

Nebraska's Groundwater Irrigated Acres – 2024

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- Allocation of amount of groundwater that may be withdrawn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.

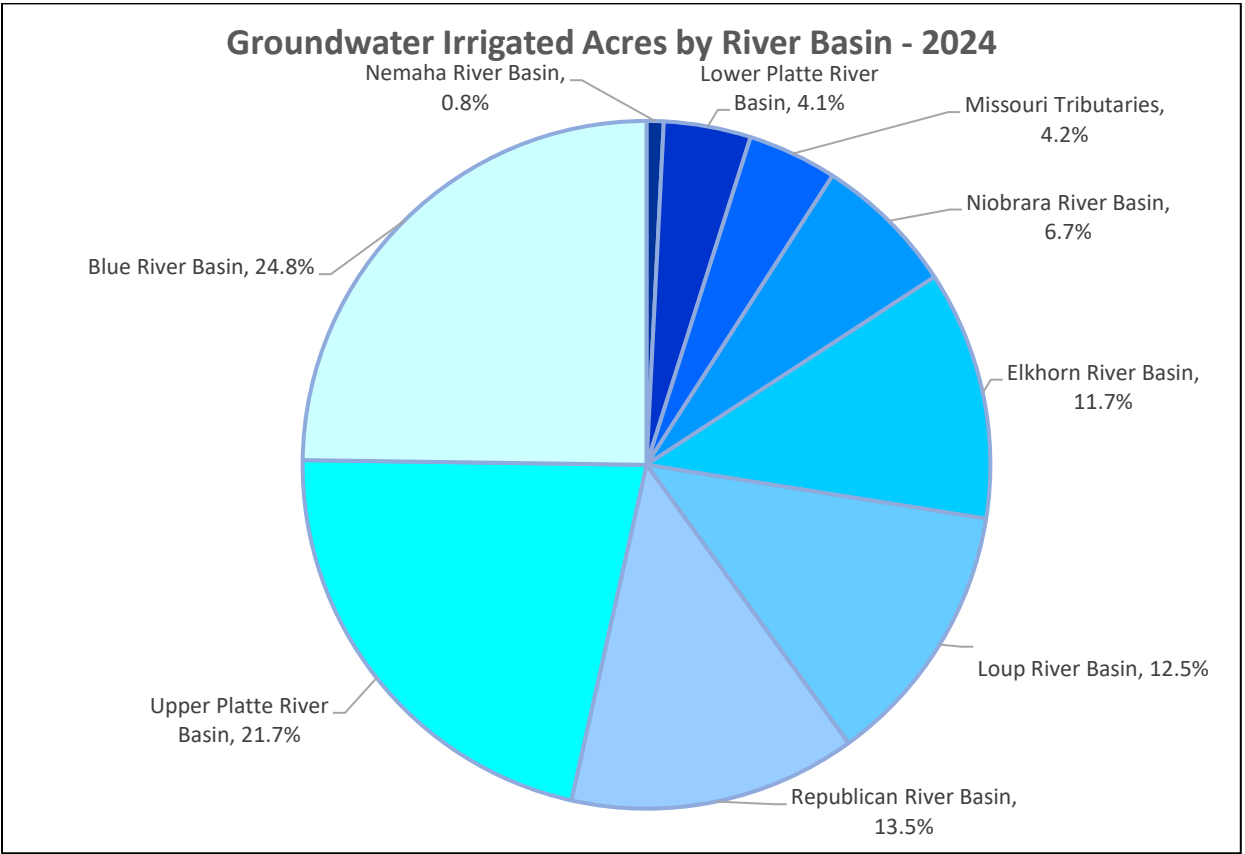
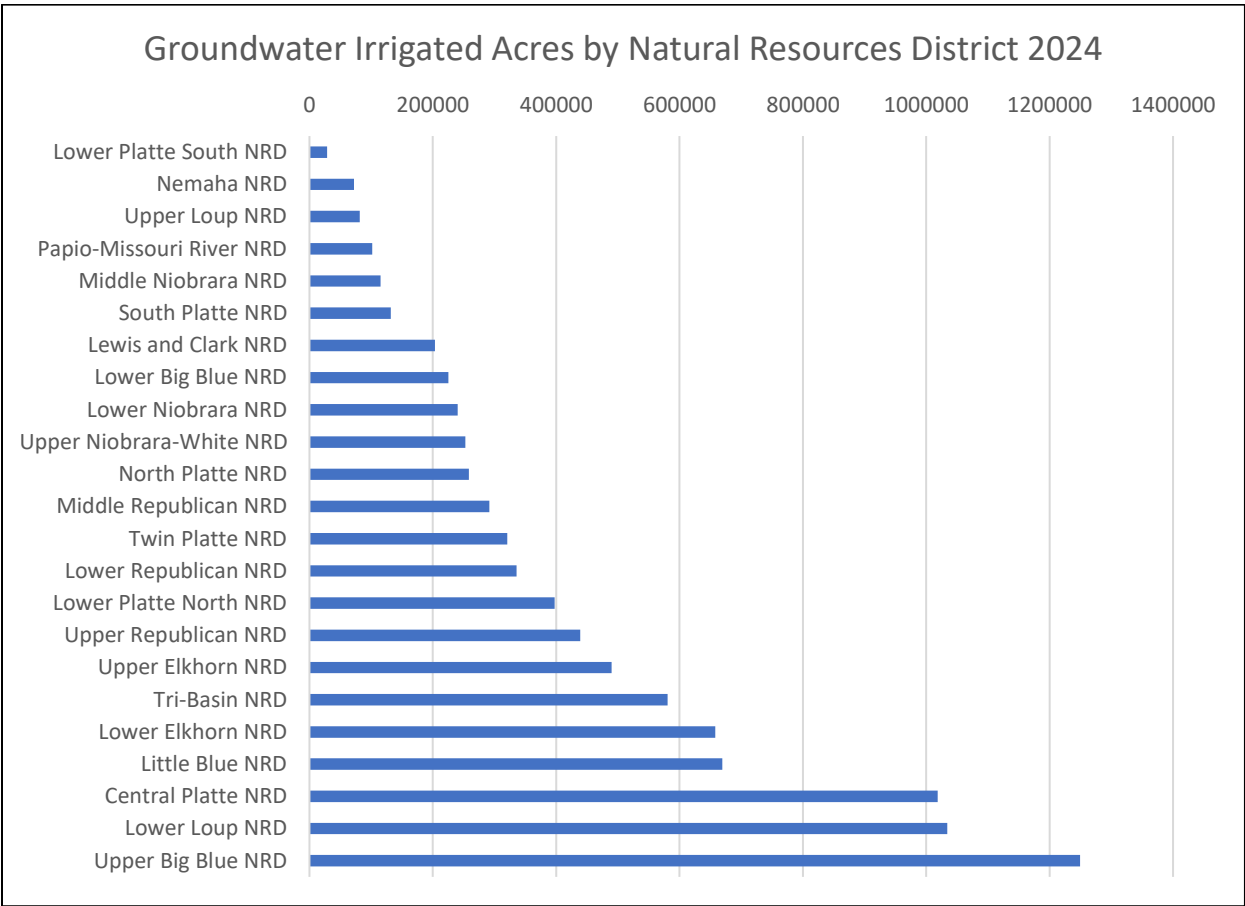
Groundwater supplies and use vary across the state as does the climate and these factors impact how groundwater is utilized. Each NRD has developed the Groundwater Management Plan, monitoring plan and accompanying rules and regulation to specifically address the local conditions.

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>.

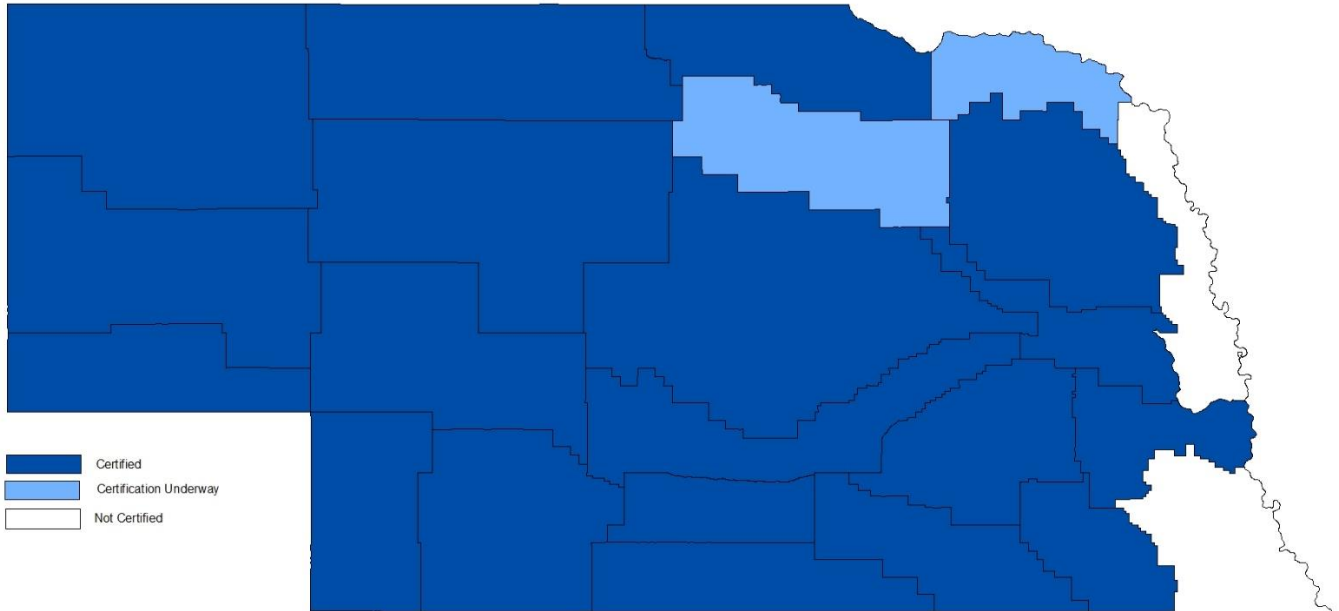
Groundwater Irrigated Acres in the State of Nebraska-2024

Data submitted from Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts

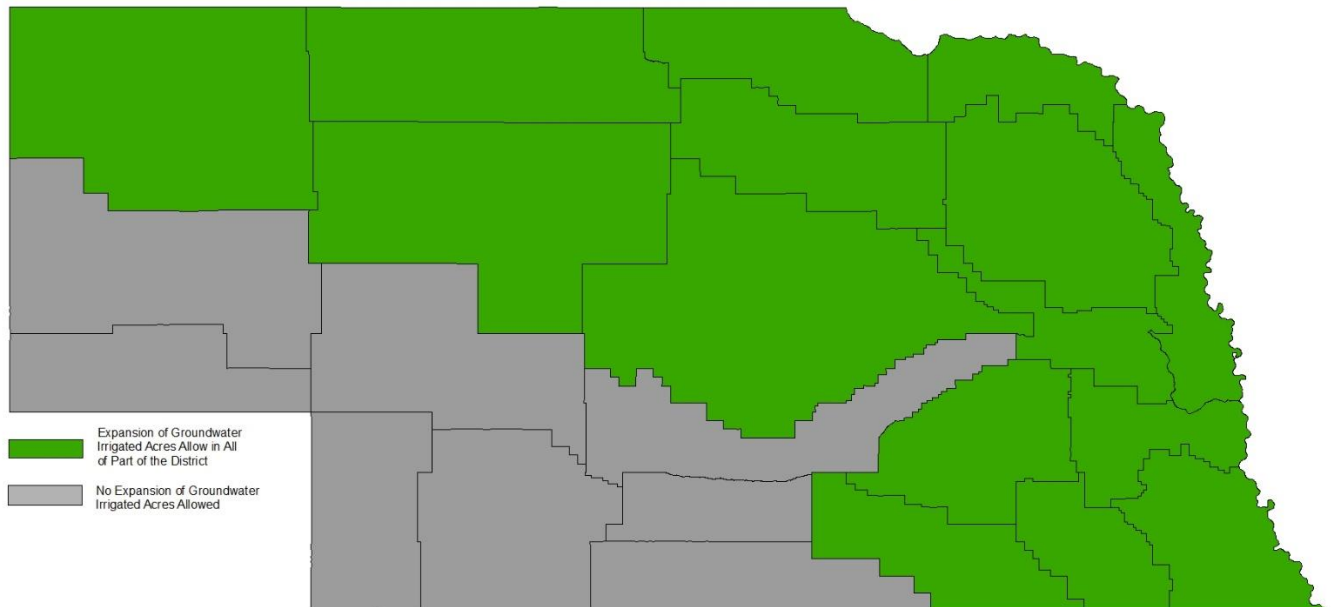
By NRD	Percent of total GW Irrigated	
	Acres	Acres
Lower Platte South NRD	28532	0.3%
Nemaha NRD	72104	0.8%
Upper Loup NRD	81432	0.9%
Papio-Missouri River NRD	101612	1.1%
Middle Niobrara NRD	115271	1.3%
South Platte NRD	131818	1.4%
Lewis and Clark NRD	203337	2.5%
Lower Big Blue NRD	225280	2.4%
Lower Niobrara NRD	240231	2.6%
Upper Niobrara-White NRD	252477	2.7%
North Platte NRD	258288	2.8%
Middle Republican NRD	291599	3.2%
Twin Platte NRD	320826	3.5%
Lower Republican NRD	335552	3.6%
Lower Platte North NRD	397602	4.3%
Upper Republican NRD	439055	4.8%
Upper Elkhorn NRD	489970	5.3%
Tri-Basin NRD	580520	6.3%
Lower Elkhorn NRD	657670	7.1%
Little Blue NRD	669215	7.3%
Central Platte NRD	1018263	11.0%
Lower Loup NRD	1034032	11.2%
Upper Big Blue NRD	1249195	13.5%
Total	9,193,880	
Groundwater Irrigated Acres by River Basin		
Nemaha River Basin	73956	0.8%
Lower Platte River Basin	377344	4.1%
Missouri Tributaries	383167	4.2%
Niobrara River Basin	617325	6.7%
Elkhorn River Basin	1077531	11.7%
Loup River Basin	1145969	12.5%
Republican River Basin	1243989	13.5%
Upper Platte River Basin	1990591	21.7%
Blue River Basin	2284008	24.8%
Total	9,193,880	
<i>By Management Action</i>		
Over Appropriated Area of Nebraska	807,323	8.8%
Fully Appropriated Area of Nebraska	2,785,240	30.2%
Groundwater Allocations in Place	1,690,472	18.3%
Acres Retired or Banked	54,498	0.6%
Total Managed/Restricted Acres	5,337,533	



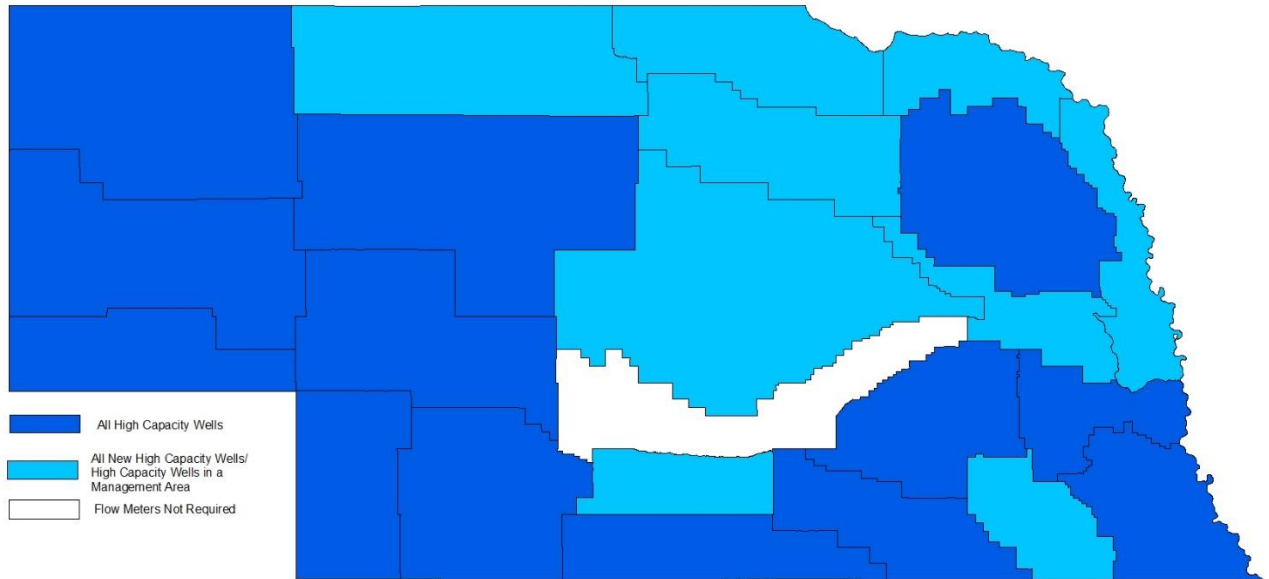
Groundwater Irrigated Acre Certification Status by NRD - 2024



Groundwater Irrigated Acre Expansion Status by NRD - 2024



Groundwater Irrigated Acre Flow Meter Status by NRD - 2024



Groundwater Irrigated Acre Allocation Status by NRD - 2024

