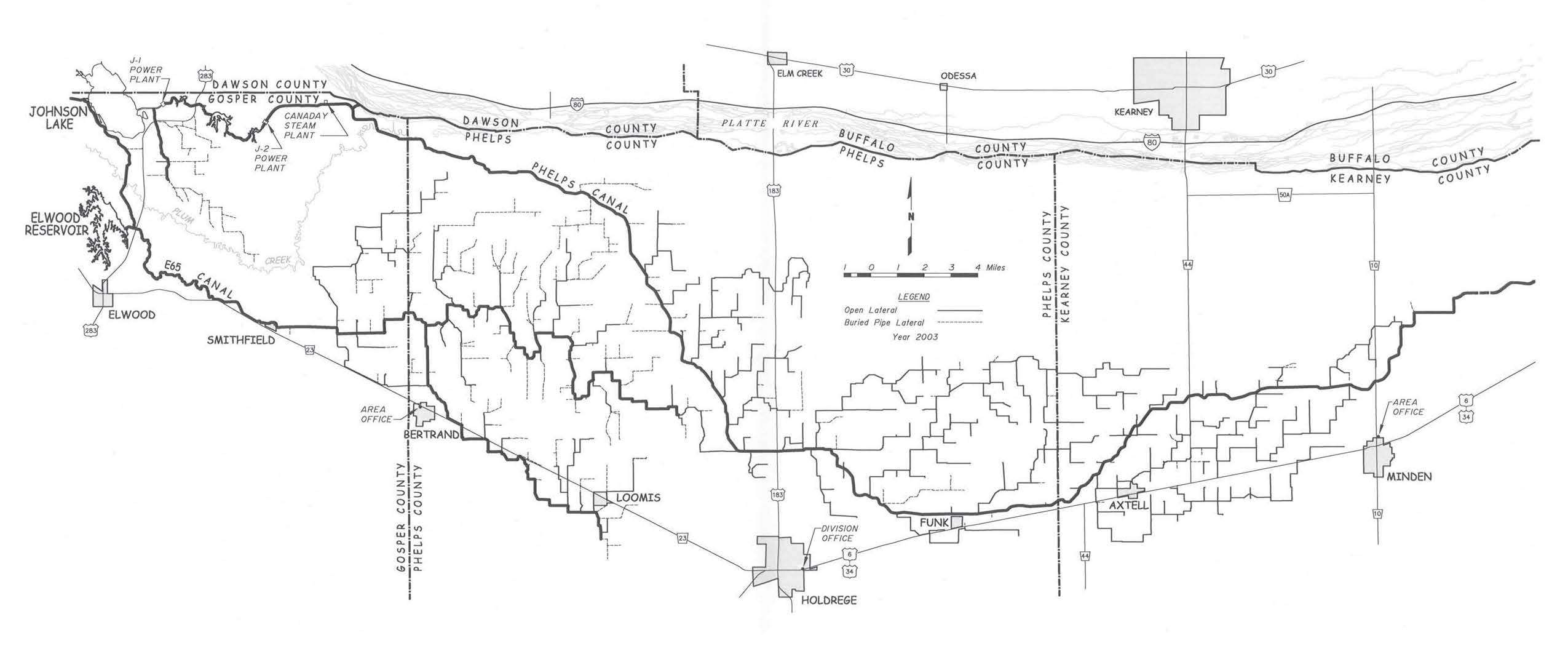
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Project Yield Credited to Lake McConaughy EA**  **(AF)** |
| 2007 | 314 |
| 2008 | 314 |
| 2009 | 314 |
| 2010 | 0 |
| 2011 | 0 |
| 2012 | 314 |
| 2013 | 314 |
| 2014 | 314 |
| 2015 | 314 |
| 2016 | 314 |
| 2017 | 314 |

Note: Values are preliminary and subject to change.



**Lake McConaughy Outlet Tower and Emergency Spillway, May 2018**

**Gates at J2 Return**



**CNPPID Irrigated Area (credit: cnppid.com)**