

## SECURING NEBRASKA'S WATER RESOURCES

Securing our water is essential to the economic prosperity, health, and welfare of Nebraskans. We must protect the environmental health of Nebraska's Platte River Basin and our full entitlement to the flows of the South Platte River as provided for in the South Platte Compact.

## THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER COMPACT

Nebraska and Colorado entered into the South Platte River Compact in 1923 to allocate the river's waters. The compact grants Nebraska the right to specific water resources that are currently underutilized.

- Signed in 1923 and passed by Congress in 1926, the compact is a binding contract enshrined in both state and federal law.
- Guarantees Nebraska a 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) flow during the irrigation season.
- Promises a 500 cfs flow during the non-irrigation season, contingent on the construction of the Perkins County Canal.

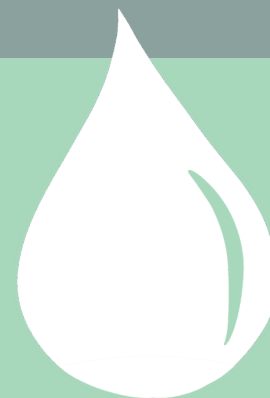
## CONSEQUENCES OF NOT BUILDING THE CANAL

Nebraska is currently missing out on 500 cfs of non-irrigation season water due to the lack of a water canal. The consequences include:

- **Dry River Periods:** The South Platte River in Nebraska will run dry from October 15 to April 1.
- **Agricultural Losses:** Decreased water supplies for irrigation threatening Nebraska's No. 1 industry.
- **Decreased Municipal Water Supplies:** Risks to drinking water for Lincoln, Omaha, and other communities.
- **Energy Reliability Issues:** Cooling water for NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Station, Nebraska's largest power plant, will be jeopardized. Reduced water flow will hinder hydroelectric power generation.
- **Economic and Community Impact:** Over-allocated regions may face stricter water regulations, stifling production and development. A greater reliance on the North Platte River would strain resources and limit recreational opportunities at Lake McConaughy.
- **Wildlife and Ecosystems:** Diminished water flows harm habitats and biodiversity.

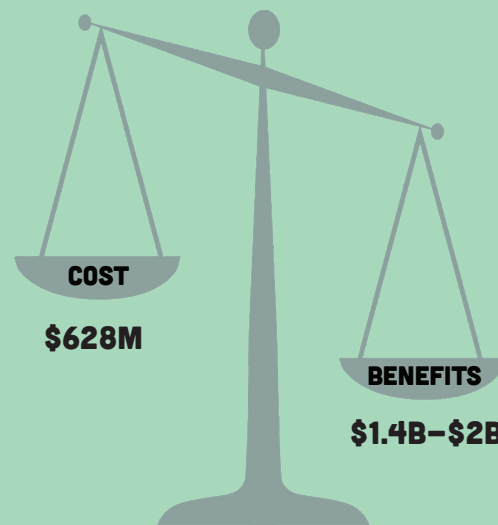
## WHY DO WE NEED THE CANAL NOW?

Colorado is currently planning ~300 projects and more than \$10 billion to ensure no "excess" water leaves their state. Colorado's plans would cause a nearly 90% reduction in flows coming into Nebraska. Nebraska needs to protect the water it has been receiving from Colorado and the water we're entitled to through the South Platte River Compact.



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The Perkins County Canal and associated water storage reservoirs are expected to cost approximately \$628 million. The estimated benefits range from \$1.4 to \$2 billion statewide and will help secure Nebraska's water future.

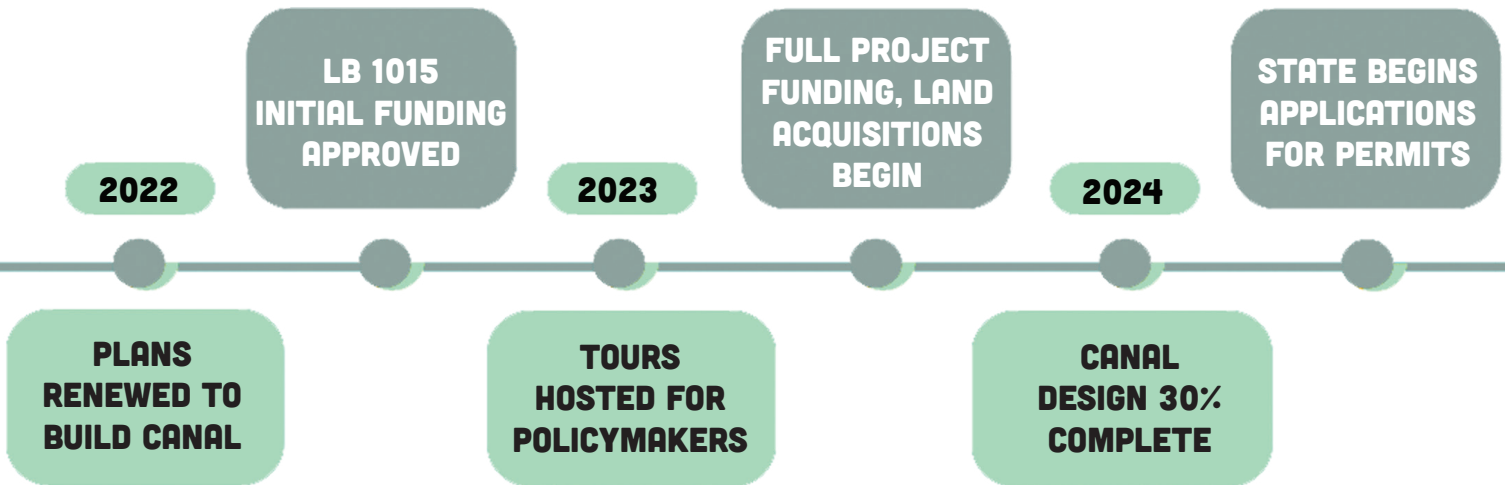


*“As part of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and to meet the goals established by the legislature, Central Platte NRD has spent \$20M to return a required 18,500 acre-feet to the river. Nebraska could receive this same amount of water every 18 days with the proposed canal.”*

—Lyndon Vogt  
Central Platte NRD General Manager

# PERKINS CANAL: PROGRESS & THE PATH FORWARD

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERKINS COUNTY CANAL PROJECT

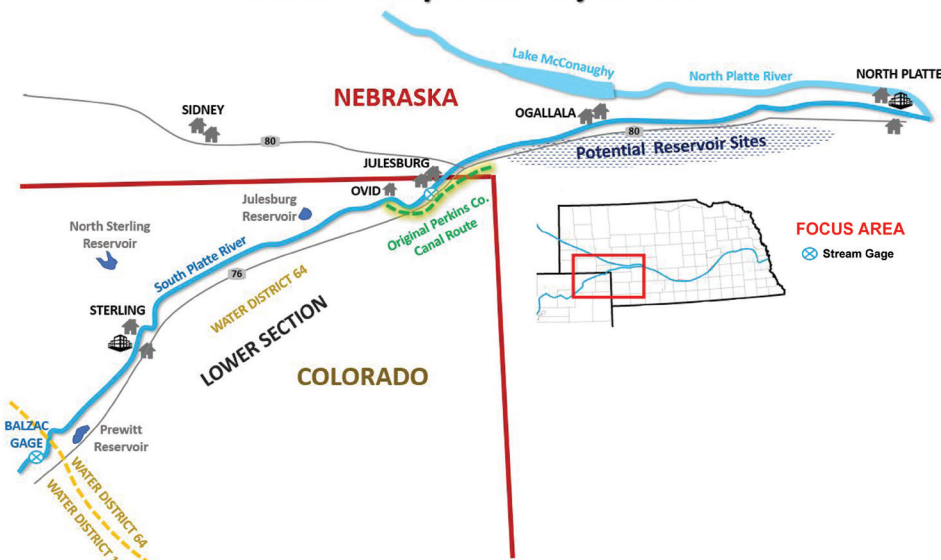


## PERKINS COUNTY CANAL: NEXT STEPS

- The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources continues to engage interested Nebraskans and will work to complete the design.
- Nebraska has acquired a tract of land in Colorado near the state line, and will continue to pursue land acquisition efforts.
- The Department has submitted permit applications to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is pursuing permit approval.

This is the right time and Nebraska cannot wait while Colorado rapidly diverts flows from the South Platte River. Securing our water is essential to the economic prosperity, health, and welfare of Nebraskans. We must protect the environmental health of Nebraska's Platte River Basin and our full entitlement to the flows of the South Platte River as provided for in the South Platte Compact.

### Perkins County Canal Project Area



## FAST FACTS

500 cfs of water could fill Lake McConaughy in 5-6 years.

The City of Lincoln wellfield receives 7% of its recharge for drinking water from the South Platte River.

An investment of approx. \$628 million will yield \$1.4 to \$2 billion in statewide benefits.

The project ensures Nebraska has water for drinking, economic development, agriculture and wildlife.

## SOUTH PLATTE STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts (NRDs)  
[www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org)

Nebraska Public Power District  
[www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com)

Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District  
[www.cnppid.com](http://www.cnppid.com)

Western Irrigation District