

Water Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:30 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. REGULATORY

2.A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

2.A.1. Variance Request in the Hydrologically Connected Area (Limited Development Area)

2.A.2. Variance Requests in the Non-Hydrologically Connected Area (Normal Development Area)

2.A.3. Variance Requests in the Restricted Development Areas

2.A.4. Special Quantity Subareas

Discussion will be held on potential new boundaries and rules for the Platte/Colfax Water Quantity Management Area (SQS # 2). Staff has been working on options on different boundaries, allocations and the possibility of new wells. Producers from this area have been notified on this discussion item.

Attached is the presentation showing the options. The Committee, staff and producers discuss potential boundary 1 as the preferred option. Discussion on allocation where a 4-year 40-inch allocation would be preferred, but they do not like the rolling allocation. The area east of the potential boundary 1 line might need a lower allocation. It was recommended that flow meters and water use reporting continue in the existing area to collect the data and determine if irrigation management is happening. Discussion on allowing new irrigation wells on the west side of the area, it was recommended to proceed slowly and develop a sound procedure before issuing a permit.

Staff would be putting together rules and regulations for the Committee to review at the next meeting. After the Committee meeting, staff will be conducting a meeting in the area for the citizens.

2.A.5. Well Permit Program

Attached is a table concluding the 2025 well permits.

2.A.6. Supplemental Well Permit

Raikes Farm Enterprises is requesting a supplemental well permit for the NE SW S30-13N-9E, Saunders County. If the well has sufficient pumping capacity, they would like to convert the other well to a livestock well.

2.A.7. Cost Share Programs

There has been one application for the Soil Moisture Sensor Incentive Program submitted by Matthew Soukup. This program offers 50% reimbursement up to \$750 of the actual purchase of the soil moisture sensors.

2.A.8. LPNNRD Operator Certification

Certification classes are set for the upcoming year. This class is required every 4 years for producers to be eligible for services from Lower Platte North NRD like variances, well permits and chemigation permits. The class has been updated from previous versions.

Dates and Locations:

- January 29, 1 pm at ENREEC, Ithaca
- February 4, 1 pm at Extension office, Fremont
- February 17, 10 am at Columbus Library, Columbus
- February 25, 1 pm at Lindsay Town Hall, Lindsay
- March 10, 6 pm at ENREEC, Ithaca

Online certification is available as an option.

3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

3.A. DECOMMISSIONED WELL PROGRAM

3.A.1. Well Estimates

Two new wells has been reviewed and approved for decommissioning since the last Committee meeting.

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
Joan Davidshofer		\$453.54	Colfax
Dale Pillen	Irrigation	\$1497.62	Platte

3.A.2. Plugged Wells

wells have been plugged, reviewed, and ready for cost share payment approval this month.

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County

3.B. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

3.B.1. Phase Area Update

<u>Flow Meter Cost Share</u>	<u>Meters</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Scott Muhle	1 Meter	\$1,000
Dean Shonka	2 Meters	\$2,000
Carl Grotelueschen	1 Meter	\$1,000
Curt Bohac	4 Meters	\$4,000
Ellen Still	1 Meter	\$1,000

An application from Jonathon D Sobota for a Gravity to Pivot Conversion for \$10,000. Jon had an EQIP contract from a couple of years ago that just got approved this fall. The plan is to fund this application through the WSF Grant, as LPN is wrapping this grant up but might have some funding for this application.

3.C. NEW MONITORING WELLS

Staff will start looking at the best locations for new monitoring wells. This is part of the goals of the Groundwater Management Plan to establish up to 4 new monitoring wells per year.

4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS

4.A. SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The Newman Grove Source Water Protection Contract has been completed.

Met with DWEE to discuss potential projects involving Mead and Yutan. These will be looked at more after the pilot program for Malmo is complete to see how successful it is.

5. OTHER

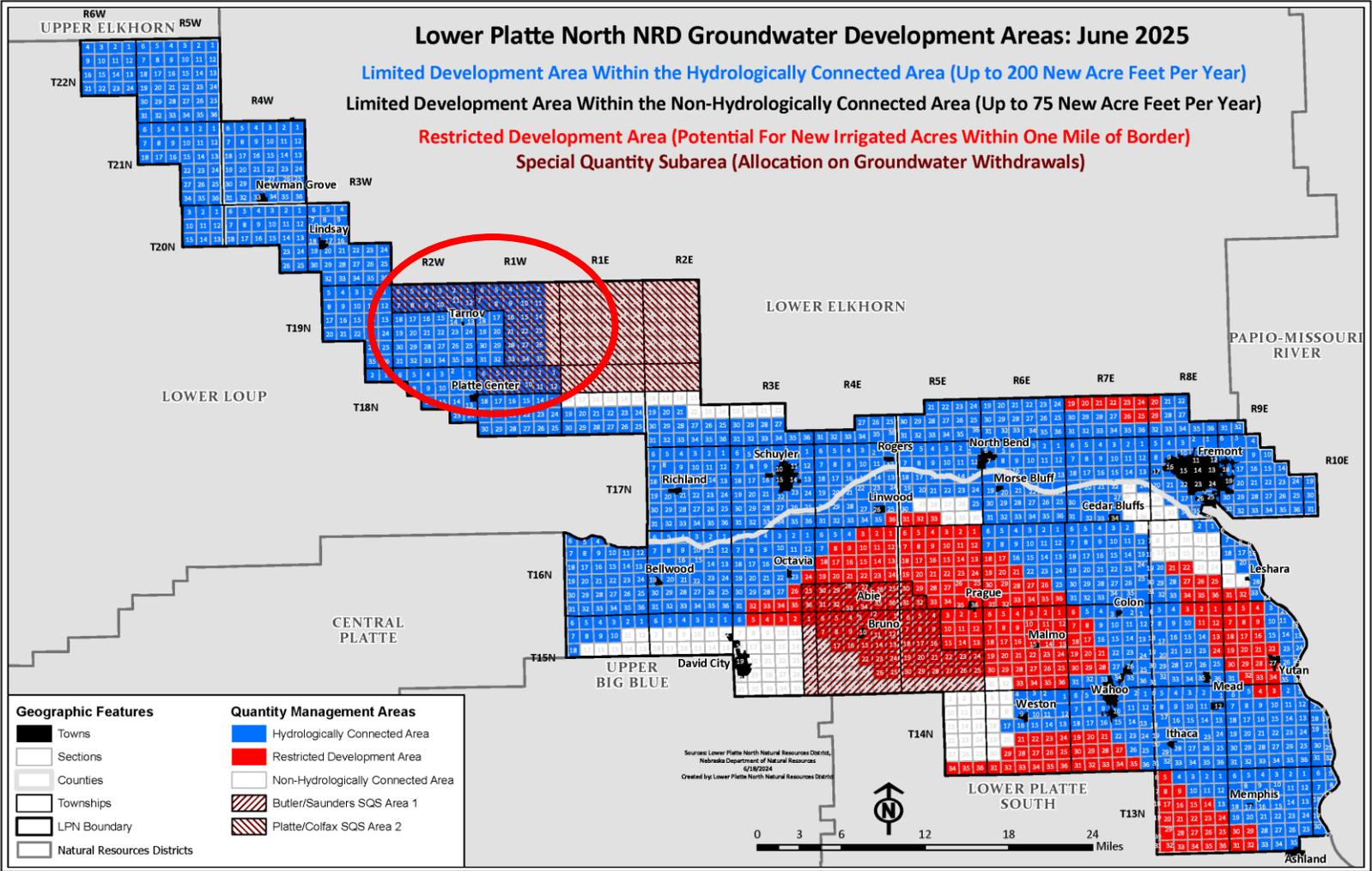
Is the Committee interested in a Water retreat?

5.A. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

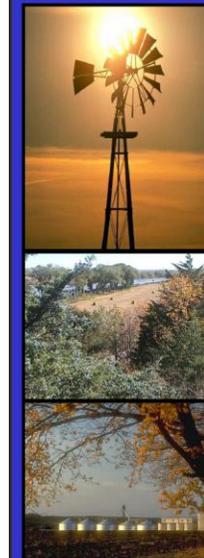
PLATTE-COLFAX SQS DISCUSSION

PLATTE/COLFAX SQS

- Existing management practices in place
- Limited Development Area in western portions



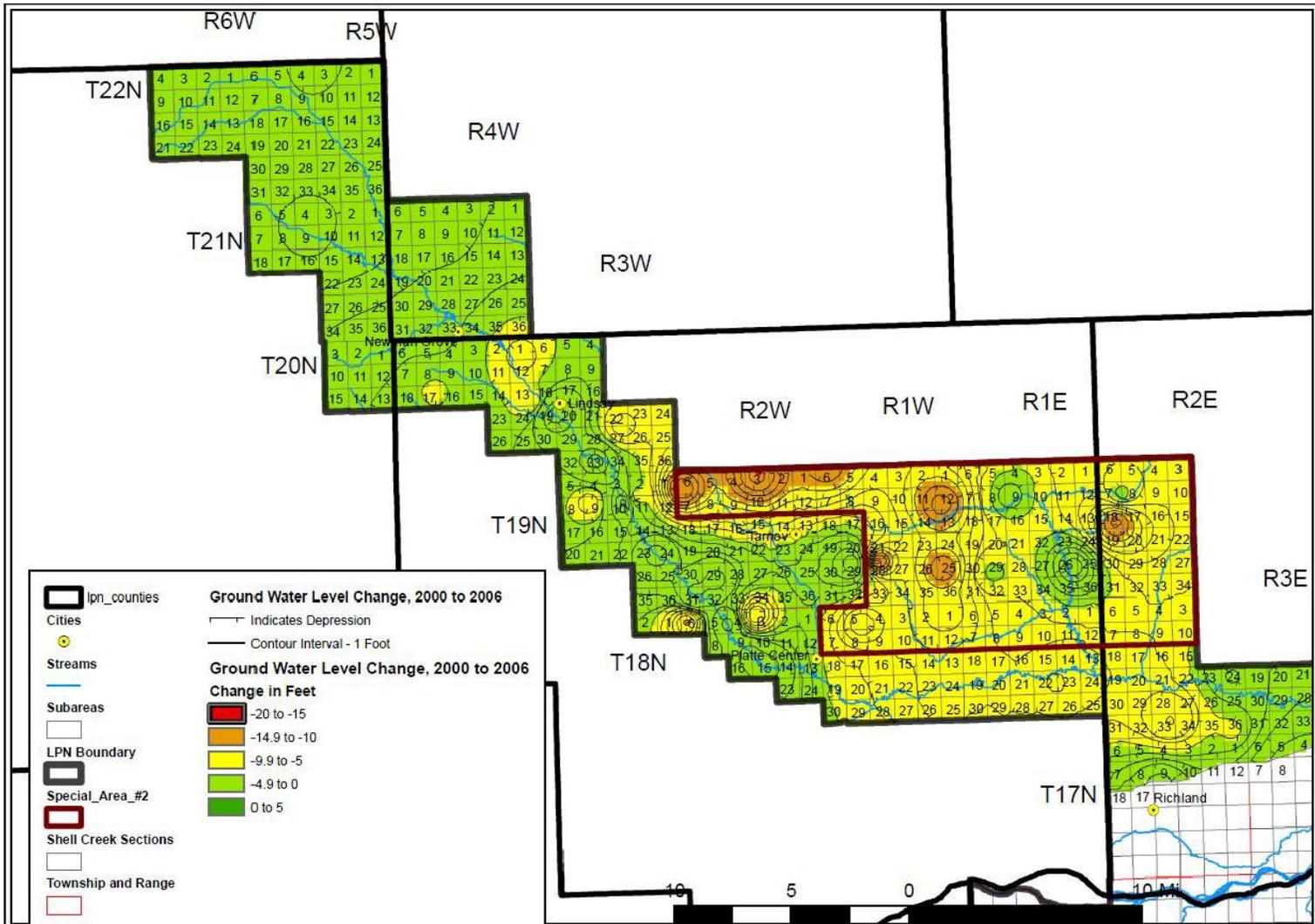
ESTABLISHMENT OF SQS AREAS



Lower Platte
North NRD

*Special Quantity Ground
Water Management
Areas*

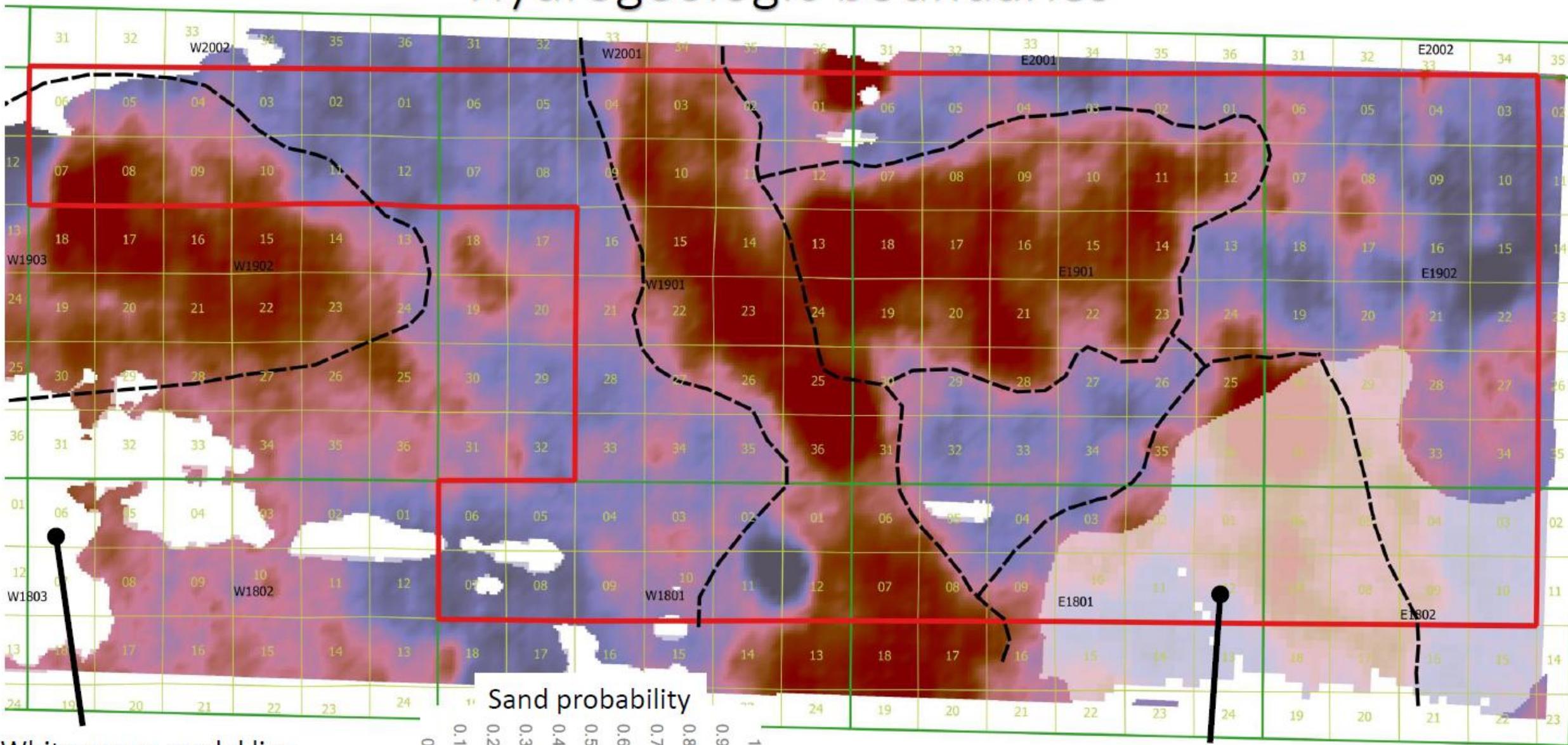
LPNNRD Public Hearing
January 13, 2014



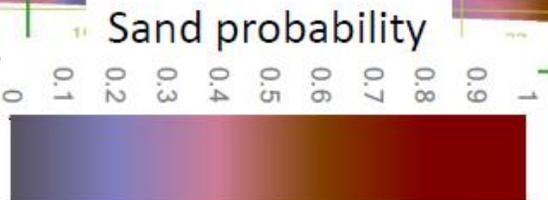
Platte-Colfax Special Quantity Subarea

UNL EVALUATION

Hydrogeologic boundaries

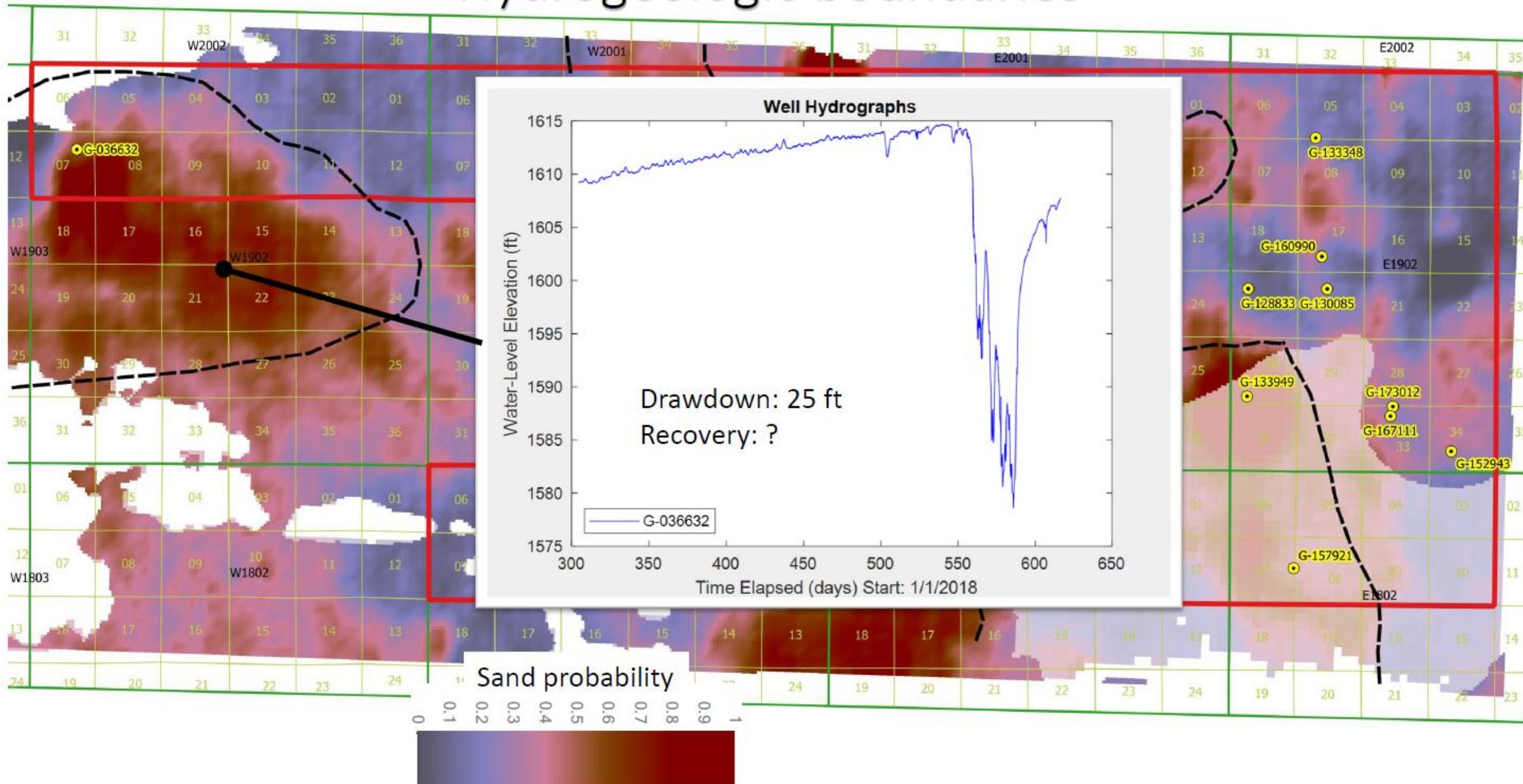


White areas: model lies below bedrock surface

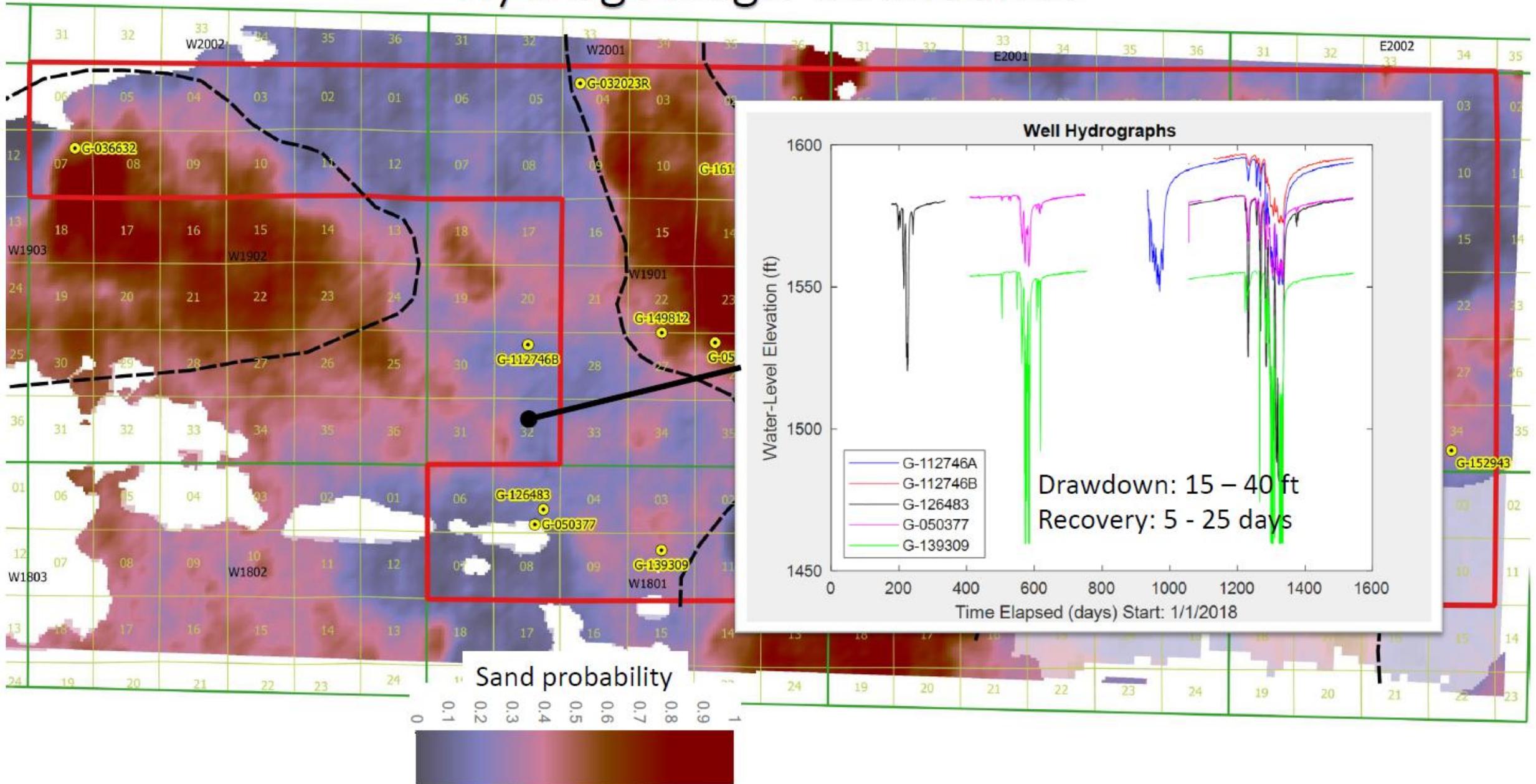


Grayed areas: model lies above water level surface

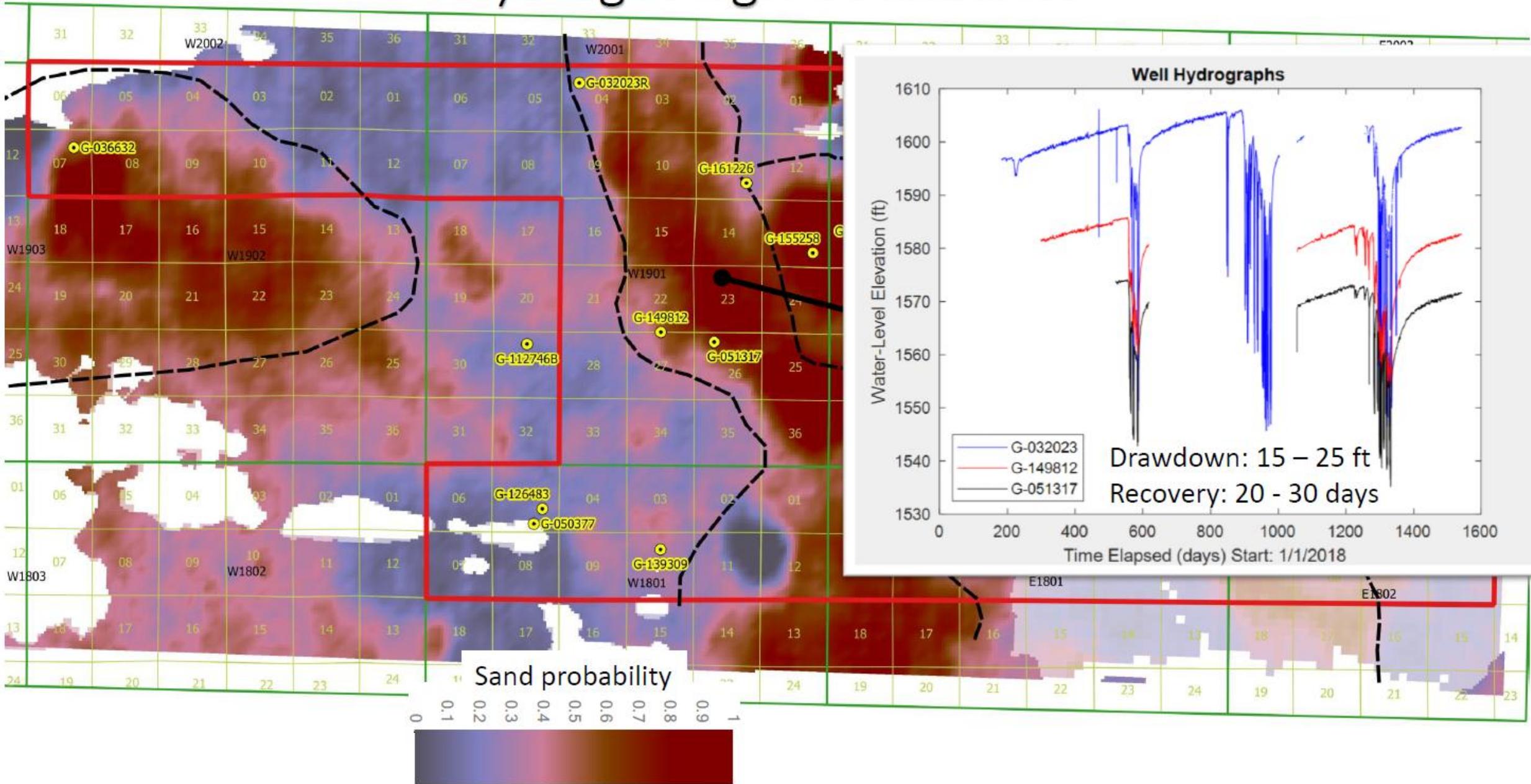
Hydrogeologic boundaries



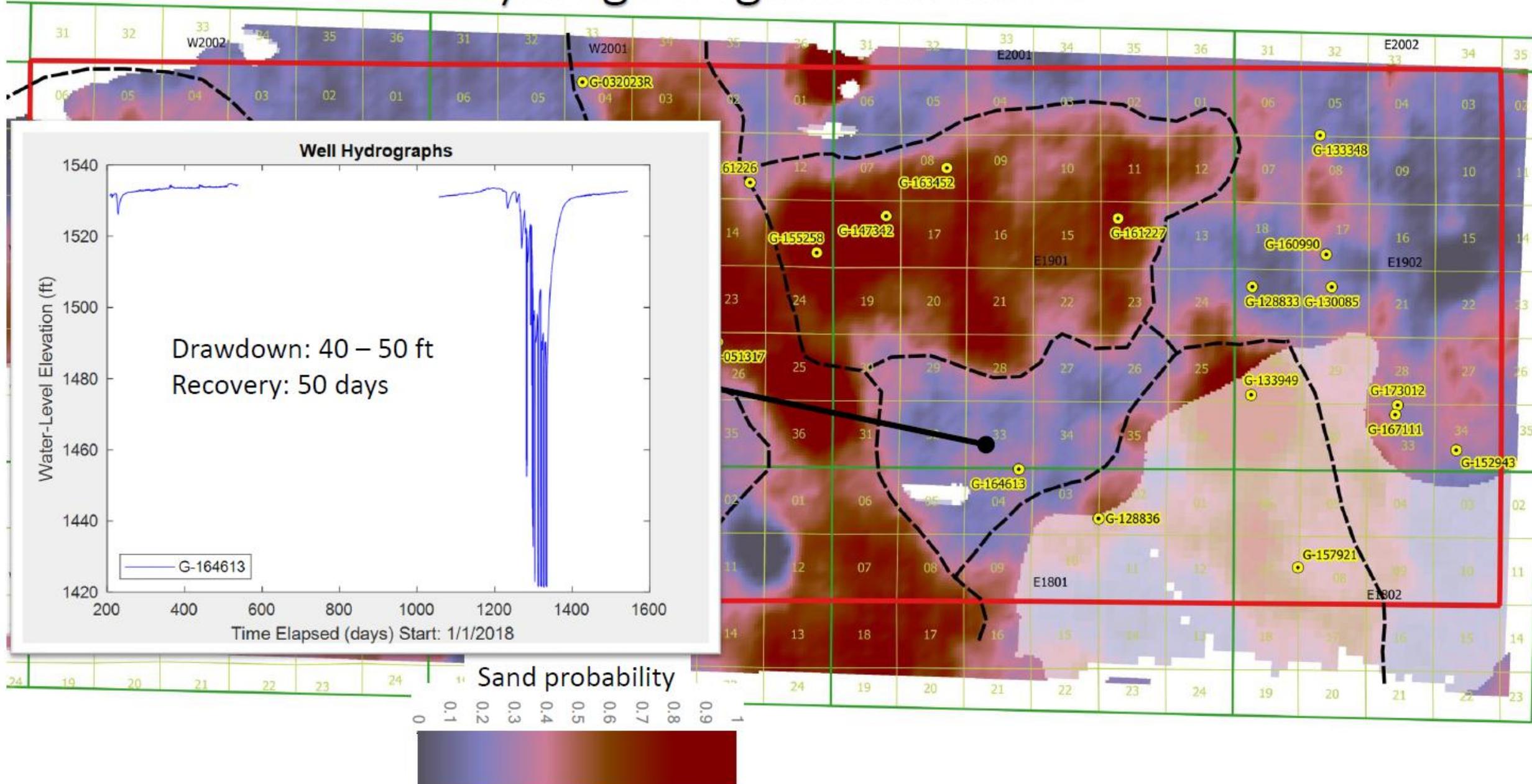
Hydrogeologic boundaries



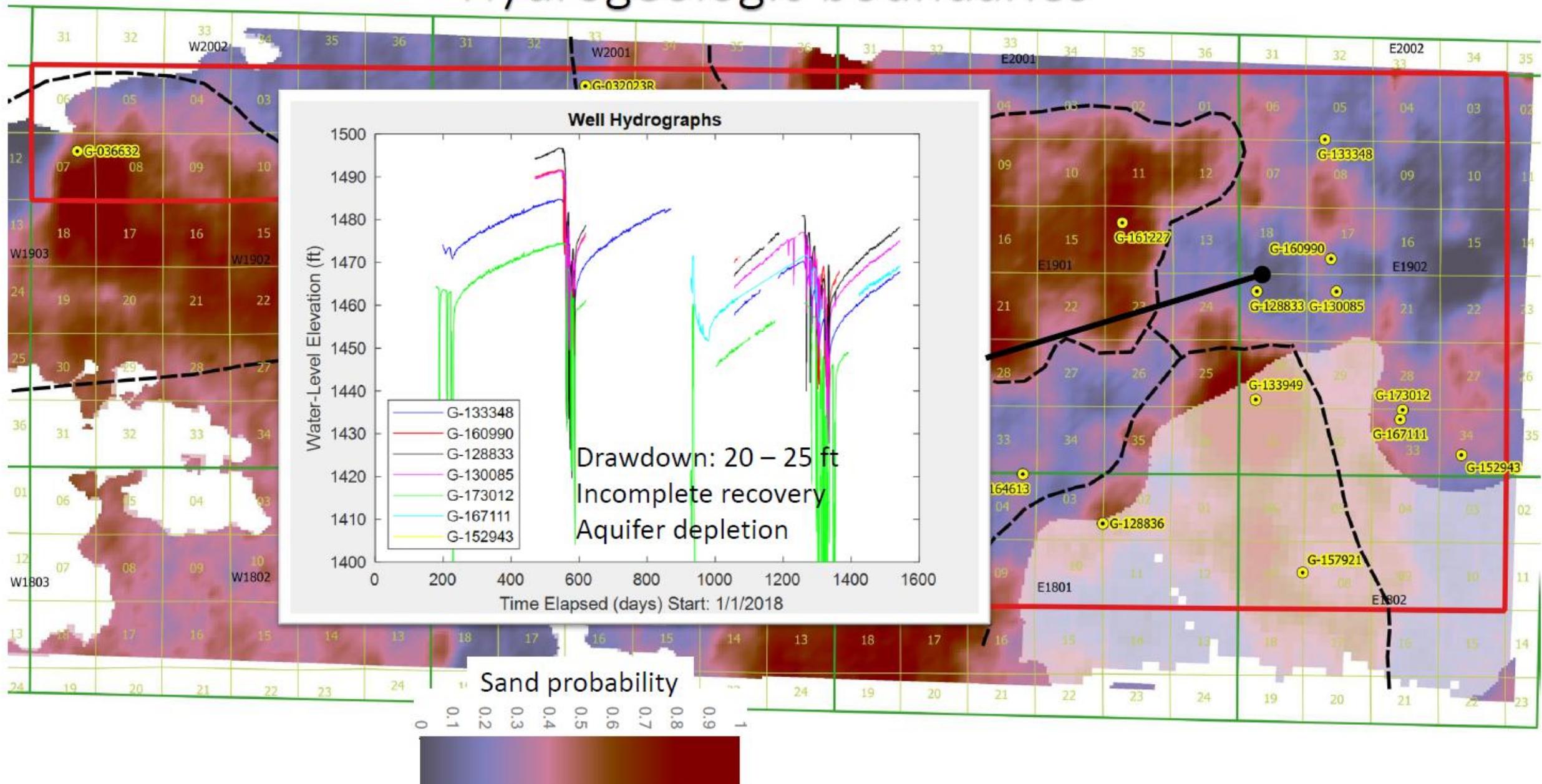
Hydrogeologic boundaries



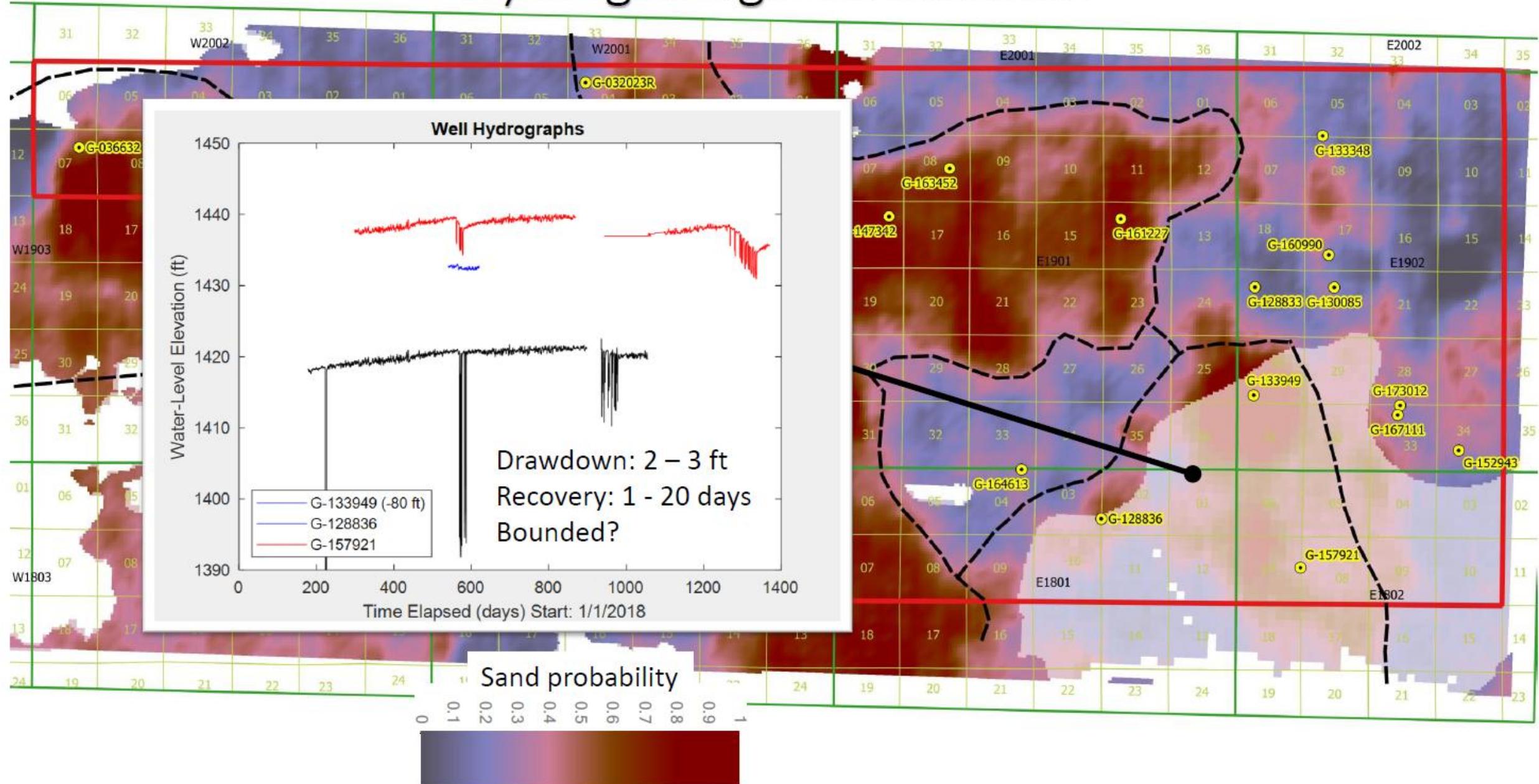
Hydrogeologic boundaries



Hydrogeologic boundaries

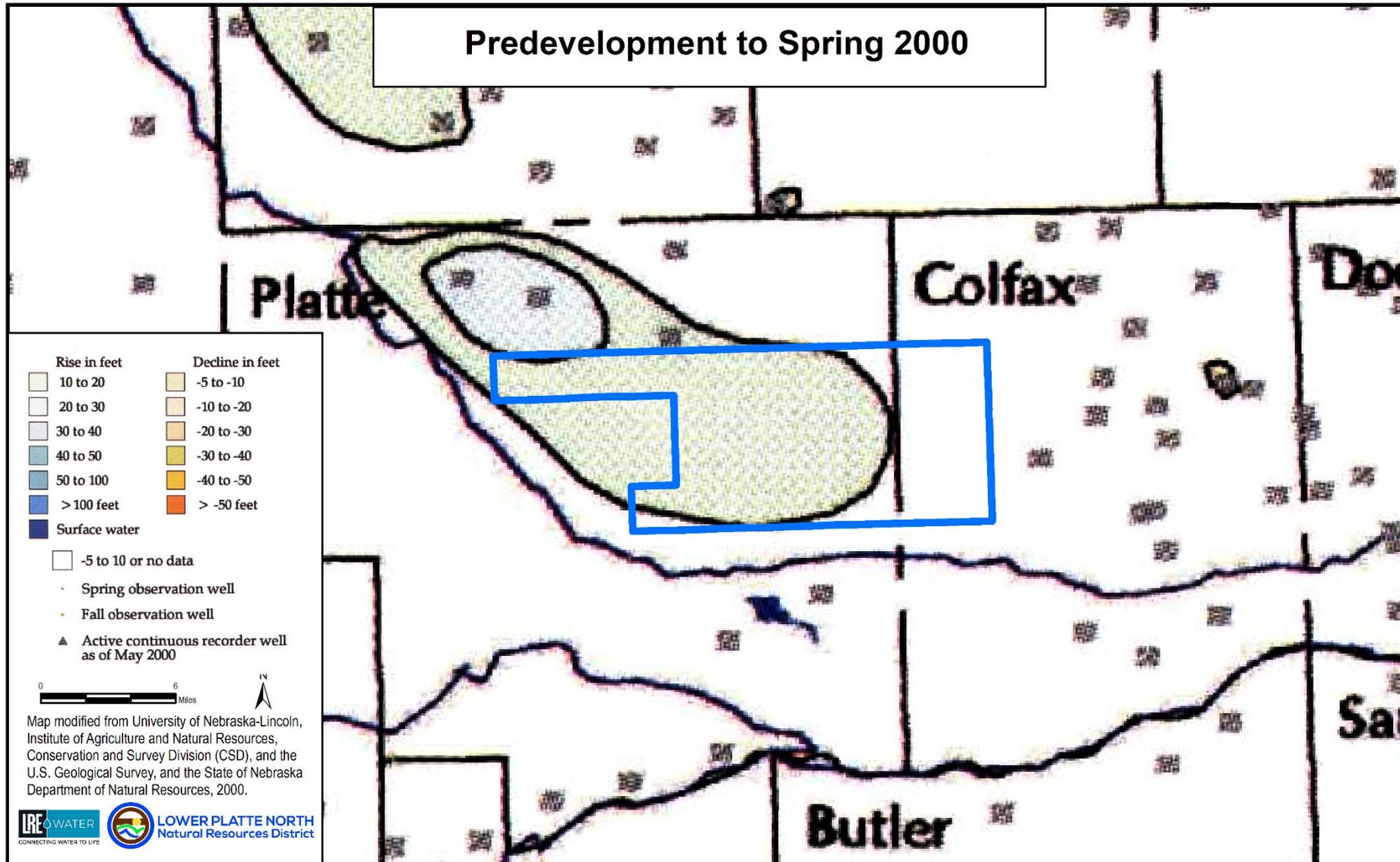


Hydrogeologic boundaries



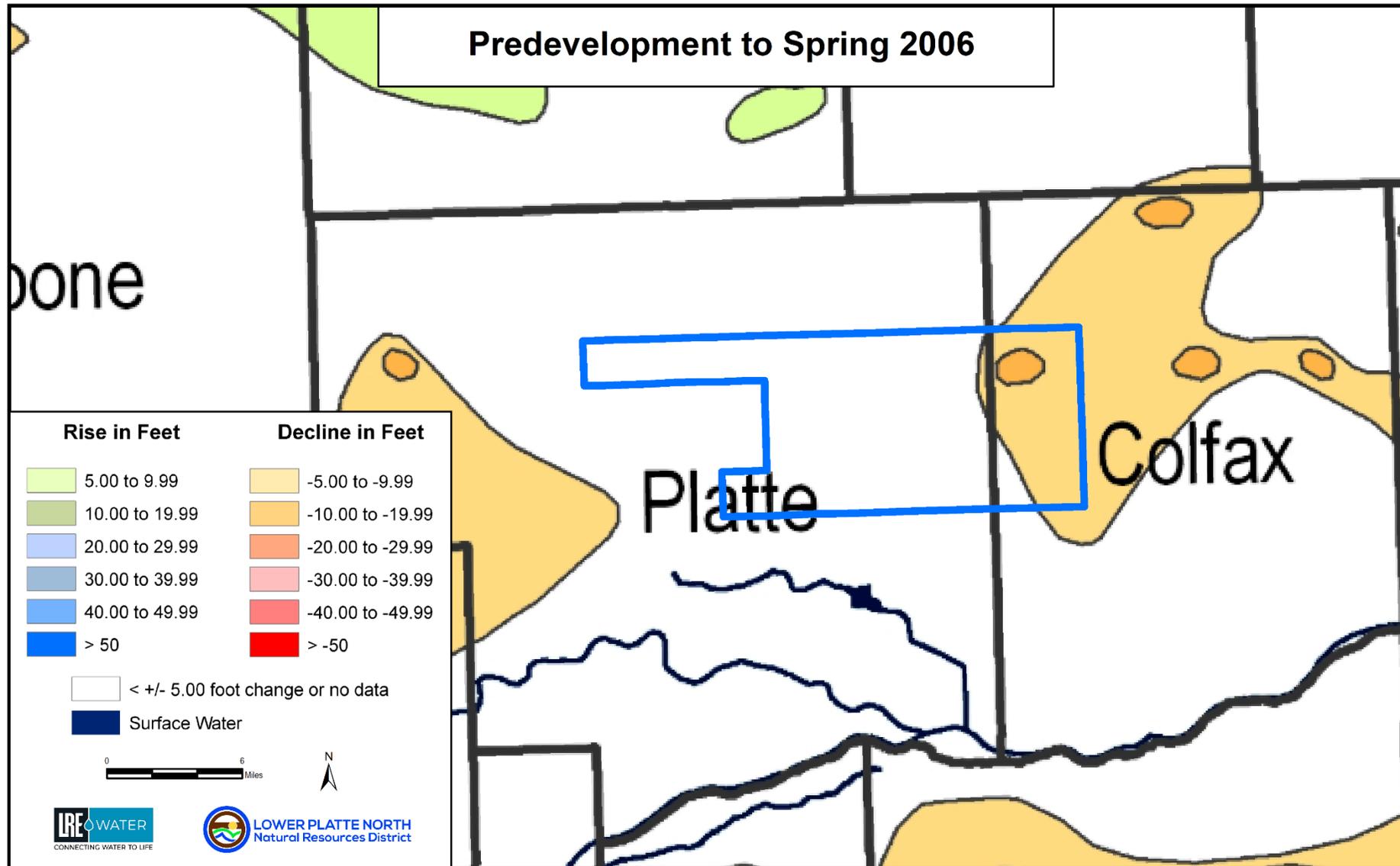
UNL WATER LEVEL MAPS

#3 – PLATTE/COLFAX SQS AREA



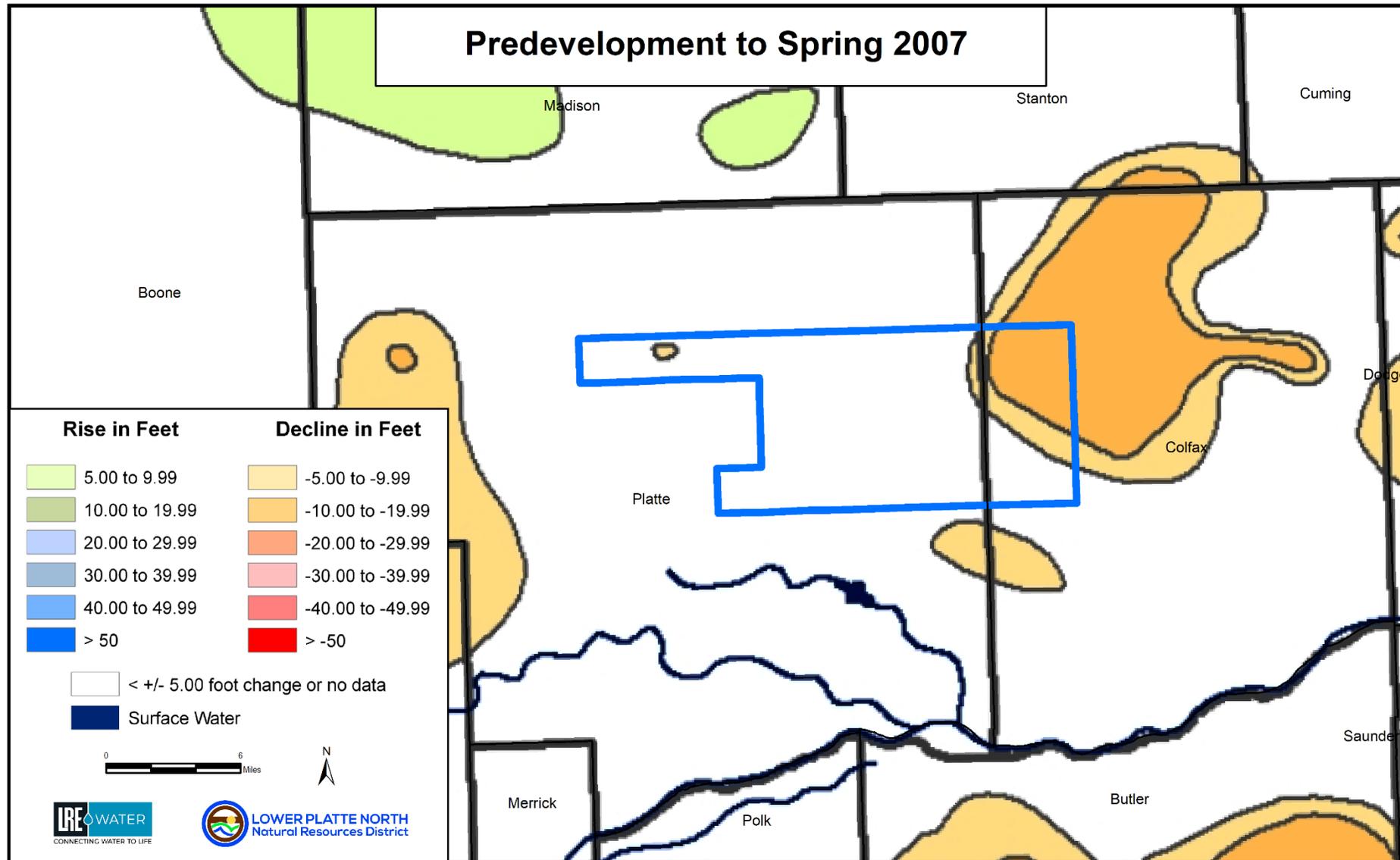
Source: UNL Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources

#3 – PLATTE/COLFAX SQS AREA



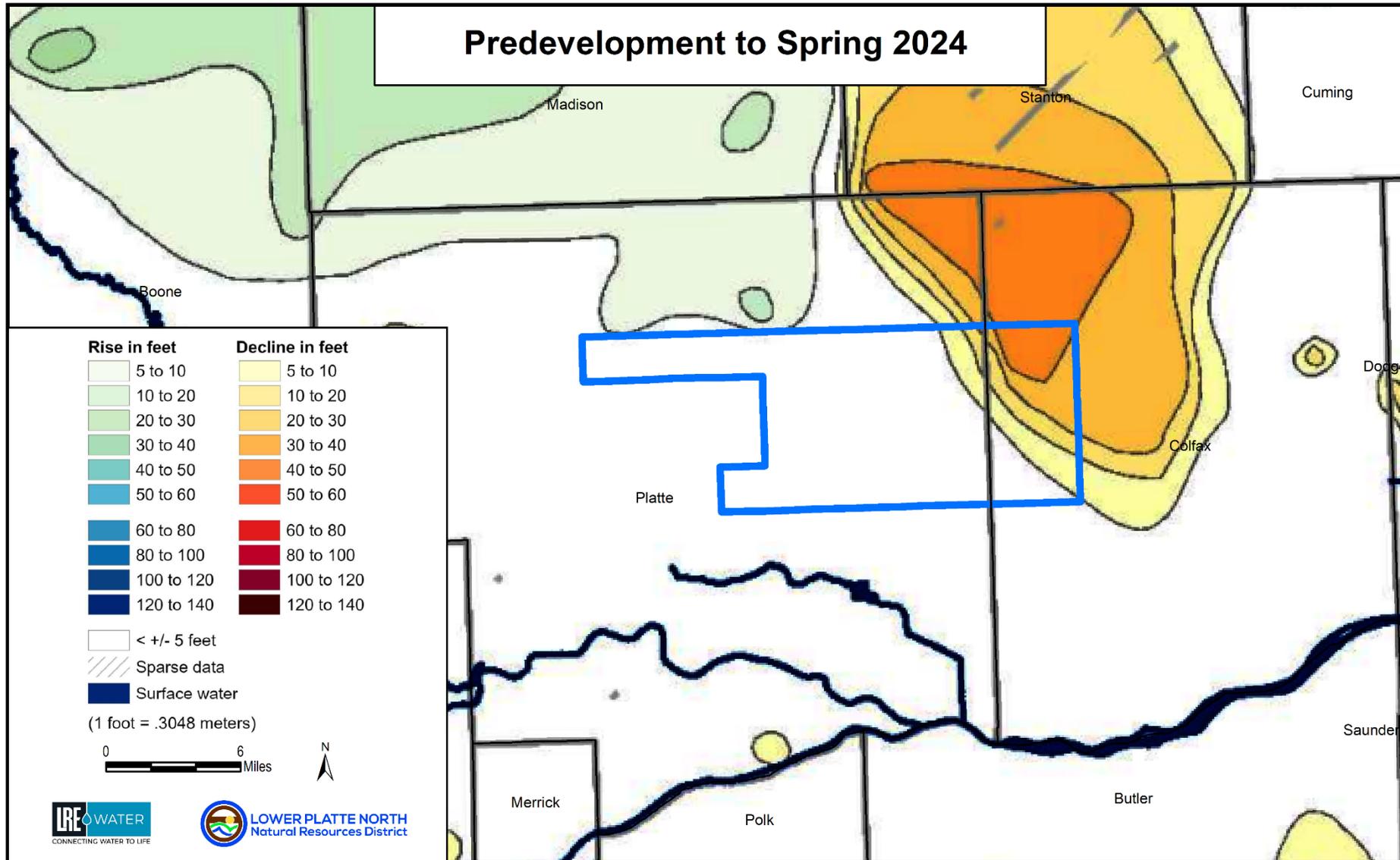
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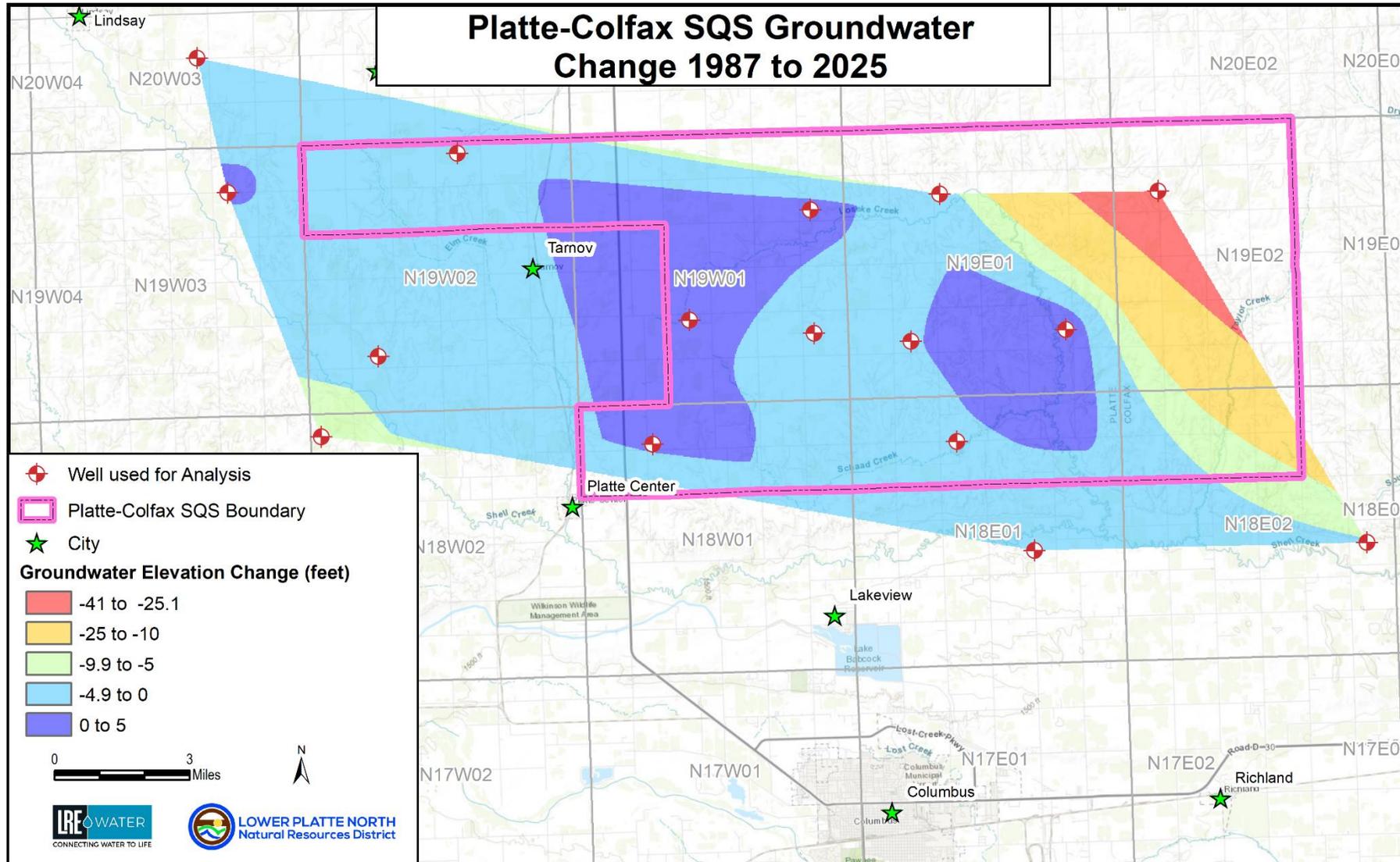
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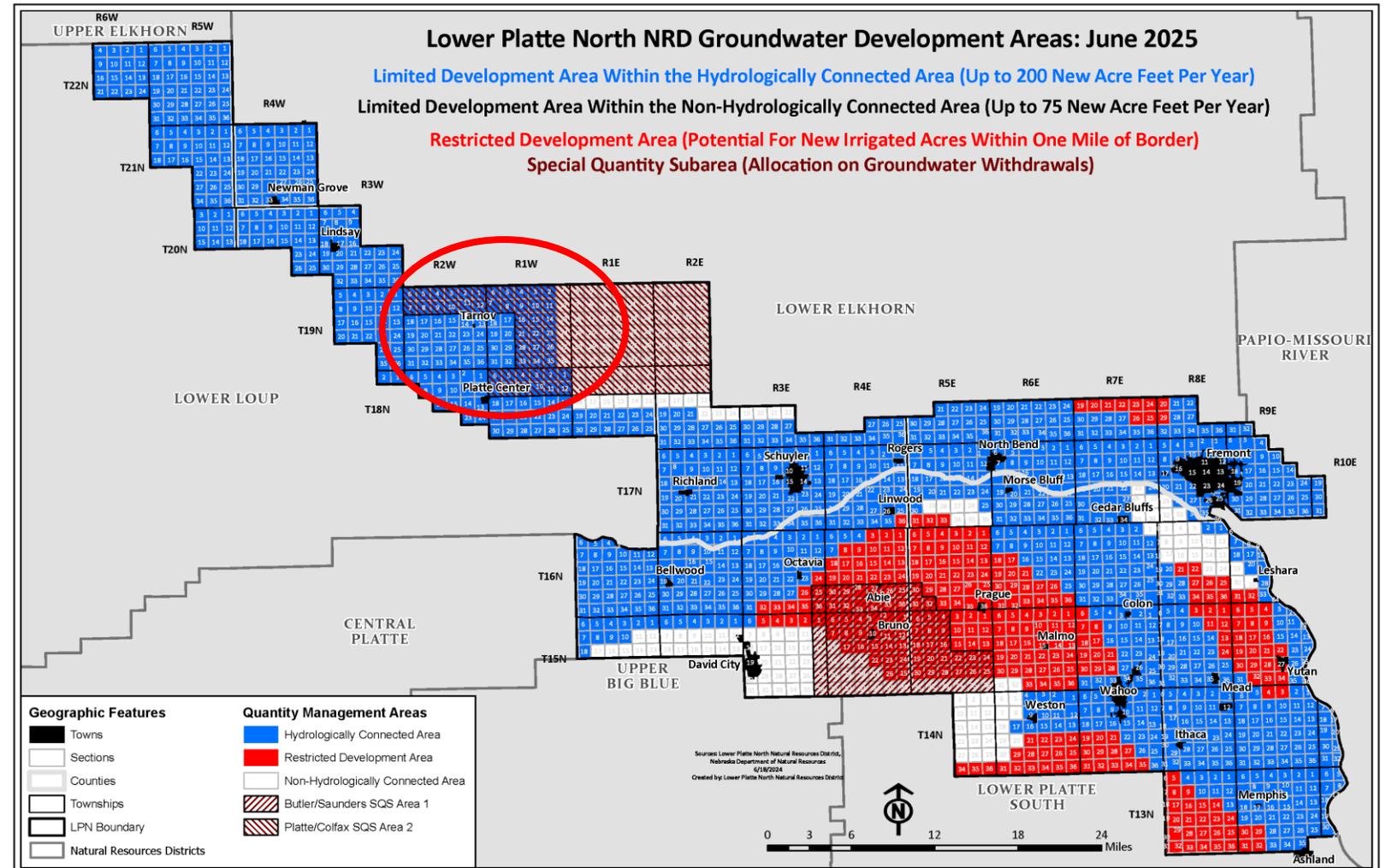
LRE INFORMATION

#3 – PLATTE/COLFAX SQS AREA



RECOMMENDATIONS – PLATTE/COLFAX SQS

- Existing management practices in place
- Limited Development Area in western portions



#3 – PLATTE/COLFAX SQS AREA

- In general, the eastern one-third of the SQS shows historical and continued declines
- Some portions of the aquifer have transitioned from confined to unconfined due to over pumping combined with drought conditions
- The area experiencing the most issues aligns with LRE Water's Risk Map and UNL's Management Zone 6
- Groundwater levels in the western two-thirds show relatively stable levels

RECOMMENDATIONS – PLATTE/COLFAX SQS

1) Boundary Refinement

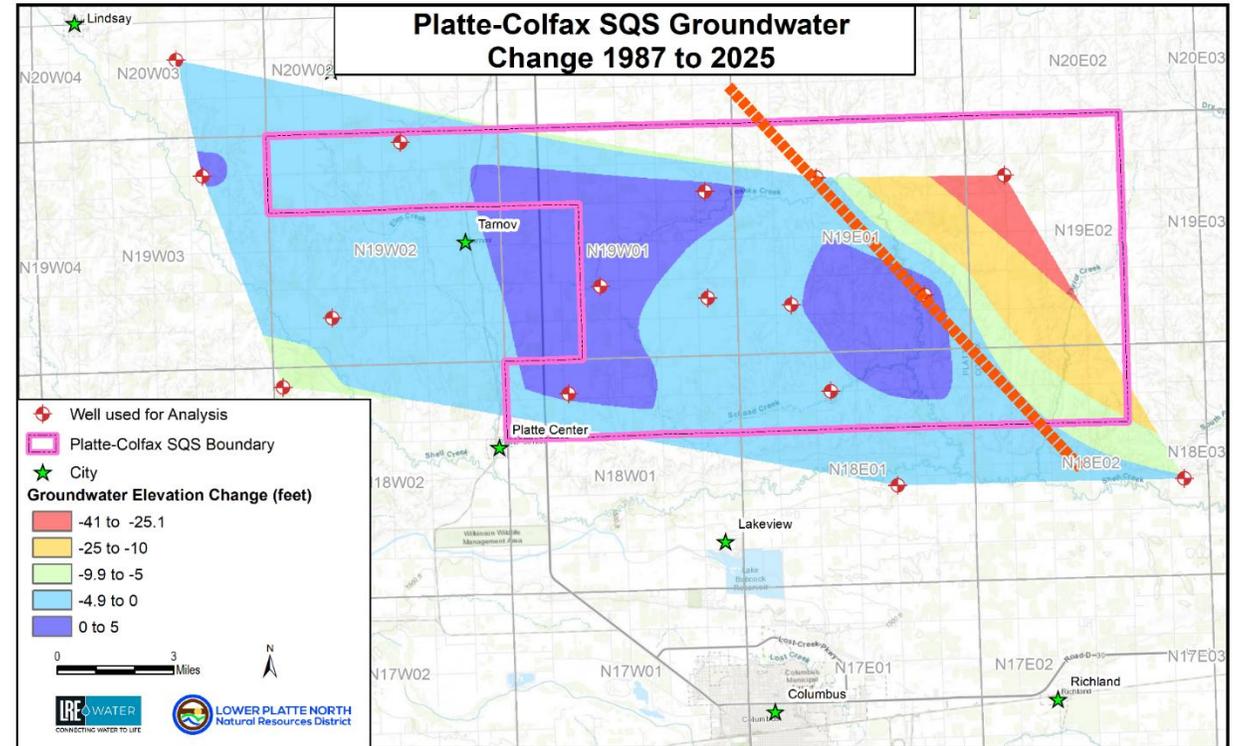
- Consider reducing the size of the SQS to reflect long-term recovery in the western two-thirds

2) Management Adjustments

- Maintain the SQS designation in the eastern areas where chronic issues are documented

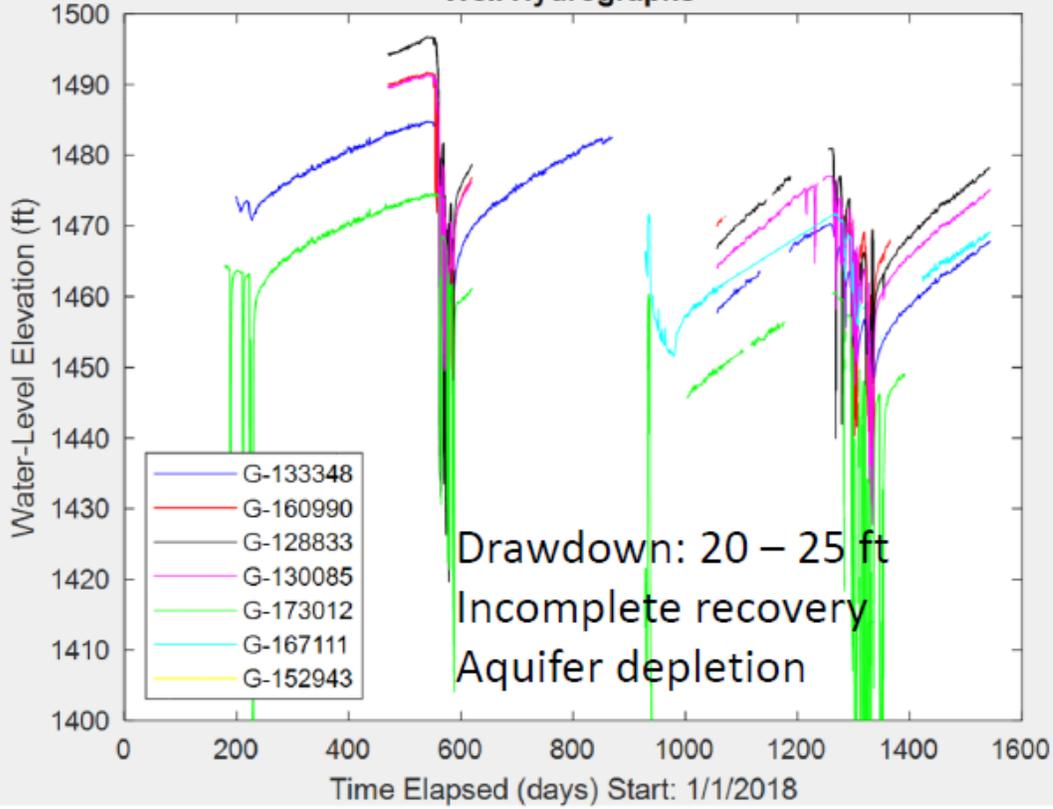
3) Well Impact Assessments

- Groundwater modeling to predict impacts if area is opened up

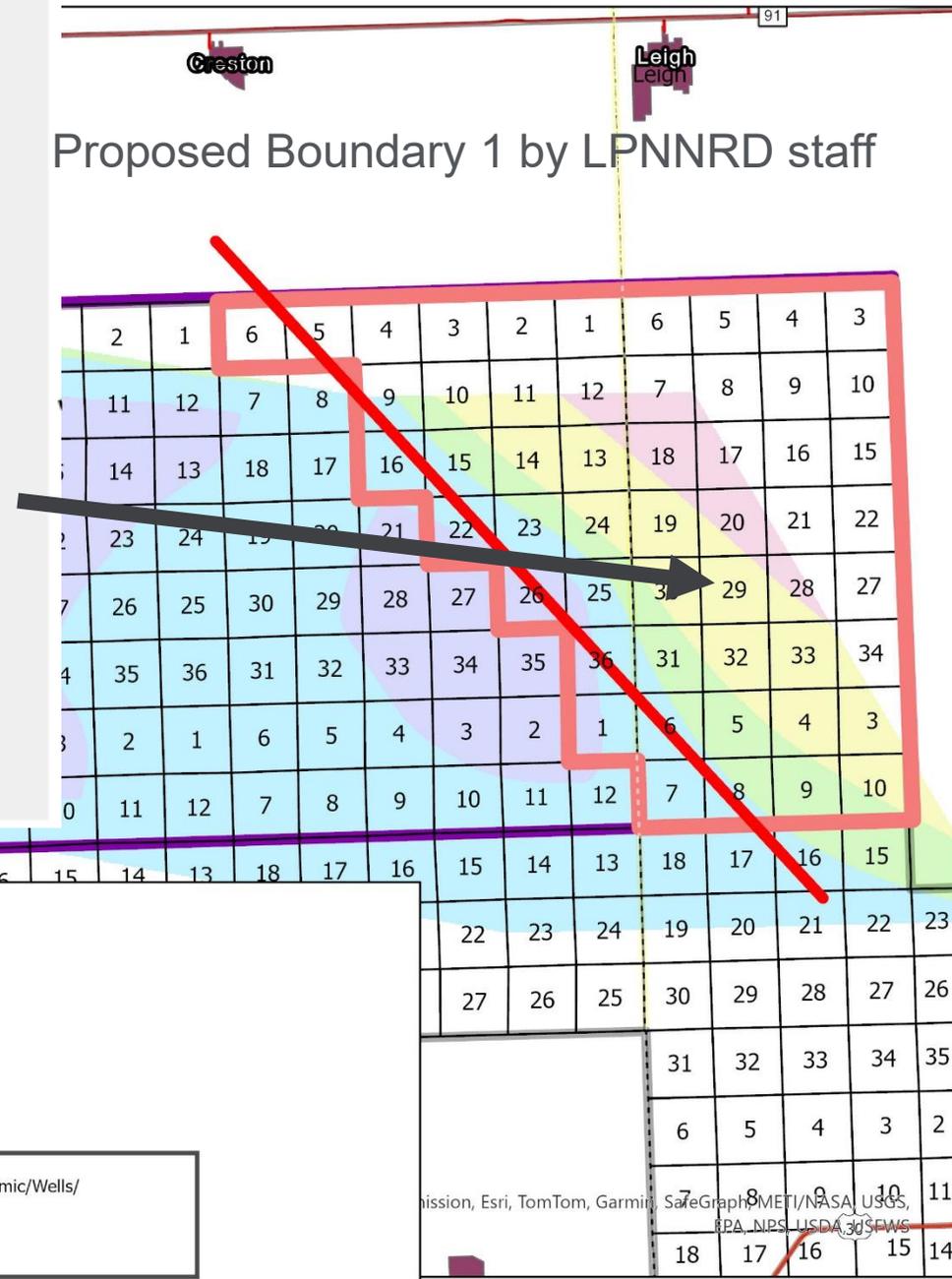


PROPOSED OPTIONS BY LPNNRD STAFF

Well Hydrographs



Proposed Boundary 1 by LPNNRD staff

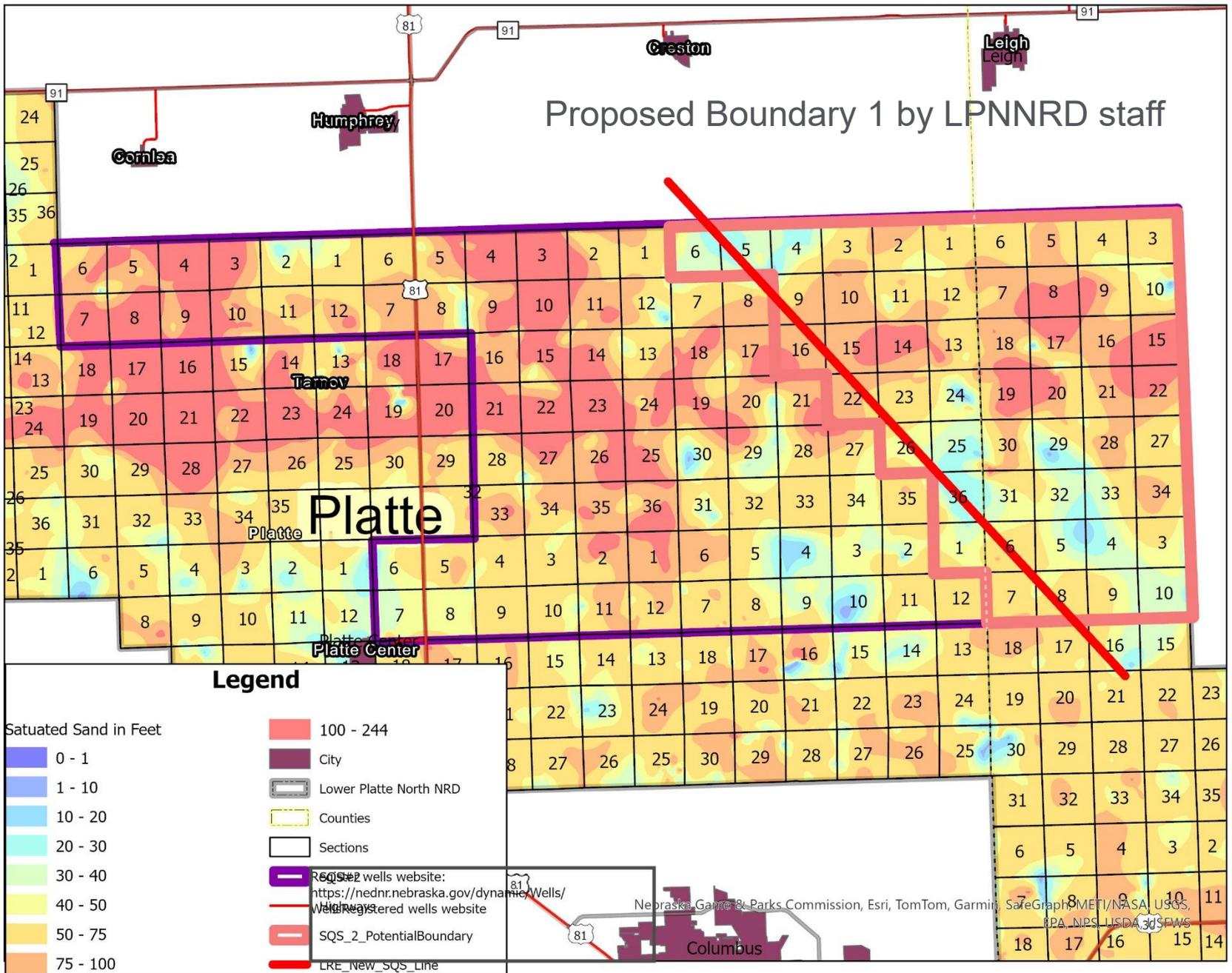


Legend

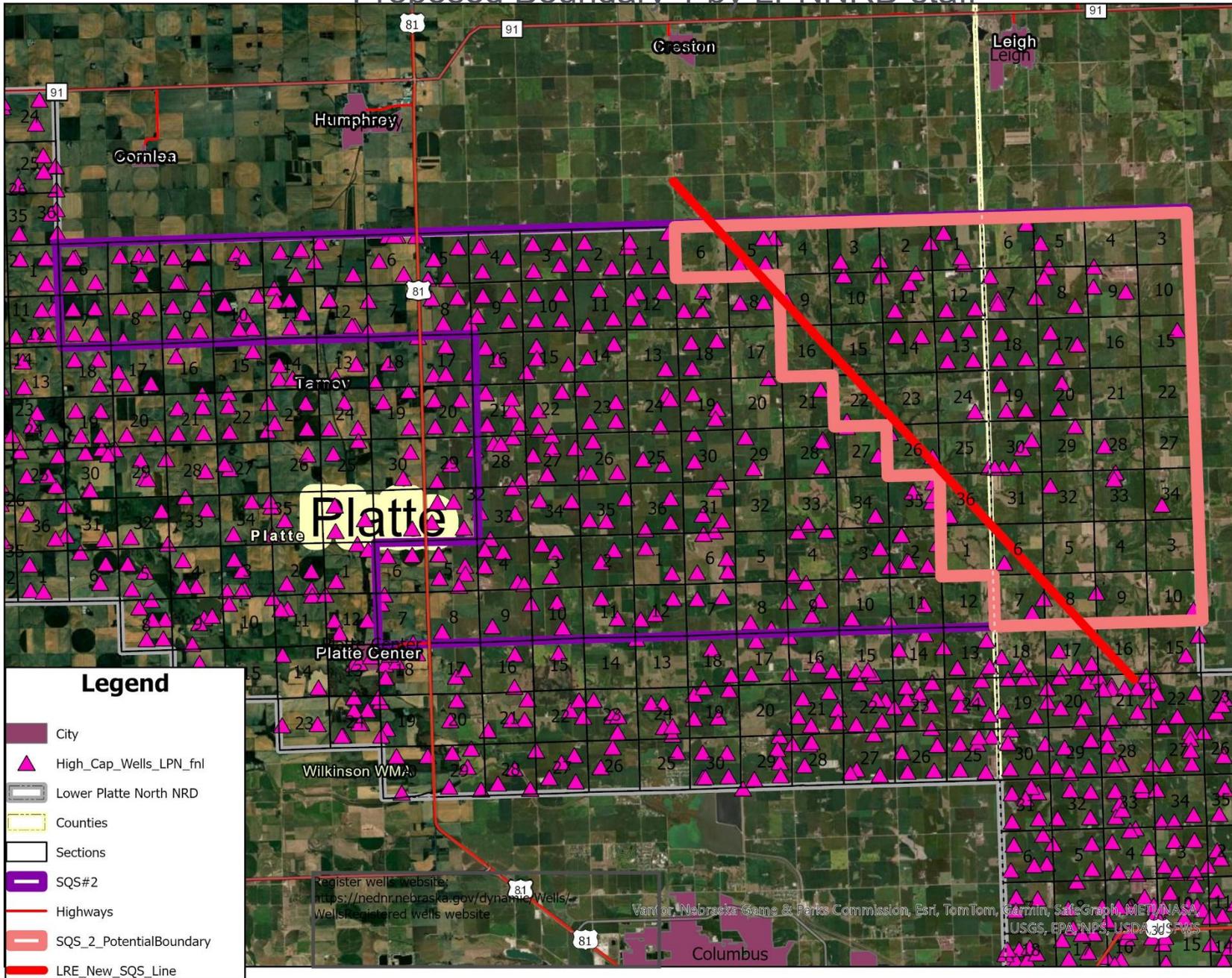
- City
- Lower Platte North NRD
- Counties
- Sections
- SQS#2

Platte_Colfax_WELEV_C

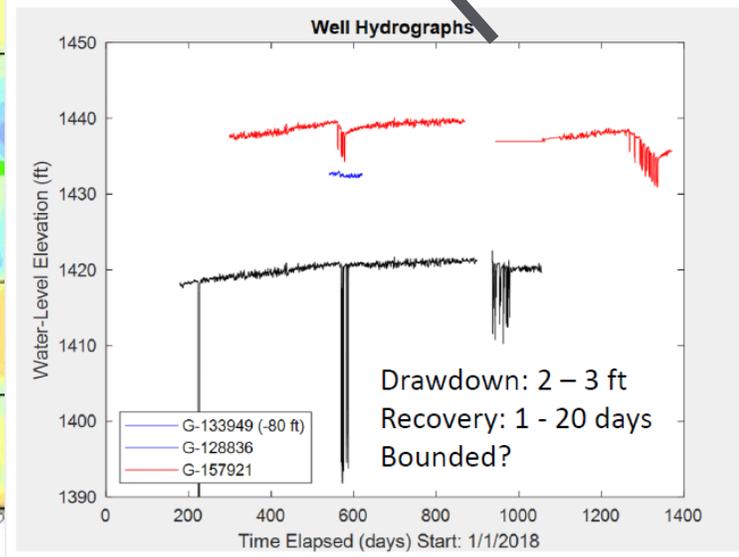
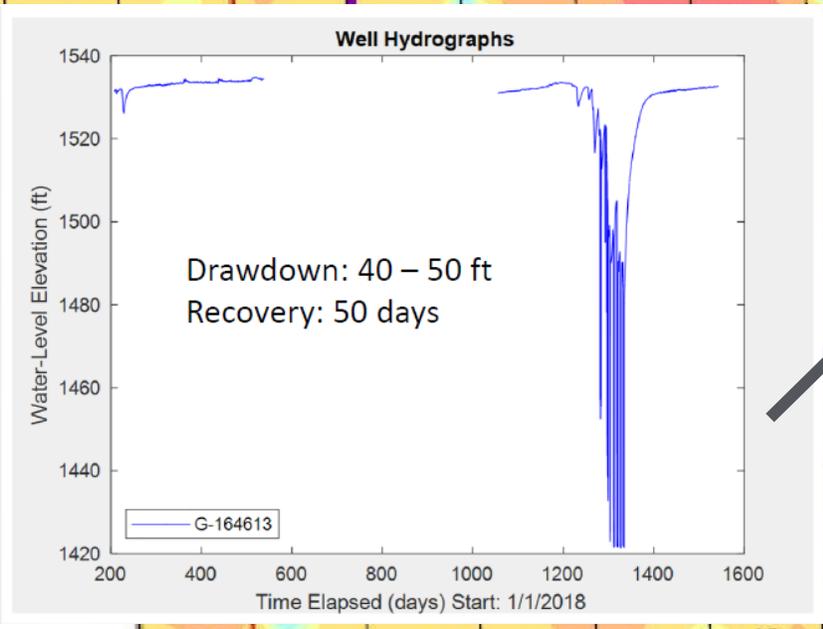
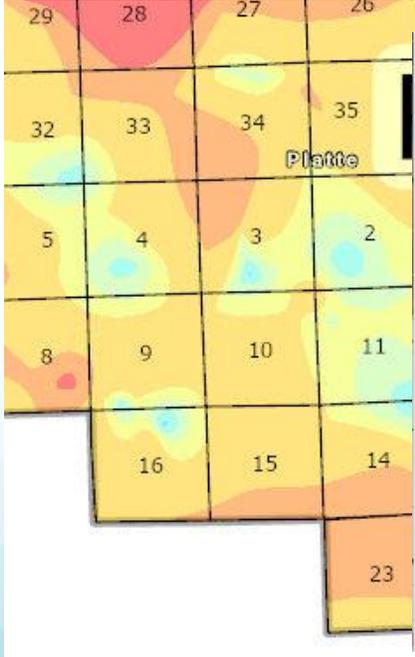
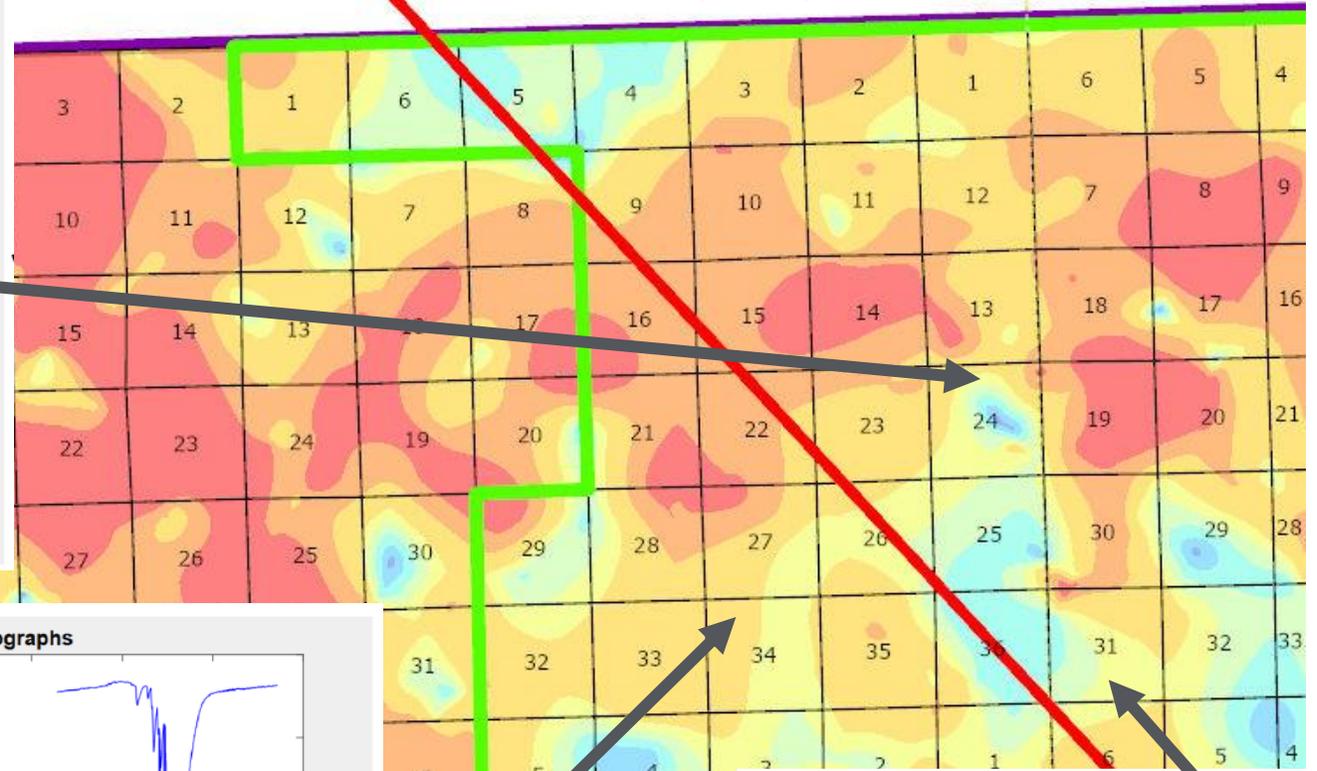
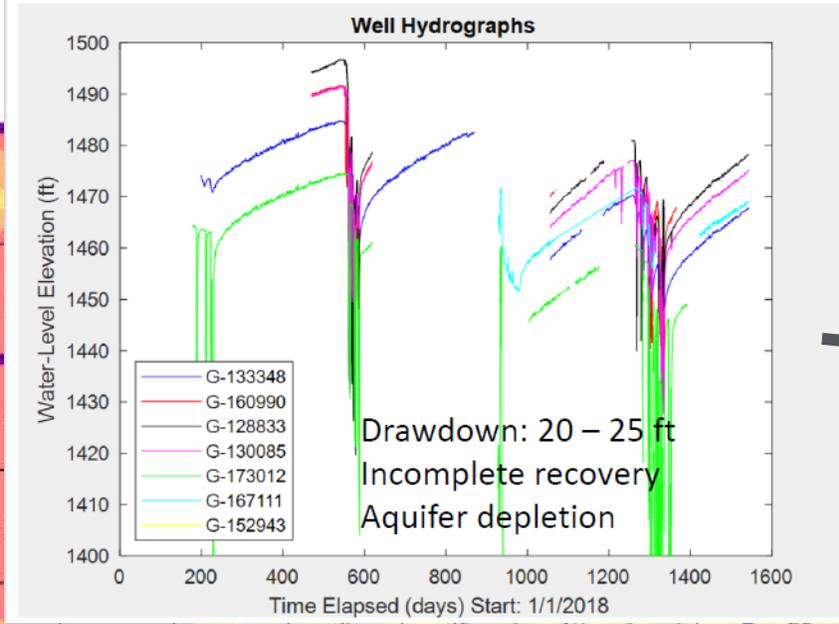
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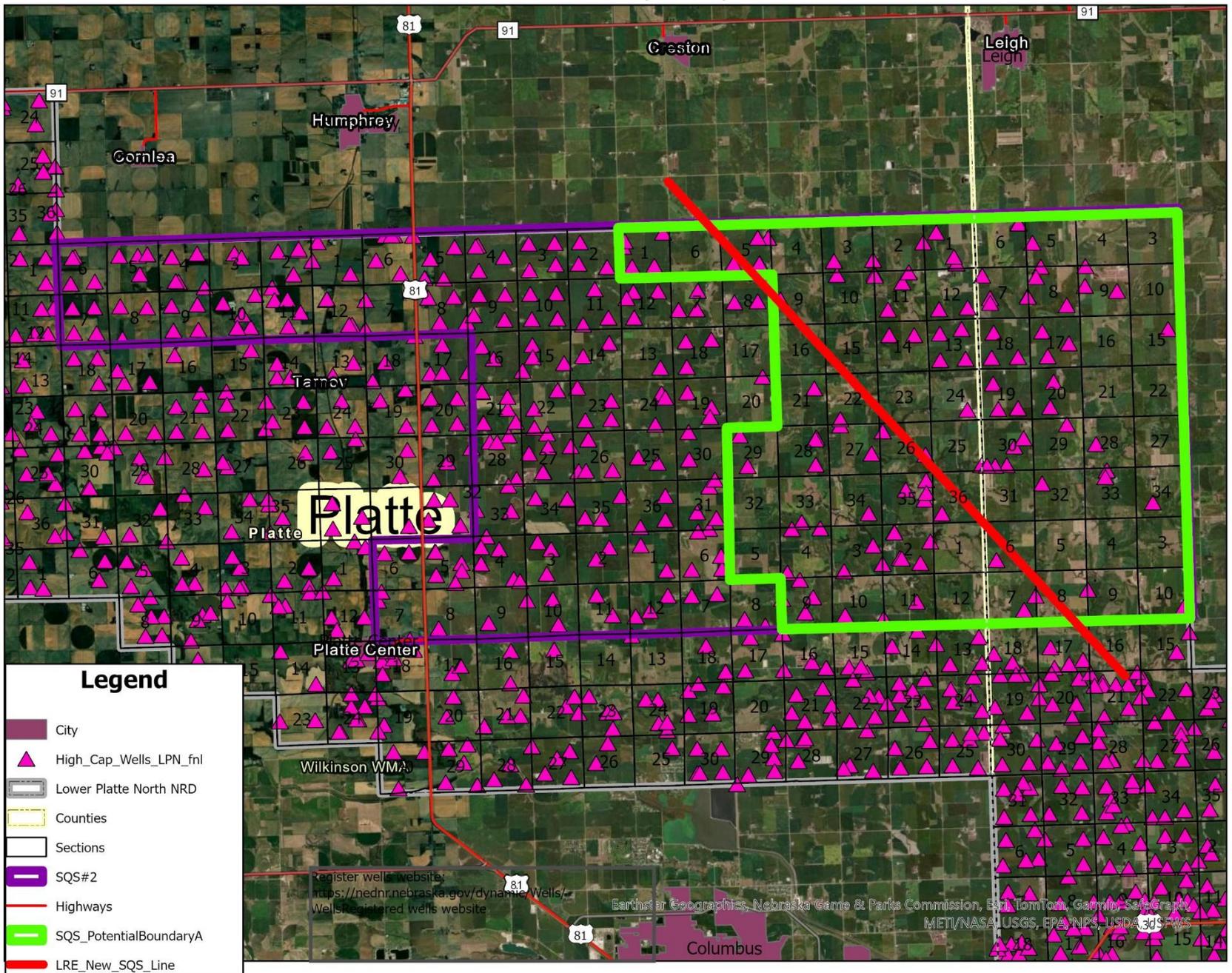
Proposed Boundary 1 by LPNNRD staff

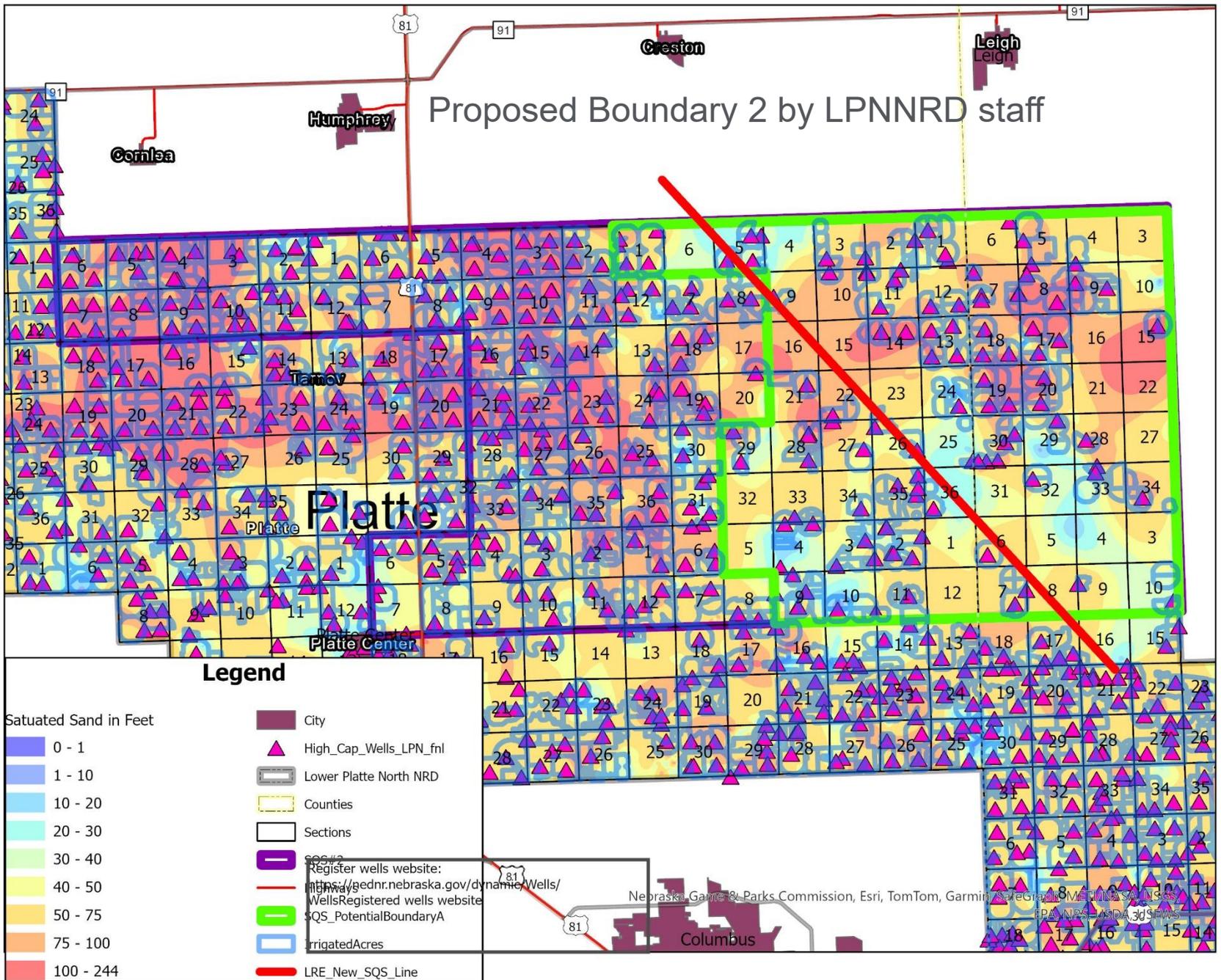


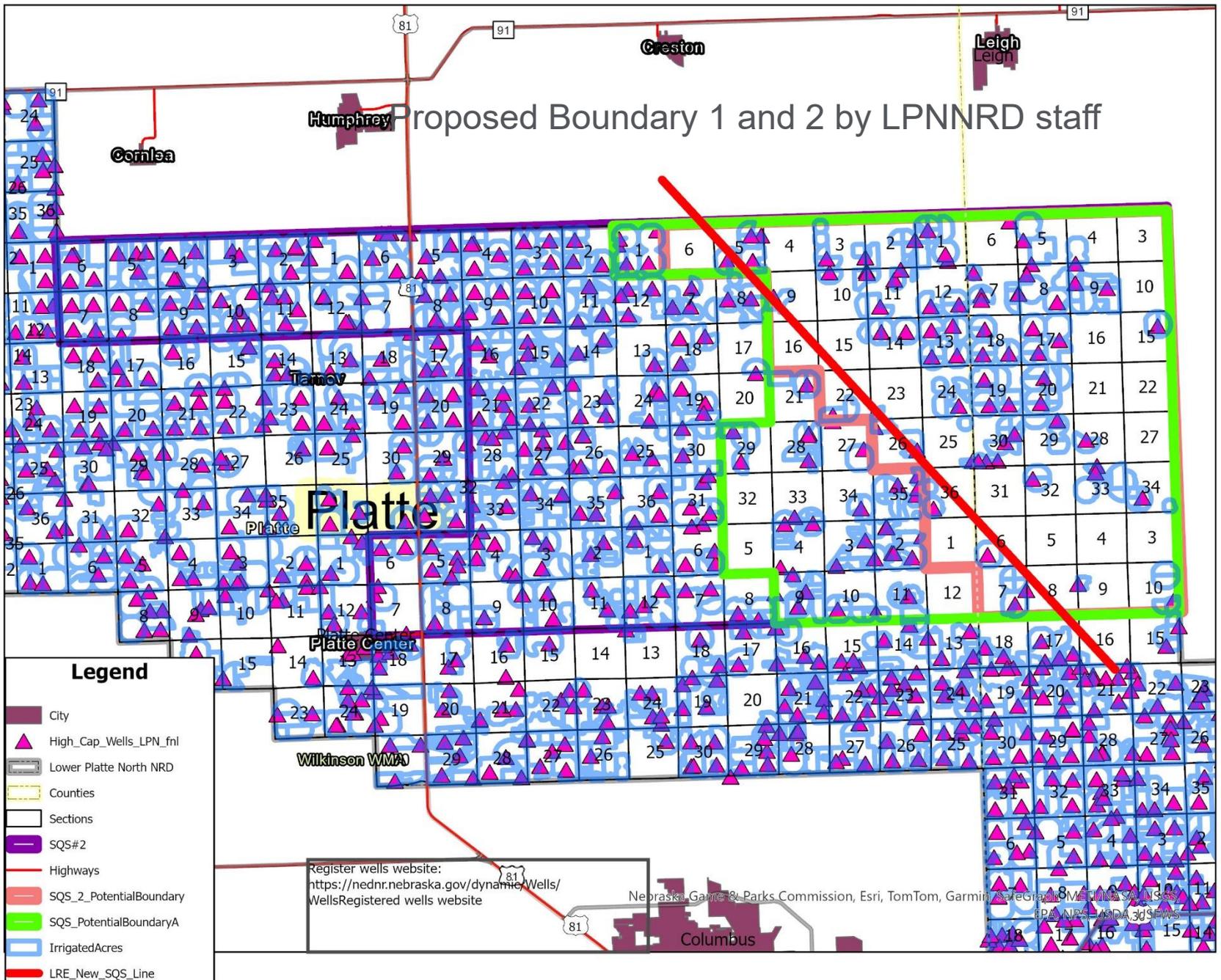
Proposed Boundary 2 by LPNNRD staff

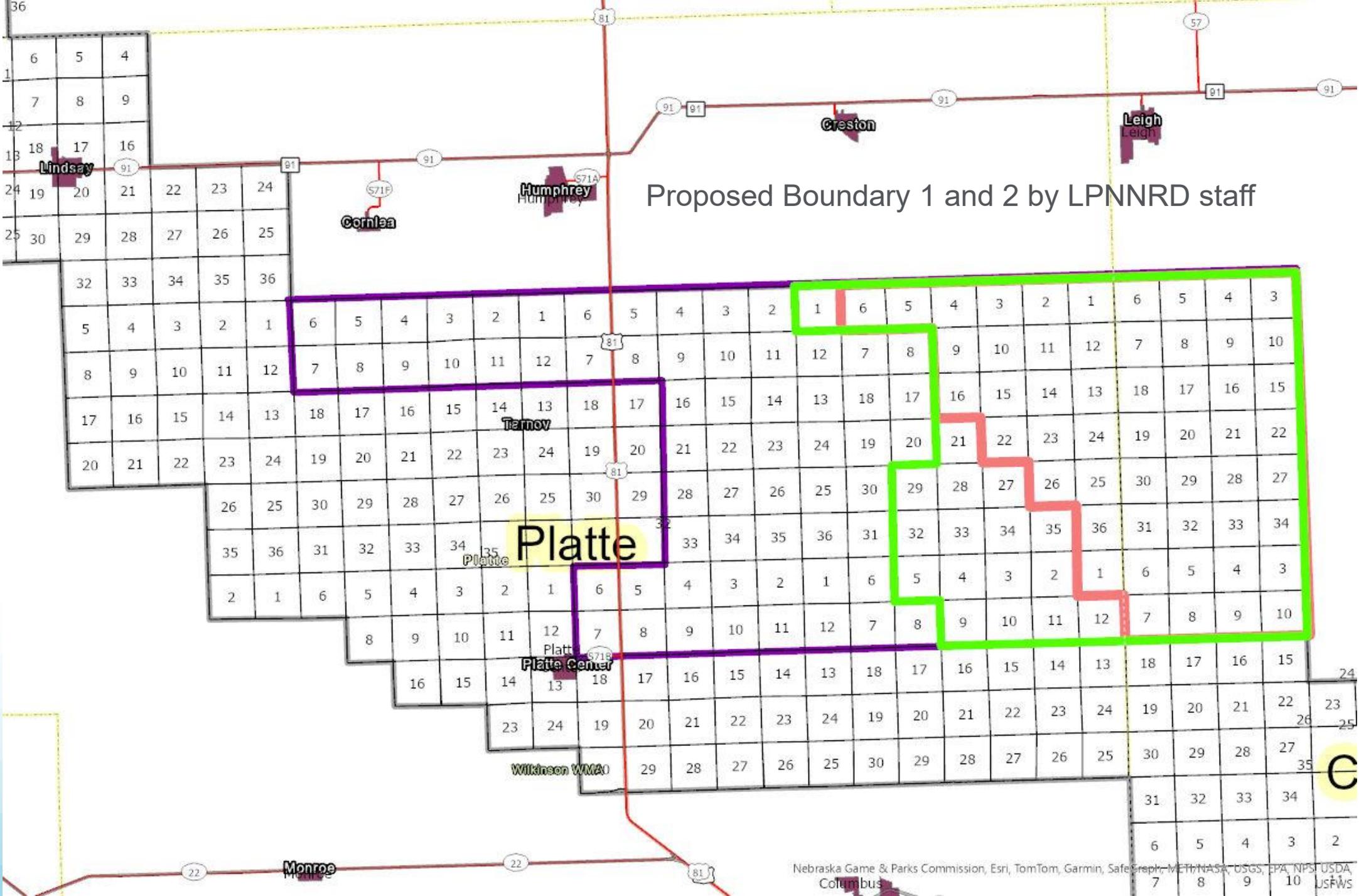


Proposed Boundary 2 by LPNNRD staff









Proposed Boundary 1 and 2 by LPNNRD staff

Platte



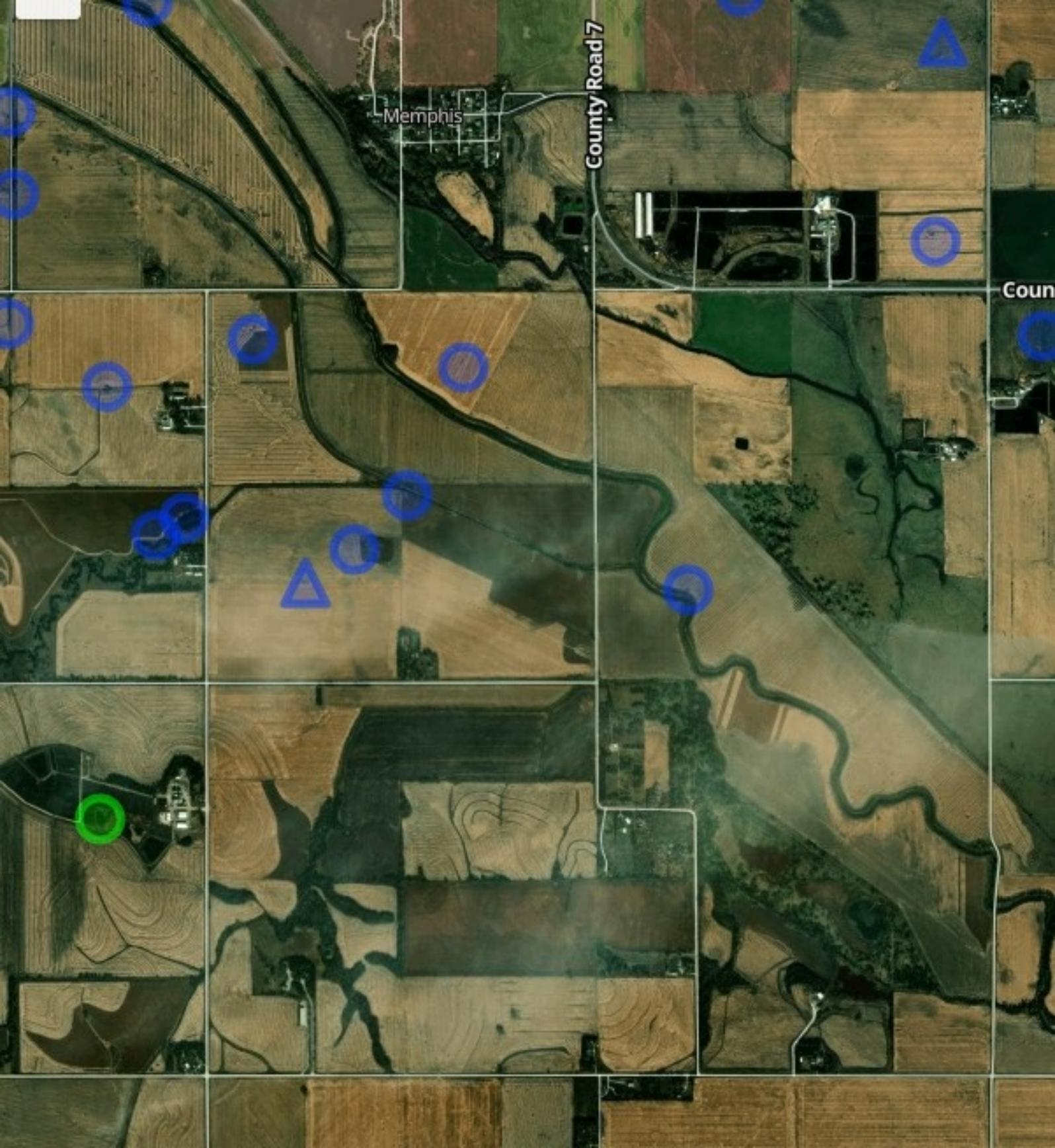
SQS #2 CURRENT RULES AND POTENTIAL CHANGES BY LPNNRD STAFF

- Boundary Adjustment
 - Potential Boundary 1
 - Potential Boundary 2
 - Keep Existing Boundary
 - Other Boundary Discussion
- New Wells
 - Is the NRD going to allow new wells?
 - How many and where?

SQS #2 CURRENT RULES AND POTENTIAL CHANGES BY LPNNRD STAFF

- Expansion of Acres
 - Allow expansion with current procedure
 - Allow expansion in certain areas only
- Allocations
 - 30 inches over a 3-year period
 - 40 inches over a 4-year period
 - Allows rotation of crops
 - Different allocations in different areas
- Domestic Wells

County	Irrigation - New	Irrigation - Replacement	Stock	Commercial	Municipal	Other	Total
Boone							0
Butler	2						2
Colfax							0
Dodge		1					1
Madison	3						3
Platte	1					2	3
Saunders	10	2	1		1	3	17
Total	16	3	1	0	1	5	26



Memphis

County Road 7

Coun

