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

**2024 Science Plan Reporting Session (SPRS)**

**Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) Discussion Questions**

**Response Deadline: 12:00 PM Central Time on Friday, April 26, 2024**

The following set of questions are intended to guide ISAC participation in and discussion at the 2024 SPRS and to serve as the basis for collective ISAC guidance generated for the Program. The ISAC will deliver to the Program both a set of written responses to these questions and a summary presentation to the Governance Committee (GC) at the June 2024 GC Quarterly Meeting. Responses to the Discussion Questions should be based on review of the draft 2024 State of the Platte Report; review of reports and outlines provided as read-aheads for the SPRS; presentations delivered during the SPRS; and associated ISAC discussion before, during, and after the SPRS. Depending on the extent and nature of comments provided by both the ISAC and TAC, the EDO intends to finalize the 2024 SoPR and present that final version to the Governance Committee (GC) no later than June 2024.

The EDO requests a final set of ISAC comments **no later than 12:00 PM Central Time on Friday, April 26, 2024.** Please email the final comments in Word document format (to better facilitate integration into the final print of the 2024 SoPR) to Chad Smith in the EDO at [smithc@headwaterscorp.com](mailto:smithc@headwaterscorp.com).

**ISAC Discussion Questions Related to the 2024 State of the Platte Report (SoPR):**

1. Do the format and content of the 2024 SoPR appropriately communicate Program progress toward addressing the Extension Big Questions (EBQs) for the intended audience (primarily the GC)?
2. Are the 2024 EBQ assessments logical based on your understanding of Program data and consistent with what you have learned during your involvement with the Program? If not, why (i.e., assessment not supported by accumulated data, etc.)? *The Program requests the ISAC respond to this Discussion Question for each of the 10 EBQs.*
3. Does the 2024 SoPR provide the appropriate underlying support or foundation for key ideas and conclusions, as well as the justification for or reasoning behind those conclusions?
4. Based on the content of the 2024 SoPR and your understanding of the Program, is the Program implementing Extension Science Plan management actions, research and monitoring, and data analysis and synthesis in a way that facilities EBQ assessment throughout the remainder of the Extension?

**ISAC Discussion Questions Related to Specific PRRIP Scientific/Technical Issues:**

1. Germination suppression and *Phragmites:*

Are the approaches for evaluating the effectiveness of germination suppression flow releases appropriate for quantifying the costs and benefits of using Program water as a reach-wide vegetation management tool? Are there other approaches we should consider?

1. Whooping crane (WC) roost site selection:

Are the conclusions regarding factors that impact WC roost site selection within the Associated Habitat Reach (AHR) well-supported by the data, methods, analyses, and model selection techniques detailed in the WC Roost Site Selection Technical Report? Would you review this report favorably for publication?

1. Pallid sturgeon (PS):
2. What contribution are the data collected upstream of the Elkhorn River likely to make to answering EBQ#7?
3. Do you think a good understanding of the factors associated with immigration/occurrence and emigration into/out of the lower Platte River (based upon data from the Platte River confluence with the Missouri River alone) will be enough to inform Program water management in the central Platte River?
4. Given the data presented, what do you think the Program will learn about pallid sturgeon movement into, through, and out of the lower Platte River?
5. What contribution does larval trawling make to answering EBQ#7? How important is it to Program objectives to maintain larval trawling at the Platte River confluence with the Missouri River?
6. Piping plovers (PP) and predator management:
7. Are the approaches for evaluating the effectiveness of predator management appropriate for the experimental design, sample sizes, and the variability in the data across sites and years?
8. Regardless of management effectiveness, is it worth continuing camera work beyond 2024 to monitor both plover nests and predators?