

THIRTY MILE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Thirty Mile Canal was originally dedicated on July 13, 1928 with water rights for 15,000 acres. The partnership between the Central Platte NRD and Thirty Mile Canal Company was initiated in January 2012 to create a more efficient irrigation system. The canal company became an irrigation district in September 2013; making the Thirty Mile Irrigation District a political subdivision.

Rehabilitation included replacement and/or installation of:

- 8 bridges
- 8 check structures
- 9 drop structures
- 2 pipe laterals
- 3 pipe roadway crossings
- 4 miscellaneous structures
- 5 flow measurement devices/structures
- installation of rip rap

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

CPNRD-Thirty Mile Irrigation District

- CPNRD paid \$1.9 million for 50% interest in Thirty Mile Irrigation District's real and personal property and for 50% interest in the water delivery systems.
- An Interlocal Agreement was signed in February 2014, creating the CPNRD-TMID Stream Flow Enhancement Alliance. The agreement outlines the continued maintenance and delivery of surface water for both irrigation and groundwater recharge.
- The partners will use the canal in the non-irrigation season to hold diverted excess Platte River flows when available, will divert allocations that are leased back to TMID, and return the consumptive use portion of the transferred water to the Platte River. The non-consumptive portion of the appropriation will be used for ground water recharge throughout the canal system.

PROJECT COST \$5,018,982.01

Engineering Firm- Miller & Associates of Kearney, NE.



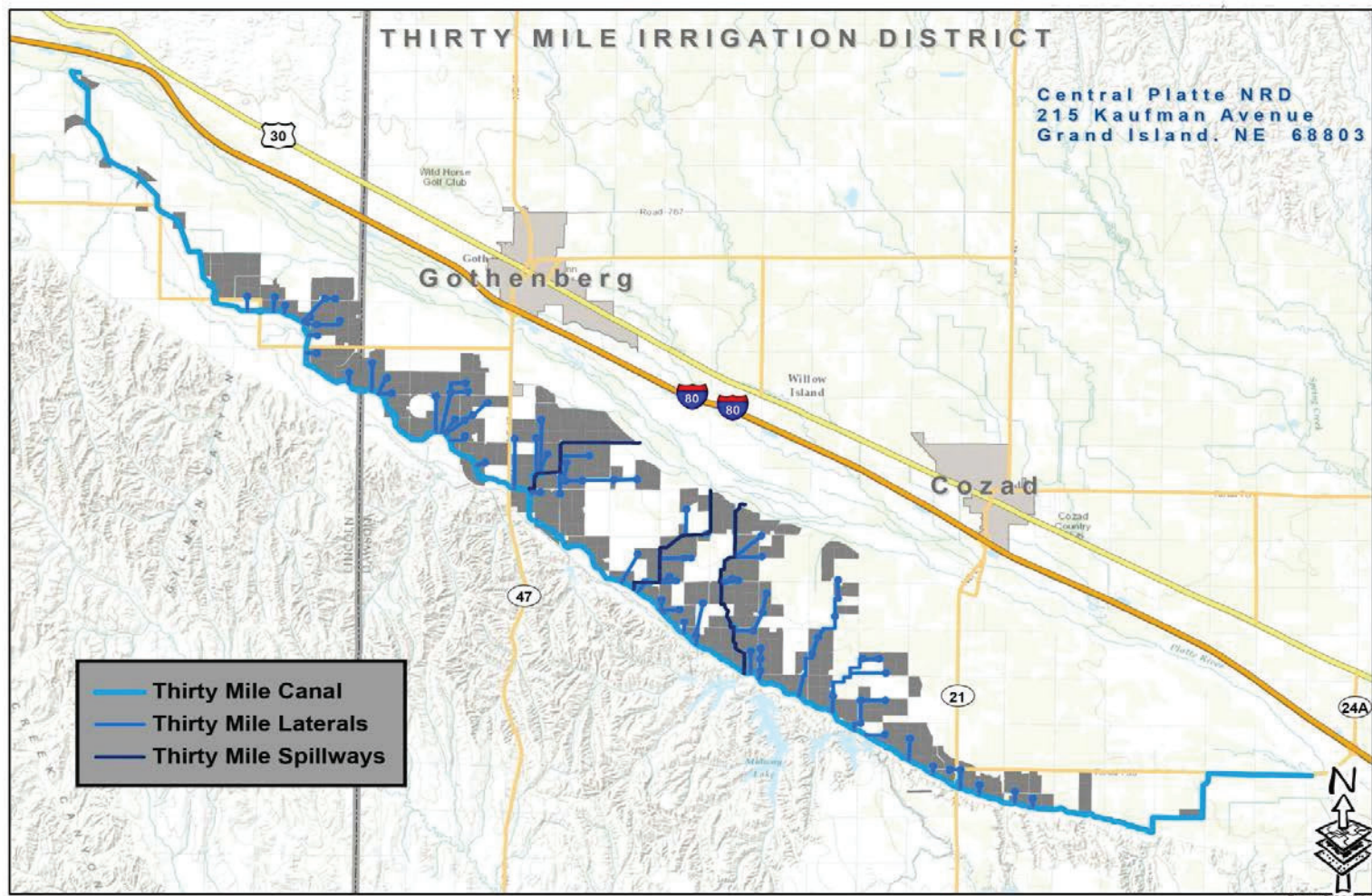
(2012): Photo shows tedious process that was required to remove the massive over-growth of trees along the canal.



(Spring 2014): Completed section of canal holding water.



(Spring 2014): Headworks during PBHEP tour of the canal.



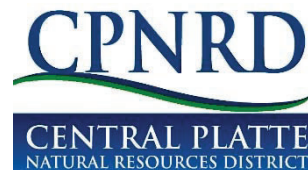
Water Rights:

This project has the potential to provide 8,000 to 13,000 AF of water savings annually; which will help the CPNRD get closer to a fully appropriated status.

The canal has been in place since its water rights were approved in 1926 and 1927; with water rights to irrigate 15,000 acres of land in the area between Gothenburg and Lexington in Dawson County. The associated surface water rights (1,666 acres) from the closure of Six Mile Canal are being transferred to the Thirty Mile Irrigation District to be put to beneficial use as irrigation and groundwater recharge.

To date, this partnership has resulted in diversions of excess flow totaling 26,352 AF; resulting in groundwater return of 14,856 AF back to the Platte River.

Over 10,000 people attended the dedication of the original Thirty Mile Canal on July 13, 1928. They traveled by train to see the place “Where IRRIGATION Is Turning a LAND OF PROMISE Into A LAND OF PRODUCTION.” The 1928 dedication program gives you an idea of how large-scale this project was in the ‘20s by stating, “This is the story of a dream come true.” The project was paid for by 121 farmer stockholders at a cost of \$350,000 with no irrigation district formed and no bonds issued. The project was completed 15 months after the first meeting and at a cost of less than \$25 per acre.



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