

Agency 029 - DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Authority for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is contained in: Nebraska Constitution (Article XV, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7); Nebraska Statutes (Chapter 2, Articles 15,32 and 46; Chapter 11, Article 1; Chapter 16, Article 6; Chapter 31, Articles 4, 5 and 10; Chapter 33, Article 1; Chapter 37, Article 7; all of Chapter 46 with the exception of Article 11; Chapter 54, Article 24; Chapter 56, Article 1; Chapter 61, Article 2; Chapter 66, Article 11; Chapter 81, Articles 1, 15 and 26; and Chapter 84, Articles 2, 3, 7, 9, 10 11, 12 and 14) and Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska 2009 Supplement.

VISION:

The DNR is dedicated to working with Nebraska's citizens and leaders to plan, establish, and administer policies and programs for the effective management and conservation of the State's water and land resources. The DNR is committed to providing the data and analyses needed to make informed resource decisions for the benefit of all Nebraskans, both now and in the future. This is accomplished through providing high quality services with a professional workforce devoted to the management and conservation of the water and land resources of the State of Nebraska.

MISSION AND PRINCIPLES:

The DNR is committed to performing its statutory responsibility to manage and conserve the State's water and land resources in an effective and efficient manner. Obligations include: administering and regulating surface water to ensure compliance with interstate agreements; directing floodplain management and dam safety programs; operating the stream gaging program; assembling and sharing natural resources data; integrated water management planning in collaboration with local natural resources interests; state-wide water planning; registering groundwater wells and issuing surface water permits; and managing state cost-share programs to aid in proper use and protection of Nebraska's water, land, and related natural resources.

GOALS:

The goals of the DNR are to proactively research and develop information utilizing the best science which will assist the State's efforts in effectively managing and developing Nebraska's water and land resources. This involves striving to work in a cooperative manner with stakeholders representing various interests to address complex natural resources issues with the aim of finding satisfactory solutions - solutions that achieve an acceptable balance among all stakeholders while minimizing negative impacts on Nebraska's resources for the future.

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Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	8,703,792	9,304,414	9,093,251	9,133,419	9,093,251	9,243,904
Cash Fund	947,736	473,337	473,337	774,277	473,337	776,125
Federal Fund	459,273	430,887	430,887	432,333	430,887	439,596
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	10,110,801	10,208,638	9,997,475	10,340,029	9,997,475	10,459,625
Aid Funding						
General Fund	9,661,968	7,611,628	7,611,628	7,611,628	7,611,628	7,611,628
Cash Fund	1,211,159	5,173,548	4,710,000	4,410,000	4,710,000	4,410,000
Federal Fund	0	72,327	72,327	72,327	72,327	72,327
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	10,873,127	12,857,503	12,393,955	12,093,955	12,393,955	12,093,955
Total Funding						
General Fund	18,365,761	16,916,042	16,704,879	16,745,047	16,704,879	16,855,532
Cash Fund	2,158,894	5,646,885	5,183,337	5,184,277	5,183,337	5,186,125
Federal Fund	459,273	503,214	503,214	504,660	503,214	511,923
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	20,983,928	23,066,141	22,391,430	22,433,984	22,391,430	22,553,580

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Program 303 - STATE AID - SMALL WATERSHEDS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund was established in 1963 to provide state financial assistance for the acquisition of the necessary land rights for flood control structures. Land rights can be in the form of easements, rights-of-way or purchases. The fund can financially participate in only 25% of the number of land rights involved. When land is purchased for a project it must be sold within ten years with proceeds of the sale being returned to the fund for reuse. A special provision of the law allows any political subdivision to acquire any fee title property at appraised value, provided that the property is utilized for public purposes such as recreation or fish and wildlife enhancement. To date a total of 38 tracts have been retained for public use.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the program is to provide financial assistance to local units of government in the procurement of lands, easements, and rights-of-way that are needed for construction of Commission approved flood control projects. Secondary objectives are to assist in accelerating the watershed planning process and to assist sponsors in all aspects of land rights acquisition and land management. The Commission has been assigned, by statute, the responsibility for flood control programs, and the financial assistance provided to local sponsors for land rights acquisition under this program is an integral part of the total flood control program.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Money from sales of fee title property following completion of projects for which the property was acquired is the primary source of funding for this program. While the law provides for sales within ten years, an attempt is made to sell the property as soon as it is considered to be in optimum condition for resale - usually within six years. This practice enables the Natural Resources Commission to more quickly commit funding to new projects. Another goal is to resell property at a premium over the purchase price which helps offset the loss of funds committed for acquiring easements and rights-of-way.

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Program 303 - STATE AID - SMALL WATERSHEDS

Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aid Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	0	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000
Total Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	0	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000

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Program 304 - NE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Soil and Water Conservation Fund was created in 1977 to provide financial assistance to private landowners for installation of soil and water conservation practices. Various conservation practices are eligible for cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent.

The Natural Resources Commission determines the list of eligible practices, establishes operating procedures, and annually allocates the funds among the 23 natural resources districts (NRDs). The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance needed in planning and installing the conservation measures. NRDs are responsible for the administration of the program at the local level.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Fund is to promote efforts by landowners to better manage and conserve the State's natural resources. Funds allocated to NRDs are used to reimburse landowners for costs incurred in implementing conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Commission and deemed appropriate by each NRD for conditions in their jurisdictions. Funds can only be requested if federal programs do not address the specified practice, or if federal funds were insufficient to satisfy landowner requests.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Performance measures for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program are the number and extent of water and soil conservation practices implemented with cost-share available through the fund. Except for two percent of funds received that must be retained by the DNR for grants to landowners ordered by natural resources districts pursuant to the Erosion and Sediment Control Act to install permanent soil and water conservation measures, all appropriated funding is allocated to natural resources districts. These funds are fully committed each year by NRDs to landowners requesting assistance for voluntary implementation of conservation measures.

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Program 304 - NE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aid Funding						
General Fund	2,467,299	2,318,036	2,318,036	2,318,036	2,318,036	2,318,036
Cash Fund	0	384,750	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	2,467,299	2,702,786	2,368,036	2,368,036	2,368,036	2,368,036
Total Funding						
General Fund	2,467,299	2,318,036	2,318,036	2,318,036	2,318,036	2,318,036
Cash Fund	0	384,750	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	2,467,299	2,702,786	2,368,036	2,368,036	2,368,036	2,368,036

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Program 306 - WATER WELL DECOMMISSIONING

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Water Well Decommissioning Fund was established in 1994 to provide cost-share assistance to encourage the decommissioning or plugging of illegal water wells. The source of funding is presently \$21.50 from each well registration fee received by the DNR. Participating natural resources districts (NRDs) administer the program at the local level. The 21 participating NRDs receive an allocation of state funds based on the annual average number of wells decommissioned in their jurisdictions over the previous three years as compared to the total number decommissioned by all participating NRDs.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the Water Well Decommissioning Fund is to encourage proper decommissioning of illegal water wells in the State. This is accomplished through providing financial incentives in the form of cost-share assistance. Due in part to their local relationships and staff, funds are channeled through participating natural resources districts which administer the application, inspection and reimbursement processes.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The number of abandoned wells that have been decommissioned in a manner that eliminates the potential for ground water contamination and other hazards is the only performance measure for this program. Actual numbers of wells decommissioned with assistance from this program for the past several years have ranged from 715 to 1,069. The trend in numbers of wells decommissioned has declined in the last two years, and is expected to continue due to decreased funding available as a result of declining well registration activity.

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Program 306 - WATER WELL DECOMMISSIONING

Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aid Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	58,857	228,798	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	58,857	228,798	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	58,857	228,798	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	58,857	228,798	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000

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Program 307 - NE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Nebraska Resources Development Fund provides grants and/or loans to political subdivisions for natural resources projects. NRDs are the typical project sponsors, but cities, counties and irrigation districts have also been sponsors. Projects are often multipurpose in nature, including flood damage reduction, sediment and erosion control, recreational development, groundwater recharge, improved irrigation management, and/or fish and wildlife enhancement. Projects must be economically and financially feasible, and development plans must be satisfactory and minimize impact to the natural environment. Since the inception of the fund in 1974, a total of 70 projects with cost share from the Fund totaling nearly \$97.5 million have been approved across the state.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The Nebraska Resources Development Fund is intended to help fund efforts to conserve the State's natural resources and enable other uses beneficial to Nebraskans. State agencies or political subdivisions propose projects with purposes such as pollution abatement, reduction of flood damages, improvement of public irrigation facilities, preservation and development of fish and wildlife resources, providing of public outdoor recreation lands and facilities, and preservation of the waters of Nebraska for all beneficial uses. The Fund was established with the intent that it be used only after possible funding through other sources has been explored.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The primary measures of the success of this program are:

- Effective use of State dollars to leverage other funding sources available to each project
- Successful completion of approved projects
- Realization of expected benefits to the State and its citizens which exceed costs over the life of the project.

These measures can best be achieved by keeping a balance of new projects, projects under construction, and projects nearing completion in the mix of approved projects. To date, the Resopurces Development Fund has paid or committed more than \$95 million to natural resources districts and other local sponsors to assist in the implementation of projects with total costs exceeding \$255 million.

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Program 307 - NE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aid Funding						
General Fund	5,263,396	3,140,325	3,140,325	3,140,325	3,140,325	3,140,325
Cash Fund	0	47,500	47,500	47,500	47,500	47,500
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	5,263,396	3,187,825	3,187,825	3,187,825	3,187,825	3,187,825
Total Funding						
General Fund	5,263,396	3,140,325	3,140,325	3,140,325	3,140,325	3,140,325
Cash Fund	0	47,500	47,500	47,500	47,500	47,500
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	5,263,396	3,187,825	3,187,825	3,187,825	3,187,825	3,187,825

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Program 309 - NAT RESOURCES WATER QUALITY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Natural Resources Water Quality Fund was established by the Legislature in 2001 to provide funds to natural resource districts (NRDs) for support of their water quality programs. The sources of funds are pesticide registration fees and pesticide applicators license fees collected by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The DNR serves as the administrative body for passing funds through to NRDs. Funds are allocated among the NRDs and administered based on rules and regulations established by the Natural Resources Commission. Although annual receipts vary from year to year, these allocations are expected to average about \$1,000,000. Districts must provide three dollars of local matching money for every two dollars allocated from the fund.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

By statute, Water Quality Fund monies can only be used by natural resources districts (NRDs) and only for water quality programs. The fund helps enable NRDs to implement and manage a wide variety of water quality-related measures, both for surface water and ground water. NRDs must provide three dollars match for each two dollars of state funds received.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The performance measure for this fund is the distribution of all available funding to natural resources districts for their use in district water quality programs.

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Program 309 - NAT RESOURCES WATER QUALITY

Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aid Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	835,000	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	835,000	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500
Total Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	835,000	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	835,000	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500	1,187,500

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Program 311 - INTERRELATED WATER MGMT

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Fund was established in FY2006 with the passage of LB 1226, Section 20, to facilitate and fund the duties of natural resource districts arising under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. It functions as a grant program administered by the Natural Resources Commission (Commission) and the DNR.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

This grant program is intended to facilitate the duties of natural resource districts arising under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, and to help offset costs incurred in performing those duties. The DNR tracks the status of each funded project, and reports this as well as overall program status at each Commission meeting.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The primary measure of success for the Interrelated Water Management Planning Program relates directly to the adoption of integrated management plans and the timeliness of subsequent actions in better managing the State's water resources. By helping to fund research and study, sponsors can apply additional science to their basins' environment, hydrology, and hydraulics to determine appropriate actions and assure that planned improvements are sound.

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Program 311 - INTERRELATED WATER MGMT

Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aid Funding						
General Fund	1,823,288	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	1,823,288	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267
Total Funding						
General Fund	1,823,288	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	1,823,288	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267	2,153,267

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Program 334 - SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program comprises the majority of the DNR's functions and all personnel. The twenty-two subprograms within this program area make up the core of the DNR's business and administrative functions and encompass all state-funded personnel within the agency. Only the six aid programs that the Natural Resources Commission is responsible to oversee are separately budgeted.

The work of the DNR is divided among nineteen of the twenty-two subprograms described in the supporting information. The DNR organizational structure sometimes involves divisions and functions that utilize multiple budget subprograms. One example is that the DNR's water planning functions which rely on assistance by staff from five separate subprograms.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the Water and Soil Conservation Program is to effectively and efficiently administer and enforce regulations and policies affecting the use of Nebraska's water and soil resources. This entails providing the scientific, technical, and administrative resources and information needed to reach defensible policy decisions, while working cooperatively with other committed stakeholders to find a sustainable balance among competing demands. The DNR's goal is to provide Nebraska's leaders and citizens with the information and analyses they need to make wise resource decisions for the benefit of all Nebraskans, both current and future.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

A limited number of empirical performance measures are available in this program because most employees are involved in work which is difficult to quantify. Examples include database development and integration, hydrology studies, computer modeling, GIS tools and applications development, program administration, floodplain delineations, floodplain administration, review of dam construction plans, and cooperative work with NRDs, irrigation districts, and other natural resource interests.

Agency 029 - DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Program 334 - SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	8,703,792	9,304,414	9,093,251	9,133,419	9,093,251	9,243,904
Cash Fund	947,736	473,337	473,337	774,277	473,337	776,125
Federal Fund	459,273	430,887	430,887	432,333	430,887	439,596
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	10,110,801	10,208,638	9,997,475	10,340,029	9,997,475	10,459,625
Aid Funding						
General Fund	107,985	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	317,302	2,850,000	2,850,000	2,550,000	2,850,000	2,550,000
Federal Fund	0	72,327	72,327	72,327	72,327	72,327
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	425,287	2,922,327	2,922,327	2,622,327	2,922,327	2,622,327
Total Funding						
General Fund	8,811,777	9,304,414	9,093,251	9,133,419	9,093,251	9,243,904
Cash Fund	1,265,037	3,323,337	3,323,337	3,324,277	3,323,337	3,326,125
Federal Fund	459,273	503,214	503,214	504,660	503,214	511,923
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	10,536,088	13,130,965	12,919,802	12,962,356	12,919,802	13,081,952