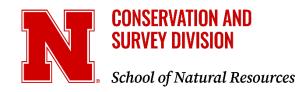
# Seward County Water Conservation District Informational Meeting, Nov. 20, 2023

Jesse Korus Associate Professor of Groundwater Geology Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, UNL jkorus3@unl.edu





# Conservation and Survey Division



Associate Director for Conservation and Survey and State Geologist R.M. (Matt) Joeckel, 2014-present



## csd.unl.edu

### Mission

The Conservation and Survey Division (CSD), the natural resource survey component of the School of Natural Resources, is a unique, multi-disciplinary research, service and data-collection organization established by state statute in 1921. CSD's mission is to investigate and record information about Nebraska's geologic history, its rock and mineral resources, the quantity and quality of its water resources, land cover and other aspects of its geography, as well as the nature, distribution and uses of its soils.

# My approach to answering questions submitted by the board

- Is it something we know?
- If so, I will give examples and point you toward resources.
- If not, is it knowable?
- How difficult would it be to gain that knowledge or to fill the knowledge gaps?





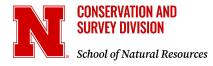
# **Online resources**

- CSD interactive map
  - go.unl.edu/csdinteractivemap/
- Nebraska GeoCloud
  - go.unl.edu/geocloud
- UNL Watershed Aquifer Virtual Education System (WAVES)
  - https://nebraskawaves.org/
- UNL Extension Water Website
  - https://water.unl.edu/
- Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA)
  - https://enwra.org/
- Department of Natural Resources INSIGHT
  - https://nednr.nebraska.gov/INSIGHT/
- Nebraska Groundwater Quality Clearinghouse
  - https://clearinghouse.nebraska.gov/
- U.S. Geological Survey National Water Information System
  - https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis

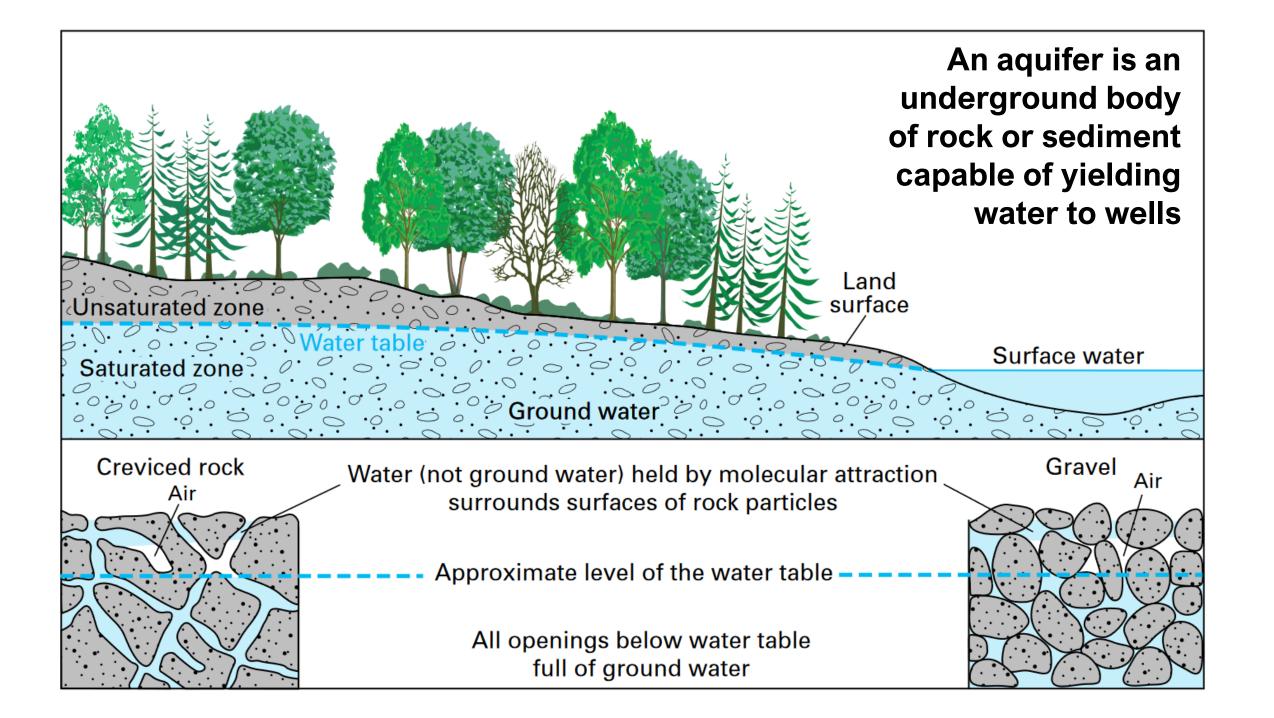


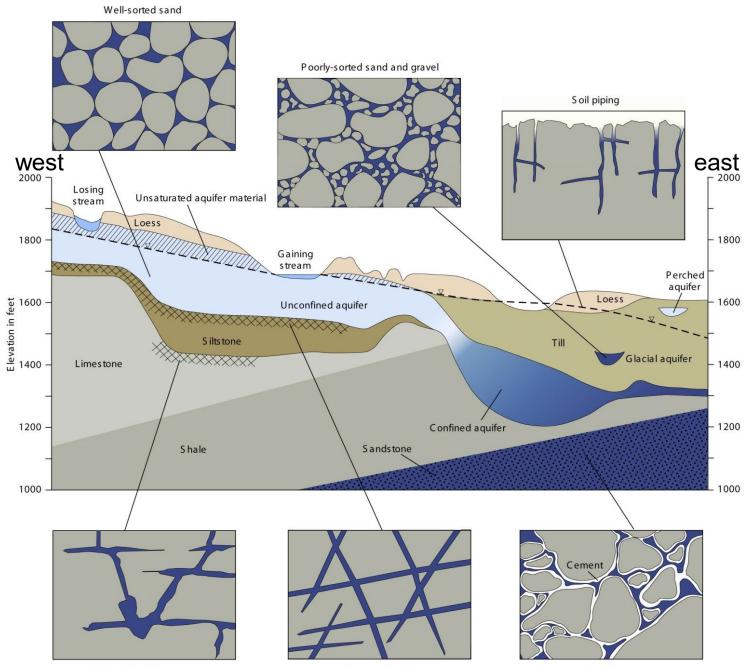


# Aquifers









A conceptualization of Nebraska's aquifers from west to east

Korus et al., 2013. The Groundwater Atlas of Nebraska. Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Resource Atlas 4b, 64 p.

Dissolution fractures

Fractured rock

Sandstone

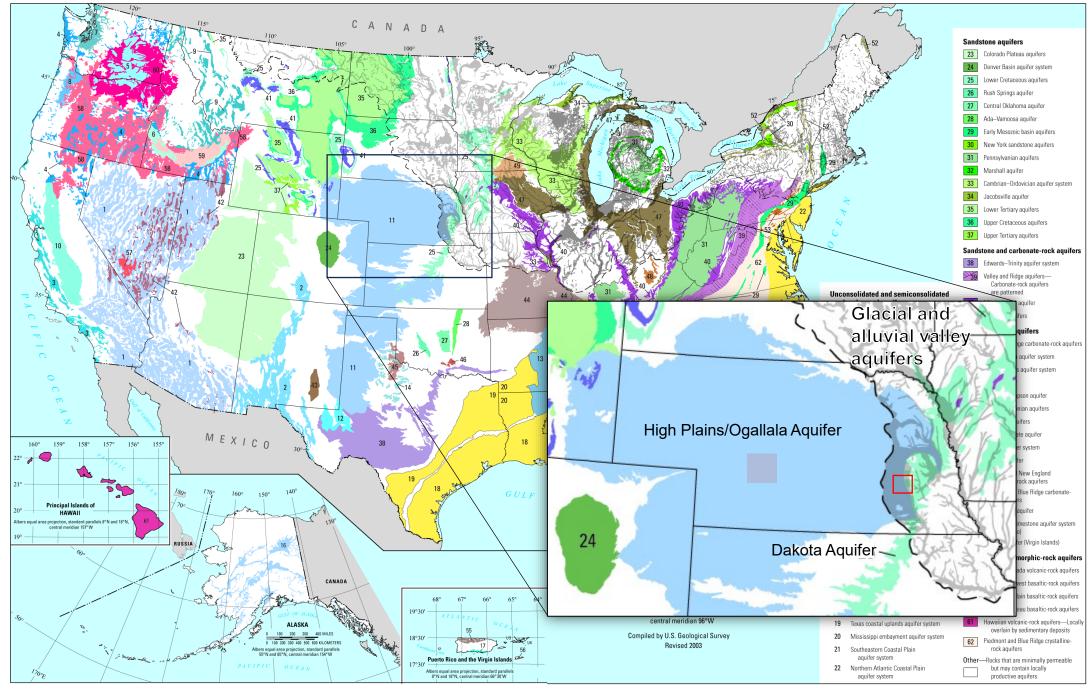
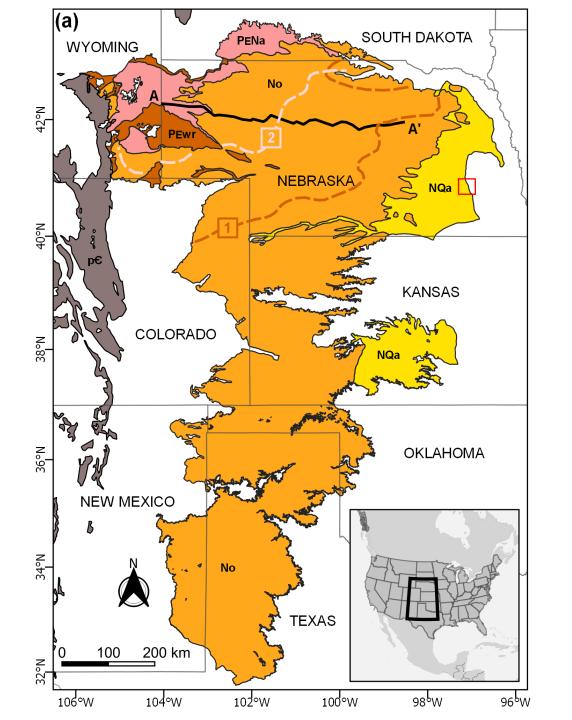


Figure 2. Principal aquifers of the United States (modified from Principal Aquifers, U.S. Geological Survey, 2003).





Korus and Joeckel, 2022. Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology **55: qjegh2021-171. DOI: 10.1144/qjegh2021-171** 

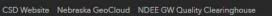
### go.unl.edu/csdinteractivemap

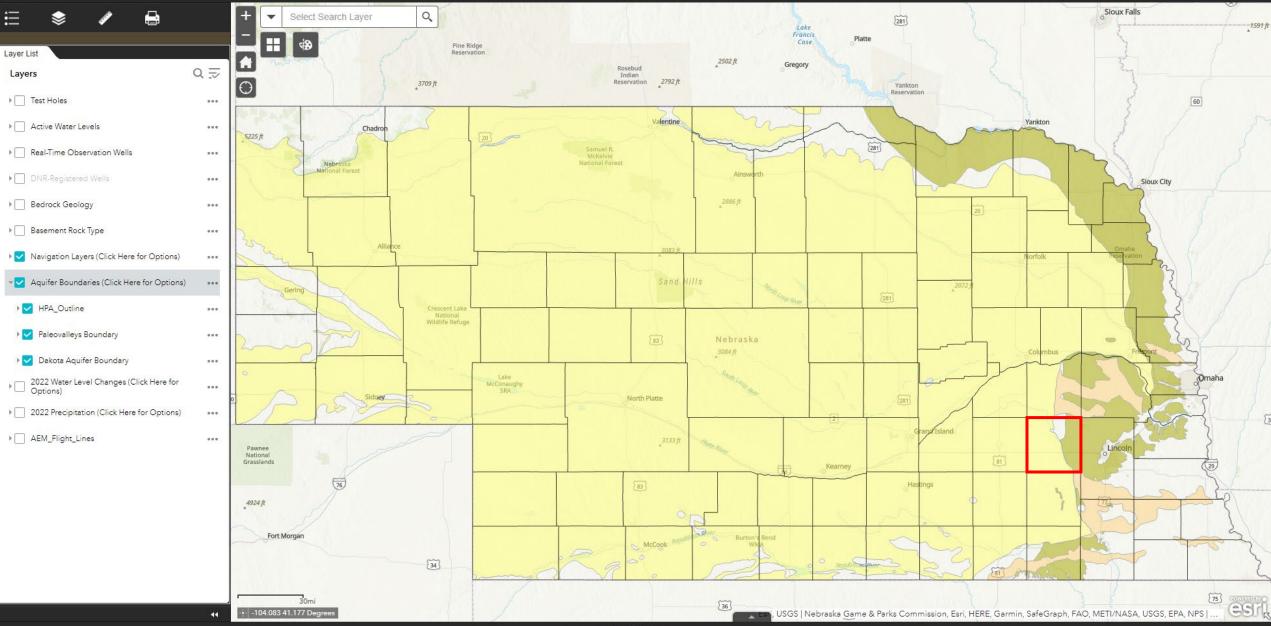
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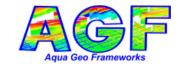
#### N CSD Ground Water and Geology Data Portal





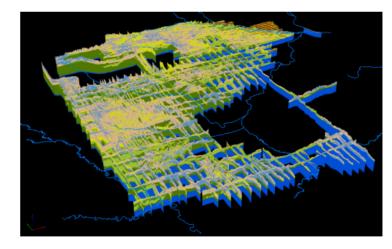
System	Series	Stratigraphic unit	Thickness (feet)	Character and distribution	Water supply
Quaternary	Holocene	Surficial terrace and floodplain deposits and soil	0 - 10±	Widespread soils; terrace and floodplain deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel	Significant only because it transmits recharge to the groundwater reservoir
	Pleistocene	Unconsolidated deposits, undifferentiated	0 - 450	Water-laid and windblown strati- fied deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel; stream-deposited sand and gravel containing layers of clay and silt of wind and stream origin; ice-deposited till (nonsorted, nonstratified sediment carried or deposited by a glacier); underlies much of the county	Principal source of water to wells in the county; medium- and coarse-textured deposits yield more than 1,000 gallons per minute of water where sufficiently permeable, thick, and saturated
Cretaceous	Upper Cretaceous	Carlile Shale	0 - 40	Medium- to dark-gray shale, calcar- eous in part; contains thin layers of limestone; occurs where the bedrock is at highest altitude in the northwestern and south-central parts of the county	Does not yield water to wells
		Greenhorn Limestone	0-25	White and gray limestone and cal- careous shale; underlies about half the county; not present in the bedrock valleys	As above
		Graneros Shale	0-70	Dark-gray shale, calcareous in upper part; underlies about half the county; not present in the bedrock valleys	As above
	Lower Cretaceous	Dakota Group (undivided)	150-500	Interbedded clayey shale, sandy shale, and sandstone; underlies the entire county	Yields small to large amounts of water to a few wells in Seward County; quality of the water ranges from good to substandard

### Keech, 1978, Water Resources of Seward County, Nebraska



December 4, 2019

"Airborne Electromagnetic Mapping and Hydrogeologic Framework of Selected Regions of the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment Area" Chapter on the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District



Prepared for the: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District 3125 Portia Street Lincoln, NE 68521

Jared D. Abraham, P.G. jabraham@aquageoframeworks.com

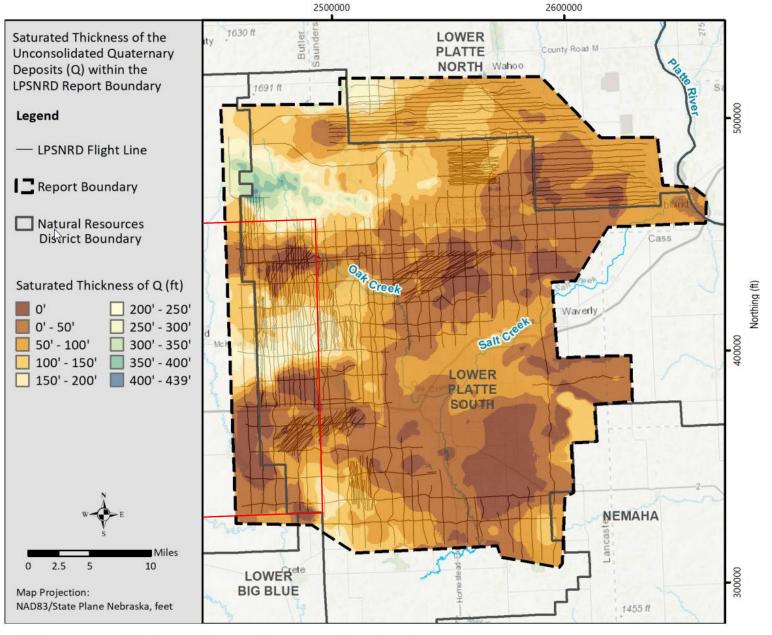
James C. Cannia, P.G. jcannia@aquageoframeworks.com Submitted by: Aqua Geo Frameworks, LLC 130360 County Road D Mitchell, NE 69357

Theodore H. Asch, P.G. tasch@aquageoframeworks.com

Tammi L. Renninger, ElephantFish, LLC tammi@elephantfishco.com



Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) https://enwra.org/ Nebraska GeoCloud https://go.unl.edu/geocloud



Easting (ft)

Figure 3-93. Map of the saturated thickness of *Q* aquifer materials within the 2018 LPSNRD Reconnaissance survey area. Saturated thickness varies from 0 to 439 feet. Flight lines are indicated by the grey lines. Note the greater thicknesses are on the west side of the project area. The geologic unit present in this image includes the *Q*= Quaternary. Horizontal datum is NAD83 State Plane Nebraska (feet).

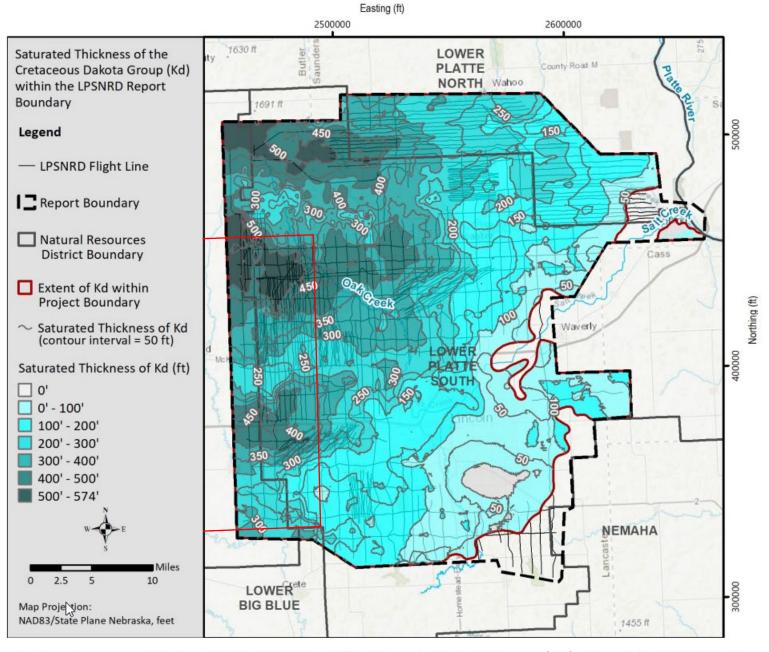


Figure 3-71. Map of the saturated thickness of Cretaceous Dakota Group (*Kd*) within the 2018 LPSNRD AEM survey area. Flight lines are indicated by the gray lines. The projection is NAD83 State Plane Nebraska (feet).

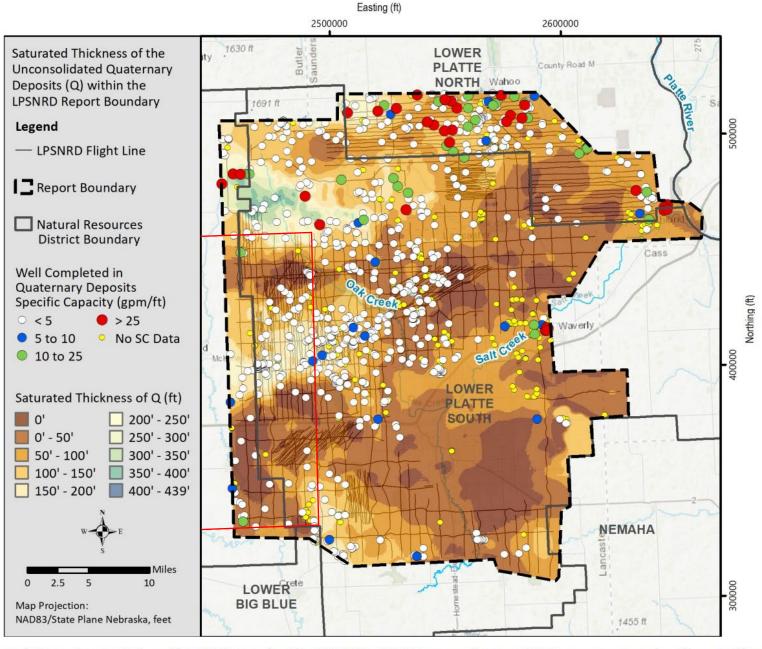
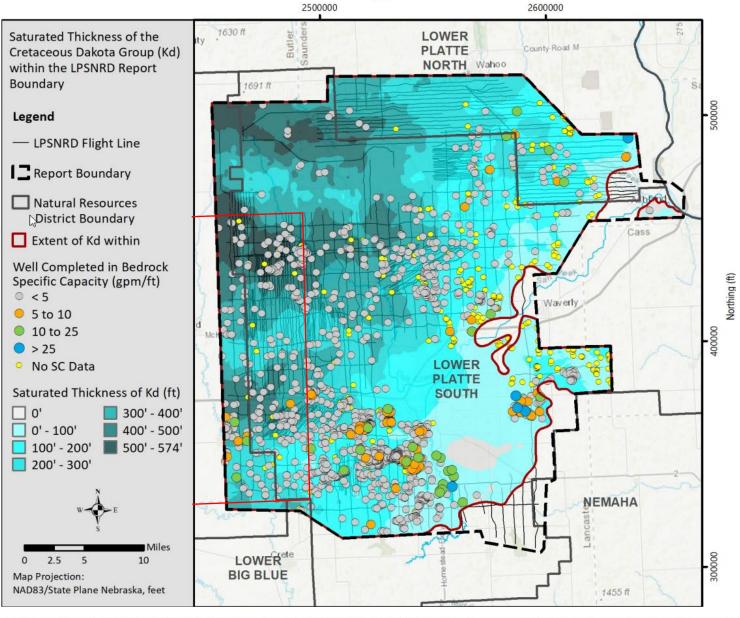


Figure 3-94. Map of the saturated *Q* aquifer thickness for the LPSNRD 2018 Reconnaissance AEM survey area plus the specific capacity of wells screened within the *Q* from the NE-DNR registered well database. The specific capacity of the wells range from <5 to >25 gpm. Overall the <5 gpm wells make up most of the wells in the project area. Horizontal datum is NAD83 State Plane Nebraska (feet).

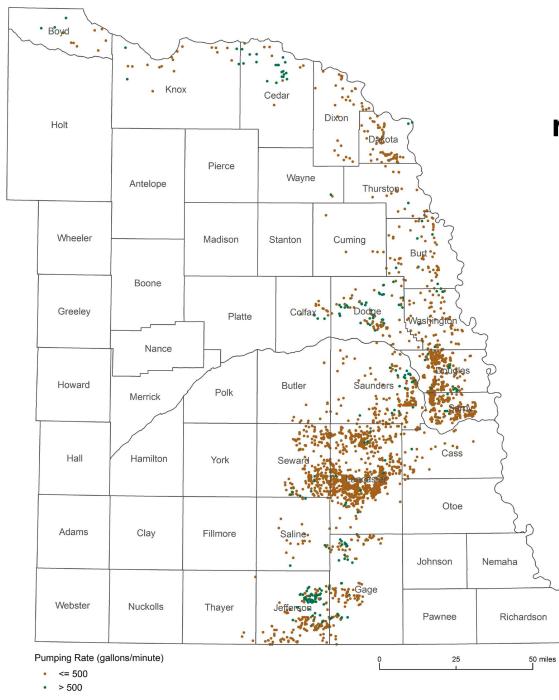


Easting (ft)

Figure 3-99. Map of the saturated *Kd* aquifer thickness for the LPSNRD 2018 Reconnaissance AEM survey area plus the specific capacity of wells screened within the *Kd* from the NE-DNR registered well database. The specific capacity of the wells varies from <5 to >25 gpm. Overall the <5 gpm wells make up most of the wells in the project area. Flight lines are indicated by the grey lines. The geologic unit present in this image includes the *Kd*= Cretaceous Dakota Group. Horizontal datum is NAD83 State Plane Nebraska (feet).

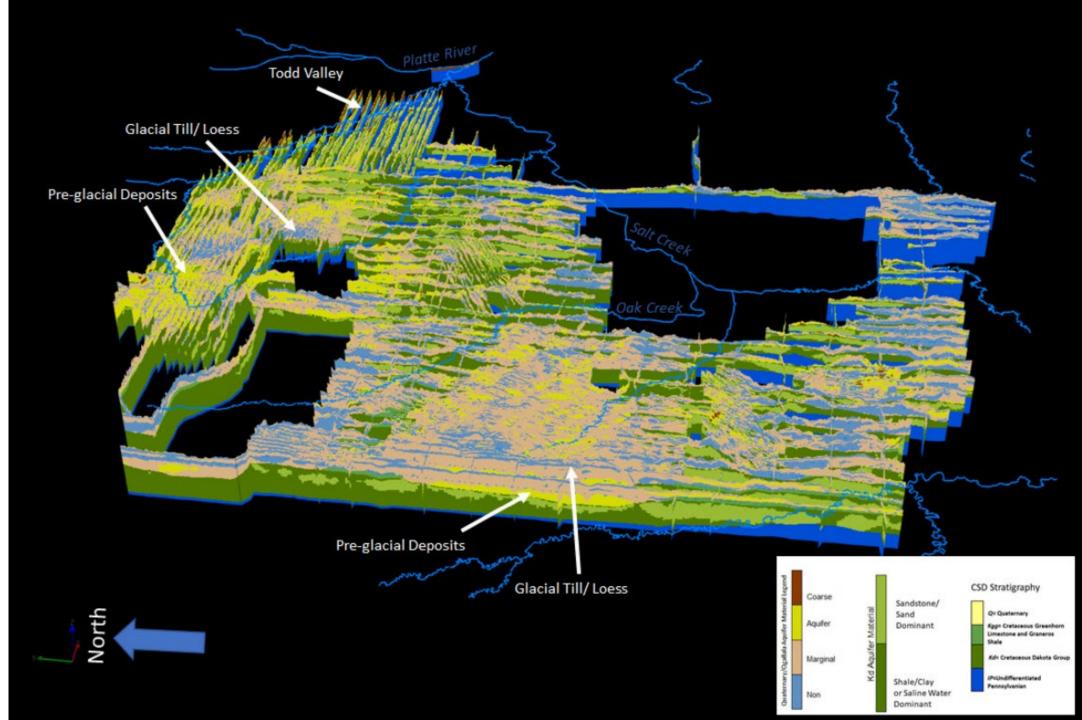
### Locations and general pumping rates of wells in the Dakota Aquifer

Divine and Sibray, 2017, An Overview of Secondary Aquifers in Nebraska. University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Conservation and Survey Division, Educational Circular No. 26, 44 p.



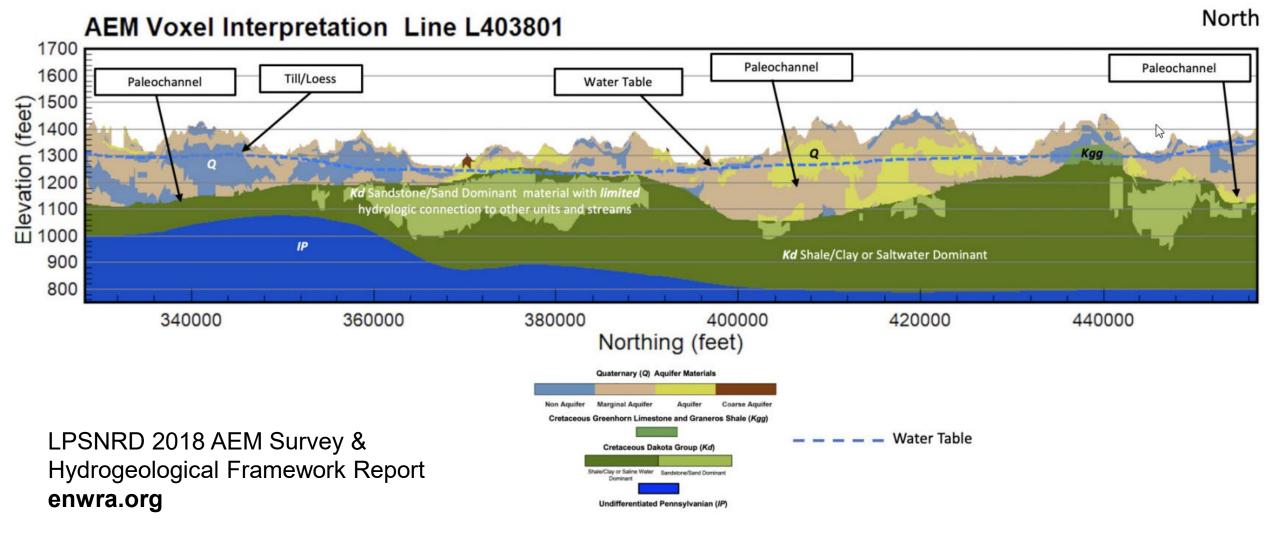
County	Average Static Water Level, ft	Average Total Depth, ft	Average yield, gpm
Boyd	175	1,021	352
Burt	98	218	127
Butler	168	392	39
Cass	65	127	87
Cedar	102	<mark>66</mark> 0	746
Colfax	121	321	153
Cumming	133	304	16
Dakota	105	236	65
Dixon	167	365	43
Dodge	74	271	353
Douglas	124	236	96
Gage	88	162	200
Jefferson	91	201	309
Knox	199	810	414
Lancaster	90	182	44
Saline	74	188	160
Sarpy	108	196	55
Saunders	67	173	127
Seward	143	300	55
Thayer	65	168	11
Thurston	104	267	113
Washington	141	250	96

Divine and Sibray, 2017, An Overview of Secondary Aquifers in Nebraska. University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Conservation and Survey Division, Educational Circular No. 26, 44 p.

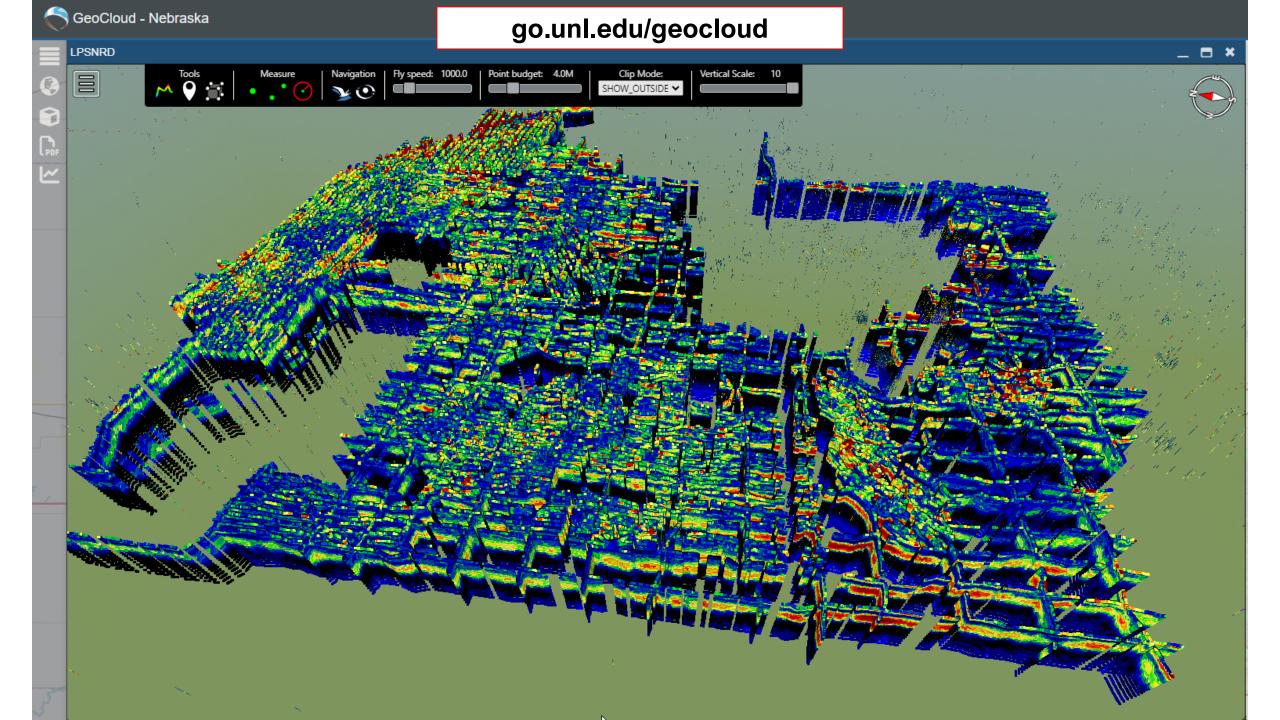


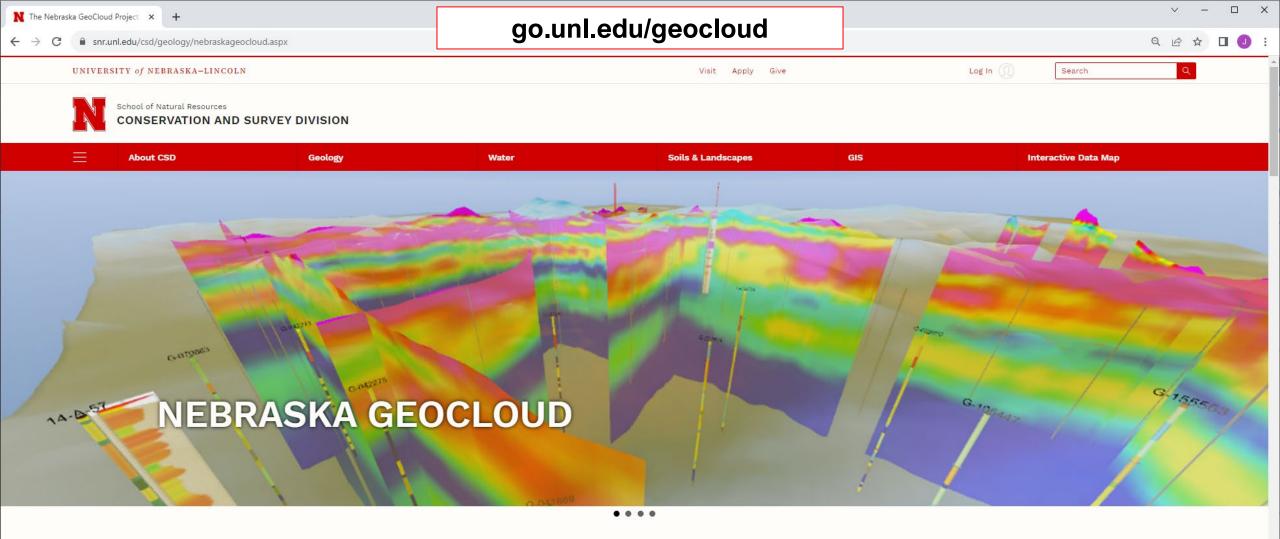
### **Pleasant Dale**

### South

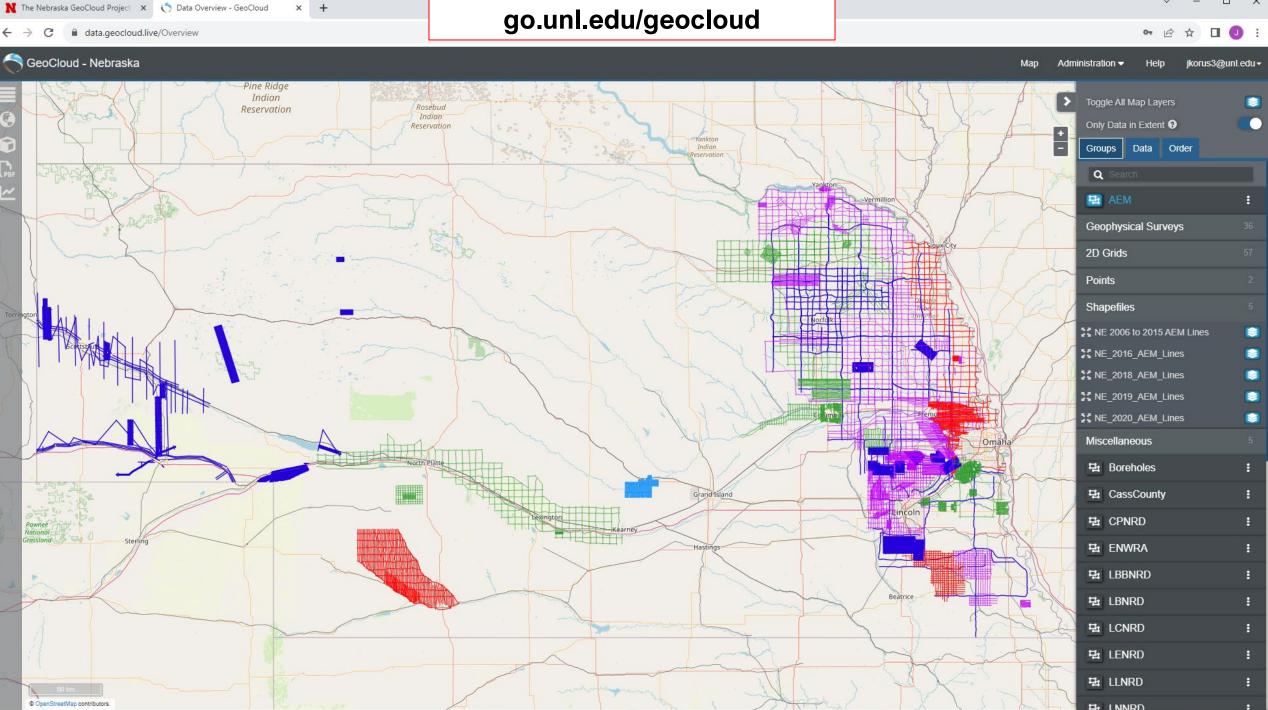


Garland

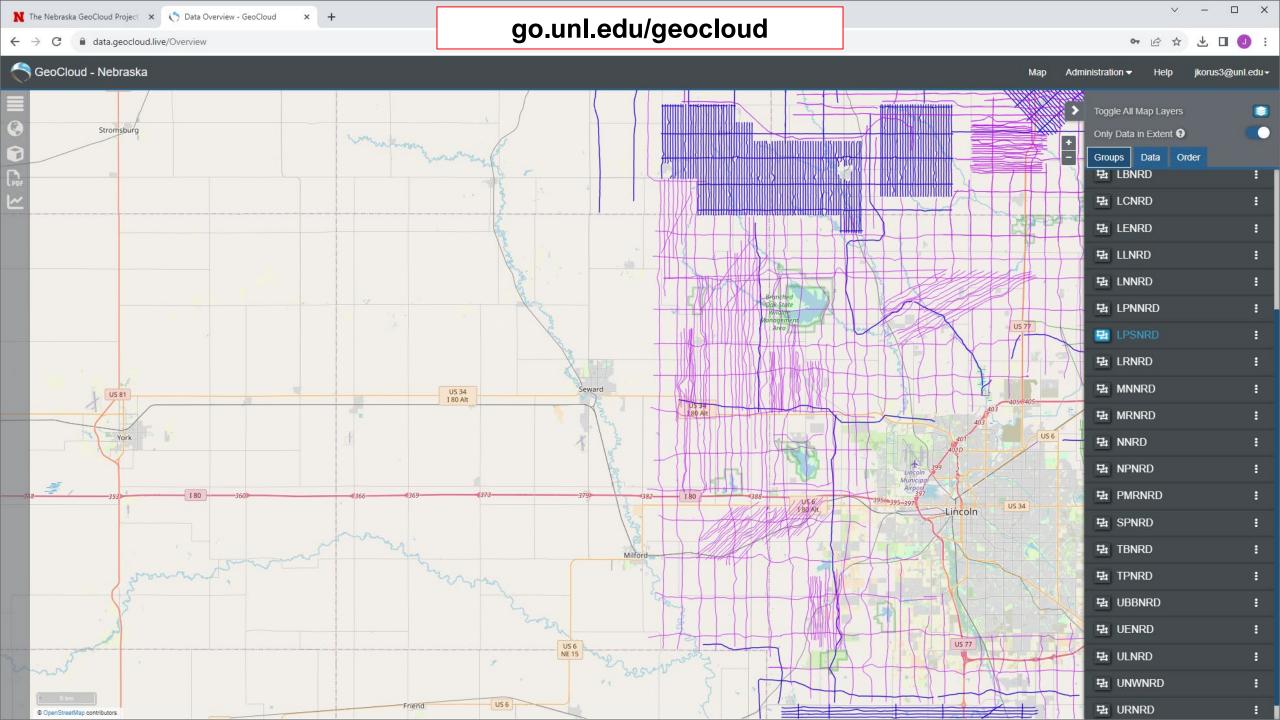


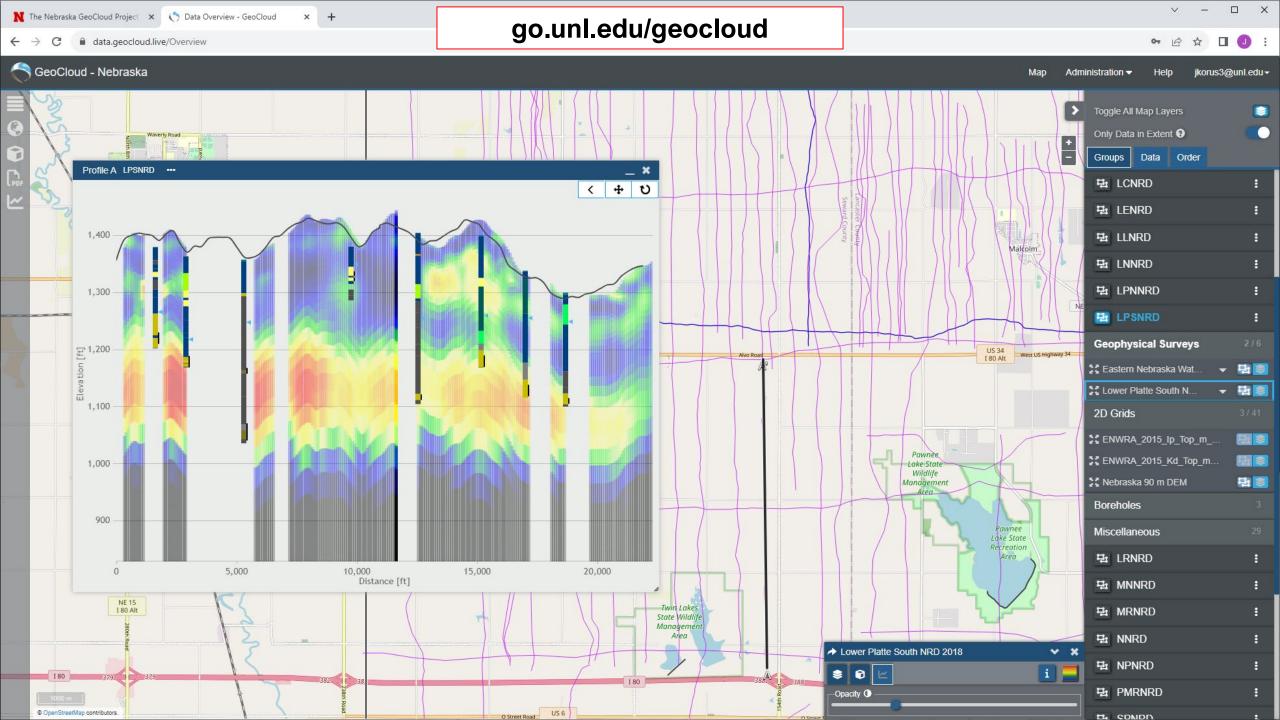


The Nebraska GeoCloud (NGC) is a web-based digital platform for geophysical, geological, and groundwater data and models. The purpose of the NGC is to archive Nebraska's vast volume of data and make it accessible to both model builders and model users. The NGC consists of databases, web servers, and web interfaces designed for data storage, sharing, and distribution. It contains one interface for Projects 12 and another interface for Data 12. Projects 12 may include software files, reports, and other information related to a project. It can be used to store and share project files, or it can be used as the final repository for completed projects. The Data 12 interface is built upon structured databases that support the upload and download of data and models used in typical hydrogeological studies. Users can access the data contained in this part of the NGC via the GeoScene3D data portal. These data can also be viewed on an interactive web map and they are accessible via a web map service (WMS) in GIS programs (e.g. ArcGIS, QGIS). To request a user account to the NGC, please contact Jesse Korus at jkorus3@unl.edu.



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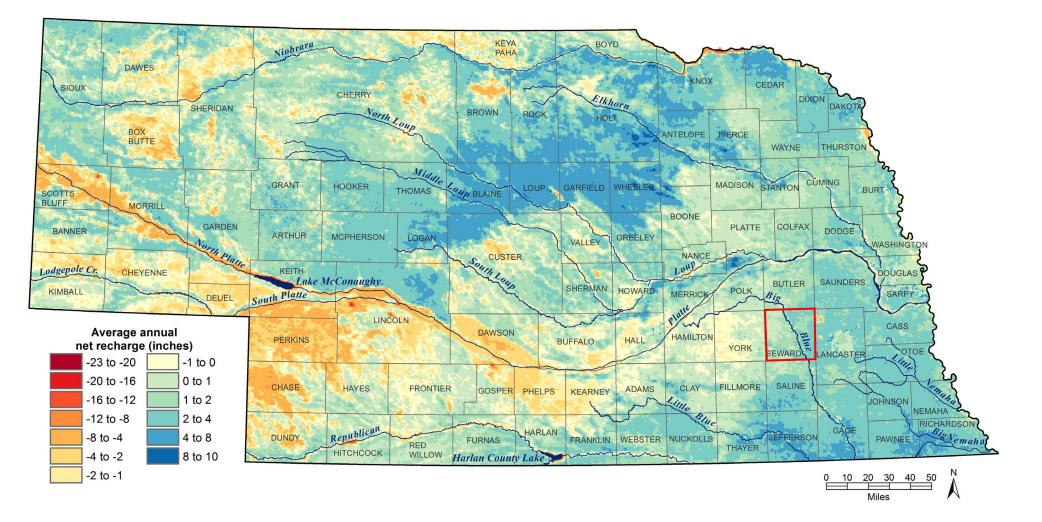


# Recharge



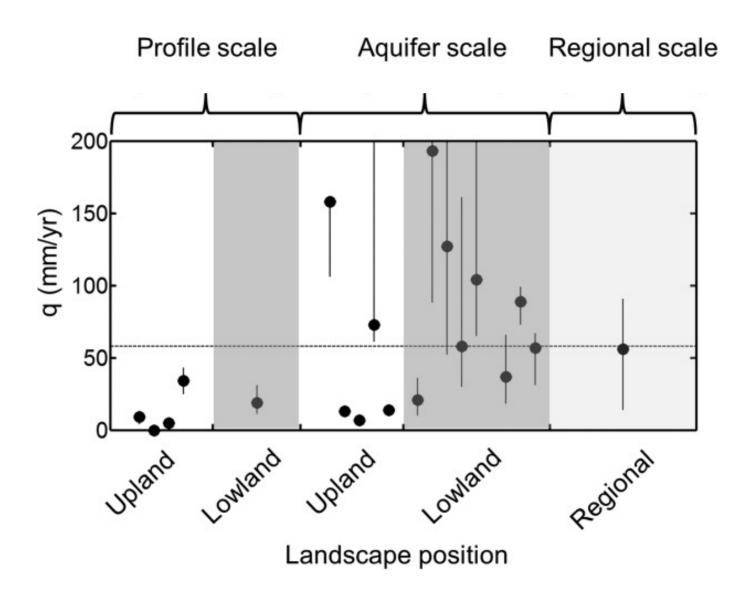


# Satellite-based recharge estimation for Nebraska



Korus et al., 2013, The Groundwater Atlas of Nebraska, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Resource Atlas 4b, 64 p.

# Estimated recharge rate varies with scale



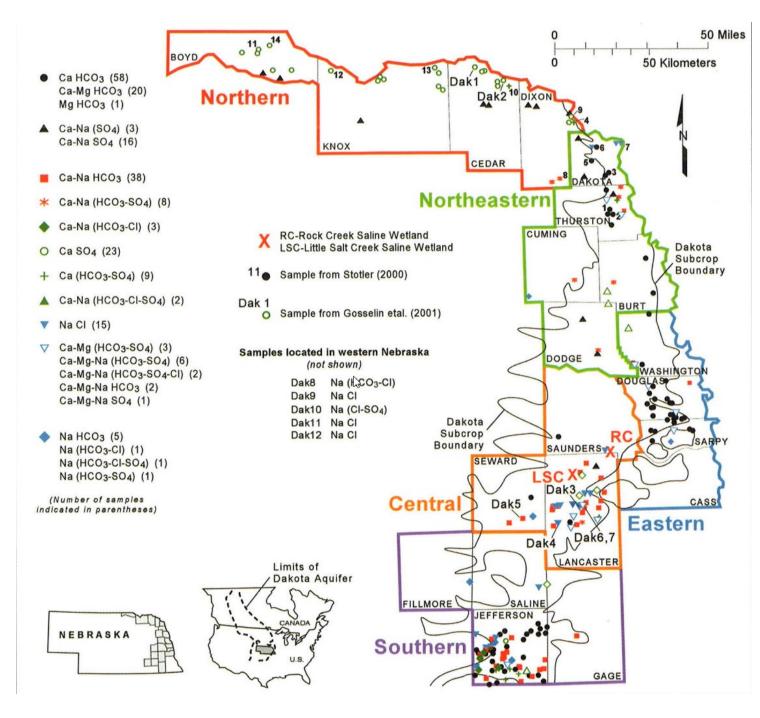
Gates et al., 2014. Water Resources Research, Volume: 50, Issue: 1, Pages: 466-481. DOI: (10.1002/2013WR014073)

## Summary of recharge sources to the Dakota Aquifer

- Pleistocene glacial meltwater
- Ancient (~50,000 years ago) recharge in the Black Hills and Rocky Mountain Front Range
- Recent, local precipitation
- Wells sampled in Seward County indicate recent, local precipitation as the source of recharge (Gosselin et al., 2001)

- 1. Gosselin et al., 2001, Groundwater 39:1, 98-108.
- 2. Gosselin et al., 2003. Conservation and Survey Division, Earth Science Notes 126.

3. Stotler et al., 2010, Groundwater 48:3, 448-464.



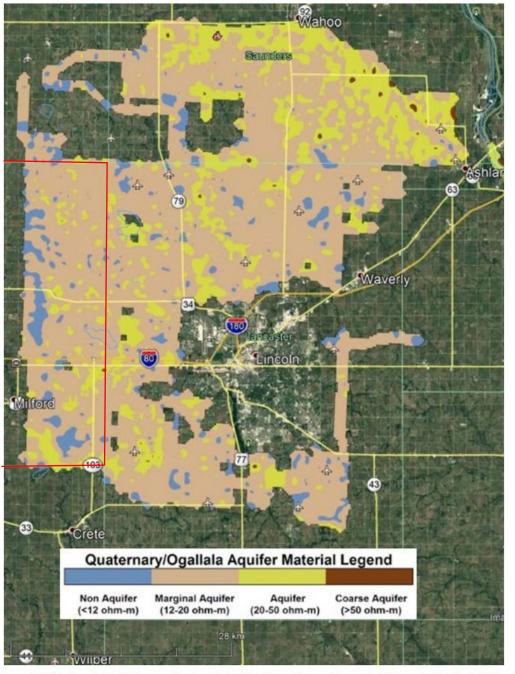


Figure 3-280. Google Earth image of potential soil recharge by aquifer material type in the first 10.8 feet over the 2018 LPSNRD AEM survey area. This kmz included in Appendix 3-Deliverables\KMZ\ Recharge.

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### go.unl.edu/csdinteractivemap

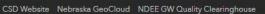
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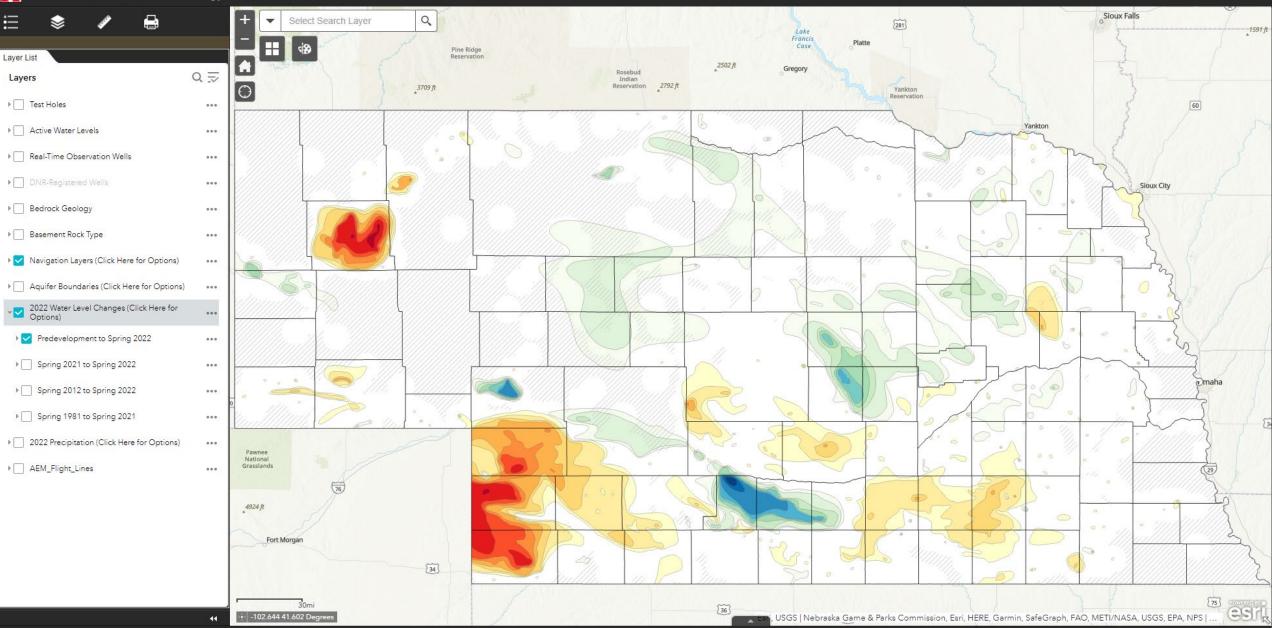
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# Water Use and Impacts



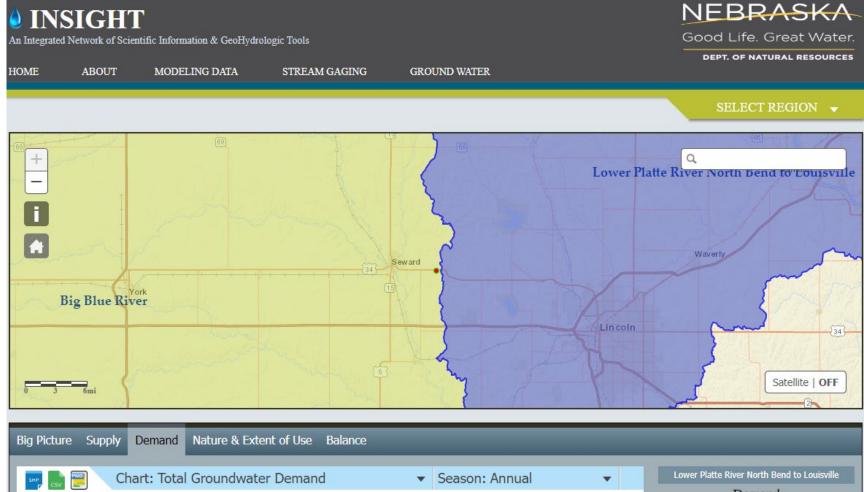


# What are the factors that influence sustainable yield?

- Physical limits of the aquifer system
- Aquifer properties (thickness, storativity, permeability)
- Recharge from all sources
  - infiltration of precipitation
  - flow from adjacent aquifers
  - seepage from streams, lakes, and wetlands
  - induced leakage from overlying aquitards
- Discharge from all sources
  - pumping
  - seepage into streams, lakes, and wetlands
  - flow into adjacent aquifers
  - evapotranspiration

Aquifer characterization

Water - budget analysis

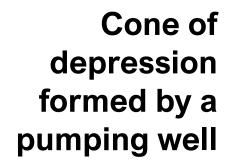


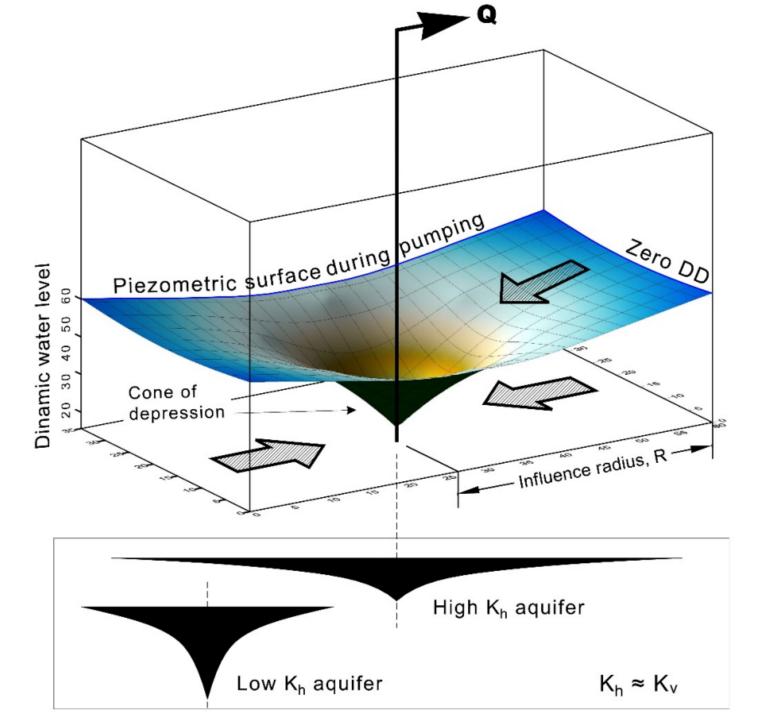


### nednr.nebraska.gov/INSIGHT

### Demand

- Demand or total use of water within a basin or subbasin is derived from six main categories of water use:
  - consumptive water demands for hydrologically connected high capacity (greater than 50 gallons per minute) groundwater well pumping
  - 2. consumptive water demands for surface water uses
  - the net water determined to be necessary to deliver streamflows to meet consumptive demands of surface water (i.e., water needed to convey water to irrigation fields through canals and supply





Strelec et al., 2021 Sensors, 21, 7175. https://doi.org/10.3390/s21 217175 csdportal.unl.edu/csdportal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7016a4a1c52b48d0a2

### go.unl.edu/csdinteractivemap

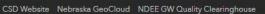
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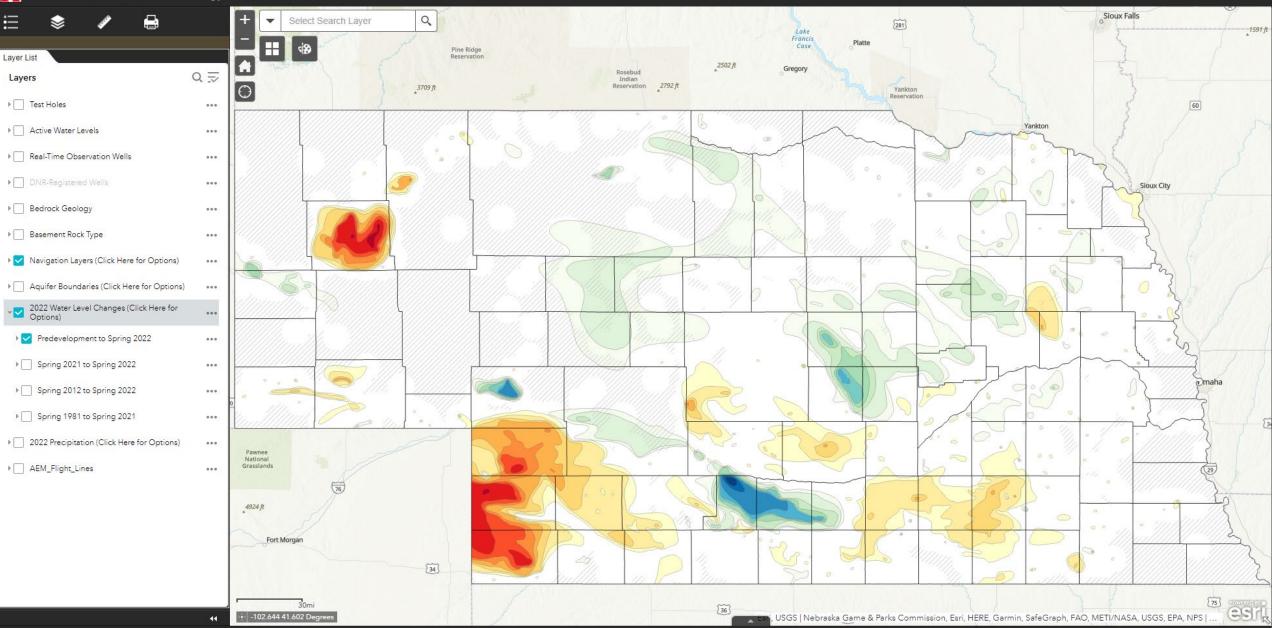
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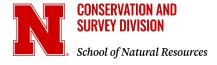
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### Water Quality





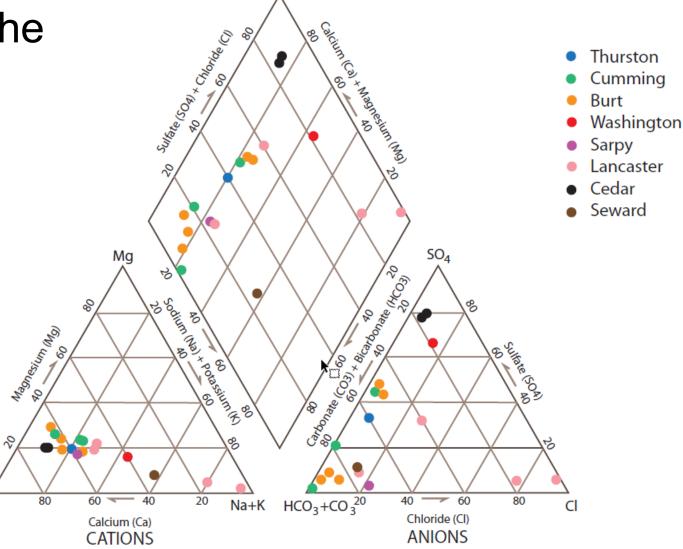
# Natural water quality of the Dakota Aquifer

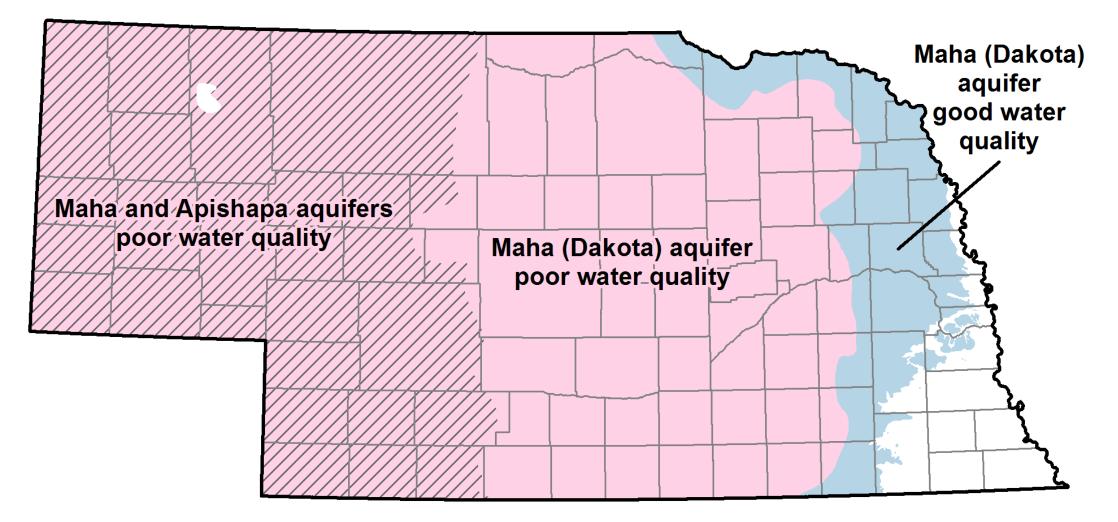
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Groundwater in the Dakota Aquifer may have elevated levels of:

- Sulfate (SO4) typically in northeastern Nebraska
- Sodium (Na) and Chloride (Cl) common in Lancaster County

Divine and Sibray, 2017, An Overview of Secondary Aquifers in Nebraska. University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Conservation and Survey Division, Educational Circular No. 26, 44 p.





Korus et al., 2013, The Groundwater Atlas of Nebraska, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Resource Atlas 4b, 64 p.

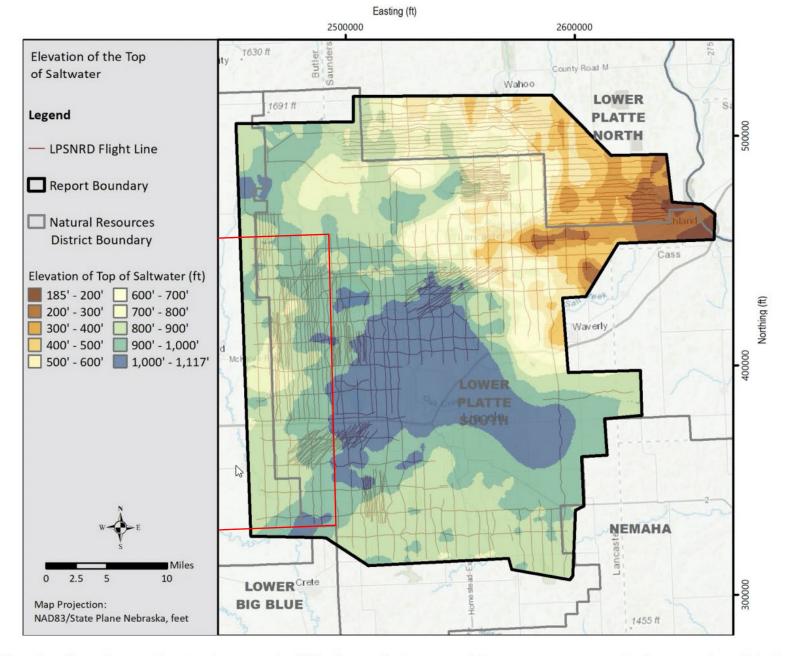


Figure 3-102. Map showing where saltwater is present within the project area and these areas represent where a value of 4 ohm/m which indicates the presence of saltwater. Flight lines are indicated by the grey lines. Horizontal datum is NAD83 State Plane Nebraska (feet). Section 3.1 explains how this determination was made.

1 NE Clearinghouse

Aggregate Nitrate Chart

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#### https://clearinghouse.nebraska.gov/

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#### Explorer V Nebraska Groundwater Quality Clearinghouse

Clearinghouse Number	Sample Date	Applied Filters: Analyte/CAS #	Concentration	Units	9
<u>373616</u>	2023/04/20	Chloride (CAS #: 16887-00-6)	24.8	mg/l	
373616	2023/04/20	Fluoride (CAS #: 16984-48-8)	Not Detected	ug/l	
373616	2023/04/20	Sulfate (CAS #: 14808-79-8)	1090	mg/l	
373616	2023/04/20	Nitrate-N (CAS #: 14797-55-8)	119	mg/l	1
373616	2023/04/20	Nitrite as NO2 (CAS #: 14797-65-0)	Not Detected	mg/l	
373624	2023/03/22	Nitrite as NO2 (CAS #: 14797-65-0)	Not Detected	mg/l	
373624	2023/03/22	Chloride (CAS #: 16887-00-6)	44.4	mg/l	
373624	2023/03/22	Fluoride (CAS #: 16984-48-8)	143	ug/l	100
373624	2023/03/22	Sulfate (CAS #: 14808-79-8)	36.8	mg/l	
373624	2023/03/22	Nitrate-N (CAS #: 14797-55-8)	54.3	mg/l	1
206230	2023/03/22	Nitrate-N (CAS #: 14797-55-8)	20.3	mg/l	
206230	2023/03/22	Chloride (CAS #: 16887-00-6)	18.2	mg/l	
206230	2023/03/22	Fluoride (CAS #: 16984-48-8)	138	ug/l	3
206230	2023/03/22	Sulfate (CAS #: 14808-79-8)	49.2	mg/l	
206230	2023/03/22	Nitrite as NO2 (CAS #: 14797-65-0)	Not Detected	mg/l	
<u>373623</u>	2023/03/21	Nitrate-N (CAS #: 14797-55-8)	32.1	mg/l	
373623	2023/03/21	Nitrite as NO2 (CAS #: 14797-65-0)	0.019	mg/l	1
373623	2023/03/21	Chloride (CAS #: 16887-00-6)	43.3	mg/l	
373623	2023/03/21	Fluoride (CAS #: 16984-48-8)	199	ug/l	
373623	2023/03/21	Sulfate (CAS #: 14808-79-8)	165	mg/l	
373622	2023/03/21	Nitrite as NO2 (CAS #: 14797-65-0)	Not Detected	mg/l	
373622	2023/03/21	Nitrate-N (CAS #: 14797-55-8)	27.3	mg/l	1
373622	2023/03/21	Chloride (CAS #: 16887-00-6)	67.7	mg/l	
373622	2023/03/21	Fluoride (CAS #: 16984-48-8)	166	ug/l	3

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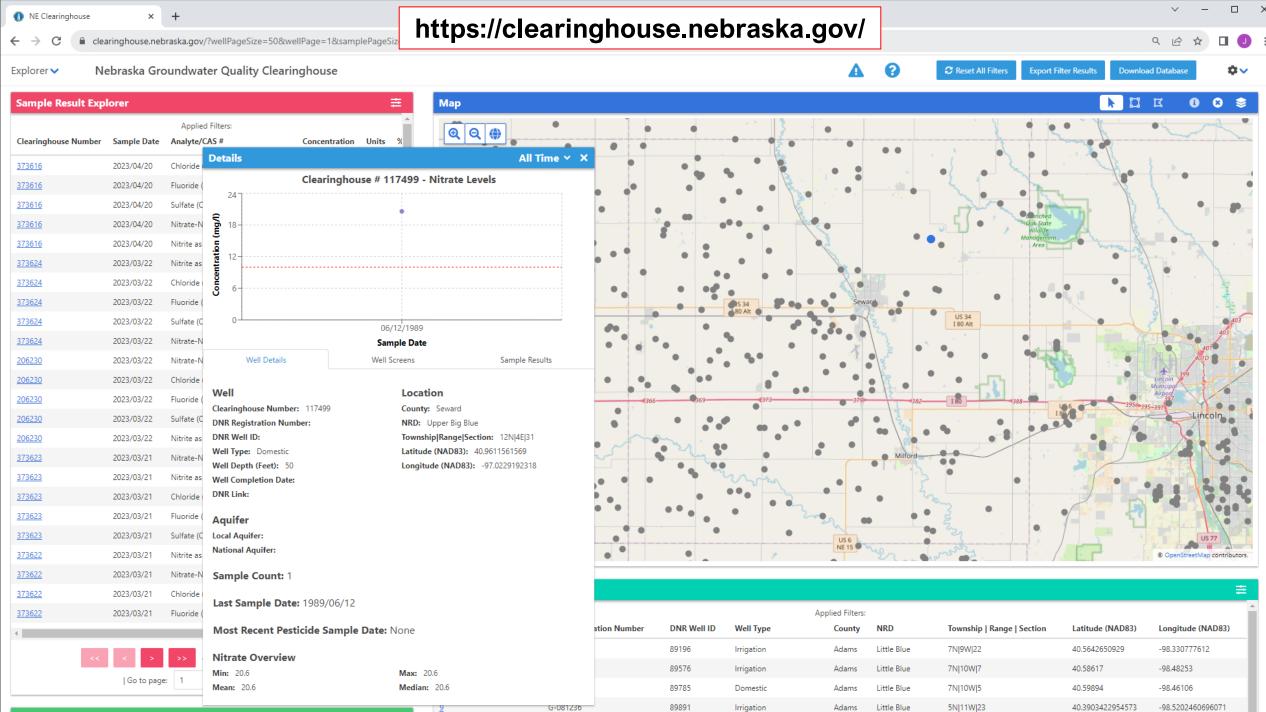
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Well Explorer								÷		
Applied Filters:										
Clearinghouse Number	DNR Registration Number	DNR Well ID	Well Type	County	NRD	Township   Range   Section	Latitude (NAD83)	Longitude (NAD83)		
3	G-080540	89196	Irrigation	Adams	Little Blue	7NJ9WJ22	40.5642650929	-98.330777612		
<u>6</u>	G-080920	89576	Irrigation	Adams	Little Blue	7NJ10WJ7	40.58617	-98.48253		
Z	G-081130	89785	Domestic	Adams	Little Blue	7N 10W 5	40.59894	-98.46106		
9	G-081236	89891	Irrigation	Adams	Little Blue	5NJ11WJ23	40.3903422954573	-98.5202460696071		

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Aggregate Nitrate Chart

### Monitoring and Studies





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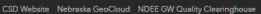
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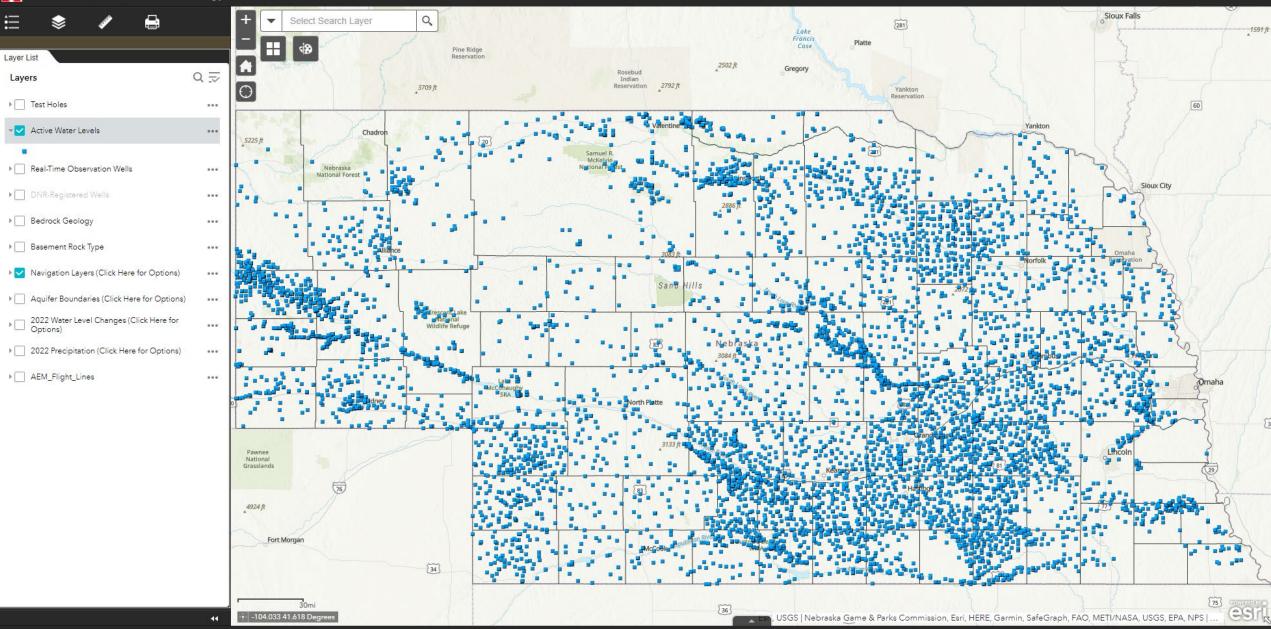
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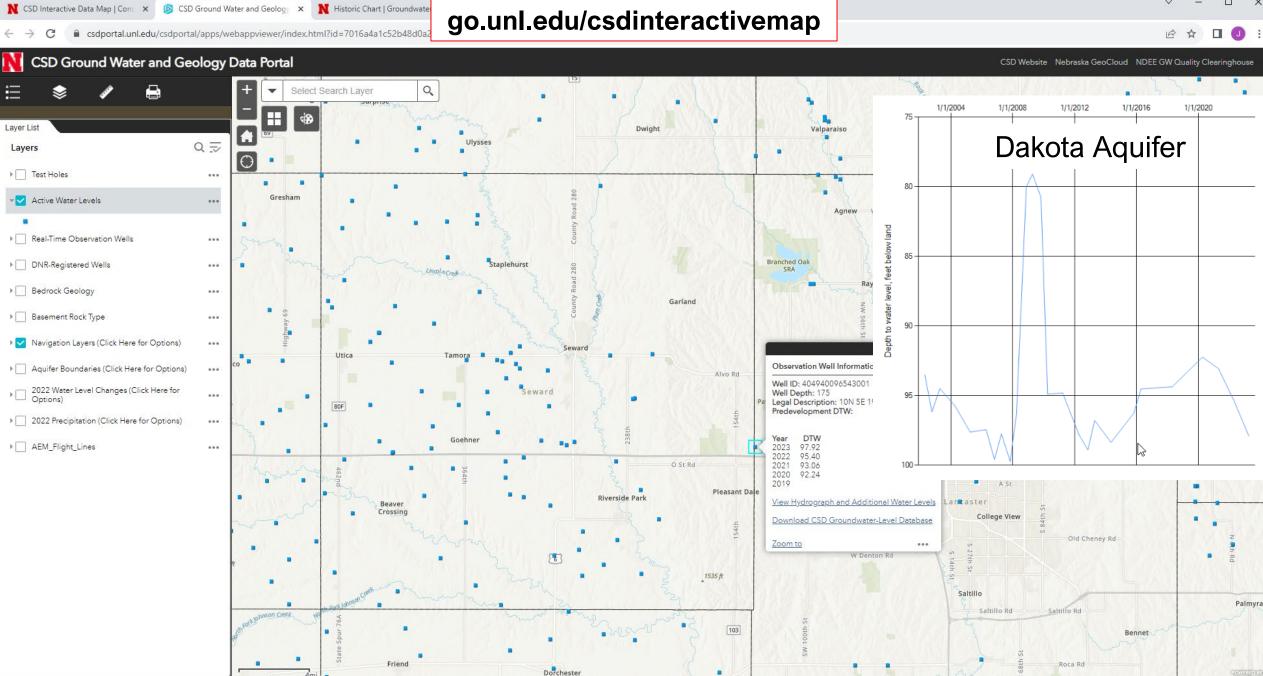
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#### K CSD Ground Water and Geology Data Portal

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esi , NASA, NGA, USGS | Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc. .

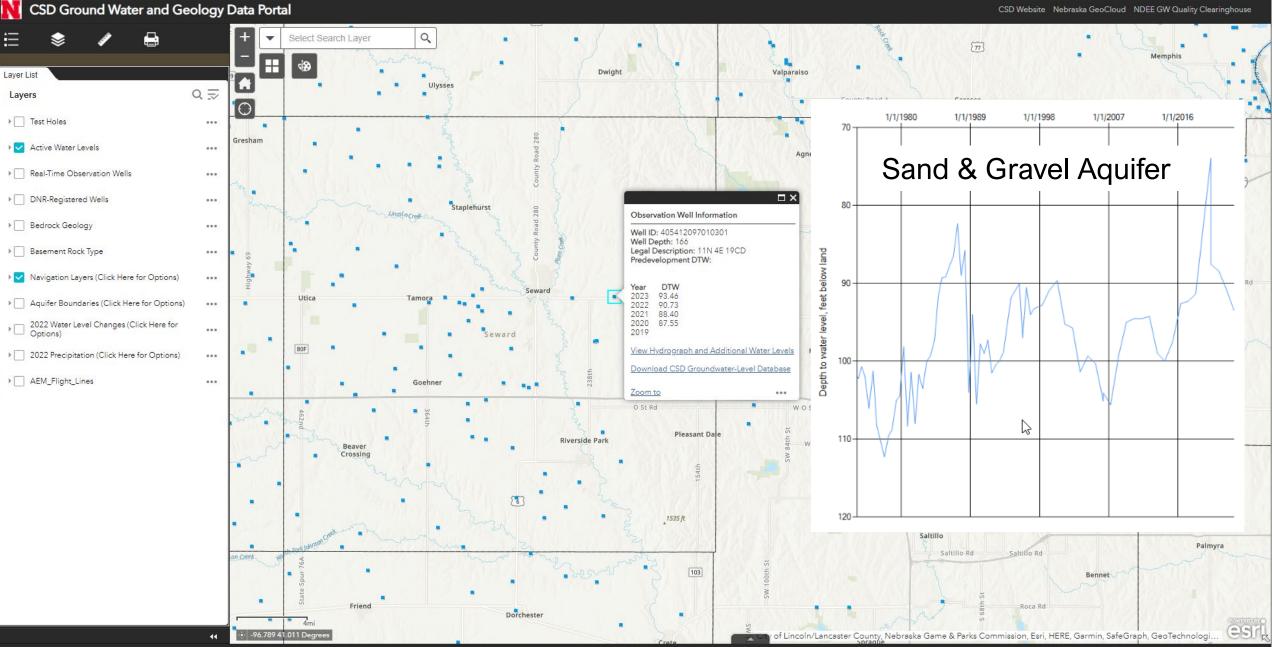
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#### go.unl.edu/csdinteractivemap

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### **Recent studies**

- Divine & Sibray, Secondary Aquifers of Nebraska
- 2018 Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey and hydrogeologic framework report for Lower Platte South NRD
- 2023 Hydrogeologic Framework report scheduled for completion before January 1, 2024 (Lower Platte South NRD)





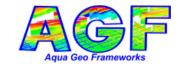
https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/conservationsurvey/39/

### An Overview of Secondary Aquifers in Nebraska

Dana P. Divine Steven S. Sibray Educational Circular No. 26

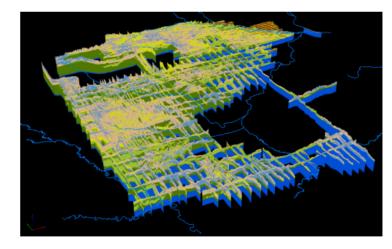
Cartography by Leslie M. Howard Edited by R.F. Diffendal, Jr.

Conservation and Survey Division School of Natural Resources University of Nebraska-Lincoln



December 4, 2019

"Airborne Electromagnetic Mapping and Hydrogeologic Framework of Selected Regions of the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment Area" Chapter on the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District



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Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) https://enwra.org/ Nebraska GeoCloud https://go.unl.edu/geocloud

## **Online resources**

- CSD interactive map
  - go.unl.edu/csdinteractivemap/
- Nebraska GeoCloud
  - go.unl.edu/geocloud
- UNL Watershed Aquifer Virtual Education System (WAVES)
  - https://nebraskawaves.org/
- UNL Extension Water Website
  - https://water.unl.edu/
- Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA)
  - https://enwra.org/
- Department of Natural Resources INSIGHT
  - https://nednr.nebraska.gov/INSIGHT/
- Nebraska Groundwater Quality Clearinghouse
  - https://clearinghouse.nebraska.gov/
- U.S. Geological Survey National Water Information System
  - https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis



