

Nebraska Conservation Priority Areas (CPA's)

NEBRASKA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Nebraska CPA

- ▶ Nebraska's CPA currently matches with the zones for wildlife, water quality, and air quality zones.
- ▶ The purpose of a wildlife, water quality or air quality zone is to designate a geographic area that achieves the desired wildlife, water quality, or air quality objectives.
 - ▶ No air quality zones are being established under this proposal.
- ▶ Land physically in the zones is awarded points during General Signup in the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

Nebraska CPA

- ▶ CRP-917 was released November 16, 2020. Allows states to review and revise the existing State CPA's and wildlife, water quality, and air quality zones.
- ▶ Deadline to submit changes to National Office is November 27, 2020.

Reviewing and Revising State CPA's

- ▶ State CPA's allow States to address important environmental issues within the designated area in a planned and coordinated manner.
- ▶ FSA State Committee must consult with state agencies, NRCS State Conservationist, and State Technical Committee to review and revise if applicable the State CPA.
- ▶ Nebraska CPA will be based on a combination of the entire county and 12-digit HUC.
- ▶ State CPA's are limited to not more than 25% of the cropland in the state.
- ▶ Yearly review of CPA's

CPA Selection Process

- ▶ Overall approach to identify the Conservation Priority Areas for Nebraska was to target wildlife and water quality. This involved collaboration with our state-level partners.
 - ▶ Nebraska Games and Parks, Pheasants Forever, NRCS, and Department of Environment and Energy assisted by providing information on priority geographic areas for their respective resource concern.
 - ▶ Target areas for wildlife and water quality were overlaid with areas of the state that either contained high enrollment for CRP or where there was considerable interest in enrollment into General CRP with a lower acceptance rate.
 - ▶ Many areas had considerable overlap between the targeted wildlife zones and the targeted water quality zones with only a few areas of exception.

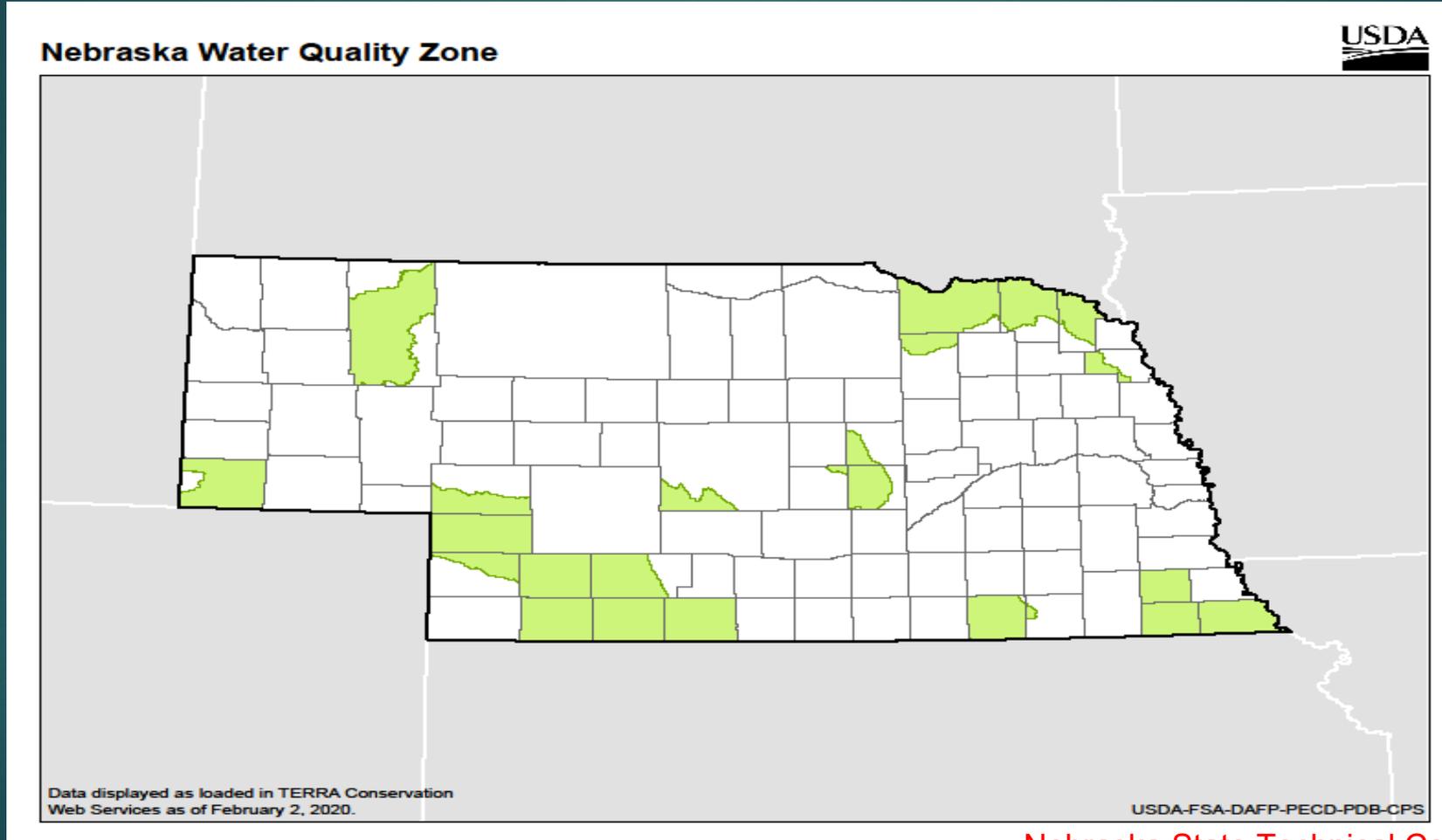
Kimball County

- ▶ Previous CPA – Kimball was in Air Quality, Wildlife, and Water Zone.
- ▶ Decision was made to not include Kimball in the updated CPA due to:
 - ▶ Kimball County is near the 25% cropland limitation allowed for enrollment into CRP.
 - ▶ Kimball County had the highest enrollment in Nebraska for the CRP Grasslands Program.
- ▶ More beneficial to move those acres to other areas of the state.

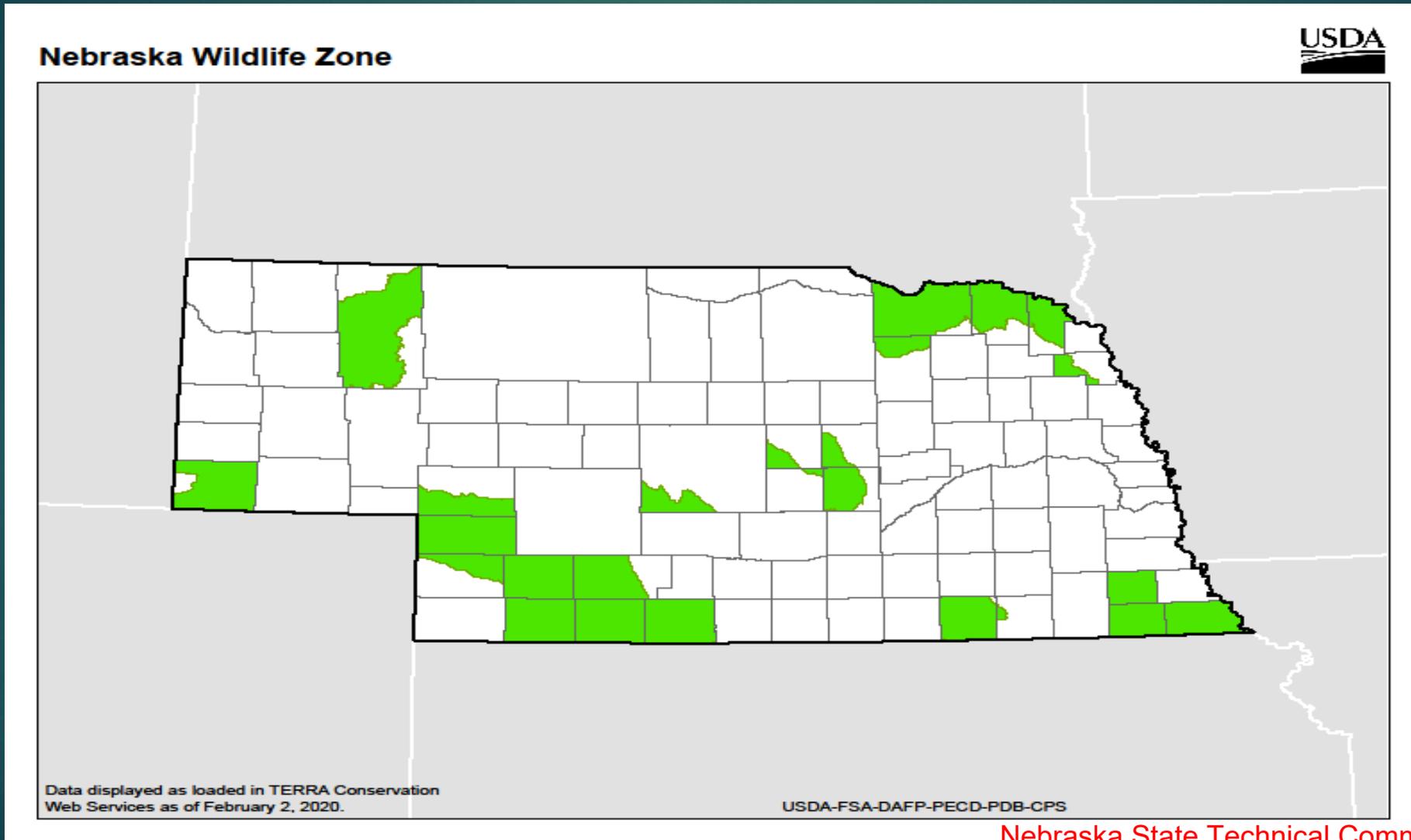
Nebraska Cropland Totals

- ▶ Proposed:
 - ▶ Current Nebraska Cropland Acres: 21,715,087.27
 - ▶ Calculated 25% Max Acres: 5,428,771.82
 - ▶ Nebraska Cropland within Proposed CPA: 5,419,200.26

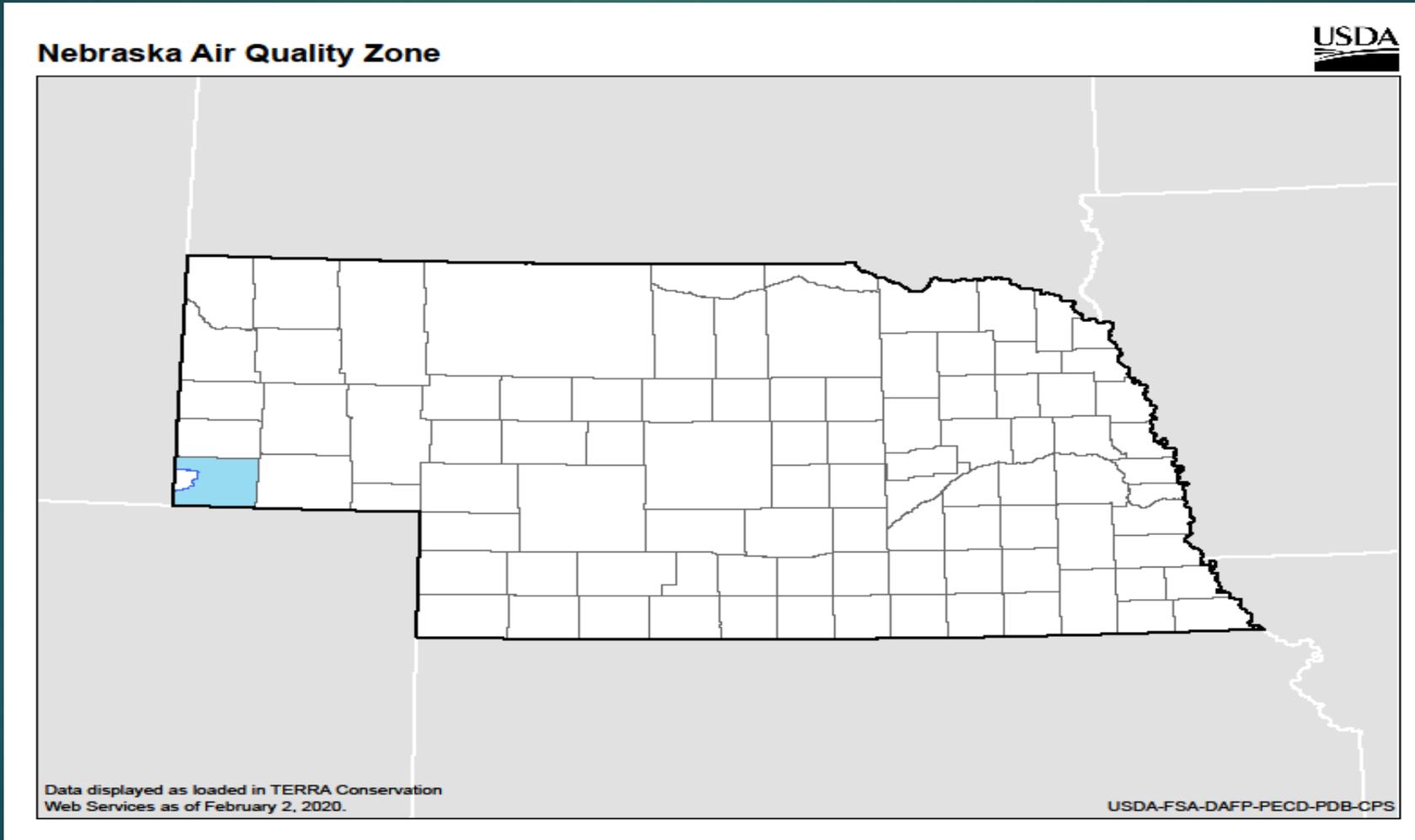
Nebraska Current Water Quality Zone



Nebraska Current Wildlife Zone



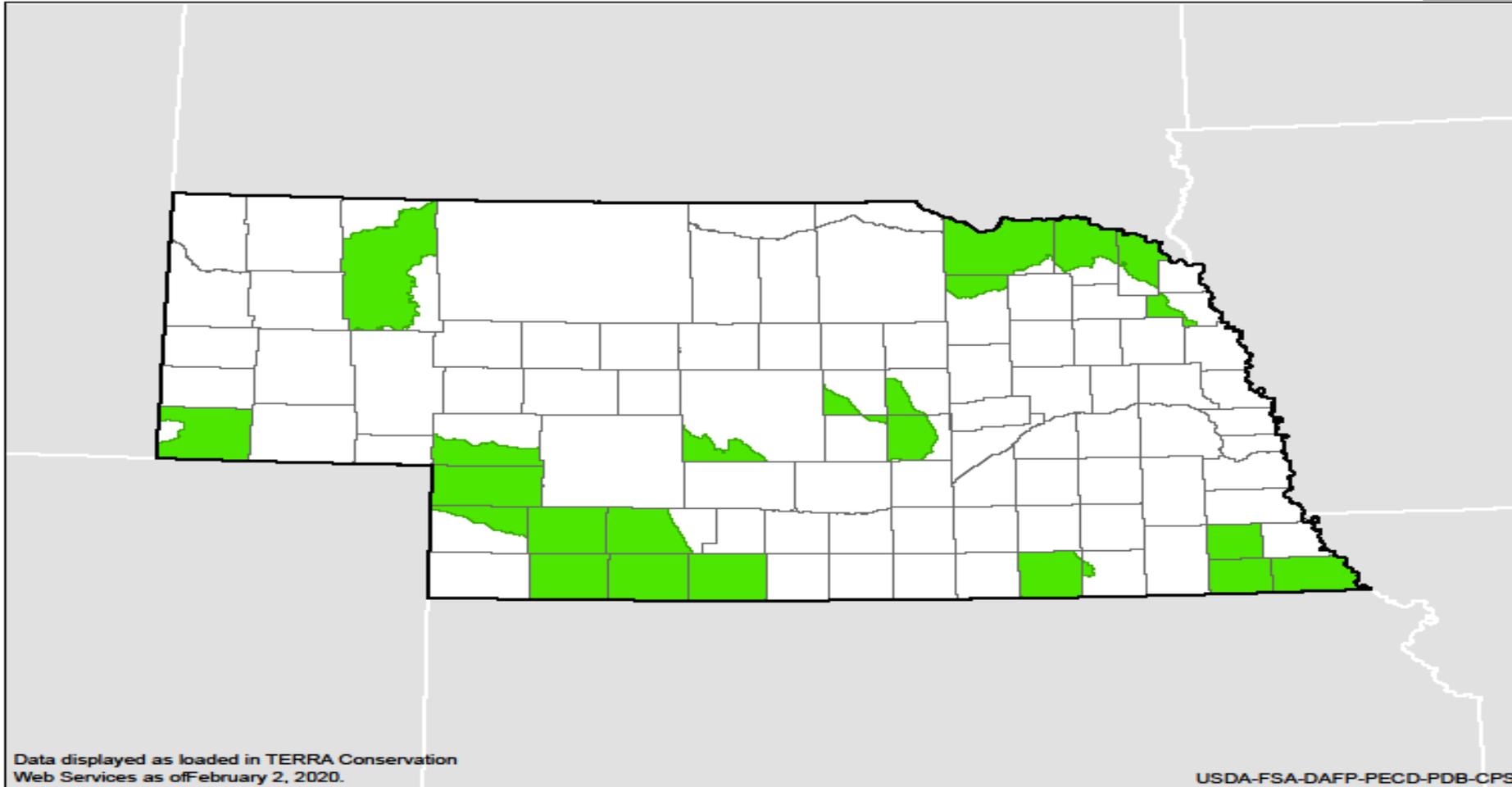
Nebraska Air Quality Zone



Nebraska Current CPA



Nebraska State Conservation Priority Area



Counties within Zones

- ▶ Wildlife Zone

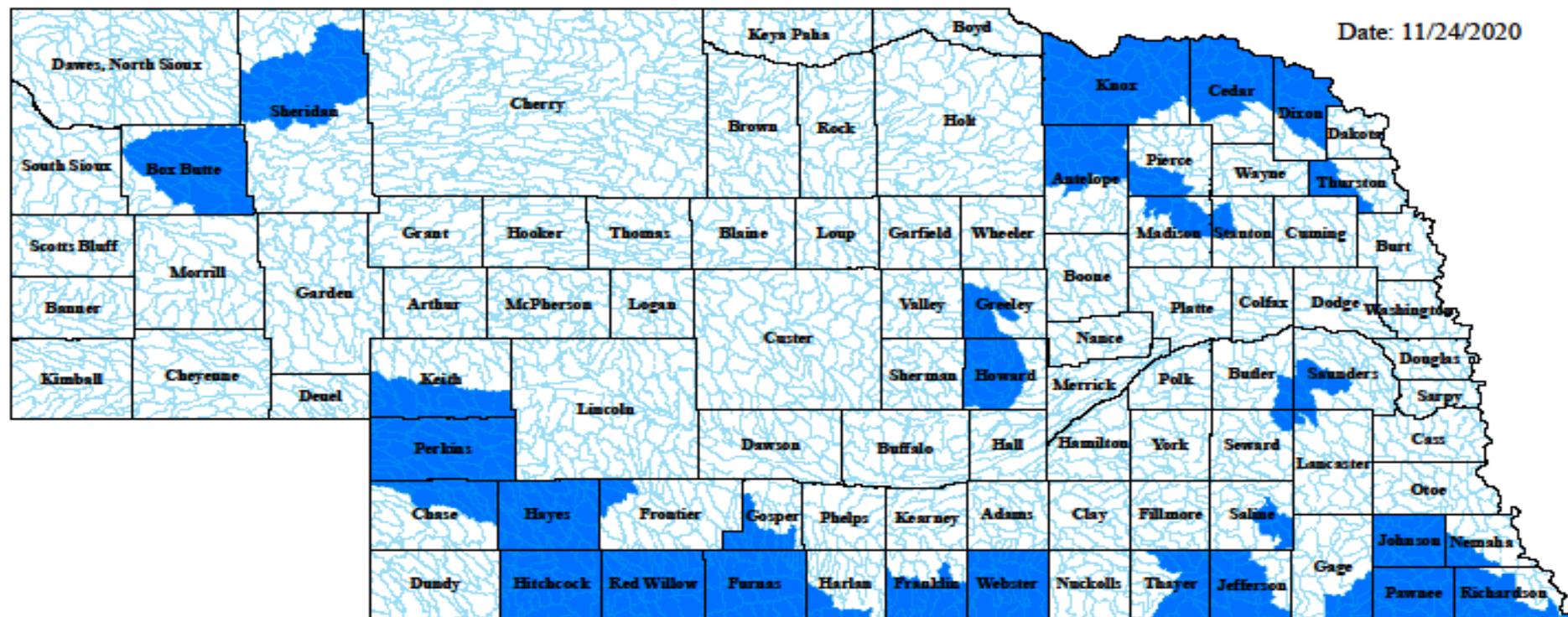
- ▶ Box Butte, Sheridan, Keith, **Perkins**, Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Franklin, Webster, Greely, Howard, Antelope, Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Pierce, Madison, Stanton, Butler, Seward, Lancaster, Thayer, Jefferson, Gage, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, Richardson, Saunders (western portion)

- ▶ Water Quality Zone

- ▶ Box Butte (north and northeast portion), Sheridan, Keith, Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Franklin, Webster, Greely, Howard, Antelope, Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Pierce, Madison, Stanton, Butler, Seward, Lancaster, Thayer, Jefferson, Gage, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, Richardson, **Saline**, Saunders



Proposed Conservation Priority Areas



Legend

-  County Boundary
-  Proposed State CPA
-  HUC-12 Layer

Proposed Nebraska Conservation Priority Area layer is defined by a combination of the dd17_NonGeneralized County Boundary layer and the wbdhu12 HUC layer.

Total Nebraska 3-CM Cropland:	21,715,087.27
Calculated 25% 3-CM Cropland:	5,428,771.82
3-CM Cropland within Proposed CPA:	5,419,200.26

Proposed Wildlife Zones

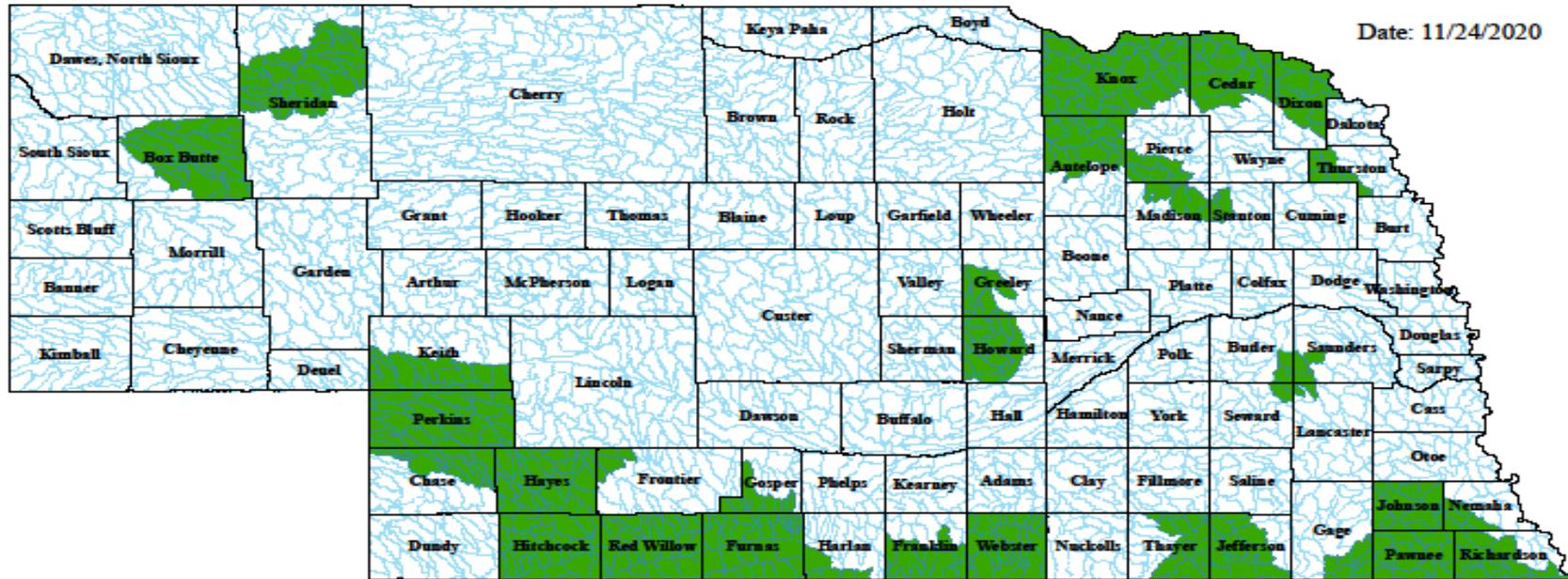
- ▶ Wildlife zones must be established in locations where enrollment of the cropland within the area will contribute to the restoration of important and declining wildlife species of national, regional, State, or local significance.

Proposed Wildlife Zones

Nebraska Farm Service Agency
Proposed Wildlife Zone



Date: 11/24/2020



Legend

- County Boundary
- Wildlife CPA
- HUC-12 Layer

Proposed Nebraska Conservation Priority Area layer is defined by a combination of the dd17_NonGeneralized County Boundary layer and the wbdhu12 HUC layer.

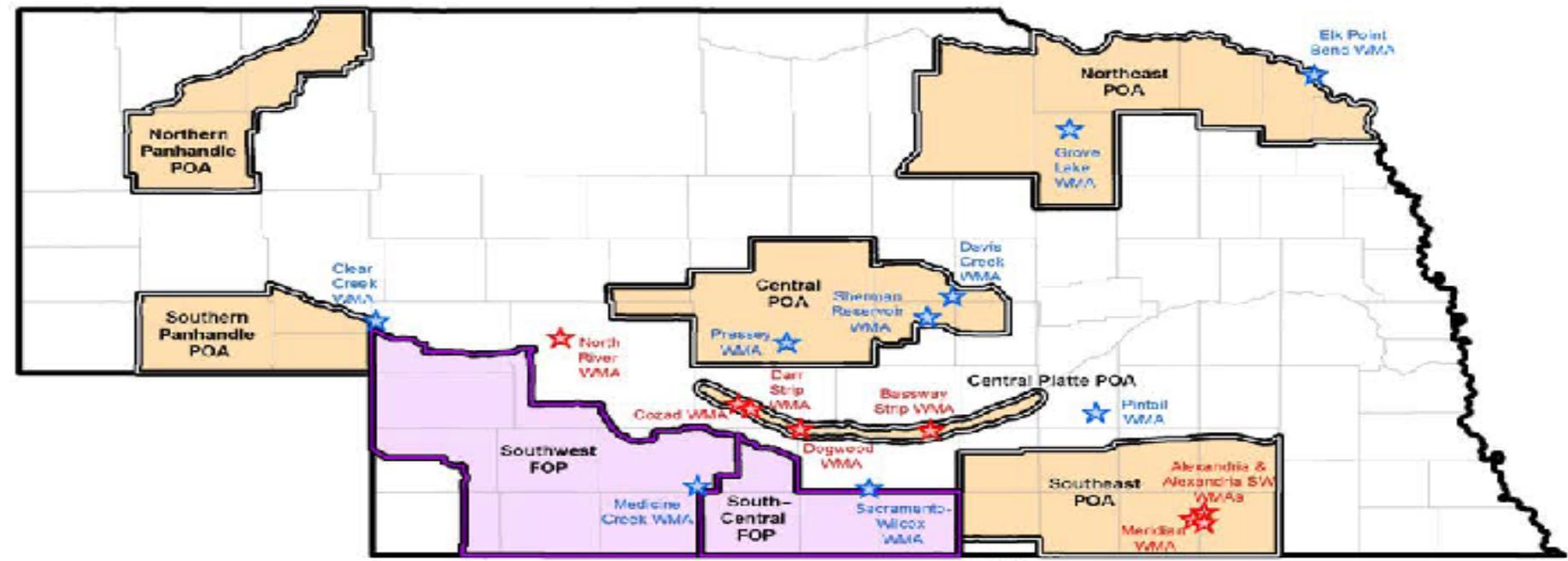
Total Nebraska 3-CM Cropland:	21,715,087.27
Calculated 25% 3-CM Cropland:	5,428,771.82
3-CM Cropland within Proposed Wildlife Zone:	5,305,595.94

Proposed Wildlife Zones

- ▶ Areas selected based on current and future identified priority areas outlined in:
 - ▶ the Berggren Pheasant Plan (BPP)
 - ▶ Currently being updated and CPA's mirror changes to the plan.
 - ▶ State Wildlife Action Plan - Nebraska Natural Legacy Project (NNLP)
 - ▶ Represents Biologically Unique Landscapes (BUL's) where conservation partners work to improve habitat for all native wildlife, especially those identified species in need of conservation. CRP benefits grasslands in the NNLP.

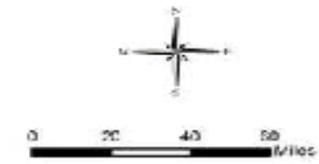
Figure B1. Featured Wildlife Management Areas within Pheasant Focus and Opportunity Areas

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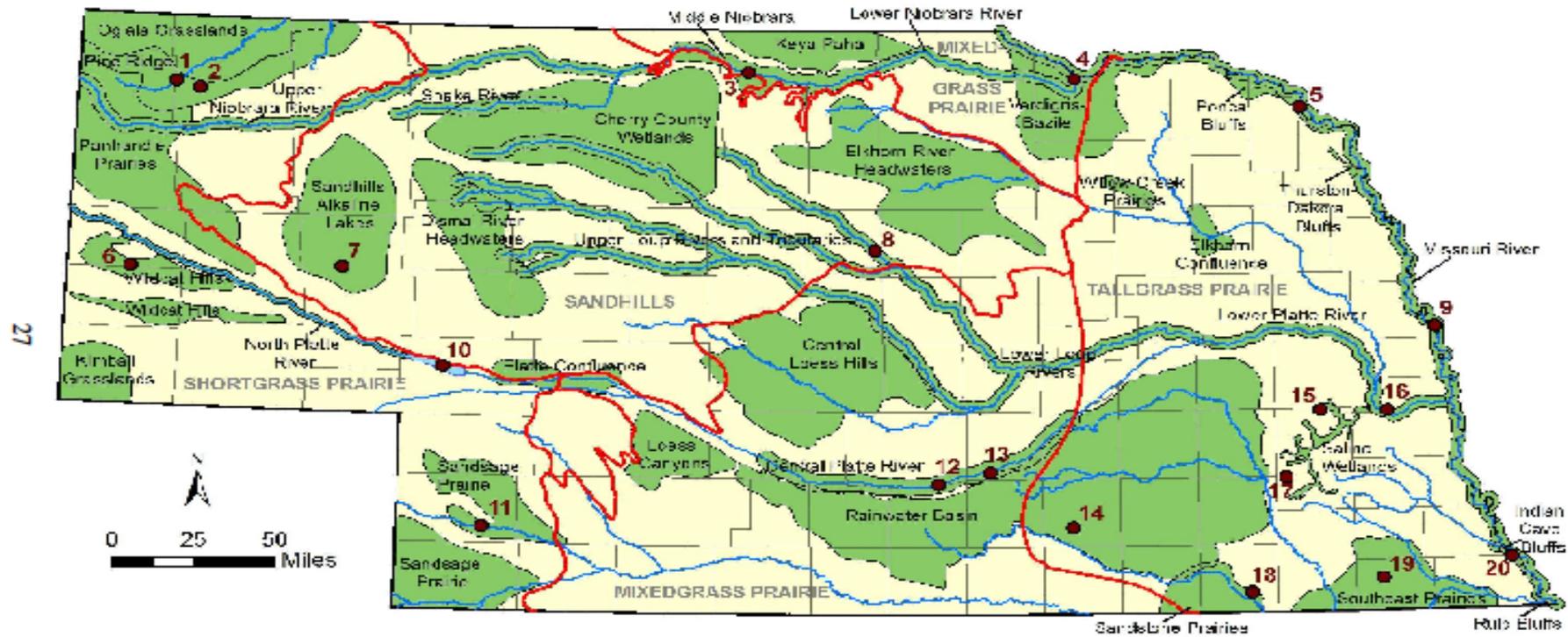


NEBRASKA
 - GAME & PARKS -
 Date: 2/5/2018

- ★ Pheasant and Quail WMAs
- ★ Pheasant WMAs
- Focus on Pheasant Area
- Pheasant Opportunity Area



Nebraska Natural Legacy Project: Biologically Unique Landscapes and Demonstration Sites



	Demonstration Site		Biologically Unique Landscape
	River		County Boundary
	Ecogeographic Boundary		



Proposed Water Quality Zones

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11/24/2020

- ▶ Water quality zones may be established in locations where enrollment of the cropland within the area will contribute to reducing groundwater or surface water quality impairment.

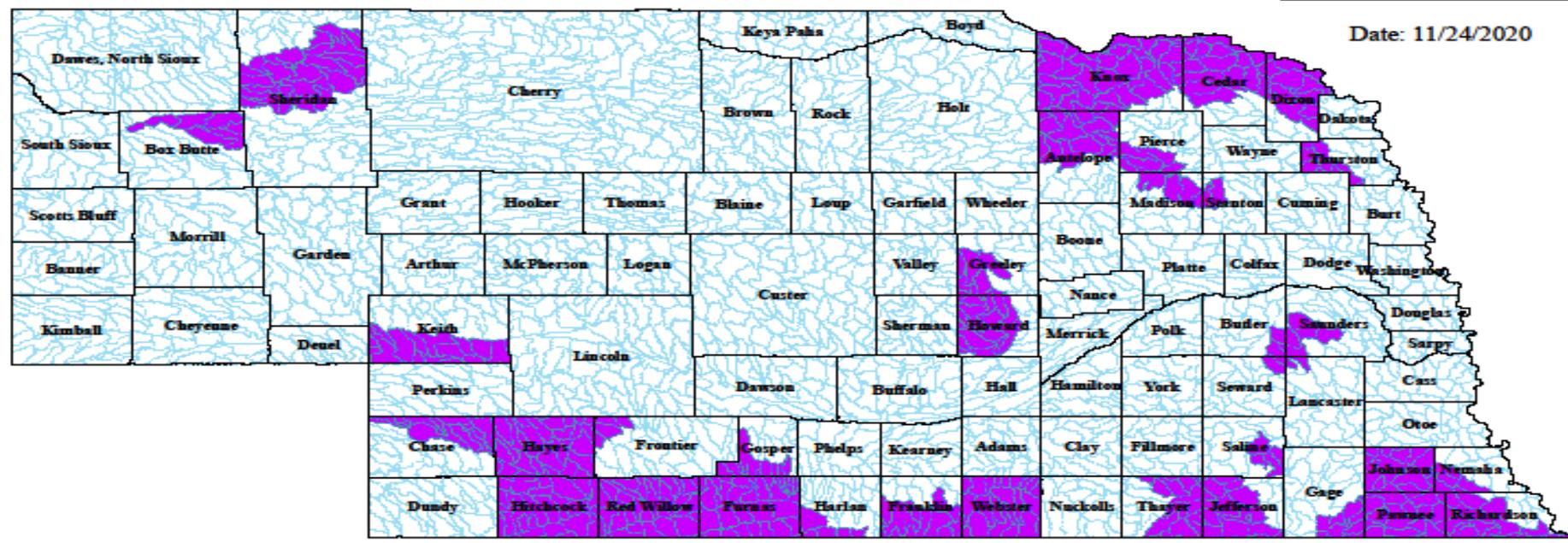
Proposed Water Quality Zones

Nebraska Farm Service Agency

Proposed Water Quality Zone



Date: 11/24/2020



Legend

-  County Boundary
-  Water Quality Zone
-  HUC-12 Layer

Proposed Nebraska Conservation Priority Area layer is defined by a combination of the dd17_NonGeneralized County Boundary layer and the wbdhu12 HUC layer.

Total Nebraska 3-CM Cropland:	21,715,087.27
Calculated 25% 3-CM Cropland:	5,428,771.82
3-CM Cropland within Proposed WQ Zone:	4,724,223.25

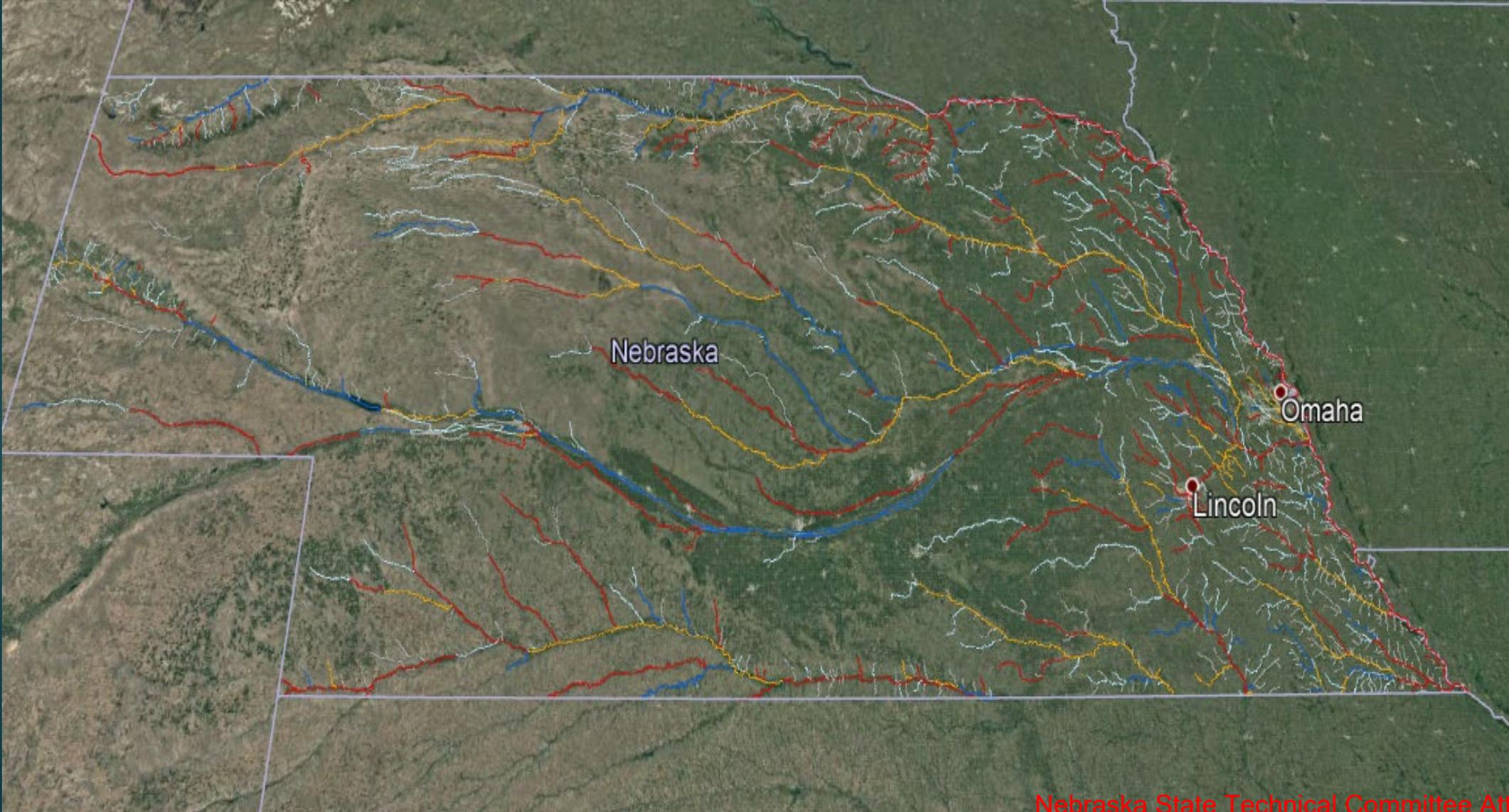
Note: Not for public distribution.

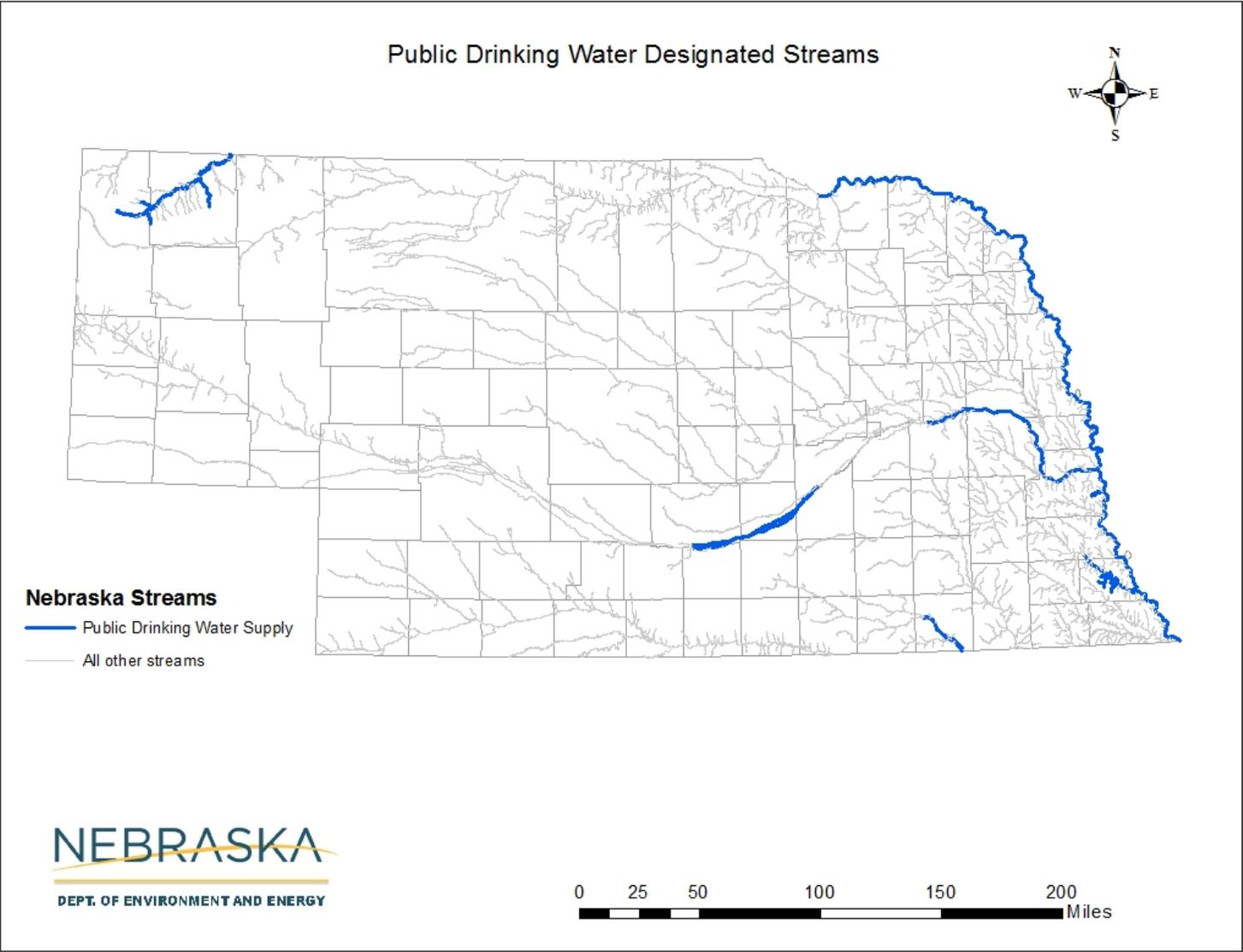
Proposed Water Quality Zones

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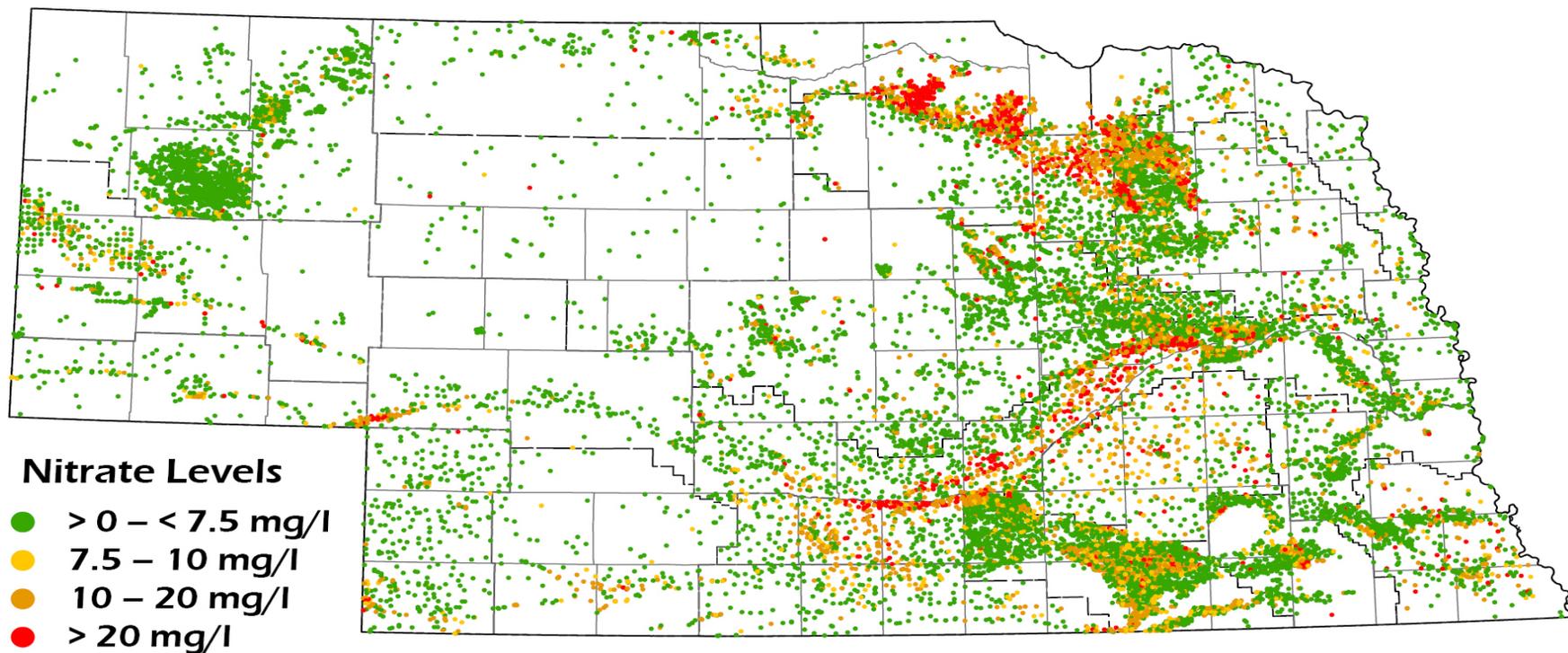
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- ▶ Selected with participation of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.
- ▶ Areas overlay waters impaired by agricultural nonpoint source pollution.
- ▶ Encompass watersheds or groundwater management areas identified by the Department for restorative management action to abate nonpoint source pollution.
- ▶ Active projects are underway or planned in these areas.



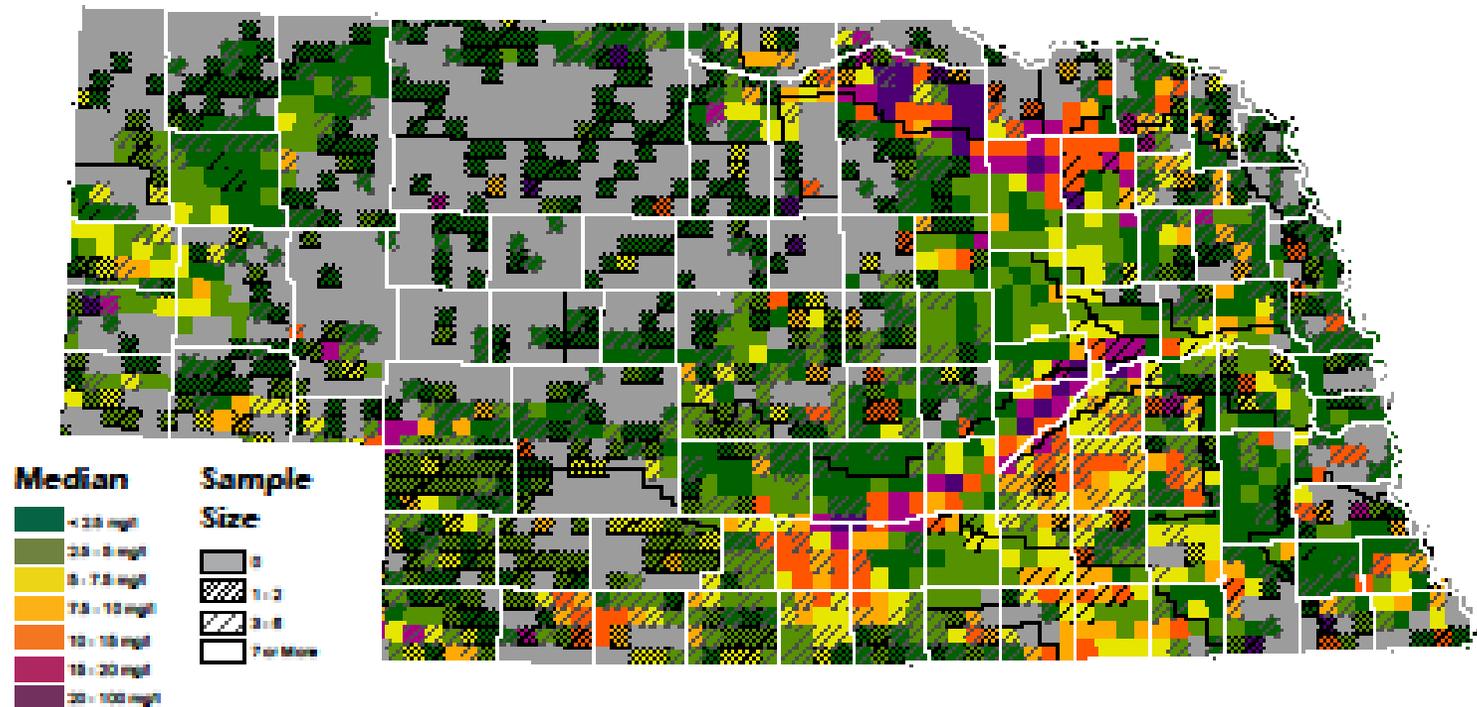


MOST RECENT NITRATE-N CONCENTRATIONS



Most recent recorded Nitrate-N concentrations of 18,299 wells from 1999-2018.
(Source: Quality-Assessed Agrichemical Database for Nebraska Groundwater, 2019)
Empty areas indicate no data reported, not the absence of nitrate in groundwater.

MOST RECENT NITRATE-N CONCENTRATION BY TOWNSHIP



Median of the most recent Nitrate-N concentrations of 18,227 wells from 2000-2019.
 (Source: Quality-Assessed Agrichemical Database for Nebraska Groundwater, 2020)
Empty areas indicate no data reported, not the absence of nitrate in groundwater.

Questions/Comments