

# Watershed Rehabilitation

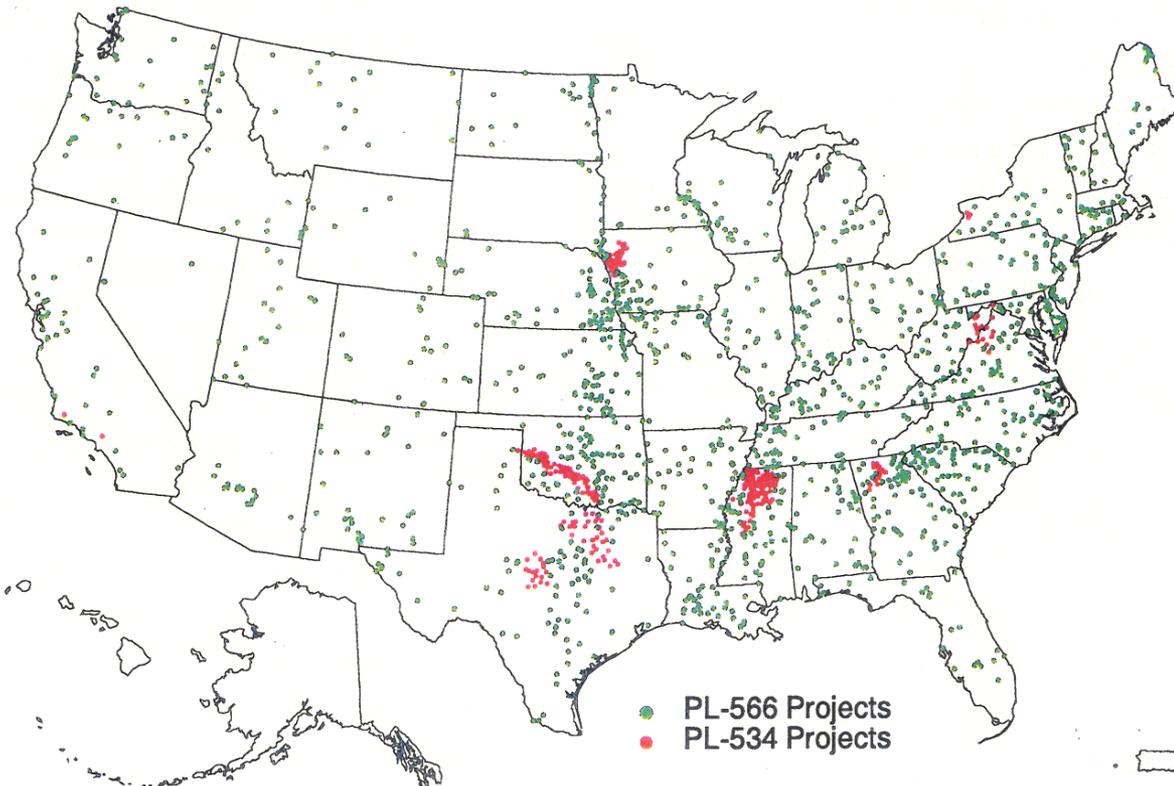
2014 Farm Bill

# Watershed Program Overview

- NRCS Assistance has Constructed Over 11,000 Dams in 47 States Since 1948
- Provide an Estimated \$1.5 Billion in Annual Benefits:
  - Reduced Flooding
  - Erosion Damages
  - Recreation
  - Water Supplies
  - Wildlife Habitat
- Many Dams are Nearing the End of Their 50-Year Design Life

# The Watershed Program

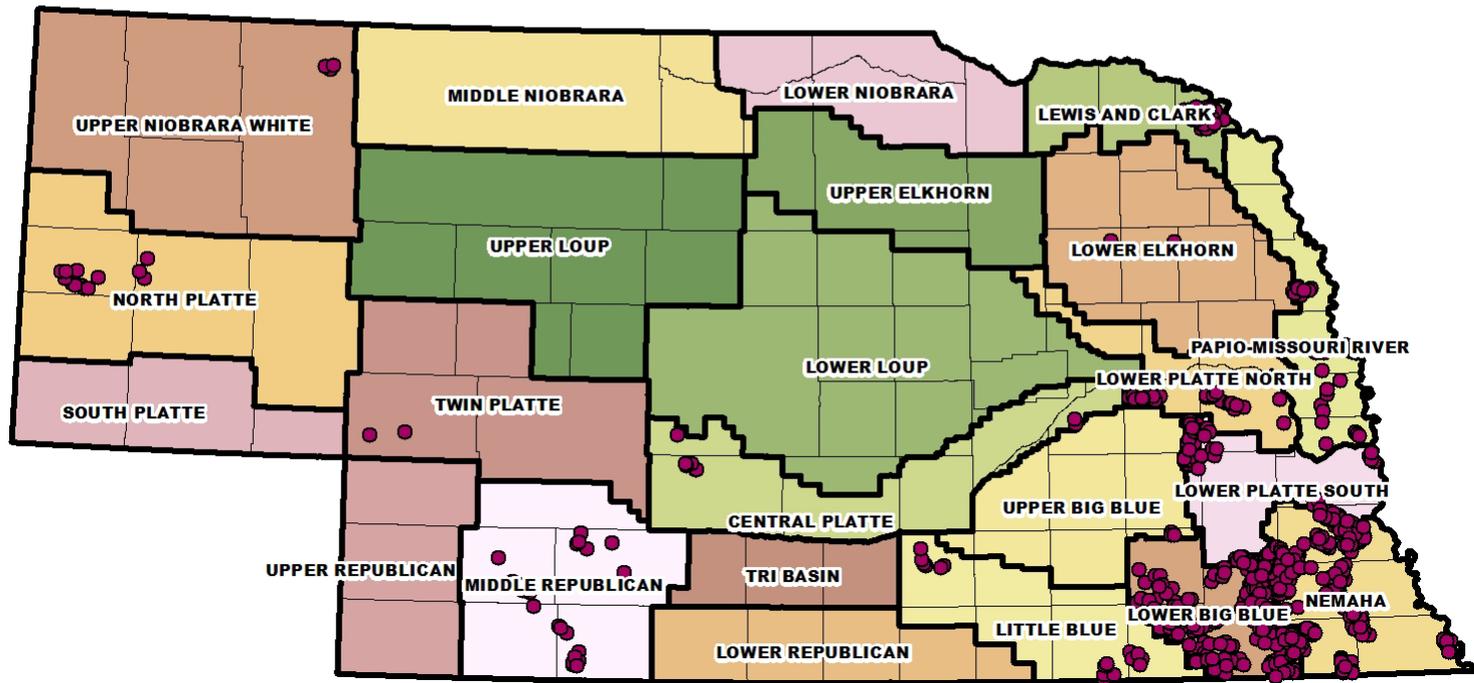
## Watershed Project Locations



NRCS has assisted communities build more than 11,000 dams in 2000 Watershed Projects in 47 States since 1948

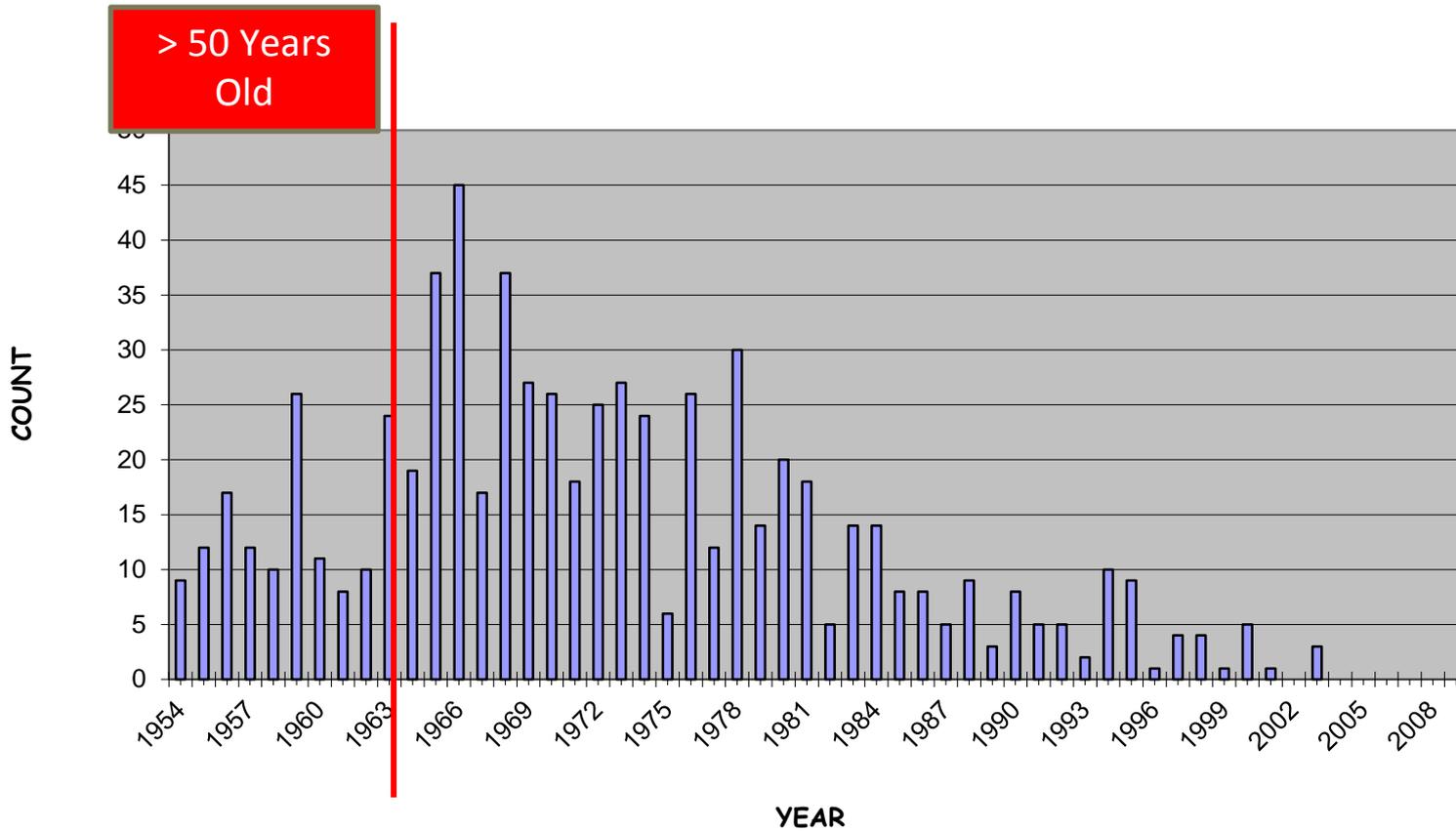
# Distribution Across Nebraska

## PL-566 Structures in Nebraska



# Nebraska Need for Watershed Rehabilitation

NEBRASKA - COUNT OF PL-566 INVENTORY DAMS COMPLETED BY YEAR



# Aging Watershed Infrastructure Rehabilitation Legislation

- Congress Passed the Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000 which Amended the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566).
- This Authorized NRCS to Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Watershed Project Sponsors in Rehabilitating Their Aging Dams.
  - All Work Necessary to Extend the Service Life of the Dam and Meet Public Safety and Performance Requirements
  - Work That is Not Considered Typical Maintenance of the Structure

# NRCS Water Resource Programs Eligible for Rehabilitation

- Watershed Program (PL-534 Flood Control Act of 1944 and PL-566 Watershed Protection Act of 1954)
- Pilot Watershed Program (1952-1954)
- Resource Conservation and Development Program

# Reasons for Watershed Rehabilitation

- Design Service Life has Been Reached
- Structure Functions are Impaired
- Changes in Technology
- Changes in the Watershed
- Public Safety Features Have Changed
- Upgrade to Meet State Dam Regulations

# NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Process



# Planning/Evaluation Process

## NEPA PROCESS (National Environmental Policy Act)



## Watershed Planning Process



## General NRCS Planning Process

Proposed Action  
Purpose and Need

Scoping

Issue Refinement

Alternatives

Effects and Analysis

Documentation

Public Comment

Documentation/  
Decisions

Incorporates both the NEPA  
and NRCS Planning Process

Preliminary Investigation

Feasibility Report

Watershed Agreement

Watershed Plan and NEPA  
documentation

Step 1 – Identify Problems

Step 2 – Determine Objectives

Step 3 – Inventory Resources

Step 4 – Analyze Resource Data

Step 5 – Formulate Alternatives

Step 6 – Evaluate Alternatives

Step 7 – Make Decisions

Step 8 – Implement Plan

Step 9 – Evaluate Plan

# Watershed Rehab Funding in the 2014 Farm Bill

- In January, the President signed a continuing resolution bill that provided \$12 million in funding for the watershed rehabilitation program. On February 7, the president signed the 2014 Farm Bill that provided an additional appropriation of \$250 million dollars for a total of \$262 million available for the watershed rehabilitation program.

# Differences in the 2014 Rehab Funding

- Mandatory funding instead of discretionary funding
- No Year Funding instead of FY Funding
- All Structures are Potentially Eligible, Regardless of Hazard Class
- 2014 Request will approve funds Planning through Construction
- Can Take Application for a Structure, even if assessment has not been completed

# 2014 Allocation Process

- The states can submit requests to fund new watershed projects, or remaining phases of existing watershed projects by April 11, 2014.
- Projects that are selected will be completely funded from planning through construction as one request.
- Projects may be submitted and will be considered, regardless of hazard class.

# Actions to Date

- Letters were sent to Sponsors of eligible dams informing them of the program and requesting a list of eligible structures that they will apply for funding for:
  - Planning through Construction
  - Assessment
- Responses from interested Sponsors are due April 4, 2014.

# Future Actions

- Sponsor Requests will be consolidated and forwarded to Headquarters for final funding decisions.
- Sponsors will be notified as soon as final funding decisions are made.

# List of Eligible Structures

- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ne/programs/planning/wr/>.
- This link takes you to a spreadsheet that shows all NDNR permitted Nebraska PL-566, PL-134, and RC&D-funded structures that are eligible for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program funding.

# Who To Call

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Questions?

