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

Peer Review Scope of Work – Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation

1) Document Introduction and Background

The Program seeks an independent peer review of the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation developed by the Program's Executive Director's Office (EDO). One of the Program's primary management uncertainties is the need for long-term sediment (sand) augmentation at the upper end of the Associated Habitat Reach (AHR) to offset a sediment deficit due to clearwater hydropower return flows. Stakeholders have long been concerned that incision and narrowing due to mining of sediment from the bed and banks of the channel downstream of the hydropower return will migrate downstream and impact habitat suitability for the Program's four target species (whooping crane, piping plover, interior least tern [now de-listed], and pallid sturgeon). Efforts to quantify the magnitude of the sediment deficit and develop augmentation methods began soon after Program initiation in 2007. By 2016, Program stakeholders reached consensus that the best next step in evaluating sediment augmentation would be implementation of a full-scale sediment augmentation experiment immediately downstream of the hydropower return. The full-scale augmentation experiment was initiated in 2017 with augmentation occurring annually from 2017 through 2021. In 2022, the Executive Director's Office began analysis of the effectiveness of sediment augmentation, producing multiple lines of evidence across a range of spatial and temporal scales. The Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation is a roll-up of this multi-scalar analysis and is intended to provide a framework for the Program to assess the results of sediment augmentation so far and the implications for decision-making related to sediment augmentation throughout the remainder of the Program's First Increment Extension (2020-2032) and beyond.

Pending internal feedback and the results of this peer review regarding the significance and relevance of methods and results presented in the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation, the intent is to prepare a manuscript for publication that incorporates parts of the overall report.

The Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation consists of 116 pages and is organized as follows:

- Cover Page, Preface, Table of Contents, List of Acronyms (7 pages)
- Executive Summary (4 pages)
- Chapter 1 – Sediment Augmentation: History and Context (16 pages)
- Chapter 2 – Evaluation of Trends in Incision Prior to Full-Scale Sediment Augmentation (28 pages)
- Chapter 3 – Evaluation of Longitudinal Change After Sediment Augmentation in the Central Platte River Valley, NE, USA (36 pages)
- Chapter 4 – Volume Change Analysis (25 pages)

The results of numerous analyses and multiples lines of evidence are organized into a four-chapter synthesis report. The Executive Summary provides a condensed and consolidated summary of the findings presented in the following chapters. Chapter 1 provides history and context including a summarization of modeling and research conducted during the First Increment of the Program. Chapter 2 is comprised of retrospective analyses of spatial and temporal patterns of incision prior to initiation of the sediment augmentation experiment. Chapter 3 focuses on two-dimensional longitudinal channel

response to sediment augmentation. Chapter 4 is comprised of an analysis of volumetric change in the period prior to and during the sediment augmentation experiment.

2) Description of Peer Review

The purpose of this review is to provide a formal, independent, external scientific peer review of the information presented in the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation. The peer review process, including all communication with the Peer Review Panel and development of the summary report from the individual peer reviews, will be coordinated by Dr. Chadwin Smith of the PRRIP EDO.

3) Methods and Scientific Standards

Factors to be addressed include the scientific merit of technical analyses and conclusions. The peer reviewers must ensure any scientific uncertainties are clearly identified and characterized, and the potential implications of these uncertainties for the technical conclusions drawn are clear. Peer reviewers are advised they are not to provide advice on policy. Rather, they should focus their review on identifying and characterizing scientific and technical uncertainties and the technical soundness of the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation.

4) Charge to the Panel

Each Peer Review Panel member will be tasked with reviewing the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation from their particular area of expertise following the PRRIP Scientific Peer Review Guidelines (**Attachment A**) and the specific directions contained in this Scope of Work. All Peer Reviewers must be prepared to sign (during the contracting phase) the PRRIP Certification Regarding Lobbying (**Attachment B**) and the PRRIP Conflict of Interest Form for Peer Reviewers (**Attachment C**). Peer reviewers will be asked to submit all comments, questions, and other communication in writing to ensure an appropriate record is built, and generally all communication with peer reviewers will be conducted via e-mail during the course of the review.

Reviewers must protect information and ensure that services consist of unbiased assessments. Until it is made public, no information from the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation may be released without express written permission from the EDO. Additionally, all peer review-related inquiries from outside sources must be forwarded to Dr. Smith of the EDO; reviewers should not communicate with those inquiring about the review.

Peer reviewers must consider and respond to the questions listed below, at a minimum, in their review:

General Questions:

1. Does the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation adequately address the overall objective – to synthesize multiple lines of evidence from the Program's full-scale sediment augmentation experiment to assess overall results and provide useful information for decision-making related to future sediment augmentation management actions?

2. Do the authors draw reasonable and scientifically sound conclusions from the information presented? If not, please identify those that are not and the specifics of each situation.

3. Are there any seminal peer-reviewed scientific papers omitted from consideration that would contribute to alternate conclusions that are scientifically sound? Please identify any such papers including citations.

4. Are the statistical methods and modeling tools used valid and current, and are the associated results presented in a manner useful to Program decision-makers?

5. Are potential biases, errors, or uncertainties appropriately considered within the methods sections and then discussed in the results and conclusion sections?

Technical Questions:

6. LiDAR data was processed to remove non-random error to the degree possible. Accordingly, two- and three-dimensional change analyses did not utilize methods (e.g., thresholding) to quantify and/or account for error. Was that an appropriate approach? Would you suggest an alternative approach to quantifying and addressing error?

7. Is the method used to separate lateral erosion from bed aggradation/degradation appropriate? Would you suggest any alternative method be utilized?

5) Peer Review Rating & Recommendation

In addition to providing written comments, each reviewer will provide a separate comprehensive rating and recommendation utilizing the following format:

RATING

Please score each aspect of this set of chapters using the following rating system:

1 = Excellent; 2 = Very Good; 3 = Good; 4 = Fair; 5 = Poor

Category	**Rating**
Scientific soundness	_____
Degree to which conclusions are supported by the data	_____
Organization and clarity	_____
Cohesiveness of conclusions	_____
Conciseness	_____
Important to objectives of the Program	_____

RECOMMENDATION	**(Check One)**
Accept	_____
Accept with revisions	_____
Unacceptable	_____

PLEASE NOTE: *If a peer reviewer checks "Accept with Revisions" or "Unacceptable," that reviewer* ***must explicitly state*** *what changes would be required to change the recommendation to "Accept." This is a critical step in ensuring the Program understands potential fatal flaws or major areas of revision that must be addressed before finalizing these documents and seeking Governance Committee approval.*

6) Peer Review and Peer Reviewer Identification

It is the intention of the PRRIP that each individual peer review will be shared with the other members of the Peer Review Panel; members of the PRRIP Governance Committee (GC); members of the PRRIP Executive Director's Office (EDO); members of relevant PRRIP Advisory Committees including the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC); and the public via a final package including, but not limited to, the peer reviewed and revised Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation and the results of all individual peer reviews posted as a public document on the PRRIP website. *Individual Peer Reviewers may choose to remain anonymous unless they agree to share their identity and interact with (electronically and/or virtually) the other members of the PRRIP Peer Review Panel and/or relevant PRRIP entities including the TAC, ISAC, EDO, and GC.*

7) Available Documentation

Peer reviewers will be provided with the following information:

- This Peer Review Scope of Work, including the PRRIP Scientific Peer Review Guidelines.
- The Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation.
- Access to all references cited in the Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation.
- PRRIP Extension Science Plan.
- Additional information as requested by Peer Review Panel members – if a document is requested by one member, it will be transmitted to all members simultaneously.

8) Peer Review Schedule

The general the schedule below provides guidance for conducting a 60-day peer review of the PRRIP Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation:

PRRIP Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation Peer Review Process Tasks	Anticipated Completion Date
Task 1 (TAC) – Request Peer Review of Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation • Review Scope of Work – add/subtract/edit specific questions for peer reviewers, overall Charge to Panel • Review and approve Peer Review Panel (Smith [EDO] will work with Peer Reviewer Selection Panel to identify and recommend peer reviewers) • Transmit peer review request and Peer Review Panel members to GC for review and appointment	November 2023
Task 2 (GC) – Approve Peer Review / Appoint Peer Review Panel Members	December 2023
Task 3 (Smith, EDO): Facilitate Peer Review • Secure signed contracts with all peer reviewers • Provide access to all materials needed for review to each peer reviewer • Virtual meeting with Peer Review Panel to coordinate review and answer clarifying questions	December 2023 (and throughout peer review process)
Task 4 (Peer Review Panel): Conduct Peer Review of Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation • Smith (EDO) answers clarifying questions, as necessary • Peer reviewers provide written reviews to Smith (EDO)	February 29, 2024
Task 5 (Smith, EDO): Respond to Peer Review • Work with EDO Staff to implement suggested changes or explain why changes are either inappropriate or not feasible at this time • Develop Peer Review Summary Report for TAC consideration, including written responses to each peer review comment and proposed changes/edits	March 2024
Task 6 (TAC): Evaluate Peer Review Summary Report • TAC meeting to discuss Peer Review Summary Report and proposed document changes/edits • Recommend additional changes/edits and finalize for review by Peer Review Panel	April 2024
Task 7 (Peer Review Panel): Evaluate Peer Review Summary Report • *As warranted*, elicit Peer Review Panel reaction (via electronic responses and/or virtual meeting) to proposed changes/responses to Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation indicating acceptance or rejection of changes • Smith (EDO) coordinates	May 2024
Task 8 (TAC): Evaluate Reaction from Peer Review Panel • TAC meeting to discuss responses from Peer Review Panel and to recommend final changes to Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation for GC consideration • EDO makes final changes to Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation • Smith (EDO) prepares final Peer Review Package for GC	June-August 2024
Task 9 (Smith, EDO): Present final Peer Review Package to GC • Review, discuss, and approve revised Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation • Final report with integrated changes and Peer Review Summary Report included posted as public document on PRRIP website	September 2024

The extent and content of peer review comments may necessitate more time on the part of the Program in terms of fully addressing all peer review comments. The goal is to seek final GC approval of the peer reviewed and revised Sediment Augmentation Data Synthesis Compilation in September 2024.

ATTACHMENT A

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

PRRIP Scientific Peer Review Guidelines

Appendix A – Peer Review Guidelines

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

SCIENTIFIC PEER-REVIEW GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been developed to provide a general process for peer-review of scientific documents during the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program). Peer-reviews conducted during the Program will be conducted in accordance with "INSTRUCTIONS TO PEER-REVIEWERS" (Attachment A).

WHAT IS PEER-REVIEW? Scientific peer-review is a process by which technical experts provide unbiased comments, suggestions, and evaluation of the science and technology of proposals, study plans, reports of data analyses, and other documents. Peer-review provides evaluation of the technical quality and relevancy of a document in meeting objectives or in addressing hypotheses. Peer-review usually involves obtaining comments from appropriate technical experts ("peers") who have no financial, supervisory, or familial relationship to the authors of the work. Peer-review is not an administrative review, nor does peer-review address political or other non-scientific features of a project or document.

Peer-review typically involves review by several technical experts in the appropriate subject area. By obtaining multiple, independent technical opinions, the peer-review process provides a means of evaluating the scientific soundness of a product, further minimizing introduction of bias or conflict of interest. The process of peer-review ultimately cannot insure that a document or product is without fault.

Peer-review should be an efficient process so that monitoring, research, publications, and other work can proceed in a timely manner. This process should be streamlined and not create a bottleneck of bureaucracy, delaying appropriate publications, fieldwork, data analyses, or modeling.

WHY IS PEER-REVIEW NECESSARY? Peer-review serves to strengthen a document, whether it is a study plan, proposal, or report, in several ways. A review can provide suggestions for improvements of the work. Experts typically suggest better approaches, more efficient methods, innovative approaches to analysis, and supporting data or literature. A document or plan that has been viewed as being sound, through peer-review, achieves improved credibility in the eyes of the scientific community. Peer-review enhances the reliability of a document, having been examined by peer-scientists. Where proposals or study plans are developed to address specific needs, peer-review can insure that the project serves the specific objectives of the program.

WHEN WILL PEER-REVIEW BE USED? The process described in this document may be used for products (proposals, plans, models, data, reports, protocols, etc.) funded by the Program or for other products essential to meeting Program milestones, but lacking adequate review. All

products relied upon by the Program that influence management decision may be subjected to the following peer review process at the discretion of the Governance Committee with advice from the Technical Advisory Committee or other advisory committees. For some products, however, a high level of scientific quality may be maintained by existing quality control and administrative review procedures, and peer review will be unnecessary.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR PEER REVIEW? The first priority for peer review are items identified for peer review in the 1997 Cooperative Agreement Milestones, which include all water depletion/accretion impact analyses, and all habitat and species monitoring and research activities. Proposals and protocols for new research and monitoring activities necessary for meeting Program milestones will receive the second priority for peer review. Third priority will be given to recent reports of completed studies considered essential to meeting Program milestones. Already peer-reviewed products will receive the lowest priority for peer review. Priorities may change depending on issues.

PEER-REVIEW PROTOCOL

1. The Executive Director will administer the peer-review process for the Governance Committee. The duties of the Executive Director are as follows:

    a) Assemble Master List of potential reviewers with assistance from the standing advisory committees (Technical, Land, Water).
    b) Select reviewers for each work product to be reviewed, and obtain approval of selected reviewers by the Governance Committee.
    c) Handle all correspondence with reviewers.
    d) Compile and transmit all relevant materials from reviews to Panel members for decision-making.
    e) Coordinate revision of work product if needed.
    f) Prepare, obtain approval from the Governance Committee, and administer budget for reviews.
    g) Ensure the review process works in a timely and efficient manner.

2. The Governance Committee and its recognized advisory committees (Technical, Land, Water) identify the need for peer-review as requirements for proposals, studies, or reports arise. The requesting committee identifies each need for peer-review to the Executive Director (see figure below).

3. The Executive Director will determine priorities for peer review in keeping with the guidelines noted above, and develop budgets for peer review for approval by the Governance Committee. A Peer Review Working Group consisting of one member of the Governance Committee and one member from each of the Governance Committee's standing advisory committees (Technical, Land, Water) or other group as identified will assist the Executive Director in this effort. Budgets and priorities will be subject to the approval by the Governance Committee and may change as the Program evolves.

4. Reviewers meeting the standards outlined in these guidelines will conduct the peer-review.

5. When peer review is appropriate the Executive Director, in consultation with the Peer Review Working Group, will select three peer-reviewers from scientific areas appropriate to the subject or discipline of each request. The reviewers will conduct independent peer-reviews and send reviews to the Executive Director. According to the specific needs of each peer-review task, the reviewers could complete review of a single or group of related proposals, plans, or reports. A statistician will participate as a fourth reviewer when the subject or discipline includes experimental design and/or statistical analyses.

6. A list of qualified and willing experts will be assembled in a number of technical topic areas; reviewers will be carefully selected from this list to ensure reviewers are the most appropriate based on the subject matter being reviewed. The Executive Director will maintain a file with the resume and credentials of each peer-reviewer.

7. Criteria for peer-reviewers include:

   a) No conflict of interest for or against the project document or its authors based on financial interest in the product or author(s), familial relationship with the author(s), personal bias for or against the institution or author(s), professional connection to the institution or author(s), organizational affiliation, or potential to be influenced by lobbying or other political pressure to produce a certain result or more work in the area of this product.

   b) Expertise appropriate for the theme of the project or document(s).

   c) The ability to complete a technical review in a reasonable time, as determined by the requesting committee.

   d) Individuals will be selected from a diversity of institutions, including state, federal, local government, and non-governmental organizations for each project, while avoiding members from the same institution or agency as the author(s).

8. The committee requesting review, in conjunction with the Peer Review Working Group, will approve the Peer-review Panel. Objections regarding individuals must relate to the criteria outlined in number 7. The Governance Committee will resolve all conflicts.

9. An attempt will be made to obtain voluntary participation on Peer-review Panels without cost to the Governance Committee. A stipend or honorarium will be offered for review when necessary. The Governance Committee will approve an annual budget for peer-reviews.

10. The requesting advisory committee will prepare specific guidance for each review task. Suggested guidance includes an outline of the specific need for peer-review, the milestones or objectives to be addressed by the work, and other specific criteria for the document.

11. Reviewers shall provide written comment on the document(s) under review. Reviews will be conducted similar to the system and methods used by the National Science Foundation and major scientific journals and in accordance with the Proposal, Protocol and Study Plan Review Guidelines and Report Review Guidelines (see Attachment A).

12. Upon completion of the reviews, the Executive Director will:
    a) Prepare a package of material including all reviews and any relevant material,
    b) Distribute all material to requesting committee for a determination of action,
    c) If appropriate work with the requesting committee and author to make any needed revisions,
    d) Maintain a file of peer-reviews for each document, and
    e) Provide a summary of items a-c to the Governance Committee for approval.

13. The peer-review process does not determine the approval or disapproval of the activity associated with the request (funding a study, use of data or analytical results, publication of a report, etc.). Peer reviews may not be definitive (i.e., there may be disagreement among reviewers). The Committee seeking the review may or may not have the authority to approve the review; however, at a minimum, it is responsible for transferring the review summary and document(s) to the Governance Committee, who will have final authority to approve the review.

DOCUMENTATION OF PEER-REVIEW CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM

There will likely be cases where the Program will benefit from models, data, analyses, or conclusions drawn by projects developed in the past or ongoing, but supported by institutions outside the oversight of the Program. The committee requiring the information will determine the need for peer-review of these products.

There is no intent to duplicate the peer-review conducted by others. Scientific journals typically conduct their own peer-review. Most major journals have high-quality peer-review that is universally accepted. Scientists are encouraged to publish their findings in the peer-reviewed scientific literature whenever possible and appropriate. In most instances this level of peer review is considered adequate for the purposes of the Program.

Institutions and agencies may administer their own peer-review process for study plans and reports. In using the models, data, or conclusions (reports) from studies not funded by the Program, the appropriate advisory committee is responsible for determining if additional peer-review is necessary. In making the decision regarding the need for peer-review it may be helpful to document an institution's peer-review process for the project or report. With the assistance of the appropriate advisory committee, it may be useful to consider the following information on alternative peer-review processes when available:

I. Title of Study / Project / Report:
II. Type of Work: __report __study plan/proposal __model __ other (specify)
III. Principal Investigators: name, address, phone number, and e-mail
IV. Source of financial support for project / report:

V. Peer-Review Documentation

A. Names / Institutions of peer-reviewers (may have been anonymous)

B. Brief Description of the peer-review process:

C. Were revisions made to the project/report in response to reviewers' comments?

ATTACHMENT A

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

INSTRUCTIONS TO PEER-REVIEWERS

Thank you for agreeing to review this product. The following is a summary of expectations for peer-review and the topics that we wish each peer-reviewer to address.

A. INDEPENDENCE OF A PEER-REVIEW

Peer-review must provide an unbiased opinion of the scientific quality of a product (proposal, report, data, map, etc.) by individuals who are independent from the authors and external to them and their institution. A review must be independent of various types of conflicts of interest with the author(s) and with the product under review. The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program) places considerable reliance on the objectivity, integrity, and professionalism of each peer-reviewer to provide technical opinion of each product without bias or conflict of interest.

Please review each question about your bias or independence. Your peer-review will be anonymous to the author unless you choose to share it. Your review will be held in the file for the Program as documentation of the peer-review process for this product.

YOUR CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO BIAS OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

- financial interest in the product or the author(s);
- familial relationship with the author(s);
- bias, for personal reasons, for or against the author(s) or institutions of this product;
- professional connection (current or former: student or advisor, supervisor or supervised, employer, etc.) to the author(s) or the institution of this product;
- organizational affiliation (same agency, department, organization, business, etc.);
- impacts of lobbying or political pressure exerted by persons looking for a particular result or more work in the area of this product;

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU CANNOT PROVIDE AN UNBIASED REVIEW, PLEASE DO NOT REVIEW THIS PRODUCT AND IMMEDIATELY RETURN THE DOCUMENT TO THE PROGRAM'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

B. PROPOSAL, PROTOCOL, AND STUDY PLAN REVIEW GUIDELINES

CONFIDENTIALITY - The enclosed product is a privileged communication. Please do not show it to anyone or discuss it, except to solicit assistance with a technical point. Your review and your recommendation should also be considered confidential.

TIMELINESS - In fairness to the author(s) and the needs of the Program, please return your review within ___ days. If it seems likely that you will be unable to meet this deadline, please return the product immediately or contact the Executive Director.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - Please review the "Independence of a Peer-review". If you feel that you might have difficulty writing an objective review, please return this material immediately, without reviewing it. If your previous or present connection with the author(s) or their institution(s) might be construed as creating a conflict of interest, but no actual conflict exists, please discuss this issue in the cover letter that accompanies your review.

YOUR REVIEW SHOULD ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

Please provide comments on separate sheets of paper. Support your comments with specific evidence from the text.

Do the objectives/hypotheses appropriately address the needs that have been identified for the Program? Are they scientifically sound, testable, and appropriate given the type or precision of the data available?

Is the design of the study scientifically sound? Is it technically and statistically appropriate for addressing the goals and objectives of the project? Is the reasoning behind the design based on generally accepted scientific principles?

Are the methods and experimental design appropriate in scale, timing, geographic scope, and precision for addressing the objectives? Are the measurements appropriate for addressing objectives?

Are plans for data analysis sound and likely to address the objectives?

Are the authors and their institutions well qualified, with appropriate facilities, to conduct the work?

Are the proposed time frame, personnel, and budget appropriate for conducting the work?

Will the products meet the needs identified?

C. REPORT REVIEW GUIDELINES

CONFIDENTIALITY - The enclosed manuscript is a privileged communication. Please do not show it to anyone or discuss it, except to solicit assistance with a technical point. Your review and your recommendation should also be considered confidential.

TIMELINESS - In fairness to the author(s) and to the needs of the Program, please return your review within __ days. If it seems likely that you will be unable to meet this deadline, please return the manuscript immediately or contact the Executive Director.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - Please review the "Independence of a Peer-Review" above. If you feel you might have any difficulty writing an objective review, please return the manuscript immediately, un-reviewed. If your previous or present connection with the author(s) or an author's institution might be construed as creating a conflict of interest, but no actual conflict exists, please discuss this issue in the cover letter that accompanies your review.

YOUR REVIEW SHOULD ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:
What is the major contribution of this document? What are its major strengths and weaknesses, and its suitability for publication and/or use by the Program? Are conclusions based on sound scientific methods and reasoning? Please include both general and specific comments bearing on these questions and emphasize your most significant points.

General Comments:
1. Scientific soundness
2. Organization and clarity
3. Conciseness
4. Degree to which conclusions are supported by the data
5. Cohesiveness of conclusions

Specific Comments:
Please support your general comments with specific evidence and literature. You may write directly on the manuscript, but please summarize your handwritten remarks separately. Comment on any of the following matters that significantly affected your opinion of the manuscript:

1. Presentation: Is a tightly reasoned argument evident throughout? Does the manuscript wander from the central purpose?

2. Methods: Are they appropriate? Current? Described clearly and with sufficient detail so that someone else could repeat the work?

3. Data presentation: When results are stated in the text of the manuscript, can you easily verify them by examining tables and figures? Are any of the results counterintuitive? Are all tables and figures clearly labeled? Well planned? Too complex? Necessary?

4. Statistical design and analyses: Are they appropriate and correct? Can the reader readily discern which measurements or observations are independent of which other measurements or observations? Are replicates correctly identified? Are significance statements justified?

5. Conclusions: Has the author(s) drawn conclusions from insufficient evidence? Are the interpretations of the data logical, reasonable, and based on the application of relevant and generally accepted scientific principles? Has the author(s) overlooked alternative hypotheses?

6. Errors: Point out any errors in technique, fact, calculation, interpretation, or style.

7. Citations: Are all (and only) pertinent references cited? Are they provided for all assertions of fact not supported by the data in the manuscript?

D. FAIRNESS AND OBJECTIVITY

If the research reported in this paper is flawed, criticize the science, not the scientist. Harsh words in a review will cause the reader to doubt your objectivity; as a result, your criticisms will be rejected, even if they are correct!

Comments should show that:
1. You have read the entire manuscript carefully,
2. Your criticisms are objective and correct, and are not merely differences of opinion, and are intended to assist the author in improving the manuscript, and
3. You are qualified to provide an expert opinion about the research reported in this manuscript.

E. ANONYMITY

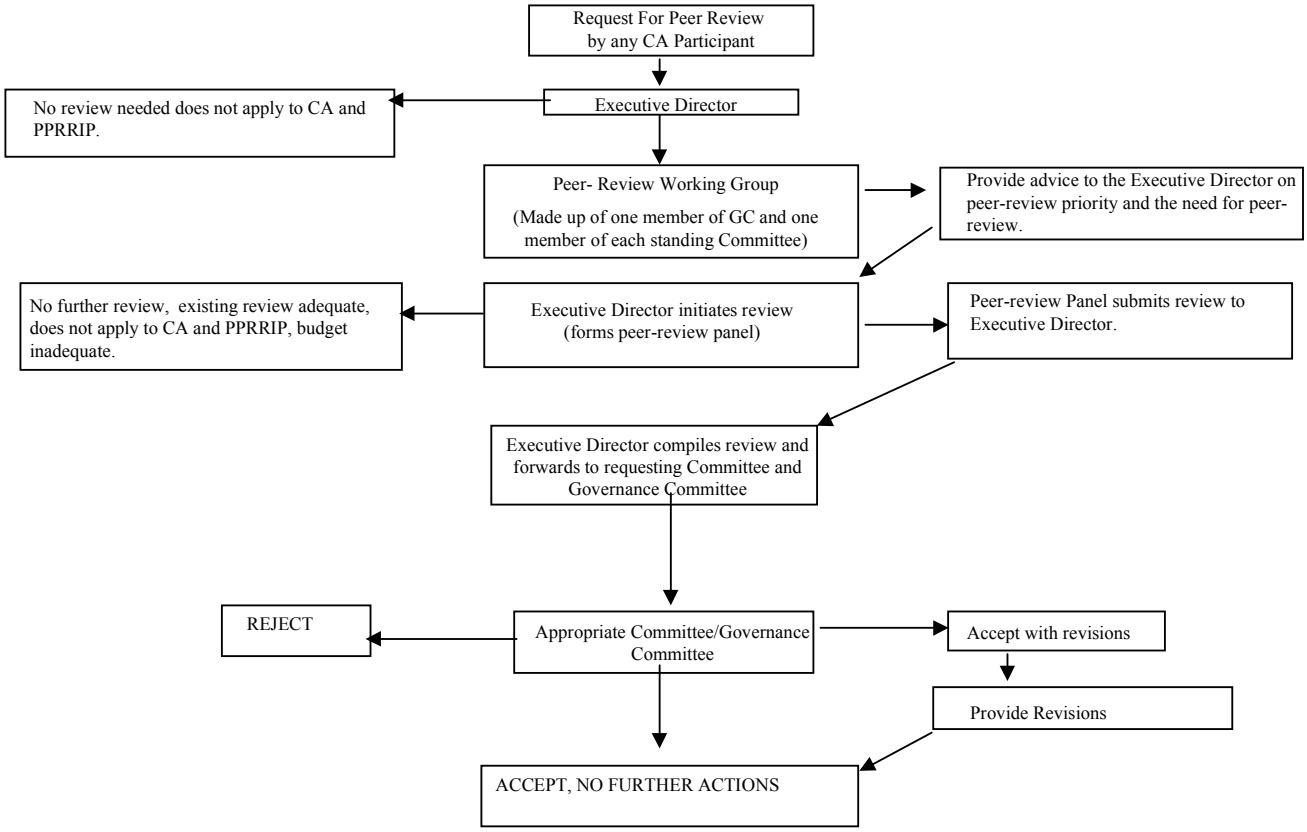
You may sign your review if you wish. If you choose to remain anonymous, avoid comments to the authors that may serve as clues to your identity, and do not use paper that bears the watermark of your institution.

RATING:
Please score each aspect of this manuscript using the following rating system: 1=excellent, 2=very good, 3=good, 4=fair, 5=poor.

	Rating
Scientific soundness	___
Degree to which conclusions are supported by the data	___
Organization and clarity	___
Cohesiveness of conclusions	___
Conciseness	___
Importance to objectives of the Program (For use by internal review panel only)	___

RECOMMENDATION	(check one)
Accept	___
Accept after revision	___
Unacceptable	___

Peer-Review Sequence Platte River Cooperative Agreement (CA) and Proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PPRRIP)



ATTACHMENT B

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

Certification Regarding Lobbying

The undersigned certifies, on behalf of the Consultant, that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief:

1. No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Consultant, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

2. No registrant under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 has made any lobbying contacts on behalf of the Consultant with respect to the federal grant or cooperative agreement under which the Consultant is receiving monies.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who makes an expenditure prohibited by Section 1 above or who fails to file or amend the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

FOR THE CONSULTANT:

_____ _____

CONSULTANT NAME Date

ATTACHMENT C

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

PRRIP Conflict of Interest Form – Peer Reviewers

The PRRIP developed guidance for Peer Reviewers regarding the avoidance of conflicts of interest in accordance with the Scientific Peer Review Guidelines (Adaptive Management Plan, Appendix A) contained in the PRRIP Final Program Document. PRRIP Peer Reviewers must provide an unbiased opinion of the scientific quality of a product (proposal, report, data, map, etc.) by individuals who are independent from the authors and external to them, the Program as a whole, and/or the authors' institution/entity. A review must be independent of various types of conflicts of interest with the author(s) and with the product under review. The PRRIP places considerable reliance on the objectivity, integrity, and professionalism of each Peer Reviewer to provide the technical opinion of each product without bias or conflict of interest.

When evaluating the potential for any conflicts of interest, all PRRIP Peer Reviewers should consider the following factors that could lead to bias or conflict of interest:

- Financial interest in the product or the author(s);
- Familial relationship with the author(s);
- Bias, for personal reasons, for or against the author(s) or institutions of this product;
- Professional connection (current or former: student or advisor, supervisor or supervised, employer, etc.) to the author(s) or the institution of this product;
- Organizational affiliation (same agency, department, organization, business, etc.);
- Impacts of lobbying or political pressure exerted by persons looking for a particular result or more work in the area of this product; and
- Has conducted, is conducting, or intends to conduct work for or on behalf of the Program, or work that directly overlaps with Program scientific and technical priorities, or work with the author(s), which could result in a Peer Reviewer commenting on her/his own work product(s).

As a proposed Peer Reviewer, I hereby state that I do not have any conflicts of interest with the PRRIP as outlined above and (if necessary) explained on the following page. I can serve effectively as a PRRIP Peer Reviewer without any financial, familial, personal, or professional bias and can complete an independent review of the PRRIP document as directed in the associated Scope of Work.

FOR THE CONSULTANT:

_____ _____

CONSULTANT NAME Date