



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**SUBJECT:** Annual CIR Aerial Photography Acquisition and Processing  
**REQUEST DATE:** April 27, 2009  
**CLOSING DATE:** May 15, 2009  
**POINT OF CONTACT:** Justin Brei  
Headwaters Corporation  
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Kearney, NE 68847  
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**I. OVERVIEW**

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (**Program**) was initiated on January 1, 2007 between Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado and the Department of the Interior to address endangered species issues in the central and lower Platte River basin. The species considered in the Program, referred to as “target species”, are the whooping crane, piping plover, interior least tern, and pallid sturgeon.

A Governance Committee (**GC**) has been established that reviews, directs, and provides oversight for activities undertaken during the Program. The GC is comprised of one representative from each of the three states, three water user representatives, two representatives from environmental groups, and two members representing federal agencies. The GC has named Dr. Jerry Kenny to serve as the Program Executive Director (**ED**). Dr. Kenny established Headwaters Corporation as the staffing mechanism for Program. Program staff is located in Nebraska and Colorado and are responsible for assisting in carrying out the various Program-related activities.

Annual aerial photography is a requirement of the Program's Adaptive Management Plan and an integral part of several research and monitoring protocols. The GC submits this Request for Proposals (**RFP**) to solicit proposals from contractors to conduct annual aerial photography acquisitions and post-processing.

**II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Annual color-infrared (**CIR**) orthophotography will be used to help document habitat conditions for Program target species. In addition, it can be used to document summertime vegetation characteristics throughout the system, on Program lands, and within managed areas. For example, bare sand substrates will be identified that may be potential least tern and piping plover nesting habitat, and major management changes can be tracked, such as tree clearing or cropland changes. Changes in available tern/plover nesting habitat will be tracked throughout the First Increment. Information gained from aerial photography will also be used in conjunction with measurements taken at specific sites on the ground that relate to vegetation establishment on sandbars, height of sandbars, etc. CIR photos will be used to estimate the land use/land cover



45 types present (e.g., amount of grassland, forest, etc). This CIR photography will also be used for  
46 channel morphology measurements. The photos will be used to help measure parameters such as  
47 channel width, bank position, island position and stability, hydraulic geometry characteristics of  
48 width, and track changes associated with management techniques. Photos will be taken on an  
49 annual basis between late May and early June with flows at or near 1,200 cfs (i.e., Program  
50 target flow levels during this time of year). Aerial photography will be acquired in color-infrared  
51 at a two-foot digital resolution. The contractor will work with Program staff during the  
52 acquisition window to schedule flights in accordance with these requirements.

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54 This RFP describes a multi-year program of work encompassing acquisition of aerial imagery  
55 once annually for a period of three years from 2009 through 2011. Under the final contract,  
56 annual written Notice to Proceed from the Program Executive Director's Office (ED Office) will  
57 be required before work begins. All work will be contingent on availability of Program funding.

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### 59 III. SCOPE OF WORK

60 The Program is requesting proposals from potential bidders to provide digital aerial imagery of  
61 the project area **once annually for three years, from May 2009 to June 2011**. Minimum  
62 product specifications follow:

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#### 64 1) Schedule

- 65 a) This scope of work covers one acquisition per year for three years.
- 66 b) Imagery will be acquired each year between May 15 and June 30. Bidder must be  
67 flexible and work with Program staff during that time to schedule flights such that river  
68 flows in the project area are as close to 1,200 cfs as possible.
- 69 c) Imagery will be acquired on cloud-free days with the sun at a sufficient angle to reduce  
70 the effect of shadows from trees and structures.

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#### 72 2) Project Area

- 73 a) The area of interest for aerial photography consists of an area 3.5 miles either side of the  
74 centerline of the Platte River beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 283 and  
75 Interstate 80 near Lexington, Nebraska, and extending eastward to Chapman, Nebraska  
76 (approximately 700 square miles). A polygon shapefile of the acquisition area is  
77 included on the Program website ([www.platteriverprogram.org](http://www.platteriverprogram.org)) in the same location as  
78 this solicitation.

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#### 80 3) Technical Specifications

- 81 a) The imagery will be two-foot pixel resolution or better.
- 82 b) The imagery will be color-infrared.
- 83 c) The imagery will be ortho-rectified and seamless, and will be tone-balanced with  
84 adjacent images across the project area.
- 85 d) The imagery will be projected in UTM Zone 14 North, NAD 83 datum (meters).
- 86 e) LiDAR elevation data has been flown for the project area and can be provided to assist  
87 with post-processing. This data will likely not be available for processing the 2009 flight.



88 **4) Project Deliverables**

- 89 a) Color-infrared digital orthophotography with a two-foot pixel resolution, covering the  
90 entire project area seamlessly and without data gaps.  
91 i) The imagery should be geo-referenced and provided in GeoTIFF (.tif) format. The  
92 tiling and naming structure will be pre-determined by the successful contractor and  
93 the Program. The imagery will be provided on a vendor-supplied external USB hard  
94 drive, which will become the property of the Program upon delivery.  
95 ii) Final product should be received within 30 days of final flight of acquisition year.  
96 b) Shapefiles displaying photocenters and flight dates and times for image acquisitions.  
97 c) FGDC-compliant metadata to include, but not limited to: flight dates and times, flight  
98 altitude, camera system information, aircraft information, imagery resolution, horizontal  
99 accuracy, post-processing software and steps, and horizontal and vertical control  
100 references.

101 **5) Permits and Clearances**

- 102 a) It is the contractor's responsibility to file all required flight plans and obtain all necessary  
103 approvals to fly over and acquire aerial imagery in the project area.

104 **IV. CONTRACT TERMS**

105 The selected contractor will be retained by:

106  
107 Nebraska Community Foundation  
108 PO Box 83107  
109 Lincoln, NE 68501

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111 Terms and conditions will be negotiated as mutually agreeable. It is understood that the  
112 Governance Committee reserves the right to accept any proposal that, in its judgment, is the best  
113 proposal, and to waive any irregularities in any proposal.

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115 *Proposal costs incurred in response to this RFP will be the responsibility of the bidder. Neither*  
116 *the Nebraska Community Foundation nor the Governance Committee will be liable for any costs*  
117 *incurred by the bidder in the completion and submission of the proposal.*

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119 **V. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

120 All interested parties having experience providing the services listed in this RFP are requested to  
121 submit a proposal.

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123 **Instructions for Submitting Proposals**

124 *One electronic copy of your proposal must be submitted in PDF format to Justin Brei at*  
125 *[breij@headwaterscorp.com](mailto:breij@headwaterscorp.com) no later than 5:00 p.m. Central Time on May 15, 2009. Maximum*  
126 *allowable PDF size is 8MB. A proposal is late if received any time after 5:00 p.m. Central Time*  
127 *and will not be eligible for consideration.*

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129 **Questions regarding the information contained in this RFP can be emailed to Justin Brei at**  
130 **[breij@headwaterscorp.com](mailto:breij@headwaterscorp.com) or Justin can be contacted by telephone at (308) 382-6468 ext.32.**



131 **Proposal Content**

132 Proposals should include:

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134 1) **Technical information including:**

- 135 a. Aircraft/camera system details
- 136 b. Post-processing software and summary of methodology
- 137 c. Design accuracy information

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139 2) **Relevant aerial photography experience** from the last two years. Please provide a  
140 minimum of two project references including the name, location, and brief summary of the  
141 projects; name, address, and phone number of the contracting officer for the client; and when  
142 the project was completed.

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144 3) **Statement of availability** within the annual acquisition window of May 15 to June 30.

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146 4) **Estimated timeline** for annual activities including mobilization, acquisition and processing.

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148 5) **Detailed firm fixed price proposal** with a cost breakdown by year. The contract will be  
149 awarded on a Firm Fixed Price basis. Governance Committee approval is needed before the  
150 contractor is authorized to begin implementation.

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152 6) **Conflict of interest statement** addressing whether or not any potential conflict of interest  
153 exists between this project and other past or on-going projects, including any projects  
154 currently being conducted for the Program.

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156 7) **Description of insurance** shall be provided with the proposal. Proof of insurance will be  
157 required before a contract is issued. Minimum insurance requirements will include  
158 \$1,000,000 general liability per occurrence.

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160 **VI. CONTRACTOR SELECTION**

161 Proposals will be reviewed and the award made to the lowest cost proposal that conforms to the  
162 specifications of this solicitation and is considered to provide the most value to the Program.

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164 **VII. PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE**

165 The GC of the Program has the sole discretion and reserves the right to reject any and all  
166 proposals received in response to this RFP and to cancel this solicitation if it is deemed in the  
167 best interest of the Program to do so. Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment  
168 by the Program to award a contract, or to pay contractor's costs incurred either in the preparation  
169 of a response to his RFP or during negotiations, if any, of a contract for services. The Program  
170 also reserves the right to make amendments to this RFP by giving written notice to contractors,  
171 and to request clarification, supplements, and additions to the information provided by a  
172 contractor.

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174 By submitting a proposal in response to his solicitation, contractors understand and agree that  
175 any selection of a contractor or any decision to reject any or all responses or to establish no  
176 contracts shall be at the sole discretion of the Program. To the extent authorized by law, the  
177 contractor shall indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Nebraska Community Foundation, the  
178 states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska, the Department of the Interior, members of the GC,  
179 and the ED Office, their employees, employers, and agents, against any and all claims, damages,  
180 liability, and court awards including costs, expenses, and attorney fees incurred as a result of any  
181 act or omission by the contractor or its employees, agents, subcontractors, or assignees pursuant  
182 to the terms of this project. Additionally, by submitting a proposal, contractors agree that they  
183 waive any claim for the recovery of any costs or expenses incurred in preparing and submitting a  
184 proposal.

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#### 186 **VIII. AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

187 The Program's draft Aerial Photography Protocol is located on the Program website  
188 ([www.platteriverprogram.org](http://www.platteriverprogram.org)) at the same location as this RFP solicitation. A shapefile of the  
189 aerial photography acquisition area is available at the same location. A map of the acquisition  
190 area is found on the next and last page of this solicitation.

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