



# Platte River Truth

Providing **TRUTH** instead of **MYTHS** on Platte River Issues

<http://www.platterivertruth.org>

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For additional information, contact: Ron Klein - [facts@platterivertruth.org](mailto:facts@platterivertruth.org) - (970) 532-3013

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Receives "Bad Science" Award in recognition for applying politics instead of sound science on Nebraska water issues**

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**Platte River Truth** has recently issued its first ever "Award for Bad Science (BS)" to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Mr. Roger K. Patterson, the Director of DNR.

The framed certificate which conveys this award was delivered to the Office of Governor Dave Heinemen on April 6, 2005 with a letter requesting him to present it to Mr. Patterson.

The certificate states:

"This BS Award is granted in recognition of the continuing total failure - if not plain refusal - of DNR, and it's Director and top administrative and legal staff, to deal with Nebraska water issues in a manner based on FACTS using sound scientific and engineering principles and professional ethics generally expected of those holders of Professional Engineer licenses and membership in the Bar and who are being paid to be servants of the diligent, honest, and trustworthy citizens of the State of Nebraska and those who have strong ties to Nebraska by virtue of their heritage and/or property ownership.

By conferring this award, it is recognized that DNR is instead practicing the application of myths, deceptions, and just plain lies in order to establish it's power over the hardworking agricultural people of Nebraska who it is supposedly paid to serve. "

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This has not been awarded lightly. Over the last several years, Platte River Truth has extensively analyzed the facts on water issues using that data residing in the DNR and USGS files using standard and accepted engineering analysis methods. That analysis clearly shows the false and misleading nature of various claims being made by DNR personnel and others. There has also been collection of data on the inconsistent, vague, and imprecise nature of various statements, and actions, by DNR personnel on these issues. The claims being made by DNR on specifics about claimed relationships between groundwater use for irrigation and river flows, as it applies to the Platte River basin, are simply NOT supported by the data in DNR's possession when objectively analyzed. Similarly, an objective long term analysis of water table levels in the Ogallala aquifer in the Platte Valley simply show there is not a long term problem. Instead, the variations are simply a result of the natural long-term variations expected with natural variation in weather patterns.

Additionally, the DNR has recently been trying to forcibly "change the rules" on criteria to be applied for development of Integrated Management Plans in the Central Platte basin. This has similarly been without scientific basis. It is based on political - not scientific - considerations. It is our considered opinion that such politically motivated actions are harmful to the taxpayers DNR is paid to serve and needs to be stopped immediately.

Hopefully, Governor Heineman, after seeing the facts he has been presented, will respond positively to the request from a landowner associated with Platte River Truth to " .. take strong, forceful, and immediate actions to prevent harm to the great state of Nebraska due to the (mis)behavior of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. "

More details are available on our web site at <http://www.platterivertruth.org>