

## Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

### *Protect Nebraska's Drinking Water*

The Clean Water Rule was recently finalized by the Obama administration after years of planning, 400 stakeholder meetings, and more than a million public comments. It safeguards our water and restores protections to the drinking water sources for 1 in 3 Americans. This includes the drinking water for more than 1 in every 4 Nebraskans. **The Clean Water Rule is a strong, commonsense policy that makes clean water a priority throughout the nation.** If Congress blocks the Clean Water Rule, at least 77% of Nebraska's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Blocking this rule would imperil drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

#### Snake River in the Sandhills of NE



- **28% of Nebraskans** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to 370 miles of streams** that feed into Nebraska's drinking water sources.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are safeguarded.

#### 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 rule will provide at least \$339 million and up to \$572 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 \$183 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 nearly 2,000 jobs.

#### Nebraska Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **More than 1,800 Nebraskans, out of more than 800,000 Americans, support 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.
- Recent polling shows that 79% of Americans want Congress to let EPA implement the Rule.

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