

Description of the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (Central) is a multipurpose water agency providing irrigation, hydroelectric generation, groundwater recharge, recreation and wildlife habitat.

Central was organized in 1933 and its hydro-irrigation project was constructed between 1935 and 1942. Central is the owner/operator of Kingsley Dam and Lake McConaughy, which are located on the North Platte River near Ogallala, Neb.

Central's project provides surface water irrigation service to more than 109,000 acres in Phelps, Gosper, Kearney, Lincoln and Dawson counties, making it the largest irrigation project in Nebraska. More than 100,000 acres served by other irrigation projects also receive supplemental water from Lake McConaughy, Central's primary storage reservoir. In addition, Central's system of canals and laterals provides documented groundwater recharge to more than 310,000 acres in and adjacent to Central's service area and Central works cooperatively with other entities to provide groundwater recharge to benefit the area's groundwater aquifer and base flows in the Platte and Republican rivers.

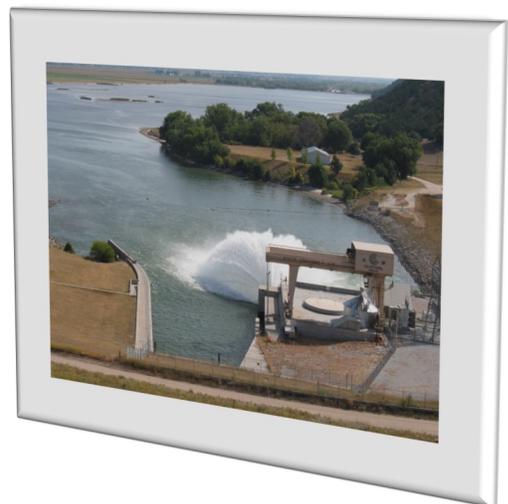
The production of hydroelectric power is another major benefit of Central's project. Central operates three hydroplants along its 75-mile-long Supply Canal – one below Jeffrey Reservoir near Brady, and two more below Johnson Lake near Lexington – with capacity to generate up to 63 megawatts (MW) of electricity. Central also owns and operates the 50-MW Kingsley Hydroplant below Kingsley Dam. To put the generating capacity into perspective, the four plants together could produce a total of 113 megawatts of electricity, enough power to serve the needs of approximately 37,000 homes (a city 3.5 times larger than Kearney, Neb.). All power generated at the hydroplants is sold at wholesale to other utilities for distribution. Central's hydroplants have been certified low impact hydropower facilities by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute since 2008. Central's hydroelectric facilities are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Organization of the Central District

Central is a political sub-division of the State of Nebraska with administrative headquarters in Holdrege. The public in six counties elects representatives to Central's 12-member board of directors. The board is composed of three members from each of three counties -- Phelps, Kearney, and Gosper -- and one member each from Keith, Lincoln and Dawson counties. Directors are elected to six-year terms.

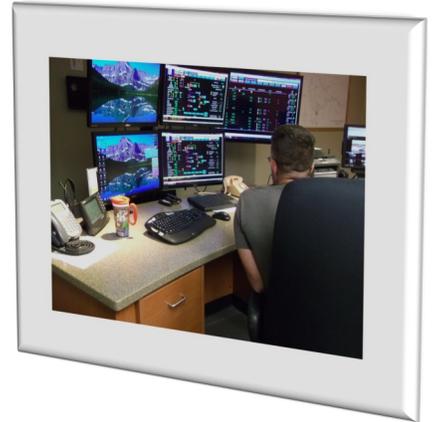
Central maintains offices in Gothenburg, which oversees operations of the hydroplants, the Supply Canal and Kingsley Dam; an irrigation office in Bertrand to oversee irrigation operations in the western part of the irrigated area; an irrigation office in Holdrege, which is responsible for the eastern portion of the irrigated area; and at Kingsley Dam/Lake McConaughy.

In addition to power sales and irrigation service revenues, Central generates revenue from the property leases at some of its lakes, primarily Johnson Lake and Lake McConaughy.



District Facilities

Central's hydro-irrigation process stretches from Lake McConaughy in the west to east of Minden. In addition to the previously mentioned facilities, primary features of the project include a diversion dam on the Platte River east of North Platte; the Supply Canal, which includes two regulating reservoirs for the hydroplants and more than 20 small canyon lakes along its route; a Control Center at the Gothenburg office, which provides remote supervision and control of the hydroplants and water conveyance through the system; irrigation delivery facilities which include three main irrigation canals and associated laterals and pipelines (more than 500 miles in total); and Elwood Reservoir, an auxiliary storage reservoir south of Johnson Lake.



Recreation and Wildlife Benefits

Central has made a concerted effort to provide abundant and high-quality recreational opportunities at its facilities through cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as well as private developers. There are more than 5,900 acres of land adjacent to Central waters that are designated State Recreation Areas. Another 6,879 acres have been set aside as Wildlife Management Areas. NGPC leases this land at no cost. The balance of project land, excluding some areas restricted for operations purposes, is open to the public for recreation activity.



The main attraction is the total of 35,688 surface acres of water which are found at Central's lakes and reservoirs. Lake McConaughy, Lake Ogallala, Johnson Lake and Jeffrey Lake are the most heavily used public recreation sites in the project with a combined total of more than 1.5 million visitor-days each year. The smaller lakes on the Supply Canal also provide recreational opportunities, as does the Supply Canal itself. From Lake McConaughy to the end of the Supply Canal, there are 23 designated campgrounds, 11 areas for recreational vehicles with a total of almost 500 RV pads, nine trailer parks and innumerable sites suitable for primitive camping.



Central has also been an active participant in many areas related to maintenance of wildlife habitat in the Platte Valley. For example, Central has cooperated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance wildlife habitat at the Funk Waterfowl Production Area and other WPAs; implemented measures to protect the nesting sites of least terns and piping plovers at Lake McConaughy and on selected sandpits in the project area; worked with the Rainwater Basin Joint Management Venture to maintain and enhance wetlands in southern Nebraska; has operated bald eagle viewing facilities at two of its hydroplants for many years; leases more than 6,200 acres at the west end of Lake McConaughy to NGPC and several other Wildlife Management Areas for use as wildlife habitat; and acquired more than 4,500 acres of land adjacent to the river between Lexington and Overton to manage as wildlife habitat. Another parcel of land, consisting of more than 500 acres along the North Platte River west of North Platte, is leased to The Nature Conservancy to manage as wildlife habitat.

