

# Niobrara Compact Technical Group

## Meeting Notes

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)

Wyoming State Engineer's Office (WSEO)

11:00 a.m. Central Time / 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Conference Call – GoTo Meeting

### 1. Introductions

Tom Hayden	NeDNR	Wray Lovitt	WSEO
Melissa Mosier	NeDNR	Brian Pugsley	WSEO
Carrie Wiese	NeDNR	Charlie Ferrantelli	WSEO
		Steve Wolff	WSEO
		John Harju	WSEO

### 2. Nebraska Update

#### a. Nebraska Report

Tom Hayden reported end of 2017 and current measurements on the Niobrara River for NeDNR streamgages at the state line, 33 Ranch, Agate, and below Box Butte Reservoir. Overall, there has been quite a bit of moisture and streamflow is good for early spring. Irrigation canals are well primed. Work began in fall 2017 to repair toe drains in Box Butte Reservoir. Due to frequent snow over the winter, work has been delayed and the project is currently about 20% complete. The USBR has a contract with Nebraska Game and Parks to keep elevation of the reservoir at 3,979.8 feet. Mirage Flats Irrigation District has made efforts to store water for the upcoming irrigation season, but cannot store over the USBR's 3,984 ft maximum elevation limit during the current repair period. Addressing both needs has resulted in a pattern of cycling releases, which can be seen in the discharge data for the NeDNR streamgage at Hay Springs, downstream of Box Butte Reservoir. No requests for administration within the basin have been made since the last Niobrara Compact meeting in fall 2017. Four subordination agreements have been made between irrigators in the Compact area and Nebraska Public Power District for use of irrigation water. Box Butte County was hit hard by hail damage in 2017, which resulted in decreased demand for groundwater irrigation.

#### b. NRD activities

Carrie Wiese reported that NeDNR received a request from the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District (UNWNRD) to begin work on a voluntary integrated management plan (IMP) for the portion of their District that is not already covered by a

required IMP. UNWNRD has requested that NeDNR place a stay on surface water diversions in the portion of the area for which the voluntary IMP will apply and NeDNR is reviewing legal authority to do so. UNWNRD placed a moratorium on new wells in the area over a decade ago. IMP development is also continuing within the Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District (MNNRD).

**c. Update Regarding Niobrara Basin WaterSMART Report**

The final draft report is still held up with the USBR and no new information has been received as to when the federal review will be complete.

**d. Aquifer Absent Study**

Wiese provided a short summary and a few excerpts from the recently completed report by the University of Nebraska, Conservation and Survey Division. The final report titled, "Hydrogeologic Framework Studies of Portions of the Niobrara River" is included as *Attachment C*.

**e. NPS and USGS Niobrara National Scenic River Hydrogeologic Study and Modeling**

NeDNR recently contacted the National Park Service for an update on progress with their model of the area surrounding the National Scenic River portion of the Niobrara River. It was reported that their report should be complete in September 2018, coinciding with the end of the federal fiscal year. NeDNR recently studied the area where the NeDNR Upper Niobrara White and the CENEB models overlap and is now working on a contract for the development of a cohesive, basin-wide Niobrara model.

**f. Niobrara Groundwater Model**

Carrie Wiese did not have an update on this model or future scenarios to be run.

**3. Wyoming Update**

**a. Wyoming Report**

Wray Lovitt reported that Niobrara River streamflow on the Wyoming side has increased following spring storms, all reservoirs in the area are filling, and there have been no surface water diversions so far. There were a few problems with elevation reading instruments at the state line well, but they have been repaired.

**b. Wells Report**

John Harju provided a spreadsheet (*Attachment D*) of well permits issued since spring 2017. WSEO worked closely with landowners on the spacing requirements on a few irrigation wells before permits were approved in fall 2017. WYDOT was granted a temporary permit for highway repair near the state line.

**c. Other Topics**

None

**4. Topics for next Niobrara Compact Meeting**

- None – NeDNR will send out a draft agenda and call for additional items closer to the fall 2018 meeting date.

**Next meeting date:**

The fall Niobrara Compact meeting will be held following the fall North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) meeting in Torrington, WY. Once the NPDC meeting date has been set, NeDNR will send out meeting invitations for the Niobrara Compact meeting.

**AGENDA**  
**UPPER NIOBRARA RIVER COMPACT**  
SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)  
Wyoming State Engineer's Office (WSEO)  
Technical Group

**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

11:00 a.m. Central Time / 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time  
Conference Call – GoTo Meeting

**Agenda Items:**

1. Introductions
2. Updates
  - a. Nebraska
    - i. Update and Current Conditions (Tom Hayden)
    - ii. NRD Activities (Carrie Wiese)
    - iii. Update Regarding Niobrara Basin WaterSMART Report (NeDNR)
    - iv. Aquifer Absent Study (Carrie Wiese)
    - v. NPS and USGS Niobrara National Scenic River Hydrogeologic Study and Modeling (Carrie Wiese)
    - vi. UNWNRD Conjunctive management modeling (NeDNR)
  - b. Wyoming
    - i. Update and Current Conditions
    - ii. Update of applications in the basin (John Harju)
    - iii. Other topics
3. Topics for the next Niobrara River Compact Meeting
4. Adjourn

Link to the GoTo web meeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/313118869>

To dial in by phone:

Participants dial 1-888-820-1398

Enter participant Code 1363142#



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **MEETING OF NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES/WYOMING STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE UPPER NIOBRARA RIVER COMPACT TECHNICAL GROUP SPRING MEETING**

The Technical Group of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (the Department) and the Wyoming State Engineer's Office will meet to discuss ongoing technical activities in the Upper Niobrara River Basin. The Technical Group is a subcommittee of the Upper Niobrara River Compact (*Neb. Rev. Stat. § 1-112*). The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. Central Time / 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time via conference call. The meeting is open to the public. An agenda for the meeting is available on the Department's website, <http://dnr.nebraska.gov>.

To participate in the conference call:

Link to the GoTo web meeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/313118869>

Dial in by phone:

Participants dial: 1-888-820-1398

Enter participant code: 1363142#

Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and services necessary for participation by contacting Melissa Mosier at the Department of Natural Resources, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509-4676, telephone number (402) 471-3948, electronic mail: [melissa.mosier@nebraska.gov](mailto:melissa.mosier@nebraska.gov).

**Project Completion Report:**

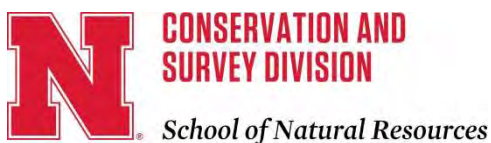
**Hydrogeologic Framework Studies  
of  
Portions of the Niobrara River**

Geological Survey Investigation 12  
Conservation and Survey Division  
School of Natural Resources  
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Douglas R. Hallum, Steven S. Sibray and Leslie M. Howard

**March, 2018**

*Project funding and technical assistance provided by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources*



## **Executive Summary**

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) and Upper Niobrara-White Natural Resources District (UNWNRD) expressed interest in improving understanding and their ability to effectively manage water resources in and around a reach of the Niobrara River where aquifer thickness contours developed for Nebraska by the Conservation and Survey Division indicate that the principle aquifer has zero thickness. Additionally, the bedrock map of Nebraska shows the occurrence of White River Group sediments along the reach, consistent with the principle aquifer thickness contours. This area is referred to as the “aquifer absent area” in this document. Water management decision-making and policy development is complicated by the presence of registered irrigation wells in the aquifer absent area, in apparent conflict with the maps. This disconnect represents a possible legal conundrum for Nebraska if groundwater wells are potentially beyond the management jurisdiction of the integrated water management plan of the UNWNRD and the NeDNR.

Since previous work was completed at a watershed scale, including the Niobrara watershed in Nebraska, CSD completed a more spatially detailed examination of available information in and along the reach between USGS stream gages at Agate and near Dunlap. The examination determined that:

- White River Group outcrops along the valley margins create the impression and subsequent misconception (when analyzed regionally) that the reach lacks hydraulic connection between surface water and groundwater. This is not the case locally.
- There is sufficient near-surface alluvium to conduct water between the stream and groundwater wells. Transmissivity is limited by the relative thinness of alluvial sediments and/or the fineness of sandy sediments in the subsurface.
- Transmissivity in the reach is spatially variable, due primarily to significant irregularity in thickness of sediments capable of conducting water in significant volumes.
- Irrigation wells in the aquifer absent area near the Niobrara River are hydraulically connected to the High Plains Aquifer and/or alluvial fill of the Niobrara River valley.
- Because of the limited thickness of aquifer materials and spatial uncertainty of their occurrence, it is appropriate to consider the reach in question as an aquifer absent area at regional scales. Any study that telescopes from generalized regional to more specific localized questions will experience challenges created as scale-related uncertainty is magnified. Interestingly, smaller scale multi-state maps of the High Plains Aquifer do not include an aquifer absent area in the reach.
- At larger scales, it becomes apparent that the reach is in contact with sediments capable of conducting water, and that the ability to conduct water will likely be affected by the available thickness of conductive sediments and the physical configuration of said sediment.
- At points, such as individual irrigation well locations, uncertainties regarding the nature and proportion of hydraulic connection among the High Plains Aquifer, the respective

well, and the Niobrara River (including associated alluvium) are high. In other words, the direct relationship of every individual well is not defined at the scale of this investigation.

Additional investigations and/or remote sensing methods outlined in this report may improve understanding and mitigate limitations at refined spatial resolution. It is the opinion of the authors that these improvements are not necessary to fulfill the obligations of the joint integrated management plan of the NeDNR and UNWNRD.

### **Regional Setting and Site Geology**

The study includes the area along and adjacent to the Niobrara River between and near to the USGS stream gages at Agate [06454100] and near Dunlap [06455900] (Table 1). It contains portions of Sioux, Dawes, Box Butte and Sheridan Counties in the Nebraska Panhandle, and lies within the UNWNRD (Figure 1). The area is characterized topographically by a relatively narrow valley bottom containing a meandering stream and low terrace with extensive dissected plains and plains beyond the valley bottom and its associated terrace (Figure 2). Beyond the watershed bound of the main stem Niobrara, the breaks of the pine ridge fall off to the north, toward the White River, while the Box Butte Table - including sand dunes, dry tributary valleys whose confluences occur below the study reach, and extensive agricultural land on a gently rolling plain - lie to the south (Figure 3). Source materials for the elevation hillshade in Figure 3 include orthophoto collections conducted in 1939, 1946-1949, 1970-1979, and 1980-1985. Detailed local analysis of topography in the study area will be vastly improved after the Hat Creek/White River and Sandhills LiDAR collections of 2016-2017 are available in 2018.

Bedrock of the study area is composed of gravel, sand, sandstone, siltstone, and claystone; it is from Oligocene to Miocene age, consisting of portions of the Ogallala, Arikaree, and White River groups (Figure 4). The Ogallala Group includes the Ash Hollow, Valentine, Sheep Creek and Runningwater Formations. The Arikaree Group includes the Harrison, Monroe Creek and Gering Formations. The White River Group includes the Sharps, Brule, Chadron, and Chamberlain Pass Formations. The Brule Formation can be further divided into the Whitney and Orella Members. Cretaceous materials underlie all primary and secondary aquifers in the region (Figure 5). Cretaceous lithology sub-crops in the study area and may include the Niobrara Group, the Pierre Shale, Benton Group, and the Dakota Group (Swinehart, et. al., 1985, p219).

Seven 7.5 minute STATEMAP quadrangles were used in this study (Figure 6) to provide the most detailed maps of surface geology available (Figure 7). Quaternary surface deposits of the study area include alluvium, colluvium, residuum, peat and eolian sand. Detailed descriptions of these sediments for each quadrangle are included in Appendix 2. These materials are emplaced by streams, gravity, weathering, decomposition, and wind. Alluvium occurs primarily in local valleys where water has re-worked and transported much of the material. Colluvium frequently occurs on the valley margins and in the transition zone to uplands. Residuum often occurs where indurated sediments have been weathered in place and moved little. Peat occurs locally where

lush masses of vegetation are rapidly buried and preserved by saturated and anoxic conditions. Eolian sand is moved by wind and deposited in locations of relatively low energy, or in broad shallow sheets when source material is greater than the ability of the wind to transport the entire supply.

The study reach is at the western margin of the Ogallala Group sediments in the northern panhandle, and is typically underlain by Arikaree Group materials except in specific locations, including portions of the study reach where it is underlain by White River Group sediments (Figure 4). This lithostratigraphic configuration is the justification for mapping a zero thickness contour (aquifer absent area) in the reach when aquifer thickness contours were created for the statewide map (Figure 8). Note that the contour correlates imperfectly with the presence of White River Group as bedrock, indicating differing levels of detail relating to various scales of analysis.

### **Water and Hydrogeology**

The study reach includes 108 river miles of the Niobrara River in a project domain about 46 miles east to west and about 6 miles north to south. The major surface water feature of the reach is the Box Butte Reservoir, which was completed in 1948. It provides storage water for the Mirage Flats irrigation project downstream of the study reach (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, 2014) and provides a regionally significant recreation and fishery resource. The study reach includes 55 active points of diversion with priority dates between 1887 and 1987, 39 of which predate the completion of Box Butte Reservoir (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Rights Database). Points of diversion and canals (Table 2) are actively monitored by NeDNR stream gages (Table 3). Water rights in the study reach total 76,182 acre-feet for the Box Butte Reservoir and Mirage Flats Canal, and 238 cubic feet per second (cfs) for the remaining appropriators. Historical flow in the reach was about 15 cfs at the Agate gage, about 30 cfs above Box Butte Reservoir, and about 40 cfs at the downstream gage near Dunlap (US Geological Survey National Water Information System, 2017).

Development of groundwater for irrigation in northwest Nebraska began in the 1950's and reached a peak in the 1970's (Korus et. al., 2013). The overall rate of well development in the study reach has been less dense than much of the remainder of Nebraska. While groundwater levels have been relatively constant around the Niobrara River in the study reach, the area in proximity to the reach is characterized by a lack of consistently distributed observations (Figure 9). Groundwater observations in the developed area south of the study reach show that Box Butte County has experienced significant groundwater declines (Figure 10). While extensive drawdown has occurred to the south of the river, the groundwater level has been stable near the Niobrara River, potentially indicating a hydraulic connection between groundwater and surface water of the Niobrara River (Conservation and Survey Division, 2017).

Szilagyi et. al. (2003) computed base flow indices statewide, indicating that the Niobrara River is dependent on groundwater for between 70 and 90% of its stream flow, indicating a hydraulic connection between the river and local groundwater. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources estimates that flows above Box Butte Reservoir have been impacted by groundwater

pumping by approximately 6 cfs when comparing the years 1956-1960 to 1996-2000 (2014), and others have proposed that these reductions are due to groundwater pumping and falling groundwater levels in Box Butte County. While groundwater pumping in the region has undoubtedly impacted flow in various tributary streams, the relative effect on the Niobrara River of pumping in Box Butte County, when compared with other areas, such as the main stem Niobrara valley, Sioux County, or even Wyoming, is less well understood.

Ogallala and Arikaree Group sediments are usually considered to be parts of the High Plains Aquifer, while the White River Group is not generally considered as part of the aquifer, except in specific locales where it is known to have significant networks of interconnected fractures. In much of the study reach, fine grained Arikaree Group sediments (Harrison Formation) occur adjacent to the upper White River Group (Sharps Formation). Distinguishing these units in the field can be extremely difficult, as they are both fine-grained with similar appearance. Because of these similarities, in this part of Nebraska, the Sharps and Harrison Formations may have similar hydraulic characteristics. If this is the case, the degree to which the Sharps Formation serves as a marginal aquifer and the Harrison Formation as an aquiclude may confound the use of the enclosed aquifer configurations and hydraulic characteristics for building water-accounting tools.

### **Methods**

Since the goals of the integrated management process are to ensure a balance between water supplies and uses and to protect the rights of existing users of surface water and groundwater, the hydrogeologic and hydrostratigraphic refinement is needed because there are irrigation wells located in the area of interest where existing hydrostratigraphic unit maps show little or no aquifer material present. The objective of this project is to improve the understanding of hydrostratigraphic units in the area of interest and better define the hydrogeologic relationship between producing wells and the adjacent stream reach. The added detail sought may influence, or be incorporated into, water accounting tools used for integrated management purposes in the region, at the discretion of the NeDNR and/or the UNWNRD.

Initial work included a review and assessment of existing studies and data relevant to the reach. These included documents relating to local and regional stratigraphy, geology, modeling, and hydrology. The project requires mapping of aquifer units, which are defined for this study as Quaternary alluvium (Qal), Ogallala Group sediments (No), and Arikaree Group sediments (Na). Additional discussion and an associated map are provided to illustrate areas where the White River Group (PEW) likely produces some water for the local supplies. This study does not include analysis or discussion of the Chadron Aquifer and its associated Chamberlain Pass Formation, a known minor aquifer that is hydraulically distinct from the High Plains Aquifer in the study area. A small number of registered wells analyzed for this study are completed in the Chadron and Chamberlain Pass Formations, and while their cuttings descriptions are useful for distinguishing Groups, pumping information for these locations was ignored.

Local results of this work are reported utilizing Public Land Survey System (PLSS) subdivisions to describe specific areas of the study area. PLSS subdivisions are shown in Figure 11.

Twenty-two test holes were selected to provide a basic framework around the reach as shown in Figure 12 (Table 4, Appendix 3). Test hole attributes, including formation tops and surface elevations, were extracted from Conservation and Survey Divisions statewide test hole database and incorporated into the project databases. To refine the spatial resolution, the regions between the test holes were populated with available data from the NeDNR's registered wells database. One hundred sixty-one registered wells were selected in and around the mapped occurrence of White River Group on the statewide bedrock map and the aquifer absent area (Figure 13) for this analysis. The wells were selected such that each could help the authors better understand the nature of the previously mapped aquifer absent area boundary, as well as potentially refining their understanding of the lithostratigraphic distribution of bedrock in the study area. Filtering of the selected wells was conducted to remove inactive wells and wells without recorded values for pumping rate, static water level (SWL), pumping water level (PWL), and a level of detail in their cuttings descriptions sufficient to identify the various aquifer units of this study. This filtering resulted in 106 wells used in this analysis (Figure 14, Table 5). The selected registered wells were attributed with the surface elevation corresponding to their mapped locations from the 10-meter digital elevation model from the National Elevation Dataset using the ArGIS Spatial Analyst tool "Extract Values to Points". The extraction was quality checked by manually comparing approximately 25% of the elevations extracted with the digital elevation model values using the identify tool. Maps were prepared illustrating the number of acres served by each registered well (Figure 15) and the specific capacity of each registered well (Figure 16).

Test holes and registered wells were reviewed and depths recorded relating to the base of Quaternary sediments, top and base of Ogallala Group sediments, top and base of Arikaree Group sediments, and top of White River Group sediments. The SWL field in the registration database was used to calculate the saturated thickness and estimate the likely extent of saturated Quaternary (Figures 17), Ogallala Group (Figure 18), and Arikaree Group sediments (Figure 19), as well as to estimate the total saturated thickness of all groups (Figure 20). The calculations for each well and test hole were qualitatively analyzed with the topography, land cover, surface and bedrock geology data to estimate the horizontal extent of saturated sediments in each aquifer unit. Additionally, calculations were made to determine the depth of penetration for registered wells into the White River Group, and to highlight areas in the study reach where White River Group sediments may be producing water (Figure 21).

Test holes and registered wells not containing a defined land surface elevation were attributed with the value from the USGS 1/3 arc-second digital elevation model obtained from the National Elevation Dataset based on their mapped locations (Figure 22). Depth values relating to the bases of Quaternary, Ogallala Group, and Arikaree Group sediments (base of Arikaree representing the base of the principal aquifer) were calculated and converted to elevation for each of the test holes and registered elevation wells. Elevation calculations for test holes and registered wells, as well

as contours of the land surface, base of Quaternary sediment, base of Ogallala Group sediment, and the base of Arikaree Group sediment were interpolated across the study area by kriging. The kriging data were then overlaid on and compared to land surface, surface geology, and bedrock maps of the area. Contour intervals representing the contacts between Groups were manually digitized at 100 foot intervals from this view. The contours were then attributed with the appropriate elevations and used along with the data points to create the deliverable raster datasets using the “topo to raster” function in the 3D Analyst toolbox of ArcGIS. The results of these computations are shown in Figures 23-25.

The digital elevation models of each surface were subtracted using the “Minus” tool in 3D Analyst toolbox of ArcGIS to calculate the stratigraphic thickness of each of the aquifer units shown in Figures 26-28 and the total stratigraphic thickness of all principal aquifer sediments as shown in Figure 29.

Various methods for estimating Specific Yield were researched and available data examined to determine the feasibility of conducting quantitative calculations of specific yield (Fetter, 1980, Johnson, 1963, Ramsahoye and Lang, 1993, Robson, 1993). Specific yield for this study was estimated qualitatively and mapped subjectively based on available sediment descriptions that inferred grain size (Johnson, 1966, Souders, 1981, Souders et. al., 1980) and previous work containing estimates of specific yield in the region (Ayers, 2007, McGuire, et. al., 2012, NeDNR, 2014), as shown in Figures 30-32.

## **Results**

### **Quaternary sediments (Qal)**

Saturated alluvium is present through the entire length of the Niobrara River valley and possibly limited areas in the Whistle Creek and Willow Creek drainages (Figures 17 and 26). Saturated thickness is relatively thin and highly variable. Maximum saturated thickness approaches 70 feet while the average thickness is less than 40 feet.

Hydraulic conductivity is very high and Specific Yield (Figure 30) is relatively high while overall transmissivity is limited by the thinness of the aquifer. Specific capacity and transmissivity are limited by the thinness of the aquifer. Specific capacity and transmissivity are highest in the wells with the greatest saturated thickness. Due to the thinness of the aquifer, irrigation wells are often drilled into the underlying, less permeable White River Group and Arikaree Group sediments to avoid problems with drawdown. Specific Yield is likely around 0.2 on average across the study area and is locally variable, likely ranging between 0.12 and 0.30. It may be somewhat lower to the east end of the reach (0.12 to 0.2) and higher to the west end of the reach (0.15 to 0.3) as shown in Figure 30, since the stream valley is wider in the east and more incised in the west. Due to the high hydraulic conductivity of the sand and gravels of this aquifer, the hydraulic connection with the surface water of the Niobrara River is excellent.

### **Ogallala Group (No)**



The distribution of likely saturated Ogallala Group sediment is limited in the Niobrara River valley but is more widespread in the upland areas in the Box Butte table lands and the Pine Ridge (Figures 18 and 27). The greatest saturated thickness of the Ogallala Group aquifer is east of Box Butte reservoir in township 28 north, range 48 west. The Ogallala aquifer in the Niobrara river valley may extend through township 29 north, range 50 west into section 36 township 29 north, range 51 west. Based on our evaluation of driller's logs, there appears to be an Ogallala channel in the north part of the township 28 north, range 53 west which connects with the alluvial aquifer in the valley (Figure 18). Maximum saturated thickness in this channel is approximately 160 feet. Another saturated channel connects laterally to saturated Arikaree Group sediments in the north portion of Township 27 North, Range 55 West and the southernmost sections of Township 28 North, Range 55 West.

Although the Ogallala Group sediments are widespread in the upland areas, there are large areas where they have little or no saturation (Figure 27). Irrigation wells are usually found in those areas where there are channels cut into the underlying Arikaree or White River Group Sediments. Maximum saturated thickness in these areas approaches 200 feet, but is typically in the range of 100 to 150 feet.

The sediments of the Ogallala Group Formations are variable, resulting in varying hydraulic conductivity and Specific Yield. The sandy gravel beds are similar to the Quaternary alluvium and have hydraulic conductivities that exceed 60 m/day while the clayey silts probably average less than 1 m/day (Souders, 1981). Likewise, Specific Yield may vary from around 0.3 down to approximately 0.05. Souders estimated transmissivity for two test holes drilled in the Ogallala Group in Sheridan County. One test hole near Rushville, NE (northeast of the study area) had a calculated transmissivity of 248 m<sup>2</sup>/day while a test hole in section 24, township 29 north, range 46 west (about 10 miles east of our study area, and one mile north of Niobrara River) had a calculated transmissivity of 1,860 m<sup>2</sup>/day. Specific Yield is likely slightly lower on average than the values for Quaternary sediments. McGuire et. al. (2012) shows values between 0.1 and 0.2 for the study area, which is consistent with values used previously in NeDNR's management model for the region. Specific yield of the channel in the northern portion of Township 27 North, Range 55 West and the southernmost sections of Township 28 North, Range 55 West is likely high (0.2 to 0.3), as is the channel north of the river in the middle sections (13-24) of Township 29 North, Range 49 West and Township 29 North, Range 50 West. Other portions of the study area are less certain and may have spatially varying specific yield values between 0.05 and 0.3 (Figure 31). Specific capacity values in the study area indicate that hydraulic connection between the surface water in the Niobrara River valley and the Ogallala is probably good where the Ogallala is saturated in the valley.

### **Arikaree Group (Na)**

The formations of the Arikaree Group are largely absent or have low hydraulic conductivity in the Niobrara River Valley in the study area. The Arikaree Group formations were removed by erosion prior to deposition of the Ogallala Group in most of the eastern part of the study area. As

a consequence, the Ogallala Group directly overlies the White River Group in the eastern part of the study area along the Niobrara River. In the western part of the study area, the Arikaree Group formations and Ogallala Group formations were removed by the more recent erosion during the development of the present day Niobrara river valley. In the far western part of the study area, the Harrison Formation of the Arikaree underlies the Quaternary alluvium. Souders et al (1980) noted that the Harrison Formation is very similar to the Sharps Formation (previously known as the Brown Siltstone Member of the Brule Formation) These two formations can only be distinguished by looking for volcanic glass shards under the microscope. The Sharps Formation has a much higher percentage of volcanic glass. The Harrison Formation does contain some permeable fine sand and sandstone beds and can transmit enough water to support a domestic or stock well but cannot transmit enough water for an irrigation well. Nevertheless, Specific Yield for Arikaree Group sediments (including the Harrison Formation) likely averages around 0.15 and varies between 0.05 and 0.2. Various studies (Bradley, 1956, Cady and Scherer, 1946), assigned values around 0.15 for Specific Yield of the Harrison Formation. The Box Butte model study prepared for NeDNR (Ayers, 2007) also used a uniform value of 0.15. It is likely that specific yield in much of the area varies between 0.1 and 0.2, with Souders (1981) indicating that the northeast quadrant may be somewhat lower, ranging from 0.05 to 0.15 (Figure 32). Mapping by La Garry (USGS, September 26, 1997) indicates that the Harrison Formation crops out along the margins of the Niobrara River Valley in the western part of the area but due to its similarity to the Sharps Formation, it would be impossible to tell these two formations apart in the subsurface using drillers' descriptions of cuttings. In general, Souders considered the Arikaree not to be an important aquifer in southern Dawes County. In contrast, the Arikaree is an important aquifer in Box Butte County and in parts of northern Sheridan County.

### **White River Group (PEW)**

The White River Group consists of four formations in the study area. The Sharps Formation is the youngest formation and consists of brown siltstone, very fine sand, and sandstone which can yield water sufficient to support stock and domestic wells. The Brule Formation is composed of brown siltstone and is considered an aquitard. The Chadron Formation consists of multicolored (green to red) bentonitic clays which form a regional confining unit that separates the underlying Chadron sands and Chamberlain Pass Formation from the shallower units of the High Plains aquifer (Quaternary Alluvium, Ogallala Group, and Arikaree Group). Regionally, the top of the White River Group is considered the base of the High Plains aquifer system even though some water is produced from the Sharps Formation. In the study area, we have noted there are three areas where there are wells with significant screened intervals in this unit. In the eastern area in the southwest corner of Township 29 North, Range 50 West (Figure 21), there is an irrigation well (ID # 23442, Figure 13) that produces from both the Ogallala Group and the Sharps Formation. In the center area (at the intersection of Townships 28 and 29 North, Ranges 52 and 53 West), there are wells which may produce from this unit and the Ogallala and possibly from the Arikaree. In the western area (Townships 28 and 29, Ranges 53 and 54 West), there are irrigation wells that produce largely from the Quaternary alluvium that are also screened in the

Sharps Formation or possibly the Harrison Formation of the Arikaree Group. Well # 112600 produces 50 gallons per minute from the White River Group in this area (Figure 13).

### **Summary of Results**

Surface water in the Niobrara river valley is well connected to Quaternary sediments and the Ogallala Group. Quaternary sediments with high hydraulic conductivity but variable thickness are the most important aquifer in this area, while the Ogallala Group with highly variable conductivity is also important in some areas. The Arikaree Group is largely absent near the river or has low hydraulic conductivity, and the White River Group can also yield small quantities of water. Quaternary age aquifer materials cover much of the study area, representing a potential hydraulic connection along the reach.

Finally, other investigations have reached similar conclusions regarding the significance of unconsolidated local materials creating a connection between stream water and groundwater in the study area, including the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality study of percolation rates (Figure 33) and CALMIT's study of groundwater contamination potential using the DRASTIC model (Figure 34). The high percolation rates shown in the NDEQ study area are anecdotal of areas where surface water and groundwater should be hydraulically well connected. Similarly, the DRASTIC method evaluates seven factors that represent an anecdotal proxy of the degree of connection (through movement of contaminants) between groundwater and the land surface, including adjacent surface water.

### **Limitations and Uncertainties**

Limitations and uncertainties are significant to this study. They include:

1. Conclusions based on interpretations of driller's descriptions of cuttings are somewhat tenuous.
2. ***Saturated thickness should not be contoured*** in the study reach because the results may be significantly misleading. Some data points are from test holes which penetrate the entire section while many of the irrigation wells do not, creating significant uncertainty relating to the Transmissivity at those locations. This is especially true of the Arikaree Group (Na) penetrations. Limitation #3 may also contribute significantly to this limitation.
3. The hydraulic information contained in the project deliverables is limited by the spatial density of wells and test holes, as well as the time when the information was collected. Water levels were recorded over many years, making uncertain the extent that they are affected by precipitation, drought or other climate variability, and/or seasonal variations.
4. Well locations may be imperfect, influencing the map results, Group elevations, and saturated thickness estimates.
5. Registered well logs contain only the most basic descriptions of sediments encountered, therefore distinguishing between certain portions of the Arikaree and White River Groups that occur together represents a particular challenge when interpreting the logs. Further confounding this uncertainty is the fact that portions of the Arikaree group vary in their

ability to transmit water, influencing the reported specific yield. In some instances, the Sharps Formation (White River Group) may transmit water nearly as well as the Harrison Formation of the Arikaree Group.

6. Descriptions of the White River Group from a couple test holes indicate possible fracturing, indicating that using the top of the White River Group as the base of aquifer may not be an ideal assumption locally.
7. Source materials for the elevation hillshade in Figure 3 include orthophoto collections conducted between 1939 and 1985, representing a long timeframe for data collection in a changing landscape.
8. LiDAR derived elevation data was recently delivered to USGS for the study area. Differences between newly collected elevation data and the 1/3 arc-second digital elevation model obtained from the National Elevation Dataset will directly influence the results of this study.
9. Stratigraphic thicknesses mapped in the study area are inherently uncertain for the same reasons as the saturated thicknesses in Limitation #2.

### **Recommendations for Improvements**

Spatial conceptualizations of aquifer frameworks are simple to improve by collecting an increasing density of data and continually evaluating new information, whether the data are anecdotal or comprehensive. Each new piece of data and information collected represents a qualitative improvement in our understanding of a local system, and often more importantly, improves our understanding of the relationship between the local and regional systems as we move our attention upstream or downstream from the reach.

Designing water management models requires a balance among detailed local knowledge, regional data and interpretations, and the data consistency necessary to build a robust and stable accounting tool at the desired scale, as well as spatial and temporal resolutions. Knowing the best approach requires experience, judgement, and a fundamental understanding of the uncertain and imperfect nature of all manner of simulation, as well as the uncertain and imperfect nature of available data and information. Given the relative small scale of the water accounting model employed by NeDNR and UNWNRD, locally refined investigation is probably not necessary, and would not likely provide significant substantive benefits to the regional water accounting models currently in use.

The authors' interpretations of the aquifer framework and hydraulic properties of the reach could be improved in a number of ways, including:

- Conduct and expand detailed surface mapping (STATEMAP) in adjacent areas of interest.
- Conduct aquifer tests in the reach to improve estimates of hydraulic properties.
- Conduct additional test hole drilling combined with aerial electromagnetic (AEM) surveys to verify the extent of the mapped channel containing Ogallala Group sediments.

Use this work to determine if AEM techniques can be used to discern the Arikaree and White River Groups in the study area.

- Conduct additional test holes in the area around the mapped channel filled with Ogallala Group sediments, including: the north part of township 28 north, range 52 west, the south part of township 29 north, range 51 west, and Whistle Creek areas to help improve the local aquifer framework.
- Complete a detailed analysis of the elevated bedrock surface along the right bank of the reach, to help define limits to the hydraulic relationship with irrigated lands of Box Butte County.
- Establish a network of recording wells to determine the transfer of hydraulic stress through the aquifer to the south of the reach.
- Conduct modal type analysis of grain sizes found in cuttings and/or grain size distribution to improve estimates of specific yield.
- Conduct pebble analysis of gravel channel to determine provenance and verify that the mapped channel contains Ogallala Group gravels.
- Reexamine the reach when LiDAR derived elevation data is available - detailed local analysis of topography and corresponding Formation bottoms (including saturated thickness of uppermost units) in the study area could be improved when the Hat Creek/White River and Sandhills LiDAR collections are available.
- Examine existing test hole cuttings under a microscope to better assess possible spatial variability and identify locations where the White River Group sediments may be a marginal source of water.
- Include new test holes that were drilled in 2017 into the analysis.
- Investigate to determine if any of the wells with significant screened intervals in the White River Group were hydraulically fractured to enhance groundwater recovery.
- Investigate the history of dam building along and above the study area to determine if it is possible to build a temporal relationship between installation of flow control structures and changes in the observed flow regime.
- Complete a detailed examination of geophysical logs collected during mineral exploration activities in the reach and compare with the closest available geophysical logs from CSD test holes.

### **Disclaimer**

The views, conclusions, and/or opinions expressed in this work are solely those of the authors and not the University of Nebraska, State of Nebraska, or any political subdivision thereof.

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## **APPENDIX 1 – Report Figures and Tables**

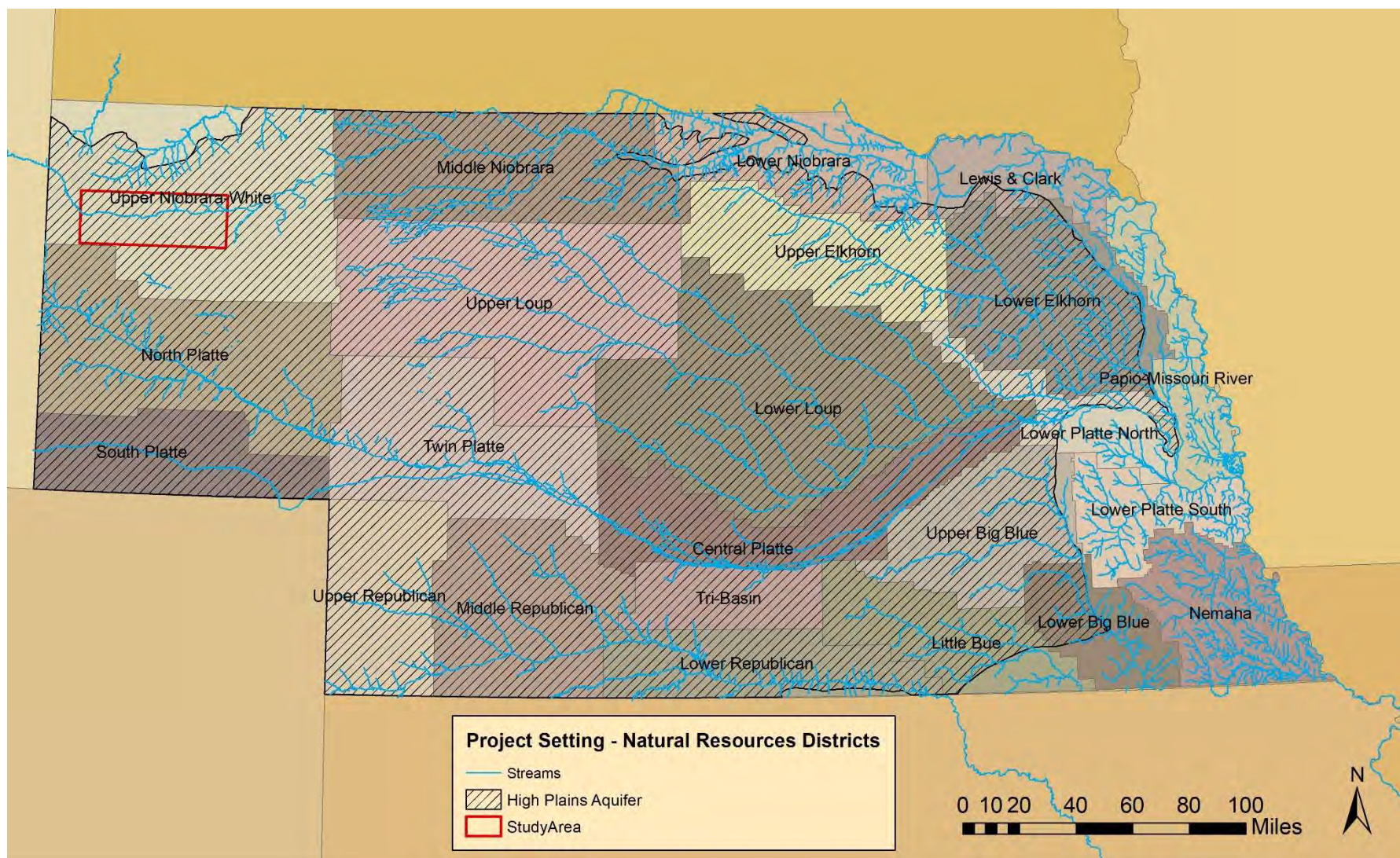


Figure 1. Map showing the extent of the High Plains Aquifer system in Nebraska, the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts, and configuration of major streams. The area of interest in this study is outlined in red.



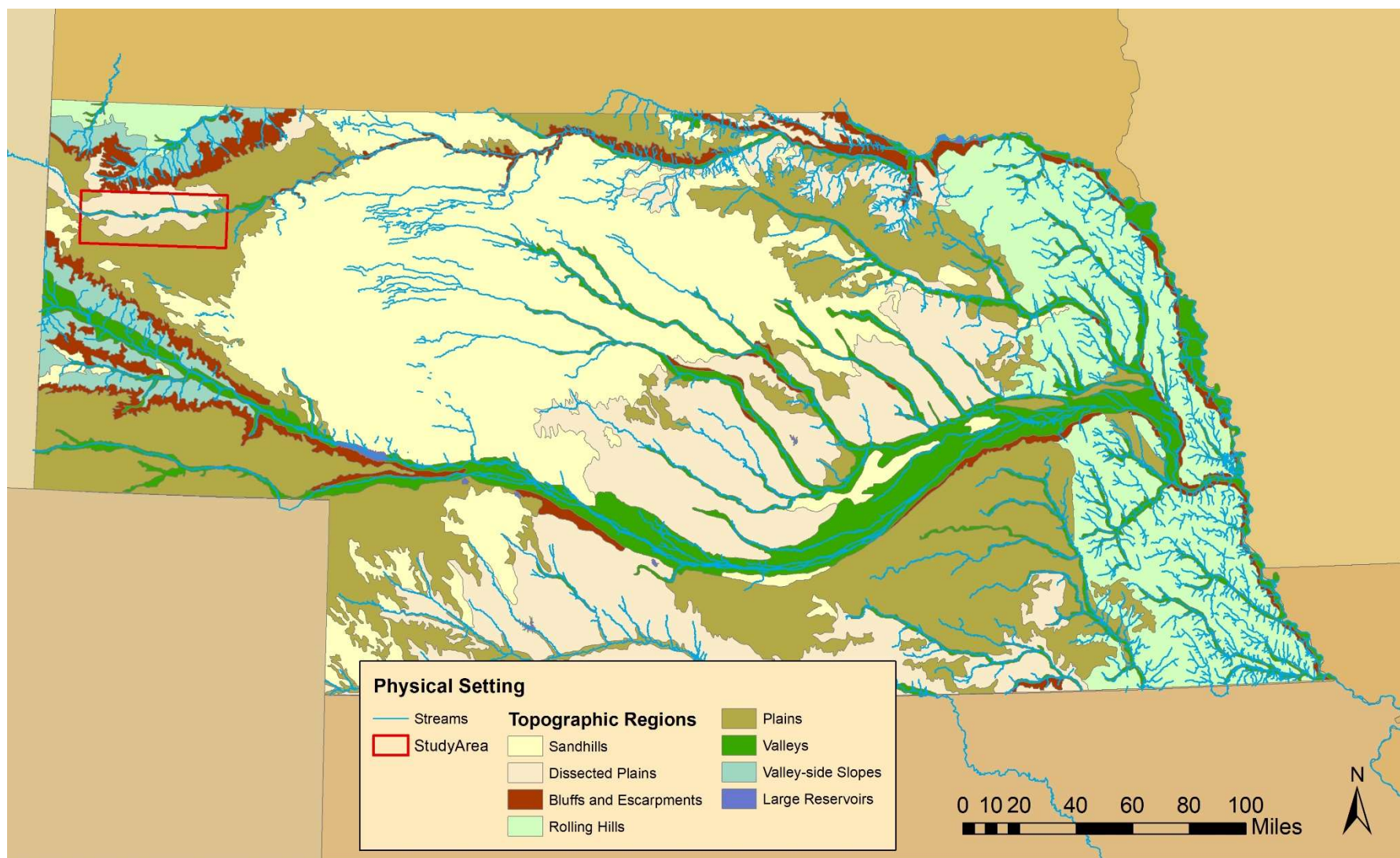


Figure 2. Map of Nebraska showing topographic regions. The area of interest in this study is outlined in red.

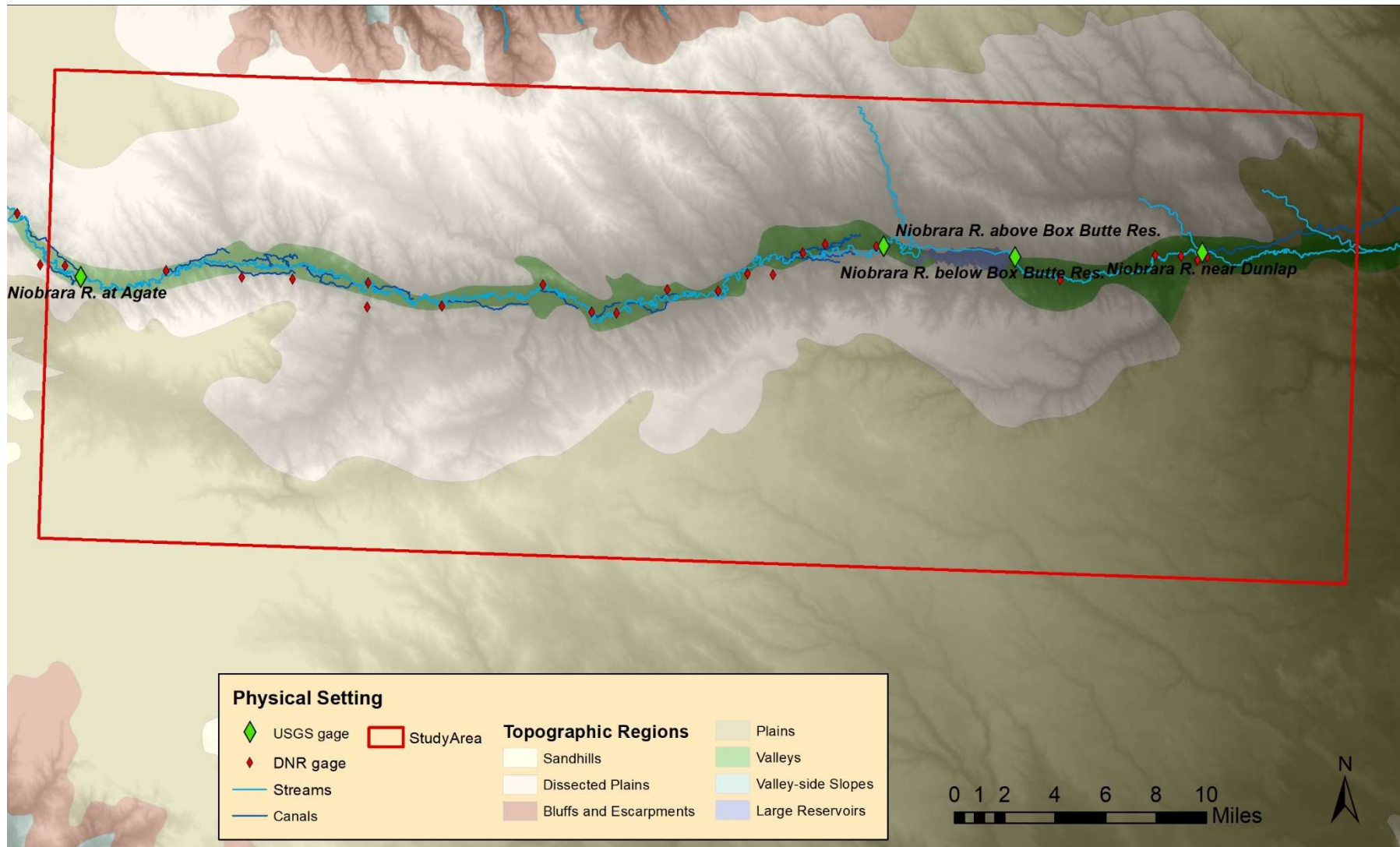


Figure 3. Map showing study area in south-central portion of the Upper Niobrara-White NRD, showing topographic regions and Stream/Canal gages used to define the study area on a hillshade of the photogrammetrically derived 1/3 arc-second digital elevation model provided in the National Elevation Dataset.

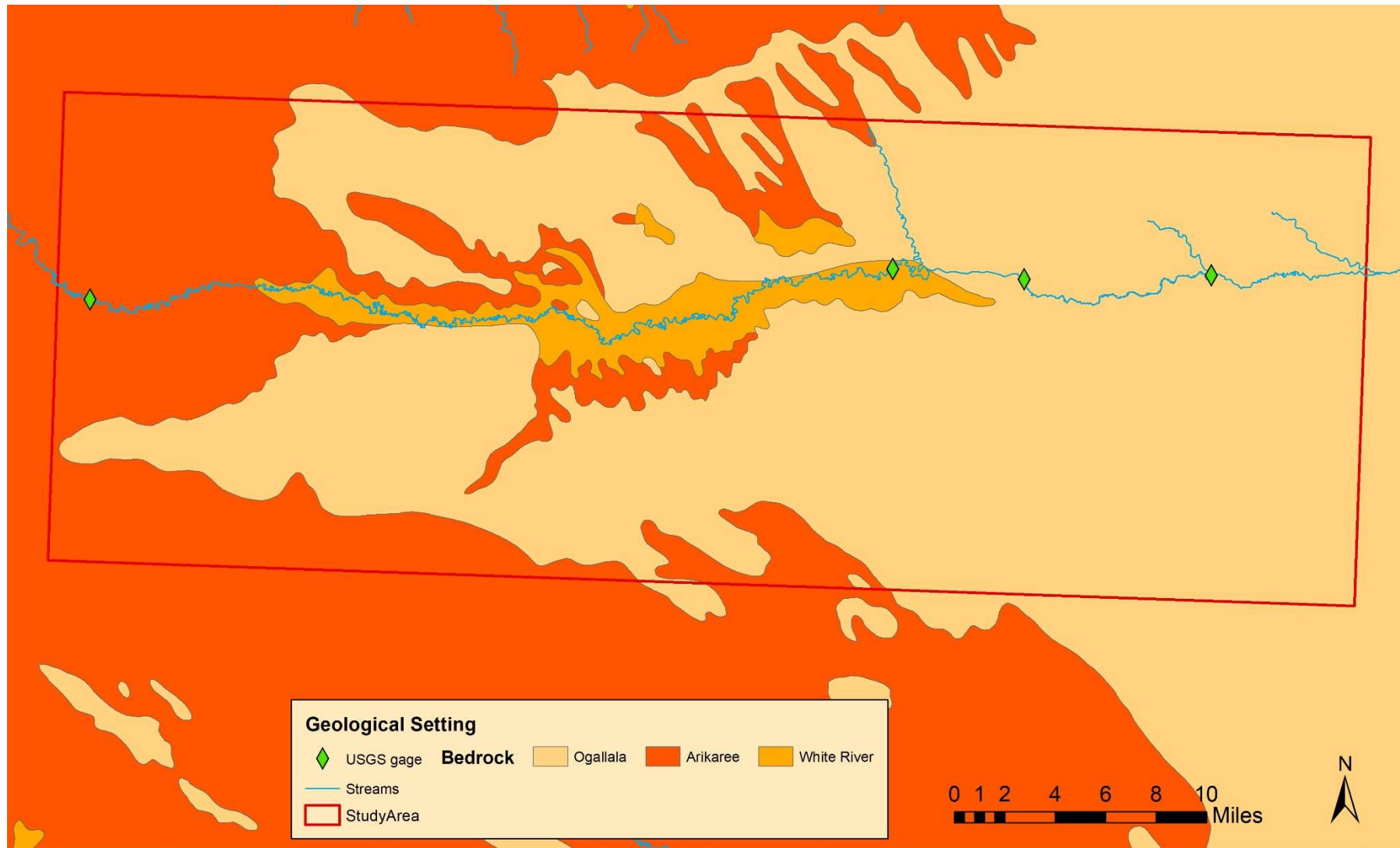


Figure 4. Map showing the general occurrence of Ogallala, Arikaree and Whiter River Group sediments in the study area.

PERIOD	EPOCH	GROUP	FORMATION
QUATERNARY	Holocene and Pleistocene		Undifferentiated
NEOGENE	Miocene	Ogallala	Ash Hollow
			Valentine
			Sheep Creek
			Runningwater
		Arikaree	Harrison
			Monroe Creek
PALEOGENE	Oligocene	White River	Gering
			Sharps
			Brule
	Eocene		Chadron
			Chamberlain Pass
CRETACEOUS	Late Cretaceous		Laramie
			Fox Hills
		Montana	Pierre Shale

Figure 5: Chart illustrating a generalized geologic framework of western Nebraska.



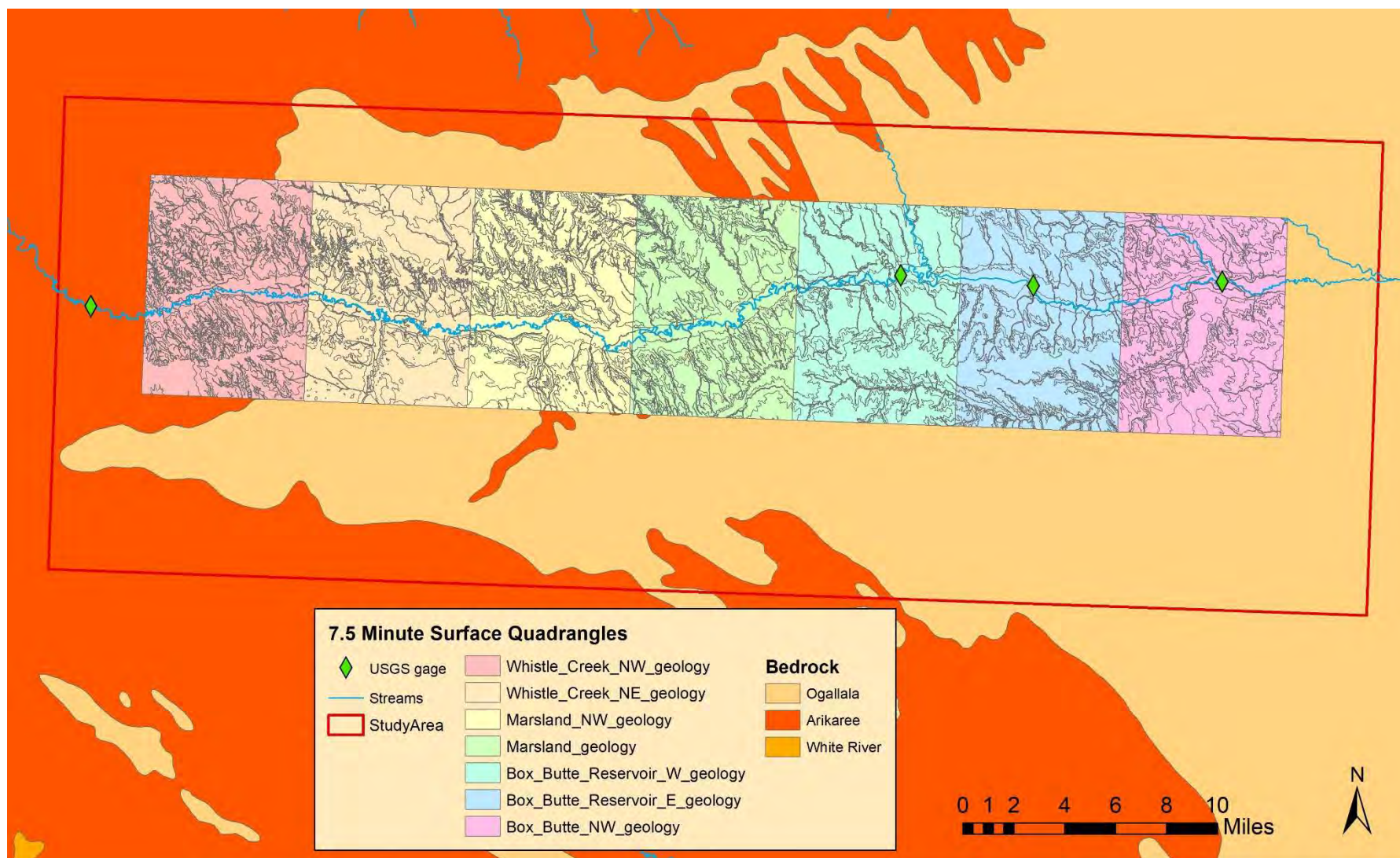


Figure 6. Map showing study area and 7.5 Minute STATEMAP quadrangles that were analyzed as part of this study.



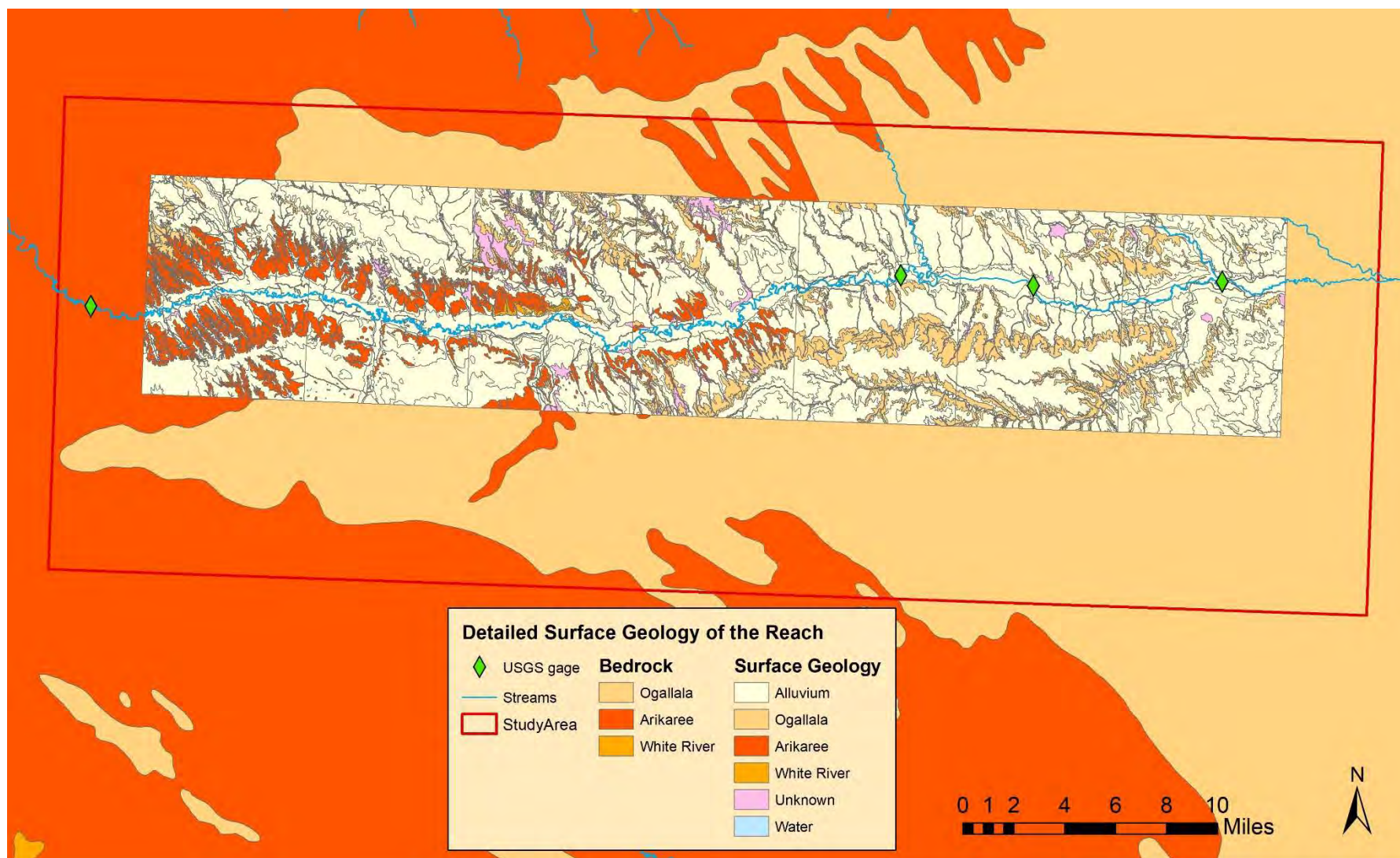


Figure 7. Map illustrating typical sediments of the surface geology show by the 7.5 Minute STATEMAP quadrangles that were analyzed as part of this study.

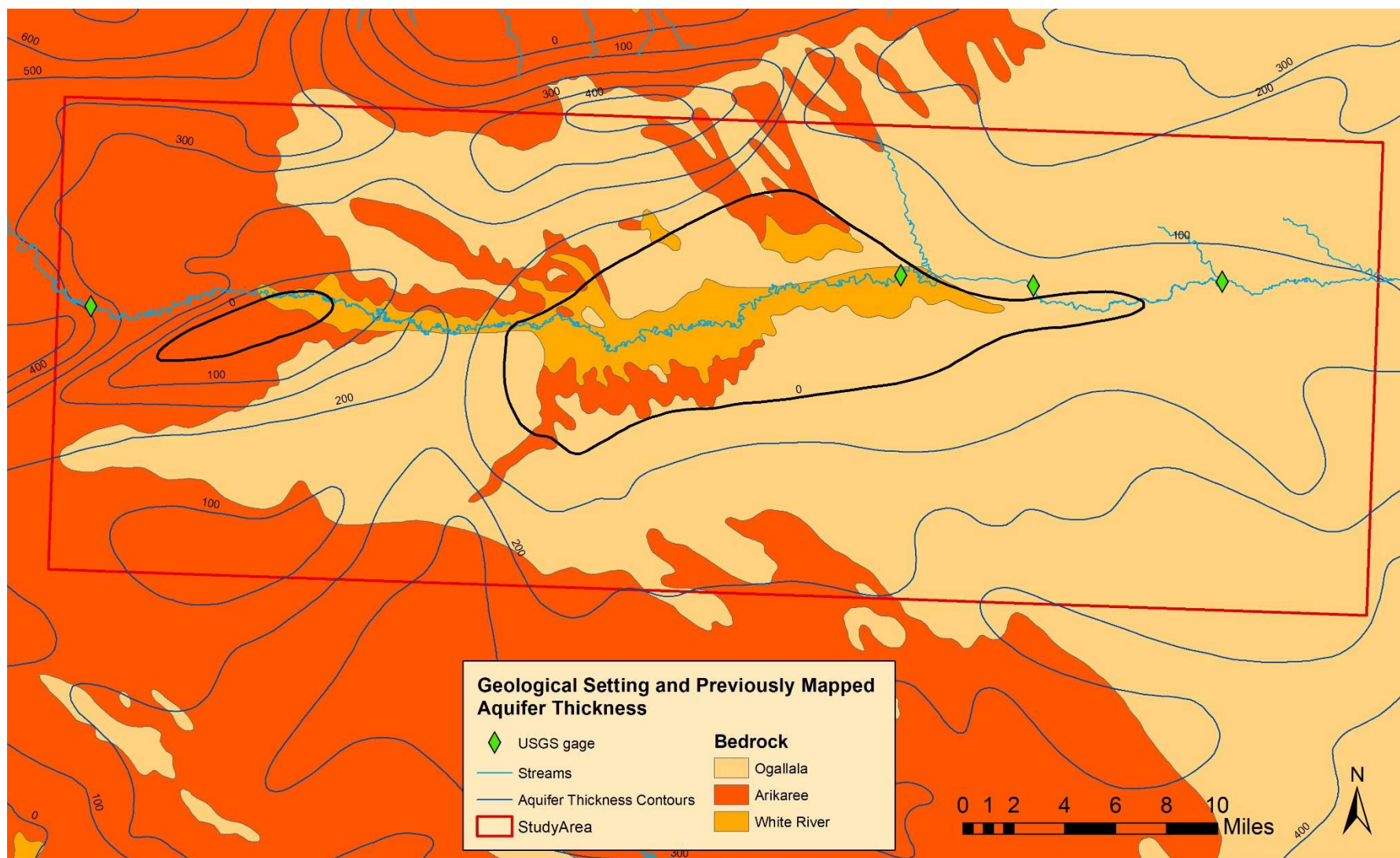


Figure 8. Map showing study area and previously mapped aquifer thickness contours. The contour representing the aquifer absent area is bold black.



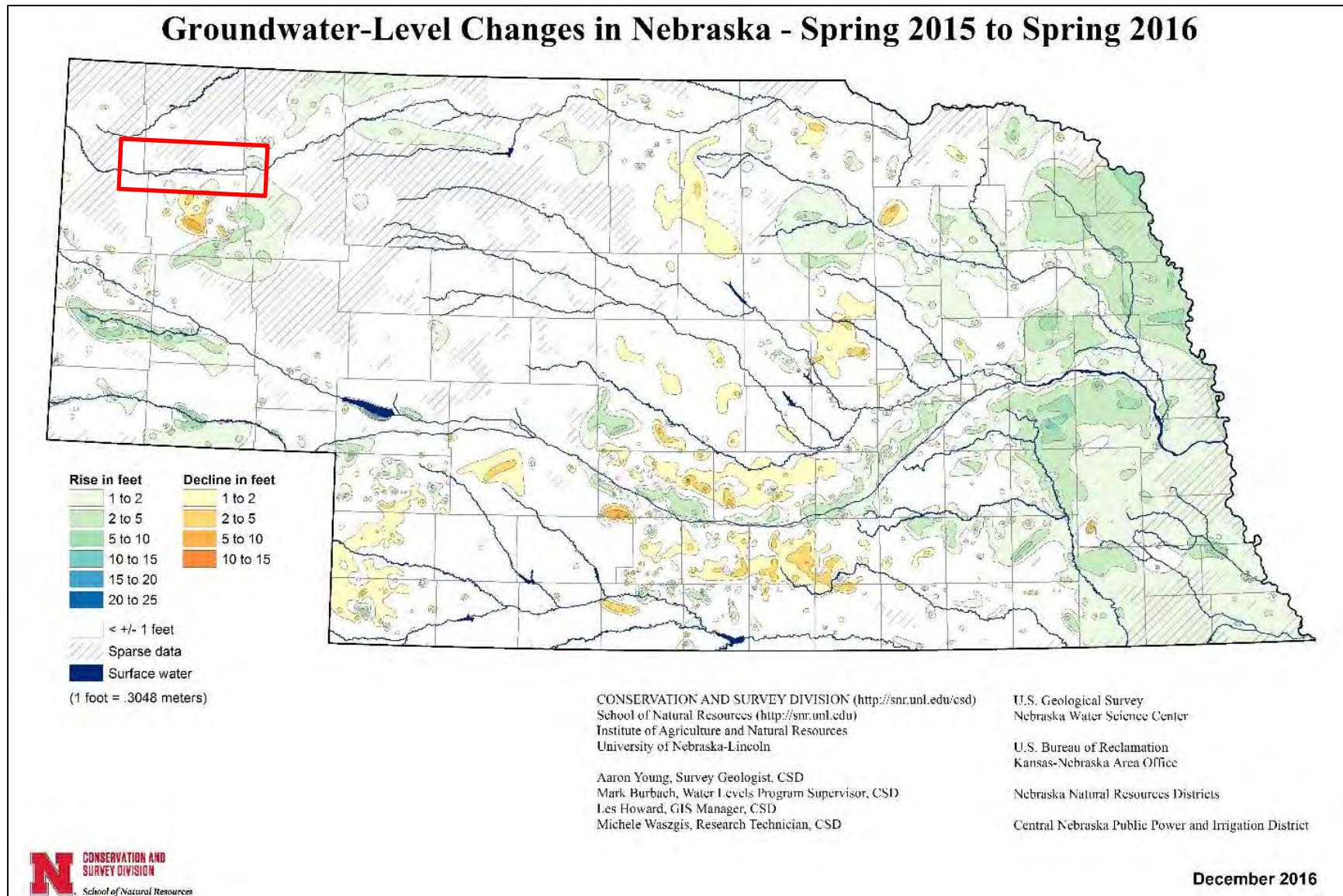


Figure 9. Statewide map showing water level changes between 2015 and 2016, indicating sparse data in the project area (Conservation and Survey Division, 2017).



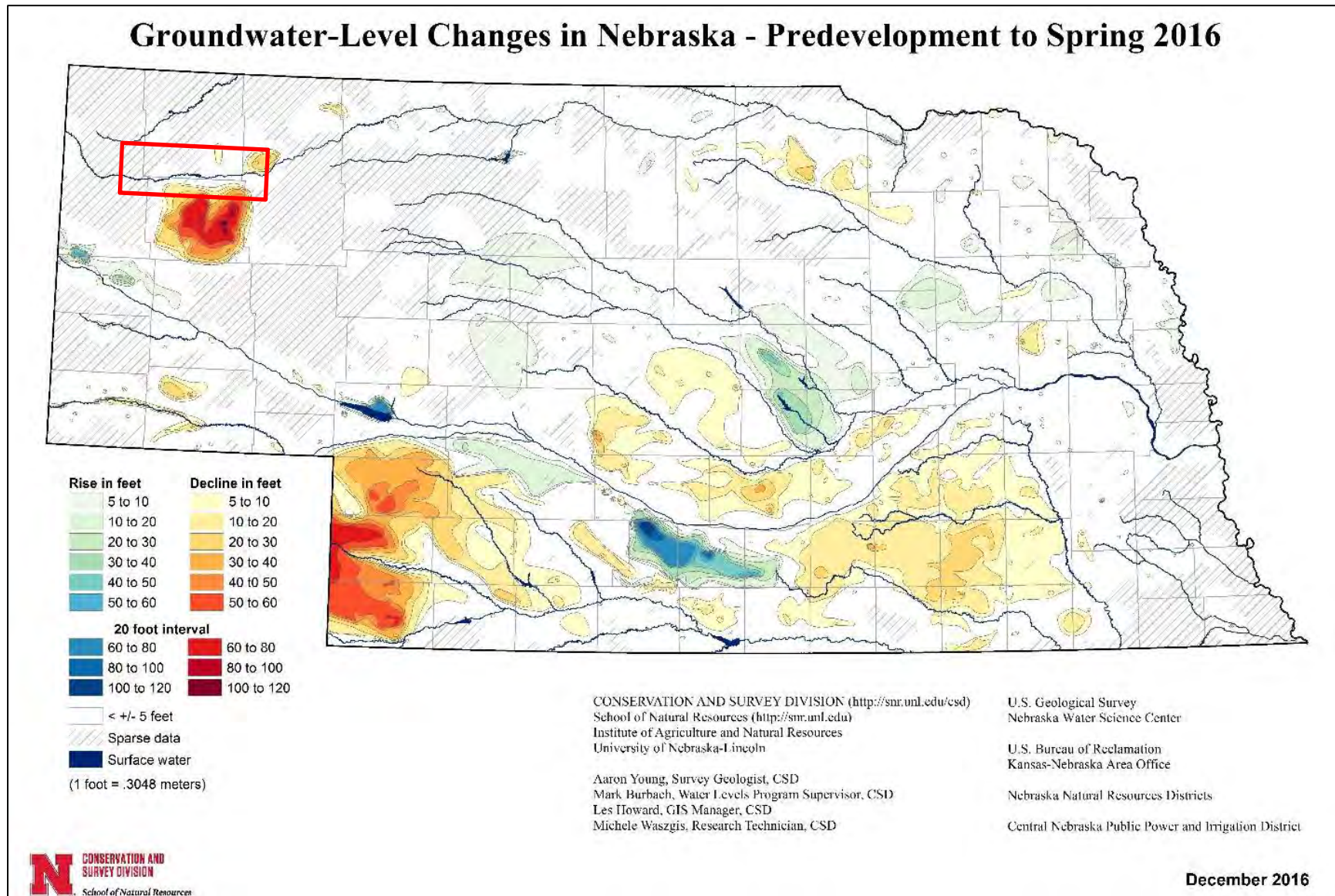


Figure 10. Statewide map showing water level changes between predevelopment and 2016. The area of interest in this study is outlined in red.



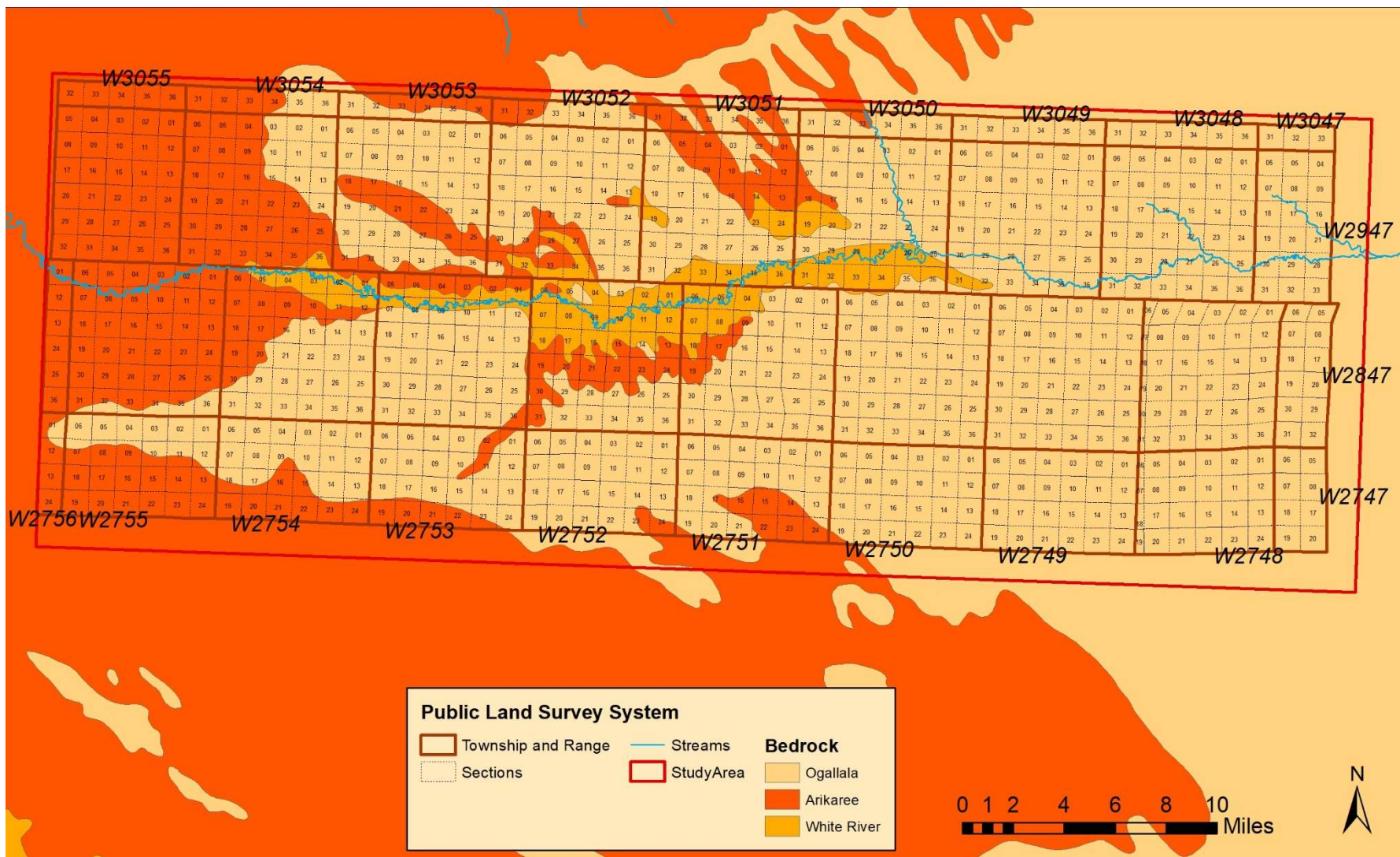


Figure 11. Map showing Public Land Survey System subdivisions of the study area.

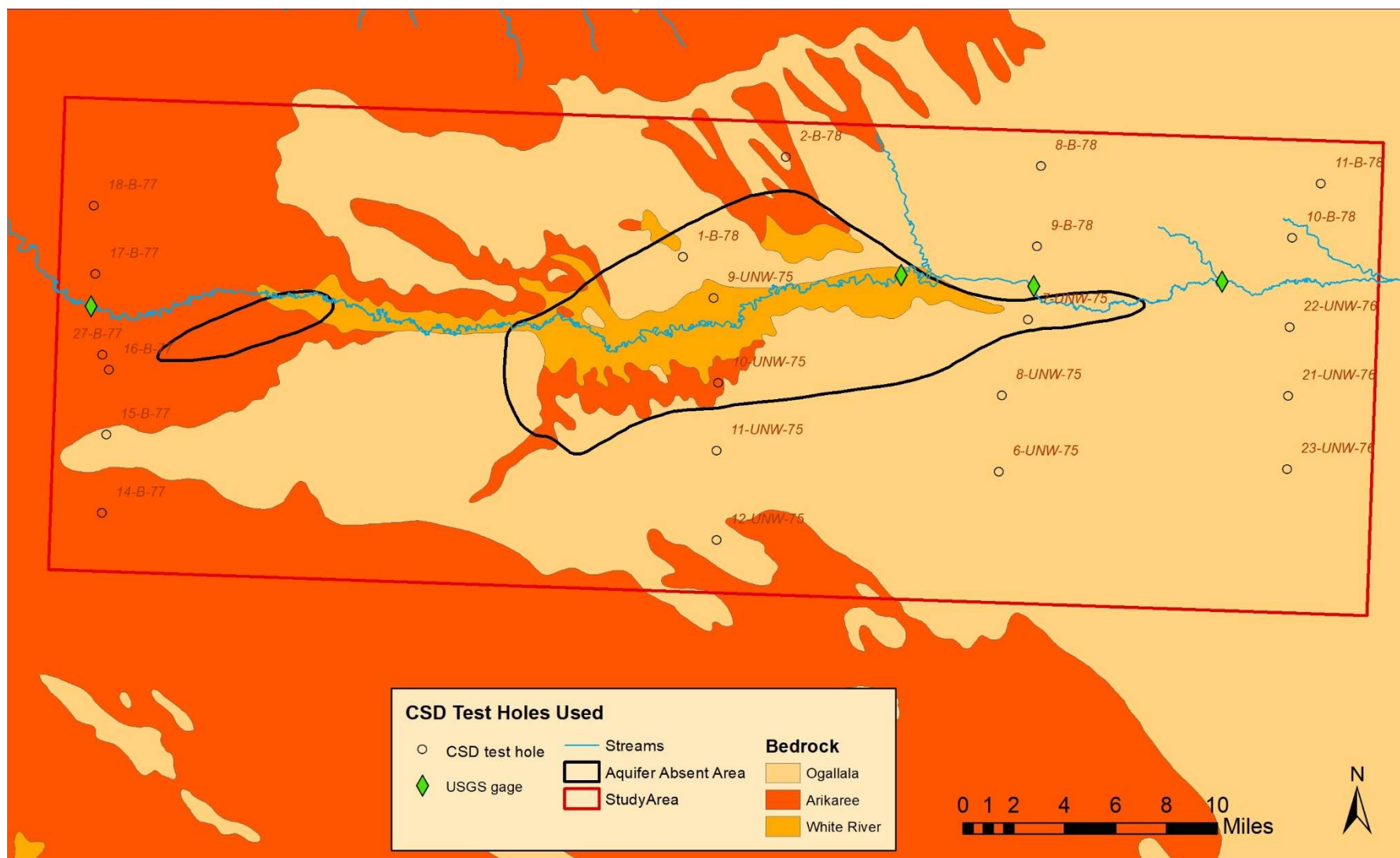


Figure 12. Map showing study area and CSD test holes used in this analysis. Test holes are also listed in Table 3.

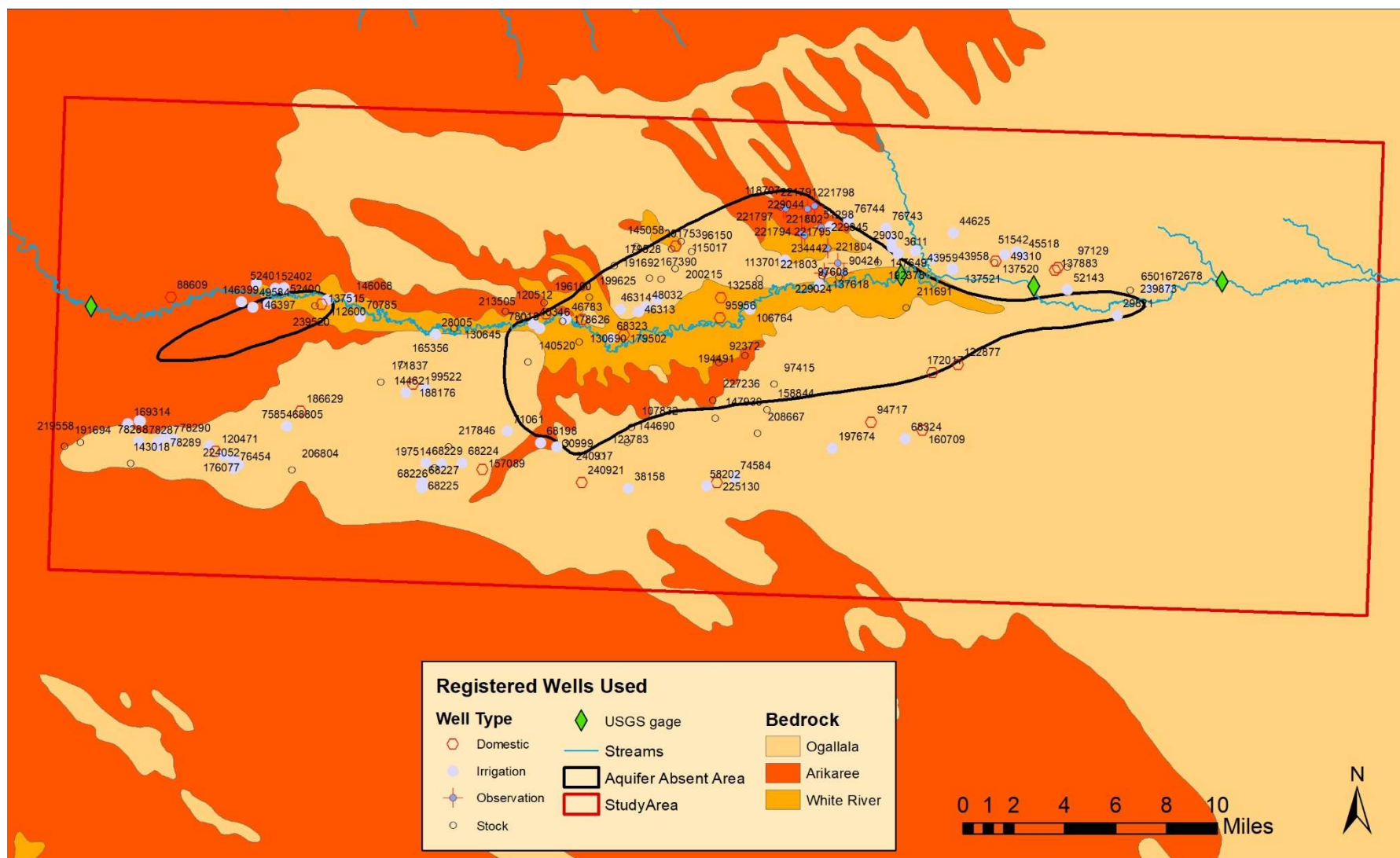


Figure 13. Map showing study area and registered wells selected for analysis under this study. The wells were selected to enhance our understanding of the area of White River Group bedrock, and aquifer areas mapped with zero thickness.



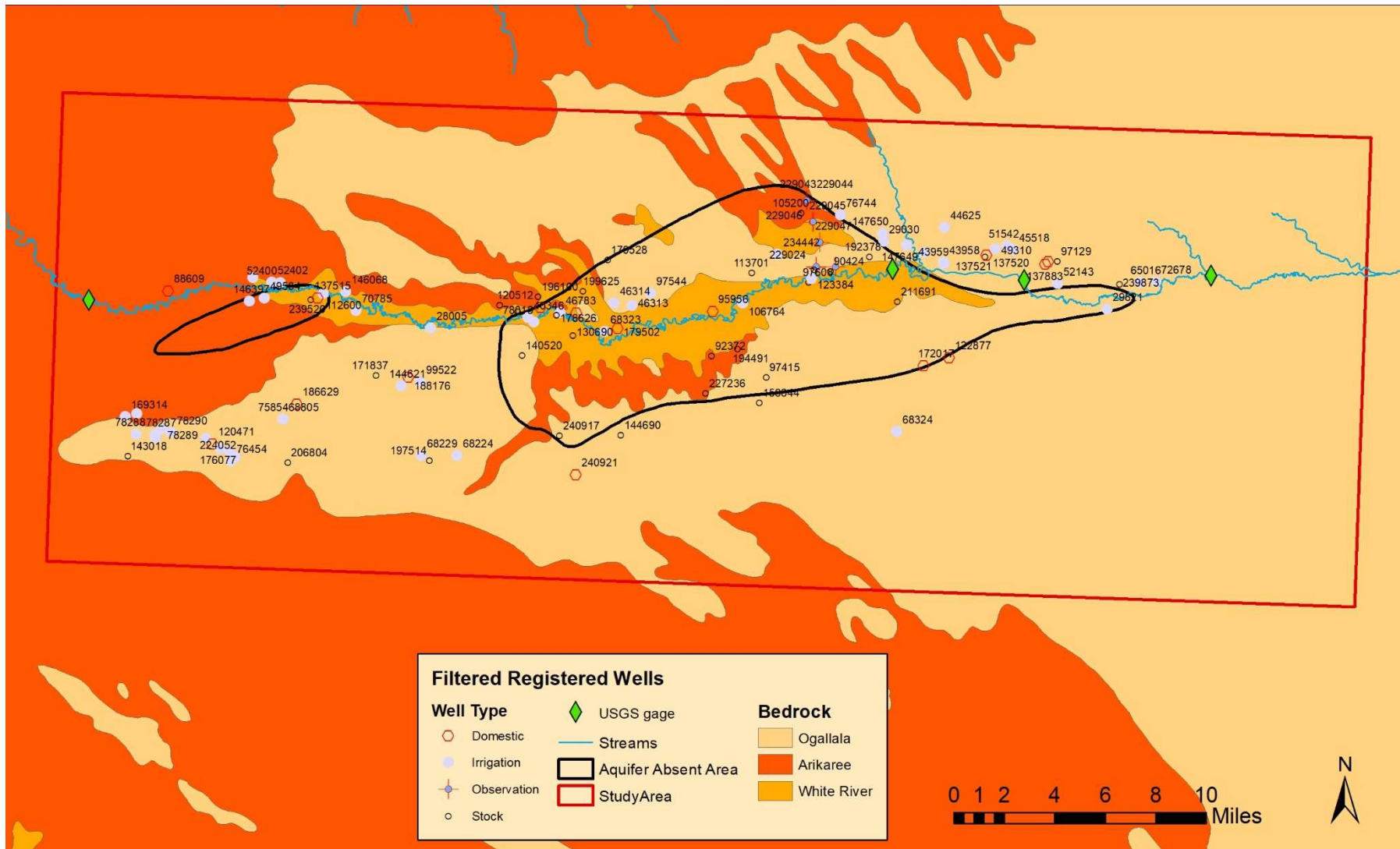


Figure 14. Map showing study area and registered wells used in this analysis after filtering to remove inactive wells and wells without needed values, and a sufficient level of detail in their cuttings descriptions. Registered wells used in the study are listed in Table 5.



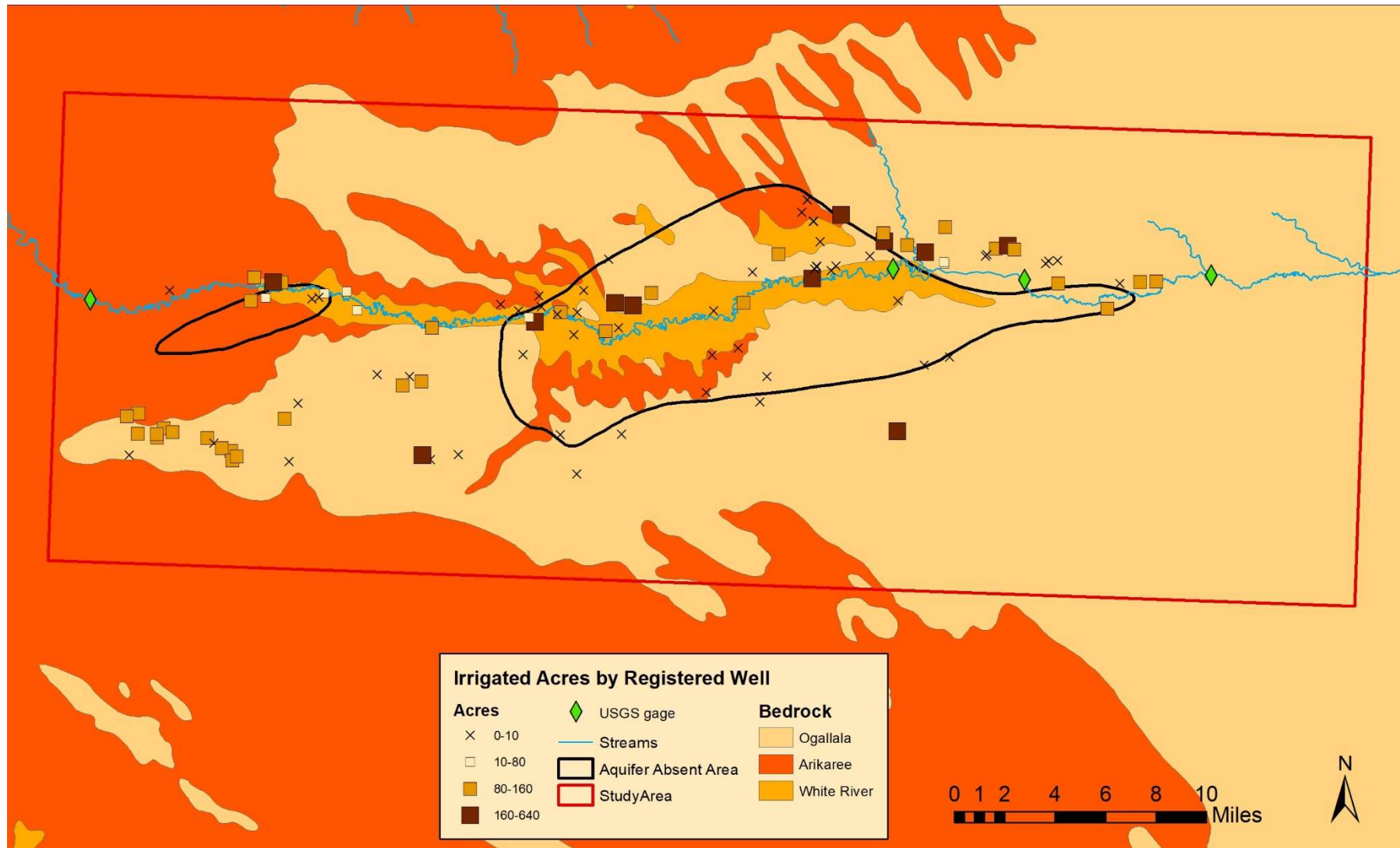


Figure 15. Map showing study area and acres irrigated for registered wells selected for analysis under this study.

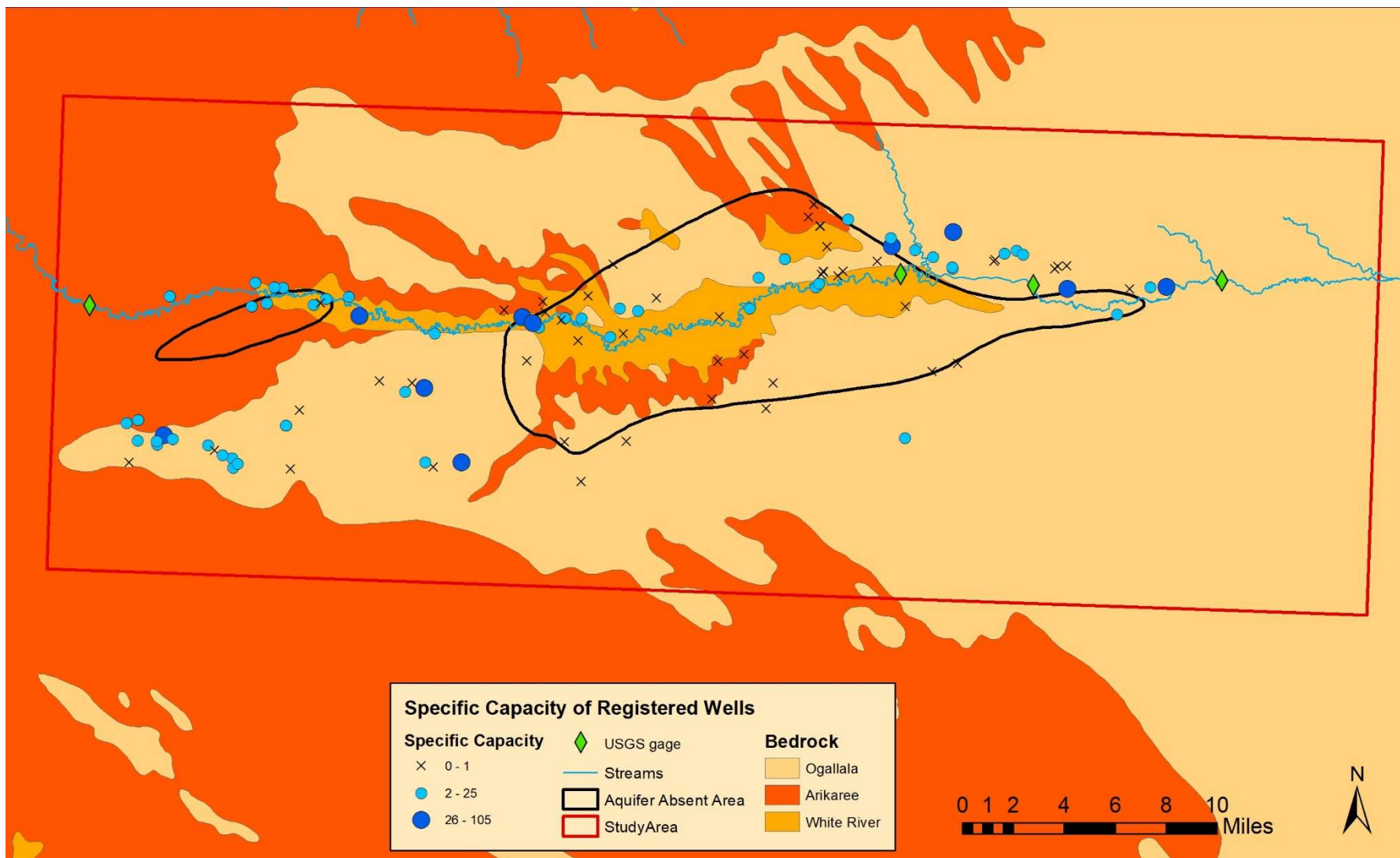


Figure 16. Map showing study area and specific capacity of registered wells (gallons per minute per foot of drawdown) selected for analysis under this study.

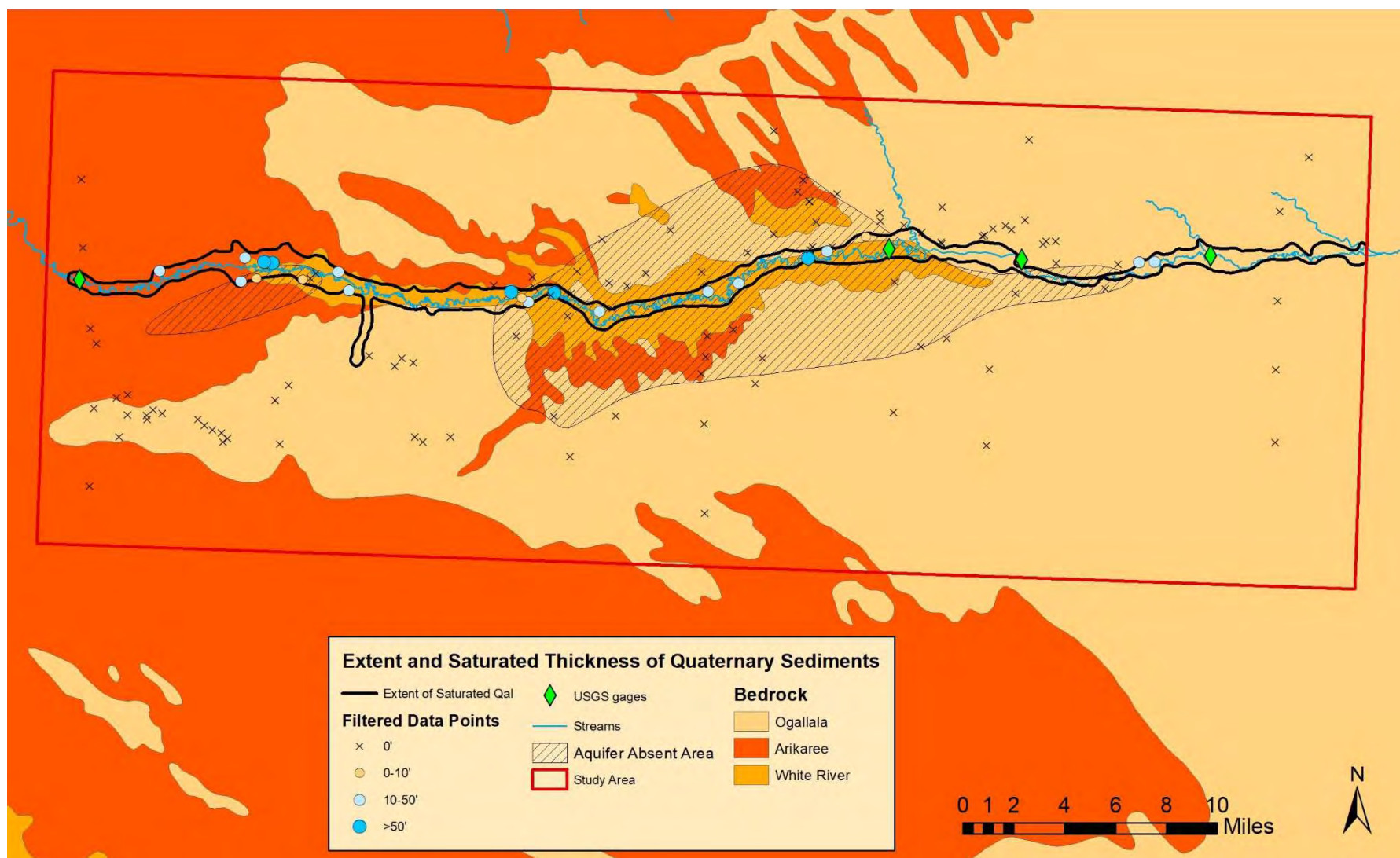


Figure 17. Map showing extent of saturated Quaternary sediments and saturated thickness of Quaternary sediments at the Filtered Data Points for analysis under this study.



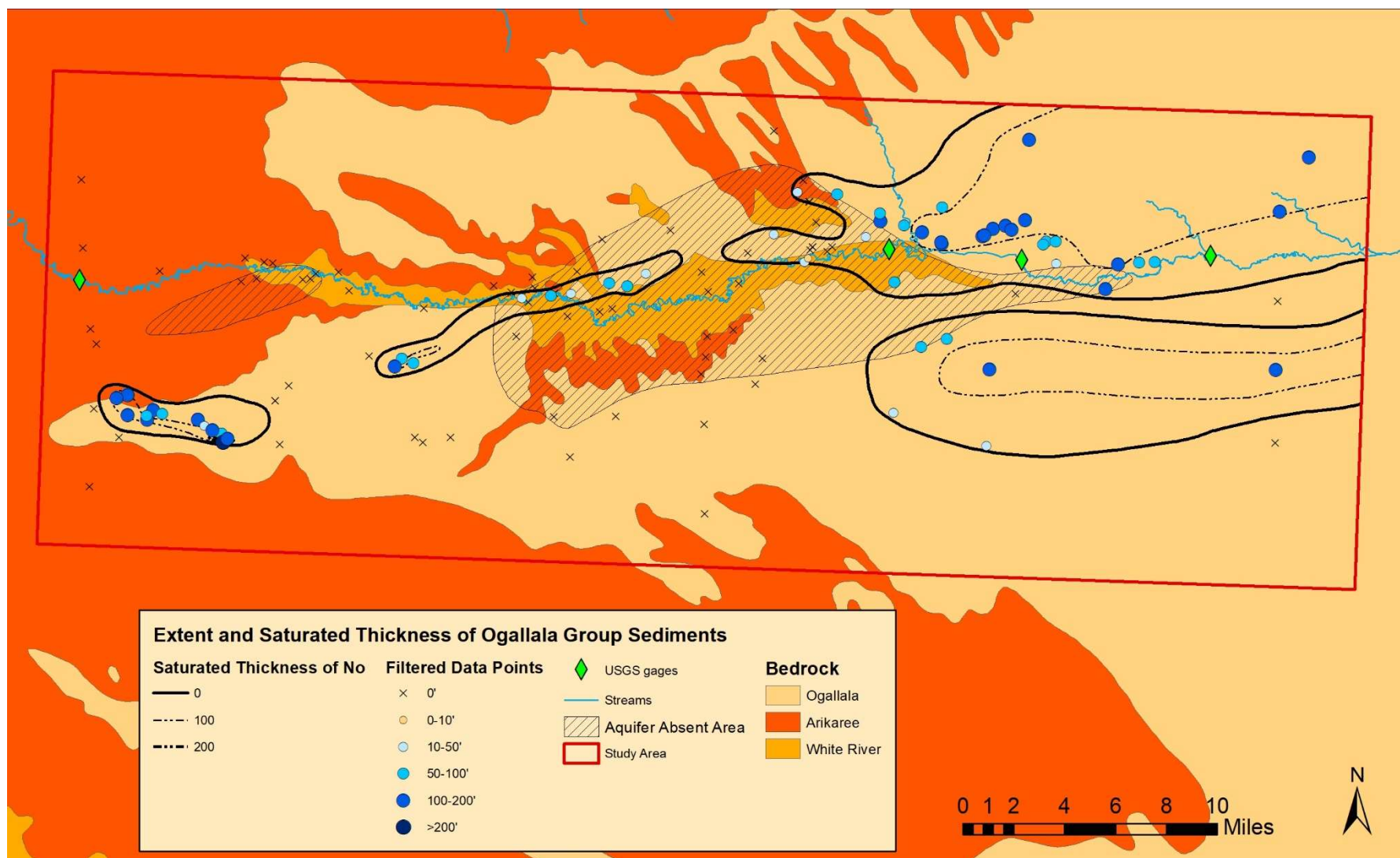


Figure 18. Map showing study area and saturated thickness contours of Ogallala Group sediments from calculations at registered wells and test holes (Filtered Data Points) used in this study.

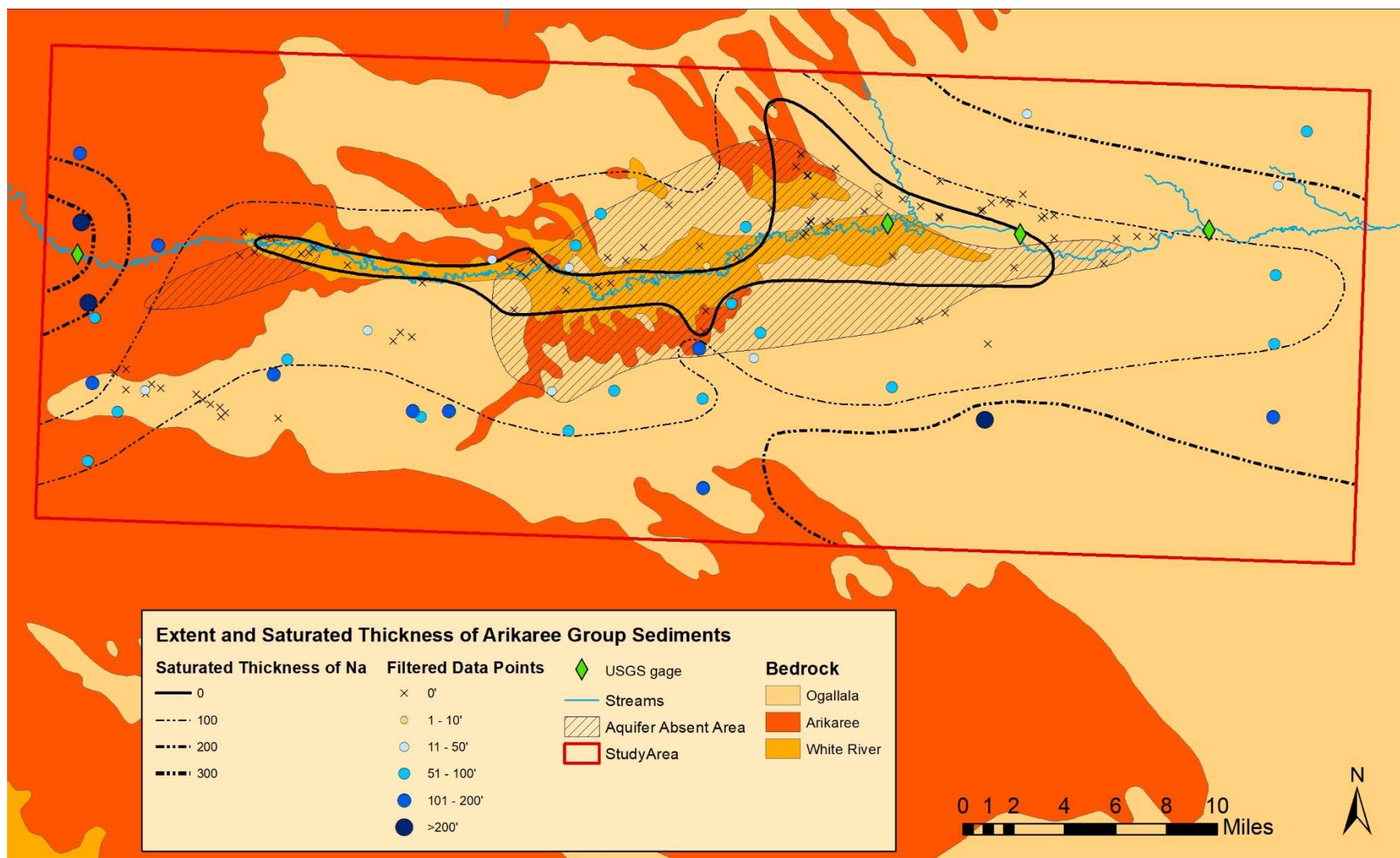


Figure 19. Map showing study area and saturated thickness of Arikaree Group sediments in registered wells and test holes (Filtered Data Points) selected for analysis under this study.

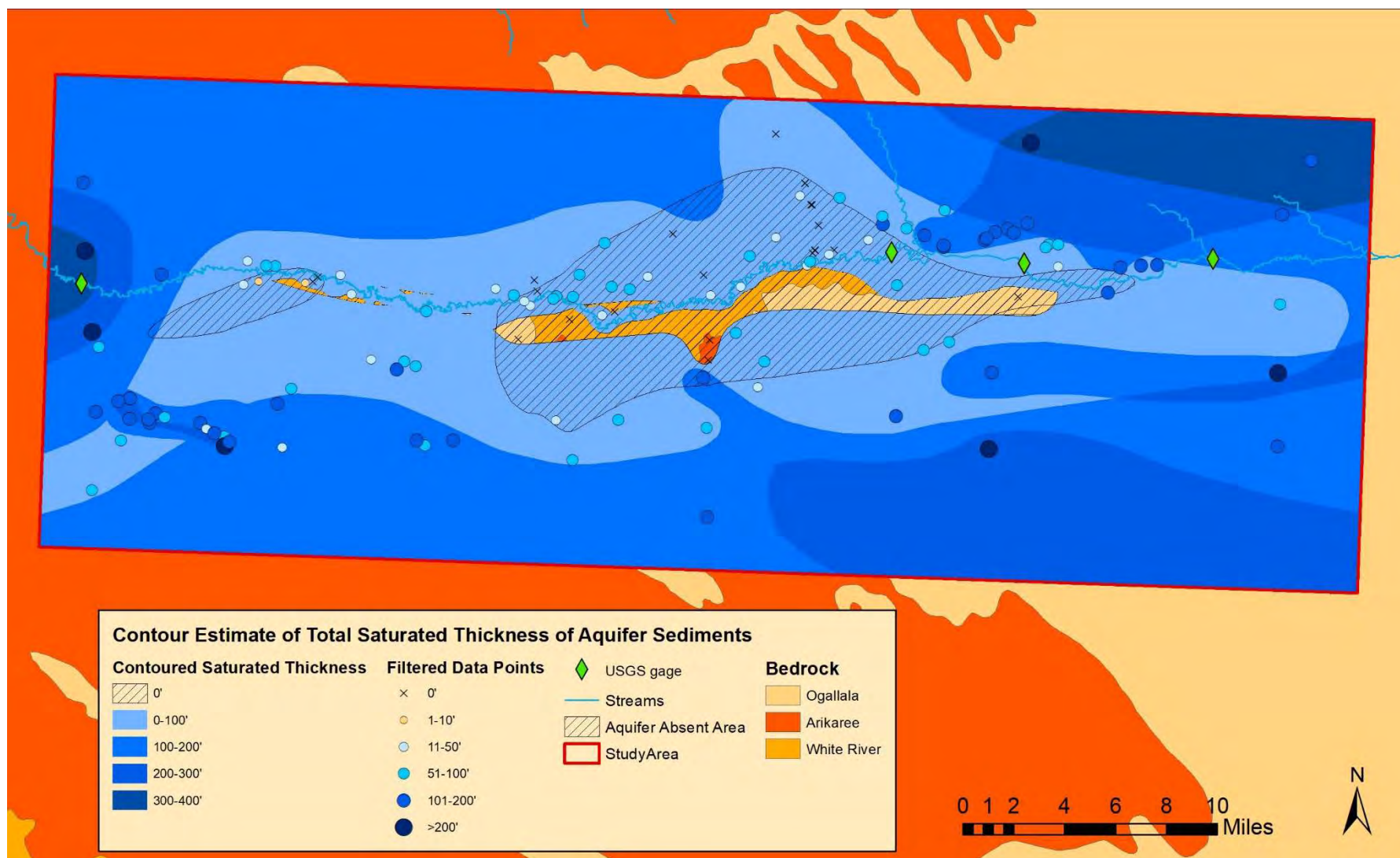


Figure 20. Map showing study area and total thickness of saturated sediments in registered wells and test holes (Filtered Data Points) selected for analysis under this study.



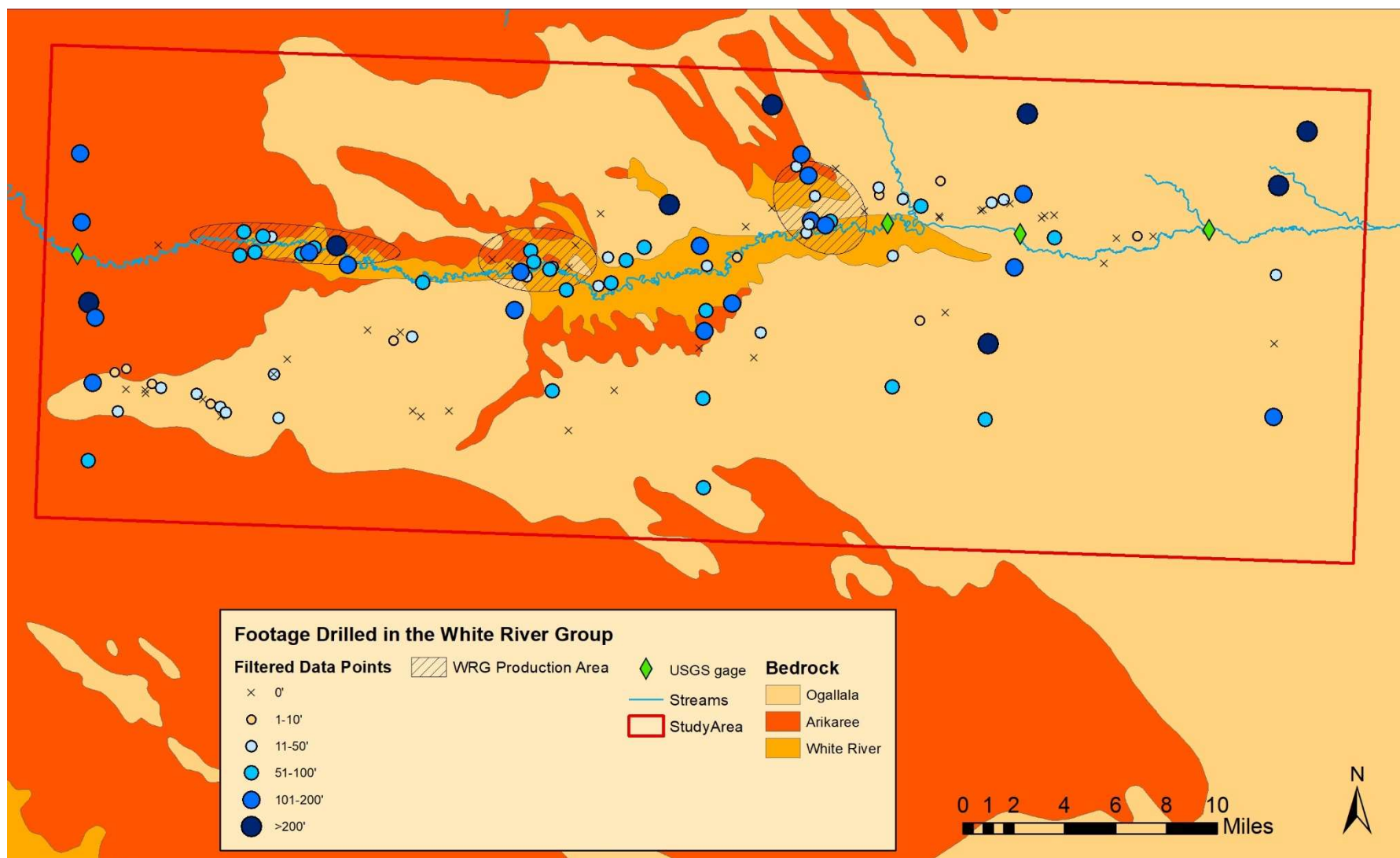


Figure 21. Map showing the depth of White River Group sediment penetration at filtered data points and areas where White River Group (WRG) sediments may be producing significant quantities of water in the study area (WRG Production Area).

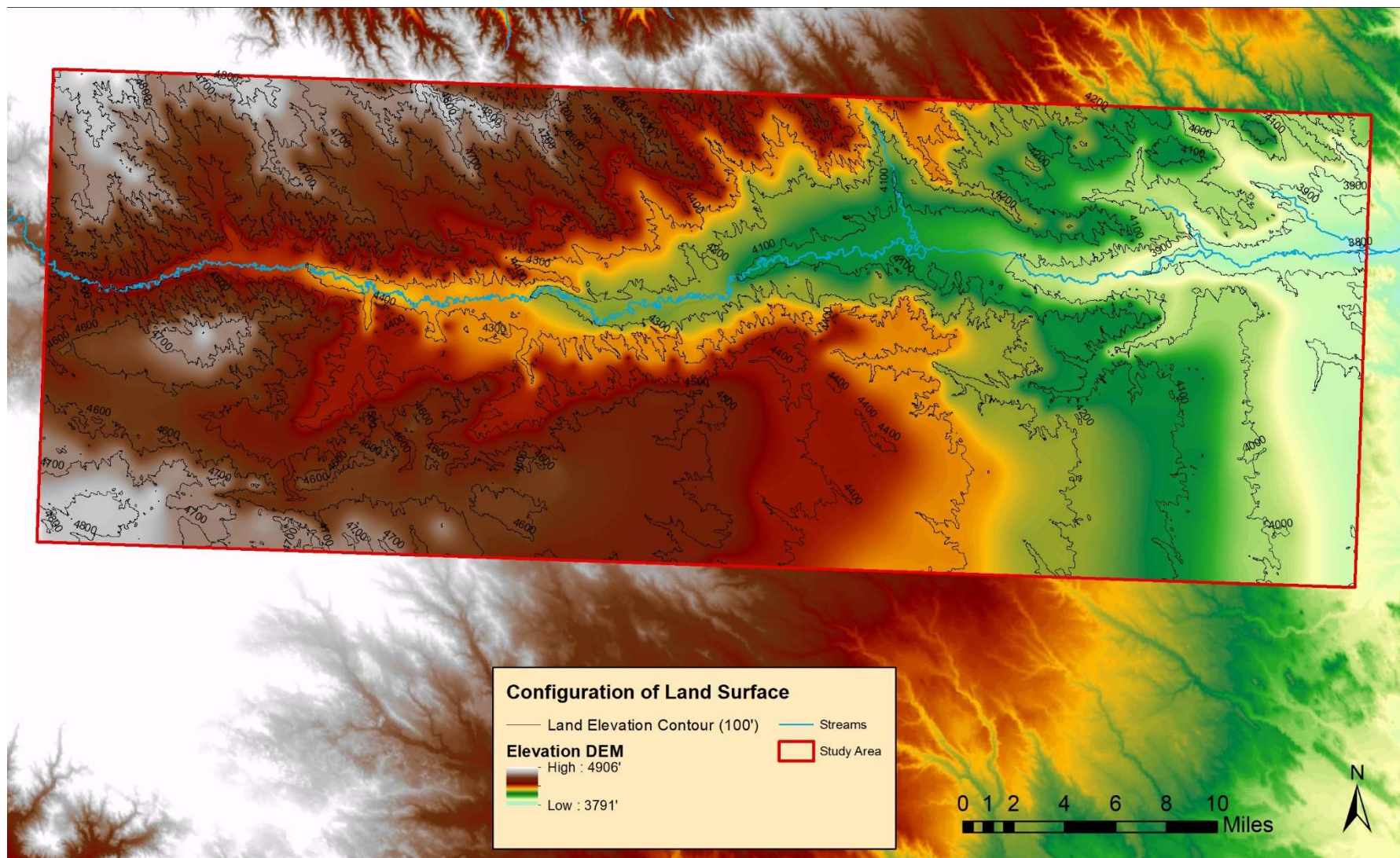


Figure 22. Map showing configuration of the land surface.



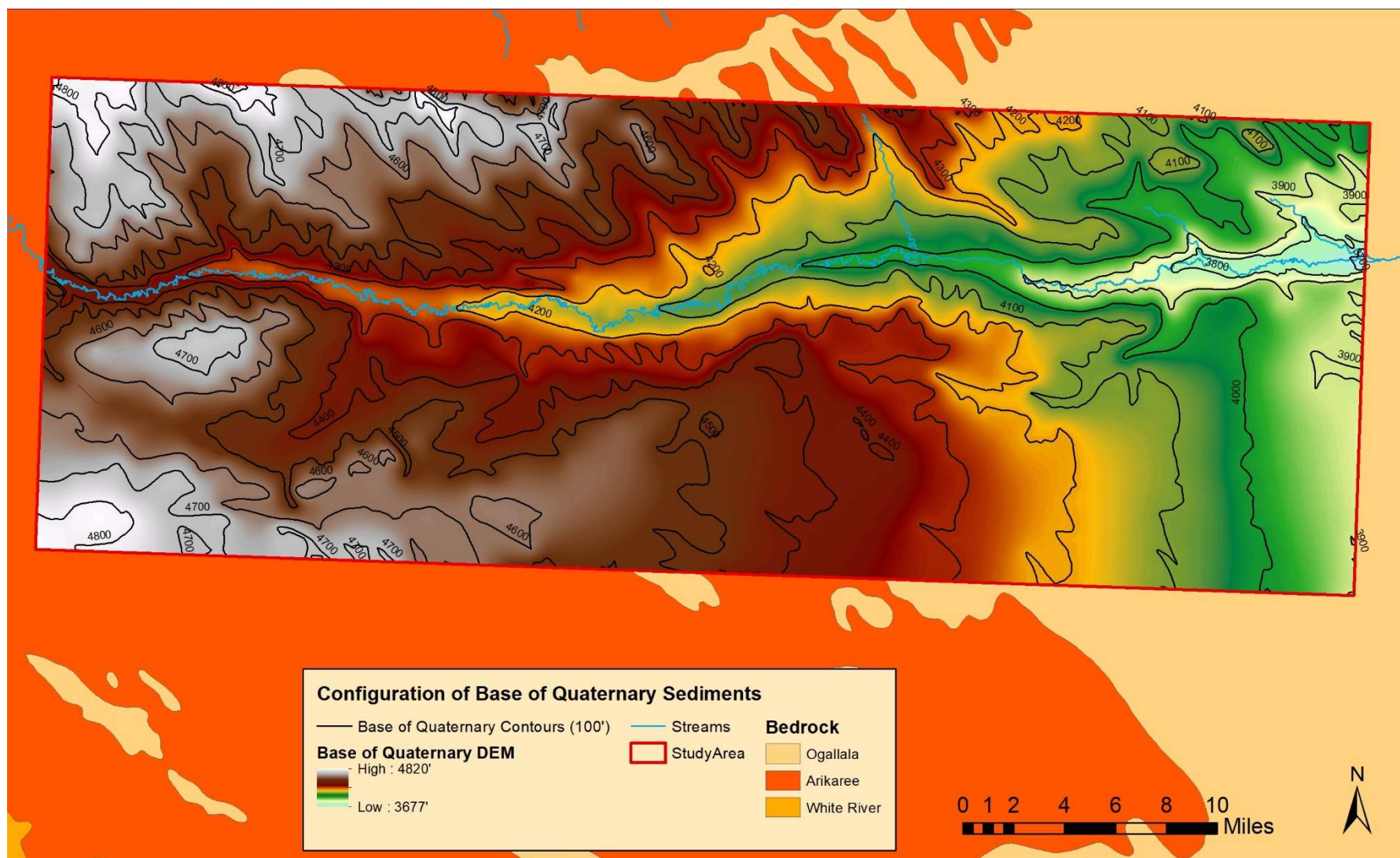


Figure 23. Map showing configuration of the base of Quaternary sediments.

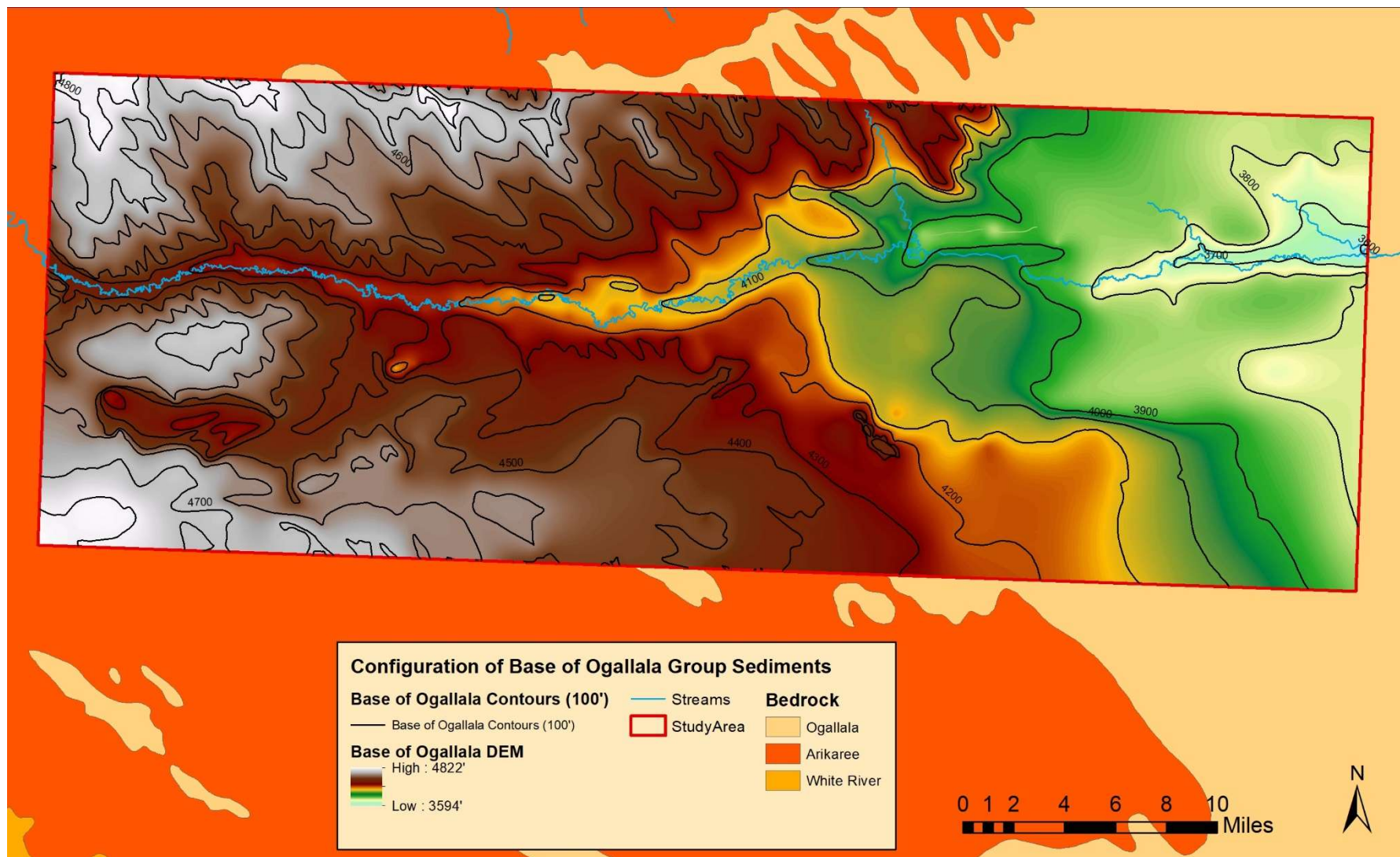


Figure 24. Map showing configuration of the base of Ogallala Group sediments.



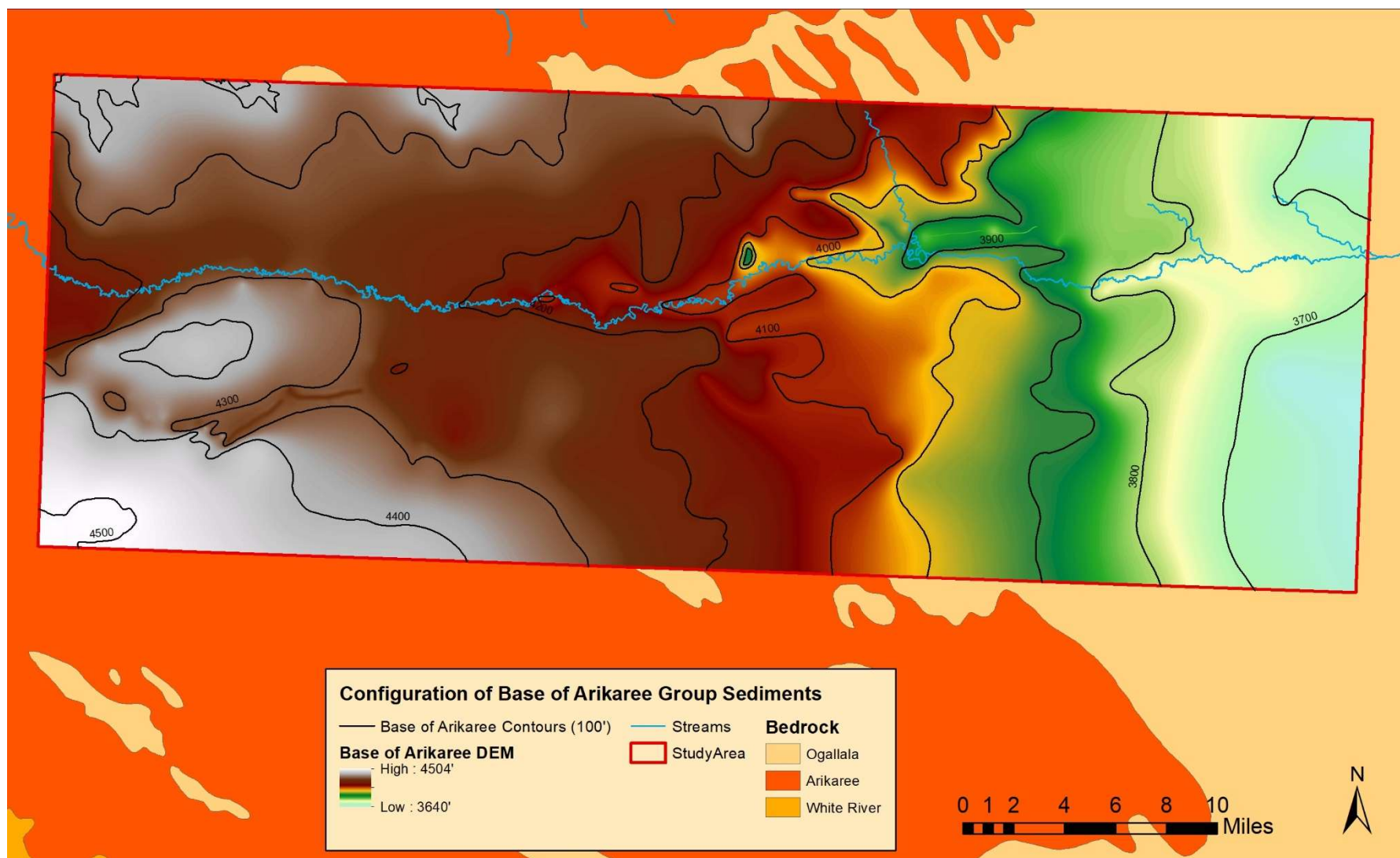


Figure 25. Map showing configuration of the base of Arikaree Group sediments, or the top of White River Group sediments.

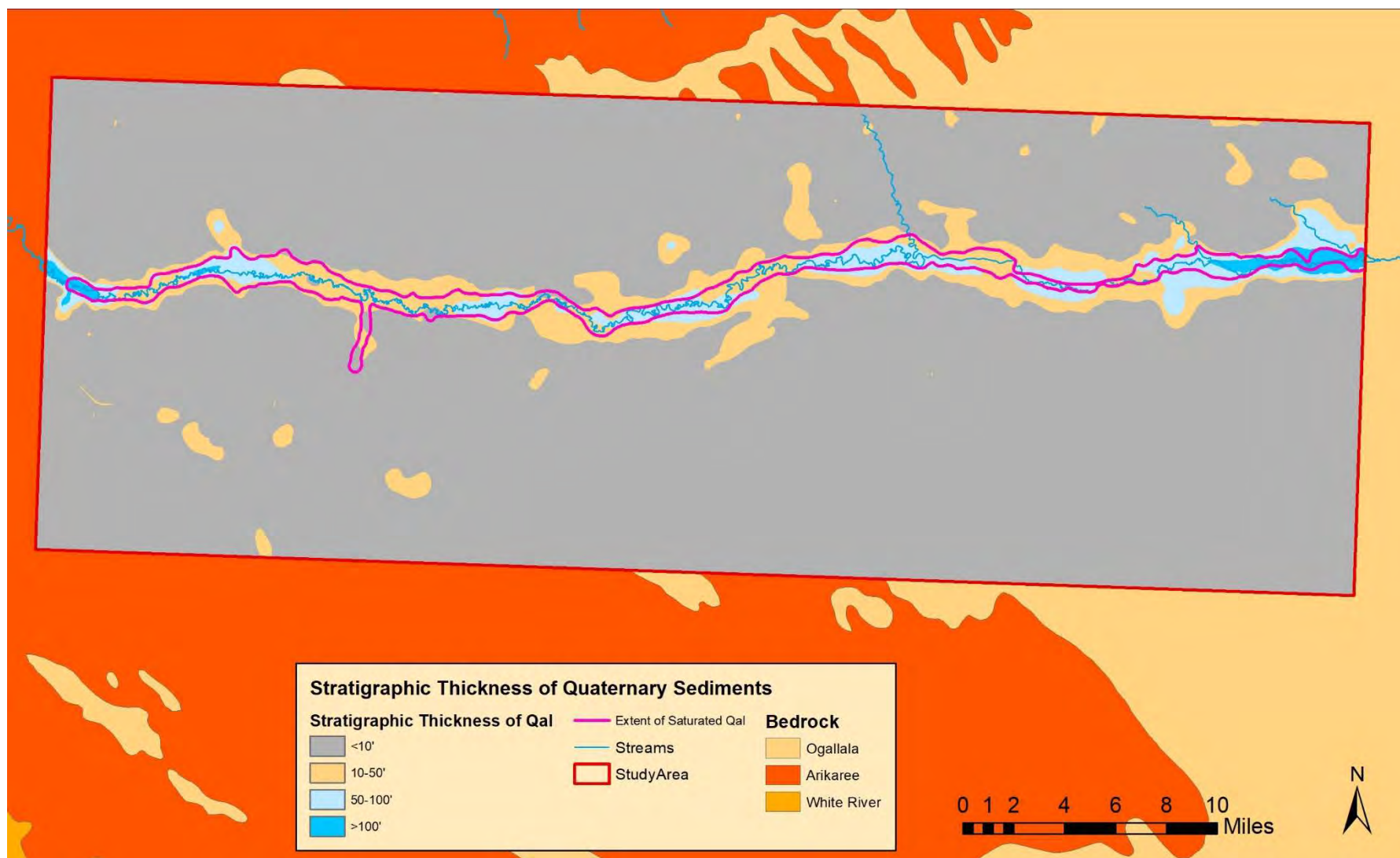


Figure 26. Map showing the stratigraphic thickness and saturated extent of Quaternary sediments.

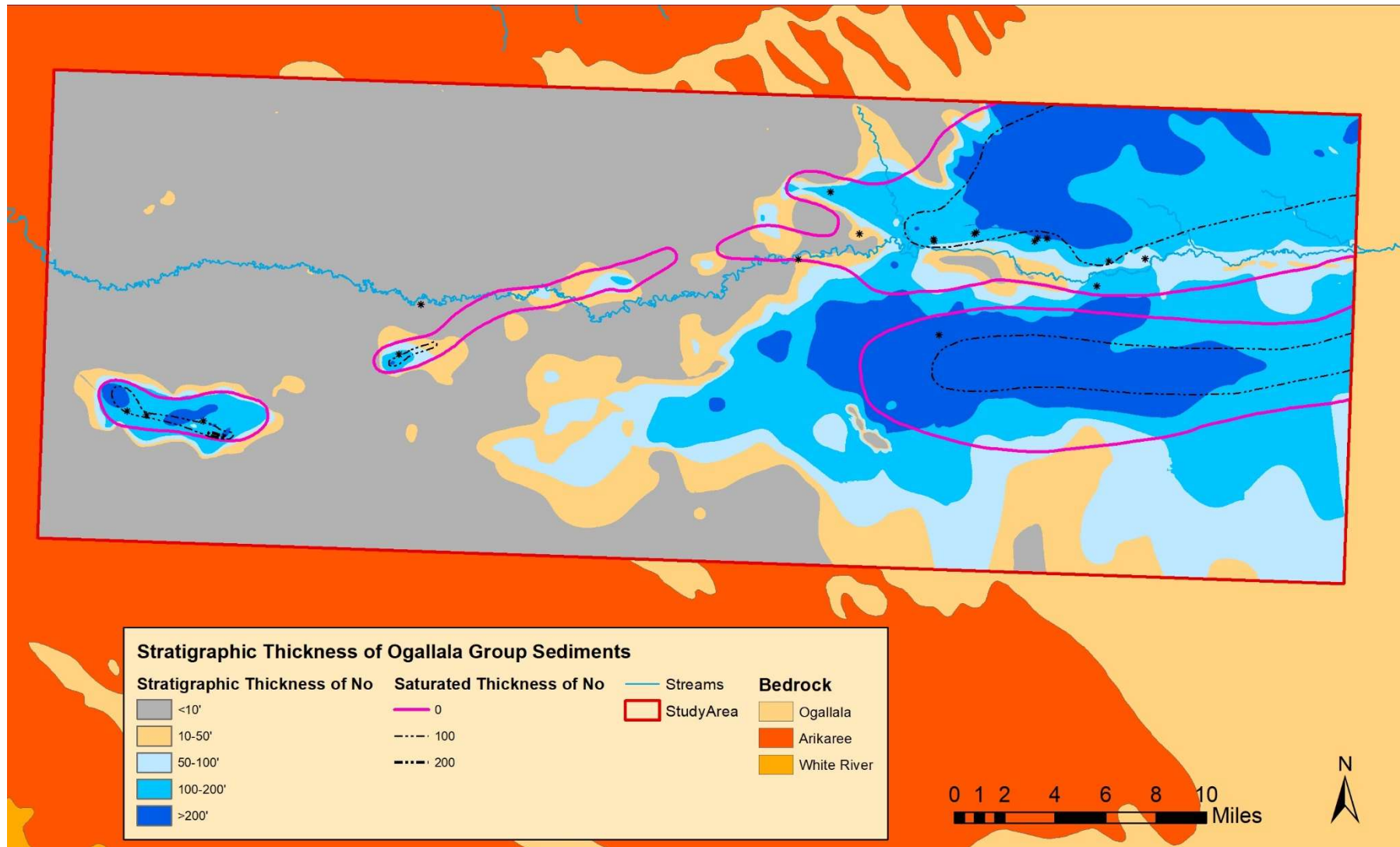


Figure 27. Map showing the stratigraphic and saturated thickness of Ogallala Group sediments. Asterisks show analysis point locations where the wells or test holes partially penetrated the Group, so values mapped in proximity to the respective points likely represent minimum thicknesses.



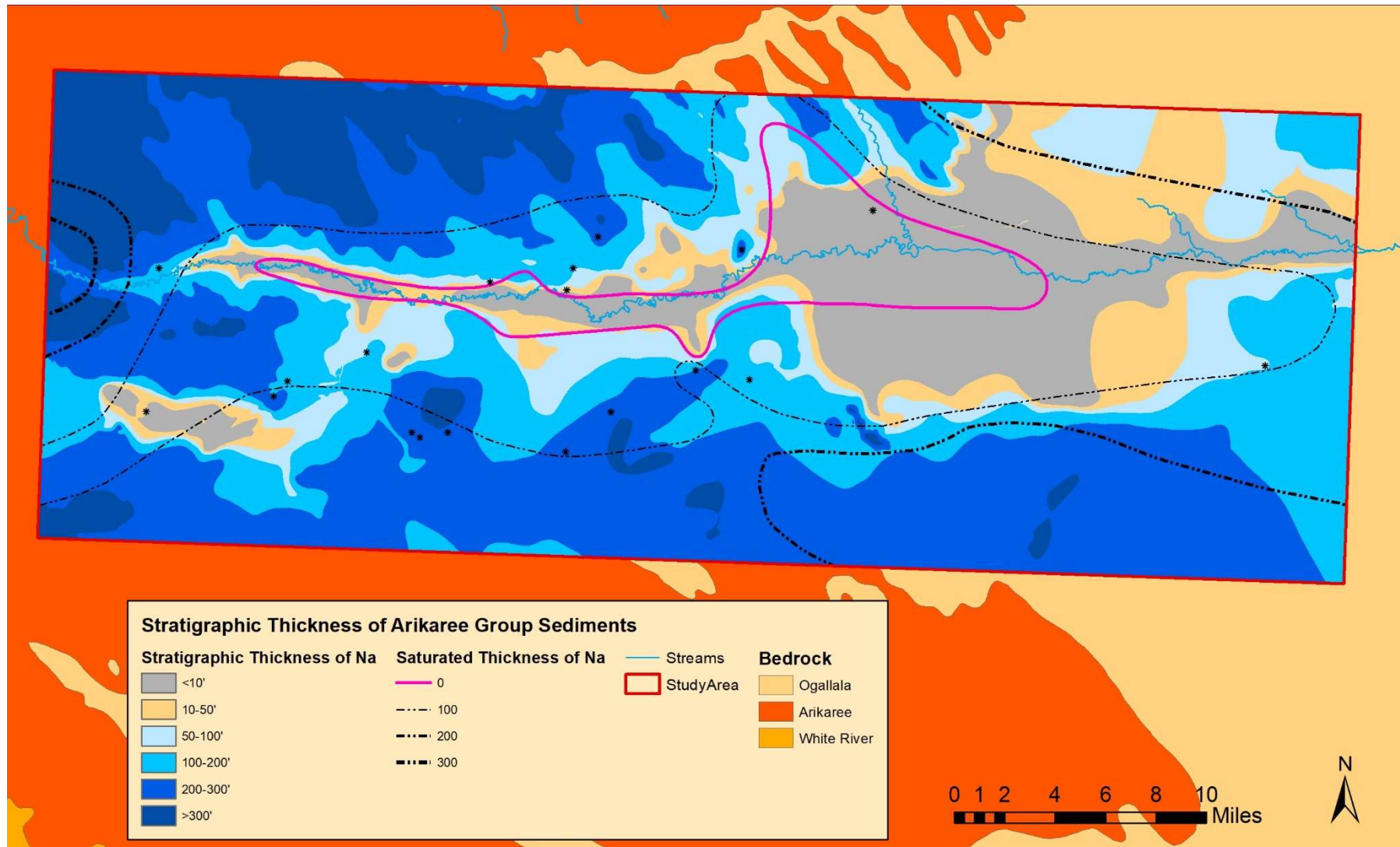


Figure 28. Map showing the stratigraphic thickness of Arikaree sediments. Asterisks show analysis point locations where the wells or test holes partially penetrated the Group, so values mapped in proximity to the respective points likely represent minimum thicknesses.

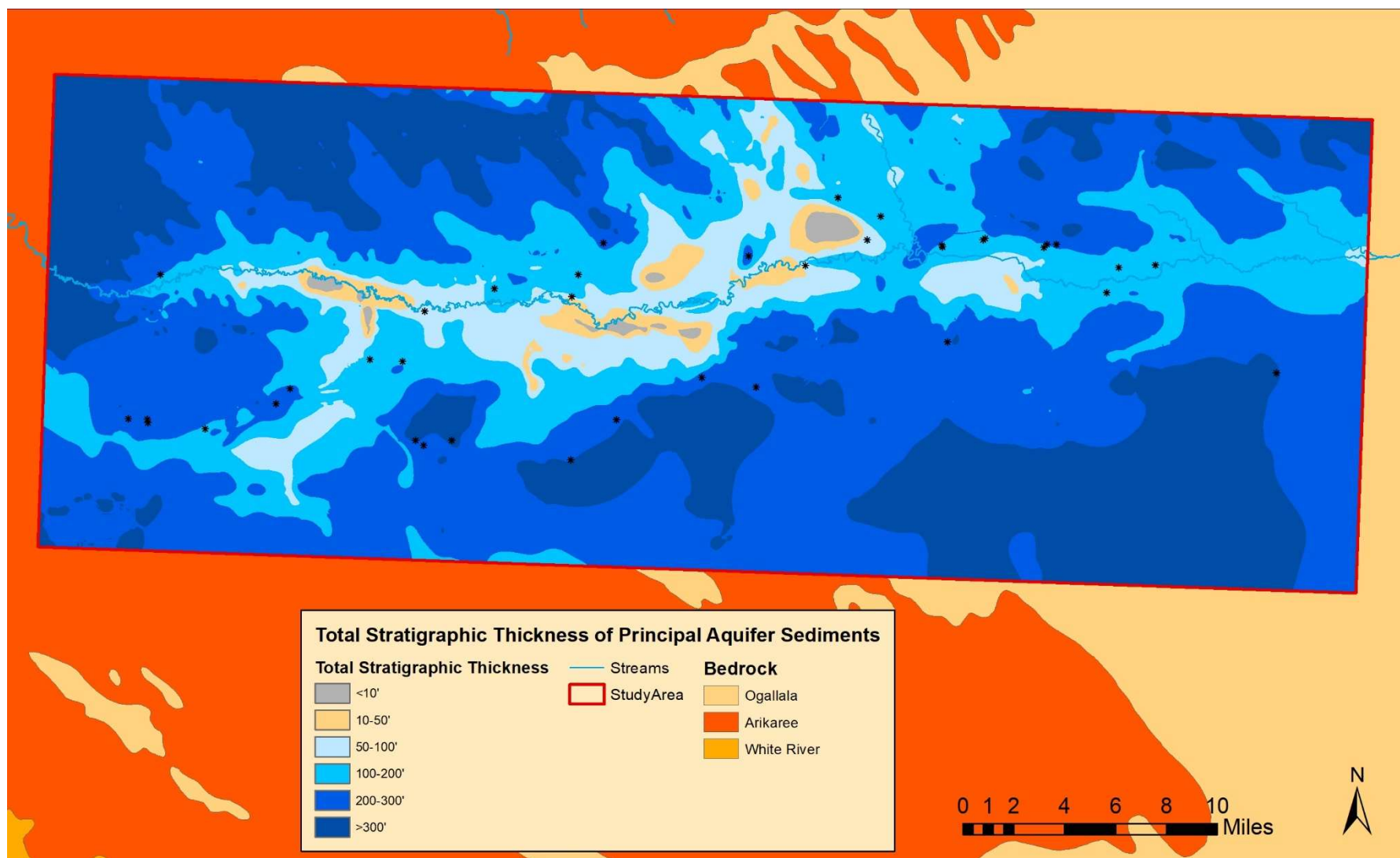


Figure 29. Map showing the total stratigraphic thickness of principal aquifer sediments. Asterisks show analysis point locations where the wells or test holes partially penetrated High Plains aquifer sediments, so values mapped in proximity to the respective points likely represent minimum thicknesses.

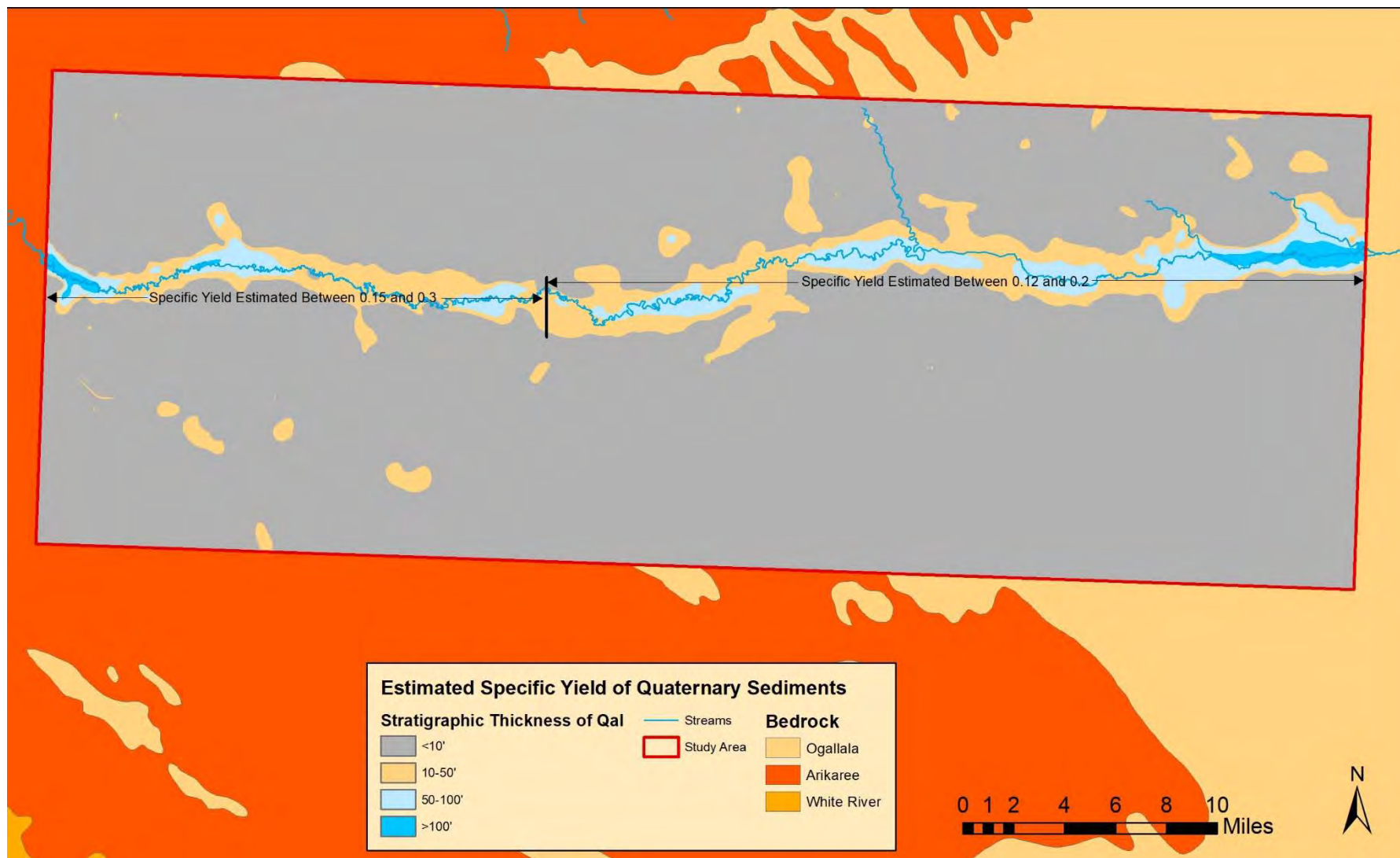


Figure 30. Map showing specific yield of Quaternary sediments.



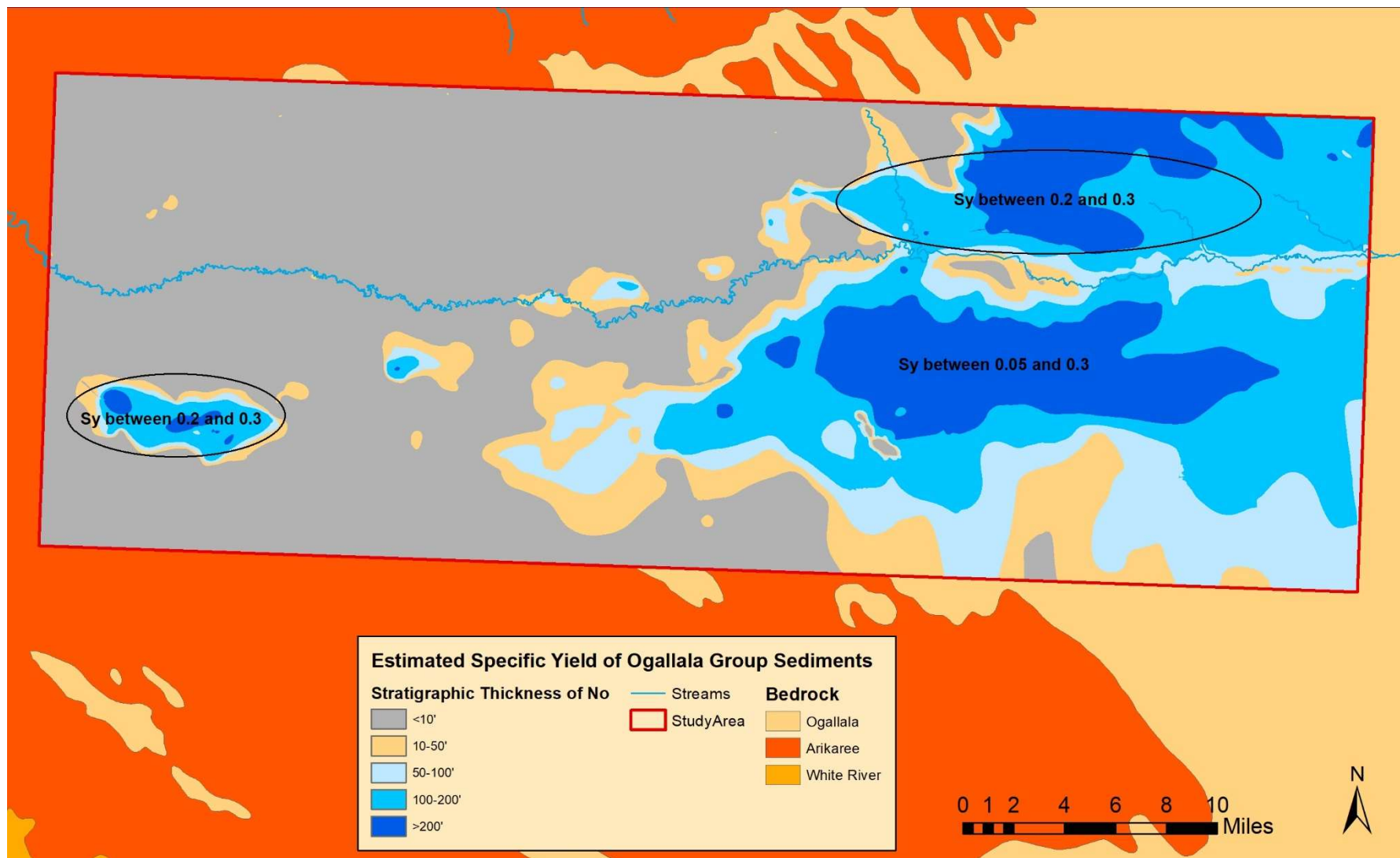


Figure 31. Map showing specific yield of Ogallala Group sediments.

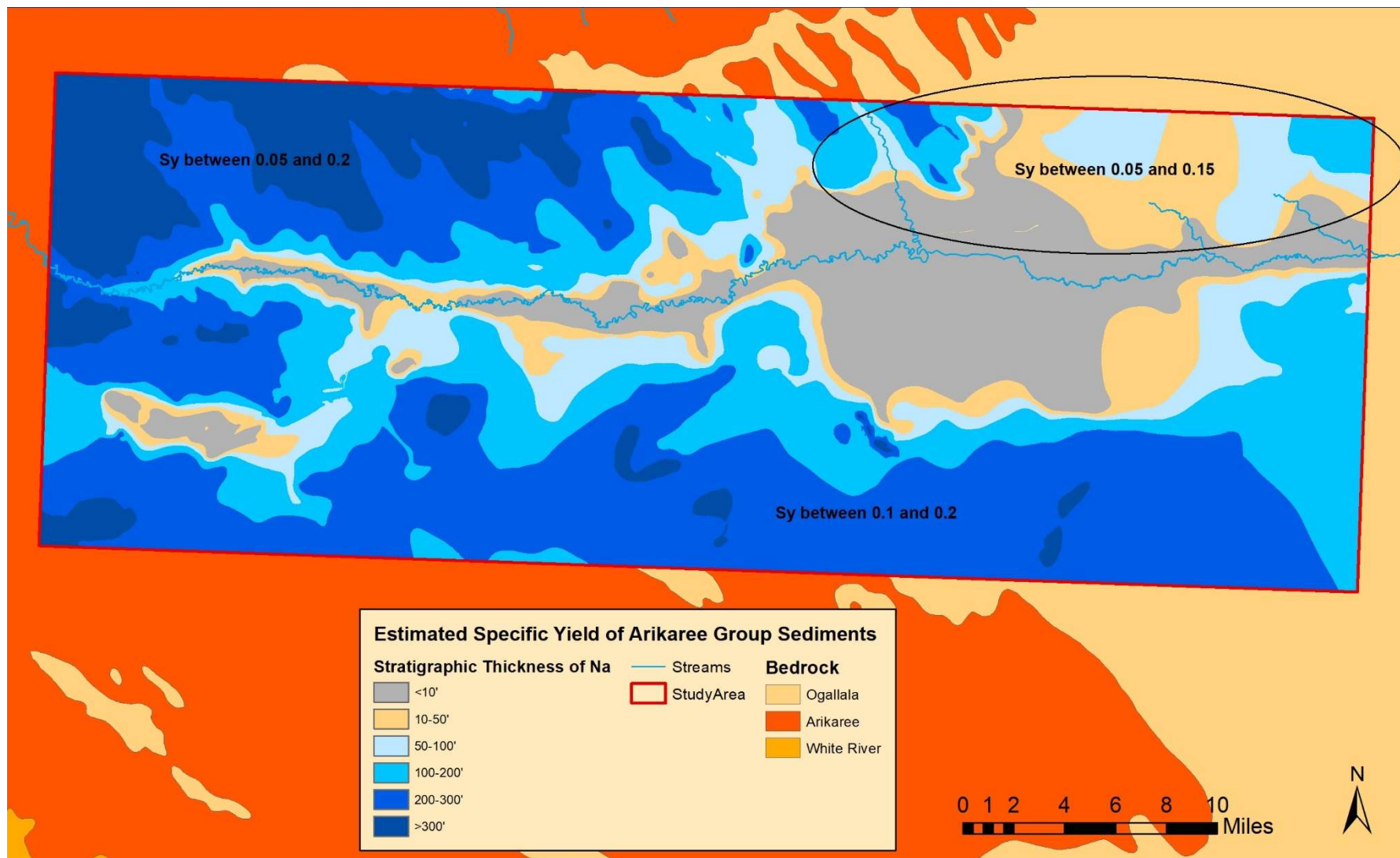


Figure 32. Map showing specific yield of Arikaree Group sediments.

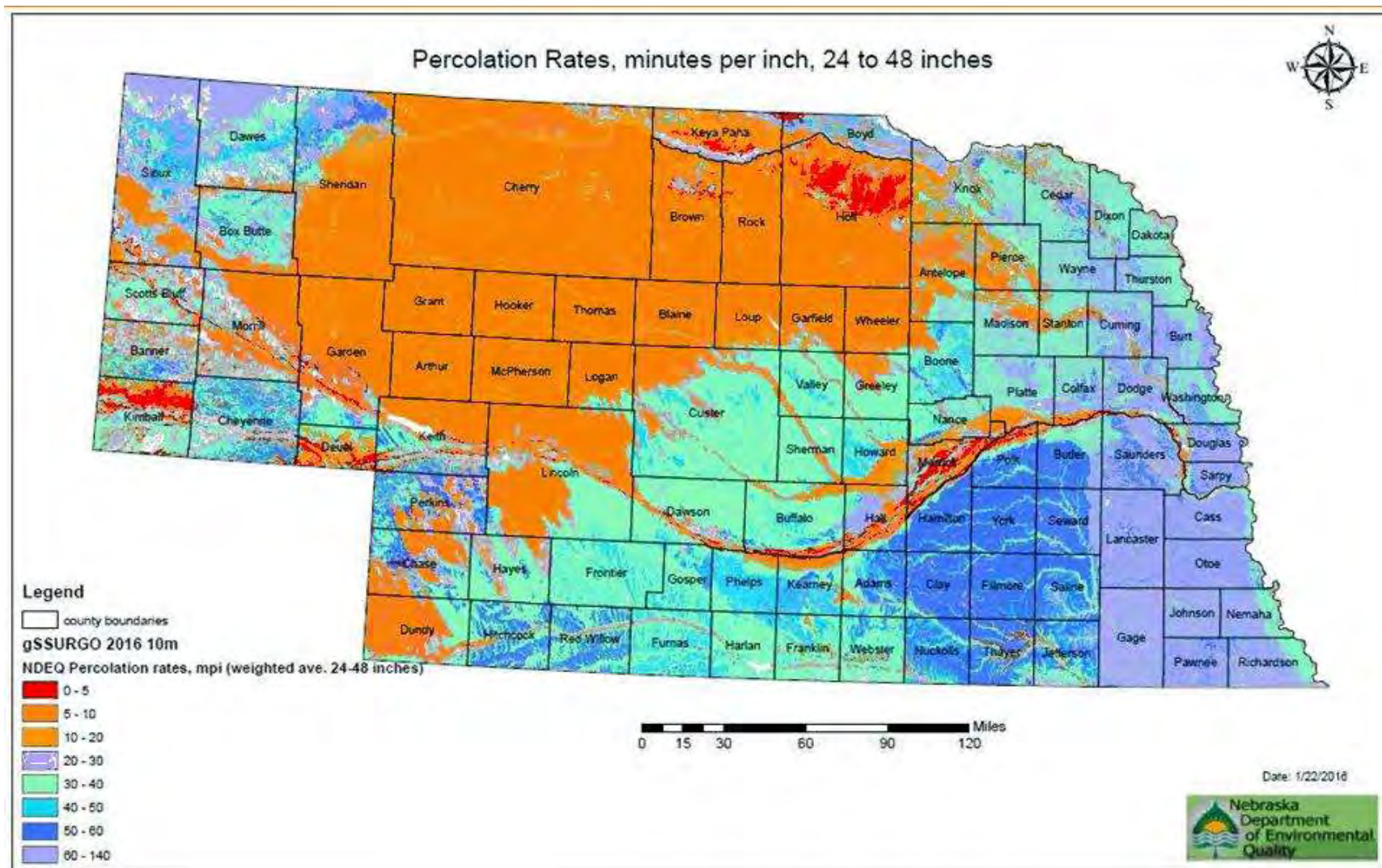


Figure 33. Statewide map showing low near surface percolation rates in Sioux County and higher near surface percolation rates in Dawes and Box Butte Counties in the study area (Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, 2016).



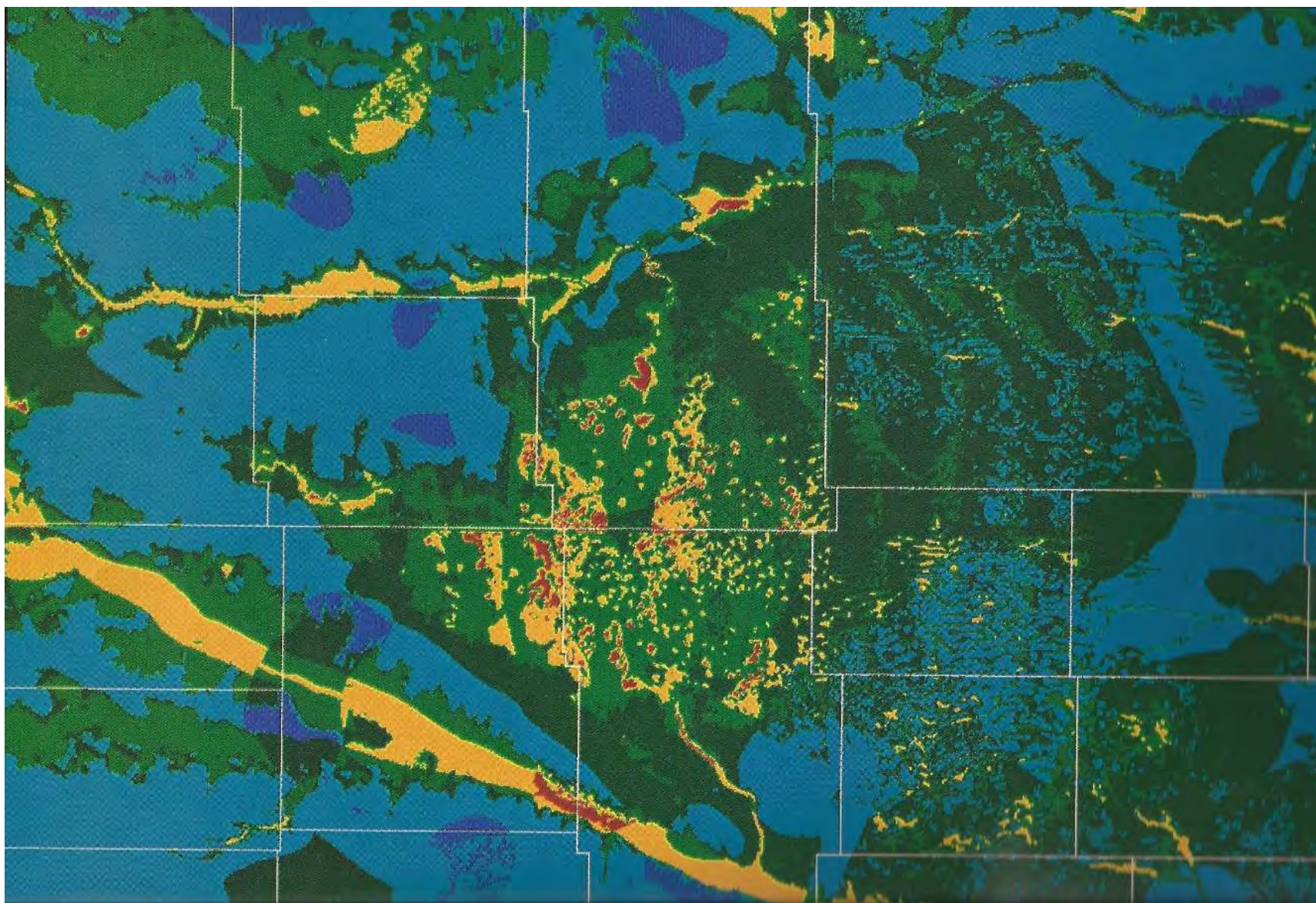


Figure 34. Regional map showing groundwater vulnerability to contamination using the DRASTIC method (CALMIT, 1991). Low vulnerability areas are show by cool colors (like gray and blue), while high vulnerability areas are shown in warm colors (like red and yellow).



Table 1. US Geological Survey stream gages in the study area.

<u>Site ID</u>	<u>Station Name</u>
6454100	NIOBRARA RIVER AT AGATE, NEBR.
6454500	NIOBRARA RIVER ABOVE BOX BUTTE RESERVOIR, NE
6455500	NIOBRARA RIVER BELOW BOX BUTTE RESERVOIR NEBR
6455900	NIOBRARA RIVER NEAR DUNLAP, NEBR.

Table 2. List of mapped canal segments along the study reach.

<u>ReachCode</u>	<u>Canal System</u>
10150002000527	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000451	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000167	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000525	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000437	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000509	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000160	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002003129	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000506	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000528	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000503	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000407	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000510	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000169	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000413	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000168	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000169	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000504	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000529	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000172	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000524	????
10150002000167	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002003128	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000451	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000419	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals



10150002000167	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000526	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000507	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000502	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000160	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000172	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000451	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000505	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000164	Sandoz Ditch
10150002000156	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000170	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000164	Sandoz Ditch
10150002000166	Sandoz Ditch
10150002000158	Harris Neece Canal
10150002000421	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000173	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000167	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000167	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000165	Sandoz Ditch
10150002000171	Unnamed Niobrara River Canals
10150002000162	Mentlen Ditch
10150002000524	Mentlen Ditch

Table 3. Nebraska NeDNR stream gages in the study area.

<u>Site ID</u>	<u>Station Name</u>
135000	SNOW CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
100000	MIRAGE FLATS CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (10-FOOT PARSHALL FLUME)
102000	MONTAGUE CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
103000	MONTAGUE PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
104000	MOORE-KAY CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
123000	PIONEER CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
123500	PIONEER PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
124000	POTMESIL CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER 3 FOOT (PARSHALL FLUME)
13000	BENNETT-KAY CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
26000	CIRCLE PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
36000	DAVISON PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
37200	DELSING PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
4000	ARMSTRONG PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
45000	ENTERPRISE CANAL PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
46000	EXCELSIOR CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
55000	FURMAN CANAL (COMBINED FLOW, NORTH & SOUTH) FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
55100	FURMAN CANAL (NORTH) FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
55200	FURMAN CANAL (SOUTH) FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
62000	HARRIS-NEECE CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
63000	GEO HITSHEW CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
64000	HITSHEW PUMP NO. 2 FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
65000	HOFFMAN PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
66000	HOMRIGHAUSEN PUMP FROM NIOBRARA RIVER
69000	HUGHES CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
78000	LABELLE CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
81000	LICHTE CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER 3 FOOT (PARSHALL FLUME)
86000	MCLAUGHLIN CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)
89000	METTLEN CANAL FROM NIOBRARA RIVER (RATING FLUME)

Table 4. List of CSD Test Holes along the study reach showing the total measured depth of each hole.

<u>LogID</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Long.</u>	<u>Lat.</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>DTW (ft)</u>	<u>TD (ft)</u>
27-B-77	1977	-103.7816853	42.39649033	4567	138	640
10-B-78	1978	-102.8712491	42.48901216	3907	Unknown	560
10-UNW-75	1975	-103.3083706	42.3946986	4293	120	320
11-B-78	1978	-102.8505243	42.52048194	3927	Unknown	680
11-UNW-75	1975	-103.3076228	42.35631105	4498	237	420
12-UNW-75	1975	-103.3046363	42.30542598	4502	186	400
17-B-77	1977	-103.7898709	42.44211772	4658	113	570
14-B-77	1977	-103.7769356	42.30656702	4772	188	360
15-B-77	1977	-103.7761303	42.35101132	4571	94	390
16-B-77	1977	-103.7762726	42.38800791	4671	219	490
18-B-77	1977	-103.7934738	42.48099813	4682	201	580
21-UNW-76	1976	-102.8703544	42.39893035	3950	15	300
1-B-78	1978	-103.3389925	42.46587564	4272	93	500
22-UNW-76	1976	-102.8707648	42.43811427	3929	83	200
23-UNW-76	1976	-102.8690993	42.3573265	3973	Unknown	420
2-B-78	1978	-103.2627396	42.52480434	4335	178	410
9-B-78	1978	-103.0670298	42.47926752	4175	160	450
6-UNW-75	1975	-103.0904983	42.3501496	4272	50	420
7-UNW-75	1975	-103.0721164	42.43730462	4053	81	220
8-B-78	1978	-103.0662588	42.52504386	4145	78	500
8-UNW-75	1975	-103.0900863	42.39352322	4229	139	460
9-UNW-75	1975	-103.3142075	42.44292755	4154	40	220

Table 5. List of registered wells examined in this study.

<u>Well ID</u>	<u>Use ID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Pump Rate (gpm)</u>	<u>SWL (ft)</u>	<u>PWL (ft)</u>	<u>Lat.</u>	<u>Long.</u>
49310	I	133	480	45	239	42.473612	-103.091717
114192	I	130	400	42	100	42.340171	-103.677801
199625	S	0	3	65	65	42.44055556	-103.41
178769	D	0	10	125	150	42.4675	-103.0505556
229046	Q	0	2	75	95	42.4853	-103.2340556
51298	I	140	1300	78	171	42.485984	-103.226403
137521	S	0	8	49	80	42.46899	-103.099691
240917	S	0	11	128	149	42.35719444	-103.4236389
97608	S	0	20	18	25	42.450708	-103.235564
229047	Q	0	2	72	90	42.47372222	-103.2280083
76744	I	176.1	900	115	174	42.48999432	-103.2125771
229048	Q	0	1	87	95	42.48123333	-103.2484278
140313	S	0	10	125	135	42.46972222	-103.3480556
115017	S	0	8	152	160	42.474392	-103.340999
68228	I	231.2	1700	123	210	42.34227778	-103.5176889
221797	Q	0	2	50	75	42.49548611	-103.2630333
78018	I	177	420	12	47	42.42179678	-103.4467911
158844	S	0	15	255	270	42.380458	-103.269894
142792	I	160	700	30	94	42.440511	-103.665542
224055	I	105.7	500	72	140	42.34722222	-103.6964722
240921	D	0	13	242	251	42.33486111	-103.4098889
197514	S	0	12	176	193	42.339726	-103.523337
105200	S	0	3	106	147	42.490274	-103.243036
29821	I	120	600	36	129	42.441472	-103.003665
113701	S	0	3	178	180	42.45475	-103.279742
38158	I	137	450	215	222	42.3325137	-103.373798
224341	I	122.44	800	90	90	42.35947222	-103.7504167
229043	Q	0	1	113	130	42.49742222	-103.2393806
107047	I	125	750	77	120	42.346057	-103.735383
46783	I	124.49	550	15	55	42.42765468	-103.4270521
65016	I	110	1207	10	65	42.457394	-102.978825
78288	I	130	700	72	134	42.34798	-103.750586
224496	I	122.4	700	82	160	42.35958333	-103.7511111
118707	S	0	10	150	160	42.496068	-103.265376
41876	I	172	675	35	145	42.470195	-103.146165
68323	I	142	500	21	65	42.41794746	-103.3916212
165356	S	0	10	50	65	42.39803333	-103.55185
186629	D	0	10	180	210	42.36888889	-103.6277778

145058	S	0	3	198	198	42.47055556	-103.3752778
146397	I	100	600	12	64	42.426928	-103.667734
107832	S	0	3	183	185	42.367594	-103.373707
49584	I	50	660	30	97	42.42903	-103.656211
229025	Q	0	10	35	50	42.45946389	-103.2299944
229006	Q	0	10	20	50	42.45995278	-103.2150028
192378	S	0	10	24	24	42.46638889	-103.1891667
120471	D	0	10	90	125	42.344045	-103.691368
194491	S	0	7	118	133	42.410852	-103.288498
88609	D	0	300	26	69	42.430814	-103.730713
160709	D	0	12	148	170	42.371908	-103.150077
51542	I	180	575	65	180	42.475612	-103.082417
97544	I	130	500	80	70	42.440853	-103.357401
239520	S	0	18	33	39	42.42936111	-103.6203889
176077	I	142	850	80	118	42.341648	-103.685201
197674	I	251.8	700	202	230	42.35977778	-103.2185833
229044	Q	0	15	113	138	42.49733611	-103.2393722
179528	S	0	12	201	228	42.45916667	-103.3916667
30999	I	634	860	85	110	42.354774	-103.430192
123384	I	200	850	8	54	42.452852	-103.233204
221803	Q	0	5	72	122	42.47373056	-103.227925
52400	I	90	448	10	100	42.438295	-103.644155
221795	Q	0	25	324	375	42.47364444	-103.2279222
206804	S	0	5	14	14	42.33527778	-103.6327778
29030	I	400	840	71	79	42.475693	-103.178485
68324	I	320	1253	165	244	42.36687	-103.162996
137883	D	0	10	125	160	42.46583333	-103.0527778
144690	S	0	10	260	260	42.35888889	-103.3761111
179502	D	0	15	105	135	42.42	-103.3819444
43959	I	68	200	28	80	42.464046	-103.130965
229024	Q	0	15	38	65	42.45956667	-103.2300111
172017	D	0	15	178	240	42.405035	-103.143773
78289	I	130	700	68	82	42.351624	-103.731033
52401	I	0	350	10	60	42.438787	-103.644448
44625	I	130	825	74	88	42.484927	-103.131576
217846	S	0	10	179	200	42.35222222	-103.5133333
147650	I	130	600	63	140	42.48011111	-103.1792222
3611	I	130	500	60	125	42.472124	-103.173543
239873	S	0	15	24	50	42.45583333	-102.9947222
43958	I	68	150	29	90	42.464866	-103.131341
97415	S	0	10	200	216	42.395044	-103.265484
68224	I	9.07	1600	92	150	42.34333611	-103.5021



219558	S	0	15	155	165	42.34583333	-103.7958333
196100	S	0	3	190	200	42.43638889	-103.4444444
137520	D	0	10	50	100	42.469711	-103.098216
123783	S	0	3	270	280	42.350402	-103.395669
213505	S	0	15	17.5	18	42.42722222	-103.46
221794	Q	0	25	360	412	42.48121667	-103.248525
95956	D	0	10	12	12	42.431755	-103.308813
46313	I	251	275	60	168	42.43322271	-103.3711521
191694	S	0	2	180	185	42.34333333	-103.8080556
137618	S	0	10	14	45	42.45777778	-103.2316667
147649	I	130	330	44	110	42.47380556	-103.16025
68225	I	265.99	1000	95	200	42.32808333	-103.5319167
96150	S	0	3	160	200	42.468821	-103.332557
221804	Q	0	5	50	100	42.46546667	-103.219825
99522	I	90	550	75	95	42.384735	-103.532941
76454	I	120	750	56	138	42.334928	-103.676662
94717	D	0	25	190	260	42.37545	-103.18947
112600	I	80	50	31	60	42.433139	-103.610796
224052	I	130	700	69	200	42.33722222	-103.6733056
191692	S	0	10	168	210	42.4525	-103.3552778
140520	S	0	3	92	92	42.40222222	-103.455
171837	S	0	4	62	62	42.3875	-103.5672222
208667	S	0	15	217	265	42.36675	-103.2767222
28005	I	90.41	620	9	90	42.41601348	-103.5265563
52402	I	416	700	17	85	42.438477	-103.650804
169314	I	130	800	80	180	42.35752778	-103.7597778
227236	S	0	20	135	160	42.38478333	-103.312
68226	I	265.99	1000	90	210	42.32969444	-103.5323611
146399	I	50	130	40	80	42.429714	-103.676805
52143	I	160	750	80	90	42.455091	-103.042507
120503	D	0	18	22	30	42.427831	-103.414342
147930	S	0	10	251	274	42.37444444	-103.3097222
68229	I	640	1700	105	210	42.34241111	-103.5296917
122877	D	0	13	201	220	42.410156	-103.124358
97129	S	0	3	150	180	42.467792	-103.043288
90424	S	0	20	42	60	42.457382	-103.218809
75854	I	89.2	1159	88	135	42.36008342	-103.6377594
72678	I	130	1253	12	48	42.457952	-102.966612
76743	I	135.8	1000	105	140	42.48652746	-103.1834015
115023	D	0	10	32	32	42.430037	-103.442096
40346	I	63	580	13	35	42.424158	-103.45167
188176	D	0	25	45	65	42.38702778	-103.5420833

45518	I	130	500	72	172	42.4735	-103.077495
200215	S	0	10	185	205	42.458611	-103.344728
106764	I	100	550	7	40	42.4372	-103.285702
70785	I	77	500	12	22	42.42418056	-103.5846222
68805	I	89.2	747	94	169	42.36008342	-103.6377594
221791	Q	0	25	44.3	54.8	42.49548056	-103.2613583
143018	S	0	10	137	150	42.33527778	-103.7563889
167390	S	0	10	150	180	42.45277778	-103.3641667
211691	S	0	5	92	117	42.44136667	-103.1661167
234442	I	106.6	300	48	171	42.46598889	-103.2602139
201753	D	0	10	168	200	42.47166667	-103.3447222
46314	I	251	275	58	134	42.43448591	-103.3850806
92372	S	0	20	154	180	42.406345	-103.308308
130690	S	0	10	44	90	42.414881	-103.416212
120512	S	0	4	52	58	42.430546	-103.47384
130645	S	0	10	6	40	42.419736	-103.512879
225130	D	0	10	225	285	42.33805556	-103.3061111
229045	Q	0	15	74	99	42.48533056	-103.2335889
71061	I	106.6	600	72	108	42.36234444	-103.4681
78287	I	130	700	72	106	42.348155	-103.735914
221798	Q	0	5	50	95	42.49558889	-103.2445361
178626	S	0	18	40	100	42.42611111	-103.4294444
157089	D	0	13	104	140	42.340118	-103.486371
68227	I	265.99	1000	92	210	42.33161111	-103.5317778
221802	Q	0	5	93	143	42.48041389	-103.2463639
48032	I	251	550	60	108	42.43648807	-103.3655919
137515	D	0	16	28	50	42.430299	-103.614717
132588	D	0	10	90	100	42.443292	-103.308409
68198	I	634	700	74	85	42.356495	-103.442357
146068	I	70	500	23	49	42.43471944	-103.5935306
58202	I	130	900	240	259	42.335576	-103.313859
78290	I	130	700	66	130	42.34975	-103.7239444
74584	I	130	800	216	239	42.341097	-103.292561
144621	I	125	750	59	140	42.38219444	-103.54725

## APPENDIX 2 – Mapping unit descriptions of surface geology from 7.5 Minute Quadrangles (listed from west to east) of Figure 8

### **Whistle Creek Northwest 7.5 Minute Quadrangle**

**Qa1 - Youngest alluvium (Holocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Commonly sand and pebbly gravel, minor thin sandy silt beds: yellowish-gray and yellowish-orange; unit underlies the modern stream channels and floodplain. Sands are trough and planar bedded. Most clasts are derived from local bedrock. Commonly 1-4 m thick.

**Qa3 - Older alluvium 1 (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clays to cobble sized sediment deposited in modern and ancient stream channels and floodplains.*

**Qac2 - Sandy alluvium and colluvium (Holocene and upper Pleistocene)**- [Map Key - Alluvium], Sand and silt residuum and colluvium derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones, primarily of the Arikaree and Ogallala groups; brown to yellowish-gray. Upland occurrences are primarily colluvium (locally derived gravels or conglomerates) and typically grades into alluvium. The unit includes the Tassel-Ashollow-Rock soil association. Commonly 2–15 m thick

**Qalc – Unknown** [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qr3 Sandy residuum (Pleistocene)** [Map Key - Alluvium] *Residuum and soils derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones of the White River and Arikaree groups and minor amounts (10-15%) of alluvial and colluvial silt and sand sediments.*

**Naar – Unknown** [Map Key - Arikaree]

**Nah – Harrison Formation:** [Map Key - Arikaree], This unit consists of brown and gray, fine to medium grained, massive or weakly bedded, often poorly indurated volcanoclastic sandstones having prominent, rhizolithic silcretes 2-10 m thick in its upper 75 m. Fine siliceous and calcareous rhizoliths, root molds, and voids suggesting subterranean insect galleries are common within the upper part. These beds are well exposed along the flank and top of the Pine Ridge Escarpment. The upper boundary is an abrupt contact with overlying yellowish or grayish brown fine grained sandstones of the Upper Harrison Formation. This contact is a regional unconformity overlying a widespread silcrete that weathers into a prominent, flat bench that can be traced across the region. Hunt's (1985) disconformable contact between this unit and the underlying Monroe Creek Formation was observed within Monroe Canyon [Warbonnet Buttes (Nebraska) 7.5' quadrangle], but no discernable lithologic change occurs at this disconformity and it could not be traced outside the of Monroe Canyon. In most areas no recognizable lithologic contact between this unit and the underlying Monroe Creek Formation was observed, in which case these units were combined (Nah/Nam) following Swinehart and others (1985). Alternately, the contact was placed at the base of the lowest rhizolithic silcrete, giving this unit an overall thickness of 75-95 m. Below this alternate contact the sandstones are gray or buff rather than brown and were assigned to the underlying Monroe Creek Formation. Daimonelix are present throughout the uppermost 75 m of this unit, and vertebrate fossils, while present as isolated occurrences or local concentrations (Hunt, 1985), were not observed during this study.

**Nor – Unknown** - [Map Key - Ogallala]

### **Whistle Creek Northeast 7.5 Minute Quadrangle**

**Qa1 Youngest alluvium (Holocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Commonly sand and pebbly gravel, minor thin sandy silt beds: yellowish-gray and yellowish-orange; unit underlies the modern stream channels and floodplain. Sands are trough and planar bedded. Most clasts are derived from local bedrock. Commonly 1-4 m thick.

**Qa3 Older alluvium 1 (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clays to cobble sized sediment deposited in modern and ancient stream channels and floodplains.*

**Qac2 Sandy alluvium and colluvium (Holocene and upper Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Sand and silt residuum and colluvium derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones, primarily of the Arikaree and Ogallala groups; brown to yellowish-gray. Upland occurrences are primarily colluvium (locally derived gravels or conglomerates) and typically grades into alluvium. The unit includes the Tassel-Ashollow-Rock soil association. Commonly 2–15 m thick

**Qalc - Unknown**- [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qr3 Sandy residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Residuum and soils derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones of the White River and Arikaree groups and minor amounts (10-15%) of alluvial and colluvial silt and sand sediments.*

**Naar – Unknown** [Map Key - Arikaree]

**Nah – Harrison Formation:** [Map Key - Arikaree], This unit consists of brown and gray, fine to medium grained, massive or weakly bedded, often poorly indurated volcanoclastic sandstones having prominent, rhizolithic silcretes 2-10 m thick in its upper 75 m. Fine siliceous and calcareous rhizoliths, root molds, and voids suggesting subterranean insect galleries are common within the upper part. These beds are well exposed along the flank and top of the Pine Ridge Escarpment. The upper boundary is an abrupt contact with overlying yellowish or grayish brown fine grained sandstones of the Upper Harrison Formation. This contact is a regional unconformity overlying a widespread silcrete that weathers into a prominent, flat bench that can be traced across the region. Hunt's (1985) disconformable contact between this unit and the underlying Monroe Creek Formation was observed within Monroe Canyon [Warbonnet Buttes (Nebraska) 7.5' quadrangle], but no discernable lithologic change occurs at this disconformity and it could not be traced outside the of Monroe Canyon. In most areas no recognizable lithologic contact between this unit and the underlying Monroe Creek Formation was observed, in which case these units were combined (Nah/Nam) following Swinehart and others (1985). Alternately, the contact was placed at the base of the lowest rhizolithic silcrete, giving this unit an overall thickness of 75-95 m. Below this alternate contact the sandstones are gray or buff rather than brown and were assigned to the underlying Monroe Creek Formation. Daimonelix are present throughout the uppermost 75 m of this unit, and vertebrate fossils, while present as isolated occurrences or local concentrations (Hunt, 1985), were not observed during this study.

**Nor – Unknown** [Map Key - Arikaree]



**Pewbs Sharps Member (upper Oligocene)** - [Map Key – White River], Sandy siltstone and silty sandstone; volcanoclastic, brown and yellowish-brown. Massive to weakly stratified. Carbonate-cemented nodular concretions, typically 5 to 15 cm in diameter, are locally abundant. A small group of exposures up to 12 m thick, in section 10, T 24N, R55W contain 3 m of trough cross-bedded fine- to medium sandstone overlain by 4 m of ripple-laminated fine sandstone. These beds appear to be the basal strata of an paleovalley deposit (informally named the Schomp Ranch Channel) eroded as much as 50 m into the Whitney Member. At least one very light gray, biotitic volcanic ash bed, up to 70 cm thick, occurs in this unit. Vertebrate fossils are uncommon; fragments of oreodont jaws and limbs were recovered during the mapping. Commonly 50 m thick.

### **Marsland Northwest 7.5 Minute Quadrangle**

**Qa1 Youngest alluvium (Holocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Commonly sand and pebbly gravel, minor thin sandy silt beds: yellowish-gray and yellowish-orange; unit underlies the modern stream channels and floodplain. Sands are trough and planar bedded. Most clasts are derived from local bedrock. Commonly 1-4 m thick.

**Qa3 Older alluvium 1 (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clays to cobble sized sediment deposited in modern and ancient stream channels and floodplains.*

**Qa4 Older alluvium (lower Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Pebbly gravel and sand; pale orange and grayish orange; occurs 75 to 115 m above the North Platte River. Commonly 5-20 m thick

**Qac2 Sandy alluvium and colluvium (Holocene and upper Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Sand and silt residuum and colluvium derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones, primarily of the Arikaree and Ogallala groups; brown to yellowish-gray. Upland occurrences are primarily colluvium (locally derived gravels or conglomerates) and typically grades into alluvium. The unit includes the Tassel-Ashollow-Rock soil association. Commonly 2–15 m thick

**Qalc – Unknown** - [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qp Peat (Holocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Fibrous organic matter, dark brown, deposited in wetlands.*

It is between 0.5 and 2 m thick.

**Qr3 Sandy residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Residuum and soils derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones of the White River and Arikaree groups and minor amounts (10-15%) of alluvial and colluvial silt and sand sediments.*

**Qr4 Clayey residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clay and silt residuum (including fragments of calcareous nodules) and soils derived from the Dawes Clay Member of the Box Butte Formation.*

**Naar - Unknown** [Map Key - Arikaree]

**Nah – Harrison Formation:** [Map Key - Arikaree], This unit consists of brown and gray, fine to medium grained, massive or weakly bedded, often poorly indurated volcanoclastic sandstones having prominent,

rhizolithic silcretes 2-10 m thick in its upper 75 m. Fine siliceous and calcareous rhizoliths, root molds, and voids suggesting subterranean insect galleries are common within the upper part. These beds are well exposed along the flank and top of the Pine Ridge Escarpment. The upper boundary is an abrupt contact with overlying yellowish or grayish brown fine grained sandstones of the Upper Harrison Formation. This contact is a regional unconformity overlying a widespread silcrete that weathers into a prominent, flat bench that can be traced across the region. Hunt's (1985) disconformable contact between this unit and the underlying Monroe Creek Formation was observed within Monroe Canyon [Warbonnet Buttes (Nebraska) 7.5' quadrangle], but no discernable lithologic change occurs at this disconformity and it could not be traced outside the of Monroe Canyon. In most areas no recognizable lithologic contact between this unit and the underlying Monroe Creek Formation was observed, in which case these units were combined (Nah/Nam) following Swinehart and others (1985). Alternately, the contact was placed at the base of the lowest rhizolithic silcrete, giving this unit an overall thickness of 75-95 m. Below this alternate contact the sandstones are gray or buff rather than brown and were assigned to the underlying Monroe Creek Formation. Daimonelix are present throughout the uppermost 75 m of this unit, and vertebrate fossils, while present as isolated occurrences or local concentrations (Hunt, 1985), were not observed during this study.

**Nobd - Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Nor - Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Nors – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Noss – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Pewbs Sharps Member (upper Oligocene)** - [Map Key – White River], Sandy siltstone and silty sandstone; volcanoclastic, brown and yellowish-brown. Massive to weakly stratified. Carbonate-cemented nodular concretions, typically 5 to 15 cm in diameter, are locally abundant. A small group of exposures up to 12 m thick, in section 10, T 24N, R55W contain 3 m of trough cross-bedded fine- to medium sandstone overlain by 4 m of ripple-laminated fine sandstone. These beds appear to be the basal strata of an paleovalley deposit (informally named the Schomp Ranch Channel) eroded as much as 50 m into the Whitney Member. At least one very light gray, biotitic volcanic ash bed, up to 70 cm thick, occurs in this unit. Vertebrate fossils are uncommon; fragments of oreodont jaws and limbs were recovered during the mapping. Commonly 50 m thick.

**Pewss – Unknown** [Map Key – White River]

### **Marsland 7.5 Minute Quadrangle**

**Qa1 Youngest alluvium (Holocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Commonly sand and pebbly gravel, minor thin sandy silt beds: yellowish-gray and yellowish-orange; unit underlies the modern stream channels and floodplain. Sands are trough and planar bedded. Most clasts are derived from local bedrock. Commonly 1-4 m thick.

**Qa2 Older alluvium (upper Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Pebbly gravel and sand and local beds of silt. Deposit underlies a terrace in the southwest corner of the quadrangle about 25-30 m above the North Platte River.

**Qa3 Older alluvium 1 (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clays to cobble sized sediment deposited in modern and ancient stream channels and floodplains.*

**Qa4 Older alluvium (lower Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Pebbly gravel and sand; pale orange and grayish orange; occurs 75 to 115 m above the North Platte River. Commonly 5-20 m thick

**Qac2 Sandy alluvium and colluvium (Holocene and upper Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Sand and silt residuum and colluvium derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones, primarily of the Arikaree and Ogallala groups; brown to yellowish-gray. Upland occurrences are primarily colluvium (locally derived gravels or conglomerates) and typically grades into alluvium. The unit includes the Tassel-Ashollow-Rock soil association. Commonly 2–15 m thick

**Qac4 – Unknown** - [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qalc – Unknown** - [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qr3 Sandy residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Residuum and soils derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones of the White River and Arikaree groups and minor amounts (10-15%) of alluvial and colluvial silt and sand sediments.*

**Qr4 Clayey residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clay and silt residuum (including fragments of calcareous nodules) and soils derived from the Dawes Clay Member of the Box Butte Formation.*

**Naar – Unknown** [Map Key - Arikaree]

**Nah – Harrison Formation:** - [Map Key - Arikaree], This unit consists of brown and gray, fine to medium grained, massive or weakly bedded, often poorly indurated volcanoclastic sandstones having prominent, rhizolithic silcretes 2-10 m thick in its upper 75 m. Fine siliceous and calcareous rhizoliths, root molds, and voids suggesting subterranean insect galleries are common within the upper part. These beds are well exposed along the flank and top of the Pine Ridge Escarpment. The upper boundary is an abrupt contact with overlying yellowish or grayish brown fine grained sandstones of the Upper Harrison Formation. This contact is a regional unconformity overlying a widespread silcrete that weathers into a prominent, flat bench that can be traced across the region. Hunt's (1985) disconformable contact between this unit and the underlying Monroe Creek Formation was observed within Monroe Canyon [Warbonnet Buttes (Nebraska) 7.5' quadrangle], but no discernable lithologic change occurs at this disconformity and it could not be traced outside the of Monroe Canyon. In most areas no recognizable lithologic contact between this unit and the underlying Monroe Creek Formation was observed, in which case these units were combined (Nah/Nam) following Swinehart and others (1985). Alternately, the contact was placed at the base of the lowest rhizolithic silcrete, giving this unit an overall thickness of 75-95 m. Below this alternate contact the sandstones are gray or buff rather than brown and were assigned to the underlying Monroe Creek Formation. Daimonelix are present throughout the uppermost 75 m of this unit, and

vertebrate fossils, while present as isolated occurrences or local concentrations (Hunt, 1985), were not observed during this study.

**Nobd – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Nor – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Norr – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Noss – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**PEWbs Sharps Member (upper Oligocene)-** [Map Key – White River], Sandy siltstone and silty sandstone; volcanoclastic, brown and yellowish-brown. Massive to weakly stratified. Carbonate-cemented nodular concretions, typically 5 to 15 cm in diameter, are locally abundant. A small group of exposures up to 12 m thick, in section 10, T 24N, R55W contain 3 m of trough cross-bedded fine- to medium sandstone overlain by 4 m of ripple-laminated fine sandstone. These beds appear to be the basal strata of an paleovalley deposit (informally named the Schomp Ranch Channel) eroded as much as 50 m into the Whitney Member. At least one very light gray, biotitic volcanic ash bed, up to 70 cm thick, occurs in this unit. Vertebrate fossils are uncommon; fragments of oreodont jaws and limbs were recovered during the mapping. Commonly 50 m thick.

### **Box Butte Reservoir West 7.5 Minute Quadrangle**

**Qa1 Youngest alluvium (Holocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Commonly sand and pebbly gravel, minor thin sandy silt beds: yellowish-gray and yellowish-orange; unit underlies the modern stream channels and floodplain. Sands are trough and planar bedded. Most clasts are derived from local bedrock. Commonly 1-4 m thick.

**Qa3 Older alluvium 1 (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clays to cobble sized sediment deposited in modern and ancient stream channels and floodplains.*

**Qa4 Older alluvium (lower Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Pebbly gravel and sand; pale orange and grayish orange; occurs 75 to 115 m above the North Platte River. Commonly 5-20 m thick

**Qac2 Sandy alluvium and colluvium (Holocene and upper Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Sand and silt residuum and colluvium derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones, primarily of the Arikaree and Ogallala groups; brown to yellowish-gray. Upland occurrences are primarily colluvium (locally derived gravels or conglomerates) and typically grades into alluvium. The unit includes the Tassel-Ashollow-Rock soil association. Commonly 2–15 m thick

**Qac4 – Unknown** [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qalc – Unknown** [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qr3 Sandy residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Residuum and soils derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones of the White River and Arikaree groups and minor amounts (10-15%) of alluvial and colluvial silt and sand sediments.*



**Qr4 Clayey residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clay and silt residuum (including fragments of calcareous nodules) and soils derived from the Dawes Clay Member of the Box Butte Formation.*

**Nob – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Nobd – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Nor – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

### **Box Butte Reservoir East 7.5 Minute Quadrangle**

**Qa1 Youngest alluvium (Holocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Commonly sand and pebbly gravel, minor thin sandy silt beds: yellowish-gray and yellowish-orange; unit underlies the modern stream channels and floodplain. Sands are trough and planar bedded. Most clasts are derived from local bedrock. Commonly 1-4 m thick.

**Qa3 Older alluvium 1 (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clays to cobble sized sediment deposited in modern and ancient stream channels and floodplains.*

**Qa4 Older alluvium (lower Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Pebbly gravel and sand; pale orange and grayish orange; occurs 75 to 115 m above the North Platte River. Commonly 5-20 m thick

**Qac2 Sandy alluvium and colluvium (Holocene and upper Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Sand and silt residuum and colluvium derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones, primarily of the Arikaree and Ogallala groups; brown to yellowish-gray. Upland occurrences are primarily colluvium (locally derived gravels or conglomerates) and typically grades into alluvium. The unit includes the Tassel-Ashollow-Rock soil association. Commonly 2–15 m thick

**Qac4 – Unknown** [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qalc – Unknown** [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qr3 Sandy residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Residuum and soils derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones of the White River and Arikaree groups and minor amounts (10-15%) of alluvial and colluvial silt and sand sediments.*

**Qr4 Clayey residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clay and silt residuum (including fragments of calcareous nodules) and soils derived from the Dawes Clay Member of the Box Butte Formation.*

**Nmr Runningwater Formation (Miocene)** - [Map Key - Ogallala], *Medium-to fine-grained sandstones, coarse sands, sandy siltstones, and gravels, and locally occurring clayey silts and volcanic ash beds; gray, greenish-gray, and brown.*

The gravels contain abundant Rocky Mountain-source clasts. Calcareous-cemented zones from 0.2 to 1.5 m thick are locally common. The unit occurs in a generally eastward trending paleovalley and is up to 100 m thick.

**Noar – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Nobd – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Nor – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Noss – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

**Nowc Wolf Creek beds** - [Map Key - Ogallala], *White, calcareous, medium to coarse-grained sandstones.*

Generally medium-bedded to massive, contains may calcareous root traces and nodules of various morphologies. Contains a prominent silver-gray volcanic ash 0.5-1 m thick near top; used to correlate exposures from Belmont to Observation Quarry (Barstovian) to Whiteclay vicinity to Porcupine Butte, S. D. Formerly considered Ash Hollow by Skinner & Johnson (1984) and Skinner & others (1988).

### **Box Butte Northwest 7.5 Minute Quadrangle**

**Qa1 Youngest alluvium (Holocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Commonly sand and pebbly gravel, minor thin sandy silt beds: yellowish-gray and yellowish-orange; unit underlies the modern stream channels and floodplain. Sands are trough and planar bedded. Most clasts are derived from local bedrock. Commonly 1-4 m thick.

**Qa3 Older alluvium 1 (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Clays to cobble sized sediment deposited in modern and ancient stream channels and floodplains.*

**Qa4 Older alluvium (lower Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Pebbly gravel and sand; pale orange and grayish orange; occurs 75 to 115 m above the North Platte River. Commonly 5-20 m thick

**Qa5 Older alluvium (lower Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Pebbly to cobble gravel and sand; pale orange; occurs 105 to 140 m above the North Platte River and may represent the remnants of an alluvial apron eroded from the Broadwater Formation. Commonly 5-15 m thick

**Qac1 Undifferentiated silty alluvium and colluvium (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Silt and clay derived from the weathering of clayey siltstones and silty claystones of the white River Group.*

**Qac2 Sandy alluvium and colluvium (Holocene and upper Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], Sand and silt residuum and colluvium derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones, primarily of the Arikaree and Ogallala groups; brown to yellowish-gray. Upland occurrences are primarily colluvium (locally derived gravels or conglomerates) and typically grades into alluvium. The unit includes the Tassel-Ashollow-Rock soil association. Commonly 2–15 m thick

**Qalc – Unknown** [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qes2 Eolian sand Quaternary undifferentiated** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Very fine to medium sand deposited by the wind into sand dunes or sand sheets*. The sand dunes are typically transverse dunes with southeast facing slip faces and are up to 70 m thick. The sand sheets have no recognizable dune forms and are between 1 and 5 m thick.

**Qr3 Sandy residuum (Pleistocene)** - [Map Key - Alluvium], *Residuum and soils derived from the weathering of sandy siltstones and sandstones of the White River and Arikaree groups and minor amounts (10-15%) of alluvial and colluvial silt and sand sediments*.

**Qt1 Unknown** [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Qt2 Unknown** [Map Key - Alluvium]

**Nmr Runningwater Formation (Miocene)** - [Map Key - Ogallala], *Medium-to fine-grained sandstones, coarse sands, sandy siltstones, and gravels, and locally occurring clayey silts and volcanic ash beds; gray, greenish-gray, and brown*.

The gravels contain abundant Rocky Mountain-source clasts. Calcareous-cemented zones from 0.2 to 1.5 m thick are locally common. The unit occurs in a generally eastward trending paleovalley and is up to 100 m thick.

**Nmr2 – Unknown** [Map Key - Ogallala]

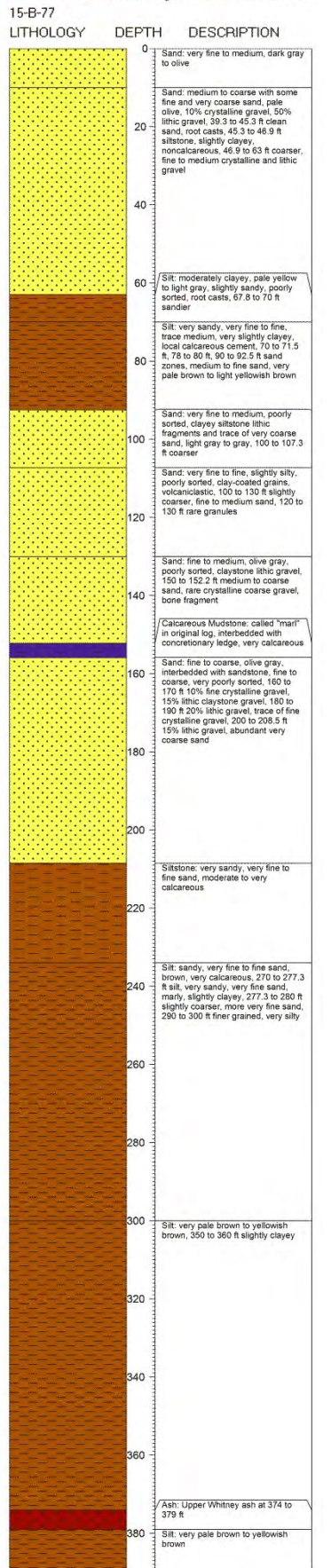
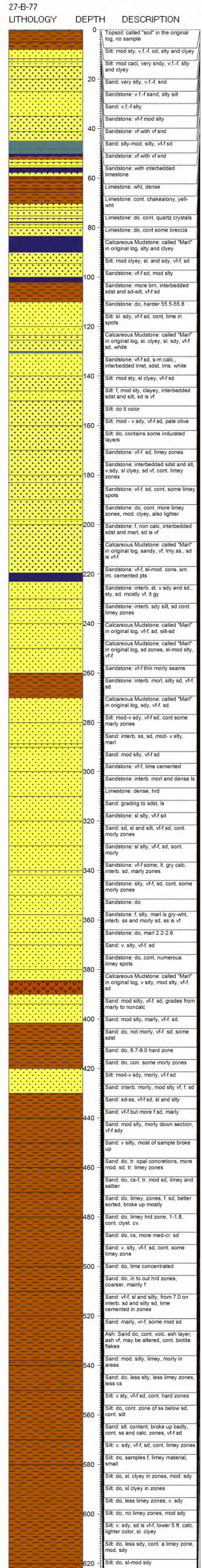
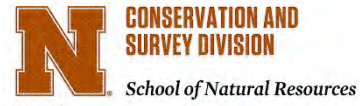
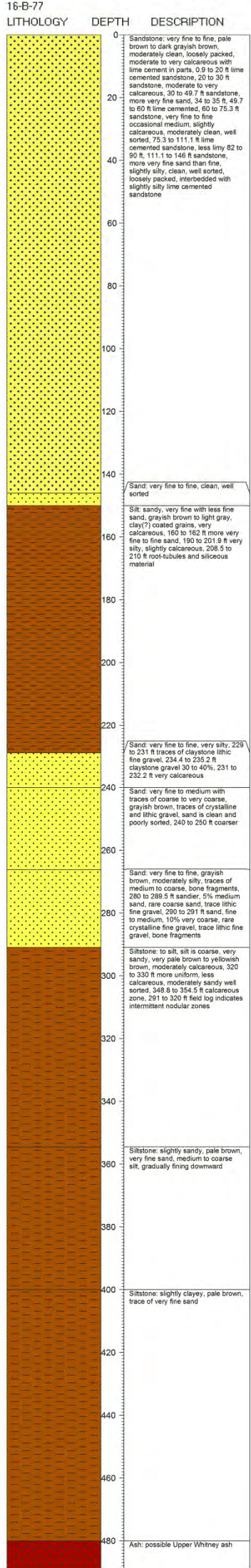
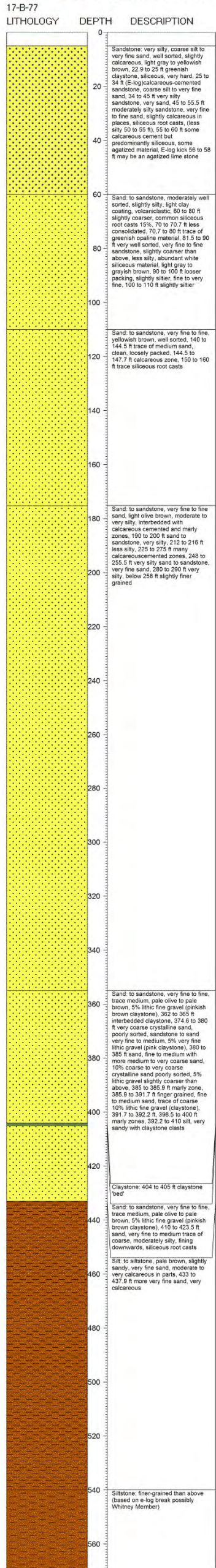
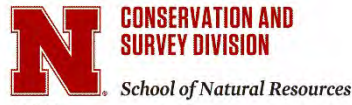
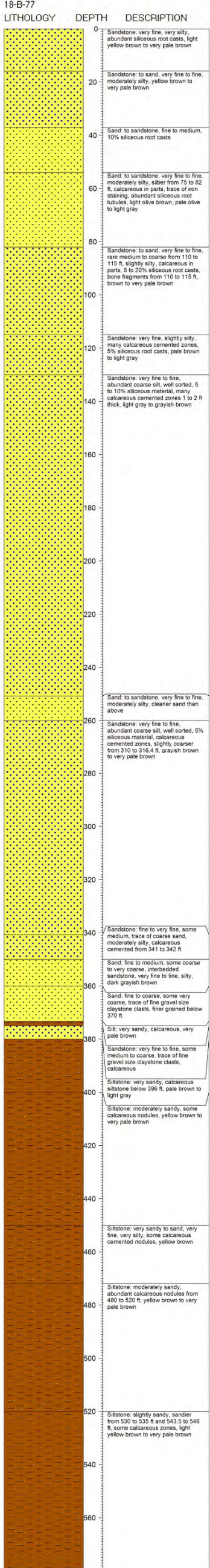
**Nor1 - Starvation Gulch beds** - [Map Key - Ogallala], Consists of up to 25 m of medium to thickly bedded orange-brown overbank sandstone and pedogenic carbonate horizons of early Miocene age. Occurs as large valley fill along Niobrara River Valley and under the Hartville table. Contains abundant vertebrate fossils.

**Nor2 - Rushville beds** - [Map Key - Ogallala], Consists of up to 50 m of intermixed and interbedded olive sandstone and gravel of early Miocene age. Occurs as large valley fill along Niobrara River and under the Hartville table. Contains abundant vertebrate fossils.

**Nosg - Sand Canyon beds of Galusha** - [Map Key - Ogallala], Consists of up to 5 m olive green fluvial sandstone and gravel with a prominent calcareous paleosol of early Miocene age. Occurs as broad sheets of sediment along the Niobrara River, as isolated valley fills along the Pine Ridge, and the interbedded hard grey sandstones hold up conical hills along the highest points of the Pine Ridge.

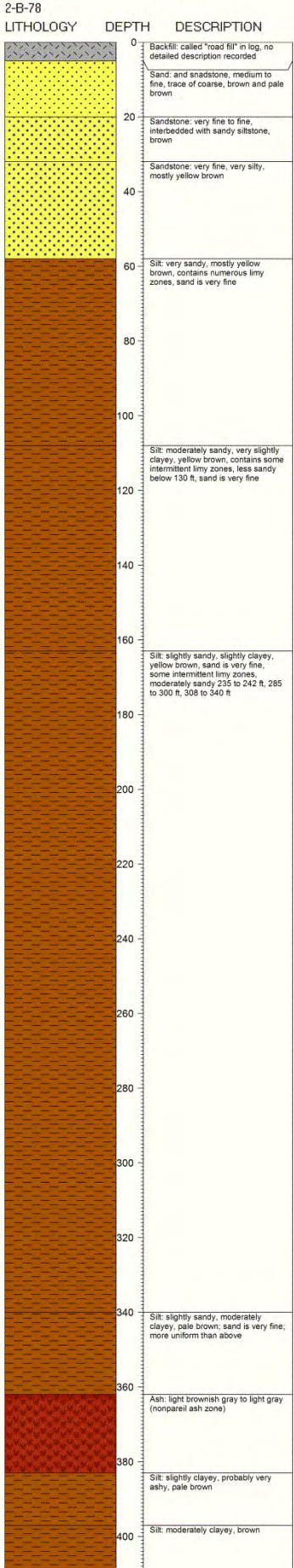


APPENDIX 3 – Test holes and other logs used for the study

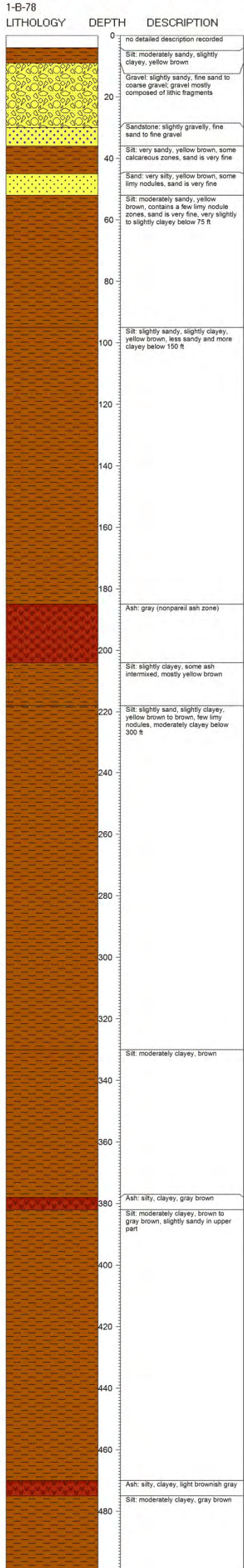




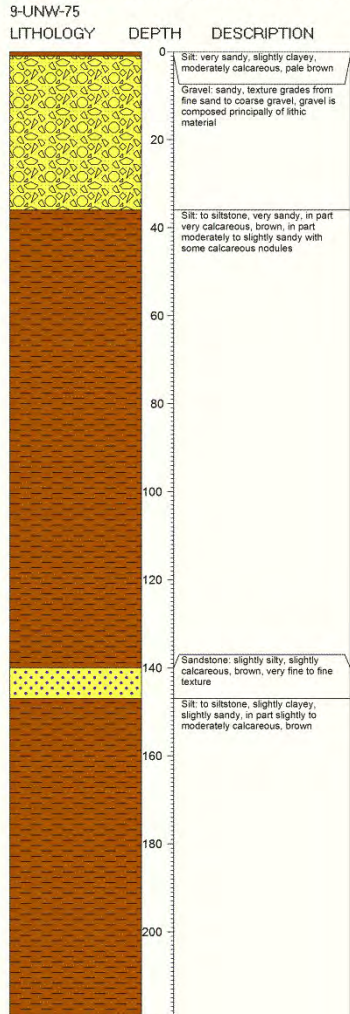
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School of Natural Resources



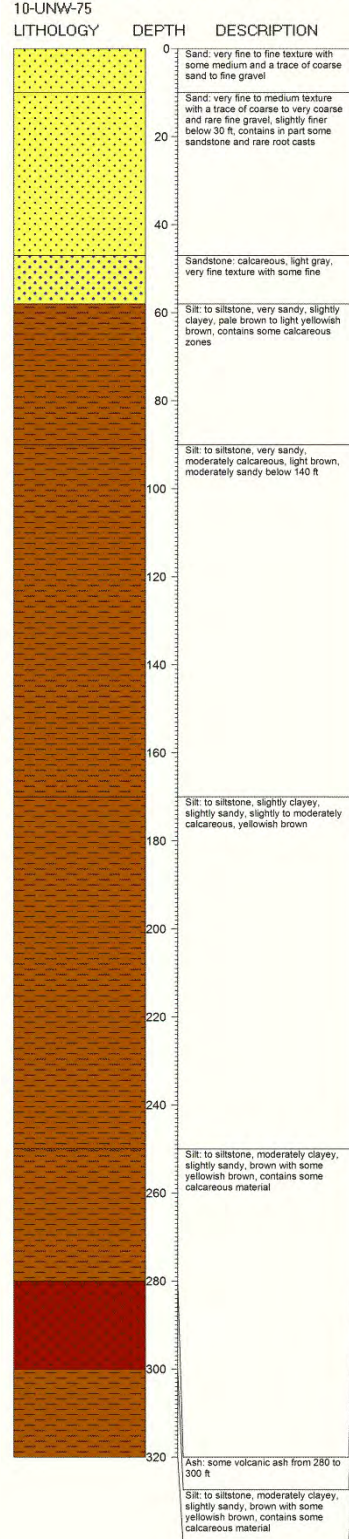
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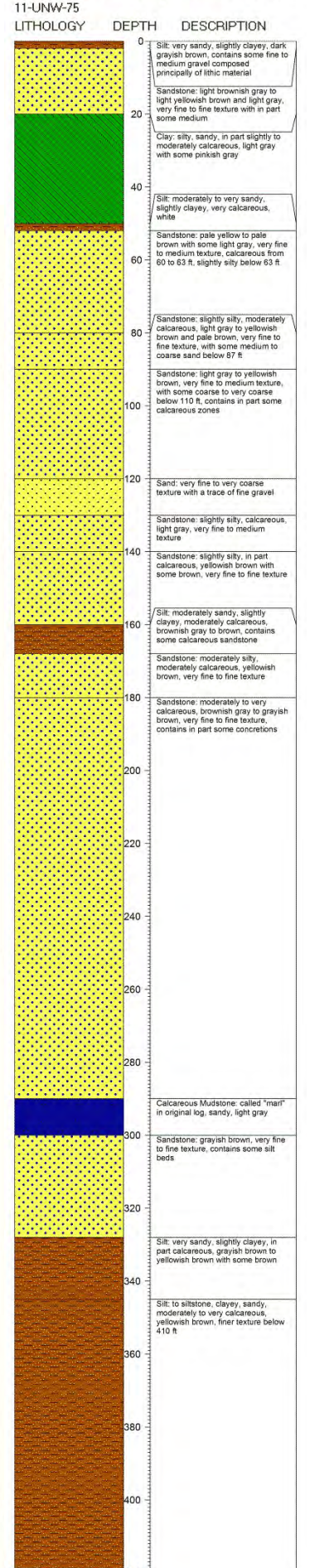
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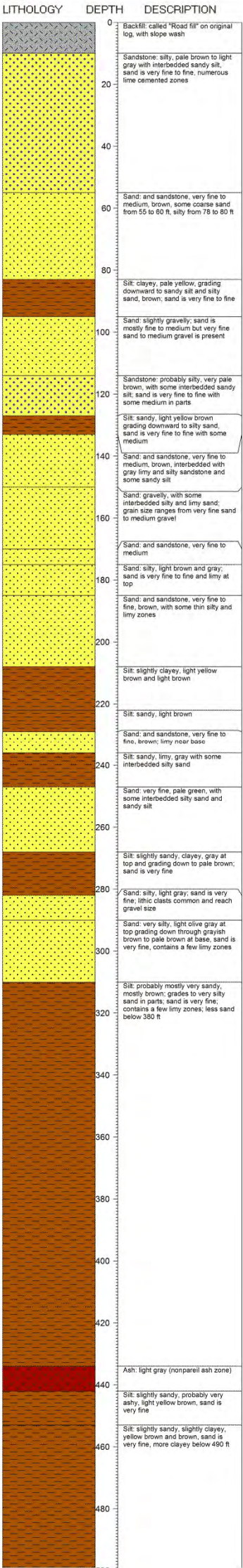
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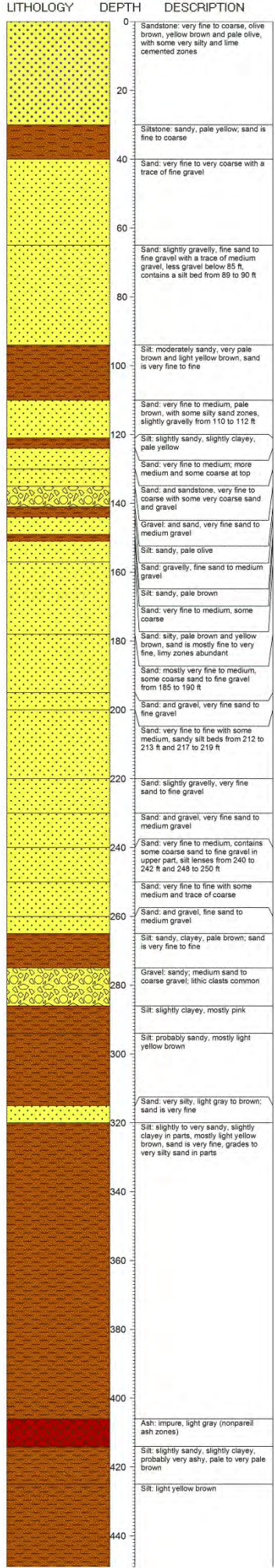




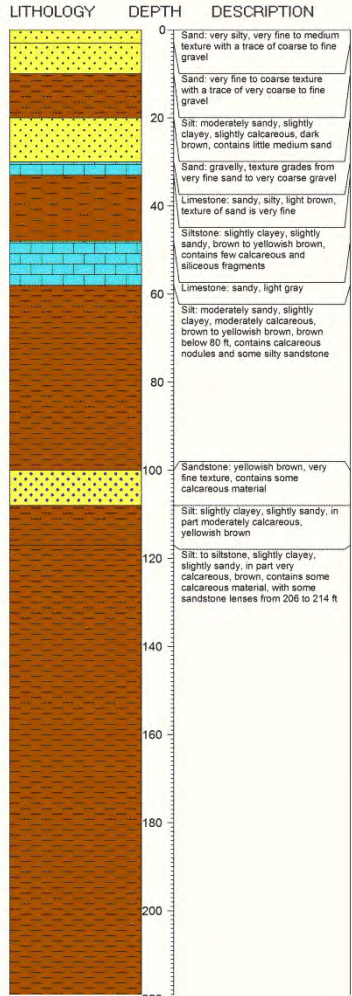
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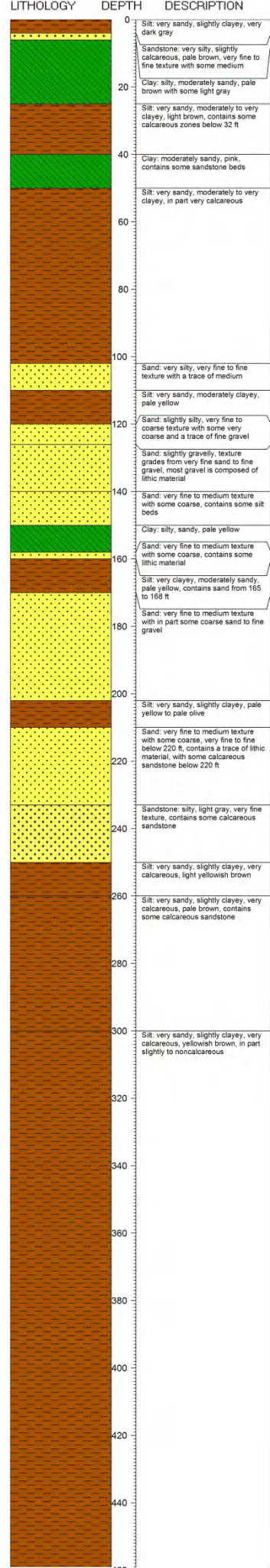
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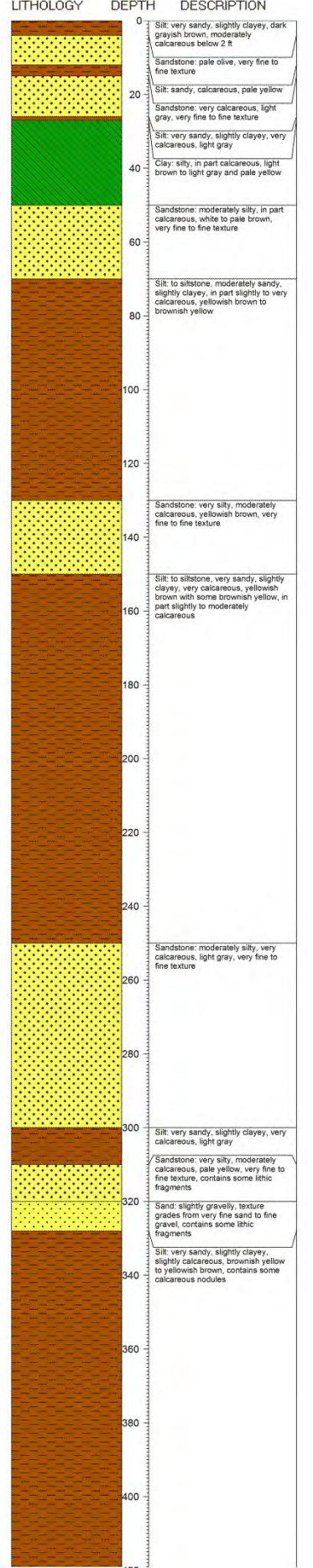
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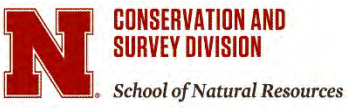
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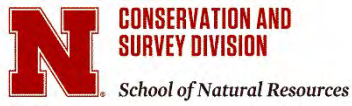
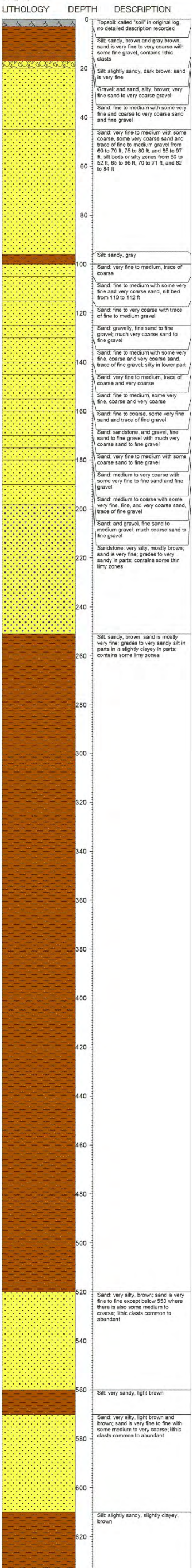
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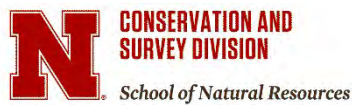
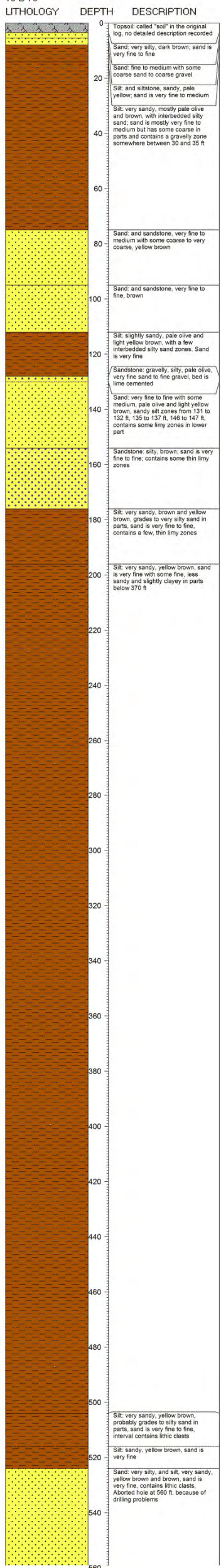




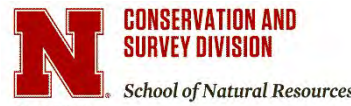
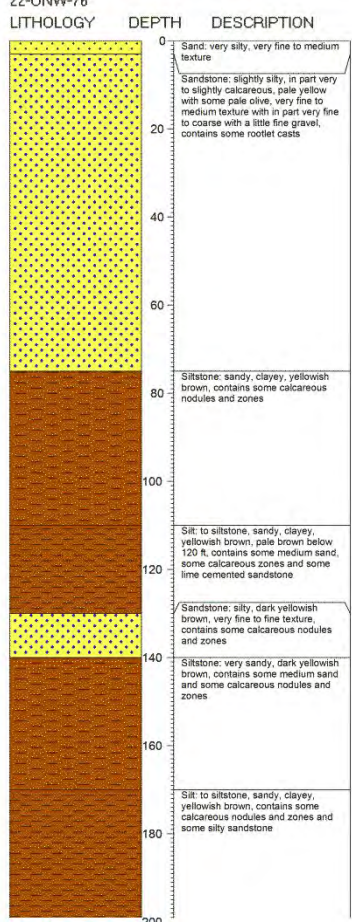
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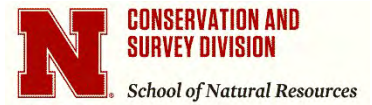
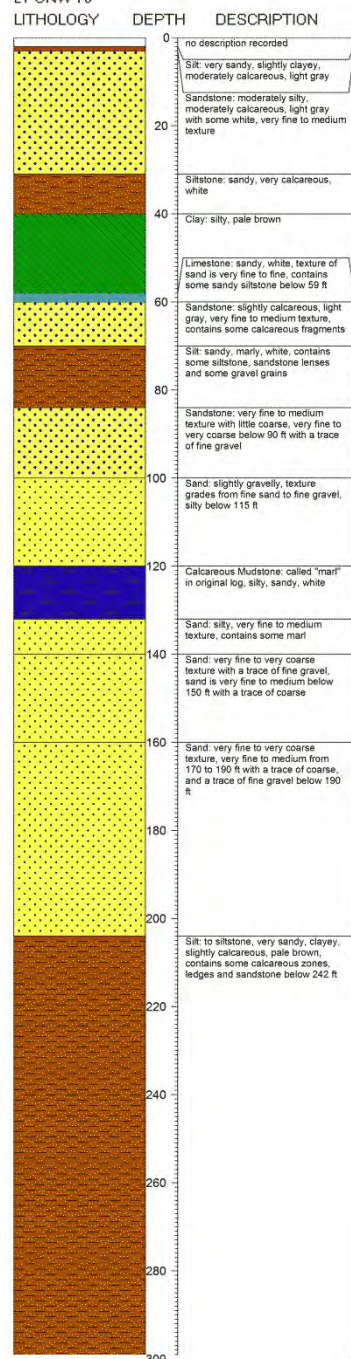
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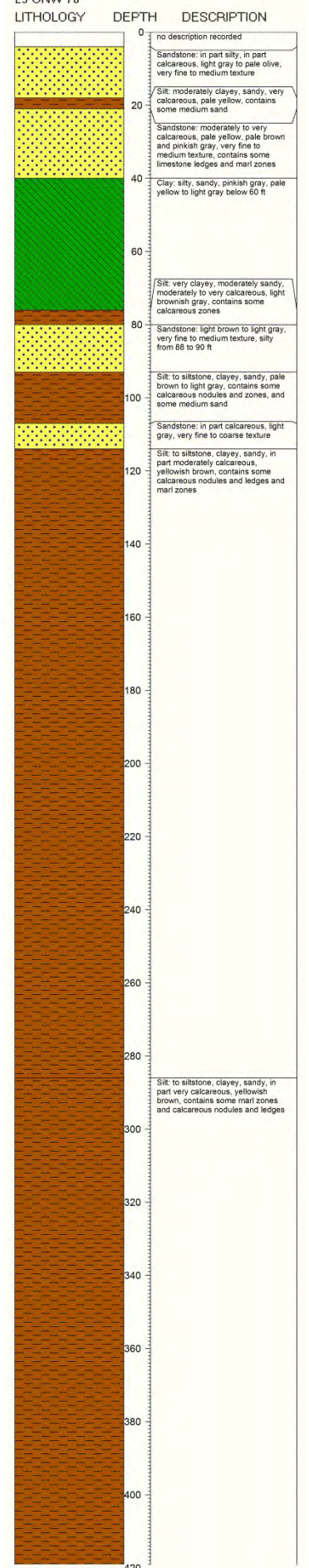
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21-UNW-76



23-UNW-76





**Permits Approved in Niobrara River Basin in Wyoming since Last Spring Meeting on April 20, 2017**

WR Number	PriorityDate	Company	FirstName	LastName	FacilityName	Uses	Twn	Rng	Sec	Qtr-Qtr	Appropriation(GPM)	Longitude	Latitude
P207234.0W	05/10/2017		LINDA AND DENNIS E	ISAKSON	ENL. COLE #1	DOM_GW;STK	030N	061W	06	NW1/4NW1/4	10	-104.23921	42.61014
P207235.0W	05/09/2017		LINDA AND DENNIS E	ISAKSON	LDI #1	STK	030N	061W	06	NW1/4NW1/4	20	-104.24162	42.61192
P207236.0W	05/10/2017		DENNIS E AND LINDA	ISAKSON	ENL. HOLMES #8	STK	031N	061W	30	SE1/4NE1/4	10	-104.22418	42.63543
P207611.0W	07/12/2017		LOREN AND ROBYN	HETH	HETH #400	DOM_GW;STK	033N	062W	23	SW1/4SW1/4	25	-104.27937	42.81566
P208115.0W	09/18/2017	A AND E LAND AND CATTLE LLC			WEST PFISTER #1	IRR_GW	031N	062W	10	NE1/4SW1/4	1200	-104.29306	42.67452
P208116.0W	09/18/2017	A AND E LAND AND CATTLE LLC			EAST PFISTER #1	IRR_GW	031N	062W	14	SW1/4NW1/4	1200	-104.27722	42.66297
P208706.0W	03/19/2018	WYDOT			ENL. ADAMS NO. 1	MIS	031N	060W	18	SW1/4SW1/4	0	-104.12107	42.6574

Notes:

The State Engineer's Office is still holding, unapproved, four irrigation use applications that violate the spacing policy currently in place for irrigation use wells in the area.

The "MIS" use associated with Permit No. U.W. 208706 allows a total of 36.8 AF of water per year to be produced from the Adams No. 1 well at a rate of 850 gpm and used for road construction over a period of two years.