



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)

TO: Governance Committee (GC)
FROM: Executive Director's Office (EDO)
SUBJECT: Sole-Source Justification – Compass Resource Management (Compass) for PRRIP
Structured Decision Making (SDM) Facilitation
DATE: March 1, 2024

Recommendation

The EDO requests the GC approve sole-source selection of Compass to assist the Program in early preparation for and eventual facilitation of an SDM process to develop and evaluate alternatives for a Second Increment of the Program. Compass previously facilitated an SDM process during the First Increment ([Compass 2016](#)) to adjust management actions related to the piping plover and interior least tern and more recently facilitated the Mock Negotiation process that culminated in the [Second Increment Policy Frame](#).

Background

The Program's Extension Science Plan anticipates utilizing technical tools in an SDM framework to assess channel and species response to potential Second Increment management alternatives. As with the First Increment tern and plover SDM process, the intent is use science learning to estimate consequences of alternatives, not arbitrate disagreement. Extension Science Plan implementation is underway and we are beginning to perform analyses and build associated technical tools. As implementation has progressed, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members have become increasingly focused on how learning will be used and potential policy implications, leading the EDO to conclude it may be useful to engage an SDM contractor earlier in the process than anticipated to ensure that our technical tools are appropriate and useful for the future SDM process. Or, put another way, to help us make sure our tools are aligned with and can be easily integrated into an appropriate SDM framework.

The SDM process, and associated tools, will be used to evaluate the tradeoffs and consequences of the application of various Program resources. This will be important information for assessing HOW the Program could potentially apply available resources (water, land, science implementation and learning) during a Second Increment and seed development of a preferred management strategy and set of management actions for the year 2033 and beyond. Questions related to WHAT resources would be available to the Program during a Second Increment and WHY those resources would be available will be negotiated by the GC in a separate process (similar to Cooperative Agreement and Extension Document negotiations) resulting in a new or revised Final Program Document, a new Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and a new Biological Opinion (BO).

Justification

Compass, specifically [Philip Halteman](#), facilitated the First Increment plover/tern SDM process and the Second Increment mock negotiation. As a result of that prior involvement, Dr. Halteman has a unique understanding of the Platte, our target species, Program objectives, and the values/needs of Program stakeholders. From a broader perspective, Compass is generally acknowledged to be a (if not the) leader in facilitation of SDM for natural resources. Company principals literally wrote the book on application of SDM in natural resources contexts ([Gegory et al. 2012](#)).



Based upon Compass’ professional and responsive SDM work for the Program over the last ten years, in-depth knowledge of the Program and its stakeholders, and unique insights into the utilization of SDM for natural resources decision-making, we recommend the Program sole-source SDM services to Compass. This can be accomplished either under the Special Advisor (to the Executive Director) provision of the Procurement Policy or as a general sole source contract that would perpetuate through future PRRIP annual budgets via its own budget line item.