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NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT – Water Balance Study**

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2 minutes (110 seconds actual talking time)
Target Word Count: ~275 words
Actual Word Count: 236**

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

This is the Natural Resources Report...

In an effort to better understand and manage the relationship between water availability and uses in the Republican River Basin, the Republican River Basin Coalition funded a project that began nearly two years ago to study how water enters and leaves the basin and each of the three Republican River Basin NRDs. That study, also known as the Republican River Basin Water Balance Study, is nearly complete.

The study area encompasses 2.43 million acres. Just within the District portion of the study 62% of the land is used as range, pasture and grassland; 23% as dryland farming; 11% as irrigated farming; 3% as surface water/wetlands/ and riparian; and the last 1% includes all other land uses.

The study shows that 95% of consumption is from rainfed crops and native vegetation while only 5% of consumption is from supplemental irrigation. The study also looks at surface water inflows and outflows and precipitation between 1955 and 2005.

The Water Balance Study will provide a tool for the Middle Republican NRD, the other NRDs in the Republican River Basin and other water management agencies to identify water management opportunities in the Basin.

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