PRRIP Land Update

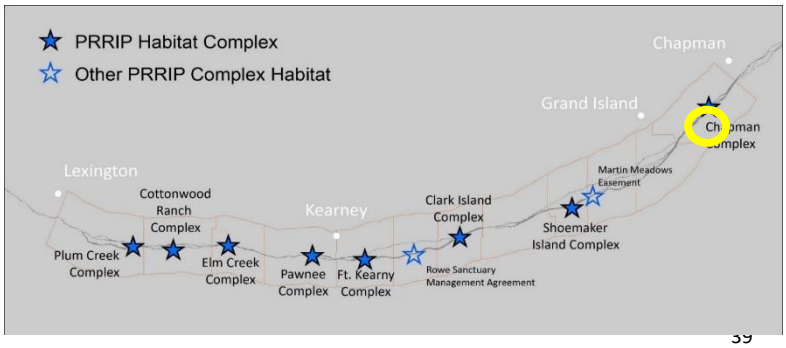
The 13-year First Increment Extension began in January of 2020. Land Objectives did not change for the Extension; however, Program participants agreed to acquire an additional 1,500 acres of complex habitat. Acquisition efforts have been successful in establishing a new complex in the segment of channel between Grand Island and Chapman. Program ownership in that complex has reached 1,146 acres with 3 tracts of land. The Program was also tasked to identify alternatives for development of an additional 60 acres of OCSW habitat. Acquisition efforts have been successful with the addition of a 196-acre tract at Lexington that will yield 80 acres of nesting habitat upon completion of additional mining activities agreed to with the previous owner.

Acquisition Status:

As of November 2021, the Program has acquired an interest in 15,221 acres of habitat (see table). Slightly less than 85% of the land consists of on-channel complex habitat with the remaining acres comprised of 254 acres of non-complex palustrine wetland roosting habitat and 587 acres of non-complex OCSW nesting habitat. Approximately 90% of all acres are held in fee-title or subject to long-term leases or sponsorships. The remaining acres are comprised of management agreements that can be terminated by owners at-will. Although less secure, management agreements are an important tool for maintenance of target species habitat in reaches where the Program does not have an ownership on both sides of the channel.

Habitat Type	Purchase	Lease/Sponsorship	Management Agreement	Total
Complex	8,787	2,650	1,481	12,918
Non-Complex	826	15	0	841
Plus -Up	1,462	0	0	1,462
Total	**11,075**	**2,665**	**1,481**	**15,221**

The Program also owns two non-complex palustrine wetland tracts at the upstream end of the AHR, owns five OCSW sites distributed throughout the AHR, and leases an additional OCSW site adjacent to the City of Kearney. In 2016, the Governance Committee (GC) voted to acquire enough land to construct an additional 60 acres of OCSW nesting habitat. That decision, in combination with the scarcity of palustrine wetlands in the AHR, led the GC to recommend that remaining non-complex acres be used to acquire lands for OCSW sites. This decision led to the acquisition of a 196-ac tract at Lexington to restore as OCSW habitat. Restoration activities at the two non-complex palustrine wetland sites have been completed and the sites are being managed to provide suitable water depths and vegetation heights for whooping crane roosting. Likewise, restoration activities have been completed at all OCSW sites and management is ongoing. In addition, two of the sites are actively being mined in a way that will increase the amount of suitable nesting habitat through time.



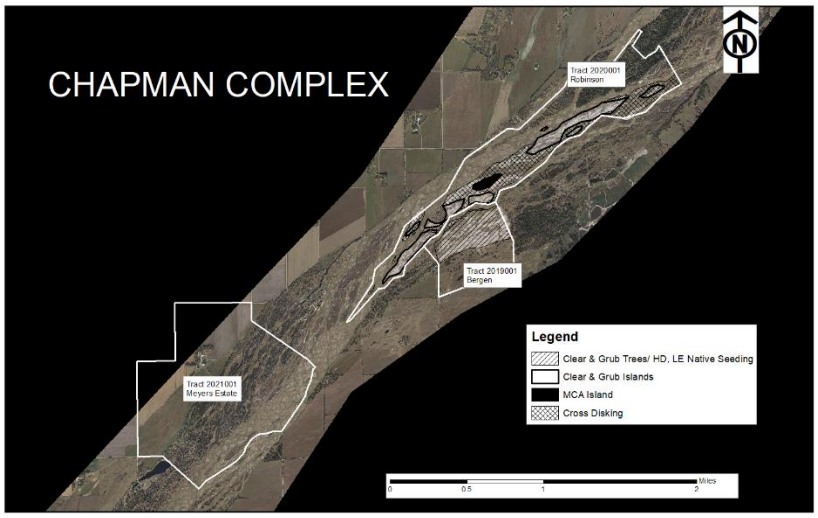
The Program's Land Plan indicates a preference towards development of one habitat complex in each bridge segment. A total of seven habitat complexes have been developed during the First Increment. In accordance with Land Plan guidance, the majority are in the upstream (west) half of the AHR, the segment with the least amount of previously

protected habitat and most in need of restoration. Chapman is the Program's newest complex, which is built around a 146-acre tract acquired in October of 2019. The Chapman complex has two additional tracts and is comprised of 1,1145 acres in total. Other organizations own and manage four additional habitat complexes in the AHR.

Restoration and Management Status:

Complex habitat restoration and management is focused on providing highly suitable whooping crane roosting habitat. Based on recent habitat selection analyses, channels with unobstructed widths of approximately 700 feet and unforested widths of approximately 1,000 ft are highly suitable for roosting. Major restoration activities have been completed at all habitat complexes. Where possible, riparian forest has been cleared to create a total of 1,000 ft of unforested width adjacent to the channel. Channel widening has also been implemented at upstream complexes to create suitably wide channels. In reaches where active widening is not feasible, the Program is removing vegetation from banks and bars to encourage widening via lateral erosion.

Contractors recently completed work at the Chapman Complex consisting of approximately 133 acres of tree removal and 110 acres of in-channel cross disking. Trees large enough for milling were cut and hauled to a local sawmill. Stumps and remaining slash from the trees were placed in piles, burned, and buried. In-channel area will be managed as an MCA island with the application of preemergent herbicide and periodic disking. The accretion area will be seeded to a high diversity, local-ecotype native seed mix and managed with prescribed fire and grazing upon adequate establishment.



Future Activities:

Acquisition activities will be to identify and acquire a 38-acre tract that would meet Program land objectives and fulfill the First Increment Extension acquisition goal of 1,500 acres. Management and restoration activity planning will begin in 2022 for the latest program acquisition in the Chapman complex. The Meyer Estate is approximately 580 acres and close to a mile of river frontage. There is a 90-acre wet meadow, 153 acres of irrigated cropland, and 14 acre developed homesite. The remainder of the tract is comprised of typical Platte River Valley riparian forest. Coordination and communication will continue with Sand & Gravel Mining operations that are creating additional sand & water habitat at Broadfoot Newark and OSG-Lex Pit to make sure habitat created is to Program satisfaction and on time.

Ongoing efforts of preemergent treatment, noxious weed control, tree & brush control, prescribed fire, fence & livestock water maintenance, phragmites control & in channel disking will continue to be planned for and implemented to maintain high quality, target species habitat on PRRIP lands.