



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP or Program)

Terms of Reference for Establishment and Work of the Adaptive Management Working Group
October 2020

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The purpose of the Adaptive Management Working Group (AMWG) is to work jointly, on behalf of the Governance Committee (GC), with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the EDO to develop language for, edit, and negotiate the content of a revised Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) for the PRRIP Extension. The AMWG should be a small, nimble set of **TAC member scientists** and EDO staff that can speak both for the GC generally and for their respective entities. The AMWG will not make any final decisions about the content of the AMP but will work diligently to recommend agreed-upon language for TAC and GC consideration and approval.

Specific tasks will include:

- Help develop a revised AMP for GC consideration that is consistent with the [Final Program Document](#).
- Ensure the resulting AMP is consistent with the building blocks in the current AMP and incorporates previous PRRIP learning during the First Increment.
- *Evaluate and refine conceptual models* – ensure proper linkages between current Program understanding of river form and function and target species responses; identify areas and relationships with uncertainty needing further investigation.
- *Identify important technical uncertainties and develop potential priority hypotheses* – based on areas of uncertainty in the conceptual models, brainstorm the language of hypotheses (determining *a priori* independent and dependent variables) for testing management actions, develop expected response functions (X-Y graphs for predicting response), and map out how answering hypotheses (and alternative hypotheses) will be communicated to the GC as an input to decision-making.
- *Develop a new set of Big Questions for the Extension* – work collaboratively with the EDO to develop a proposed set of Big Questions for the Extension that serve as a roll-up of underlying hypotheses and that provide an organizational tool for tracking progress against AMP management objectives and communicating AM learning to the GC.
- *Communicate technical information to the TAC and GC* – take ownership of content in the revised AMP and present material at TAC and GC meetings.
- *Participate in writing and technical review of AMP document* – homework assignments, participation in numerous virtual and in-person (when allowable) meetings and workshops, and communication with the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC).

AMWG Membership and Roles

AMWG membership is a mix of technical subject matter experts and technically proficient policymakers.

- Interior least tern and piping plover expertise
 - Jeff Runge – USFWS
 - Jim Jenniges – NPPD
 - Dave Zorn – CNPPID
- Whooping crane expertise
 - Andy Caven – Crane Trust
 - Matt Rabbe – USFWS
- Hydrology/Hydraulics expertise



- Tom Econopouly – USFWS
- Mike Drain – CNPPID
- Brandi Flyr – CPNRD
- Technically oriented policymakers
 - Brock Merrill – USBR
 - Jojo La – Colorado

Terms of Reference – Roles/Responsibilities of the Science Plan Drafting Committee

- 1) Be hard on the problem, easy on the people – focus on principles, direction, language, and “getting to yes”; set aside personality conflicts or differences of approach.
- 2) Attend and actively participate in all virtual meetings and all in-person meetings as scheduled – includes responding to meeting requests and invites, Doodle polls, and generally making time in your schedule to actively participate and contribute to the process.
- 3) Come to all meetings prepared – review draft documents, provide feedback, discuss with other individuals in your agencies/entities before each meeting. This includes communicating with other leaders, staff, and members of the entities you represent to facilitate communication, sharing ideas, identifying progress, and ensuring all possible subjects and challenges are on the table for discussion during our time together.
- 4) Allow all other members to come prepared – providing directly relevant scientific publications for consideration by all participants of the AMWG prior to scheduled meetings is imperative for effective communication of science learning, creating space for critical evaluation and discussion of incorporation of science learning into the adaptive management process. To this end, the EDO as well as other AMWG members will provide published background literature to participants at least one week (preferably two weeks) prior to its discussion for use in AM planning.
- 5) Share continuous feedback with EDO staff and AMWG members – this includes group discussions as well as individual conversations to introduce ideas, resolve questions, point out potential errors in logic, critically evaluate science learning, and make revisions. The establishment of an environment of trust and open communication will allow the AMWG to work efficiently and effectively to focus on BIG QUESTIONS and priority hypotheses, as well as develop monitoring and research protocols, with the goal of providing information necessary to reduce critical uncertainties that hamper decision-making.