

## Stop the Attack on Nebraska's Drinking Water

Stop the attacks on America's drinking water. 1 in 3 Americans' drinking water sources are at risk now. That includes the drinking water for 1 in every 4 Nebraskans. **The Administration has a strong, commonsense plan to make clean water a priority by protecting the sources that feed the drinking water for more than 117 million Americans, including 526,000 Nebraskans.** If Congress blocks the proposal to protect clean water, at least 52% of Nebraska's streams and 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide will continue to be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Stopping this proposal imperils drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

### Snake River in the Sandhills of NE



Credit: Karen Walters on [flickr](#)

- **28% of Nebraskans – more than 1 out of 4 residents –** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams currently vulnerable to pollution.
- **370 miles of streams** that feed into Nebraska's drinking water sources are at risk. The Clean Water Rule would clarify protections for 53% of the stream miles in NE's Source Water Protection Areas, including intermittent, ephemeral, and headwater streams.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk.

## Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **This commonsense proposal restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the proposed rule would provide **\$388 million to \$514 million annually in benefits** to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater.
- **Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and Nebraska's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$1.3 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in NE, including \$182 million on fishing, and more than half a million people participated in these recreational activities in Nebraska.
- **Nebraska's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Nebraska breweries contribute almost \$200 million to our economy every year and support more than 2,000 jobs.

## Nebraska Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **More than 1,800 Nebraskans, out of more than 800,000 Americans, expressed support for the rule.**
- Groups like the Izaak Walton League of America, Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society and Nebraska Wildlife Federation support protections for clean water.
- In 2003, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission submitted comments opposing Bush administration efforts to roll back protections for small streams and wetlands.

For more information, please visit [protectcleanwater.org](http://protectcleanwater.org).