

NRCS Conservation Programs in Nebraska

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EQIP Fund Obligations in 2015



. EQIP Fund Obligations in 2015

– Contracts (number) (acres) (obligation)

•Total EQIP:	796	349,639	\$20,567,095
• Limited Resource F/R	8	2,374	\$237,095
•Beginning F/R	30	36,118	\$4,383,548
•Socially Disadvantaged	3	1,961	\$55,055
•Forestry Initiative	29	5,327	\$413,641

•NOTE: HU = 23% of total EQIP

. EQIP Fund Obligations in 2015

– Contracts (number) (acres) (obligation)

• Total EQIP:	796	349,639	\$20,567,095
• Livestock Related	542	310,398	\$14,756,541
• No Livestock	254	39,241	\$5,810,554

72% related to Livestock in some manner
Contract \$ range from \$315 to \$392,207

. EQIP Fund Obligations in 2015

– National Initiatives (number) (acres) (obligation)

•NWQI	23	2989	\$486,639
• Certified Organic	3	925	\$88,280
• Organic Transition	7	1,842	\$103,990
• Seasonal High Tunnels	17	25	\$101,449

. EQIP Fund Obligations in 2015

– State Initiatives (number) (acres) (obligation)

•State WQ Initiative	6	619	\$389,099
• Tribal	1	1,883	\$ 41,454
•Wildlife Initiative NE	30	11,878	\$869,223
•AFO's	5	1441	\$1,163,140
•Forestry Initiative	29	5327	\$413,641

. EQIP Fund Obligations in 2015

– Conservation Activity Plans (contracts)
(acres) (obligation)

– Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

10	239	\$46,909
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– Prescribed Burn Plan

23	8653	\$19,239
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EQIP 2015 Practices

- Waste Storage Facilities
- Grazing Management
 - Ponds
 - Pipelines
 - Fence



EQIP 2015 Practices

Brush Management

Prescribed Burn



EQIP 2015 Practices

- SDI Systems
- Sprinkler Systems
- IWM



EQIP 2015 Practices

- Terraces
- Diversions
- Grade Stabs
- Waterways
- Underground Outlet
- No till
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt



EQIP 2015 Practices

- Seasonal High Tunnels
- Nutrient Mgmt
- Pest Mgmt
- Organic



EQIP 2015 Practices

Cover Crop

Rye planted in
a waterway for
erosion control



EQIP 2015 Practices

Cover Crop

Multi Species

Mix



EQIP 2015 Practices

Cover Crop

Multi Species

Mix – Corn

Stalks &

Wheat

Stubble



EQIP 2015 Practices

- 6 Waste Storage Facilities
- 6 Ponds
- 1.02 million ft of Fence
- 424 Watering Facilities
- 523 Cover Crops on 48,373 Ac.

EQIP 2015 Practices

- 24 Micro irrigation contracts on 1,434 Acres
- 47 Sprinkler Conversions on 2,817 Acres
- 544 IWM contracts – 75,673 Acres
- 45 Nutrient Mgmt. contracts – 8,136 Acres
- 36 Prescribed Burning contracts – 43,579 ac.

EQIP 2015 Practices

- 1.6 million ft of pipelines – 219 contracts
- 1.1 million ft. of terraces - 158 contracts
- 8,289 acres of Brush mgmt. – 159 contracts
- 6 Grade Stabilization structures
- 451,635 ft. windbrk/shelterblt– 90 contracts
- 18 High Tunnels

EQIP Fund Pools in 2016



2016 Local Fund Pools

Cropland

- Soil Erosion
- Soil Quality Degradation
- Insufficient Water
- Excess Water
- Water Quality Degradation

2016 Local Fund Pools

Grassland

- Livestock Production Limitation
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Air Quality Impacts

2016 Area Fund Pools

Area 1– West, Area 2 – Central

Area 3 - East

- Cropland – BFR/SD
- Grassland – BFR/SD

2016 STATE FUND POOLS

- Special Initiatives - Nebraska
 - Wildlife
 - Monarch Butterfly
 - Forestry
 - Animal Feeding Operations
 - Tribal
 - Organic
 - Energy
 - Seasonal High Tunnel
 - Nebraska Water Quality Initiative
 - Conservation Activity Plans

2016 State Fund Pools

- **Special Initiatives – National**
 - Ogallala Aquifer Initiative
 - National Water Quality Initiative
 - Wahoo Creek - Saunders
 - Bazile Creek – Antelope, Pierce, Knox

EQIP Fund Allocations in 2016



EQIP Fund Allocations in 2016

- Ogallala SI \$ 2.4 million
- NWQI \$ 863,134

- EQIP General \$ 17.4 million
 - EQIP General Distribution
- State Initiatives \$ 3.5 million
- Historically Underserved & BFR \$ 1.7 million
- Balance to LWG Fund Pools \$ 13.9 million

EQIP Fund Allocations in 2016

– State Initiatives

• Forestry	\$ 500,000
• Wildlife	\$ 870,000
• Monarch Butterfly	\$ 100,000
• Tribal	\$ 100,000
• AFO	\$ 1,000,000
• NE WQI	\$ 400,000

EQIP Fund Allocations in 2016

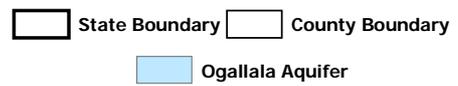
– State/National Initiatives

- Organic \$ 200,000
- Energy \$ 25,000
- High Tunnel \$ 100,000
- CAP-CNMP \$ 200,000
- NWQI \$ 863,134
 - 2 watersheds: Bazile Creek, Wahoo Creek
- Ogallala SI \$ 2.4 million
 - 4 Focus Areas: UBBNRD, LBNRD, CPNRD, MRNRD

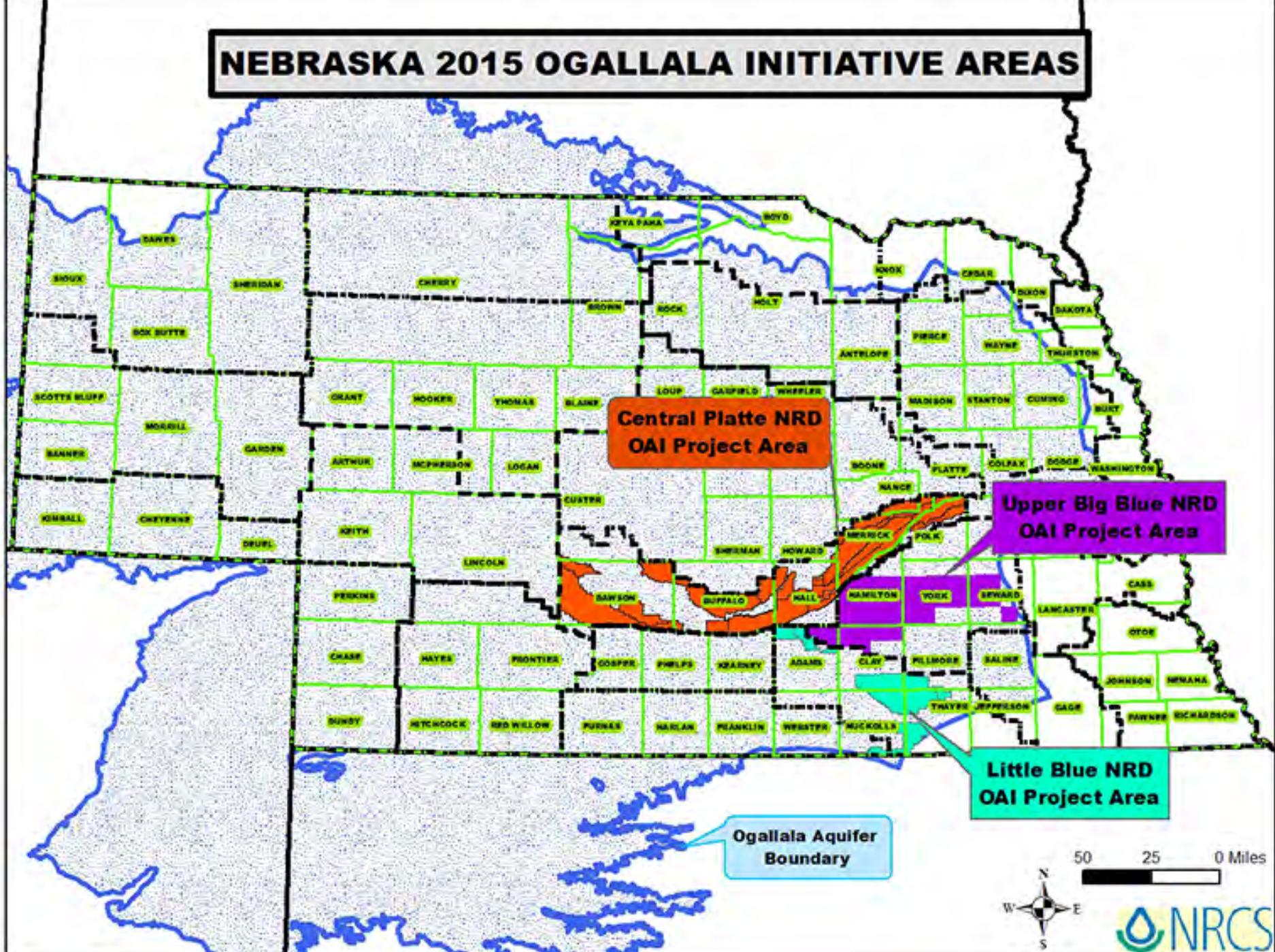
Ogallala Aquifer Initiative



Ogallala Aquifer Initiative States & Counties



NEBRASKA 2015 OGALLALA INITIATIVE AREAS



**Central Platte NRD
OAI Project Area**

**Upper Big Blue NRD
OAI Project Area**

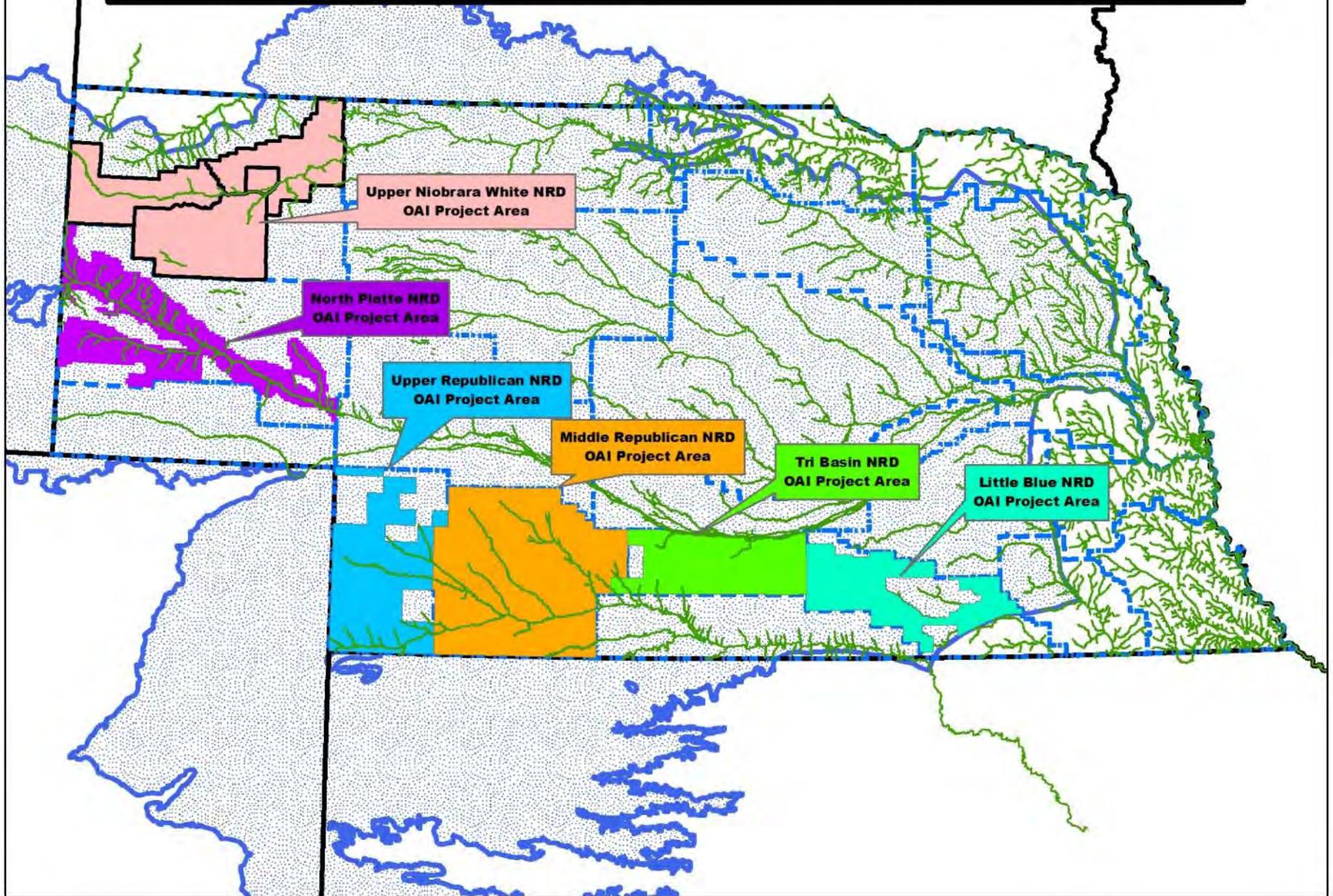
**Little Blue NRD
OAI Project Area**

**Ogallala Aquifer
Boundary**

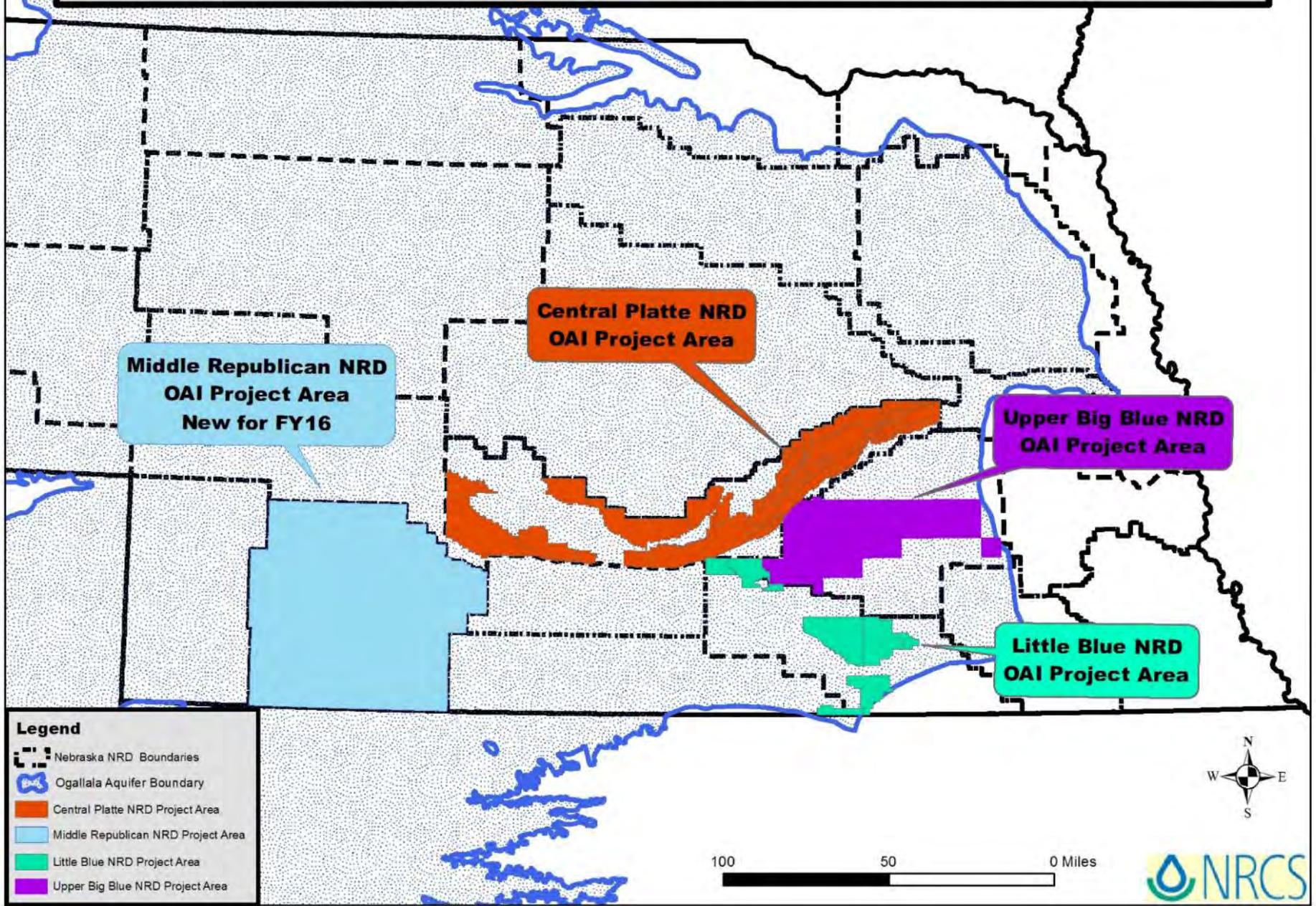
50 25 0 Miles

NRCS

NEBRASKA 2016 OGALLALA INITIATIVE PROPOSAL AREAS

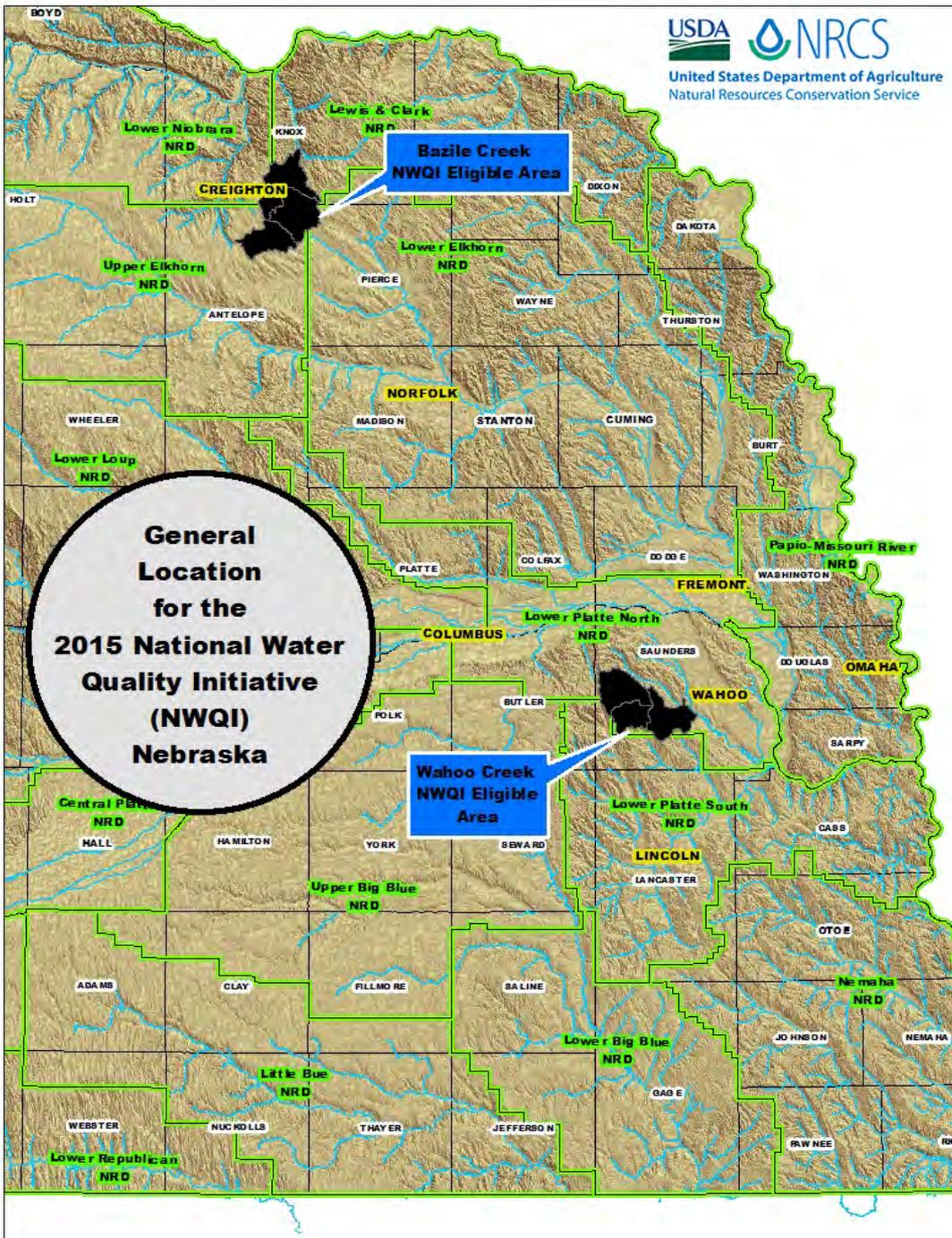


NEBRASKA 2016 OGALLALA INITIATIVE AREAS



National Water Quality Initiative





Nebraska Water Quality Initiative



**Middle Niobrara NRD
Long Pine Watershed
State Water Quality
Initiative**



Niobrara River

United States Highway 183

Sand Draw

Bone Creek

JOHNSTOWN

United States Highway 20

AINSWORTH

United States Highway 20

Willow Creek

LONG PINE

Long Pine Creek

**MIDDLE NIOBRARA
Natural Resource District**

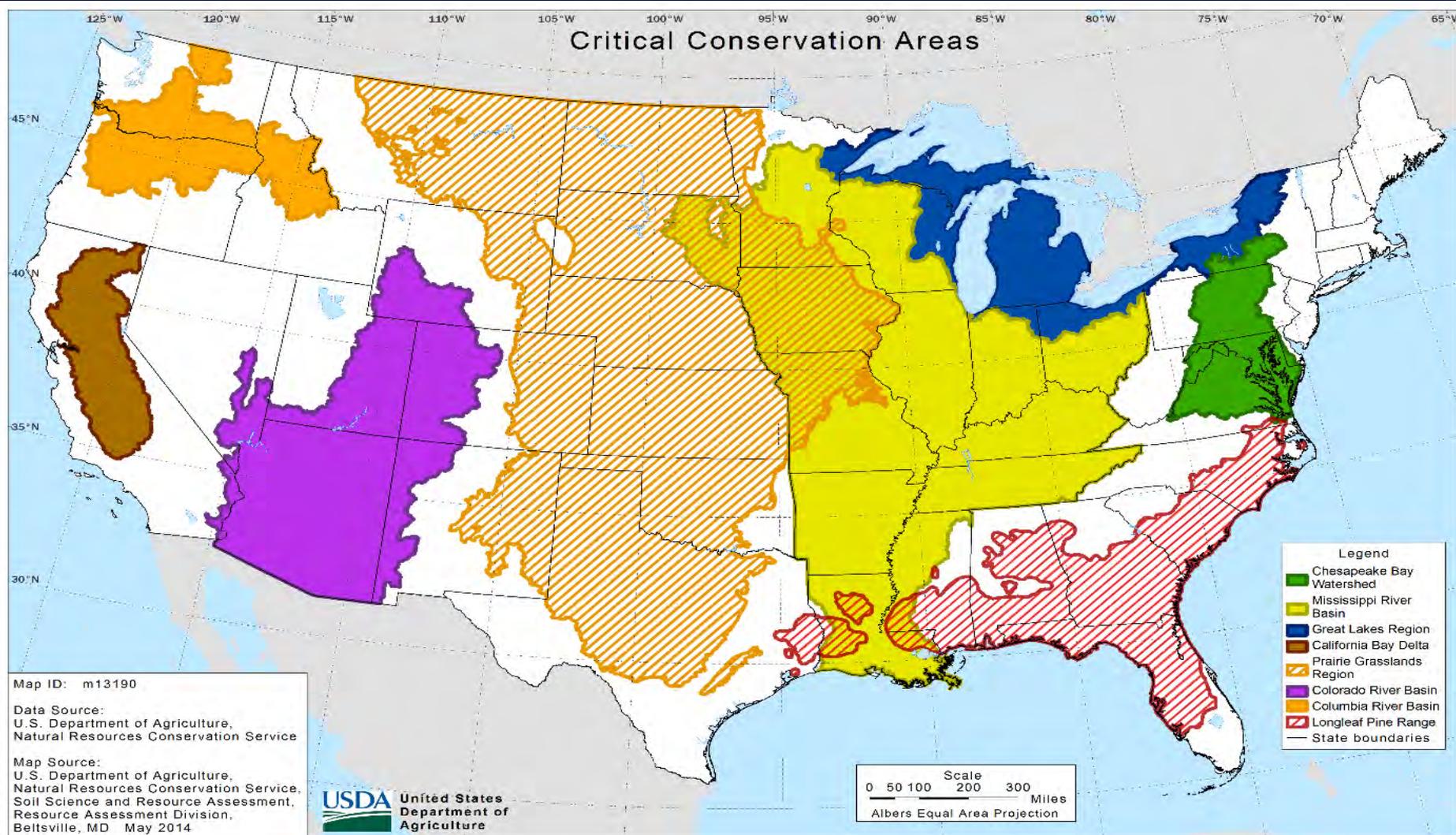
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



Allocates funding by:

- 40% for projects based on a national competitive process;
- 25% for a state competitive process administered by the State Conservationist, and;
- 35% for projects in critical conservation areas.

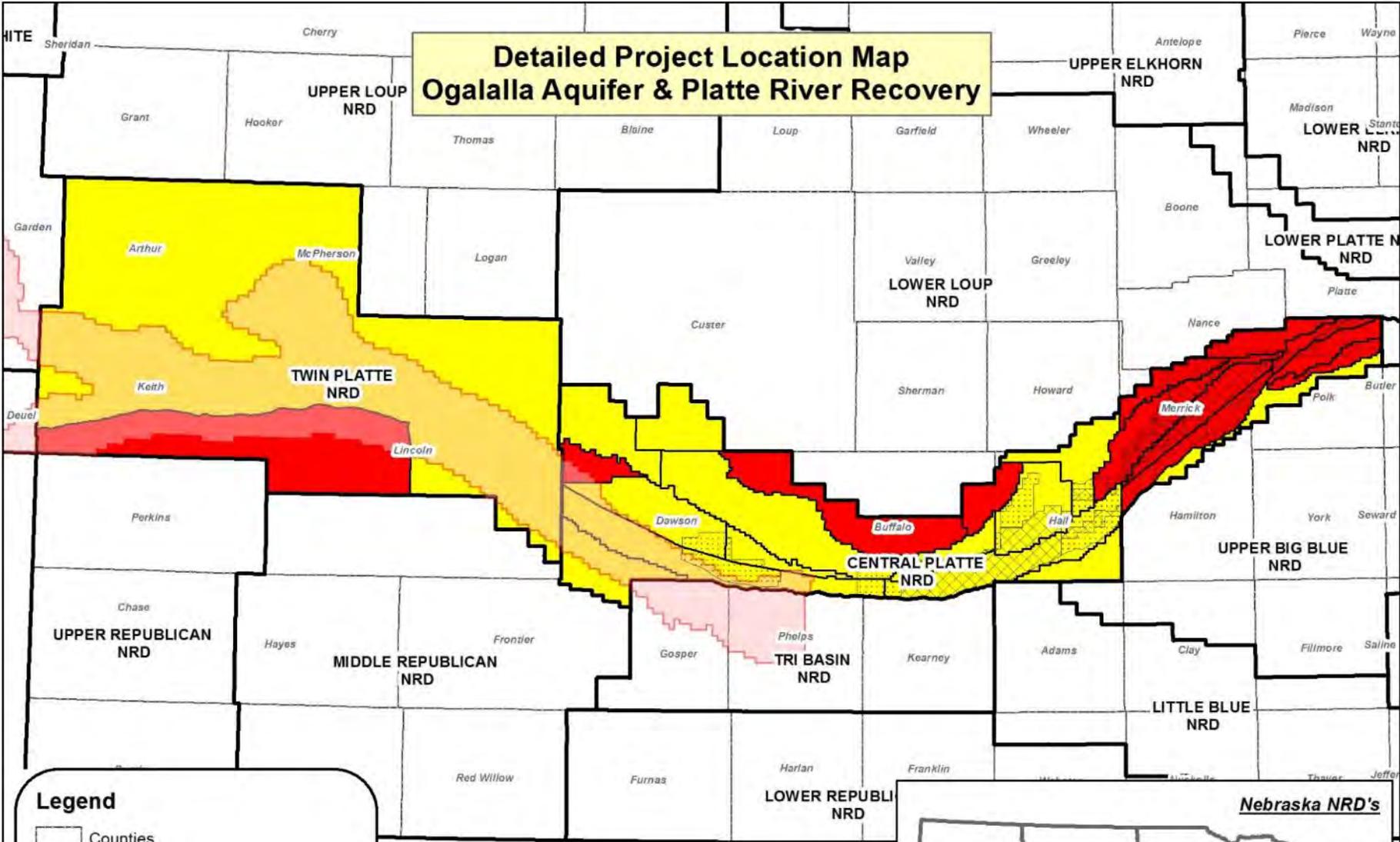




FY15 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

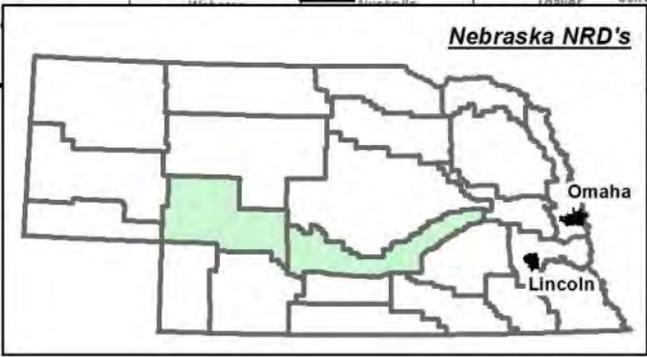
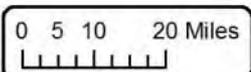
- **State Fund Pool**
 - **Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery (5 Years, 2015 – 2019)**
 - CPNRD, TPNRD, TMID, SCC, CDC
 - \$ 1.7 million
 - Application cutoff date = October 16, 2015
- **National Fund Pool**
 - **Regional Grassland Bird & Grazing Enhancement Initiative (5 years, 2015 – 2019)**
 - Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa
 - \$ 885,000 (Nebraska allocation)
 - Application cutoff date = October 16, 2015

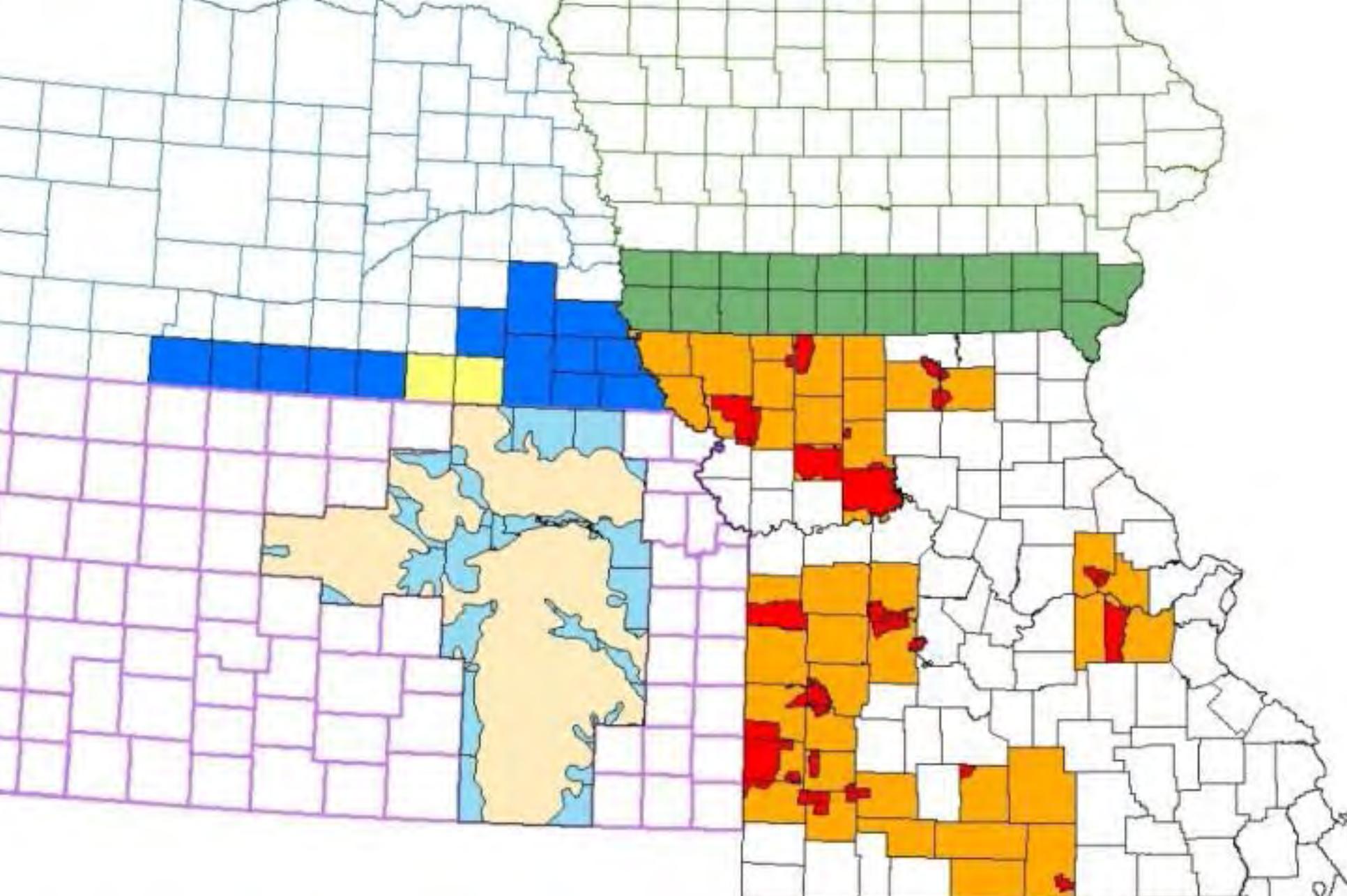
Detailed Project Location Map Ogalalla Aquifer & Platte River Recovery



Legend

- Counties
- NRD Boundaries
- Phase 2 GW Quality Area
- Phase 3 GW Quality Area
- Platte R. Over Appropriated
- GWMA Declines - Concern
- GWMA Declines - Greatest Concern





- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  Kansas Focus Area |  Missouri Focus Area |  NE Quail Focus Areas |  Iowa Eligible Counties |
|  Kansas Eligible Counties |  Missouri Eligible Counties |  Nebraska Eligible Counties | |

2

RCPP APF Timeline

- **May 5, 2015:** Announcement of Program Funding (APF) through grants.gov.
- **July 8, 2015:** Pre-proposal applications due
- **September 4, 2015:** Announcement of selected pre-proposals. Partners were notified by email of their application status: Ineligible, Not Selected, or Selected for full proposal.
- **November 10, 2015:** Full proposal applications due.
- **January 2016:** Announcement of projects selected for funding.
- Once agreements are signed, partnership activities and obligations may begin.

EQIP – FY2017 Time Lines

- Local Work Group Meetings – Feb/March
- Practice Payment Schedule
 - Submit scenario recommendations - April
 - Final Changes to Practices & Costs - April
 - Final practice/scenario selections - July
 - Complete payment % / Final cost – August
- Ranking Tools Completed – September
- Application Cutoff – October 21st

EQIP – FY2017 State Policy

- Local Work Group Recommendations
- Upper Niobrara White LWG requests
 - Payment for Livestock Shelter, practice (576)
 - Payment for Solar pumps on Existing Wells
 - Allow red cedar as option in windbreaks

Conservation Stewardship Program



CSP Acreage Limits

FY 2015 budget reduced funding

- 2015-1

New enrollment

7.741 million acres

less 7% RCPP

7.2 million acres (less newly enrolled land from
2015-1-Renewals)

- 2016-1-Renewals

No acreage cap

Conservation Stewardship Program - Nebraska

- 2015 Signup
 - Ranked Applications = 716
 - Acres in Applications = 1.4M
 - Amount Requested in Applications = \$11M

Conservation Stewardship Program - Nebraska

- 2015 Signup Cont.
 - Contracts = 234
 - Acres = 400,000
 - Annual payments = \$4M
 - 17% Beginning F/R (5% minimum required)
 - Ogallala Aquifer Initiative – 11 applications - all approved

Conservation Stewardship Program - Nebraska

- 2016-1 Renewal
 - Available to FY2011 expiring contract holders
 - Ranked Applications = 366
 - Acres in Applications = 921,699
 - Annual Payments = \$6M

CSP & CStP Contract Numbers

• Security	46	
• 2008 Stewardship	1407	(556 will expire 12/31/2015)
• 2014 Stewardship	1257	
» TOTAL	2710	

CSP & CStP Contract Acres

- Active Contracts

–2002 FB	58,122
–2008 FB	2,988,570
–2014 FB	2,191,192
» TOTAL	5,237,884

CSP & CStP Annual Payments

- Active Contracts

 - CSP \$ 670,000

 - CStP \$57.5 million

 - »**TOTAL \$58.2 million**

Future Signups

- CSP is currently being overhauled
 - Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) discontinued
 - Enhancements will be more closely tied to Practices. The benefits must be above the Conservation Practice Standard (CPS)
 - Separate payments for existing and additional activities
 - Base payment for maintenance of existing system
 - Regional payment schedule for additional activities
- Goal is to make program simpler and more transparent
- Rollout for 2016 general signup

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



FRPP



GRP



WRP

ACEP – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- ACEP has 2 components
- Agricultural Land Easement Component (ALE)
 - Combines purposes of FRPP and GRP
 - Functions like FRPP
- Wetland Reserve Easement Component (WRE)
 - Retains purpose and function of WRP

ACEP – Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)

ACEP-ALE - Implementation

- FY 15 ALE Allocation = \$1.3 million.
- FY 15 Overview of ALE-AL and ALE-GSS applications
 - ALE-GSS Applications Received = 1
 - ALE-GSS Applications Approved in FY 15 = 1
 - ALE Applications Received = 1
 - ALE Applications Approved = 0

ACEP - Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)



Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

- Enrollment Options
 - Permanent Easement
 - Reserved Grazing Rights Easements
 - Must be in a landform where grazing can sustain habitat
 - 30-year Easement
 - 30 year contract with Indian Tribes
 - ✓ *Note: WRE eliminates 10-year restoration cost-share only agreements.*

FY2015 WRE Applications - Allocations

- WRE Applications Received = 45
- WRE Applications Pre-Approved = 5
- WRE Advisory Allocation = \$ 3.3 million.
 - Includes funding for Restoration, Due Diligence, and Closing

FY 2015 WRE Agreement to Purchase

- 4 Landowners signed their agreement to Purchase a Conservation Easement. Planned closing date 9/30/2016
- \$2 million approved in 4 agreements for easement payment.
- \$525,900 Preliminary WRPO for Restoration

FY2014 Easement Progress

- 1 Easement Filed
- 5 Easements in various stages of closing. Due to close no later than 8/31/2016
- Restoration activity on FY2014 easements to begin this FALL or Early Spring 2016
- Preliminary WRPO \$830,000 restoration cost

FY2016 WRE/ WREP/ ALE Applications

- Applies to all ACEP Participants and Partners
- Cutoff is towards the end of January 2016
- Ranking in the Spring of 2016
- Agreements to be signed by July 2016
- AWMA/GARC for FY2017 in place by Mid-Summer

Questions?

