

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District Irrigated Land Certification Process

July 2005

The number of certified irrigated acres on a given parcel of land is determined using property tax assessment records of irrigated lands. (Rule 10.2) In the Republican Basin and in that portion of the Platte Basin west of US Hwy. 183, 2004 Property Tax Rolls were used as the basis for determining certified irrigated acres. In the Platte Basin east of US Hwy. 183 as well as some portion of the Little Blue Basin, (the boundary for the expanded Integrated Management Area remains to be determined) 2006 Property Tax Rolls will be used as the basis for determining certified irrigated acres. (TBNRD Board Motion #18 6/14/05).

1. County assessors provide the NRD with property tax rolls.
2. The NRD notifies landowners of the number of assessed irrigated acres which, in the absence of independently verified information, will be considered their certified acres by Tri-Basin NRD. Landowners can either accept the assessed acres as their certified irrigated acres or provide independent verification indicating a different amount of irrigated land to the NRD and county assessor for review. (Rule 10.2.2) Common forms of independent verification of irrigated land include:
 - A. Recent aerial photos showing changes,
 - B. USDA-Farm Services Agency Crop Certification forms (FSA Form 578),
 - C. Crop insurance records,
 - D. Statements by Tri-Basin NRD staff or other independent witnesses who observed irrigation of a parcel.
3. **Final certified irrigated acre amounts will be determined by the NRD board using county property tax rolls as adjusted by measurements made by county assessors.** (Rule 10.2)
4. Landowners can apply to the NRD for permission to transfer certified irrigated acres from one parcel to another within the same watershed (see certified irrigated land transfer permit process).