Water Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 29, 2026 9:00 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
1616 County Road 17
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. REGULATORY

2.A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

2.A.1. Special Quantity Subareas

An invoice is attached for $3,897.75 per contract from **Spheros** for the SQS Groundwater Model.

Last winter, staff, committee and producers discussed options for SQS #2 (Platte-Colfax Water Quantity) area. Attached are the options discussed for this area. If changes are to be considered by the Groundwater Rules and Regulations, there is a December 15th deadline.
Things to discuss are

- Changing the boundary as shown on the map.
- Changing the allocation to the area to the east of the green line to a 4 year 40 inch allocation
- Allowing new wells in the area to the west of the green line.

The Spheros company is finishing up a groundwater model in this area which is evaluating the effects of adding new wells in certain areas. This should assist in determining boundary locations and the effects of adding more wells. Staff will be meeting with them on November 4 for a preview of the model. Fall water levels will be conducted in this area in the next couple of weeks. Do the Committee want staff to have a meeting with producers in the area for more input, which Committee members can attend?

Committee Discussion:

The committee feels that it is best to wait for the model from Spheros and the new AI model that is being proposed before making decisions on the SQS2 boundary. The committee would like to have more data in order to make the most informed decision possible.

2.A.2. Cost Share Programs

2.A.2.a. Flow Meter Maintenance Program

Staff met with Tri-City Meter to plan for the 2027 maintenance season. Staff provided a list of meters that will need serviced in 2027. Tri-City

Meter provided information on battery replacements, including different battery options. Staff feel that it is best to continue using OEM batteries when they need to be replaced, even if they're more expensive, due to their fuse protection and for protecting factory warranties.

2.A.2.b. NET Grant

The NET grant that was submitted was deemed eligible for scoring, and was scored on Oct. 21, 2026. It will be advanced to the NET board on Nov. 5, 2026 for the selection process.

2.A.2.c. OneRed

Staff went through training for the new OneRed program on October 22nd. There will be another training session held in November.

Pre-enrollment is now open, and enrollees will be contacted in November/December to become eligible for the grant voucher.

There has been a lot of interest in the program, and we have had a number of pre-enrollments.

2.A.3. Bellwood Phase 2 Area

2026 is the twenty-second year for this Phase 2 Area.

Year	Nitrate-nitrogen Range	Percent Nitrate-nitrogen 0 to 8.0 ppm	Percent Nitrate-nitrogen 8.01 to 10.00 ppm	Percent Nitrate-nitrogen 10.01 to 15 ppm	Percent Nitrate-nitrogen greater than 15 ppm
2004	0 to 25 ppm	46.3% (44 of 95)	8.4% (8 of 95)	45.3% (43 of 95)	
2005	0 to 25 ppm	47% (44 of 94)	15% (14 of 94)	38% (36 of 94)	
2006	0 to 24 ppm	41% (29 of 71)	14% (10 of 71)	45% (32 of 71)	
2007	0 to 31 ppm	48% (48 of 100)	9% (9 of 100)	43% (43 of 100)	
2008	0 to 28 ppm	53.75% (43 of 80)	7.5% (6 of 80)	38.75% (31 of 80)	
2009	0 to 22 ppm	45.5% (41 of 90)	15.5% (14 of 90)	39% (35 of 90)	
2010	0 to 35.7 ppm	48.65% (54 of 111)	11.71% (13 of 111)	39.64% (44 of 111)	
2011	0 to 26.6 ppm	51% (56 of 110)	6% (7 of 110)	43% (47 of 110)	
2012	0 to 28.9 ppm	57% (61 of 107)	9% (10 of 107)	34% (36 of 107)	
2013	0 to 25.8 ppm	50% (53 of 107)	9% (10 of 107)	14% (44 of 107)	26%
2014	0 to 22.3 ppm	51% (55 of 108)	13% (14 of 108)	18% (39 of 108)	20%
2015	0 to 32.3 ppm	43% (31 of 72)	8% (6 of 72)	14% (35 of 72)	33%

2016	0 to 35.1 ppm	34% (25 of 74)	11% (8 of 74)	26% (41 of 74)	26%
2017	0 to 23.5 ppm	36% (27 of 74)	15% (11 of 74)	19% (36 of 74)	22%
2018	0 to 30.9 ppm	40% (25 of 63)	11% (7 of 63)	22% (31 of 63)	28%
2019	0 to 24.5 ppm	46% (22 of 48)	10% (5 of 48)	28% (21 of 48)	22%
2020	0 to 20.5 ppm	33.33% (20 of 60)	13.33% (8 of 60)	35% (21 of 60)	18.33% (11 of 60)
2021	0.12 to 27.7 ppm	40.6% (26 of 64)	15.6% (10 of 64)	25% (16 of 64)	18.8% (12 of 64)
2022	0.13 to 23.0 ppm	43.75% (28 of 64)	12.50% (8 pf 64)	26.56% (17 of 64)	17.19% (11 of 64)
2023	0 to 19.8 ppm	50.8% (32 of 63)	15.9% (10 of 63)	20.6% (13 of 63)	12.7% (8 of 63)
2024					

2.A.4. Richland - Schuyler Phase 3 Area

2025 is the tenth year of this Phase 3 Area. This Phase 3 area went into effect September 1, 2015. The 55 sections of this area first went into a Phase 2 Area in 2004. The ten sections that were in Phase 2 are now in Phase 3. As such, the 2020, 2021 and 2022 numbers (at bottom of table) are for 65 sections.

Year	Nitrate-nitrogen Range	Percent Nitrate-nitrogen 0 to 8.0 ppm	Percent Nitrate-nitrogen 8.01 to 10.00 ppm	Percent Nitrate-nitrogen 10.01 to 15 ppm	Percent Nitrate-nitrogen greater than 15 ppm
2004	0 to 47 ppm	30% (42 of 139)	10% (14 of 139)	60% (83 of 139)	
2005	0 to 120 ppm	31.3% (74 of 236)	10.2% (24 of 236)	58.5% (138 of 236)	
2006	0 to 53 ppm	28% (50 of 181)	14% (26 of 181)	58% (105 of 181)	
2007	0 to 99 ppm	32% (75 of 231)	10% (22 of 231)	58% (134 of 227)	
2008	0 to 46 ppm	28% (53 of 190)	12% (23 of 190)	60% (114 of 190)	
2009	0 to 57 ppm	33% (72 of 216)	6% (13 of 216)	61% (131 of 216)	
2010	0 to 57.5 ppm	31% (70 of 229)	7% (15 of 229)	62% (142 of 229)	
2011	0 to 65.8 ppm	28% (67 of 241)	9% (21 of 241)	63% (153 of 241)	
2012	0 to 52.6 ppm	29% (70 of 241)	9% (21 of 241)	30% (150 of 241)	31%
2013	0 to 94.0 ppm	25% (63 of 252)	9% (23 of 252)	31% (166 of 252)	36%
2014	0 to 101.0 ppm	27% (68 of 251)	9% (22 of 251)	27% (161 of 251)	37%
2015	0 to 53.3 ppm	23% (55 of 238)	12% (29 of 238)	25% (154 of 238)	41%

2016	0 to 50.5 ppm	25% (58 of 228)	10% (22 of 228)	26% (148 of 228)	40%
2017	0 to 53.4 ppm	25% (60 of 238)	6% (14 of 238)	29% (164 of 238)	41%
2018	0 to 56.9 ppm	26.5% (50 of 189)	6.3% (12 of 189)	25% (127 of 189)	42%
2019	0 to 39.4 ppm	25% (53 of 209)	11% (22 of 209)	23% (134 of 209)	42%
2020	0 to 50.8 ppm	26% (69 of 261)	6% (15 of 261)	26% (66 of 257)	43% (110 of 257)
2021	0 to 43.0 ppm	25.5% (67 of 263)	8.4% (22 of 263)	24.3% (64 o 263)	41.8% (109 of 263)
2022	0 to 58.5 ppm	23.0% (57 of 248)	6.45% (16 of 248)	29.43% (73 of 248)	41.12% (102 of 248)
2023	0 to 46.5 ppm	26% (68 of 263)	6% (17 of 263)	24% (63 of 263)	44% (115 of 263)
2024					

2.A.5. LPNNRD Operator Certification

Staff met with Nebraska Extension personnel to plan the 2027 Nitrogen Certification Training sessions. Nebraska Extension will work on a presentation and educational material for the trainings. The trainings are planned for the following dates, times, and locations:

Date	Time	Location
1/27/2027	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Dodge County Extension Office, Fremont, NE
2/9/2027	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	ENREEC, Ithaca, NE
2/23/2027	9:30 AM- 11:30 AM	Columbus Public Library, Columbus, NE
3/4/2027	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Lindsay, NE

2.A.6. Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition (LPRBC)

The coalition is planning a technical committee meeting in December. Staff will attend the meeting.

2.B. GROUND WATER ENERGY LEVELS

Staff is conducting fall water level measurements throughout the district. Staff also conducted the Wann Basin sampling day on October 27, 2026 with other partners.

2.C. GROUND WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

- A map is attached below showing our 2026 Todd Valley nitrate sampling results. These results will be mailed to well owners next week.
- Staff is creating RO yard signs. These will be utilized at the front of neighborhoods that are primarily domestic wells with high nitrates. An RO promotional video will also be created between winter and early spring.

3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

3.A. DECOMMISSIONED WELL PROGRAM

3.A.1. Well Estimates

new wells has been reviewed and approved for decommissioning since the last Committee meeting.

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
WMW Family Farms LLC	I	$1,957.80	Platte

3.A.2. Plugged Wells

3 wells have been plugged, reviewed, and ready for cost share payment approval this month.

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
Marilee Polacek	Hand-dug	$2,681	Butler
Marilee Polacek	Stock	$987.55	Butler
Marilee Polacek	Stock	$846.85	Butler

3.B. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

3.B.1. Phase Area Update

With the approved WSF grant scope change, staff has received quotes for vadose zone sampling equipment from several manufacturers. Information on this equipment, along with pricing, is outlined below for review:

Manufacturer	Model	Weight (lbs)	Field Transportation Method	Sample Depth	Price	Other Comments
AMS	9120-RAP	1,200	UTV/Pickup	40ft	$46,728	
AMS	9520-VTR	9,500	Tracks	60ft+	$197,560	Could drill shallow monitoring wells
Geoprobe	540MT	~800	Dolly	30ft	$69,165	
Geoprobe	6011DT	4,800	Tracks	50ft	$202,424	Could drill shallow

						monitoring wells
Geoprobe	6712DT	6,200	Tracks	60ft+	$267,029	Could drill shallow monitoring wells
Geoprobe	7822DT	8,160	Tracks	60ft+	$307,541	Could drill shallow monitoring wells
Eprobe	EP1000D	2,000	Tracks	30	$40,000	
Eprobe	EP1000+	5,000	Tracks	60ft+	$85,000	Could drill shallow monitoring wells

Staff also looked at one other option for mud rotary bit drilling, which would be a better option for monitoring well installation:

Manufacturer	Model	Weight (lbs)	Field Transportation Method	Sample Depth	Price	Other Comments
SIMCO	2400	6,000	Tailer	200ft	$182,123	Drilling monitoring wells only. 25% deposit required, balance at delivery. 3-5 month build time.

Staff recommends considering the AMS 9120-RAP due to its price, inclusion of tooling needed for direct-push vadose sampling, manufacturing in the USA for reliability and availability of servicing options, and the ability to install it in a UTV for ease of field transportation.

Committee Discussion:

The committee would like more information from the manufacturers, but would like to pursue equipment that could do both vadose zone sampling and well drilling for shallow monitoring wells. The committee asked staff to get additional information on drilling depths, price, tooling, delivery, payment terms, and possible government pricing. They would like also like to look at the used market.

3.B.2. AI Model

Staff has prepared a comprehensive request for proposals (RFP). It is prepared to be published in either December or January, depending on the timing of the board of director's retreat. This will allow the interviews to be scheduled around

the same time. Staff is seeking feedback on whether to publish on 12/15/2026 and conduct interviews on 2/18/2027, or publish 1/4/2027 and conduct interviews on 3/18/2027.

Committee Discussion:

The committee feels that the earlier date would be better, as the March date could interfere with spring farming activities.

4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS

4.A. STATE LAKES, FOR THE WEEK OF

Beach Watch sampling season has ended.

5. OTHER

We have received the bill from Dvorak Well in the amount of $86,350 for drilling the monitoring wells in Newman Grove which came in under contract.

5.A. Rules and Regulations Updates

Staff proposes doing a water committee retreat to review rules and regulations on 2/17/2027 or 3/17/2027, and would like feedback from committee members on which date would be best.

A selection of proposed changes for rules and regulations for groundwater quantity are attached for review and discussion.

Committee Discussion:

The committee would like to continue to simplify the wording by removing extraneous words, such as "the".

SPHEROS ENVIRONMENTAL

October 5, 2026
Invoice No: 36525
Invoice Total: $3,897.75

Daryl Andersen
Lower Platte North NRD
511 Commercial Park Road
Wahoo, NE 68066-0126

Please Remit To:
Spheros Environmental
1221 Auraria Pkwy
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 455-9589
billing@LREwater.com

Invoice Email: dandersen@lpnnrd.org
Project No.: R26-00072-00
Project Name: LPNNRD SQS GW Model

Professional Services through September 26, 2026

Task 0001 Expand USC Model

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Bauer, Jacob	.50	255.00	127.50	
Glose, Thomas	16.25	195.00	3,168.75	
Mohr, Jonathan	.75	217.00	162.75	
Totals	17.50		3,459.00	
Total Labor				**$3,459.00**
		Total this Task		**$3,459.00**

Task 0002 Calibration/Scenarios

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Glose, Thomas	2.25	195.00	438.75	
Totals	2.25		438.75	
Total Labor				**$438.75**
		Total this Task		**$438.75**
		Total this Invoice		**$3,897.75**

PROPOSED BOUNDARY AND RULES

SQS #2 POTENTIAL CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED BY LPNNRD COMMITTEE

- Boundary Adjustment
  - Propose Boundary shown in green on the map
    - No new high-capacity irrigation wells over 50 GPM will be allowed.
    - Other high-capacity wells will be by Board approval.
    - Expansion of acres will be case by case.
    - Exception can be given if land is being divided but no new irrigated acres.
  - Existing Boundary will stay as shown
    - Flow meters and Water Use will be required.
    - Verify Best Management Practices are being followed.
- Allocations in Green Boundary Area
  - 40 inches over a 4-year period in green boundary area
    - This allows rotation of crops

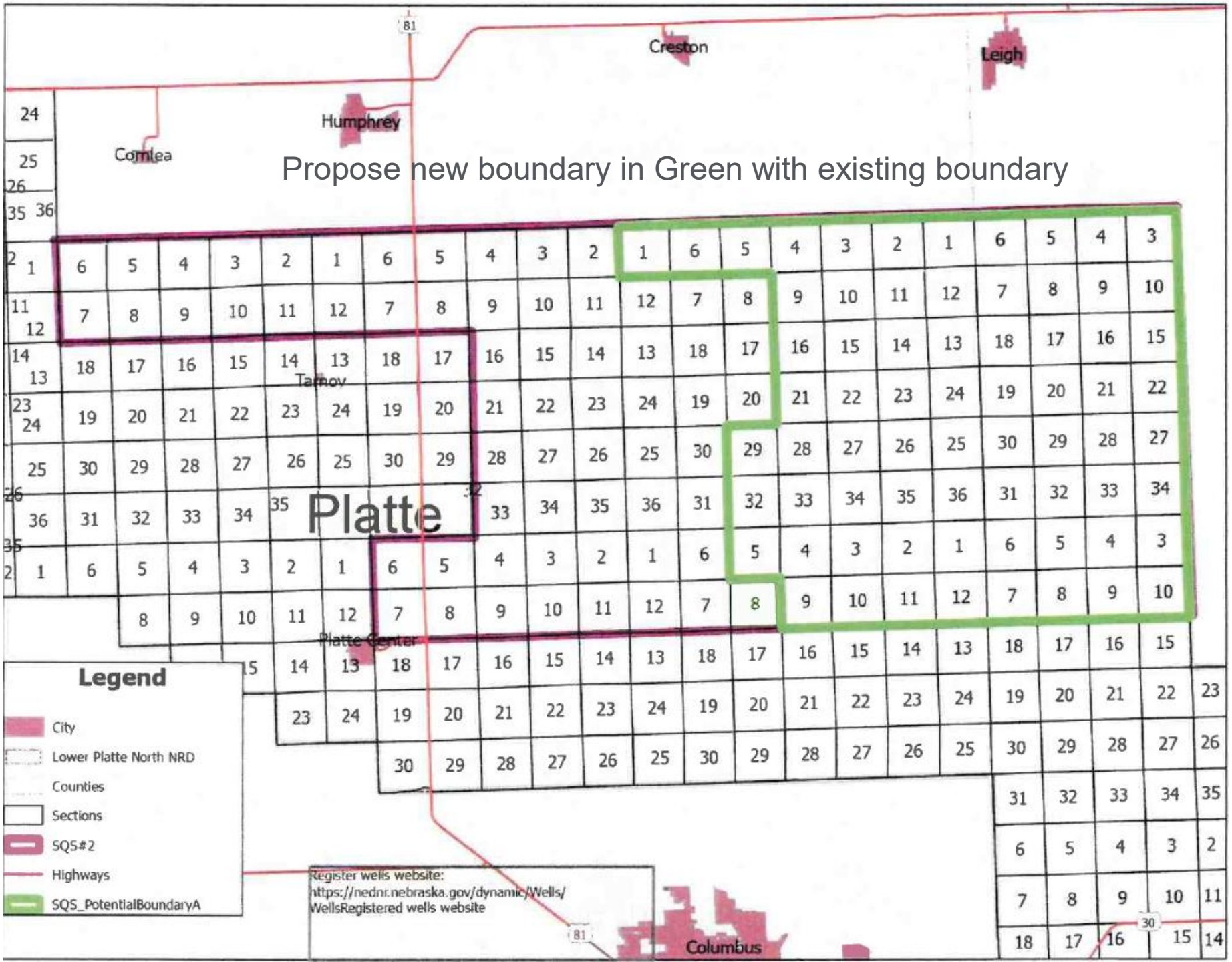
SQS #2 CURRENT RULES AND POTENTIAL CHANGES BY LPNNRD STAFF

- New Wells in existing boundary not in Green Boundary (Potentially)
  - Yes, with conditions
  - Applications will be taken starting January 1, 2027
  - Approval will be like all variances with deadline September 15, 2027, for applications
  - If approved an evaluation will be needed which will include a groundwater model by a reputable firm.
  - The evaluation will be paid by producer
  - Committee will establish policy on conditions by September 15, 2027.
- Expansion of Acres Rules not in Green Boundary
  - Allow expansion with current procedure
  - Allow expansion in certain areas up to 20 acres per quarter.

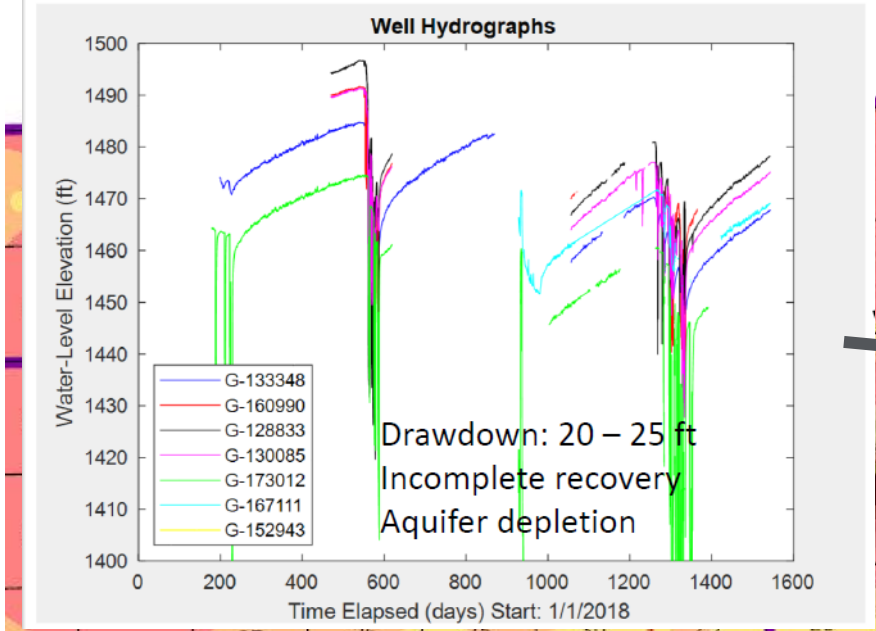
SQS #2 CURRENT RULES AND POTENTIAL CHANGES BY LPNNRD STAFF

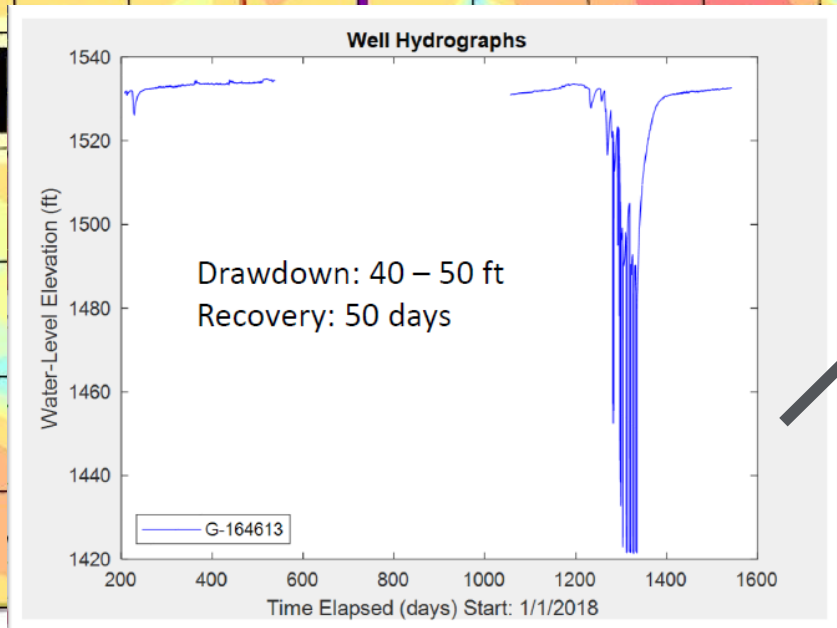
- If conditions warrant all rules presently for the whole area can be implemented immediately.
- Rules will be re-evaluated yearly with changes potentially occurring every 3 years.
- No changes will happen before December 15, 2026

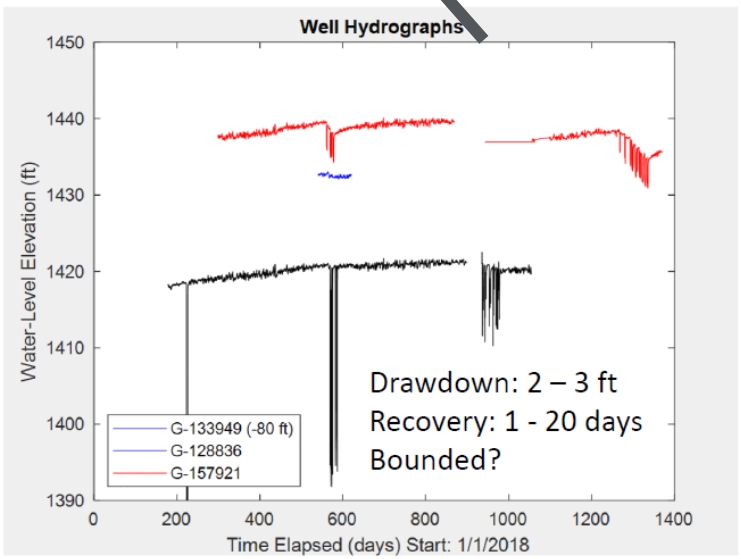
- Questions

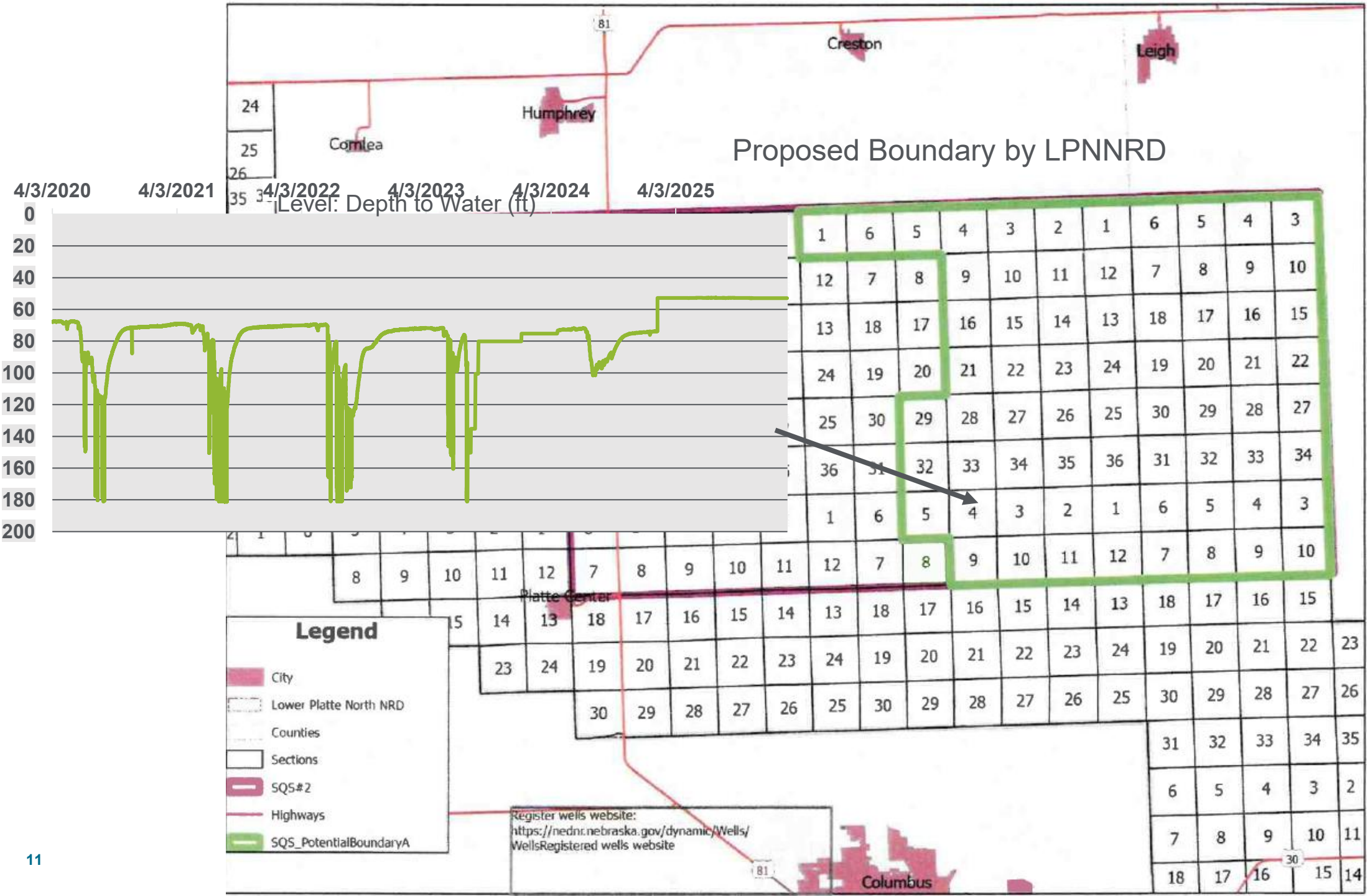

Propose new boundary in Green with existing boundary
Creston
Leigh
Humphrey
Cornlea
Tarnov
Platte
Platte Center
Columbus
81
30
Legend
City
Lower Platte North NRD
Counties
Sections
SQS#2
Highways
SQS_PotentialBoundaryA
Register wells website:
https://nednr.nebraska.gov/dynamic/Wells/
WellsRegistered wells website

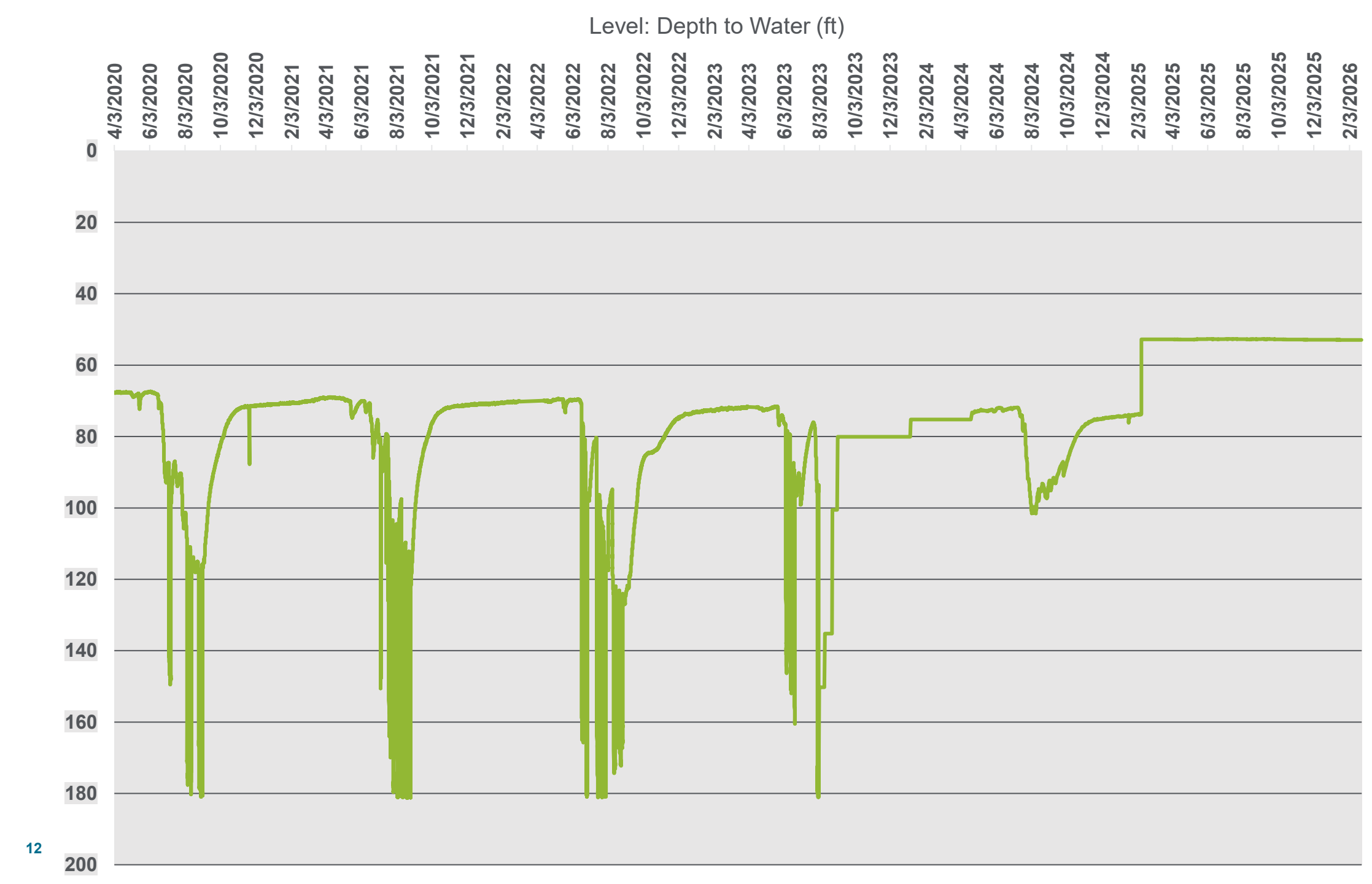
Proposed Boundary by LPNNRD








Proposed Boundary by LPNNRD
4/3/2020
4/3/2021
4/3/2022
4/3/2023
4/3/2024
4/3/2025
Level: Depth to Water (ft)
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
160
180
200
Creston
Leigh
Humphrey
Comlea
Platte Center
Columbus
Legend
City
Lower Platte North NRD
Counties
Sections
SQS#2
Highways
SQS_PotentialBoundaryA
Register wells website:
https://nednr.nebraska.gov/dynamic/Wells/
WellsRegistered wells website


Level: Depth to Water (ft)
4/3/2020
6/3/2020
8/3/2020
10/3/2020
12/3/2020
2/3/2021
4/3/2021
6/3/2021
8/3/2021
10/3/2021
12/3/2021
2/3/2022
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8/3/2025
10/3/2025
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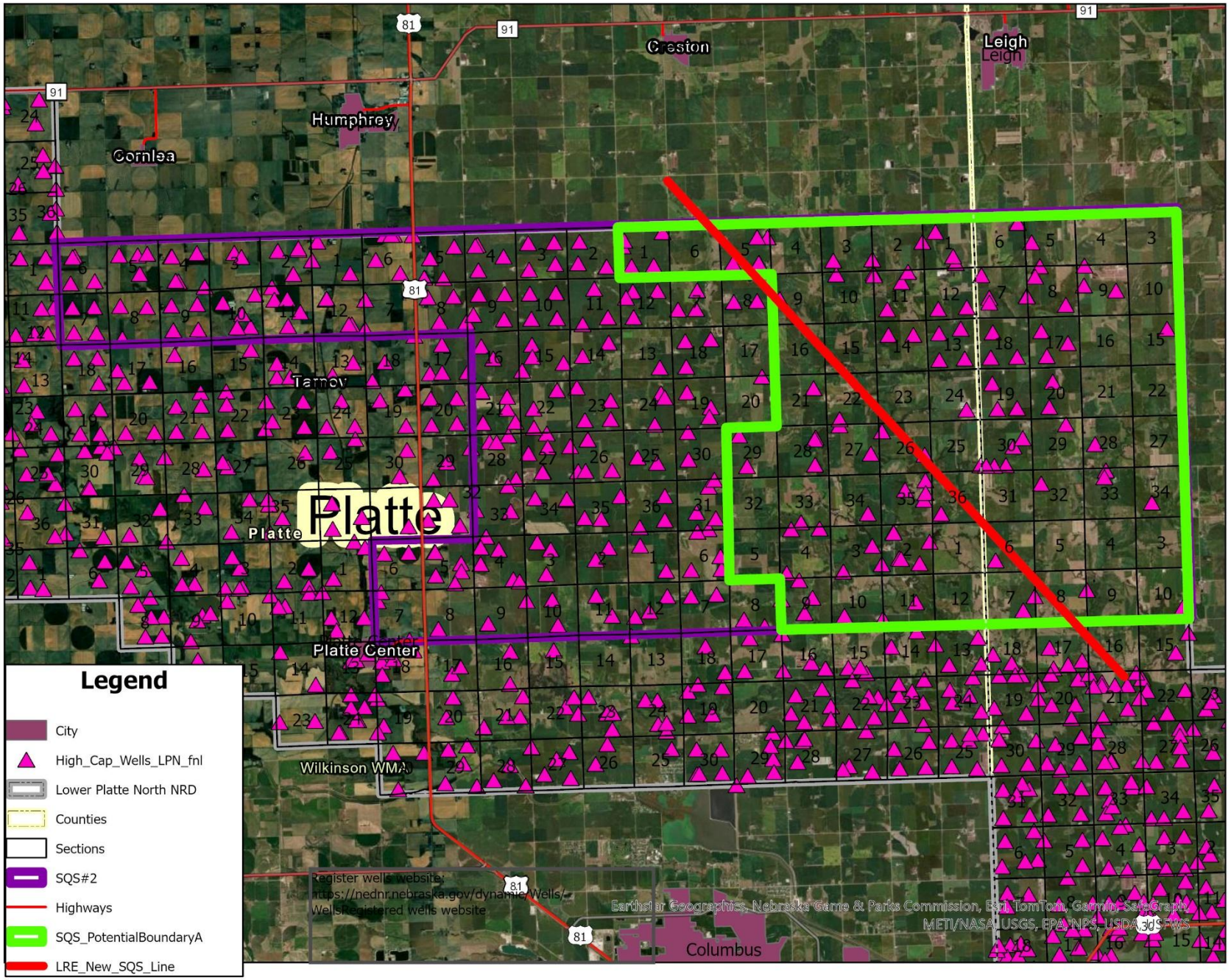
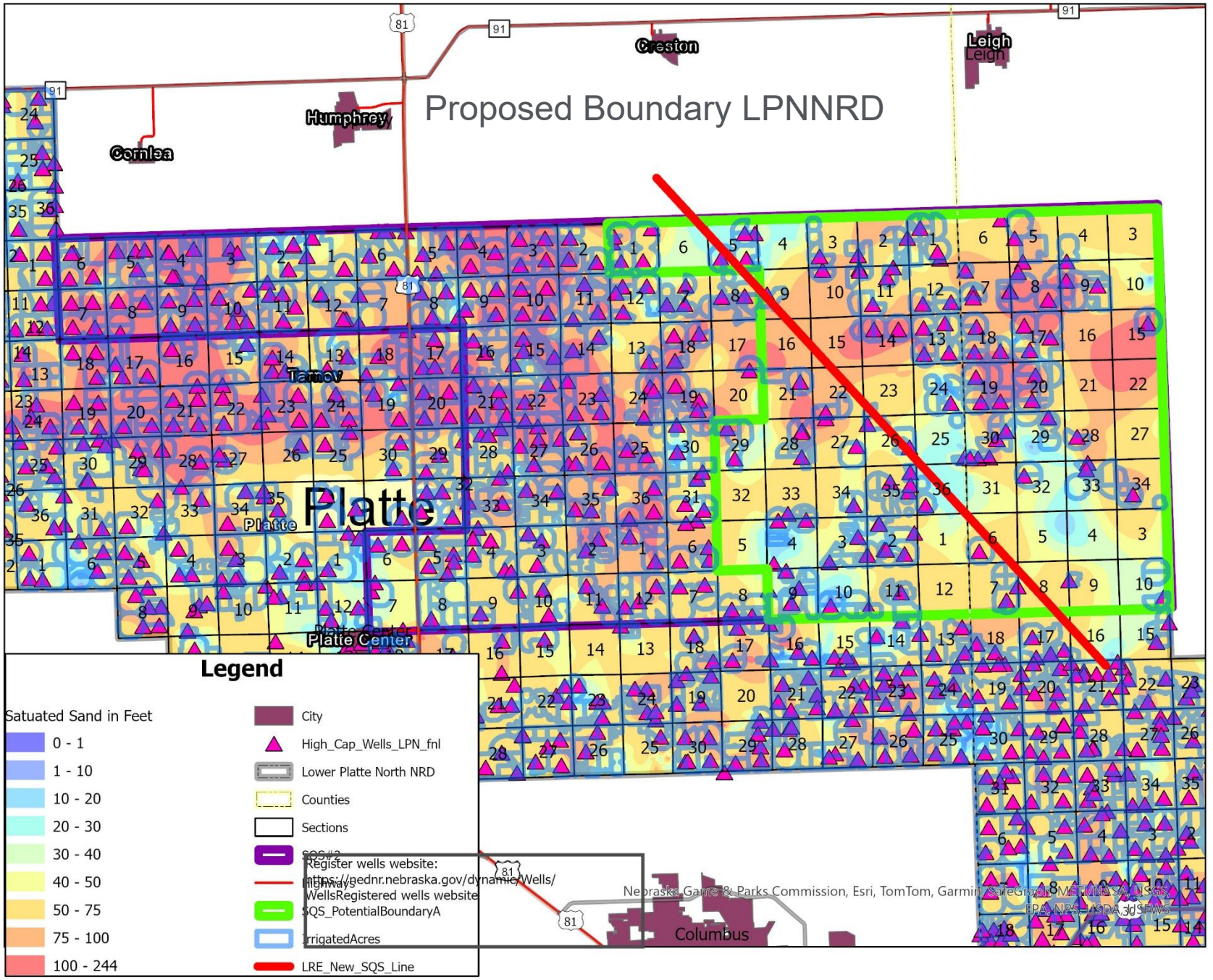
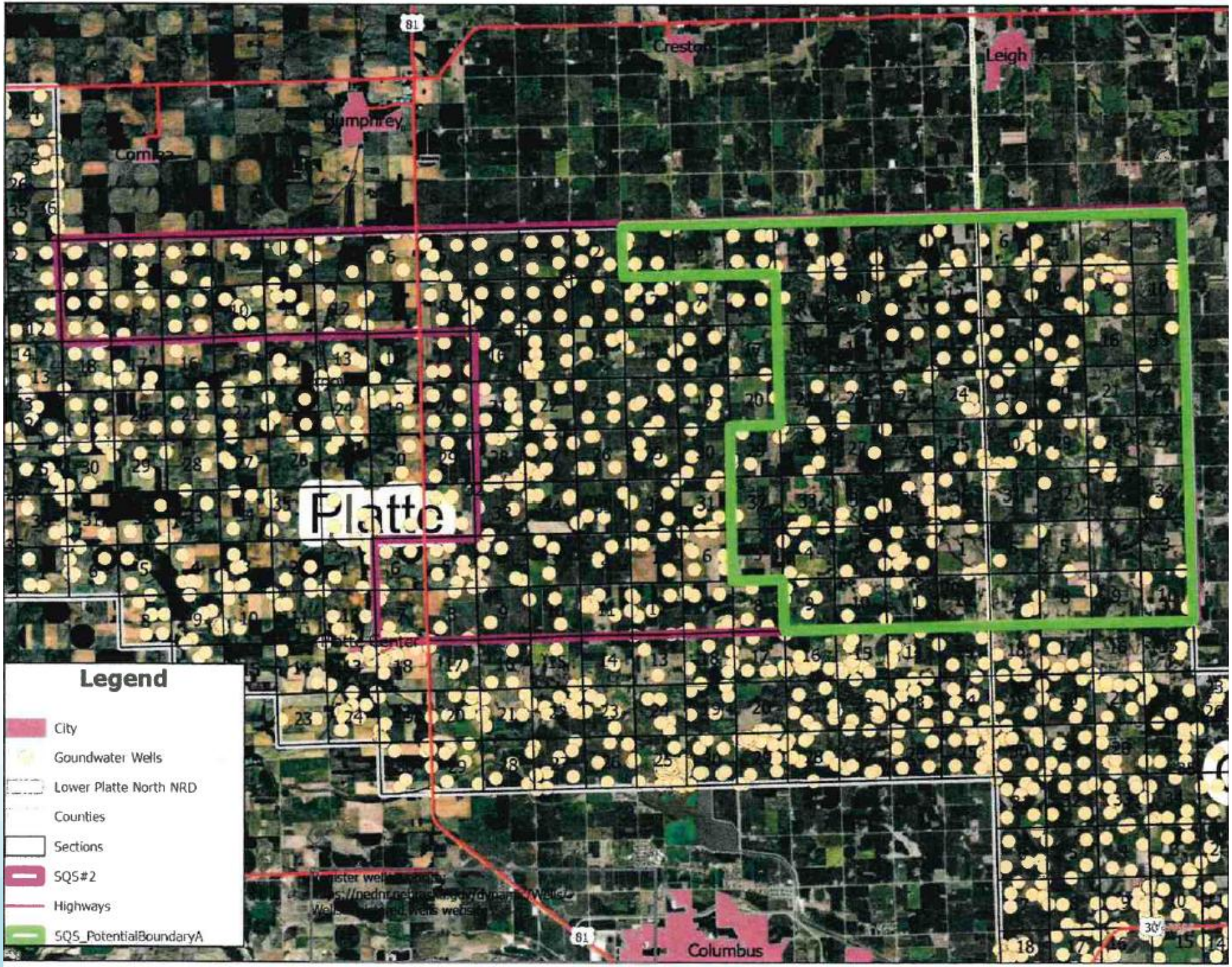
Proposed Boundary by LPNNRD




Proposed Boundary LPNNRD
Creston
Leigh
Humphrey
Cornlea
Tarnov
Platte
Platte Center
Columbus
Legend
Satuated Sand in Feet
0 - 1
1 - 10
10 - 20
20 - 30
30 - 40
40 - 50
50 - 75
75 - 100
100 - 244
City
High_Cap_Wells_LPN_fnl
Lower Platte North NRD
Counties
Sections
SQS#2
Highways
WellsRegistered wells website
SQS_PotentialBoundaryA
IrrigatedAcres
LRE_New_SQS_Line
Register wells website:
https://gednr.nebraska.gov/dynamic/Wells/
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS


Creston
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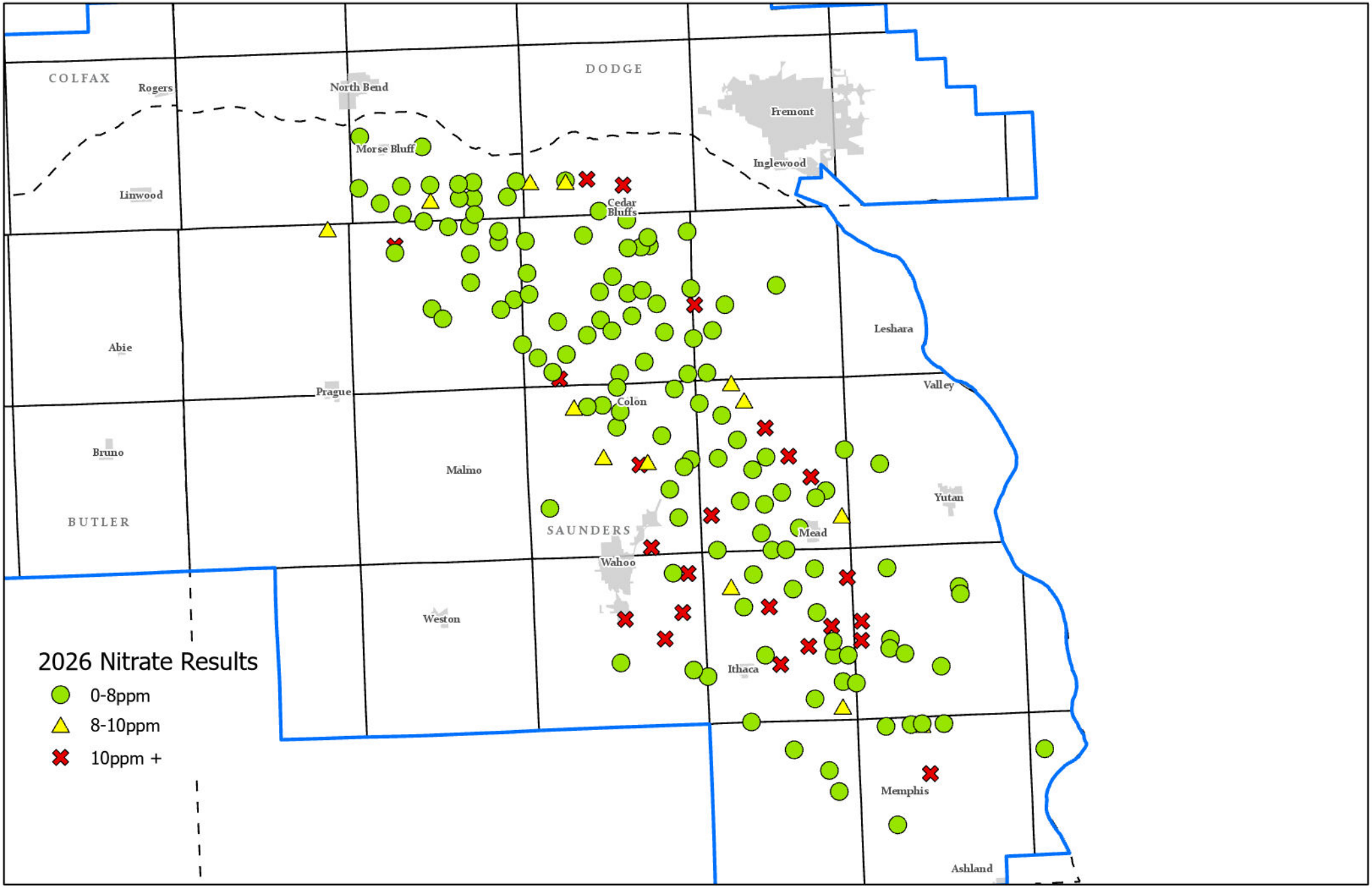
Goundwater Wells
Lower Platte North NRD
Counties
Sections
SQS#2
Highways
SQS_PotentialBoundaryA



2026 Todd Valley Nitrate Results

LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District

Created October 2026 by LPNNRD
NAD 1983 StatePlane Nebraska FIPS 2600 (US Feet)
Data: LPNNRD

0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10
Miles

N

OLD

- **Confined aquifer-** shall mean an aquifer in which the groundwater is isolated from the atmosphere by impermeable geologic formations and is generally subject to pressure greater than atmospheric.

NEW

- **Confined aquifer-** means an aquifer overlain by a layer of low-permeability material that keeps the groundwater under pressure, so water in a well tapping the aquifer rises above the top of the aquifer.

7.1 Groundwater Quantity Management Area - Level One

7.1.1 District-wide Level One Groundwater Quantity Management Area. The entire District is in a minimum of a Level One groundwater quantity management area. The District may define subareas as more information becomes available.

7.1.2 Subarea Boundaries. For the purposes of groundwater quantity management, the Board will define subareas throughout the district. The district will define boundaries using aquifer region and hydrogeologic data and may refine them as new data become available.

7.1.3 Point-Source Subareas. A subarea can be defined as the cone of influence of commercial/industrial, public water supply, or recovery wells that together supply 300 acre-feet or more per year to a single facility or operation. The District will determine the cone using MODFLOW or a comparable District-approved model.

7.1.4 Monitoring Well Placement. A subarea must contain at least five GWEL monitoring wells. District monitoring wells shall not be located on municipal well field property.

7.1.5 Change Approval. Any change in water use, place of use, gallons pumped, water source, or landowner requires District approval before it takes effect.

7.1.6 Certification of Historically Irrigated Acres. The District will certify historically irrigated acres using County Assessor records, the DWEE registered well database, FSA records, and other relevant information.

7.1.7 Operator Certification. Operators of irrigation, municipal, and industrial well systems must be certified by the District every four years. Operators may certify by attending a District education class or passing a District take-home test.

7.1.8 Water Well Permits. A District permit is required before constructing a new or replacement well that will pump more than 50 gpm, as outlined in Section E, Rules 1-6 (Chapter 5 will be new reference).

7.1.9 Well Spacing. Wells in the District shall meet the spacing requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 46-609 and 46-651. Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-739, the Board may require greater spacing in subareas based on:

(a) aquifer extent and type (confined or unconfined);
(b) saturated thickness;
(c) transmissivity;
(d) availability of alternative aquifers of sufficient quality;
(e) recharge characteristics and rates;
(f) current and projected water use;
(g) climatic conditions; and
(h) other factors the Board determines.

7.1.10 Well Spacing for Registered Domestic Wells.

7.1.10.1 A new high capacity well shall be at least 600 feet from an existing registered domestic well.

7.1.10.2 A replacement high capacity well within 600 feet of a registered domestic well is allowed if it is no closer to the domestic well than the well it replaces.

7.1.10.3 The Board may waive this spacing if the domestic well owner agrees and the applicant submits the District's *Special Permit to Drill a Water Well Without Regard to Minimum District Spacing* application.

7.1.10.4 State spacing requirements also apply.

7.1.11 Expansion of Acres. The District assigns an acre-foot (AF) allotment to any well or irrigation system user requesting to expand acres without the Variance Process. In setting it, the District evaluates the new consumptive use and how it counts against the overall depletion-limit cap.

(a) Each application requires a non-refundable $150 filing fee payable to the District.

(b) Applications must be filed before expansion and approved by the Board, which will decide within 60 days of filing.

(c) Approved applications receive a rolling AF allocation in 4-year increments, adjusted by Board policy on December 15 at the end of the third year.

(d) AF calculations use certified acres as of January 1, 2017.

(e) Irrigated acres may increase, but consumptive use may not exceed the original allotment.

(f) After approval, the landowner has 90 days from the new well's completion to update certified acres with the District and county assessor, file a well registration modification with DWEE, and meet any other District conditions. The District may grant exceptions for good cause.

(g) Approval requires a District-approved flow meter, an annual water use report (in acre-inches, on District forms) by December 15 each year, and compliance with any other District conditions.

(h) Approved applications are reviewed annually. If the District believes one should not be renewed, it will give the landowner at least 45 days' notice of its intent and the chance to request a Board hearing within that period.

(i) Applications must include: the landowner's name and address; the applicant's name and address, if different; the proposed use and location; the water sources (groundwater, surface water, or reuse water); any offset water use, such as retiring irrigated acres in the same subarea; and the applicant's signature. Applications must list a District-certified operator.

(j) Penalties follow Chapter __ (Annual Reduction Formula) or as the Board deems appropriate.

7.1.12 Municipal Water Use Report Required. The District requires municipal groundwater users to submit an annual report of the previous calendar year's water use by January 31.

7.1.13 Industrial and Commercial Water Use Report. The District encourages submission of a Water Use Report for industrial and commercial wells by January 31, covering the previous calendar year. Wells drilled after January 1, 2018 must submit the report annually.

7.1.14 Acre-Inch Allocations Encouraged. The District encourages acre-inch allocations developed by commercial crop for each aquifer subarea.

7.1.15 Water Use Report Encouraged. The District encourages submission of each year's Water Use Report for all existing high-capacity wells by December 15.

7.1.16 Flow Meters. The District encourages flow meters on all existing high-capacity wells. A flow meter is required on all new and replacement wells drilled after January 1, 2018, to include irrigation, municipal, industrial, and commercial wells.

7.2 Groundwater Quantity Management Area - Level Two

7.2.1 Continuation of Level One Rules. A continuation of Level One Rules as defined in Sections 7.1.2-7.1.12- and Sections 5.1- (well permit rules in chapter 5).

7.2.2 Level Two Unconfined Aquifer Criteria. The Board may designate an unconfined aquifer subarea as Level Two when spring static water levels in more than 50% of the subarea's GWEL monitoring wells go below the trigger level of losing 10% or more of their saturated thickness for three consecutive years. Loss is measured from the 1987 baseline or a more recent baseline adopted by the Board.

7.2.3 Level Two Confined Aquifer Criteria. The Board may designate a confined aquifer subarea as Level Two when spring static water levels in more than 50% of the subarea's GWEL monitoring wells have lost 7% or more of their available head, measured by the height of the potentiometric surface, for three consecutive years. Loss is measured from the 1987 baseline or a more recent baseline adopted by the Board.

7.2.4 Return to Level One. A Level Two area returns to Level One when spring water levels in the subarea recover and stay above the trigger level for two consecutive years.

Add language that stuff from previous section applies, such as operator certification

7.2.5 Well Metering. Flow meters are required on all new, replacement and existing high-capacity wells.

7.2.6 Acre-Inch Allocations. A rolling acre-inch allocation will be put into place by the District and will be based on the aquifer subarea, crop planted, irrigation distribution system, percent decline of the aquifer, water use of the aquifer, climatic conditions, net corn crop requirements, set depletion limits and other discretionary factors.

7.2.7 Reduction of Irrigated Acre. As an alternative to the allocation in 7.3.5, the Board may require a reduction of irrigated acres in a Level Two area or subarea. Except as allowed by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-739(4)-(6), the reduction must be a uniform percentage applied to each landowner's irrigated acres. The Board may adjust each landowner's reduction based on the crops grown, to reflect differences in crop water use.

7.2.8 Water Use Report. The District requires submission of each year's Water Use Report for all new, replacement, and existing high-capacity wells by December 15.

7.2.9 Industrial and Commercial Water Use Report. The District requires submission of a Water Use Report for all industrial and commercial wells by January 31, covering the previous calendar year.

7.2.10 Best Management Practices Encouraged. Best management practices are encouraged to conserve water and will be developed prior to designation of the Area as a Level Two management area.

7.3 Groundwater Quantity Management Area - Level Three

7.3.1 Continuation of Level One and Level Two Rules. A continuation of Level One and Two Rules as defined in Sections 7.1.2-7.1.12, Sections 5.1- (well permit rules in chapter 5), and Sections 7.2.5-7.2.9.

7.3.2 Level Three Unconfined Aquifer Criteria. The Board may designate an unconfined aquifer subarea as Level Three when spring static water levels in more than 50% of the subarea's GWEL monitoring wells have lost 15% or more of their saturated thickness for three consecutive years. Loss is measured from the 1987 baseline or a more recent baseline adopted by the Board.

7.3.3 Confined Aquifer Criteria. The Board may designate a confined aquifer subarea as Level Three when spring static water levels in more than 50% of the subarea's GWEL monitoring wells have lost 10% or more of their available head for three consecutive years. Available head is the height of the potentiometric surface above the top of the aquifer. Loss is measured from the 1987 baseline or a more recent baseline adopted by the Board.

7.3.4 Return to Level Two. A Level Three subarea returns to Level Two when the Level Three trigger is no longer met for two consecutive years. It returns to Level One under Section 7.2.4.

7.3.5 Low Capacity Well Permits in Level 3 Areas. In a Level Three area, a District permit is required to construct a new or replacement well designed to pump 50 gallons per minute or less. This is in addition to the permits required for high-capacity wells. It does not apply to domestic wells used only for human needs (health, fire control, sanitation, or irrigation of less than one acre) or to wells used to water range livestock.

7.3.6 Low-Capacity Well Water Use Reports in Level Three Areas. In addition to the reports required for high-capacity wells, owners of low-capacity wells must submit an annual Water Use Report to the District by December 15. This applies to new, replacement, and existing wells designed to pump 50 gallons per minute or less, except the wells exempted in Section 7.3.4

7.3.7 Best Management Practices. Best management practices are required to conserve water and will be developed by the District prior to designation of the Area as a Level Three management area.