

# **2020 Big Blue River Compact Administration Report**

## **2019 Water Administration Activities in Nebraska**

The Little and Big Blue River Basins received above average precipitation for 2019. Precipitation conditions in 2019 showed an increase from 2018. No surface water administration occurred this year.

### **Little Blue Administration**

The Little Blue's headwaters are located near Minden with the river exiting the state south of Fairbury. The basin encompasses approximately 2,700 square miles in all or parts of 10 counties. It contains 246 irrigation permits and 138 storage rights.

The flow at Hollenberg exceeded the target through the entire administration period.

### **Big Blue Administration**

The headwaters of the Big Blue River are located in Hamilton County, north of Aurora. At its farthest western extent, the Basin's headwaters extend northwest of Hastings. The Big Blue River exits the state south of Barneston and continues until it reaches its junction with the Kansas River. The Basin encompasses 4,450 square miles in all or parts of 15 counties and contains 814 surface water irrigation permits and 364 storage permits.

The flow at Barneston exceeded the target through the entire administration period.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

In general, the basins received above average rainfall and experienced average summer temperatures. NeDNR issued no closing notices for Compact compliance in 2019. Department staff did visit each surface water appropriation in 2019, and observed that many appropriators simply didn't need to irrigate due to the timely precipitation.