

Nebraska's Groundwater Irrigated Acres – 2022

State Statute 46-702 states:

The Legislature finds that ownership of water is held by the state for the benefit of its citizens, that ground water is one of the most valuable natural resources in the state, and that an adequate supply of ground water is essential to the general welfare of the citizens of this state and to the present and future development of agriculture in the state. The Legislature recognizes its duty to define broad policy goals concerning the utilization and management of ground water and to ensure local implementation of those goals. The Legislature also finds that natural resources districts have the legal authority to regulate certain activities and, except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, as local entities are the preferred regulators of activities which may contribute to ground water depletion.

As part of the management scheme; Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) are required to prepare, for approval, a plan that spells out groundwater management objectives to address both quantity and quality. Plans will identify thresholds, that if met will result in regulatory or other action. Said thresholds are codified in NRD rules and regulations. Per state statute 46-739 actions may include;

- Allocation of amount of groundwater that may be withdrawn
- Adoption of a rotation system of groundwater use
- Well spacing requirements
- Required measurement devices (i.e. flow meters)
- A reduction in irrigated acres
- Limit or prevent the expansion of irrigated acres
- A moratorium on new wells or uses

It should be noted, the above list represents some of the regulatory actions that may be taken. Each NRD retains the option to adopt any other reasonable rules and regulations, as needed to address local conditions.

Groundwater supplies and use vary across the state as does the climate and these factors impact how groundwater is utilized. Each NRD has developed the Groundwater Management Plan, monitoring plan and accompanying rules and regulation to specifically address the local conditions.

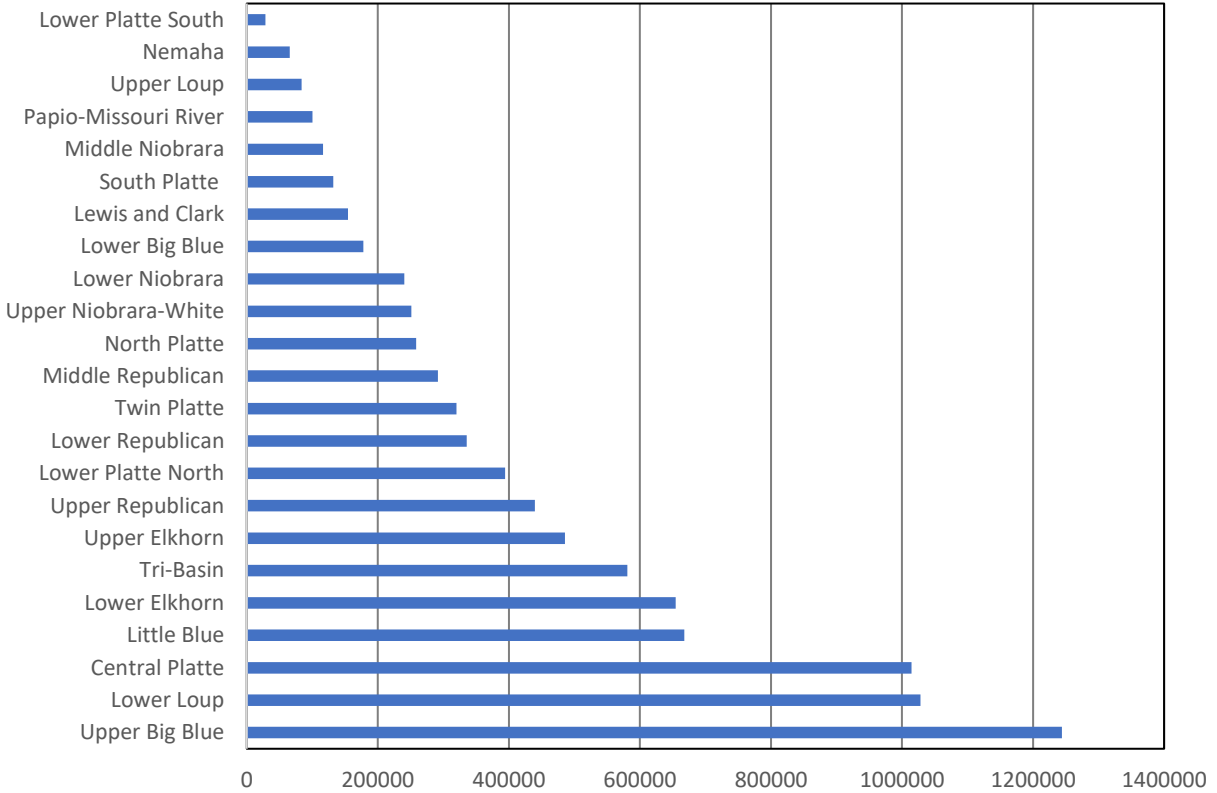
The following is a summary of groundwater irrigated acres in Nebraska along with some of the management actions that have been implemented. The purpose of this document is to provide a general overview of the groundwater irrigated acres in Nebraska. Information on local rules, regulations and information can be obtained from individual NRDs. To find an NRD go to <https://www.nrdnet.org/nrds/find-your-nrd>.

Groundwater Irrigated Acres in the State of Nebraska-2022

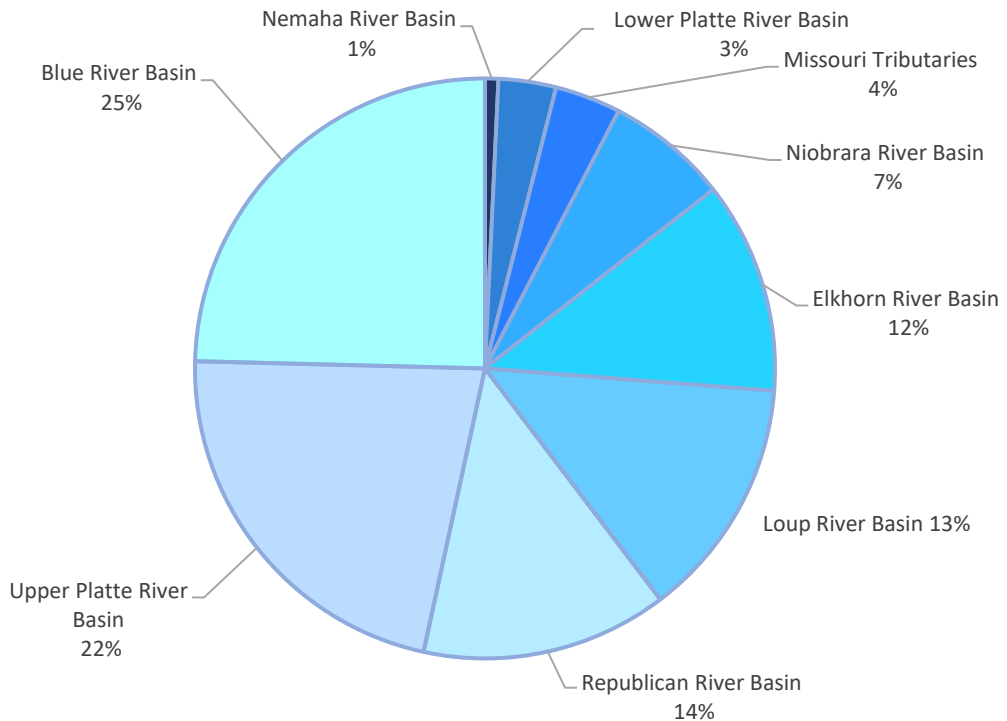
Data submitted from Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts

By NRD	Percent of total GW Irrigated	
	Acres	Acres
Lower Platte South NRD	28300	0.3%
Nemaha NRD	65616	0.7%
Upper Loup NRD	83854	0.9%
Papio-Missouri River NRD	100214	1.1%
Middle Niobrara NRD	116170	1.3%
South Platte NRD	131818	1.5%
Lewis and Clark NRD	154500	1.7%
Lower Big Blue NRD	177715	2.0%
Lower Niobrara NRD	240231	2.7%
Upper Niobrara-White NRD	251017	2.8%
North Platte NRD	258316	2.8%
Middle Republican NRD	291599	3.2%
Twin Platte NRD	320079	3.5%
Lower Republican NRD	335691	3.7%
Lower Platte North NRD	394136	4.3%
Upper Republican NRD	439639	4.8%
Upper Elkhorn NRD	485733	5.4%
Tri-Basin NRD	581019	6.4%
Lower Elkhorn NRD	654573	7.2%
Little Blue NRD	667849	7.4%
Central Platte NRD	1014666	11.2%
Lower Loup NRD	1028004	11.3%
Upper Big Blue NRD	1244226	14%
Total	9,064,963	
Groundwater Irrigated Acres by River Basin		
Nemaha River Basin	67468	1%
Lower Platte River Basin	290555	3%
Missouri Tributaries	333172	4%
Niobrara River Basin	616080	7%
Elkhorn River Basin	1070820	12%
Loup River Basin	1217392	13%
Republican River Basin	1245178	14%
Upper Platte River Basin	1994362	22%
Blue River Basin	2229937	25%
Total	9,064,963	
By Management Action		
Over Appropriate Area of Nebraska	811,178	8.9%
Fully Appropriated Area of Nebraska	2,796,069	30.8%
Groundwater Allocations in Place	1,799,479	19.9%
Acres Retired or Banked	69,451	0.8%

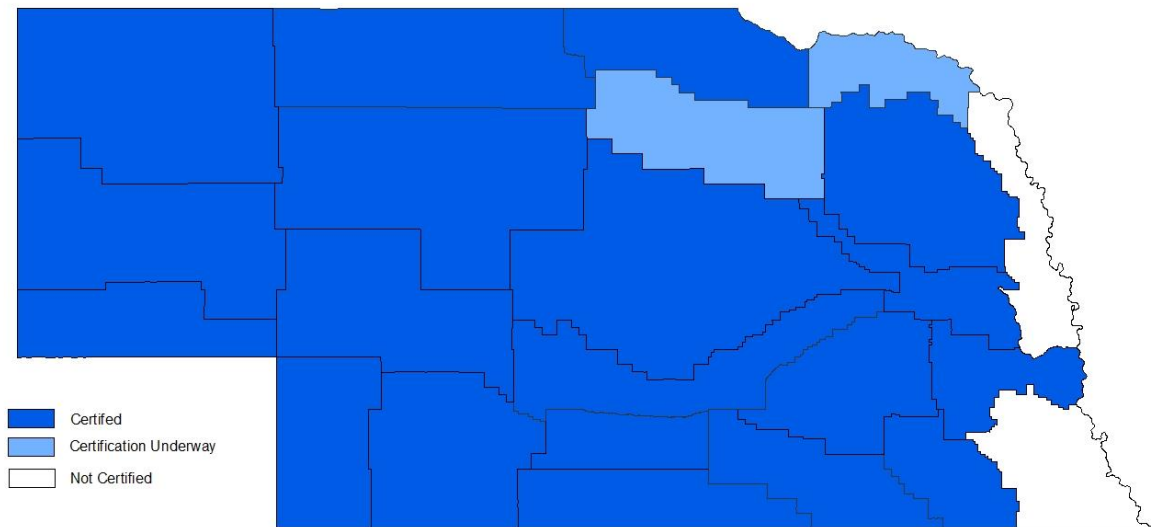
Groundwater Irrigated Acres by Natural Resources District - 2022



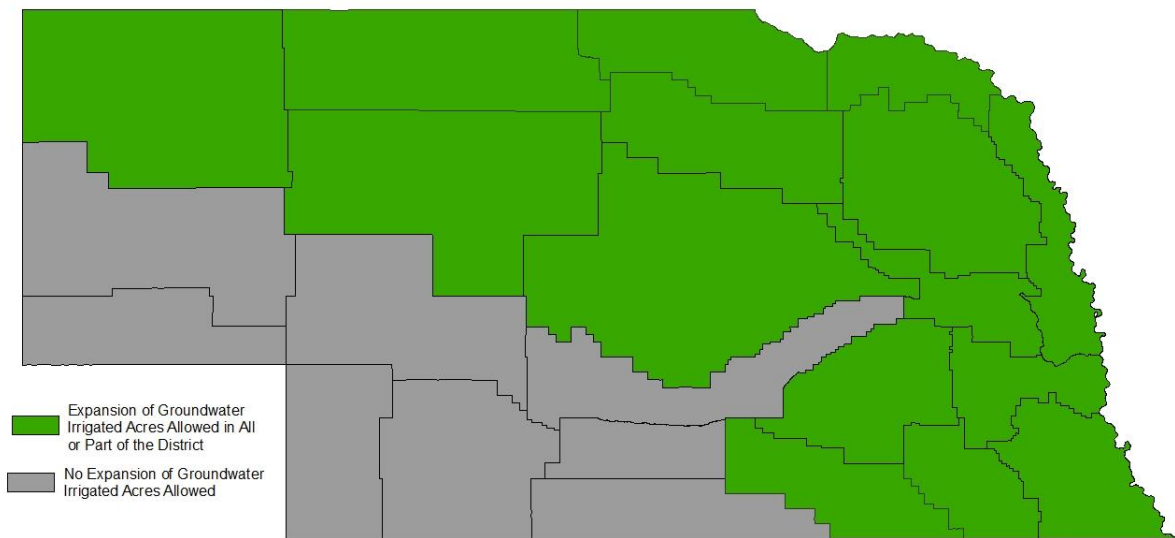
Groundwater Irrigated Acres by River Basin - 2022



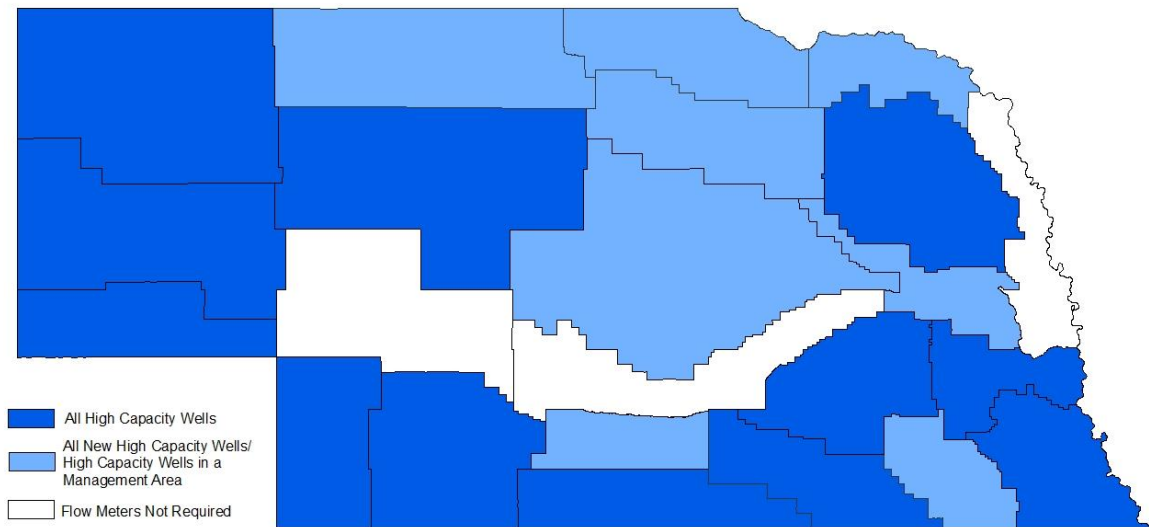
Groundwater Irrigated Acre Certification Status by NRD - 2022



Groundwater Irrigated Acre Expansion Status by NRD - 2022



Groundwater Irrigated Acre Flow Meter Status by NRD - 2022



Groundwater Irrigated Acre Allocation Status by NRD - 2022

