

Potential Problems

Ogallala Aquifer

- Located underneath parts of eight states (South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas) for an area of 175,000 square miles
- 27% of irrigated farmland in U.S. is located above Ogallala Aquifer, which supplies close to 30% of the country's groundwater used for irrigation
- Average water level has dropped 15.4 feet since 1950 when extensive irrigation using groundwater began
- 30% of groundwater originally in the aquifer has been pumped already
- Another 39% will be depleted over the next 50 years if current trends continue

Colorado River

- Most over-allocated river in the world
- Steadily declining streamflow for the past several years
- Flow reductions due to intensive water consumption and building of dams
- Over-pumping of groundwater for agricultural irrigation is reducing the base flow of the river

California Drought

- 100% of nation's almonds, walnuts, pistachios, olives, olive oil, and more come from California
- These crops have very high water footprints
- Groundwater withdrawals far exceed groundwater recharge
- Groundwater levels rapidly declining
- High costs of drilling deeper wells and pumping from greater depths
- Possibility of running out of water