

Great Plains Distribution System

Water in the Great Plains Canal (shown on previous page) will link up with the Missouri River at Lake Sakakawea, as well as run along the Laurentian Continental Divide through the Dakotas, before connecting with the Mississippi River.

Approximately 10 MAFY will be delivered to Lake Sakakawea by way of the Prairie Canal. In addition, 10 MAFY of Missouri River floodwater could be added to an amount to be diverted just downstream of the Fort Randall Dam, on the Nebraska and South Dakota border, and pumped up to a series of reservoirs on the Niobrara River. From there, water would run through a canal engineered to intersect key locations dependent on the Ogallala Aquifer for irrigation.

Missouri River floodwater would be back-pumped from the north side of Kansas City, Kan., along the Kansas River, before being piped to Hutchinson, Kan., where a purification plant could be built to discharge water into the Ogallala Aquifer. Water could also be added to the Arkansas

River, along with any other programmed flow of water into the river from other elements of the system.

If excess water were available in years of Mississippi drought, water could be delivered via the Minnesota River into the main stem of the Mississippi. In years of flooding, Mississippi River water could be diverted according to specific elements of the Texas Water plan, intersecting other systems.

