

Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund

Timberpoint Recreation Area (North Oak Watershed Structure 6-C), a multi-use project in Butler, County is an example of a P.L. 566 project designed and built by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, funded from both federal and state funds. Project benefits enjoyed by area residence include outdoor recreation, flood abatement, sediment and erosion control and bridge and road damage reduction. The Lower Platte South NRD is the project sponsor.



The **Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund**, established in 1963, is a revolving state fund used to help local sponsors acquire land rights, easements or fee titles to tracts of land necessary in building flood abatement projects. The Fund has primarily been used by sponsors of P.L. 566 Watershed Projects which are planned, designed, and principally funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. To be eligible for funding assistance, local sponsors such as natural resources districts, cities or counties must enter into an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources specifying a hydrologic unit (drainage area) and the total number of necessary land rights involved. The fund can be used to acquire, by easement or fee title, only one of every four necessary land rights for the specific project. Historically local sponsors have utilized the Fund

to acquire the most expensive tracts needed. An additional requirement that a minimum 75% of the land in the drainage area above the structure be adequately treated prior to reservoir construction helps ensure project longevity. An appraisal prepared in accordance with state statutes must accompany each application for easement or fee title funds. After obtaining an easement, the eligible sponsor is reimbursed 50% of the appraised value. In the case of fee title acquisition, the sponsor normally receives 100% reimbursement or cost-share assistance. Within 120 days after acquiring title to a tract, the sponsor must prepare a detailed conservation plan in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service identifying needed conservation measures. In most cases the sponsor leases out portions of the tract suitable for agricultural production and the rental income is used

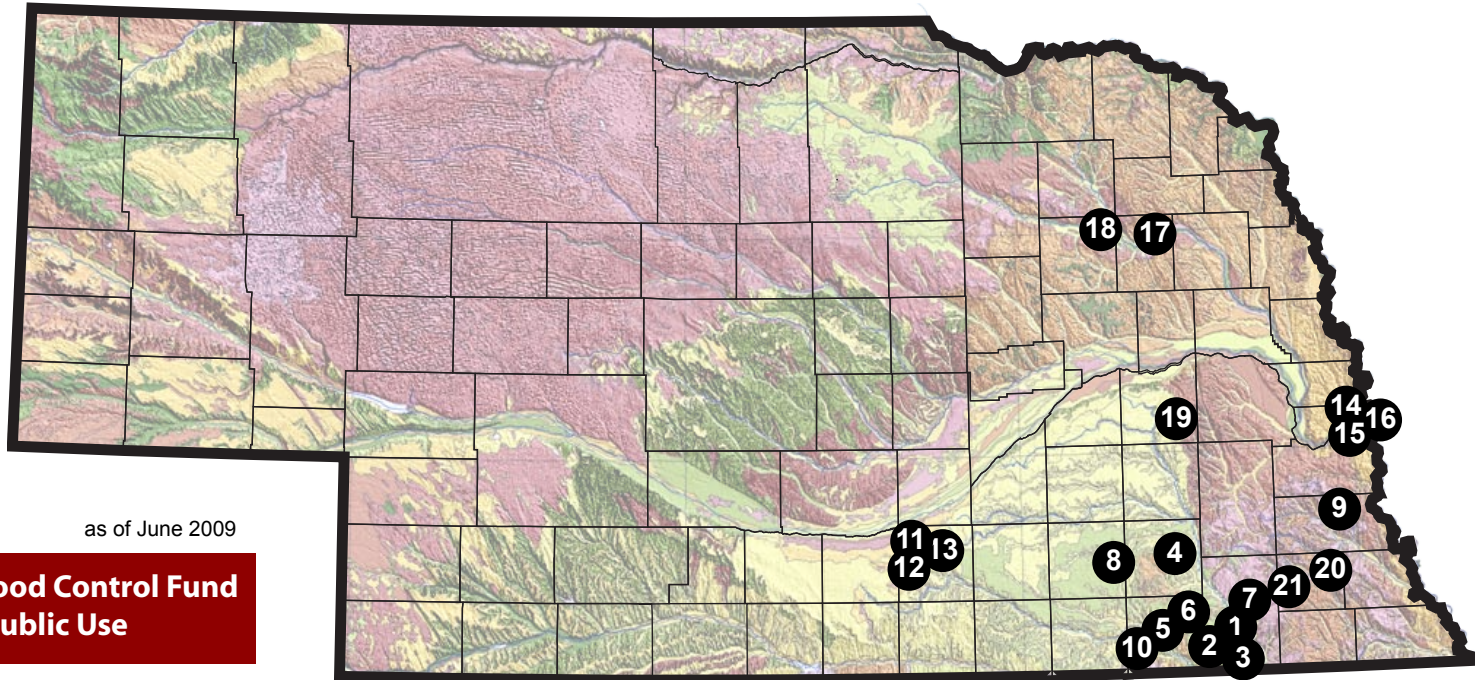
to install needed conservation practices to that tract or is returned to the Fund for future uses.

Tracts of land acquired by fee title must be disposed of (resold) within ten years of the tract purchase date. Each tract is first offered, at the current appraised value, to local subdivision of government such as adjacent cities, villages, counties, NRDs and state agencies such as the Nebraska Games and Parks Commission for public use. To date **21 tracts have been retained for public use** by these entities. If no entity shows interest in purchasing the tract it is then sold to the highest bidder at public auction. A conservation easement is attached to the title of tracts sold to ensure that the land remains adequately treated and the conservation measures installed, including reservoirs, remain for 25 years after the date of sale. The proceeds of the sale are returned to the Fund and are used for future land rights acquisition assistance. When needed, the Fund receives appropriations from the legislature to help finance future flood abatement projects. With these appropriations, along with the proceeds from fee title tracts, land rental and interest monies the Fund has continued to meet the demand for land rights acquisition assistance and help in the development of local flood abatement projects throughout the state.

See project location map on reverse side



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**Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund
Tracts Retained for Public Use**

Project	Structure	Acres	Location	Retained by
1 .Big Indian Watershed	11-A	356.5	4 miles South, 1 mile West of Wymore	Lower Big Blue NRD
2 .Big Indian Watershed	5E & 5F	353.0	3 1/2 miles West of Odell	Game and Parks Commission
3 .Big Indian watershed	16-C	320.0	3 1/2 miles West, 4 miles North of Odell	Game and Parks Commission
4 .Walnut Creek	2	17.7	2 1/2 miles North, 1 mile East of Crete	Lower Big Blue NRD
5 .Cub Creek	12-A	134.9	2 miles East, 3 miles North of Jansen	Lower Big Blue NRD
6 .Cub Creek	9-B	84.5	3 miles South, 1/4 mile East of Plymouth	Lower Big Blue NRD
7 .Mud Creek	4-J	433.6	3 1/2 miles East, 1 1/2 North of Holmesville	Game and Parks Commission
8 .Swan Creek	2	160.0	7 miles East of Milligan	Game and Parks Commission
9 .Wilson Creek	2X & 2-23	40.0	3 miles East of Otoe	Game and Parks Commission
10. Buckley Creel watershed	3-F	97.6	1 mile East, 1/2 mile North of Reynolds	Little Blue NRD
11. 32-Mile Watershed	D	107.0	3 1/2 miles East, 5 miles South of Kenesaw	Little Blue NRD
12. 32-Mile Watershed	D	4.1	3 1/2 miles East, 5 miles South of Kenesaw	Little Blue NRD
13. 32-Mile Watershed	H	160.0	3 miles South, 1/2 mile East of Juniata	Little Blue NRD
14. Sarpy R-O-W	R-613	18.0	2 1/2 miles North, 1 mile East of LaPlatte	Sarpy County
15. Missouri River Levee	R-616	8.5	Bellevue	Papio-Missouri River NRD
16. Missouri River Levee	R-616	79.5	Bellevue	City of Bellevue
17. Pilger Watershed	1-B	118.2	1 mile North, 1 mile East of Pilger	Lower Elkhorn NRD
18. Corporation Gulch	1-A	107.3 plus lots	Norfolk	City of Norfolk
19. North Oak Watershed	6-C	160.0	1 mile South, 2 miles East of Brainard	Lower Platte South NRD
20. South Branch Little Nemaha	27	46.8	2 miles West, 4 miles South of Cook	Nemaha NRD
21. Middle Big Nemaha	46	194.2	2 miles South, 2 1/2 miles East of Crab Orchard	Game and Parks Commission