**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**

**FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

**Prepared by:**

Executive Director’s Office (EDO)

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP or Program)

Kearney, Nebraska

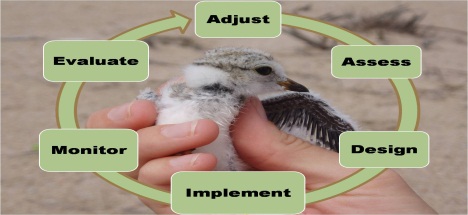
**Prepared for:**

PRRIP Governance Committee (GC)

Harry LaBonde, State of Wyoming, 2019 GC Chair

Final Budget and Work Plan Revised and Approved by Governance Committee

**December X, 2019**



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**

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**Introduction**

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (“Program” or “PRRIP”) initiated on January 1, 2007 as a basin-wide effort between the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska and the Department of Interior to provide land, water, and scientific monitoring and research to evaluate Program benefits for the target species. The Program is being implemented in an incremental manner, with the First Increment covering the 13-year period from 2007 through 2019 and the First Increment Extension covering a 13-year period from 2020 through 2032. In general, the purpose of the Program is to implement certain aspects of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (Service) recovery plans for the target species that relate to the Program’s identified “associated habitats” in the central Platte River by securing defined benefits for those species and their habitats. The Program will also provide ESA compliance for existing and certain new water-related activities in the Platte basin upstream of the Loup River confluence for potential effects on the target species; help prevent the need to list more Platte River species under the ESA; mitigate the adverse effects of certain new water-related activities through approved depletions plans; and establish and maintain an organizational structure that will ensure appropriate state and federal government and stakeholder involvement in the Program.

The Program is led by a Governance Committee (GC) consisting of representatives of Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Service, South Platte River water users, North Platte River water users, Nebraska water users, and environmental groups. The Program established key standing Advisory Committees to assist the GC in implementing the Program. Those committees include the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Land Advisory Committee (LAC), the Water Advisory Committee (WAC), the Finance Committee (FC), and the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC).

Jason Farnsworth serves as Executive Director (ED) of the Program. Farnsworth and staff in the Executive Director’s Office (EDO) maintain offices in Nebraska and Colorado. The EDO worked closely with the GC, the Advisory Committees and their subcommittees and working groups, Program cooperators and partners, and others to develop the FY 2020 Program Budget and Work Plan based on guidance from the Final Program Document and Program goals and priorities.

This document presents a quick reference snapshot of the FY 2020 Program Budget Spreadsheet (which is a separate document that is incorporated by reference) and the final FY 2020 Program Annual Work Plan.



**Table 1.** Quick-reference snapshot of the FY 2020 PRRIP Budget Spreadsheet, including a Table of Contents reference page number corresponding to the beginning page location for each budget line item in this FY 2020 work plan. Line item numbers in red indicate new line items or items that have been modified.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PRRIP Budget ID** | **PRRIP Line Item Description** | ***FY 2020 Estimated New Money*** | **FY 2020 Work Plan Page #** |
| **ADMINISTRATION** | |  |  |
| **ED-1** | EDO Salaries/Travel/Office Expenditures | *$ 2,490,000* | **5** |
| **ED-2** | Legal Services & Public Notices | *$ 82,000* | **6** |
| **ED-3** | Public Outreach | *$ 55,000* | **8** |
| **GFC-1** | Financial Services | *$ 560,000* | **12** |
| **GFC-2** | Program Insurance | *$ 85,000* | **13** |
| **PD-8** | Program Website and Database | *$ 60,000* | **14** |
| **CTE-1** | Committee Meeting Expenses | *$ 8,400* | **15** |
|  | ***Administration Sub-Total*** | ***$ 3,340,400*** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **LAND** | |  |  |
| **LP-3** | Land Acquisition, LIHE Fees and Property Taxes | *$ 3,000,000* | **17** |
| **LP-4** | Land Operations and Maintenance | *$ 193,900* | **21** |
| **LP-6** | Land-Related Special Advisors | *$ 20,000* | **22** |
| **LP-7** | Public Access Program Management | *$ 80,000* | **24** |
|  | ***Land Sub-Total*** | ***$ 3,293,900*** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **WATER** |  |  |  |
| **WPCP-1** | North Platte Choke Point | *$ 10,500* | **25** |
| **WPRT-1** | Retiming Projects: Canal Recharge | *$ 465,000* | **26** |
| **WPRT-2** | Retiming Projects: Elwood Reservoir Recharge | *$ 750,000* | **28** |
| **WPRT-3** | Retiming Projects: Broad-Scale Recharge | *$ 52,000* | **29** |
| **WPRT-4** | Retiming Projects: Recapture Wells | *$ 1,200,000* | **31** |
| **WPRT-5** | Retiming Projects: Surface Storage | *$ 284,000* | **32** |
| **WPST-1** | Storage Leases: Lake McConaughy | *$ -* | **33** |
| **WPST-2** | Storage Leases: Upstream Sources | *$ 624,000* | **34** |
| **WPIR-1** | Irrigator Leases | *$ 670,000* | **35** |
| **WPLW-1** | General maintenance of land-for-water properties | *$ 88,000* | **36** |
| **WPWM-1** | Water Monitoring Activities | *$ 47,500* | **37** |
| **WPMT-1** | Water Management Tools (COHYST) | *$ 5,000* | **39** |
| **WPSA-1** | Water-Related Special Advisors | *$ 103,000* | **40** |
|  | ***Water Sub-Total*** | ***$ 4,299,000*** |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| **ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT** | |  |  |
| **LP-2** | Habitat Restoration and Management Actions on Program Lands | *$ 611,000* | **42** |
| **LP-2-P** | Trapping Projects | *$ 77,000* | **43** |
| **PD-22** | Sediment Augmentation Implementation | *$ 150,000* | **44** |
| **WP-1(b)** | Phragmites Control | *$ 2,600,000* | **45** |
| **G-1** | Remote Sensing Data Collection | *$ 370,000* | **47** |
| **TP-1** | Tern and Plover Monitoring & Research | *$ 33,000* | **48** |
| **WC-1** | Whooping Crane Monitoring & Research | *$ 130,000* | **49** |
| **PS-1** | Pallid Sturgeon Monitoring and Research | *$ -* | **50** |
| **G-5** | Geomorphology and Vegetation Monitoring and Research | *$ 4,000* | **51** |
| **PD-15** | Environmental Permitting | *$ 50,000* | **52** |
| **PD-18** | AMP-Related Equipment | *$ 108,000* | **53** |
| **IMRP-3** | Adaptive Management Plan Special Advisors | *$ 200,000* | **55** |
| **ISAC-1** | ISAC Stipends & Expenses | *$ 200,000* | **57** |
| **PD-3** | AMP & IMRP Peer Review and PRRIP Publications | *$ 46,000* | **59** |
| **PD-11** | AMP-related Workshops | *$ 27,000* | **61** |
|  | ***AM Sub-Total*** | ***$ 4,606,000*** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **FY2020 PRRIP BUDGET TOTAL** | | ***$ 15,539,300*** |  |

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: ED-1. Salaries/Travel/Office Expenditures**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $2,490,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Salaries, travel, and other direct costs associated with ED and staff in ED Offices (EDO). ED and EDO responsible for implementation of all items detailed in remainder of the Work Plan.

**Products**

Staff support for all Program activities.

**Notes on Cost**

See Exhibits A, B, and C from Amendment 1 to the 2019-2023 EDO Contract for detailed documentation of effort. Overall, the ED-1 cost estimate increased by $90,000 from 2019. Specific items of note include:

* Labor costs include 16.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. Salary adjustments average about 3% to remain competitive in the labor market.
* Efforts to hire a Director of Water Resources will resume in 2020. In addition, the budget includes a new position for a second geomorphologist to assist with physical process research, monitoring, and data analysis.
* The work load of data compilation, analysis, and synthesis is ongoing; EDO staff are now implementing the whooping crane, least tern and piping plover, and geomorphology/vegetation monitoring protocols; initiation of new fronts of species and physical process investigations continues to increase; and the EDO will continue development of the Adaptive Management Plan for the Extension in 2020.
* The workload for developing and evaluating additional Water Action Plan alternatives and efforts to support water leasing negotiations will remain high for at least two more years.
* ODC will increase by 5% in FY2020 to keep pace with increases in rent, utility, and professional services prices.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: ED-2. Legal Services and Public Notices**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $82,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Administrative support in the form of legal advice and review of contracts associated with land and water acquisitions as well as other contract- and legal issues as well as procurement-related notices in newspapers.[[1]](#footnote-2) ED-2 costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Attorney fees | $ 75,000 |
| Newspaper notices | $ 6,939 |
| **TOTAL** | **$81,939**  **Round up to $82,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

The primary use of ED-2 is for attorneys with expertise in Nebraska water rights; water service/leasing agreement contract law; environmental law covering NEPA, ESA, or CWA; Nebraska NRD processes; and county statutory authorities. These are very specialized areas of practice, limiting our options and commanding, in many cases, a premium rate. Attorneys for work in the arenas cited above are selected based on knowledge and experience in these arenas, availability, reputation, quality of work, and previous direct dealings with EDO staff. Rates are compared to customary and standard rates for the Denver/Lincoln/Omaha areas, and based on a comparative, extensive vetting process are known to be fair and reasonable. An average rate of $250/hour is a representative rate based on the vetting experience of the past ten years. Several long-term water-related leases and agreements will need to be negotiated in 2020. This will require substantial input from legal counsel. It is estimated that approximately 300 hours of legal support (equivalent to about 3 days a month) will be necessary assist in lease/agreement renewal efforts. Based on a fee of $250/hour (ranging from $190 to $300/ hour), and an estimated 300 hours of service, the estimated legal fees for 2020 are $75,000.

A second common use of line item ED-2 is to cover the expense of publishing public notices or Request for Proposals/Invitations for Bid (RFP/IFB) in local and regional newspapers. The Denver Post, Omaha World Herald, Wyoming Eagle Tribune (Cheyenne, WY), and the Kearney Hub are the newspapers that are always used to run notices and RFP/IFB announcements. When appropriate for specific, local interest projects, other papers may also be added, such as the Grand Island Independent, North Platte Telegraph, Lincoln Journal Star, or Keith County News.

Recent costs to run a three-day (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) announcement in the papers is tabulated below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Newspaper** | **Three Day Cost ($)** |
| Denver Post | $ 910 |
| Omaha World Herald | $ 761 |
| Wyoming Eagle Tribune | $ 94 |
| Kearney Hub | $ 48 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 1,813** |

We assume three notices or ads based on anticipated number of RFPs/IFBs to be issued (accounting database, remote sensing, prescribed fire), 3 x $1,813 = $5,439. Six additional newspapers notices (either for IFBs published exclusively in local papers or supplemental ads in local papers for RFPs/IFBs also published in regional papers) are also anticipated at a cost of $250 each, 6 x $250 = $1,500. The total for three major and six supplemental advertisements is: $6,939 ($5,439 + $1,500).

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: ED-3. Public Outreach**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $55,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Communication of information about the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and general education-oriented activities are an important function to gain and advance acceptance of the Program in all our stakeholder communities. The Program stakeholders include; residents of the three states, the Department of the Interior agencies, farmers and ranchers, recreational users of the Platte, the biological sciences community, national and international conservation and environmental groups, and bird watchers from around the world. The education-oriented sponsorships are focused toward youth-oriented, experience-based programs. Exhibits and sponsorships help the Program spread its message and its brand. ED-3 costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Exhibit Fees | $ 4,000 |
| Major Sponsorships |  |
| *NET Time-Lapse Project* | *$ 25,000* |
| *Rowe Sanctuary Education Program* | *$ 5,000* |
| *Prairie Loft Education Program* | *$ 5,000* |
| *Greenway Foundation SPREE Program* | *$ 5,000* |
| Other Sponsorships | $ 4,000 |
| Promotional Materials | $ 7,000 |
| **Total** | **$55,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

To reach our audiences, the Program utilizes the following:

1. “Exhibit Fees” is a category covering Program exhibit booths at scientific and professional conferences, community events, farm shows and nature centers. Venues are chosen based on both location, i.e. coverage of the three states and the ability to reach our target audience of stakeholders. There are several annual events at which the Program exhibits; Husker Harvest Days in Nebraska, Colorado Water Congress in Colorado, and the Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting (held in Colorado and includes Wyoming and Nebraska). Exhibits provide written information about the Program as well as Program giveaways. Typically, the Program exhibits at five to six events per year and booth costs vary from no charge to $1,250 per event. Including display costs and printed material an approximate annual expenditure for exhibits is $4,000.
2. “Major Sponsorship” is a category covering educational programs oriented specifically for young people at nature and agricultural centers and special projects that are presented to the Program. Sponsorships are chosen based on both location and the ability to reach our target audience of stakeholders. Examples include Nebraska Educational Television camera time-lapse project of the Platte River which includes sites in all three states, environmental education programs for Rowe Sanctuary, Prairie Loft Center for young people in Nebraska, and the Greenway Foundation South Platte River Environmental Education program for young people in Colorado. The education programs we sponsor focus support on youth-oriented, experience-based activity programs. For 2020, $40,000 is budgeted for major sponsorships including: $25,000 for the time lapse project, and $5,000 each for public educational programs for Rowe Sanctuary in Nebraska, Prairie Loft Center for agricultural education for children in Nebraska, and for the South Platte River Environmental Education (SPREE) children’s educational program by The Greenway Foundation in Colorado. The nature of the expenditures and associated activities for Rowe Sanctuary, Prairie Loft, and SPREE remain largely the same as for 2018. The focus of 2020 PRRIP funding for the Platte Basin Timelapse project (PBT) is to cover a portion of direct and labor costs of developing media associated with the time lapse cameras and their locations along the Central Platte. Installation and maintenance of PBT time-lapse equipment to chronicle the development of the broad-scale recharge project on and near Cottonwood Ranch was put in place in 2018. The cameras and PBT team will continue to gather imagery from this location and others to chart change over time on the landscape. The intent is to develop a range of media to use on the PBT website, in presentations, and other outreach applications to help tell the story of the Platte watershed, including the Program’s role in the recent history. An additional funding focus is the project’s development of educational products. The PBT website has an educational component with Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) based educational curriculum for late elementary, middle, and high school science students. The curriculum includes lesson plans, learning objectives and handouts on subjects such as Platte River prairies, habitats & ecosystems. The PBT also has a paid internship program for college students currently with 6 undergraduates and 3 graduate students whose degree work is centered on the project. As in previous years, other funding sources are being sought and have been secured by PBT, so Program funding represents only a portion of the costs associated with these efforts.
3. “Other Sponsorship” is a category used to allow the Program to participate in known events that are smaller in magnitude than the Major Sponsorships covered above, were not anticipated at the time of budget development, or events that were under consideration, but decisions had not been made as to which events to support. These sponsorships assist in defraying the cost of a conference or event. The Program receives higher visibility and recognition at these conferences and events as a result. Program staff is at these conferences or events to interact with the participants and capitalize on the increased visibility achieved by the sponsorships. Depending on the organization and event, sponsorships provides recognition in the event program and proceedings, recognition by emcees during meals, the ability to display banners, recognition for sponsoring specific breaks or meals, and other similar types of enhanced visibility and recognition. Examples include:

* Program logo and tagline ads in newspapers when special edition sections are printed, such as the Earth Day and Migration editions in the Kearney Hub newspapers are estimated for 2020 at about $1,000.
* Break or event sponsorships at conferences such as National Committee of Ecological Restoration, Society for Ecological Restoration, Collaborative Adaptive Management Network, Nebraska Association of Resource Districts Conference, Nebraska Water Resources/Nebraska Irrigation Association Conference, Colorado Water Foundation for Education events, and Colorado Summer Water Congress are typical of the events that are considered for sponsorships. The decision on which events to sponsor depend on the relevance of the group or conference theme to the Program, which can vary from year to year. Such sponsorships can range from $250 to $750. Allowing for three to five such sponsorships to be awarded, costs for 2020 are estimated at about $3,000

1. “Promotional Materials” is a category covering materials distributed to increase awareness of the Program. The distinctive Program logo is utilized in all Program communications, reports, and on all promotional materials including fact sheets, brochures, biennial reports, and giveaways. Promotional materials are chosen for their uniqueness and compatibility with the overall goals and objectives of the Program. Chosen items are branded with the Program logo and/or the Program website address and all items must cost below $4.00 an item. On average, the cost of the promotional material is approximately $2.00. Examples of giveaways include pens, carabiner key chains, can coolers, stylus, mobile phone cradle, tote bags, shoulder bags, small tools, and water bottles. The Program anticipates distributing about 3,500 items in 2020 for a cost of about $7,000.

The following tables provide specific cost estimate breakdowns for each of the Major Sponsorship items in FY20:

**PBT Project Cost Estimate Breakdown**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost ($)** | **Comments** |
| Direct costs associated with travel and equipment maintenance. | $5,000 | Now that PBT is in its eighth year, most sites have been established and equipped, but $1,000 is allocated for minor equipment repair and replacement material costs. The remaining $4,000 of direct costs are allocated to travel costs for photo and video crews to travel to and spend time at several locations in the Platte Basin, with Program funds to be expended on travel associated primarily with those locations in Nebraska where Program actions are concentrated. |
| Labor costs | $20,000 | Labor costs for this project are estimated based on percentages of annual salary for PBT employees and contracted service providers necessary to complete the work described. Other funding sources will be used to support additional labor costs. |
| **TOTAL** | **$25,000** |  |

**Rowe Sanctuary Education Program Cost Estimate Breakdown**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Unit Rate ($/hr.)** | **Quantity** | **Cost ($)** | **Comments** |
| LABOR |  |  |  | Personnel hours include planning preparation, and in-field instructor time |
| Sr. Instructor | $30/hr. | 100 | $3,000 |  |
| LABOR TOTAL |  |  | $3,000 |  |
| MATERIALS |  |  |  |  |
| Collecting Nets | $30 | 14 | $750 |  |
| Binoculars | $80.76 | 14 | $1,050 |  |
| Birds of Nebraska Books | $8.00 | 25 | $200 |  |
| MATERIALS TOTAL |  |  | $2,000 |  |
| **TOTAL** | | | **$5,000** |  |

**Prairie Loft Education Program Cost Estimate Breakdown**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Unit Rate ($/hr.)** | **Quantity** | **Cost ($)** | **Comments** | |
| LABOR |  |  |  | Personnel hours include teaching, facilitation, curriculum and program development, professional development, and outreach to schools, teachers, families, and partner organizations. | |
| Lead Educator | $13/hr. | 200 | $2,600 |  | |
| Assistant Educators | $11/hr. | 80 | $880 |  | |
| LABOR TOTAL |  |  | $3,480 |  | |
| MATERIALS |  |  | $1,220 | Education program supplies includes items such as books, writing materials, field study equipment, printing, tools, and resources for additional and enhanced outdoor learning areas. | |
| Program Evaluation |  |  | $300 | Evaluation includes surveys and assessment to establish measurement tools to prove and enhance program impact. |
|  |  |  |  |  | |
| **Total** | | | **$5,000** |  | |

**The Greenway Foundation, SPREE Program**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SPREE Program** | **Expenses** | **Income** | **Total** |  |
| **Expenses** | | | | |
| Labor | ($4,400) |  | ($4,400) | Seasonal educator to lead school-based field trips for classroom groups, family friendly weekend events, and day off school camps |
| Program Supplies | ($600) |  | ($600) | Supplies include printed materials, field study equipment, scientific discovery supplies, etc. |
| **Income** | | | | |
| PRRIP |  | $5,000 | $5,000 |  |
| **Totals** | **($5,000)** | **$5,000** | **$0** |  |

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: GFC-1. Financial Services**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $560,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Fees paid to the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) for administration of the financial aspects of the Program in 2020 as well as costs associated with development and maintenance of a financial database for the Program.[[2]](#footnote-3) The 2020 budget includes a one-time cost to procure professional services to develop an updated database for use during the Extension. GFC-1 costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Nebraska Community Foundation Fees | $ 450,000 |
| Financial Database Services | $ 60,000 |
| Financial Database Redevelopment | $ 50,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 560,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

The primary use of this budget will be reimbursement of NCF for its direct and indirect costs pursuant to the Department of the Interior’s acquisition services requirements. In addition to the direct and indirect costs prescribed by this Agreement, NCF will be reimbursed at actual cost of extraordinary expenses incurred at the request of Parties to the Agreement, such as overnight express mail services, and/or reasonable travel expenses for travel at the request of the Governance Committee, Finance Committee, or a Party to the Agreement. The estimated cost associated with Financial Management Services rendered by the NCF is based on estimated direct costs of approximately $50,000 (1,000 hours X $50/hour), and an estimated provisional indirect cost ratio of 2.2% applied to approximately $20 million in direct costs reduced by 10% to account for potential under-spending of budgeted amounts based on uncertainty associated primarily with water project implementation. Only actual indirect costs will be recouped by NCF and the rate will fluctuate from year to year depending on overall total expenditures of the NCF.

In addition, this budget includes professional services costs ($60,000) associated with maintenance of a financial database for the Program. The database contains a record of all invoices submitted by Program contractors for payment and all income the program generates from its holdings. The database produces both monthly and annual reports showing breakdowns by year, budget items, contractors, and balances for each participant (Colorado, Wyoming and DOI). Database information with shared with DOI and reconciled monthly with Nebraska Community Foundation A one-time expenditure of $50,000 is also included to retain a professional services firm to redevelop/update the database for use during the Extension. The estimate is based on 500 hours of billable time at a rate of $80/hour and $10,000 for software. These services will be obtained through a competitive selection process and actual costs will be negotiated in accordance with the Program’s procurement policy.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: GFC-2. Program Insurance**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $85,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Insurance acquired for representatives of the GC and subcommittees (including alternates) and ED Office for activities that will be undertaken through Program implementation. Major insurance coverages include property/crime insurance associated with Program land and associated infrastructure, public officials and management liability, cyber liability, and general/umbrella liability which would cover damages caused by implementation of Program management actions including flow releases.

**Notes on Cost**

The estimated cost of insurance is based upon previous year’s expenses, experience, and previous negotiations with insurance providers conducted by the Program’s insurance agent. Despite generally increasing insurance costs, the Program has been advised by our agent that insurance costs will remain relatively stable. Our clean claims record and no new major risk additions have mitigated the factors pushing toward increased costs and will keep the Program expenditure for this item at roughly the same level as 2019.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: PD-8. Database Management System Development & Maintenance**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $60,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Ongoing website and species database development and management by D.J. Case & Associates. Tasks include basic maintenance, hosting, and minor site improvements.

**Notes on Cost**

The contract was awarded through a competitive procurement process in conformance with the Procurement policy. The contract was awarded in 2018. The budget estimate is developed by using rates and the level of effort for similar work acquired for the Program through the competitive procurement process, and final negotiation and award of the contract was acquired through competition, the estimate for this work is considered fair and reasonable.

Specific FY20 tasks include:

* Web and Database hosting through Digital Ocean hosting service, 99.9% uptime, 24/7 support, daily & weekly backups.
* Security, including Drupal platform updates and upgrades, SSL technology.
* On-call support, including troubleshooting, content management, consultation, user assistance.
* Ongoing site improvements, including:
  + Content review & redevelopment
  + Adaptive management content structure consultation
  + Other site improvements & functionality

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: CTE-1. Committee Meeting Expenses**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $8,400 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Budget to cover costs related to committee meetings (GC, FC, LAC, TAC, and WAC). Costs include room rentals, audio-visual fees, refreshments, conference call line fees, etc.[[3]](#footnote-4) CTE-1 costs are summarized by committee below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Governance Committee | $ 3,700 |
| Land Advisory Committee | $ 700 |
| Water Advisory Committee | $ 2,500 |
| Technical Advisory Committee | $ 1,500 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 8,400** |

**Notes on Cost**

***Governance Committee***

GC meetings are held quarterly, two are held in Kearney, NE at the EDO, one in Cheyenne, WY at the Wyoming Water Development Commission, and one in Denver, CO. There is no room charge or equipment charge for the Kearney and Cheyenne locations, just for the Denver location. The Denver December meeting has recently been held in downtown Denver, CO at the Warwick Hotel for two half days (Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning). Meeting room costs, and refreshments, for one afternoon break and one morning break are included in the cost. Based on 2011-2019 experience, 2020 estimate of room and break expenses is $1,500/day. Equipment costs are limited to Polycom conference phone and screen at $250, as EDO can provide projector from its Denver office. The remaining costs are for conference calls such as the November special budget session and when needed GC conference calls outside of quarterly meetings. The meeting expense table provided below provides a breakdown of costs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Room Rental & Break Costs** | **Meeting Equipment Costs** | **Conference Call Costs** | **Total Costs** |
| $3,000  (December GC, two half days) | $250  (phone and screen at each Denver meeting) | $252  (Budget Special Session, and 6 FC or GC calls of @2 hours, $0.30/minute) | **$3,752, round down to $3,700** |

***Land Advisory Committee***

The LAC meets quarterly at in Kearney, NE at the EDO which has no room charge. Two activities associated with LAC do have costs specifically associated to them, an annual field tour for LAC members and site evaluation of potential properties. The annual field tour for LAC members typically consists of a half day in the field with lunch and drinks (water and sodas) in field provided for 10 to 15 people at an average cost of about $20.00 per person, based on 2011-2018 experience, provide the basis for the $300 estimate. Land evaluation site visits (typically multiple sites per day) costs consist of refreshments (water and sodas), break snacks (fruit and granola/energy bars) and working lunches. Each site evaluation team consists on average of six people. An estimated two site-evaluation days for off-channel sand and water sites and a potential complex near Chapman, NE will be performed in 2020. Based on 2009-2019 experience, a cost of $25 per person per site visit was used to develop the $150 per site visit estimate and the corresponding $300 total for two site visits.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Room Rental & Break Costs** | **Meeting Costs** | **Conference Call Costs** | **Total Costs** |
| $0 | $600  (annual field tour expenses @ $300 and two land site visits @ $150 each) | $72  (4 calls @1 hours, $0.30/minute) | **$672, round up to**  **$700** |

***Water Advisory Committee***

The WAC meets quarterly at the Visitor’s Center near Lake McConaughy in Ogallala for which there is no room or equipment charge but due to its remote location working lunches are provided (25 people/meeting x $20/person = $500/meeting). Working groups and subcommittee frequently meet by conference call and at other locations. All meetings are assumed to be focused on Water Action Plan projects (e.g., Water Project scoring, broad-scale groundwater recharge, slurry wall storage, hydrologic monitoring, or other candidate topics) with meetings involving a mix of technical/administrative topics.

The Meeting Expenses table provided below provides a breakdown of costs and additional information.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Room Rental & Break Costs** | **Meeting Equipment Costs** | **Conference Call Costs** | **Total Costs** |
| $2,000  (working lunches at quarterly meetings) | $0 | $432  (4 calls @4 hours and 4 calls @2 hours, $0.30/minute) | **$2,432, round up to $2,500** |

***Technical Advisory Committee***

The TAC generally meets quarterly but working group and sub-committee meetings can meet more frequently. Most of these regular TAC meetings are held in Kearney, NE at the EDO or via conference call. Four regular TAC meetings were assumed. Refreshments, morning and afternoon breaks and conference line assumed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meal Costs** | **Meeting Equipment Costs** | **Conference Call Costs** | **Total Costs** |
| $1,000  (4 meetings @ $250/meeting) | $100 | $288  (4 calls @ 4 hours, $0.30/minute) | **$1,388, round up to $1,500** |

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: LP-3. Land Acquisition**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $3,000,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Funding for acquisition of interest in land (own, lease, easements, other agreements) according to implementation of the Land Plan and the AMP; fees for Platte River Recovery Implementation Foundation, the land interest holding entity (LIHE) for the Program, as well as property taxes and other annual fees. LP-3 costs are summarized by item below. LP-3 costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| LIHE Fees | $ 62,000 |
| Property Taxes | $ 138,400 |
| Cottonwood Ranch Sponsorship Agreement | $ 15,000 |
| Land Acquisition Associated Costs | $ 75,000 |
| Buy, Lease or Easement  (400 acres) | $ 2,700,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 2,990,400**  **Round up to $ 3,000,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

***LIHE Fees***

LIHE fees are charged to the Program by the Platte River Recovery Implementation Foundation. The fees are assessed based on actual incurred direct expenses (attorney fees and insurance), baseline fee, number of parcels held in various categories (fee simple, easement, lease, or management agreement), and number of transactions. The insurance cost is for General Liability to provide specific protection to PRRIF as title holder for any claims that might arise associated with injury or damage incurred on or associated with the properties. This is separate and distinct from the insurance carried by the Program covered in Program line item GFC-2. The fees are billed quarterly. Charges for 2013-2018 are provided below. It is estimated that 2020 fees will be slightly higher than 2018, on the order of $62,000.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter** | **2013 Fee** | **2014 Fee** | **2015 Fee** | **2016 Fee** | **2017 Fee** | **2018 Fee** |
| First | $14,634 | $16,373 | $11,919 | $9,300 | $10,094 | $14,170 |
| Second | $11,397 | $11,827 | $11,813 | $12,384 | $13,178 | $11,165 |
| Third | $12,205 | $18,144 | $12,030 | $18,052 | $19,312 | $21,014 |
| Fourth | $14,357 | $12,780 | $12,200 | $12,725 | $13,755 | $14,100 |
| **AVERAGE** | $13,148 | $14,781 | $11,991 | $13,115 | $14,085 | $15,112 |
| **TOTAL** | $52,593 | $59,124 | $47,962 | $52,461 | $56,339 | $60,449 |

***Property Taxes***

PRRIP is required to pay property taxes. A summary of the property taxes paid in 2016-2019 is provided by county below. All PRRIP properties are in Nebraska.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nebraska County** | **Total Property Tax Paid 2016** | **Total Property Tax Paid 2017** | **Total Property Tax Paid 2018** | **Total Property Tax Paid 2019** |
| Buffalo | $72,289 | $50,614.28 | $50,760.52 | $46,536.34 |
| Dawson | $7,972 | $8,094.72 | $7,965.52 | $12,558.70 |
| Gosper | $1,048 | $1,064.40 | $1,092.34 | $1,101.64 |
| Hall | $34,904 | $35,158.82 | $34,527.26 | $26,018.30 |
| Phelps | $28,495 | $29,945.18 | $29,125.78 | $26,360.78 |
| Kearney | $22,680 | $14,367.68 | $14,190.96 | $14,416.46 |
| **TOTAL** | $167,388 | $139,245.08 | $137,662.38 | $126,992.22 |

It is anticipated that a 9% increase of payments will be made to the counties in 2020. Based on the 2019 payments, an estimated $138,400 in property tax payments will be made in 2020.

***Cottonwood Rand Sponsorship Agreement***

As part of the sponsorship lease with NPPD, the Program is responsible for reimbursing all tax and management costs that exceed NPPD’s agricultural lease income. NPPD estimates that 2012 expenses will total approximately $45,000 and lease income will be on the order of $30,000. Accordingly, $15,000 has been budgeted to make up the difference.

***Land Acquisition******Associated Costs***

These costs are based on experience on 2009-2019 acquisitions. The associated costs per transaction are provided in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Fee** |
| Appraiser fee | $5,000 |
| Surveyor fee | $4,000 |
| Attorney fee (@$200/hr for 40 hours) | $8,000 |
| Miscellaneous costs and fees (@8-10% of total other fees) | $1,750 |
| **TOTAL** | $18,750 |

Assuming acquisition four tracts in 2020, each in the 100 to 200-acre range, an estimate of $75,000 was developed (4 x $18,750 = $75,000). Appraisers are selected through mutual agreement with the seller based on knowledge of real estate in specific locales, reputation, ability to meet “Yellow Book” standards, and previous direct experience of EDO staff with the appraisers. Appraisals must meet “Yellow Book” Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions in conformance with Federal Law 91-646 of the Uniform Appraisal Act. This criterion limits the number of appraisers qualified to perform appraisals for the Program and increases the cost. Rates are compared against customary and standard rates for appropriately qualified appraisers in the Lexington to Grand Island, NE area. A fee of $5,000 per appraisal is the average fee for a relatively straightforward appraisal of rural land in the Lexington to Grand Island area. Based on this market survey rate comparison and the qualifications of the potential appraisers, these rates are known to be fair, reasonable, and competitive.

The market survey process is composed of the following steps:

* Determine which appraisers are qualified to do a “Yellow Book” Uniform Appraisal Standard. This is accomplished through asking LAC members experienced in real estate transactions in the Associated Habitat Region who they know to be qualified and what their experience has been with various appraisers, and internet and yellow page searches followed up with phone calls or office visits to determine qualifications, experience, and assess skill levels. While this search may not be exhaustive it is extremely comprehensive with virtually all “Yellow Book” qualified appraisers in the Lexington to Grand Island area considered. Appraisers outside of this region would not have sufficient local knowledge to be considered qualified.
* As part of the list development process, rates and estimated (by the appraisers) costs of a standard basic appraisal were solicited.
* A comparison of qualifications, reputation, specific experience, and assessed skill level together with rates and estimated cost formed the basic information basis for then soliciting appraiser services for specific tracts. Acceptability by the selling party is also a critical factor.
* The experience gained through 10 years of land acquisition for the Program provides a solid basis for verification or modification of initial information gathered and is of great value in selecting appraisers.

Several surveyors have been used by the Program over the past six years, but one has emerged as far superior in quality of work, responsiveness, and overall level of service. Unless there are special circumstances that require use of a different surveyor, the Program always uses Land Services LLC for property boundary surveys. Charges are based on time and materials, with hourly rates of approximately $75/hr. for research, $85/hr. for drafting, and $125/hr. for in-field surveying. A fee of $4,000 per survey is an average fee for a basic boundary survey of a 160 to 240-acre parcel with the Platte River as one boundary, including basic research and a filed, stamped survey document. Based on a market survey of surveyor rates in the eastern half of Nebraska, these rates are known to be fair, reasonable, and competitive.

The market survey process is composed of the following steps:

* Determine which surveyors are qualified to perform riparian boundary surveys. This is accomplished through asking LAC members experienced in surveying issues and that have required the service of riparian boundary surveyors in the Associated Habitat Region who they know to be qualified and what their experience has been with various surveyors, and internet and yellow page searches followed up with phone calls or office visits to determine qualifications, experience, and to assess skill levels. Also, supplementing this information with the over 25 years of experience working with surveyors in Nebraska represented by the Program Staff person leading the land acquisition effort. While this search may not be exhaustive it is extremely comprehensive with virtually all experienced riparian boundary surveyors in the North Platte to Omaha area considered.
* As part of the list development process, rates and estimated (by the surveyors) costs of a standard basic riparian boundary survey were considered
* A comparison of qualifications, reputation, specific experience, and assessed skill level together with rates and estimated cost formed the basic information basis for then soliciting surveyor services for specific tracts.
* The experience gained through 12 years of land acquisition and associated surveys for the Program provides a solid basis for verification or modification of initial information gathered that is of great value in selecting surveyors.

Attorneys for real estate work are selected based on knowledge and experience in riparian boundary law, specific experience in a section of river, reputation, quality of work, lack of conflict of interest, and previous direct dealings with EDO staff. Rates are compared to customary and standard rates for the South Central and Eastern Nebraska areas. A fee based on 40 hours per transaction is a conservative estimate of time required for legal efforts, assuming some unique issues will need resolution, such as complications from riparian boundaries, and occasionally multiple county jurisdictions that arise on properties that straddle the river and lie in two counties. Based on this market survey rate comparison and the qualifications of the attorneys being considered, these rates are known to be fair, reasonable, and competitive. The market survey process is composed of the following steps:

* Determine which attorneys are qualified to perform riparian real estate transactions. This is accomplished through asking Advisory Committee or Governance Committee members experienced in riparian real estate legal issues and that have required the service of such attorneys in the Associated Habitat Region who they know to be qualified and what their experience has been with various attorneys, and internet and yellow page searches followed up with phone calls or office visits to determine qualifications, experience and to assess skill levels. Also, supplementing this information with the over 25 years of experience working with riparian real estate attorneys in Nebraska represented by the Program Staff person leading the land acquisition effort. While this search may not be exhaustive it is extremely comprehensive with virtually all experienced riparian real estate attorneys in the North Platte to Omaha area considered.
* As part of the list development process, rates and estimated (by the attorneys) costs of a standard basic riparian boundary survey were considered.
* A comparison of qualifications, reputation, specific experience, and assessed skill level together with rates and estimated costs for a basic riparian real estate transaction formed the basic information basis for then soliciting surveyor services for specific tracts.
* The experience gained through 8 years of land acquisition for the Program provides a solid basis for verification or modification of initial information gathered that is of great value in selecting attorneys.

Miscellaneous fees could include items from among the following: Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (@$1,000 to $1,500 per site with one always performed for each tract purchased), additional title searches, clouds on the title that must be resolved (fence issues, material removal from site, previous owners or heirs of previous owners that must be tracked down to positively clear titles), copying and printing fees, and unusual boundary issues that require additional research or surveys. No two acquisitions are the same, and some peculiarity often arises that must be dealt with. They rarely involve large expenditures to resolve, but, on the other hand, when they arise they are not trivial, negligible costs either.

***Land Purchase Costs (Buy, Easement or Lease)***

Current land prices for the types of non-complex lands we will be acquiring typically range from $4,500 to $8,000 per acre. It is estimated that approximately 400 acres of land will be acquired in a mix of off-channel sand and water (OCSW) acres and complex habitat plus-up acres. At an approximate average cost of 6,750 per acre, total acquisition cost would be $2,700,000.

**Note:** NO provision for income generated from land disposal actions is included in the budget estimate. The budget reflects only anticipated expenditures, not a net of expenditures and income.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: LP-4. Land Management**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $193,900 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Funding for non-AMP related management activities (fencing, routine agricultural operations, weed management, property maintenance, day-to-day management, non-AMP tree and channel clearing, etc.). Specific land management activities for the year are defined in the Land Management Plans developed through the LAC and approved by the GC. A summary of Program land work proposed for 2020 is included as **Appendix A** in this document.

**Notes on Cost**

See **Appendix A** in this document for specific details.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: LP-6. Land Plan Special Advisors**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $20,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Negotiation and drafting of agricultural leases on Program properties as well as oversight of sharecropping agreements and marketing of sharecropping commodities. Special expertise is necessary for development and negotiation of appropriate crop and pasture rental rates as well as decision-making related to sharecropping arrangements.

**Notes on Cost**

Two agricultural management firms will be used to handle tenant leases for Program properties in 2020. The properties will be divided geographically between the two firms, with the properties at and east of Kearney handled by AgriAffiliates and the properties to the west of Kearney handled by United Farm Management. The workload will be generally equal between the two firms. Labor costs are billed at $75 per hour by each firm. The breakdown of hours and costs estimated for each firm based on experience and discussions with each firm are tabulated below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Firm** | **Direct Costs** | **Hours** | **Labor Costs** | **Total** |
| AgriAffiliates | $1,000 | 120 hrs @$75/hr | $9,000 | $10,000 |
| United Farm Mgmt. | $1,000 | 120 hrs @$75/hr | $9,000 | $10,000 |
| **TOTAL** | | | | **$20,000** |

The firms were selected based on a comparative vetting process involving most of the firms that provide such services that were located within the Lexington to Grand Island corridor. The selection was made based on qualifications, reputation, capacity, and competitive labor rates/time estimates.

***General note on all Special Advisor budget line items***: Please refer to the third paragraph in the Exceptions: section of the Procurement Policy adopted by the Governance Committee in June 2016, “Retention of special advisors to the ED of a technical or legal nature is exempt from the procedures provided in this directive.”

Consequently, special advisors are not selected through a competitive process involving advertised RFQs or RFPs. Special advisors are selected by the Executive Director based on qualifications – education, relevant experience, expertise and skills, reliability, credibility, and ability to work effectively with the ED and the staff of the EDO. Special Advisors and the firms they are associated with cannot do any other work for the Program, individually or as part of a team. This is a critical restriction and generally orients special advisor selection to individuals who are sole proprietors or part of small firms that would not likely be doing significant levels of work for the Program on other specific, larger projects.

The billing rates are negotiated with the special advisors by the ED and are kept within the industry standard of practice based on each individual’s qualifications. While industry standard of practice may not be precisely defined, anyone who is a practicing member of that professional community understands the limits of reasonableness associated with those boundaries. Appropriate expertise to make this assessment resides with the ED or EDO staff. The industry standard of practice rates guidelines used in this process is established based on an on-going market survey process comparing labor rates of similarly qualified professionals in the field.

In the case of Special Advisors, individuals with similar experience and qualifications have been part of consultant teams selected through the Program’s competitive procurement process over an eight-plus-year period. Comparison of the Special Advisor rates to the rates charged by comparable individuals through the competitive procurement process provides an indisputable basis for comparison. In all cases the Special Advisor rates are not only within the range of rates seen on the consultant teams which have been selected competitively, but typically at the middle to lower end of the range. As rates charged by Special Advisors are at the middle to low end of the range of rates for similar work acquired through the Program’s competitive procurement process, the estimate for Special Advisors is considered fair and reasonable.

The anticipated level of effort for the upcoming year is also discussed with the special advisors by the ED and members of the EDO staff, but all work is assigned on an as-needed basis with no guarantee of any minimum level of assignments.

During the budgeting process, the special advisors anticipated to be needed and roughly the level of effort expected to accomplish the work plan for the budget year is scrutinized by and discussed with the appropriate advisory committees, the Finance Committee, and the Governance Committee. Input is received and taken under advisement from all these sources as to the appropriateness of the budgets for these line items with appropriate adjustments made prior to budget approval.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: LP-7. Public Access Management**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $80,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Cost associated with management of public recreation access program on Program lands. Costs are for the maintenance and administration of an on-line reservation system and the on the ground monitoring of recreational use of the properties.

**Notes on Cost**

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will manage public access to Program lands in 2020 pursuant to a contract between the Nebraska Community Foundation and the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. The annual cost of this agreement is $40,000. The 2020 budget includes two years of administration payments.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPCP-1. North Platte Choke Point**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $10,500 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The objective of this task is to increase and maintain an active river channel capacity of 3,000 cfs on the North Platte river at North Platte. Channel capacity improvements will provide the Program with more flexibility in implementing flow tests made under the Adaptive Management Plan and in delivery of Program water to meet shortage reduction to target flow goals under the Water Plan. WPCP-1 costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Test Flow Release Monitoring | $ 5,500 |
| State Channel Maintenance | $ 5,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 10,500** |

**Notes on Cost**

This task will continue efforts toward increasing the North Platte River channel capacity at the National Weather Service (NWS) flood stage upstream of the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) diversion dam to at least 3,000 cfs. Specifically, this includes efforts toward raising the NWS flood stage at North Platte from 6.0 feet to 6.5 feet. The Program intends to work with the EA manager to complete a test flow release in order to test the recently constructed State Channel Reactivation Project. The primary objective of this release will be to assess impacts in the Chokepoint area at stages around 6.5 feet. This task was originally scheduled for 2019 but was not completed as planned.

*Test Flow Release Monitoring*

Local survey crews will be hired to monitor, survey, and photograph the flow release. This includes documentation of high-water marks, stage measurements, groundwater measurements, and other relevant monitoring activities. This budget line assumes a five-day monitoring period for this flow release. Survey crews for recent projects awarded through a competitive selection process were charged at $210/hour. A survey crew for four hours a day, for five days is estimated to cost $4,200. ED Office staff will also hire a pilot and plane to take aerial photos of the release. Kearney Aviation Center rates for pilot and plane were $195 per hour in 2018. Two flights, with an estimated duration of three hours each, total $1,170.

*State Channel Maintenance*

Routine maintenance of the state channel berm and the Albrecht property will include tasks such as mowing, culvert cleanout, and channel debris maintenance, as needed to maintain project function. Equipment and labor for this task is estimated to cost $150/hour based on recently quoted hourly rates for excavators. After the high flow release, some minor earthwork maintenance may be necessary if the berm is damaged. This task assumes 16 hours of post-flow release maintenance and 16 hours of routine maintenance in 2020.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPRT-1. Retiming Projects. Canal Recharge**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $465,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Retiming of excess flows through intentional groundwater recharge in CNPPID, NPPD and CPNRD canal systems.[[4]](#footnote-5) Recharge operations will occur during the non-irrigation season as conditions allow, subject to the availability of excess flows, groundwater elevations below designated thresholds, and ice-free operating conditions. Estimated WPRT-1 recharge costs are summarized by district/canal below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| CNPPID Phelps Canal | $ 135,000 |
| NPPD Canals | $ 165,000 |
| CPNRD Canals | $ 165,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 465,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

*Phelps County Canal Ground Water Recharge*

The Program intends to continue retiming excess flows through intentional groundwater recharge in the Phelps County Canal in 2020, as it has done each year since 2011. Recharge operations can occur during the non-irrigation season as conditions allow, subject to the availability of excess flows, groundwater elevations below designated thresholds, and ice-free operating conditions. To facilitate recharge, a check structure at Mile Post (MP) 13.3 allows water to pool in the canal and seep into the underlying aquifer. The CNPPID will obtain a temporary permit to divert unappropriated excess flows for groundwater recharge.

The project budget will be used for recharge operations during the winter, spring, and fall of calendar year 2020. The anticipated expenditures by the Program include the cost of divertible excess flows as measured at the CNPPID’s flume at MP 1.6 of the Phelps County Canal. A Water Service Agreement (WSA) with the CNPPID is in place, the terms of which specify that the Program’s share is 75% of the total amount diverted. Details of anticipated 2020 Phelps County Canal groundwater recharge are shown in the table below. Actual expenditures in 2020 will be based on the measured deliveries into the canal for recharge operations.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Value** |
| Water Service Agreement | Expires December 31, 2023 |
| Unit Cost | $32.87 per acre-foot |
| Estimated Volume1 | 4,000 acre-feet |
| **Budget2** | **$132,000** |

1 Based on 2015-2018 excess flow diversions (range = 3,258 to 5,182 acre-feet, average = 3,925 acre-feet).

2 Unit Cost × Estimated Volume, rounded to the next $1,000.

In 2016, the Program constructed a well on the Cook tract to recapture groundwater intentionally recharged through the Phelps County Canal. The well was permitted through the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District. The well is equipped with an 800 gallon per minute pump and is used by the Program to extract recharged water from the alluvium. The extracted water is pumped into the North Phelps County Ditch as surface water (via a pipeline) and returns to the Platte River as measurable returns at a point location during shortages to target flows.

The 2020 budget includes funds for continued operation and maintenance of the existing Cook tract recapture well. The Cook well pumped a maximum of 152 acre-feet in 2017 and was pumped minimally in 2019 due to generally wet conditions. For budget purposes, 200 AF of Cook well pumping will be assumed in 2020, well below the 660 acre-feet assumed for budgeting in past years. The estimated cost of pumping is $5.20 per acre-foot, based on the discharge rate, TDH (total dynamic head), pump efficiency, motor efficiency and electrical power costs (approximately $1,000 budget). A maintenance budget of $1,500 is included for general upkeep of the well in 2020. The total 2020 budget for pumping, operating and maintenance of the Cook well is $2,500. Overall total budget for the Phelps County Canal groundwater recharge project is rounded to $135,000.

*NPPD Gothenburg and Dawson County Canal Ground Water Recharge*

The Program has a WSA with the NPPD effective January 1, 2020 for diversion of excess flows into the Gothenburg and Dawson County Canals for groundwater recharge operations during the non-irrigation season. Per the terms of the WSA, the Program will pay NPPD for a Net Amount Diverted, which is defined as “the flow measured by NPPD using the Gothenburg Canal and Dawson County Canal measuring flumes located near the river head gates…and subtracting each canal’s river returns as measured by NPPD.” To facilitate the project, NPPD will obtain the necessary temporary permits to divert unappropriated excess flows for groundwater recharge. Details of anticipated 2020 CPNRD canals groundwater recharge are shown in the table below. Actual expenditures by the Program will be based on measured diversions into the Gothenburg and Dawson County Canals for groundwater recharge in 2020.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Value** |
| Water Service Agreement | Expires December 31, 2025 |
| Unit Cost | $32.87 per acre-foot |
| Assumed Volume1 | 5,000 acre-feet |
| **Budget2** | **$165,000** |

1 Estimated volume based on 2015-2018 average annual net recharge.

2 Unit Cost × Estimated Volume, rounded to the next $1,000.

*CPNRD Orchard-Alfalfa, Thirty Mile and Cozad Canal Groundwater Recharge*

The CPNRD diverts excess flows for non-irrigation season recharge through the Orchard-Alfalfa, Thirty Mile, and Cozad canals. Permanent appropriations for recharge diversions (100 cfs each at Thirty Mile and Cozad, 75 cfs at Orchard-Alfalfa) were approved by the Nebraska DNR in 2015. Details of anticipated 2020 CPNRD canals groundwater recharge are shown in the table below. Actual expenditures in 2020 will be based on the measured deliveries.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Value** |
| Water Service Agreement | Expires December 31, 2024 |
| Unit Cost | $32.87 per acre-foot |
| Assumed Volume1 | 5,000 acre-feet |
| **Budget2** | **$165,000** |

1 Maximum Total Amount Diverted specified in the WSA.

2 Unit Cost × Estimated Volume, rounded to the next $1,000.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPRT-2. Retiming Projects. Reservoir Recharge**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $750,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Retiming of excess flows through intentional groundwater recharge in CNPPID’s Elwood Reservoir.[[5]](#footnote-6) Recharge operations will occur during the non-irrigation season as conditions allow, subject to the availability of excess flows, groundwater elevations below designated thresholds, and ice-free operating conditions.

**Notes on Cost**

The Program intends to continue purchasing excess flows delivered into Elwood Reservoir in the CNPPID system for recharge in 2020, as it has done each year since 2015. Elwood Reservoir is an unlined reservoir that acts as a holding basin to allow excess flows to seep and recharge the alluvial aquifer. Excess flows are delivered through the E-65 Canal to the Carl T. Curtis Pump Station, which pumps the water into Elwood Reservoir. A WSA with the CNPPID is in place, the terms of which specify that the Program’s share is 50% of the total amount diverted up to a maximum of 30,000 acre-feet per year. Details of anticipated 2020 Elwood Reservoir groundwater recharge are shown in the table below. Actual expenditures in 2020 will be based on the measured deliveries into the reservoir for recharge operations.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Value** |
| Water Service Agreement | Expires December 31, 2023 |
| Unit Cost | $49.92 per acre-foot |
| Assumed Volume1 | 15,000 acre-feet |
| **Budget2** | **$750,000** |

1 Based on maximum annual diversions of 30,000 acre-feet and a 50% Program share.

2 Unit Cost × Estimated Volume, rounded to the next $10,000.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPRT-3. Retiming Projects. Broad-Scale Recharge**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $52,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

This project concept consists of developing a series of large, shallow recharge ponds in the Central Platte Basin, focused on the reach between Gothenburg, NE and Odessa, NE to maximize the benefit to the habitat reach. The Program recently completed construction of its first broad-scale recharge project at the Cottonwood Ranch Complex, which included the construction of a series of earthen berms and water control structures to allow for the ponding of water and subsequent recharge of the alluvial aquifer.[[6]](#footnote-7) The water is delivered to the property via a constructed pipeline from the Phelps County Canal at times when the Platte River flow at Grand Island is in excess of USFWS target flows, and the infiltrated water returns to the Platte River over time. Estimated WPRT-3 recharge costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Spillway gate maintenance | $ 1,386 |
| Gate SCADA system | $ 9,800 |
| Electricity | $ 3,500 |
| Berm maintenance | $ 31,250 |
| Groundwater monitoring | $ 6,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **$51,936**  **Rounded to $52,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

The Program will begin operation of the recharge project in the spring or summer of 2020, once the vegetation on the berms has matured. The CNPPID will charge the Program $26.53 per acre-foot (with a 2% annual escalator) for water diverted to the delivery pipeline starting in 2020. However, the Program will not be responsible for a cash payment to the CNPPID until the cost of water deliveries exceeds the cost of the design and construction of the delivery pipeline (estimated by CNPPID to be $1,074,900), which was included in the 2018 budget. At 2020 rates, the estimated pipeline costs are equivalent to approximately 40,500 acre-feet of water deliveries. This far exceeds anticipated deliveries to Cottonwood Ranch in 2020, so no additional budget is included for water deliveries.

The water delivery pipeline has two valves that regulate outflows. Currently, the valves are controlled manually from a box on the west end of the property. The Program is working with CNPPID to add equipment and hardware necessary to link the valves to CNPPID’s remote-control system. This will allow CNPPID to control deliveries remotely and the Program to control deliveries locally/manually. It is likely that the cost associated with the equipment, hardware, and labor necessary to install the equipment will be paid for by the CNPPID, as it will be buying the pipeline back over time.

Seven of the eight water control structures at the Cottonwood Ranch project are solar powered, self-regulating gates manufactured by Rubicon. Annual maintenance on the gates will be performed by a Rubicon technician and will cost $1,386 per year ($198 per gate). In addition, the gates are going to be linked to an online remote-control system to allow EDO staff the ability to operate the gates and monitor the water surface elevations without being at the property. The one-time cost of the hardware, setup and install of the remote-control equipment will be $5,250 ($750 per gate). The annual cost of the subscription to the remote-control software will be $4,550 per year ($650 per gate). The annual maintenance and subscription will be budgeted for each year.

Electrical power service from Southern Power will be necessary to power the pipeline valves and other equipment associated with the delivery pipeline. Southern installed a meter and overhead power supply specifically for this purpose. The cost of this power service is difficult to estimate because the project has not been operational yet but, for 2020, $3,500 has been budgeted for electrical service. This annual cost will be monitored and updated in future years.

Some amount of annual maintenance will be necessary at the project. This could include fixing berms or spillways that are damaged from high flows or precipitation events, re-seeding berms, replacing riprap, or other things of this nature. The Nebraska Resources Development Fund Guidelines recommends budgeting 1.25% of the constructions costs per year for maintenance for projects similar to the broad-scale recharge project. Assuming the capital costs of the project approach about $5,000,000, this would suggest that $62,500 should be budgeted per year for maintenance. This cost will likely be lower in 2020 since the project was just completed, but some costs are anticipated. It is assumed that 50% of the anticipated annual maintenance costs, or $31,250, will be needed for small upkeep/repairs in 2020. This annual cost will be monitored and updated in future years.

Project water accounting for the Program and for regulatory agencies (Department of Natural Resources and Tri-Basin Natural Resources District) will be accomplished through detailed monitoring of water surface levels in the recharge basins and the Peterson Drain. It is estimated that about $6,000 will be needed for new and/or repaired equipment, which equates to about four new data loggers.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPRT-4. Retiming Projects. Recapture Wells**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $1,200,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Groundwater recapture projects are retiming projects utilizing the water from existing recharge operations, such as the Phelps County Canal groundwater recharge project and Elwood Reservoir recharge. Since recharge accretions are not controllable and may return to the river during excesses to target flows, groundwater recapture allows the Program to pump intentionally recharged water to the river during shortage periods to maximize the score of the already recharged water.[[7]](#footnote-8)

**Notes on Cost**

The Program intends to move forward the design, permitting, and construction of a network of additional wells to recapture water recharged through the Phelps County Canal, Elwood Reservoir, and the broad-scale recharge project at Cottonwood Ranch. New recapture wells would generate an additional score estimated at 8,000 acre-feet per year. Preliminary discussions with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD) regarding project permitting and planning have already occurred. Construction of approximately 4 to 8 wells is anticipated in 2020. For budgeting purposes, it is assumed that most of the planning will be undertaken by the EDO and the design work will be undertaken by a hired consultant managed directly by the EDO.

The location of the approximately 4 to 8 recapture wells to be constructed in 2020 is uncertain but it will likely include a few wells near the Cottonwood Ranch Complex. Preliminary cost estimates total $1.2 million for 10 wells in the vicinity of Cottonwood Ranch; this amount is included in the 2020 budget. These costs include test drilling, well construction, power supply, pipeline construction, and engineering design and oversite.

One important note is that the Program has been discussing approaches regarding the design and construction costs being shared with the DNR and/or the NRD. Discussions are in the early phases but potential options range from the DNR paying for the design and construction with money set aside for the now defunct J-2 Regulating Reservoirs project, to one of the entities paying for a portion of the costs in exchange for sharing the benefit of the project (i.e., a portion of the yield).

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPRT-5. Retiming Projects. Surface Storage/Infrastructure (Slurry Wall Pits)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $284,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Surface water storage sites like slurry wall gravel pits and the J-2 regulating reservoir would store water diverted during times of excess to target flows and release the water back to the river during times of shortage. The J-2 reservoir has been put into a permanent hold status. The Program has completed engineering design for a slurry wall storage facility at an existing gravel pit mine on the Lakeside property (Tract W1606).[[8]](#footnote-9) It has also been put on hold in favor of other projects that provide more controllable water to the Program. Costs in 2020 are associated with construction and monitoring of wetland mitigation associated with acquisition of Tract W1606. Estimated WPRT-5 costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Wetland mitigation construction | $ 278,900 |
| Mitigation site maintenance | $ 2,700 |
| Mitigation site monitoring | $ 2,300 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 283,900**  **Rounded to $ 284,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

As part of the real estate transaction to acquire the Lakeside property, the Program agreed to pay the permitting costs associated with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including construction of mitigation) for the miner’s new mine site, which is adjacent to the Lakeside property and to which the Program owns first right of refusal. Per Section 404, mitigation is needed to offset impacts to wetlands during mining. The EDO designed and bid the mitigation project in 2019. The mitigation work was awarded to Blessing Construction for a price of $278,900. Construction will begin in 2019 but will likely occur in 2020 as well. It is possible that all payments are made in 2020, so the full $278,900 is included in the 2020 budget.

Costs will be needed for monitoring and maintenance of the mitigation site. Maintenance and monitoring are needed to satisfy conditions of the Section 404 permit obtained from the Corps of Engineers. Monitoring and a monitoring reported are required to be turned into the Corps annually at the end of the year. The most recent monitoring and report submissions have been performed by a contractor and have cost the Program about $2,300, which includes fieldwork, data synthesis, writing a report and submitting it to the Corps. Based on past projects and input from the Corps, small maintenance actions could be required but should be minimal costs if the mitigation site is establishing correctly. An additional $2,700 is included for annual maintenance of the mitigation site, bringing the total for monitoring and maintenance to $5,000.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPST-1. Storage Leases. Lake McConaughy Sources**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $ - |  |  |

**Task Description**

In 2019, an agreement was reached between CPNRD, NPPD, CNPPID the Nebraska DNR, to test an arrangement in which surface water would not be used by CPNRD and NPPD irrigation districts and a portion of that water would be transferred to the EA at the end of the irrigation season.[[9]](#footnote-10) There is the potential to transition to long-term agreements in 2020 as well as lease additional storage water from CNPPID. Estimated WPST-1 leasing costs are summarized by source below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| CPNRD Exchange | $ TBD |
| NPPD Exchange | $ TBD |
| CNPPID Storage Lease | $ TBD |
| **TOTAL** | **$ -** |

**Notes on Cost**

The money included in this line item is intended to provide for pre-payment associated with longer-term agreements. Negotiations will commence in early 2020 and the work plan will be updated when additional information is available.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPST-2. Storage Leases. Upstream Sources**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $624,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

This line item includes leasing of surface water from sources upstream of Lake McConaughy. This includes water leased from Wyoming’s Pathfinder Municipal Account as well as potential leases of North Platte Glendo storage water from irrigation districts upstream of Lake McConaughy.[[10]](#footnote-11) Estimated WPST-2 leasing costs are summarized by source below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Pathfinder Municipal Account Lease | $ 624,000 |
| North Platte Glendo Storage Water | $ TBD |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 624,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

*Pathfinder Municipal Account*

The Program has a new contract with the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) for water from the Municipal Account in Pathfinder Reservoir. The contract is effective on January 1, 2020 and the term extends until December 31, 2032. For 2020, the maximum water available from the Pathfinder Municipal Account is 9,600 acre-feet at a unit cost of $65 per acre-foot. The resulting 2020 budget is $624,000.

*North Platte Glendo Storage Water*

Appendix C of the Final Settlement Stipulation for the 2001 Modified North Platte Decree is an Amendment of the 1953 Order to Provide for Use of Glendo Storage Water (Amendment). Glendo Reservoir includes an account for the storage of up to 40,000 acre-feet of natural flow water, of which 15,000 acre-feet is available to water users in Wyoming and 25,000 acre-feet is available to water users in Nebraska. This water is contracted to users through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The Nebraska allocation of Glendo storage water is contracted to four entities, including Enterprise Irrigation District (3,000 acre-feet); Mitchell Irrigation District (12,000 acre-feet); Bridgeport Irrigation District (2,000 acre-feet); and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (8,000 acre-feet). A desirable outcome would be agreements under which the Program can lease Glendo water or other sources from one or more irrigation districts diverting from the North Platte River between the Nebraska-Wyoming state line and Lake McConaughy and store that water in the Lake McConaughy EA downstream.

In 2019, the Program continued to have productive discussions with one of the Glendo contractors, resulting in the initiation of an effort to conduct an irrigation system inventory and rehabilitation cost analysis to determine lease potential. Specific details necessary for developing a 2020 budget for this task are not yet available.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPIR-1. Irrigator Leases**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $670,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The Program can temporarily lease surface water rights from individual irrigators under the CNPPID system. Irrigators then dryland farm the enrolled parcels, which are generally odd-shaped or hard-to-irrigate lands, during the term of the lease agreement. The consumptive use portion of the surface water—9 inches per acre during a full-allocation year—is available in Lake McConaughy and transferred into the EA for the Program.[[11]](#footnote-12) The CNPPID serves as the administrator, managing the individual lease agreements, processes, and operations. The Program and the CNPPID agreed upon a 5-year extension of the irrigator lease, beginning with the 2019 irrigation season, and continuing through the 2023 irrigation season. The table below provides details of the CNPPID irrigator lease for 2020.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Value** |
| Water Leasing Agreement | Expires December 31, 2023 |
| Unit Cost | $220 per enrolled acre |
| Assumed Enrollment1 | 3,000 acres |
| CNPPID Administration Fee | $10,000 |
| **Budget2** | **$670,000** |

1 Maximum acreage specified in the Water Leasing Agreement.

2 Unit Cost × Estimated Enrollment, plus CNPPID Administration Fee.

With full enrollment, the CNPPID irrigator lease would result in 2,250 acre-feet credited to the Lake McConaughy EA in October 2020. Actual cost and project yield will be based on irrigator lease enrollment for the 2020 irrigation season.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPLW-1. Land for Water Property Maintenance**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $88,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

This line item includes the funds necessary for general land management and maintenance activities at Program properties acquired for developing Water Action Plan projects, including the Lindstrom, Edlund, and Lakeside tracts.[[12]](#footnote-13)

**Notes on Cost**

Associated tasks and individual budgets are shown in the table below. An additional $15,000 is included for maintenance at new land-for-water properties assumed to be acquired in 2020 along with $9,000 for taxes on existing properties associated with Program water projects. See **Appendix A** in this document for more detail.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Fence & Road Maintenance | $7,000 |
| Fence Replacement | $16,500 |
| Noxious Weed Control | $15,000 |
| Mowing | $2,000 |
| Custom Farm Expense | $23,000 |
| Electricity for Livestock Wells | $500 |
| Taxes | $9,000 |
| New Acquisitions | $15,000 |
| **BUDGET** | **$88,000** |

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPWM-1. Water Monitoring Activities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $47,500 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The Program maintains a network of surface and groundwater monitoring locations equipped with manual and automated data loggers. Data from this network provides information on regional groundwater levels, river and wetland stage, and surface/groundwater interactions. In addition, the Program leases two weather stations on its Binfield South and Morse properties and shares in the expense of maintaining three stream gages in the upper portion of the AHR.[[13]](#footnote-14) Estimated WPWM-1 costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Groundwater Monitoring | $ 22,356 |
| Cottonwood Ranch Stream Gages | $ 20,000 |
| Overton Stream Gage | $ 5,000 |
| **BUDGET** | **$ 47,356**  **Round to $ 47,500** |

**Notes on Cost**

The Program maintains a network of surface and groundwater monitoring locations equipped with manual and automated data loggers. Data from this network provides information on regional groundwater levels, river and wetland stage, and surface/groundwater interactions. In addition, the Program leases two weather stations on its Binfield South and Morse properties. All monitoring equipment supports WAP reporting, accounting, and decision making as well as future WAP design. Data loggers and other equipment require ongoing maintenance and replacement, as shown in the following table. Two additional groundwater monitoring wells near the Cottonwood Ranch Broadscale Recharge project are planned for 2020.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Unit cost** | **Units** | **Quantity** | **Total** |
| Hydro Vu subscription | $ 513.60 | ea. | 3 | $ 1,540.80 |
| Desiccant: Interra sSorb blue indicating silica gel | $ 30.00 | lbs. | 5 | $ 150.00 |
| Additional large desiccant containers | $ 195.00 | ea. | 5 | $ 975.00 |
| Move Fox AWDN to Morse | $ 2,500.00 | ea. | 1 | $ 2,500.00 |
| AWDN Annual Maintenance | $ 2,800.00 | ea. | 2 | $ 5,600.00 |
| Monitoring wells: 20' deep | $ 3,000.00 | ea. | 2 | $ 6,000.00 |
| In Situ Level Troll 500, 20' cable, desiccant, copper nose cone | $ 1,750.00 | ea. | 2 | $ 3,500.00 |
| Staff gage replacements | $ 35.00 | ea. | 4 | $ 140.00 |
| Channel posts, 6' | $ 10.00 | ea. | 10 | $ 100.00 |
| In Situ Level Troll maintenance | $ 350.00 | ea. | 3 | $ 1,050.00 |
| In Situ Tube telemetry maintenance | $ 400.00 | ea. | 2 | $ 800.00 |
| **BUDGET** | | | | **$ 22,355.80** |

In addition to the items in this table, stream gages have been installed at the request of the Program. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) installed and maintains two gages located on the Cottonwood Ranch Complex. These gages are used primarily in conjunction with geomorphology and sediment augmentation related research. Annual maintenance costs include physical maintenance of the gage, checking and adjusting the rating curve through field measurements, QC/QA of the data, and making data available real-time. The USGS gages were established in a service agreement negotiated and still held by NPPD, but with the costs passed through to the Program. Costs are set at $20,000 but vary slightly annually if significant equipment components, such as probes or cables, need replacing.

The Program will also cost-share with CNPPID for the continued operation of the USGS gage at Overton, NE. The Overton gage is essential to Program decision-making through the availability of real-time data provided by the USGS equipment. Costs for this arrangement are anticipated to be about $5,000 based on 2014-2018 experience.

There are two entities in Nebraska that can establish official stream gaging stations, the USGS and the NDNR, and these stations must be official gaging stations to establish scientific rigor and credibility. Because there are no other options for establishing an official stream record through a competitive selection process, and because each entity is a government agency bound by their rules and regulations for providing their services and the associated costs, and because the USGS costs are comparable to the NDNR costs; therefore, these rates (total $25,000) are considered fair and reasonable.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPMT-1. Water Management Tools (COHYST)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $5,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The COHYST Tool provides an integrated surface water, ground water, and watershed model for the Platte River between Lake McConaughy and Duncan, Nebraska. It is a tool used by the NDNR for water planning and administration, and it is anticipated to be a valuable tool for project planning and evaluation efforts under the PRRIP Water Plan. [[14]](#footnote-15) The COHYST Sponsors Group is outlining its Phase 3 workplan now that the modeling tool is fully developed and documented. As a user of the modeling tool, the PRRIP may require additional training or support from the consultants that developed the model. The PRRIP may also contribute funds to ongoing model updates and model support through the COHYST Sponsors Group.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WPSA-1. Water-Related Special Advisors**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $103,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The EDO may rely on Special Advisors to assist in Water Plan-related issues beyond staff expertise or to assist with short-term schedule challenges. These areas may include but are not limited to water infrastructure and design, structural, and hydrogeology/ground water.[[15]](#footnote-16) Estimated WPSA-1 costs are summarized by item below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Hydrogeology and Ground Water | $ 68,000 |
| Civil Infrastructure | $ 35,000 |
| **BUDGET** | **$ 103,000** |

**Notes on Cost**

*Hydrogeology and Ground Water*

Several projects include hydrogeologic elements that may require further expertise, including ground water recharge projects, ground water recapture pumping projects and other projects with a ground water component. Projects may include the Elwood Reservoir recharge project, the Phelps, CPNRD, and NPPD canal recharge projects, the proposed recapture well network, and any COHYST or other groundwater model scenario runs. Cost estimates are based approximately 400 hours at a billing rate of $170/hour, for a total of $68,000. Billing rates are based on previous contracts awarded in a competitive process and are assumed to be fair and reasonable. Bill Hahn is contracted as the Program’s Special Advisor for hydrogeology and ground water.

*Civil Infrastructure*

Brad Anderson will continue to serve as Special Advisor for civil infrastructure. Brad has extensive experience with civil design and construction engineering for water-related projects as well as planning and economic analysis of irrigation system infrastructure rehabilitation. Cost estimates are based on approximately 150 hours at a billing rate of $170/hour, for a total of $26,000.

As in recent years, Mike Applegate will also be retained as a Special Advisor with a particular emphasis on slurry wall gravel pits or other types of civil infrastructure projects. Cost estimates are based on 40 hours at $225/hour, for a total of $9,000. The table below summarizes costs by advisor.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Area of Expertise** | **Name** | **Estimated Range of Expenditures** |
| Hydrogeology and Groundwater | Bill Hahn | $68,000 |
| Civil Infrastructure | Mike Applegate | $9,000 |
| Civil Infrastructure | Brad Anderson | $26,000 |
| **BUDGET** | | **$103,000** |

***General note on all Special Advisor budget line items***: Please refer to the third paragraph in the Exceptions: section of the Procurement Policy adopted by the GC in June 2016, “Retention of special advisors to the ED of a technical or legal nature is exempt from the procedures provided in this directive.”

Consequently, Special Advisors are not selected through a competitive process involving advertised RFQs or RFPs. Special Advisors are selected by the Executive Director (ED) based on qualifications – education, relevant experience, expertise and skills, reliability, credibility, and ability to work effectively with the ED and the staff of the ED Office. Special Advisors and the firms they are associated with cannot do any other work for the Program, individually or as part of a team. This is a critical restriction and generally orients special advisor selection to individuals who are sole proprietors or part of small firms that would not likely be doing significant levels of work for the Program on other specific, larger projects.

The billing rates are negotiated with the special advisors by the ED and are kept within the industry standard of practice based on each individual’s qualifications. While industry standard of practice may not be precisely defined, anyone who is a practicing member of that professional community understands the limits of reasonableness associated with those boundaries. Appropriate expertise to make this assessment resides with the ED or ED Office staff. The industry standard of practice rates guidelines used in this process is established based on an on-going market survey process comparing labor rates of similarly qualified professionals in the field.

In the case of Special Advisors, individuals with similar experience and qualifications have been part of consultant teams selected through the Program’s competitive procurement process over an eight-plus-year period. Comparison of the Special Advisor rates to the rates charged by comparable individuals through the competitive procurement process provides an indisputable basis for comparison. In all cases the Special Advisor rates are not only within the range of rates seen on the consultant teams which have been selected competitively, but typically at the middle to lower end of the range. As rates charged by Special Advisors are at the middle to low end of the range of rates for similar work acquired through the Program’s competitive procurement process, the estimate for Special Advisors is considered fair and reasonable.

The anticipated level of effort for the upcoming year is also discussed with the special advisors by the ED and members of the EDO staff, but all work is assigned on an as-needed basis with no guarantee of any minimum level of assignments. During the budgeting process, the Special Advisors anticipated to be needed and roughly the level of effort expected to accomplish the work plan for the budget year is scrutinized by and discussed with the appropriate advisory committees, the Finance Committee, and the GC. Input is received and taken under advisement from all these sources as to the appropriateness of the budgets for these line items with appropriate adjustments made prior to budget finalization.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: LP-2. AMP-Related Management Actions at Habitat Complexes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $611,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Implementation of target species habitat restoration and maintenance activities at Program habitat complexes and non-complex properties. Activities generally include creation and maintenance of tern and plover on and off-channel nesting habitats and creation and maintenance of on and off-channel whooping crane roosting habitat. Some of the specific management actions are tree clearing, nesting island maintenance, channel disking, herbicide application, and seeding. See **Appendix A** for a detailed breakdown of LP-2 management actions by habitat complex.

**Notes on Cost**

Appendix A contains more details, but the general breakdown of estimated costs for proposed AMP-related management actions in 2020 is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Estimated FY19 Cost** |
| New acquisitions | $ 50,000 |
| Non-complex | $ 49,859 |
| Plum Creek Complex | $ 24,150 |
| Cottonwood Ranch Complex | $ 28,983 |
| Elm Creek Complex | $ 27,531 |
| Pawnee Complex | $ 29,800 |
| Fort Kearny Complex | $ 43,740 |
| Audubon Rowe Complex | $ 28,695 |
| Clark Island Complex | $ 94,019 |
| Shoemaker Island Complex | $ 31,041 |
| Chapman Complex | $203,130 |
| **TOTAL** | **$610,948**  **Round up to $611,000** |

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: LP2-P. Trapping Projects**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $77,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Mammalian predator trapping will be conducted under the existing agreement between the Program and USDA-APHIS. The 2020 trapping effort will require a contract amendment with the USDA. Mammalian predator trapping occurs at all managed tern and plover nesting sites to increase productivity within the AHR and beaver trapping occurs in and around the North Platte Choke Point channel to maintain or increase flow conveyance.

**Notes on Cost**

Based on the current agreement with the USDA within the AHR and additional trapping needs at the North Platte Choke Point, trapping costs are expected to increase slightly and are itemized as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Estimated FY20 Cost** |
| Salary/Benefits | $41,733.00 |
| Vehicle/Transportation | $12,630.00 |
| Travel Cost | $1,000.00 |
| Equipment/Supplies | $4,500.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **$59,863.00** |
| Pooled Costs (11%) | $ 6,584.93 |
| Overhead (16.15%) | $ 9,667.87 |
| **Trapping Total** | **$76,115.80, round up to $77,000** |

**Products**

* Increased tern and plover productivity from the AHR.
* Increased flow conveyance at the North Platte Choke Point.
* Predator trapping data that will be summarized and included in the annual tern and plover monitoring report.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: PD-22. Sediment Augmentation Implementation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $150,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Implementation of full-scale sediment augmentation, monitoring, data analysis, and reporting. Implementation will occur in the south channel of the Platte River along Jeffrey Island (the J-2 Return channel) in an attempt to arrest continued channel incision.

**Notes on Cost**

The FY20 tasks and estimated costs for sediment augmentation are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Task Description** | **Estimated FY20 Cost** |
| 80,000 tons of sediment augmentation in the south channel above the Overton bridge | $150,000 |
| **FY20 ESTIMATED TOTAL** | **$150,000** |

Project oversight, including project planning and design, development of bid package to secure augmentation contractor, and final project evaluation and reporting will be conducted by the EDO. This estimate assumes basic implementation of mechanical manipulation (not sand pumping) and monitoring and cost estimates based on pilot study experience. As the budget estimate is developed by using rates and the level of effort for similar work acquired for the Program through the competitive procurement process, final negotiation and award of the augmentation and monitoring contracts will be acquired through competition and the estimate for this work is considered fair and reasonable.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WP-1 (b). Active Channel Capacity Improvements**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $2,600,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The objective of the Active Channel Capacity Improvements task is to increase and maintain the active river channel capacity. Channel capacity improvements will assist the Program in maintaining suitable on-channel roosting habitat for whooping cranes as well as make it easier to deliver Program water to and through the AHR.

**Notes on Costs**

The Platte Valley and West Central Weed Management Areas estimates it will cost on the order of $600,000 annually to control phragmites within the Platte River Basin into perpetuity. It is estimated that $200,000/year will be requested of and likely required by the Program for phragmites control to maintain or improve flow conveyance throughout the Platte River Basin to allow the Program to test FWS target flows and other AMP-related flow management activities.

Annual cost breakdowns for allocation of the budget shown in Table below are based on control expenditures made by the Platte Valley Weed Management Area in previous years. The actual distribution of expenditures in any given year varies among categories and may include other categories associated with channel maintenance and enhancement such as river tillage operations for vegetation control in addition to herbicide-based control efforts.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Amount** | **Approximate Unit Cost** | **Total Cost** |
| Control (helicopter) | 4,800 acres | $70/acre | $336,000 |
| Control (Airboat) | 600 hrs | $150/hr | $90,000 |
| Herbicide | 2,325 gals | $75/gal | $174,375 |
|  |  | **Total (Rounded)** | **$600,000** |
|  |  | **13-year Total Requested** | **$2,600,000**  **(13 years @ $200,000/year)** |

WP-1(b) is assumed to be a 1-time expenditure of Program funds to provide seed money for an endowment cost share fund for Platte Valley and West Central Weed Management Areas to control phragmites and other noxious weeds and clear biomass from the North Platte River channel between Kingsley Dam and the CNPPID diversion dam and from the Platte River between North Platte and Chapman, 2020–2032. Once the endowment is fully funded, phragmites and other noxious weed control within Platte River Channels would likely be perpetually funded and would require no more financial inputs by the Program. Until the endowment is fully established though, annual control costs will continue to be shared widely between Natural Resources Districts, irrigation and power districts, Counties, the State of Nebraska, and conservation organizations.

Annual work activities will consist of control, removal, and monitoring of invasive vegetation within Platte River channels and its tributaries in Keith, Lincoln, Deuel, Dawson, Buffalo, Phelps, Hall, Merrick, and Polk counties. The activities will promote channel conveyance and desired vegetation communities by controlling invasive vegetation within the Platte River. By focusing on the entire system, the project will maximize resources through a collaborative partnership focused on rehabilitation of the active channel, promoting long-term maintenance, and developing an early detection and rapid response protocol to prevent re-infestations.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: G-1. Remote Sensing Data Collection**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $370,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Bathymetric LiDAR and aerial photography data collection for all Platte River channels within the Associated Habitat Reach (AHR) during the summer and fall. Field data collection and data reduction and analyses will be performed by the EDO.

**Notes on Cost**

A new RFP will be released in early 2020. FY2020 budget estimates are based on the previous 3-year contract. The FY20 tasks and estimated costs for data collection are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Task Description** | **Estimated FY20 Cost** |
| Summer aerial imagery and bathymetric LiDAR subset | $140,000 |
| Fall aerial imagery and full reach bathymetric LiDAR | $230,000 |
| **FY20 ESTIMATED TOTAL** | **$370,000** |

**Products**

The contract will be awarded through a competitive procurement process in conformance with the Procurement policy. Processed LiDAR point data, bare earth digital elevation model including special in-channel processing using break lines (hydro-flattening), 2-foot resolution 4-band (CIR and true-color) aerial photography from May/June 6-inch resolution CIR aerial photography flown simultaneously with LiDAR in November/December. LiDAR products will be bathymetric, suitable for use in geomorphology/in-channel vegetation monitoring protocols.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: TP-1. Tern & Plover Monitoring and Research**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $33,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The EDO will implement the PRRIP tern and plover monitoring protocol during the 2020 nesting season. Monitoring efforts will be similar to 2019 and will include implementation of the monitoring protocol through outside monitoring and band re-sighting efforts. Initiation of a turtle exclosure fencing and predator deterrent (strobe lights) research protocol to increase tern and plover nest and chick survival within the AHR will be initiated in 2020. FY20 funding in this line item are largely 1-time equipment expenses for turtle management and strobe light investigations for improving productivity of terns and plovers within the AHR.

**Notes on Cost**

These numbers are largely based on cost estimates for materials to construct turtle exclosure fences at 2 off-channel nesting sites during 2020 and with acquiring strobe lights, batteries, and solar panels to power the strobe lights at 5 off-channel nesting sites. If turtle management activities (i.e., fencing) are logistically feasible and appear to be effective at reducing turtle nesting activities on off-channel tern and plover nesting sites, a similar expenditure would be required during 2021 to obtain the remainder of equipment needed to investigate the efficacy of turtle management activities on improving tern and plover productivity at off-channel nesting sites within the AHR.

**Products**

* Annual report detailing nest activity, bird activity, and habitat conditions; data for longer-term analysis of effects of Program actions.
* Data on efficacy of turtle exclosure fencing, turtle trapping, and strobe lights for improving reproductive success of terns and plovers within the AHR. Data will be summarized in annual reports and final results will be published during the First Increment Extension.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: WC-1. Whooping Crane Monitoring**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $130,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Spring and Fall 2020 implementation of the whooping crane monitoring protocol, data analyses, and reporting will be conducted by the EDO.

**Notes on Cost**

The EDO will implement the whooping crane monitoring protocol and perform data analyses and reporting for the spring and fall 2020 monitoring seasons. Costs are based on past technician rates and aerial flight services contracted through a competitive selection process. The budget for spring and fall 2020 field work to be completed by the EDO is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Expense Category** | **Estimated FY20 Cost** |
| **FY20 Spring Whooping Crane Monitoring** | |
| Personnel | $18,000 |
| Direct Costs (aircraft rental, mileage, GPS unit rental, radios, camera rental, liability insurance, PRRIP meeting attendance) | $60,000 |
| **Subtotal** | **$78,000** |
| **FY20 Fall Whooping Crane Monitoring** | |
| Personnel | $15,000 |
| Direct Costs (aircraft rental, mileage, equipment, liability insurance) | $37,000 |
| **Subtotal** | **$52,000** |
| **FY20 TOTAL** | **$130,000** |

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: PS-1. Pallid Sturgeon Monitoring and Research**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $0 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The EDO does not anticipate any specific pallid sturgeon-related monitoring or research being conducted in 2020. The EDO intends to work with the AMWG, TAC, and ISAC to identify recommended research priorities that could begin as soon as 2021.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: G-5. Geomorphology and Vegetation**

**Monitoring and Research**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $4,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Time-lapse camera data will be collected annually to monitor the efficacy of natural flows, target flows, and all AMP-related flow management activities at reducing vegetation establishment or removing vegetation from the channel to maintain or improve whooping crane roosting habitat suitability throughout the AHR. Data collection and analyses will be performed by the EDO.

**Notes on Cost**

The FY20 estimated costs for acquiring and installing time-lapse cameras on the bank line of Program Habitat Complexes is estimated to be $4,000.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: PD-15. AMP Permits**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $50,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Contract services from HDR (extension of existing permit work) to secure site-specific Individual Permits for AMP management actions and for sediment augmentation at the Plum Creek Complex.

**Notes on Cost**

HDR was selected in 2014 through the Program’s competitive selection process to provide permitting services for the Program. HDR’s services have been retained through annul contract amendments. For 2020, HDR’s estimated costs are $50,000 based on previous permitting work for the Program and are high enough to ensure enough budget is available to account for unforeseen eventualities in the permitting process that could slow down permit acquisition. The EDO will seek approval from the GC to continue contracting with HDR for these services via a sole-source contract.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: PD-18. AMP-Related Equipment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $108,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Headwaters Corporation owns equipment and will charge the Program a use rate for Program-related activities.

**Notes on Cost**

Equipment charges are calculated on an annual basis and then converted into monthly rates. The basic methodology was described in detail in a memo to the Finance Committee/Governance Committee dated 11/02/11. The categories and associated calculation methods are summarized, and the corresponding values tabulated below.



The cost categories used, and the calculation methodologies are as follows:

* Use & Maintenance – the use portion is calculated on an annualized replacement cost for the equipment and the maintenance portion is calculated based on experience data and known periodic significant maintenance items (e.g., replacement of the bottom shield or engine of the airboat) that are annualized to stabilize equipment costs between years.
* Fuel – the anticipated fuel costs based on anticipated miles, known miles per gallon rates, and anticipated cost of gasoline in Kearney, NE (weighted toward summer prices because that is the season of heaviest equipment use). A rate of $3.00/gallon is used in developing these costs. The cost of fuel is a significant piece of the equipment costs (about 30% of the total), and the unit cost of gasoline is the most uncertain of all factors used in the development of these costs.
* License/Insurance – the cost of licensing (trucks, airboats, and trailers all require licenses) and insuring the equipment, including liability insurance, is included in this cost.

Total budget is estimated at $63,720; this budget line item is rounded up to $64,000.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: IMRP-3. Adaptive Management Plan Special Advisors**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $200,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

* Compass will be retained as a Special Advisor to the EDO to facilitate a process to evaluate existing USFWS target flows as per GC guidance in the Program Extension Document.
* Advisor(s) on AMP-related specialty topic of geomorphology. Review Program documents, attend workshops and meetings, research/monitoring design, modeling, and data analysis.

**Notes on Cost**

This FY20 budget line item is for expert assistance for the Executive Director’s Office (EDO) on key topics for the Program. The budget breakdown for this line item is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Area of Expertise** | **Hourly Rate** | **Estimated 8-hour Days** | **FY20 Total** |
| Compass | Facilitation for AMP Update and Target Flow Processes | Lee Failing – $200  Philip Halteman – $150  Christian Beaudrie – $150  Support – $100 | 24  43  39  16 | $150,000 |
| Bob Mussetter, P.E. | Sediment transport and geomorphology | $200 | 25 | $40,000 |
| Other Direct Costs (i.e. travel and per diem for AMP Reporting Session, trips to Kearney, NE, etc.) | | | | $10,000 |
| **Total not to exceed** | | | | **$200,000** |

***General note on all Special Advisor budget line items***: Please refer to the third paragraph in the Exceptions: section of the Procurement Policy adopted by the Governance Committee in June 2016, “Retention of special advisors to the ED of a technical or legal nature is exempt from the procedures provided in this directive.”

Consequently, special advisors are not selected through a competitive process involving advertised RFQs or RFPs. Special advisors are selected by the Executive Director based on qualifications – education, relevant experience, expertise and skills, reliability, credibility, and ability to work effectively with the ED and the staff of the EDO. Special Advisors and the firms they are associated with cannot do any other work for the Program, individually or as part of a team. This is a critical restriction and generally orients special advisor selection to individuals who are sole proprietors or part of small firms that would not likely be doing significant levels of work for the Program on other specific, larger projects.

The billing rates are negotiated with the special advisors by the ED and are kept within the industry standard of practice based on each individual’s qualifications. While industry standard of practice may not be precisely defined, anyone who is a practicing member of that professional community understands the limits of reasonableness associated with those boundaries. Appropriate expertise to make this assessment resides with the ED or EDO staff. The industry standard of practice rates guidelines used in this process is established based on an on-going market survey process comparing labor rates of similarly qualified professionals in the field.

In the case of Special Advisors, individuals with similar experience and qualifications have been part of consultant teams selected through the Program’s competitive procurement process over an eight-plus-year period. Comparison of the Special Advisor rates to the rates charged by comparable individuals through the competitive procurement process provides an indisputable basis for comparison. In all cases the Special Advisor rates are not only within the range of rates seen on the consultant teams which have been selected competitively, but typically at the middle to lower end of the range. As rates charged by Special Advisors are at the middle to low end of the range of rates for similar work acquired through the Program’s competitive procurement process, the estimate for Special Advisors is considered fair and reasonable.

The anticipated level of effort for the upcoming year is also discussed with the special advisors by the ED and members of the EDO staff, but all work is assigned on an as-needed basis with no guarantee of any minimum level of assignments. During the budgeting process, the special advisors anticipated to be needed and roughly the level of effort expected to accomplish the work plan for the budget year is scrutinized by and discussed with the appropriate advisory committees, the Finance Committee, and the Governance Committee. Input is received and taken under advisement from all these sources as to the appropriateness of the budgets for these line items with appropriate adjustments made prior to budget approval.

**Products**

Review of Program documents, advice on specific actions related to AMP implementation, development of process documents as requested, and facilitation of the AMP update and target flow processes.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: ISAC-1. ISAC Stipends & Expenses**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $200,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

The EDO proposes the following 2020 ISAC activities:

1. ISAC Summer Workshop to discuss the development and use of tools for the Extension AMP.
2. 2020 AMP Reporting Session in Omaha, NE (Fall 2020, or possibly in February 2021.
3. ISAC advice to the PRRIP and GC through various other activities – conference calls, webinars, document review, and development of annual report to GC.

**Notes on Cost**

The budget for work to be completed by the ISAC during 2020 is detailed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ISAC Cost Item** | **Estimated FY20 Cost** |
| **ISAC Summer Workshop (focus on AMP tool development and use)** – 4-day meeting (3 days of meeting, one day of travel) x $1,440 per member per day ($180/hour x 8-hour day) x 6 ISAC members | **$34,560** |
| **2020 AMP Reporting Session (October 2020 or February 2021)** – 4-day meeting (3 days of meeting, one day of travel) x $1,440 per member per day ($180/hour x 8-hour day) x 6 ISAC members | **$34,560** |
| **Conference Calls/WebEx** – 4 calls x $360 per member per call ($180/hour x 2-hour call) x 6 members | **$8,640** |
| **Additional Document Review and/or Specific ISAC Member Input** – 10 days of review x 6 members x $1,440/day (review documents or EDO products and provide specific guidance) | **$86,400** |
| **ISAC Co-Chairs** – additional $14,400 for ISAC coordination and preparation of reports for the GC (10 days x $1,440/day, split evenly between co-chairs) | **$14,400** |
| **ISAC travel and other meeting expenses:**  Summer Workshop – 6 members x $1,700 ($1,000 airfare + $500 hotel + $200 per diem) = $10,200  AMP Reporting Session – 6 members x $1,700 ($1,000 airfare + $500 hotel + $200 per diem) = $10,200 | **$20,400** |
| **Total** | **$198,960, round up to**  **$200,000** |

The daily service rate for ISAC members is based on industry standard rates for individuals of the caliber and stature required for the ISAC. A review of standard rates for PhD-level independent science experts revealed rates routinely in the range of $150 to $250 on an hourly basis. The EDO proposes a rate of $180/hour for 2020 which is toward the low end of that range.

Labor rates for ISAC members is compared against individuals of similar qualifications and experience that are part of consultant teams that are awarded contracts with the Program through competitive processes in conformance with the Procurement Policy. The level of effort is established by comparison of level of effort for similar tasks contained in contracts with consultants for the Program that were awarded through competitive processes in conformance with the Procurement Policy.

Travel costs are compiled based on air fares from the location the ISAC member starts their travel from to the location of the meetings, together with any mileage or surface travel costs that will be incurred. For ISAC members serving for more than one year, these costs can be estimated with great certainty based on the costs incurred from previous years. The locations for the ISAC meetings are always either Denver, CO; Kearney, NE; or Omaha, NE. Meal and lodging expenses are based on government per diem rates for specific cities or general regions adjusted as necessary to accommodate solicited quotes from the potential, probable venues for the meetings This compilation is made for each ISAC member for each meeting to arrive at the total. Costs are based on a market survey of lodging, meals, and transportation costs accounting for different points of origination of each individual and different locations for each session. Cost data from previous years factored into the process to develop a simplified, average cost approach.

**2020 ISAC Members**

The table below provides details on the contract status of all six current ISAC members:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ISAC Member** | **Current Term Expires** | **Contract Action in 2020** |
| Ned Andrews | December 2019 | 2020 Amendment |
| Brian Bledsoe | December 2019 | 2020 Amendment |
| Adrian Farmer | December 2019 | 2020 Amendment |
| David Galat | December 2019 | 2020 Amendment |
| Jennifer Hoeting | December 2019 | 2020 Amendment |
| David Marmorek | December 2019 | 2020 Amendment |

In 2020, the GC can determine the appropriate course of action for the composition of the ISAC during the proposed 2020-2032 Extension.

**Products**

ISAC review of Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) implementation, experimental design, and other Program products and activities; work will culminate in reports to GC after the Spring/Summer ISAC meeting and after the AMP Reporting Session. ISAC members will attend GC meetings to deliver those reports to the GC.

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: PD-3. AMP & IMRP Peer Review and**

**PRRIP Publication**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $46,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Peer review of one (1) Program document (e.g., wet meadows hydrology research protocol and report and publication of 2 publications.

**Products**

Peer review reports for each reviewed document.

**Notes on Cost**

Peer Review cost estimates are based on prior years’ experience with peer review panels and with utilizing a third-party independent science review (ISR) contractor. Estimated costs for the ISR contractor to assist with peer review are $14,800/review. Peer review panel members are expected to be of the same caliber and stature as ISAC members. Thus, we used the ISAC rate of $1,400/day for roughly a five-day period to estimate the stipend for serving as a Program peer review member – three days to review document(s) in question and two days to compile comments and submit those comments to the Program’s ISR contractor.

For FY20, estimated peer review expenses are:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FY20 PRRIP Document for Peer Review** | **# Reviewers** | **per Reviewer Cost** | **Total Review Panel Cost** | **ISR Contractor Costs** | **Total Cost** |
| Wet meadows hydrology research | 3 | $7,000 | $21,000 | $14,800 | $35,800 |
| **Total** | | | | | **$35,800, round up to $40,000** |

The Program may utilize a third-party independent contractor to assist with identifying potential peer review candidates and helping the EDO manage the peer review process. Peer review services under this contract include:

* Recommend candidates for each panel according to appropriate areas of expertise
* Provide background information for all potential candidates
* Recommend panelists and provide conflict of interest statements for all panelists
* Communicate with panelists (Program provides scope of work and handles contracting for payment)
* Summarize comments from each panel
* Deliver final report to EDO for each panel

Publication estimate of $3,000 per manuscript for open-access publication based on professional publication experience of EDO staff; costs could be higher or lower depending on the journal. The EDO expects to seek GC approval to publish 1 new manuscript during 2020 and finalize publication of 1 manuscript that was approved and submitted for publication in 2019.

For FY20, estimated publication expenses are:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Potential Manuscript** | **Author** | **Manuscript Type** | **Target Journal** | **FY19 Cost** |
| LTPP Inside versus Outside Monitoring | EDO | Methodology | *Waterbirds* | $3,000 |
| Publication of Wet Meadow Research | EDO | Ecology/behavior | *TBD* | $3,000 |
| **TOTAL** | | | | **$6,000** |

**PROGRAM TASK & ID: PD-11. AMP-related Workshops**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **BUDGET** | **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** | **EXPENDITURES** |
| **2020** | $27,000 |  |  |

**Task Description**

Development and evaluation of AMP experimental design, data analysis, and discussion of likely outcomes of management actions to help keep monitoring, research, and data analysis on target for evaluation of AMP-related management activities, priority hypotheses, and Big Questions during the First Increment Extension. Group discussion of all Big Questions and the 2020 “State of the Platte” Report with ISAC, TAC, Program contractors, Program special advisors, and EDO.

**Notes on Cost**

AMP-related contractors will be required to attend the AMP Reporting Session so travel and associated meeting expenses will generally be covered if not already covered under existing contracts/agreements. Cost estimate based on previous years’ costs. Estimated FY20 costs include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Expense Category** | **Estimated FY20 Cost** |
| **AMP Reporting Session** | |
| Room rental/equipment | $2,000 |
| Breaks/working meals | $5,000 |
| **AMWG Meetings** | |
| Room rental/equipment/meals/etc. | $20,000 |
| **Total** | **$27,000** |

**General Notes on Meeting Costs**

Because each meeting may be held in a different location (different cities and different hotels) a range of meeting room costs are possible. The typical range of room rental rates is $500 to $750/day. The typical rate for providing refreshments (coffee, sodas, juices), morning or afternoon break foods (rolls, fruit, cookies), and box lunches (if the agenda calls for a working lunch) can vary considerably by location, the range of options selected, and the number of people attending. For planning purposes, a rate range of $250 to $500 per meeting is used. Equipment costs for projector and screens and polycom conference phones vary considerable depending on location. Projector/screen costs can range from $50 to $250 per day. Polycom conference phones with microphone extension costs can range from $50 to $100 per day. Conference call costs are broken down in the table by number, rate, and duration of calls, the number and duration are estimated based on experience and the rate is set by contract with the provider.

**Products**

* AMP Reporting Session in Omaha, NE in October 2020 (possibly moved to February 2021)
* 2020 State of the Platte Report
* DRAFT Extension Adaptive Management Plan (AMP)

**APPENDIX A**

**PRRIP FY2020 Annual Land Work Plan**

1. During the First Increment accounting database management services were included in ED-2. Those costs have been moved to line item GFC-1 to consolidate financial management costs into one line item. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Accounting database services have been moved from ED-2 to this line item for the Extension and the line item has been renamed from NCF Fees to Financial Services. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. This is a new line item that incorporates the budgets from First Increment line items GFC-3, LAC-1, WAC-1, and TAC-1. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. This line item combines recharge operations that were previously included in WP-4(b)I, WP-4(f)i, and WP-4(f)ii. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-4(b)i. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-4(b)ii. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-4(b)i. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-4(i). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-4(f)i, WP-4(f)ii, and WP-4(f)iii. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-4(d) and WP-4(f)viii [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-4(f)iv. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-4(j). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. This line item includes budget previously allocated to H-2 and IMRP-2. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-5. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. This line item includes budget previously allocated to WP-8. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)