

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 21, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Jim Bendfeldt called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He reported that the NRD abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business and said that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was displayed on the south wall of the conference room, that the Board reserves the right to change the order of an item on the agenda, and some items on the agenda are subject to closed session.

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members present were:

LeRoy Arends	Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson
Jim Bendfeldt	Charles Maser	Steve Sheen
Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Keith Stafford
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Chris Henry	Keith Ostermeier	Deborah VanMatre
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	

Excused Absences: Doug Reeves.

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Mark Czaplewski – District Biologist, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Assistant.

Others present – Joe Krolkowski–NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub, Dane Seimoth, Larry Mulligan, Gary Hedman and Joel Lee – Amick Acres Home Owners Association, Steve Riehle – Hall County Highway.

**MEETING NOTICES:** Chairman Bendfeldt reported that the notices of the meeting had been published in the Grand Island Independent and the news release was provided to other media outlets in the District.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the November board meeting minutes. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jim Bendfeldt, Charles Maser and Barry Obermiller, who abstained. Motion carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Chairman Bendfeldt asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There were none.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Chairman Bendfeldt asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda.

Steve Riehle, Hall County Engineer of 2900 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Grand Island, NE addressed the board to let them know if there were any questions regarding the Amick Acres drainage project that Hall County is working on, he was here to answer them.

Joel Lee of Amick Acres West addressed the board to request funding from the NRD for the Amick Acres drainage project that Steve Riehle with Hall County is working on.

**NRCS REPORT:** Joe Krolikowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reviewed some changes the NRCS has made to their Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland determination process (see enclosed report).

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Doug Reeves had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Committee Chairman Ed Stoltenberg reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

**Amick Acres Flood Control Project** – Ed reported that the Amick Acres flood control project is moving forward. The Central Platte NRD has been asked to help with the area that is outside of the county jurisdiction.

Ed Stoltenberg made the motion to cost share up to half of \$60,000, for a maximum amount of \$30,000, not to include the purchase of any land rights. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**FALL WATER LEVER READINGS REPORT:** Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, presented to the board the 2019 groundwater levels (see attached). Central Platte NRD read 363 wells this spring and fall, 153 of those wells had an average decline of 1.65 feet, which is a common trend from spring to fall, however, 210 of those wells had an average increase of 2.51 feet, which is highly unusual. District-wide there was an overall gain of 0.76 feet from spring to fall.

The historic precipitation that the district received and as Brandi Flyr, district hydrologist, reported the groundwater pumping responses are not immediate which could attribute to the well levels increasing.

Zakrzewski reported that 20 of the wells recorded their highest groundwater levels and 50 of the wells had readings in the top 10% of their respective historic range. With the higher precipitation levels this last year, we could see some higher water levels next

spring.

**UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – CEASE & DESIST ORDERS ISSUED:** Water Quality Programs Assistant, Tricia Dudley, reported to the board that on December 6, 2019, 58 Cease & Desist letters were sent out to tenants and a copy of the letter was sent out to the landowners. As of today, 19 tenants are still on the list. There is one individual that is on the list from 2018 and again in 2019. Tenants have until December 31, 2019 to come into compliance.

Any tenants left on the list, will be brought to the January board meeting. At that time staff will request we turn them over to legal counsel. The remaining list of tenants was presented to the board (see attached).

**EXTEND RENTAL AGREEMENT ON SCHROEDER PROPERTY:** General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported that the lease agreement for the Schroeder property located south of Cozad that we purchased will be the same as last year. JEO has a contract, which they've begun work on, with Central Platte NRD to determine the best benefit to us to get water back to the river. JEO will be installing equipment that may need to be farmed around, however, we should be able to lease for one more year. The lessee has agreed to pay the same amount as last year, however, if we damage any crop this year due to the equipment being installed or traveling in/out to the equipment, we'll settle with them at the end of the year.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the rental agreement on the Schroeder property as presented. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**GRANT LETTER WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FOR POSSIBLE FUNDING THROUGH THE REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP):** General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported last month that Central Platte NRD and Upper Big Blue NRD had been contacted by The Nature Conservancy concerning the fact that TNC is considering applying for a substantial RCPP grant that would be aimed at promoting soil health.

Partners in the RCPP would include the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Central Platte NRD and Upper Big Blue NRD. Partners will work with approximately 100 producers over the life of the grant. Each NRD would hire a Soil Health Specialist, which would be reimbursed 100% by TNC, to work closely with producers.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to sign a letter of support from Central Platte NRD for the grant. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Alicia Haussler reported for the Board Nominating Committee (Alicia Haussler, Keith Ostermeier, and Ed Kyes). She said they are recommending that Deborah VanMatre be nominated for secretary and Keith Ostermeier for treasurer. It was stated that board officers are elected at the January board meeting.

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATE:** Biologist Mark Czaplewski reported the Program's Governance Committee met on December 3 in Denver. They reviewed and approved the FY 2020 PRRIP budget and work plan as well as a contract extension for retention of Headwaters as the Program's Executive Directors Office. The 2020 budget includes \$12.9 million in new funds not including funding for storage lease transfers to the Environmental Account in Lake McConaughy, which are yet to be negotiated.

The meeting included an update of the process to extend the Program's First Increment. Much progress has occurred in the last few days. As of this last Monday, all three of the basin States Governors have signed a Cooperative Agreement document extending the first Program increment and it's on Secretary of the Interior's desk for his signature. The House Appropriations Committee released legislative packages on Monday that included the PRRIP extension as a rider. The House appropriations bill was passed earlier this week and the Senate passed the bill earlier today.

The Program is also setting up a process to begin discussions about target flows and how they could be adapted based on better science that's now available and how they are implemented.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported that Laurie Lage, Senior Legal Counsel for the Natural Resources Committee, is leaving at the end of December 2019. She will be the new director of the Coalition for a Strong Nebraska that assists non-profits with poverty issues. The Natural Resources Committee is currently interviewing for a new Natural Resources Attorney. Senator Hughes, chairman of Natural Resources Committee, can hire who he feels fits best.

General Manager Vogt reported that Central Platte NRD is currently working with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to hire an I&E Assistant that all three will share. This individual will be located at the Central Platte NRD office. We plan to start advertising for this position after the first of the year, with hopes to have someone hired by the end of March. Currently this is a one-year funded position, with the hope to make it longer.

#### **ELECTION FOR VOTING DELEGATE & ALTERNATE FOR NARD**

**LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE:** Chairman Bendfeldt said the board needed to select a voting delegate and alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference that will be held in Lincoln in January.

Marvion Reichert made the motion that Deborah VanMatre be selected as the voting delegate and Jay Richeson be the alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jay Richeson and Deborah VanMatre who abstained. Motion carried.

**NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, reported that the committee voted on the Water Sustainability Fund applications that will be funded. A total of \$15,973,541.80 was approved for large projects, \$804,960.00 for small projects and \$1.1 million to the City of Omaha combined sewer overflow project. One thing unique this year, due to scoring being so close, was the use of 2019 funds plus additional 2020 Water Sustainability Funds.

**NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT:** No report in December.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications** – Administrative Assistant Kelly Cole reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Tree Cost Share and Well Decommissioning (see enclosed). She said the applicants are in compliance with the District's rules and regulations, funds are available, and she recommended they be approved.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The November financial report was not available at last month's board meeting because the meeting was held one week early. General Manager Vogt briefly reviewed the November financial report.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the November financial report as presented. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

It was stated that the December financial report will be acted on at the January board meeting.

**UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, January 23. Details to follow.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Chairman Bendfeldt reviewed the upcoming events with one change, the office would be closed both December 24, 2019 and December 25, 2019 for the Christmas holiday.

**OTHER BUSINESS: Board Retreat** – Mick Reynolds approached the board about

setting up a Board Retreat again. It was suggested the last two weeks of February. Staff will look into available dates and locations and will report back to the board at the January board meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 3:06 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Grand Island Field Office  
2550 N. Diers Ave., Suite L  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

December 17, 2019

Central Platte NRD  
215 North Kaufman Avenue  
Grand Island, NE 68803

December Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update the Central Platte NRD Staff and Board of Directors on some changes the Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has made to our Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland determination process. Since March 2019, in Nebraska we have moved to a team concept for completing wetland determination requests. This change is intended to help improve the processing time of these requests, and to also help maintain consistency across the State. The Highly Erodible Land determinations are being completed by the local NRCS staff located in the Field Office in that county, this approach we have been using for some time now.

These are both adjustments to the National Policy change from back in 2012, which stated we must maintain a separation of duties when completing the HEL and Wetland determinations and when completing the National Food Security Act Annual Compliance Reviews.

As for the National Food Security Act Annual Compliance Reviews, the separation of duties remains in place. So, each spring when the tracts to be reviewed are randomly pulled from the data base in Kansas City, field staff from outside that county will continue to come complete the reviews. Down the road this process might be switched to a team concept also.

Overall, we are very happy with the results of these changes and feel with time this process will only continue to improve. In the long run this should all be better for the landowners and producers, as well as NRCS.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer





# Central Platte NRD 2019 Fall Groundwater Levels Report

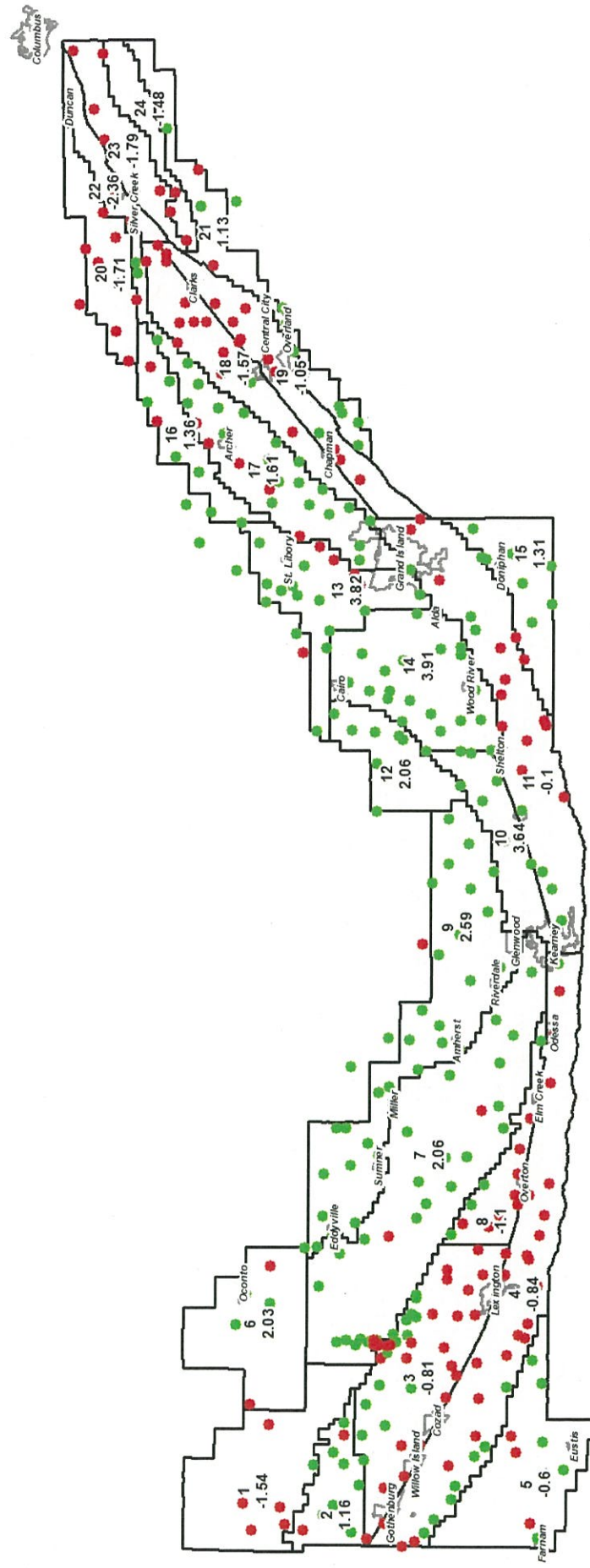




# 2019 Change in Groundwater Levels

- ▣ 363 Wells read in spring and fall
  - 153 Declined (avg -1.65)
  - 210 Increased (avg +2.51)
- ▣ Spring to Fall districtwide gain of 0.76 ft
- ▣ 20 wells recorded their highest groundwater level
- ▣ 50 wells had readings in the top 10% of their respective historic range

# Spring 2019 to Fall 2019 SWL change



## Legend

CPNRD\_SWL\_Wells\_wJoinsFall19SWL

SP19FL19\_CHNG

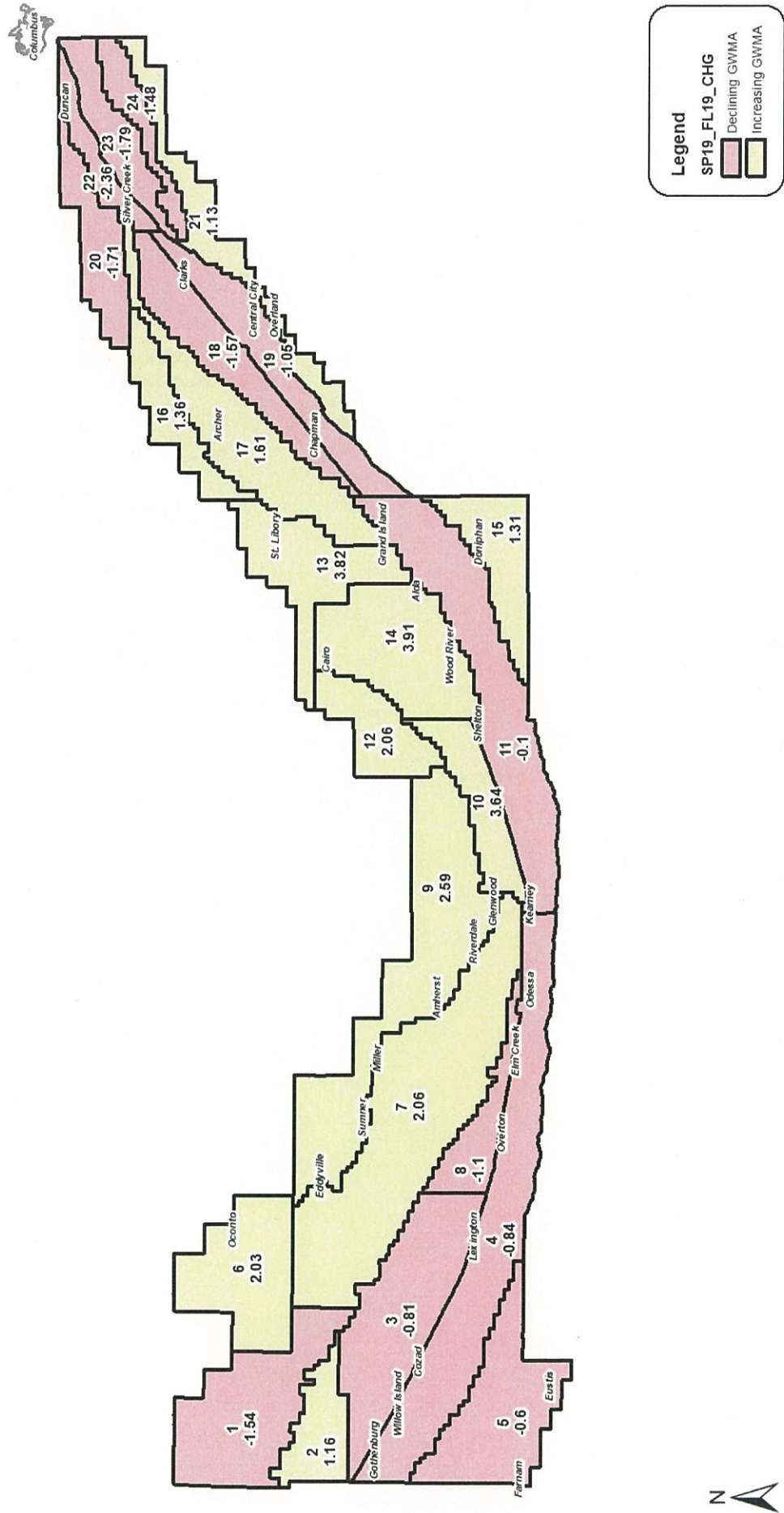
- Decrease from Spring Reading
- Increase from Spring Reading

GWNA

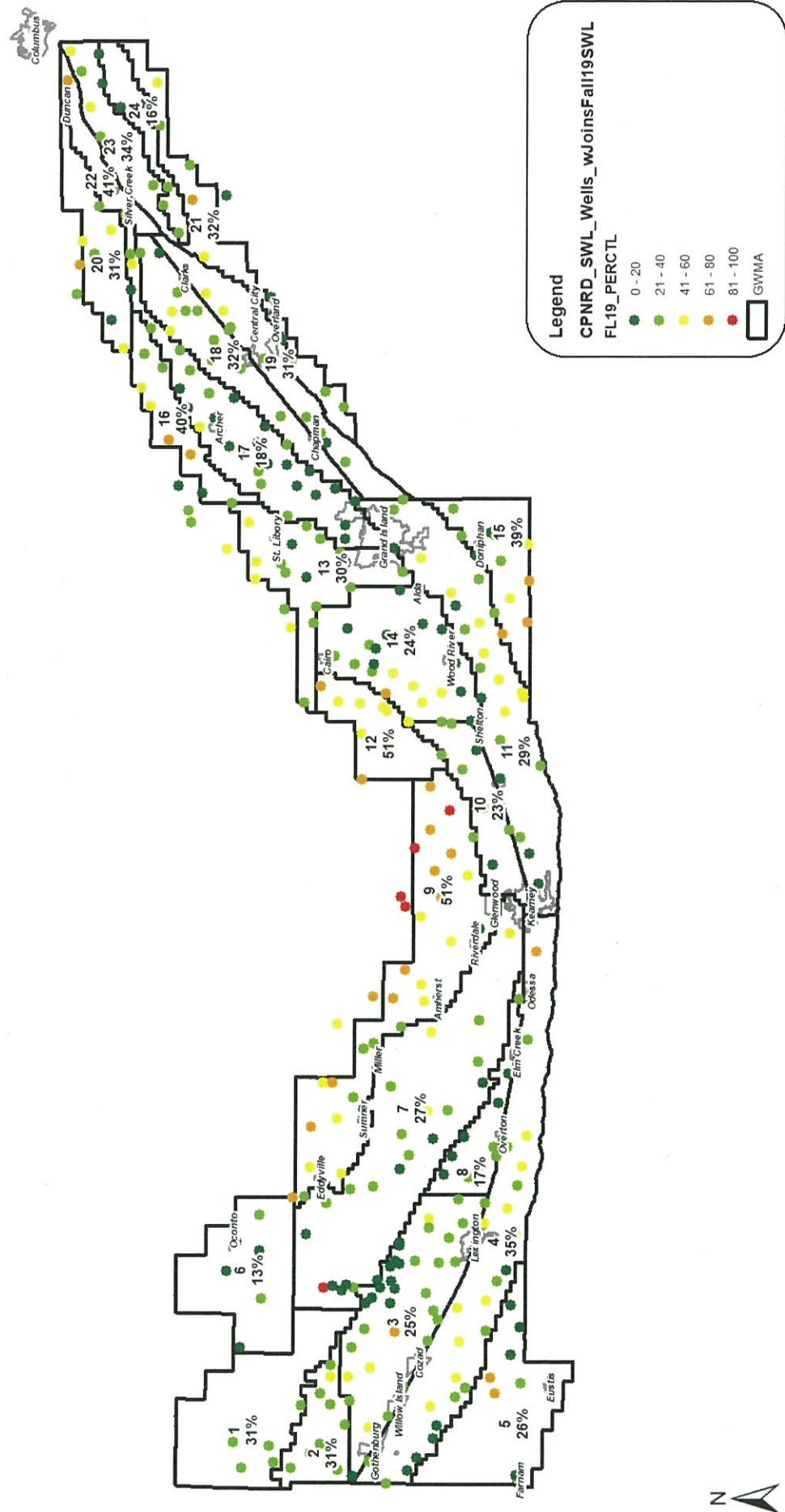




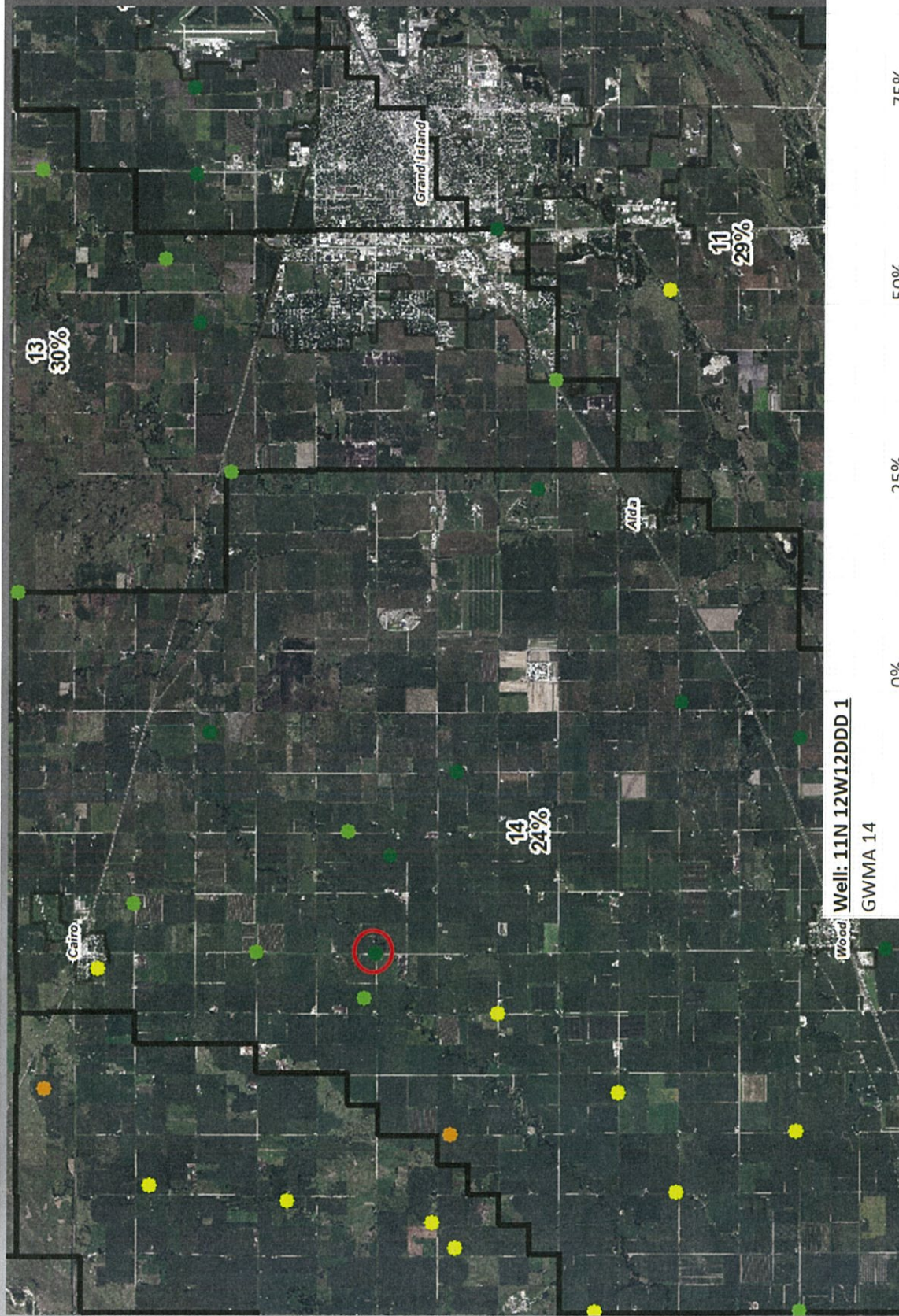
# Spring 2019 to Fall 2019 SWL change



# Percentile Rank of Fall 2019 SWL Reading







Well: 11N 12W12DDD 1

GWMA 14

Percentile Rank

SWL Values (n=261)

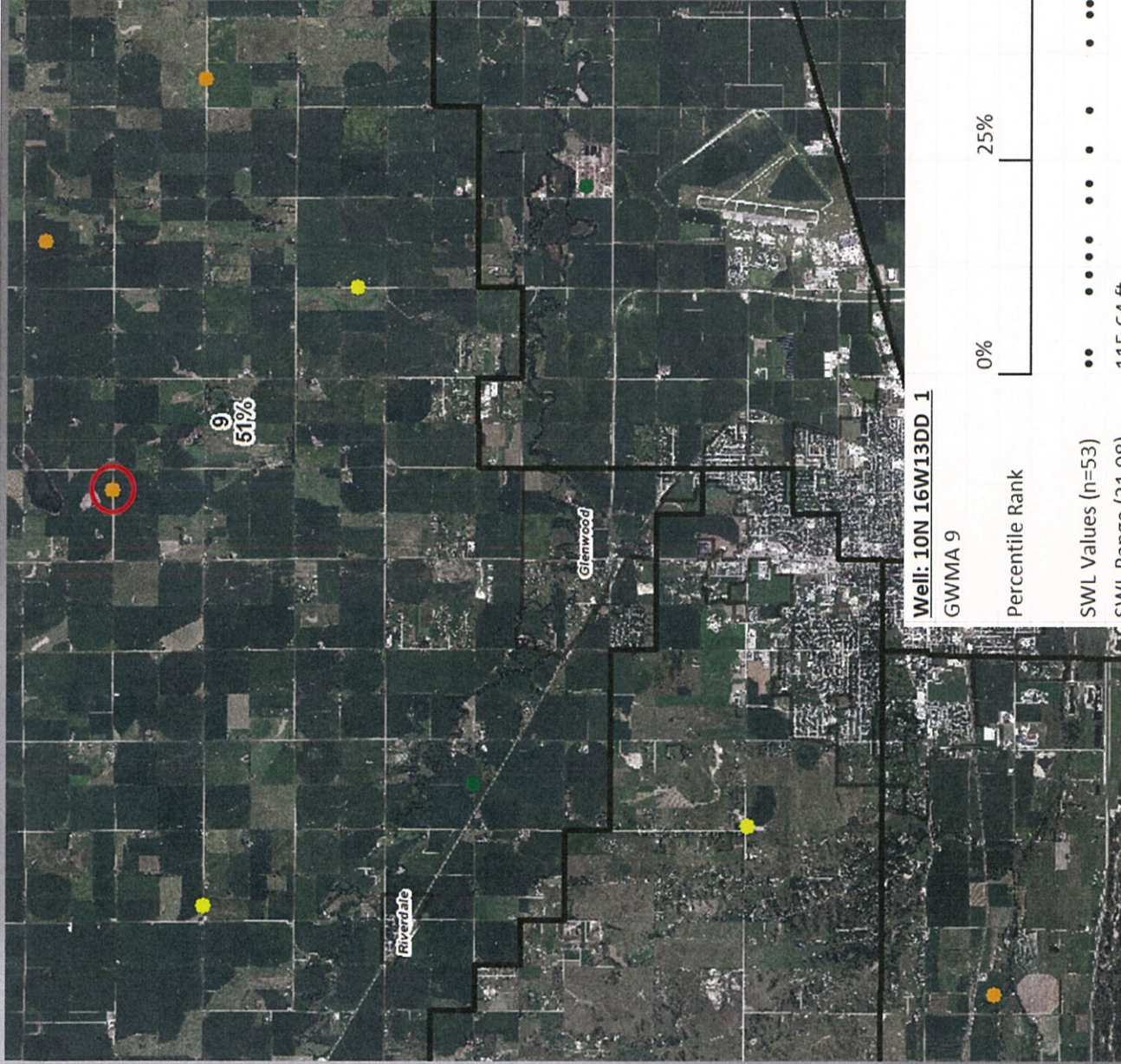
SWL Range (17.13 ft)

15.75 ft

32.88 ft

Fall 2019 SWL = 18.81 ft (18%)





Date	SWL
10/23/2019	130.93
11/5/2019	130.64
11/19/2019	130.14
12/19/2019	129.79

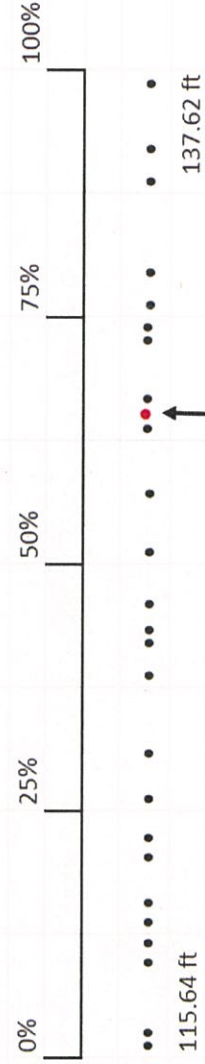
Well: 10N 16W13DD 1

GWMA 9

Percentile Rank

SWL Values (n=53)

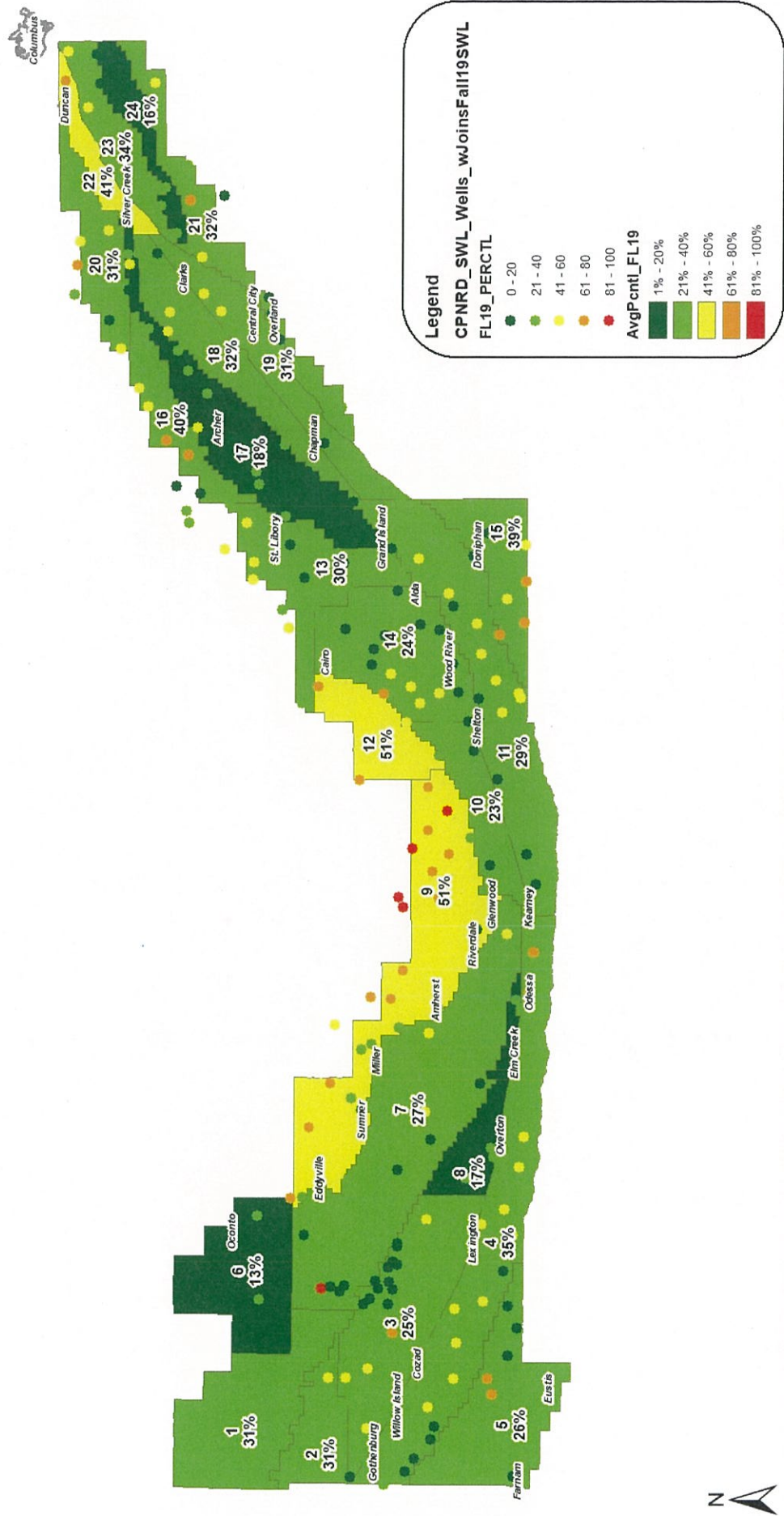
SWL Range (21.98)

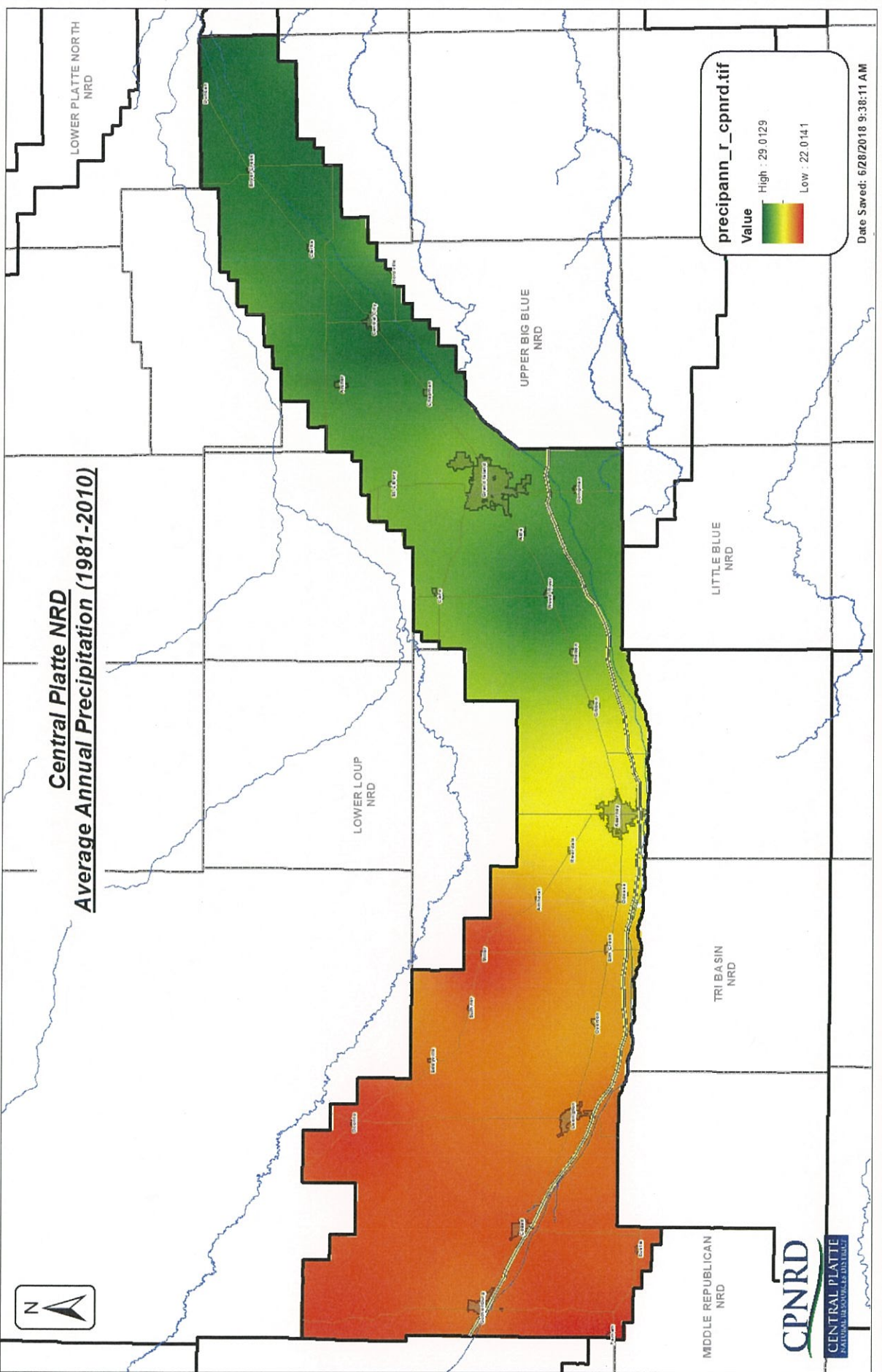


Fall 2019 SWL = 130.54 ft (68%)



# Percentile Rank of Fall 2019 SWL Reading



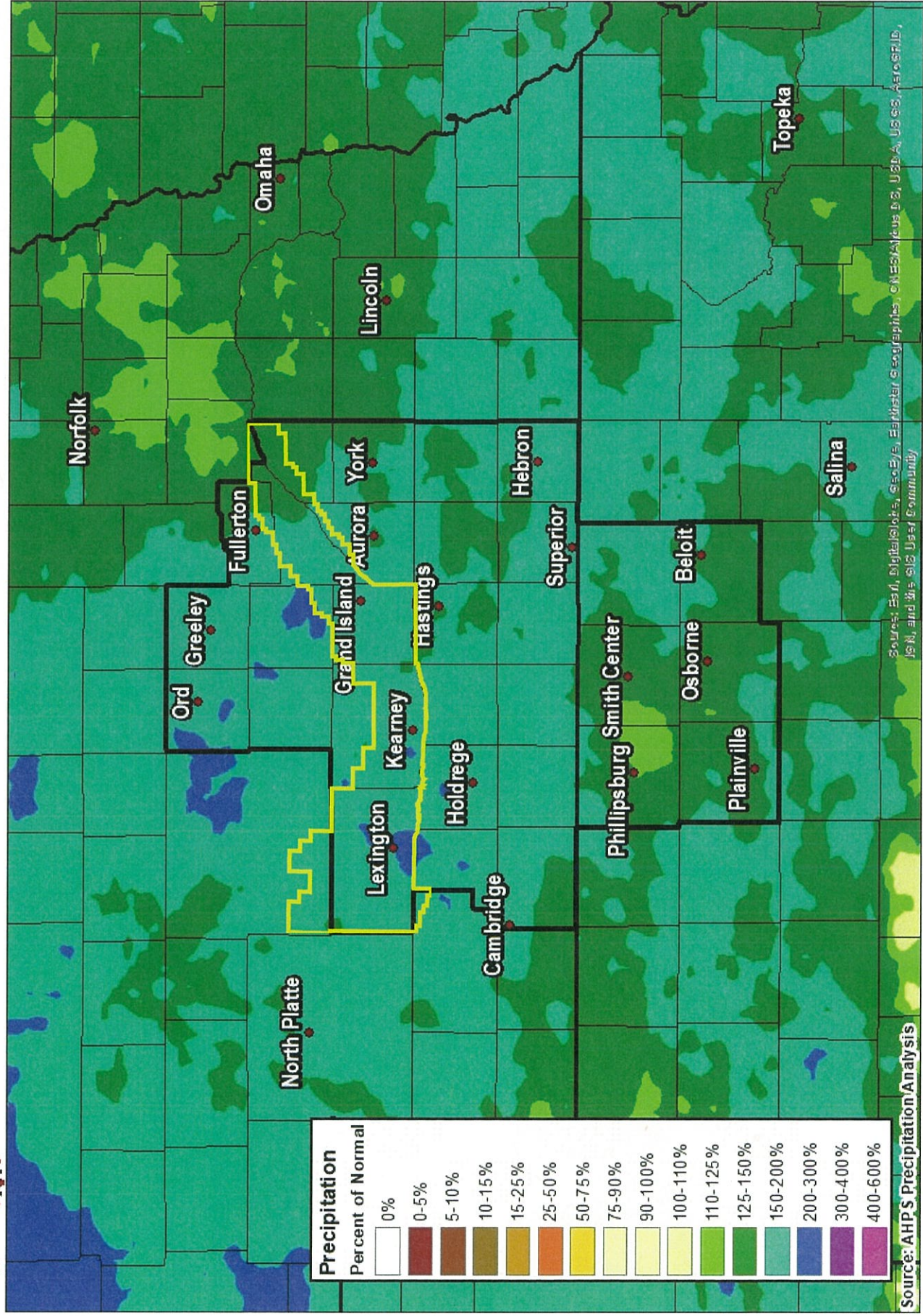






# 2019 Percent of Normal

As Of 6 AM CST  
December 02, 2019



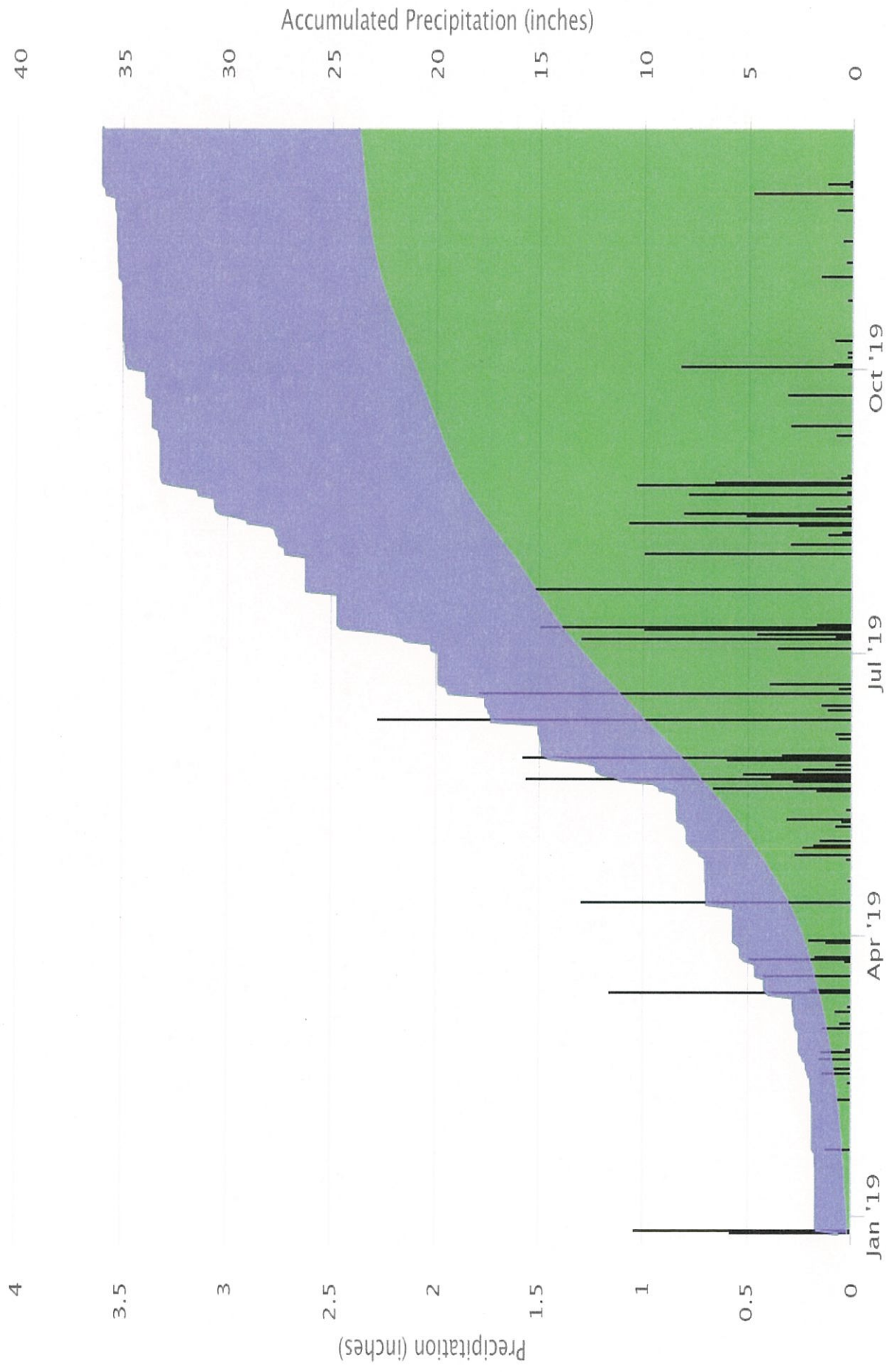
Source: AHP's Precipitation Analysis

Sources: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



# GOTHENBURG, NE

## Accumulated Precipitation

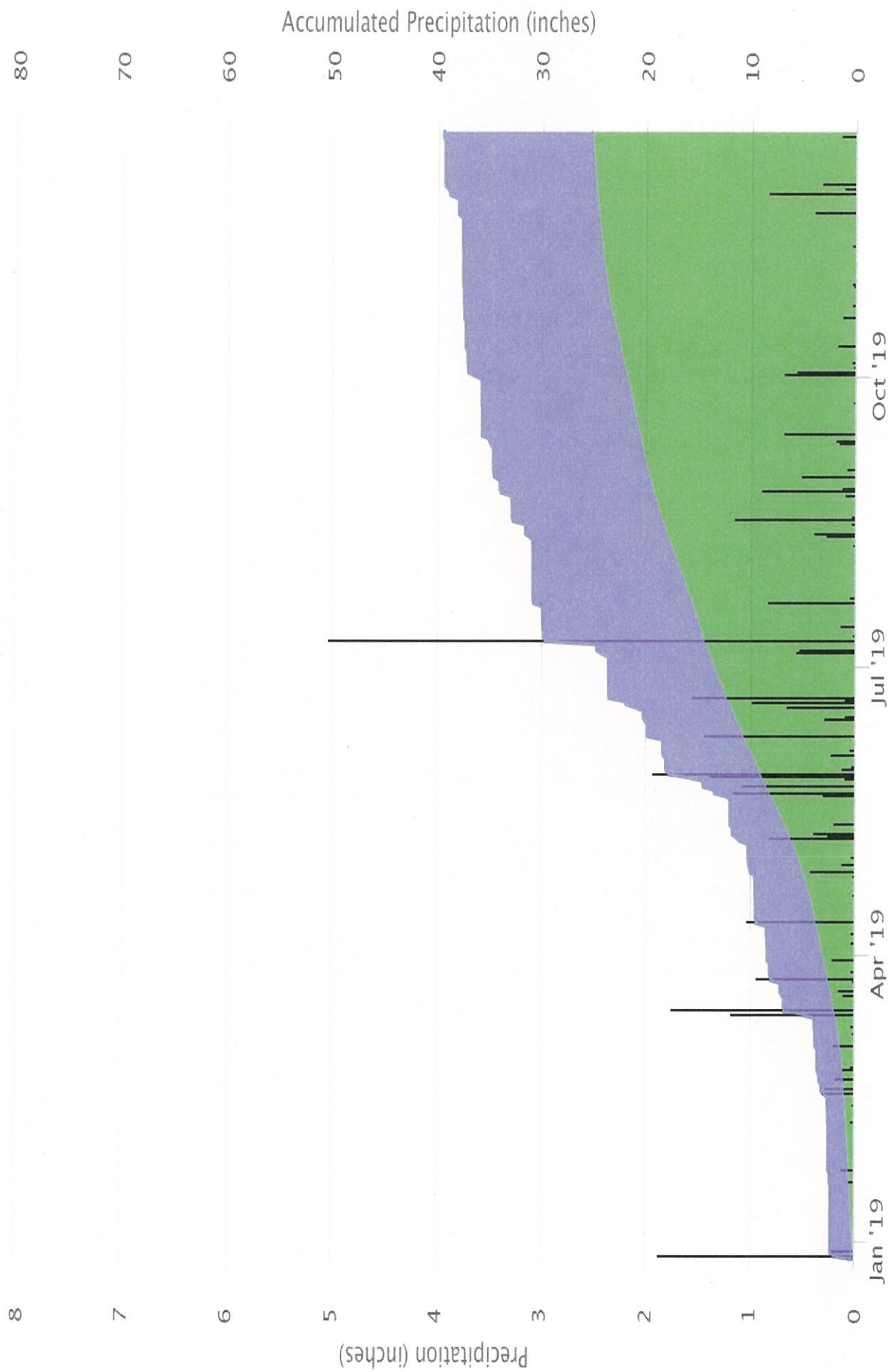


■ Daily Precipitation ■ Accumulated Precipitation

■ Accumulated Precipitation Below 30 Year Normal ■ Accumulated Precipitation Above 30 Year Normal



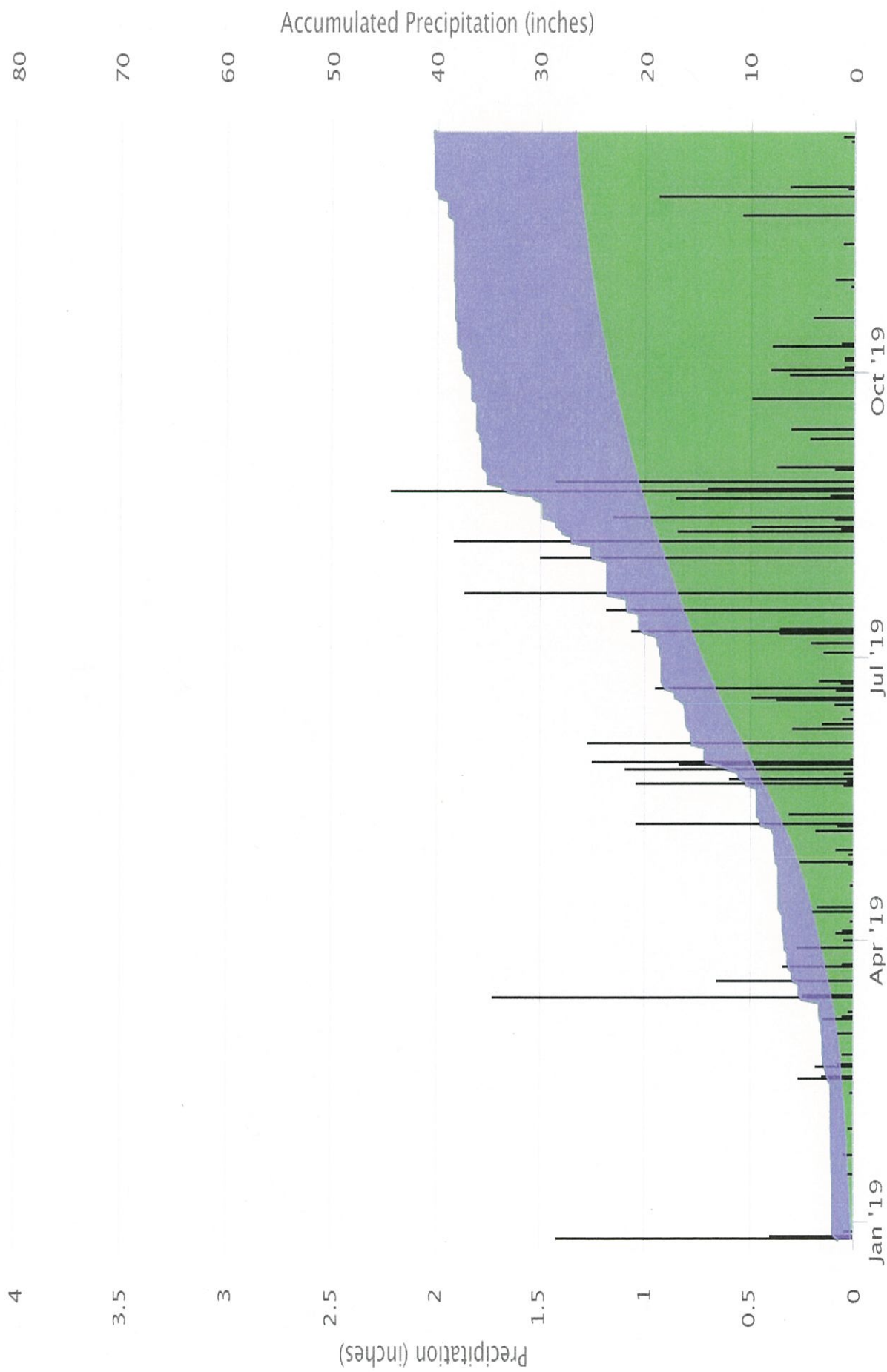
# KEARNEY 4 NE, NE Accumulated Precipitation



■ Daily Precipitation
 ■ Accumulated Precipitation Below 30 Year Normal
 ■ Accumulated Precipitation Above 30 Year Normal

# GRAND ISLAND CENTRAL NE REGIONAL AP, NE

Accumulated Precipitation

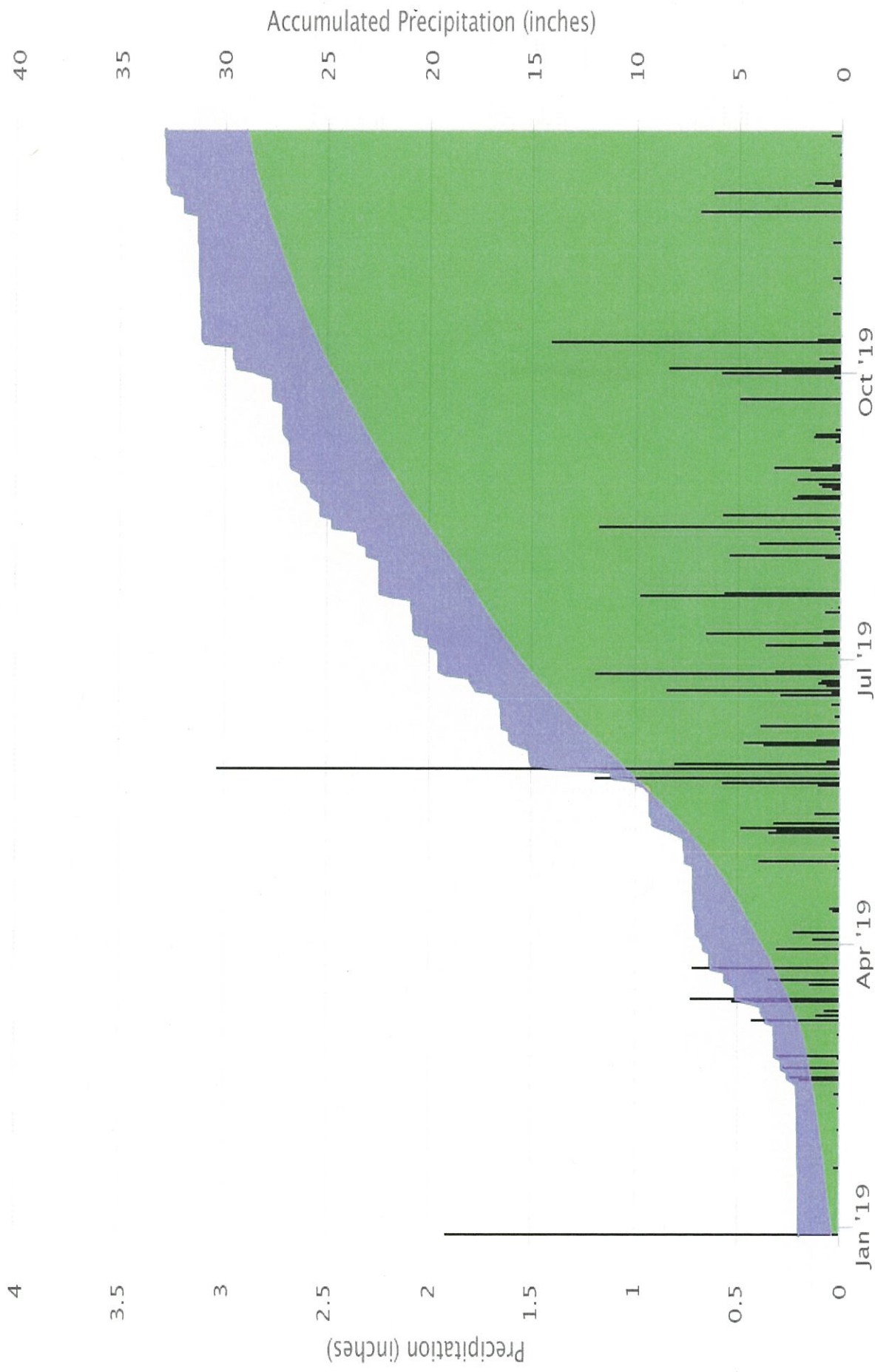


■ Daily Precipitation ■ Accumulated Precipitation Below 30 Year Norm ■ Accumulated Precipitation Above 30 Year Norm

HPRCC

# OSCEOLA, NE

Accumulated Precipitation



Accumulated Precipitation Below 30 Year Normal

Accumulated Precipitation Above 30 Year Normal

Daily Precipitation

Accumulated Precipitation Above 30 Year Normal

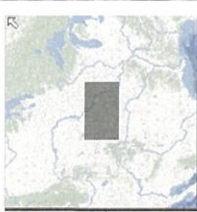
HPRCC



QUESTIONS?

Cease & Desist Order Update - December 19, 2019 Board Meeting				
TenantName	TenantCity	TenantState	Landowner(s)	
ANDREW BLESSIN	KENESAW	NE	(1)MICHELLE BLESSIN	
BRAD BOCKMAN	GRAND ISLAND	NE	(1)BRAD BOCKMAN, (2)RICHARD R & LOIS M KNOX	
WILLIAM & HAZEL JOHNSTON	VACAVILLE	CA	(1)WILLIAM & HAZEL JOHNSTON	
JOHN E KEARNEY	OVERTON	NE	(1)JOHN E KEARNEY	
GREG KELLER	MONROE	NE	(1)MICHAEL A FRAUENDORFER, (2) GERALD D & DIANE E KRINGS TRUSTEES	
MICHAEL KELLIHER	KEARNEY	NE	(1)MICHAEL KELLIHER	
LOREN LINDGREEN	CENTRAL CITY	NE	(1)LOREN LINDGREEN, (2)RAYMOND MC CONNELL ETAL, (3)GARY C & EDWARDINE M LINDGREEN	
AARON MICEK	SHELBY	NE	(1)AARON MICEK, (2)LAWRENCE D MICEK	
MIKE MUNSTERMAN	GLENVILLE	NE	(1)WILLIAM MUNSTERMAN TRUST	
JEFF PERRY	SHELBY	NE	(1)JEFF PERRY	
TRAVIS RAINFORTH	WOOD RIVER	NE	(1)LEONARD & DIANA RAINFORTH	
DONALD RAKE	BISHOP	CA	(1)DONALD RAKE (PER LO, TENANT IS JIM REED)	
DONALD JOHN SANTIN JR	FULLERTON	NE	(1)DON & DELORES SANTIN	
WILLIAM SOLL	COLUMBUS	NE	(1)CHARLES SOLL ETAL	
TIM SULLIVAN	LINCOLN	NE	(1)TMCIS FARMS LLC	
TG PARTNERS LLC	OMAHA	NE	(1)TG PARTNERS LLC (PER LO, TENANT IS WILLIAM SHOTKOSKI)	
RICHARD URBAN	SILVER CREEK	NE	(1)RICHARD URBAN	
RYAN VOSS	WOOD RIVER	NE	(1)KEN WOITASZEWSKI, (2)UNITED EQUITY LLC, (3)SECURITY STATE BANK	
QUINCY WEEK	KEARNEY	NE	(1)RODNEY & RHONDA WEEK	



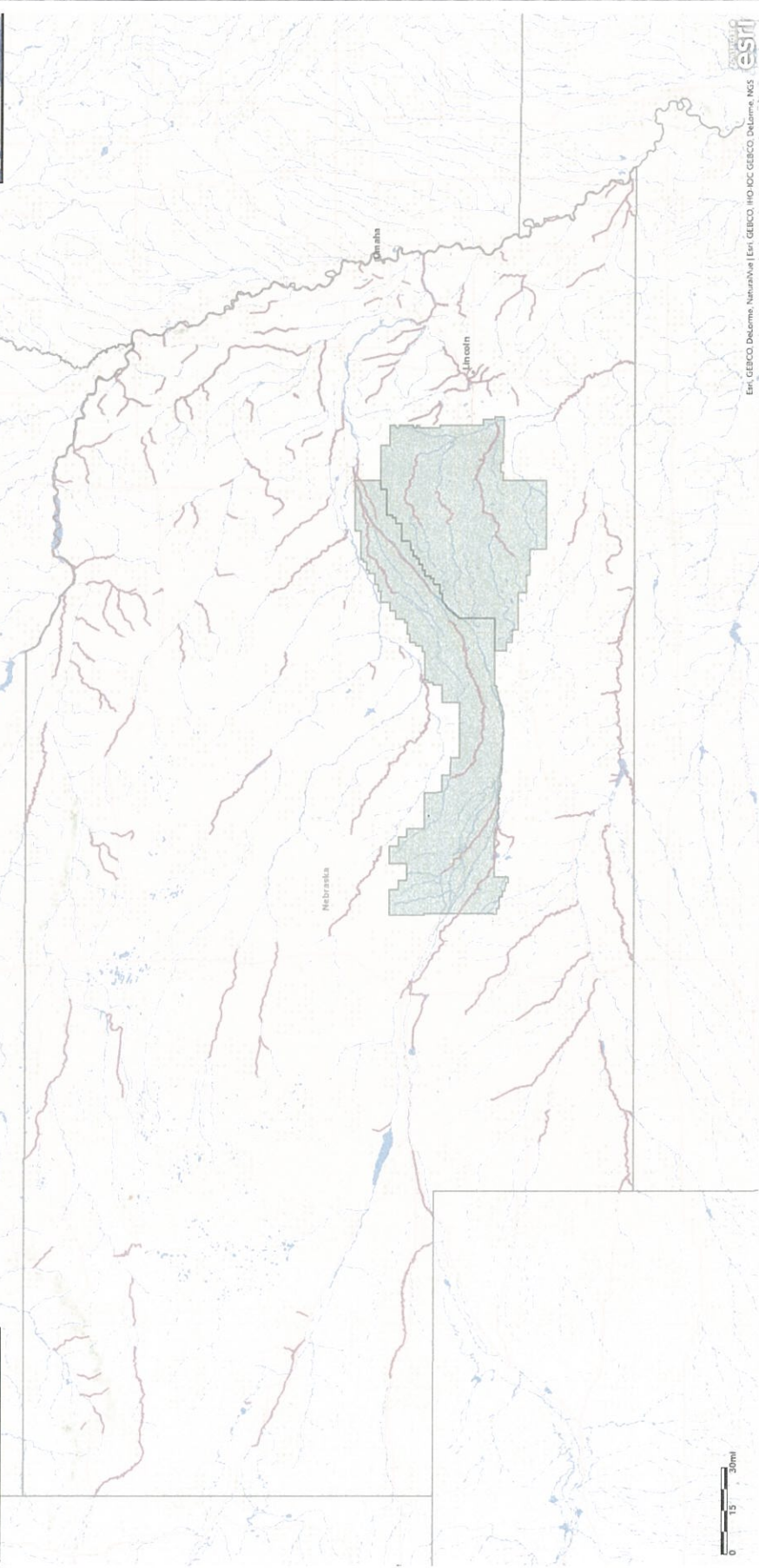


# Proposed Project Area: RCPP #1966 - Resilient Futures for Nebraska Soils

Legend

Impaired waters under Section 303(d)  
of the Clean Water Act

Project Area



CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
December 19, 2019

TREE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$ 130.00
John Cline – Dawson	\$	130.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 1,500.00
Schroeder Corn & Cattle Co. – Buffalo	\$	750.00
James Biehl – Dawson		750.00
Total .....		\$1,630.00