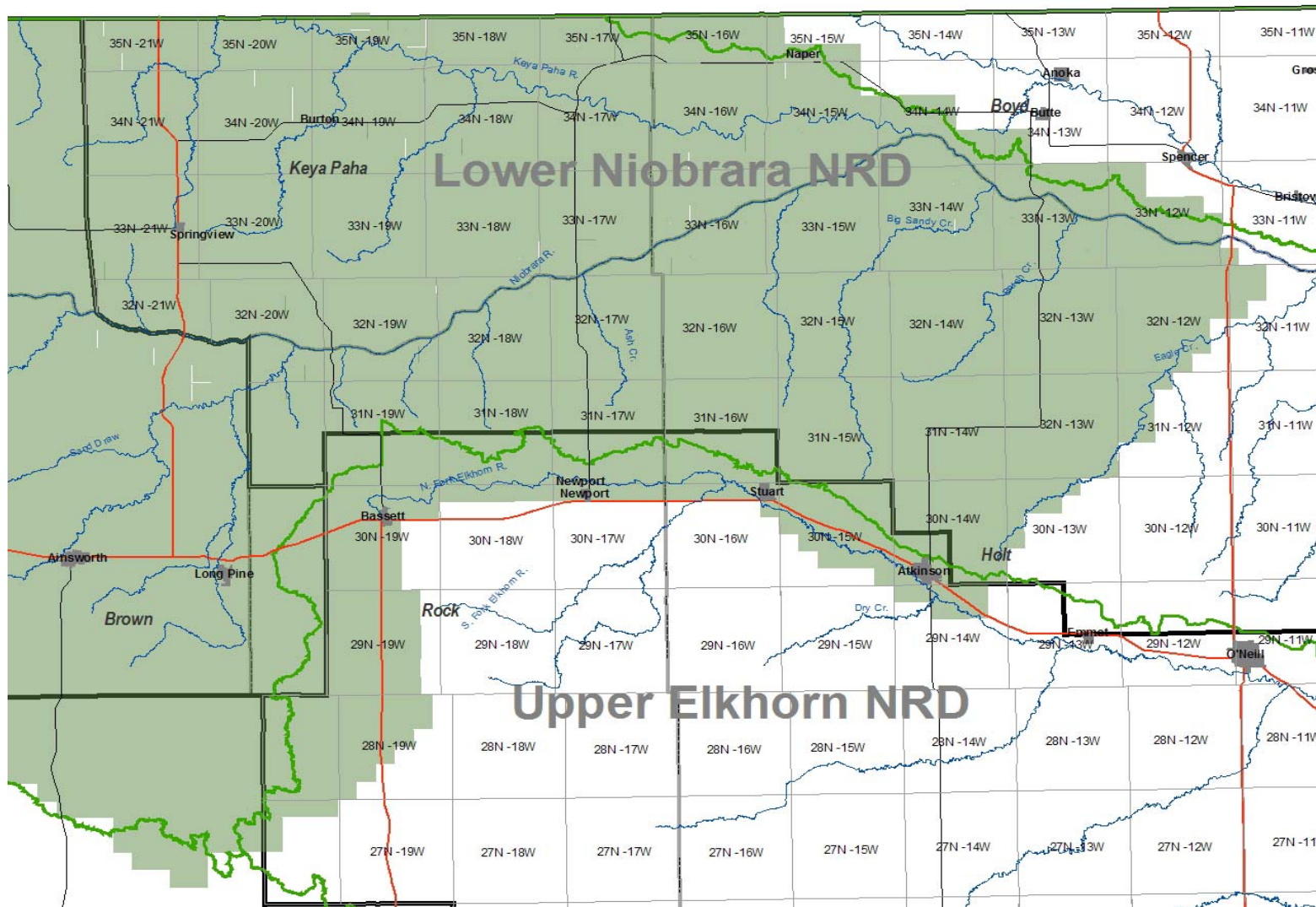


Moratorium/Stay on Ground and Surface Water Development (Shaded Area)



Due to the passage of LB962 (2004), the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required to do an annual evaluation of the surface and ground water resources within all river basins and then make a determination as to whether or not the basin is fully appropriated. On October 16, 2007, the DNR made a determination that a portion of the Niobrara River Basin, as indicated by the shaded area on the map, is fully appropriated. The determination impacts the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRDs. Due to lack of space and clarity of map, the areas of the Middle Niobrara, Upper Niobrara-White, and Upper Loup NRDs which were also determined to be fully appropriated on October 16, 2007, are not shown.

Impacts of the Fully Appropriated Determination (October 16, 2007):

- A stay was placed on the issuance of a well construction permit from the NRD for the construction of a new high capacity ground water well.
- A stay on new surface water permits was implemented.
- There is no increase or expansion of historically irrigated acres.
- An offset of any increased consumptive use may be required for any new well drilled on or after October 16, 2007 which is used to increase irrigated acres or other consumptive use. Examples of an offset would be retirement of other irrigated acres or other consumptive uses.
- The DNR and NRD's have 3-5 years to develop an Integrated Management Plan that will address existing and future ground and surface water development.



For more information please contact your local NRD.

Lower Niobrara NRD, Butte NE (402)-775-2343

Upper Elkhorn NRD, O'Neill NE (402)-336-3867

