

## WSF 2026 Status Report # 10098

**PROJECT:** LLNRD/CPNRD/UBBNRD – Examining the Effects of Fertilizer Application Practices on Nitrate Movement and Leaching in the Lower Loup, Central Platte, and Upper Big Blue NRDs. – WSF Application #10098 (awarded July 23, 2025)

**DATE:** MARCH 30, 2026  
(FIRST ANNUAL REPORT DUE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2026)

### **See Application 10098, Part 7 For Project Tasks Summary and Timeline**

#### PROJECT PROGRESS UP TO APRIL 2026:

- A kick-off meeting was held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lower Loup NRD headquarters.
- Field sites have been selected, and application types have been chosen.
- LLNRD has conducted their first round of soil sampling in both Wheeler and Custer County. This was conducted last year after harvest was complete.
- Equipment to conduct the in-season soil sampling has been purchased from AMS, which is soil testing company from American Falls, ID. Each NRD has received their equipment.

#### ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FROM NOW UNTIL NEXT ANNUAL REPORT DUE APRIL 1, 2027:

- USGS has coordinated the purchase of soil moisture monitoring stations and probes from Cambell Scientific with a mid-April delivery date scheduled. USGS will facilitate the installation of 3 Campbell Scientific soil moisture probe/precipitation centers per project for a total of 12 sites across the three NRDs.
- CPNRD and UBBNRD have chosen EA Engineering to conduct their soil sampling and will begin work this coming April.
- LLNRD, CPNRD, and UBBNRD will sample throughout the calendar year, both during the crop's growing season and during the winter season where deep, 30-foot samples will be collected. Samples will be collected using various equipment including a hand-held soil probe, AMS Gas Powered Core Sampling Kit, or the Giddings Rig.

#### ANTICIPATED CASH FLOW FOR REMAINDER OF THE PROJECT:

**\$1,214,766** – The USGS (\$264,000), LLNRD (\$210,400), CPNRD (\$105,200), UBBNRD (\$105,200) and WSF (\$631,200) all have funding obligations towards this project under grant #10098. A request of \$60,740.45 is being submitted as part of the Annual Report.

#### LIKELIHOOD THAT BENEFITS PROJECTED IN APPLICATION 10098 WILL BE REALIZED:

Based on the previous project results and LLNRD's, CPNRD's and UBBNRD's experience with working through the WSF, the project is on target for achieving all benefits described in the original application.