



# NORTH PLATTE

## Natural Resources District

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March 30, 2018

To: Kent Zimmerman, NDNR Projects Director

From: John Berge, NPNRD General Manager

Subject: WSF 2018 Annual Report #4119

The North Platte NRD (NPNRD) has, as of March 30, 2018, permanently retired 838.29 groundwater only acres under application 4119 for the Water Sustainability Fund Grant Program. The grant application award allows 1000 acres to be permanently retired. The additional 161.71 acres are being sought for ground water retirements that will aid in meeting the North Platte NRD's obligations under its integrated management plan. Included in those 838.29 acres are the following projects:

- 152.7 acres in Garden County will realize within 6 years, a depletion rate of 96% and represent up to 107.4-acre feet of credit, for ground water depletions from the North Platte River each year in perpetuity.
- 82.49 acres under contract for permanent retirement that are in Southern Sioux County, will realize within 10 years a depletion rate of 96% (100% in 2036) and represent up to 336.7-acre feet of credit, for ground water depletions from the North Platte River each year in perpetuity.
- 394.1 acres under contract for permanent retirement are also located in Southern Sioux County. Of that, 128.0 acres realize within 10 years, a depletion rate of 95% (99% in 2035) and represent up to 135.1-acre feet of credit and 266.1 acres realize within 10 years, a depletion rate of 97% (99% in 2034) and represent up to 280.6-acre feet of credit for ground water depletions from the North Platte River each year in perpetuity.
- 183.0 acres under contract for permanent retirement located in Scotts Bluff County. Within 5 years, this permanent retirement will have a 100% depletion rate and represent an average of 194.0-acre feet of credit for ground water depletions from the North Platte River each year in perpetuity.
- 26.0 acres in Garden County permanently retired. Within 10 years this retirement reaches a 95% depletion rate within 20 years and beyond reaches 97% depletion rate representing 26.7 average acre feet of credit for ground water depletions from the North Platte River each year in perpetuity.

All acres are in the over appropriated area of the district. The total credit to the North Platte River on the acres retired to date is 1080.5-acre feet per year in perpetuity.

The reduction of groundwater consumptive use and the offsetting of streamflow depletions to the North Platte River form core components of both the Platte River Basinwide Integrated Management Plan and the joint District integrated management plan, both developed in cooperation with DNR. The basinwide plan specifically includes objectives intended to keep Nebraska in compliance with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, and the District's individual integrated management plan provides the

mechanisms for meeting those objectives. The District's groundwater-retirement program specifically implements the goals of the basinwide plan and the Program, both of which are state-level concerns. The North Platte NRD will seek to locate the additional targeted 161.71 acres, to be under contract, for permanent retirement within the next year.

The total Water Sustainability Fund dollars requested for reimbursement to NRD as of this date are \$119,032.50 with an additional \$94,041.00 anticipated to be reimbursed to the NRD before June 30, 2018. The balance of the grant dollars on July 1, 2018 will be 686,926.50.

When the 1000.0 acres targeted are contracted at \$250.00 per acre, the total projected annual payments to landowners will be \$250,000.00. The WSF dollars reimbursed at 60% would be \$150,000.00 per FY. From the balance left in the grant, we anticipate that the total grant dollars will be depleted within five years.