



PRRIP – ED OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) & LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)
FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (EDO)
SUBJECT: CHAPMAN COMPLEX LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS & RESTORATION DESIGN: TRACT 2019001 (BERGREN) RX FIRE STRATEGY UPDATE
DATE: APRIL 6, 2021
CC:

During the planning process for Tract 209001 (Bergren) both TAC and LAC agreed to pursue using prescribed fire as a restoration tool to restore the wooded accretion area to wet meadow over a 10-year period, as such the LMP for Tract 2019001 incorporated this strategy (Appendix A). There was consensus that if the prescribed fire option could not be done in a safe and effective way or was not effective in achieving the objective of transitioning the mature cottonwood forest into a wet meadow after 5-10 years that some form of clearing & grubbing be implemented.

This memo is to update the TAC of this strategy and to discuss alternatives.

In 2020, the EDO selected CHLOETA in a competitive RFP process and entered a 3-year contract to provide prescribed fire management services. The contract price for grassland Rx Fire implementation was \$43/ acre. In the Fall of 2020, EDO obtained a cost per acre estimate from CHLOETA to execute a prescribed fire on the 65-acre woodland unit on the Bergren tract and provide additional crew, equipment for monitoring and mop-up after the fire. Their estimate was \$19,940 or \$306.78/ acre. This is 7 times greater than their grassland unit rate (Appendix B).

After email correspondence throughout the spring for burn plans and other planning items, on March 31, 2021 the EDO was notified that CHLOETA was not going to be able to send a crew to central Nebraska for the PRRIP burns due to COVID (Appendix C). This results in no grassland units being burned during the spring of 2021. The EDO will potentially look to have some late summer or Fall burns implemented this year if resources are available.

Due to the high cost of burning and the lack of the contractor's ability to fulfill commitment the wooded unit on the Bergren tract, the acres of clearing and grubbing were increased for the 2021 Chapman Complex Habitat Enhancement project draft plan sheets for discussion (Appendix D).

Discussion Points:

1. Is Rx Fire still a viable management strategy at \$306.78/ acre on the Bergren wooded unit?
2. Is there consensus to alter strategy of restoring wet meadow accretion from Rx fire to clear & grub and add unit to habitat enhancement project for fall 2021?
3. With the lack of local resources (contractors) for Prescribed Fire management resources, effective and efficient use of Rx fire as a management tool remains expensive and less effective. Are there alternatives to discuss?



PRRIP – ED OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)
FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (EDO)
SUBJECT: CHAPMAN COMPLEX LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS & RESTORATION DESIGN WITH TAC RECOMMENDATIONS
DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2020
CC:

The LAC reviewed the options presented in the CHAPMAN COMPLEX LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS & RESTORATION DESIGN memo. After much discussion and questions regarding both tracts, the TAC voted on the following at the October 30, 2020 virtual Technical Advisory Committee meeting:

For Tract 2019001 (Bergren) voted to recommend Option C as presented in the memo. There was consensus that if the prescribed fire option could not be done in a safe and effective way or was not effective in achieving the objective of transitioning the mature cottonwood forest into a wet meadow after 5-10 years that some form of Option B be implemented.

Tract 2020001 (Robinson) the TAC voted to recommend a modified version of Option B for. The MCA Habitat Manipulation area was reduced from 48 acres to 6 acres which substantially reduced estimated costs by greater than \$100,000.

Appendix A and B contain estimated costs and maps representing the maps that will be incorporated into Land Management Plans pending LAC approval.

Appendix A

Option C

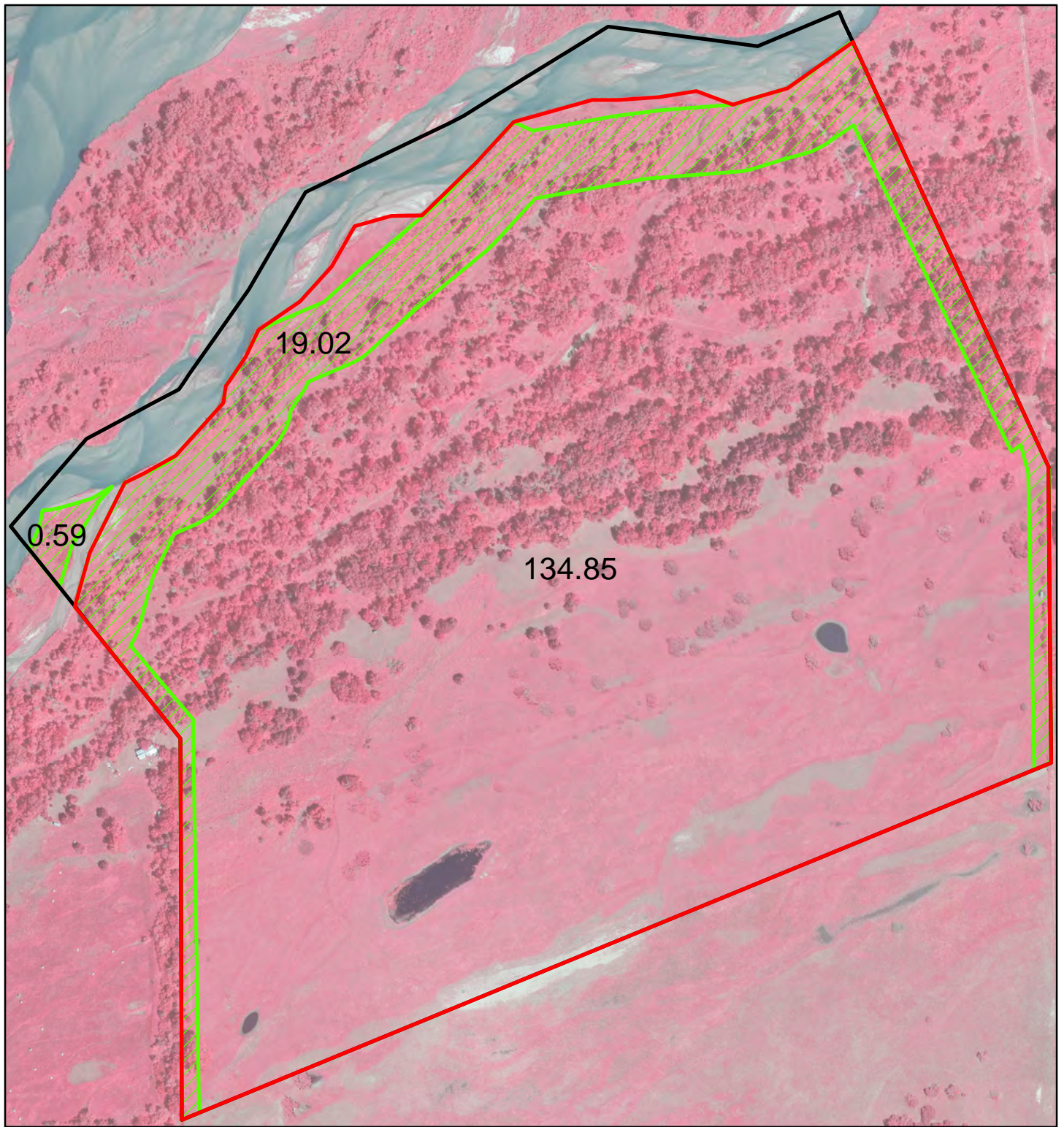
1	Mobilization & Demobilization	1 LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
2	2019001 Accreation & Fireline Clear & Grub	19.61 AC	\$1,600.00	\$31,376.00
3	2019001 Accreation & Fireline Pile Burn & Bury	1 LS	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
4	2019001 Rx Fire	134.85 AC	\$43/ac (10 years)	\$57,985.50
5	2019001 Aboveground Tree Removal	134.85 AC	\$200/ac (after 10 years)	\$26,970.00
Estimate (Total)				\$123,331.50

Option B




1	Mobilization & Demobilization	1 LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
2	2020001 Clear & Grub	80 AC	\$1,600.00	\$128,000.00
3	2020001 In channel Disking	149 AC	\$300.00	\$44,700.00
4	2020001 Burn & Bury Tree Piles	80 EA	\$300.00	\$24,000.00
	2020001 Remove Stumps & Relocate off			
5	MCA island	6 AC	\$500.00	\$3,000.00
6	2020001 Island Reshape	5,000 CU Y.	\$2.00	\$10,000.00
	2020001 Pre emergent & Roundup			
7	Application	6 AC	\$189 * 5 years	\$5,670.00
Estimate (Total)				\$225,370.00

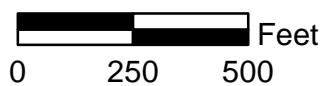


APPENDIX B



Legend

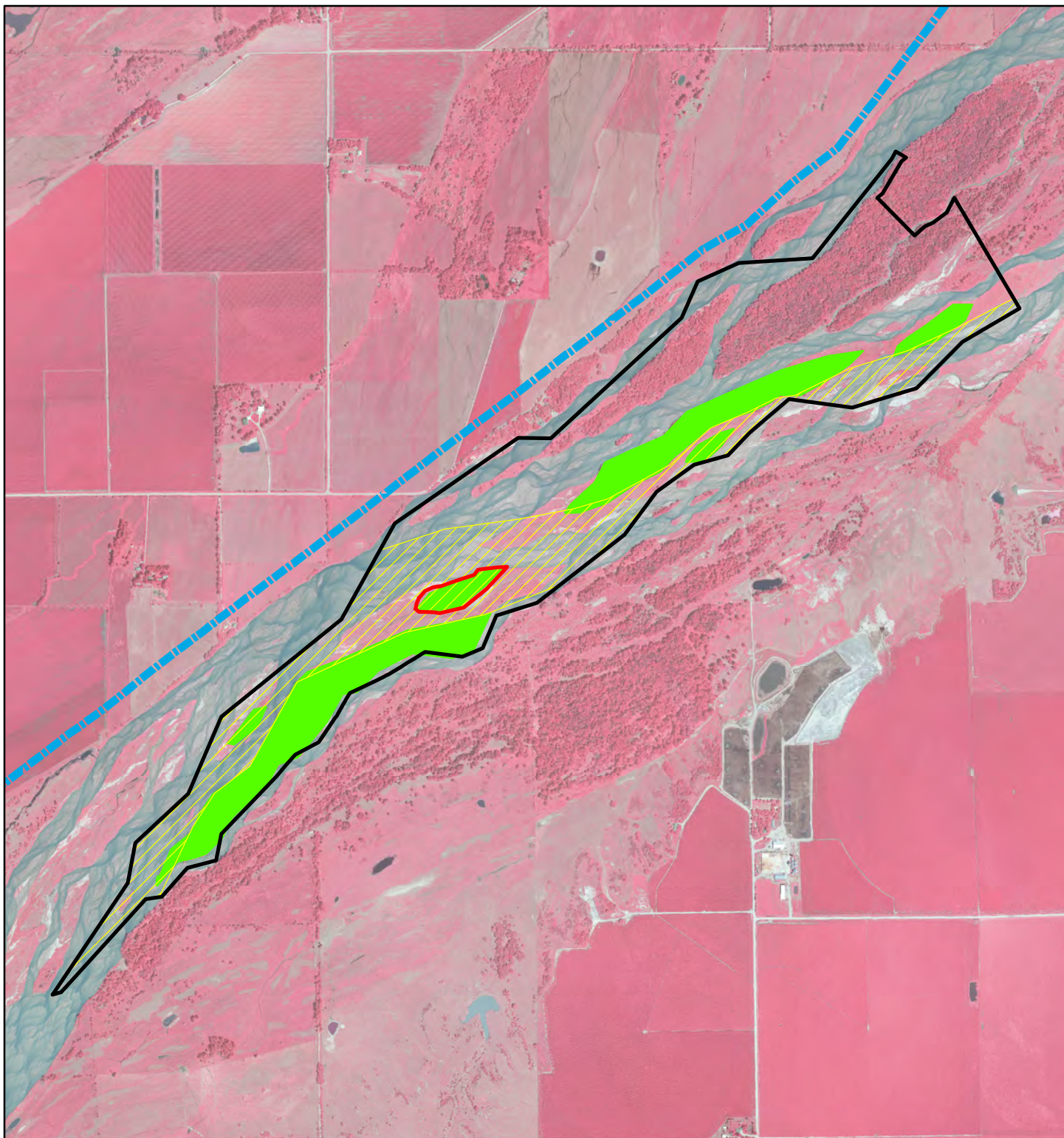
-  Property Boundary
-  Prescribed Fire Unit
-  Clear & Grub



TRACT 2019001
Grassland/ Accretion
Activities
Option C






Date: 10/5/20
By: TRT

Figure 3

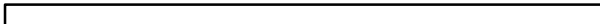


PLATTE RIVER
RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Legend

-  Property Boundary
-  MCA Habitat Manipulation Area
-  Powerline
-  Inchannel Disking & Vegetation Control
-  Island Tree Clearing



 Miles

1

TRACT 2020001
Riverine Activities
Option B
TAC_Revision

Date: 11/2/2020

By: TRT

Figure 2

From: [Chet Dodrill](#)
To: [Tim Tunnell](#)
Cc: [Mark D. Masters \(mmasters@chloeta.com\)](#); [Emily Cochran](#)
Subject: Re: PRRIP Rx Fire Contract
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 6:38:17 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

Tim,

For this unit our quote would be \$19,940.70, or \$306.78/acre. The per acre price is higher than the grasslands rate due to the additional manpower and mop-up necessary due to the slash on site. The plan for pile burning a firebreak on site is a great idea. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks! Have a great Thanksgiving.

Chet Dodrill

Chief Administrative Officer



2501 Liberty Pkwy, Ste 176
Midwest City, OK 73110
T | 877.245.6382, ext. 701
F | 405.212.5040



FACERE CONTIGERIT

On Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 3:29 PM Chet Dodrill <cdodrill@chloeta.com> wrote:
Thanks Tim. We'll take a look and get back to you.

Chet Dodrill

Chief Administrative Officer



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FACERE CONTIGERIT



Virus-free. www.avg.com

On Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 9:14 AM Tim Tunnell <tunnellt@headwaterscorp.com> wrote:

Hi guys

The Program has acquired 2 new tracts in the eastern portion of the associated habitat reach- see attached maps. During the planning process for these tracts, the advisory committees want to experiment with fire to convert a mature cottonwood forest to grassland/ wet meadow over a period of 5-10 years. Can you guys, give me a per acre estimate for burning this ~65 acre unit annually or at least every 2 years? We will mechanically clear trees and burn & bury pile on area as shown on Figure A-8.

The per acre cost would include all of the prep, burn permit coordination, mop up etc. as with our existing contract. I am under the assumption that this would not fall within the parameters that you bid for our grassland units that we typically burn. This is a pilot project and we want to compare the ecological effects and the costs associated with this kind of approach.

Thanks and let me know of any questions or if you would like to set up an online meeting.

TT

Tim R. Tunnell, CERP

Senior Land Manager

4111 4th Avenue, Suite 6

Kearney, NE 68845

Cell: (402) 219-3883





From: [Mark Masters](#)
To: [Tim Tunnell](#)
Cc: [Chet Dodrill](#); [Daniel Dotson](#)
Subject: Fwd: PRRIP Burn Plans
Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 11:29:18 AM

Tim,

COVID has decimated our burn program this year. Normally by this point in the dormant season burn season our 5-yr average is 25,476 ac and 73 units completed. This year, because of COVID, we've struggled to complete 750 ac on 3 units for comparison. We had an engine captain in ICU for 13 weeks total last fall after contracting COVID on a detail, other engine captains and burn module members coming down with COVID, fatalities among immediate family members of burn module members, not being able to travel through states due to quarantine restrictions to get to burn units and burn bosses unwilling to travel cross country for units due to the concern of contracting COVID. We have also had many burn contracts delayed or cancelled by our clients due to COVID. Consequently, we will not be able to burn for PRRIP this spring unfortunately. Fortunately, with the multi-year agreement we have we shouldn't notice a long term detriment ecologically of missing an entire spring treatment season. We are also very open to fall burning again as well if the weather allows and COVID subsides, which we are hopeful for with the majority of our employees now in the process of beginning to receive their COVID vaccinations.

If you want to get on a call next with a Project Manager to discuss fall burning possibilities please just let us know and we'll get it scheduled. Sorry for the inconvenience and we look forward to our continued partnership in the future to continue to get "good fire" on the landscape on the Platte River.

Thanks,

Mark Masters
Chief Executive Officer



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F | 405.212.5040



FACERE CONTIGERIT

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Chet Dodrill <cdodrill@chloeta.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 30, 2021 at 9:44 AM

Subject: Fwd: PRRIP Burn Plans
To: Mark Masters <mmasters@chloeta.com>

Chet Dodrill
Chief Administrative Officer



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F | 405.212.5040



FACERE CONTIGERIT

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tim Tunnell** <tunnellt@headwaterscorp.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 30, 2021 at 8:28 AM
Subject: RE: PRRIP Burn Plans
To: Chet Dodrill <cdodrill@chloeta.com>
Cc: Carl Carlson <ccarlson@chloeta.com>, Randy Carter <rcarter@chloeta.com>

What are you guys think in regards to mobilizing to Central Nebraska for the PRRIP burns?
Let me know. Thanks

TT

From: Tim Tunnell
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Chet Dodrill <cdodrill@chloeta.com>
Cc: Carl Carlson <ccarlson@chloeta.com>; Randy Carter <rcarter@chloeta.com>
Subject: RE: PRRIP Burn Plans

Chet

I have not had a chance to look at the plans in depth but am confident that they are good. Who is your RxB2 this year? Where is the crew coming from? What is your timeframe for arrival?

TT

From: Chet Dodrill <cdodrill@chloeta.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Tim Tunnell <tunnellt@headwaterscorp.com>
Cc: Carl Carlson <ccarlson@chloeta.com>; Randy Carter <rcarter@chloeta.com>
Subject: PRRIP Burn Plans

Tim,

Attached are the burn plans for this year's burns. Please let us know if you have any revisions.

Josh Keown is no longer with Chloeta so Randy Carter will be the primary contact the rest of this season.

Thanks!

Chet Dodrill
Chief Administrative Officer



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F | 405.212.5040



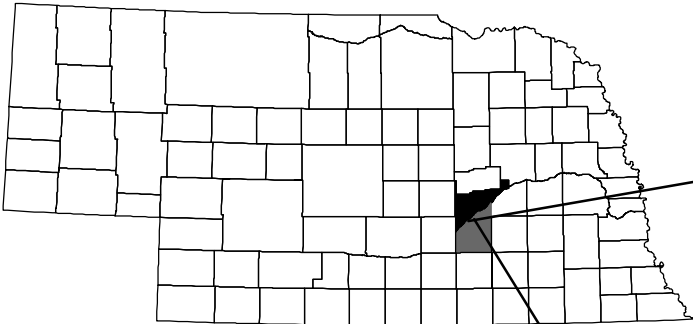
FACERE CONTIGERIT

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	UNITS	PRELIM QUANTS	FINAL QUANTS
001	MOBILIZATION	LS	1	
002	CLEAR & GRUB	AC	176	
003	BURN & BURY TREE PILES	LS	1	

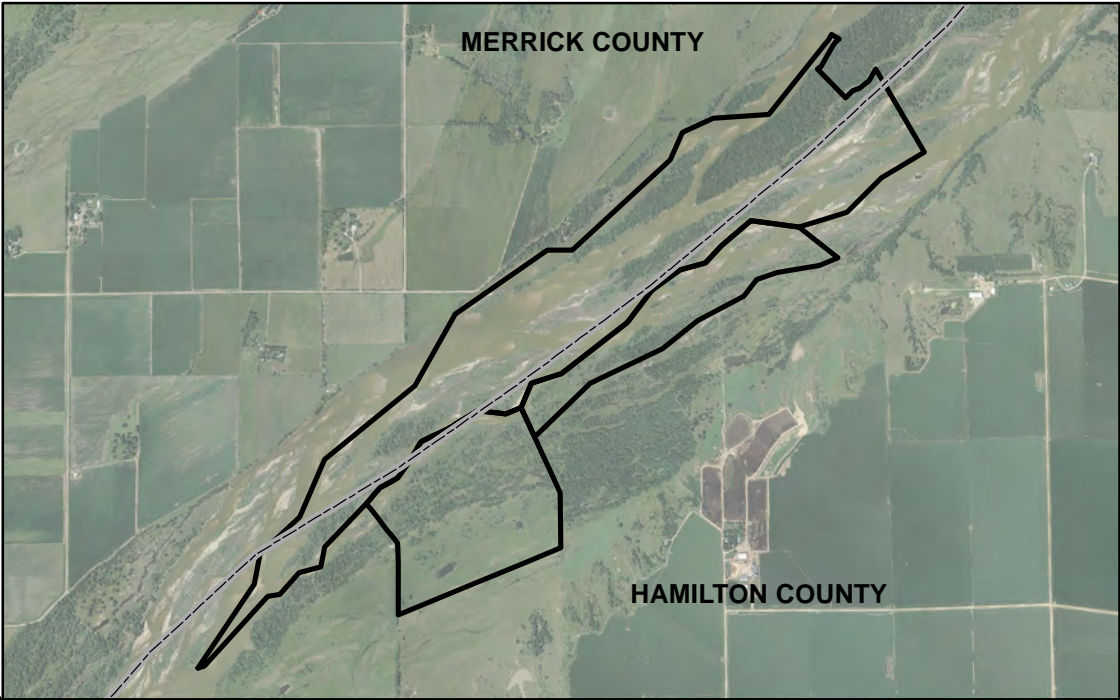
PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Chapman Complex
2021 Habitat Enhancement
IN HAMILTON & MERRICK COUNTIES, NE


- INDEX
- 1 COVER SHEET
 - 2 SITE LAYOUT
 - 3 CLEAR & GRUB



PROJECT
LOCATION



CAUTION
The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program will not be responsible for, or liable for, unauthorized changes to, or uses of these plans. All changes to the plans must be writing and must be approved by the Program.



PLATTE RIVER
RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

PROJECT NO. 21-006

Chapman Complex
2021 Habitat Enhancement
COVER SHEET

SHEET NO: 1 of 3	DATE: 4/4/21	DRAWN BY: TRT
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NOTES:

- 1) No known utilities exist within the project boundary. It is the contractor’s responsibility to call the “Diggers Hotline” number to verify any conflicting utilities prior to beginning any work.
- 2) Access to the property is via North E Road in Hamilton County. Travel 2.5 miles North of Highway 34 east of Phillips, NE.



MERRICK COUNTY

PROPERTY
BOUNDARY

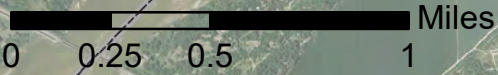
PRIMARY ACCESS VIA
NORTH E RD- 2.5 MILES
NORTH OF HWY 34 SOUTH
OF PHILLIPS, NE

North E Road

HAMILTON COUNTY

Legend

- Property Boundary
- County Boundary



Phillips, NE

HIGHWAY 34



PROJECT NO. 21-006

Chapman Complex
2021 Habitat Enhancement

SITE LAYOUT

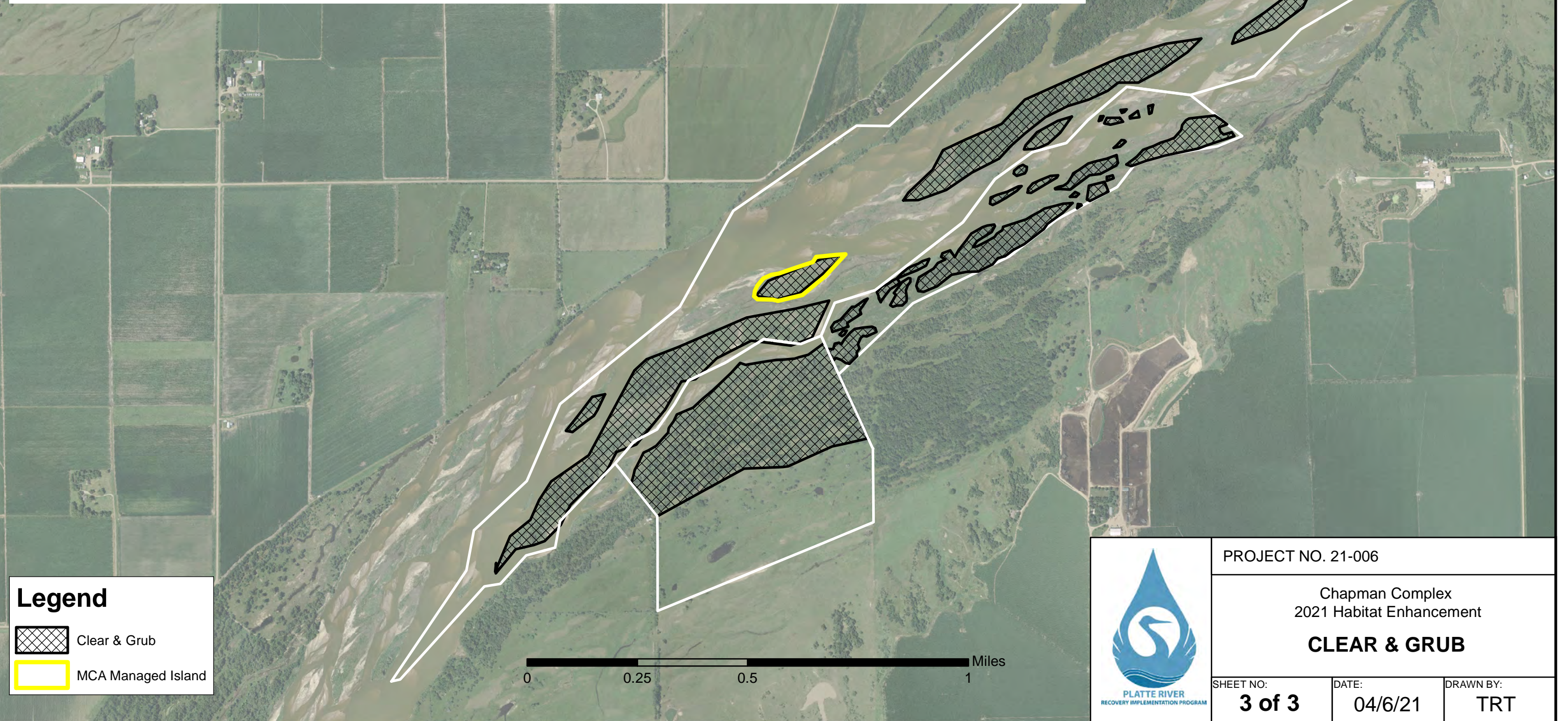
SHEET NO:
2 of 3

DATE:
4/6/21



DRAWN BY:
TRT

NOTES:

- 1) The Project Engineer will flag the limits of tree clearing for the contractor prior to beginning of work.
- 2) Clear and grub all vegetation within the limits of the clearing and grubbing area, approximately 176 acres.
- 3) Any merchantable timber may be harvested and removed at the contractors expense. All other cleared material will be placed in piles and burned and buried within the limits of the cleared area. No material may be burned and buried within 100' of a river channel or other wetland feature. If possible, stumps should be removed prior to piling and burning to facilitate a more complete burn and then bury what doesn't burn.
- 4) Any metal debris, old fencing material, or other trash/debris discovered during construction must be removed from site. No debris is currently known or expected.



Legend

-  Clear & Grub
-  MCA Managed Island



PROJECT NO. 21-006		
Chapman Complex 2021 Habitat Enhancement CLEAR & GRUB		
SHEET NO: 3 of 3	DATE: 04/6/21	DRAWN BY: TRT