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NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT – Republican River Compact Compliance

I'm Roger Lawson, the Information & Education Coordinator for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District in Curtis, NE

- Pause – This is the Natural Resources Report....

The Middle Republican NRD and the other Republican River Basin NRD's have been working closely with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to arrive at Integrated Management Plan revisions that do NOT involve shutting down any wells during dry years.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources last fall approached the NRD's with three different options that imposed significant reductions on the use of ground water or restrictions on the use of ground and surface water to avoid a water short year administration and to keep Nebraska in compliance with the three states river compact. The Governor had requested that the NRD's adopt one of the three options by December of 2009.

The NRD's responded and all agreed that none of the presented options were desirable. Each NRD has responded with a commitment to continue to work with the DNR to arrive at a local option that would keep curtailment of ground water from ever occurring. However, because each NRD is unique, so will the local options presented by each NRD.

NRDs acknowledge the contribution that producers make towards the economy to the basin and to Nebraska as a whole. To this end, your Board of Directors have moved cautiously through this process, protecting your future.

Thank you for listening. This is Roger Lawson, keeping you informed about your natural resources. Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future.