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**(Neb.)-State Task Force Would Focus On Long-Term Water Use**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/28/2013 06:46 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A Nebraska lawmaker is pushing for the state to develop a long-term plan to manage its water resources.

Sen. Tom Carlson of Holdrege is proposing a state task force that would identify water-project needs, map them out, and rank them by importance. Carlson could present his bill to the full Legislature on Thursday.

The bill was introduced in the wake of a summer drought that stressed farms, ranches, cities and private wells. The drought forced the city of Lincoln to impose water restrictions over the summer.

Carlson is recommending a 28-member task force that would include state natural resources officials, as well as members who represent public power, agriculture, manufacturing and outdoor recreation.

The task force would report to the Legislature by Jan. 31, 2014.

The bill is LB517.