



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Spring 2016-2018 Prescribed Fire Management Services

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Office of the Executive Director
4111 4th Avenue, Suite 6
Kearney, Nebraska 68845

January 4, 2016



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1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

3
4 **SUBJECT:** Spring 2016-2018 Prescribed Fire Management Services
5 **REQUEST DATE:** January 15, 2016
6 **PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING:** February 4, 2016
7 **CLOSING DATE:** February 19, 2016
8 **POINT OF CONTACT:** Tim Tunnell, Land Manager
9 Headwaters Corporation
10 (402) 219-3883
11 tunnellt@headwaterscorp.com
12

13 **I. OVERVIEW**

14 The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (“Program” or “PRRIP”) was initiated on January 1,
15 2007 between Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, and the Department of the Interior to address threatened
16 and endangered species issues in the central and lower Platte River basin. The species considered in the
17 Program, referred to as “target species”, are the whooping crane, piping plover, interior least tern, and
18 pallid sturgeon.

19
20 A Governance Committee (GC) reviews, directs, and provides oversight for Program activities. The GC
21 is comprised of one representative from each of the three states, three water user representatives, two
22 representatives from environmental groups, and two members representing federal agencies. The GC has
23 named Dr. Jerry Kenny to serve as the Program Executive Director (ED). Dr. Kenny established
24 Headwaters Corporation as the staffing mechanism for the Program. Program staff are located in
25 Nebraska and Colorado and are responsible for assisting in carrying out Program-related activities.

26
27 One of the major components of Program implementation is acquisition and management of 10,000 acres of
28 habitat for the benefit of the target species. To date, approximately 10,500 acres have been acquired and
29 are being managed by the Executive Director’s Office (EDO). Prescribed fire is an important tool used by
30 the Program to manage grassland composition and structure. During the first several years of
31 implementation, the Program relied on strategic partnerships with local agencies and conservation
32 organizations to implement prescribed fire. However, as Program land ownership has increased,
33 prescribed fire needs have surpassed local capacity. **As such, the GC is requesting proposals from**
34 **National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) qualified contractors for spring 2016-2018**
35 **prescribed fire management services to be performed starting April 1 of each year.**

36
37 **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION & SCOPE OF WORK**

38
39 **Project Description**

40 The Program is requesting a multi-year proposal for prescribed fire management services during the
41 spring of 2016, 2017 and 2018. The performance period will begin on April 1 and will end on or around
42 May 15 of each year. The contractor must have sufficient availability during the six (6) week period to
43 fully utilize weather windows that meet prescriptions for burns at Program habitat complexes which are
44 distributed along a sixty mile reach of the Platte River in central Nebraska.



45 The Contractor will be responsible for lodging and all labor, materials, equipment, tools, transportation
46 and supplies required to complete the work. Fire management services will include, but are not limited to,
47 prescribed fire planning and implementation, fire-line preparation, post burn mop-up and monitoring, and
48 if needed, wildfire suppression. Contractors must be able to provide their own equipment. Contractors
49 must also be available respond to any issues that may arise after each prescribed burn is complete. These
50 issues could include: smoke management problems, mop-up concerns, post-burn monitoring needs or
51 escapes. This response must occur during the same day of contact by the Rural Fire Protection Districts
52 local fire chief with jurisdiction over the burn unit or EDO staff and must include the appropriate
53 personnel, equipment or contingency measures.

54
55

56 **Scope of Work**

57 Habitat Complexes

58 Program lands are generally organized into approximately 1,000 to 3,000 acre blocks referred to as
59 habitat complexes. There are six habitat complexes distributed across the project area, containing the
60 majority of land to be burned on an annual basis (**Figure-1**). We anticipate burning approximately 1,000 -
61 2,000 acres annually across all habitat complexes. Burn unit boundaries will be identified and provided to
62 contractor during February of each year for planning purposes. The following description generally apply
63 to areas that will be burned:

- 64 • Most burn blocks on these tracts have been burned once over the last five to ten years; stand types
65 are primarily lowland, tall grass prairie that have been heavily invaded with introduced cool-
66 season grasses and often include natural riparian forest;
- 67 • Most burn units have a history of grazing and/or haying;
- 68 • Fire-lines are often limited to roads, ditches, mowed/hayed lines and river/ slough edges;
69 contractors should be comfortable burning from these features; additional fire-line establishment
70 can be conducted but must be authorized by the PRRIP Land Manager.
- 71 • Smoke Management will be a priority concern for contractor. All units are located within close
72 proximity to Interstate 80, communities and farmsteads. Contractors will be cautious in utilizing
73 appropriate wind speed and directions to prevent conflicts/ accidents due to prescribed fire
74 operations and smoke.

75

76 The following sections of the scope of work provide specific information about each habitat complex.
77 ***Specific burn units are NOT identified on these maps and will be provided to contractor in February of***
78 ***each year.***

79

80 Plum Creek Complex

81 Contractors should be aware of the following points:

82

83 1. Plum Creek Complex is located less than 1 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between the towns of
84 Lexington and Overton, NE.

85

86 2. Plum Creek complex is approximately 722 acres, contains 2 tracts of land and is 2 miles long with the
87 majority of the land located on the south side of the Platte river; mostly grassland fuels; There is 1
88 additional wetland tract, approximately 100 acres, located in close proximity to the southwest of the
89 complex(**Figure-2**).

90

91 3. Tract 2012004 is located in the Lexington Volunteer Fire Department Jurisdiction and Tracts 2009003
92 and 2009007 are located in the Overton Volunteer Fire Department Jurisdiction. (**Figure-9**).



93 Cottonwood Ranch Complex

94 Contractors should be aware of the following points:

95
96 1. Cottonwood Ranch Complex is located less than 1 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between the towns
97 of Overton and Elm Creek, NE.

98
99 2. Cottonwood Ranch complex is approximately 3,528 acres, contains 3 tracts of land and is 4 miles long
100 with the majority of the land located on the south side of the main channel of the Platte river; mostly
101 grassland fuels; There is 1 additional wetland tract, approximately 153 acres, located in close proximity to
102 the northwest of the complex(**Figure-3**).

103
104 3.Tracts 2008002, 2010001, 2009006 and 2013001 are located in the Overton Volunteer Fire
105 Department. (**Figure-9**).

106
107

108 Elm Creek Complex

109 Contractors should be aware of the following points:

110
111 1. Elm Creek Complex is located less than 1/4 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between the towns of Elm
112 Creek and Odessa, NE.

113
114 2. Elm Creek complex is approximately 1,555 acres, contains 9 tracts of land and is 2 miles long with 4
115 tracts being located on the north side of the Platte river and the others are located on the south side of the
116 Platte river. (**Figure-4**).

117
118 3.Tract 2009002, 2009005, 2012001 and 2012002 are located in the Elm Creek Volunteer Fire
119 Department Jurisdiction (**Figure-9**).

120
121

122 Pawnee Complex

123 Contractors should be aware of the following points:

124
125 1. The Pawnee Complex is located less than 1/4 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between the town of
126 Odessa, NE and Kearney, NE.

127
128 2. The Pawnee complex is approximately 467 acres, contains 2 tracts of land and is 2 miles long.Both
129 tracts are located on the south side of the Platte river (**Figure-5**).

130
131 3. Tracts 2014002 and 2015002 are located in the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department Jurisdiction
132 (**Figure-9**).

133
134

135 Fort Kearny Complex

136 Contractors should be aware of the following points:

137
138 1. The Fort Kearny Complex is located less than 1/4 mile to the south of Interstate 80 and is located
139 between 2 channels of the Platte River near the town of Kearney, NE and Highway 10.

140



141 2. The Fort Kearny complex is approximately 2,130 acres, contains 7 tracts of land and is 5 miles long.
142 **(Figure-6)**.

143
144 3. Tracts 2008001, 2009001, 2009004, 2010003, 2012003, and 2015001 are located in the Kearney
145 Volunteer Fire Department Jurisdiction **(Figure-9)**.

146
147
148 Shoemaker Island Complex
149 Contractors should be aware of the following points:

150
151 1. Shoemaker Island Complex is located less than 1/2 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between 2
152 channels of the Platte River near the towns of Wood River and Alda, NE.

153
154 2. Shoemaker Island complex is approximately 1,524 acres, contains 1 tract of land and is 3 miles long
155 **(Figure-7)**.

156
157 3. Tract 2010004 is located in the Wood River Volunteer Fire Department Jurisdiction **(Figure-9)**.

158
159
160 Smoke Sensitive Areas:
161 The tracts are primarily located in rural landscape with scattered farmsteads however they are near
162 interstates, major highway(s) and/or populated areas.

163
164 Communities at Risk:
165 Nine communities exist within the PRRIP project area which extends east from Lexington to Grand
166 Island **(Figure-8)**. Their proximity to PRRIP properties makes them vulnerable to smoke and other
167 hazards related to wildfire and prescribed burning. Additional outlying communities that may also be
168 affected by smoke include Bertrand, Loomis, Holdrege, Funk, Axtell, Minden, Heartwell, Kenesaw,
169 Juniata, Hastings, Doniphan, Cairo, Riverdale, Amherst, and Miller **(Figure-8)**.

170
171 Wildfire Suppression and Escaped Prescribed Fires:
172 In the event of an escaped prescribed fire originally ignited by the contractor, contractors may be
173 responsible for coordinating with and working under the direction of the Rural Fire Protection Districts
174 local fire chief with jurisdiction with over the area on containment, mop-up and monitoring issues until fire is
175 called out by the appropriate agency **(Figure-9)**. During this process contractors may be responsible for
176 paying suppression costs charged for fire suppression and may be required to conduct work or provide
177 assistance without compensation by the PRRIP.

178
179
180 Long-Term Mop-Up, Smoke Mangement, and Re-Burn Situations:
181 Compliance with smoke management guidelines are voluntary in Nebraska, however, the Contractor shall
182 make every effort to meet them. All prescribed fire plans shall address smoke management as a primary
183 issue and prescription parameter. Contractors may be required to conduct long-term mop-up, monitoring
184 and smoke management procedures without compensation. This may occur if PRRIP personnel determine
185 a lack of due diligence and planning occurred before ignition began or if proper procedures were not
186 taken to mop-up and secure fire after ignition was completed.

187
188



189 Submittals:

190 *Prescribed Burn Plans* - Burn plans must be developed by a NWCG qualified Rx Burn planner prior to
191 the proposed burn date. Plans will be written on a NWCG approved burn form or an alternative form
192 approved by the PRRIP Land Manager. The prescribed burn plan shall be in accordance with Nebraska
193 Statutes subsection 81-520.01 and 81-520-02. **Fully completed, legible, plans with a copy of the open**
194 **burn permit will be delivered to the PRRIP Land Manager within five business days following the**
195 **completion of each burn.** These plans must be signed by the Burn Manager. Plans can be scanned and e-
196 mailed, faxed or hand delivered. They must include all actual weather data recorded the day of the burn
197 and any other planning notes recorded before or during the burn.

198
199 Burn Managers will follow the PRRIP Weather Parameter Standards (**APPENDIX–A**) when planning
200 and implementing prescribed burns. Fire weather forecasts for the appropriate county containing the burn
201 site will be used the day of the burn. These are available from the following National Weather Service
202 online sources:

203
204 Hastings:
205 <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gid/?n=firewx>
206 North Platte:
207 <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/forecasts/firewx/firewx.php>
208

209 **A copy of these forecasts must accompany the burn plan when submitted to the PRRIP.**
210

211 The PRRIP requires that contractors keep good records of all pre-burn planning and site evaluation
212 measures as well as actual firing techniques used during prescribed burn implementation. This includes
213 full documentation of information such as: burn purpose and objective, forecasted and actual weather
214 conditions, spot weather forecasts, soil moisture conditions (including soil saturation and depth to water
215 in wetlands), days since rain, amount of rain received on the actual burn block, Keetch-Byram drought
216 index (KBDI), etc. This information should be included in the burn plan or as an attachment.

217
218 The burn purpose and burn objective will be determined by PRRIP staff. This information will be
219 conveyed to contractors before the burn is implemented to help with burn plan development. In general,
220 the burn purpose will describe an overall goal such as site preparation or hazard reduction and the burn
221 objective will identify a specific, measurable, parameter such as remove 75% of available fuels or top-kill
222 50% of trees less than three (3) inches diameter at breast height (DBH).

223
224 Prior to the burn, Burn Managers will evaluate the site to determine the type of ignition methods, firing
225 techniques and weather conditions needed to meet the pre-determined objective, safely conduct the burn,
226 and minimize negative effects such as duff ignition/soil damage, crown scorch, or smoke management
227 problems. This information will be included in the burn plan.

228 A copy of the burn plan and a site map showing burn area location, fire-lines, roads, and natural features
229 shall be in the possession of the burn manager at the time of the burn. PRRIP staff will provide burn
230 managers with a map and/or ground location point of any areas personnel should avoid. PRRIP staff may
231 instruct personnel to avoid disking, plowing or igniting fires in these areas. These sites may contain
232 historical resources, threatened and endangered plant or animal locations, public use facilities or exotic
233 plant infestations.

234



235 Contractors will notify the PRRIP’s Land Manager as soon as possible but at least within 24 hours if the
236 following circumstances occur after the burn has been completed: 1) fire has escaped, 2) burn objectives
237 were not met or 3) negative conditions or smoke management problems occurred.
238

239 *Prescribed Burn Notification* - By 5:00 PM one day prior to ignition or by 8:30 AM the day of the burn,
240 the Burn Manager responsible for conducting the burn will notify the PRRIP Land Manager by *e-mail*
241 indicating the location of the burn area (Section, Township, Range), the tract name/number, the county
242 where the burn will be conducted, and the approximate acreage planned.
243

244 *Implement Burn Plans* – Prescribed fires on PRRIP lands are required to be conducted in compliance with
245 Nebraska Statutes subsection 81-520.01 and 81-520-02 and any other applicable laws. The Contractor
246 shall monitor all burn units and to determine when a unit is in prescription. All prescribed fires will also
247 be conducted in compliance with all aspects of the PRRIP Prescribed Fire *Standards (APPENDIX-A)*.
248

249 Fireline installation and plowing will follow guidelines identified in the PRRIP Fireline Standards
250 (**APPENDIX-B**).
251

252 *Escaped Prescribed Fires* - In the event of an escaped prescribed fire, contractors shall initiate
253 suppression actions, contact directly affected parties, Rural Fire Protection Districts local fire chief with
254 jurisdiction over the area, and then notify the PRRIP Land Manager or the Land Specialist. In general, the
255 PRRIP Land Manager or Land Specialist will lead all discussion with affected parties. The Burn Manager
256 responsible for conducting the burn should document the conditions of the escape using photos, GPS data,
257 maps, and a written narrative describing the incident including any adverse results and any lessons
258 learned or measures that could be taken in the future to prevent another incident. Any involvement from
259 local fire department with jurisdiction over the area to contain the escape should also be documented.
260 Written or email communication outlining the general details of the incident should be sent to the PRRIP
261 Land Manager within 48 hours. A full report documenting all the above information should be submitted
262 to the PRRIP within one week following the incident.
263

264 *Shapefiles* – Before a burn is conducted, the PRRIP will provide contractors with GIS shapefiles of areas
265 to be burned. After the burn is complete, contractors must submit a shapefile showing the areas that were
266 actually burned. These shapefiles must be included with the each invoice. To receive payment, the
267 acreage identified in shapefiles must be identical to the acreage listed on the invoice to the nearest 1/10
268 acre. Shapefiles will be projected to: NAD 1983 Nebraska State Plane Feet. The PRRIP shall field verify
269 and pay based on this acreage.
270

271 *Equipment Information:*

272 *Minimum Wildland Engine Specifications:* Wildland engines used by contractors on PRRIP burns must
273 meet or exceed all equipment specifications of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) for
274 Type 6 engines, with the added requirements of four-wheel drive (4X4) and foam proportioner. Type 6
275 specifications include: minimum tank size of 150 gallons; a pump rated at 50 gallons per minute (GPM)
276 @ 100 pounds per square inch (PSI); a hose and reel with a minimum of 50’ of 1” hose; 300’ feet of
277 additional 1” hose; fire hydrant adapters and the ability to draft water.
278

279 On most burns, contractors will need to have a minimum of one engine and two UTV units on site.
280



281 Contractors are also required to provide all personal protective equipment (PPE) listed in the Program’s
282 Prescribed Fire Standard under Training and Safety Requirements (National Wildfire Coordinating Group
283 (NWCG) Standard). (**APPENDIX – A**)

284

285 **III. PROJECT BUDGET**

286 Contractors will submit a mobilization/demobilization cost, administration cost and per-acre cost for
287 prescribed fire services. Contractor compensation will be based on the number of acres burned during the
288 performance period.

289

290

291 **IV. FIELD AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

292 Potential Contractors will own or acquire all field and office equipment and software required to provide
293 prescribed fire management services.

294

295 **V. CONTRACT TERMS**

296 The selected Contractor will be retained by: Nebraska Community Foundation
297 PO Box 83107
298 Lincoln, NE 68501

299

300 The Contractor will be subject to (but not limited to) the following contract terms:

301

302 Certification/Training Requirements: See certification and training requirements in Appendix A.

303

304 Insurance Requirements: If awarded, contractor shall represent and guarantee that all employees, agents,
305 servants or representatives of contractor, and all employees, agents, servants, or representatives of
306 subconsultants are covered by workers’ compensation insurance as required by Nebraska Statute. Prior to
307 entering into contract with PRRIP, contractor shall furnish PRRIP with certificates of insurance, naming
308 PRRIP as named or additional insured without waiving any defense of sovereign immunity or increasing
309 the limits of PRRIP’s liability in excess of Nebraska State Statute for item (3) below, providing evidence
310 that contractor has in full force and effect the following minimum insurance with insurers authorized to
311 do business in the State of Nebraska. The certificate of insurance shall also provide that PRRIP shall be
312 notified in writing by the carrier at least 30 days prior to any cancellation of said insurance.

313

- 314 1. Workers’ compensation insurance as required above;
- 315 2. Motor vehicular liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit which
316 insurance shall be applicable to any and all vehicles utilized by contractor to provide the services
317 requested by PRRIP;
- 318 3. General liability insurance for all services rendered by contractor for the requested services with a
319 minimum of \$1,000,000 personal and advertising injury and \$1,000,000 general aggregate.

320

321 Contractor Liability: If a wildfire occurs as the result of the Contractor’s failure to follow the approved
322 Prescribed Fire Plan, the Contractor shall be liable for all damages and all costs for labor, subsistence,
323 equipment, supplies, and transportation deemed necessary to control the escaped fire and repair/replace
324 all PRRIP, personal and/or non-federal public property.

325

326 Open Burning Permits: A burning permit from the Rural Fire Protection Districts fire chief with
327 jurisdiction over the area to be burned is required. Names and contact information of the local fire chief
328 will be available and it will be the responsibility of the burn manager to make contact with the fire chief,



329 present the written burn plan and obtain a signed copy of the “Open Burning Permit.” A copy of this burn
330 permit must be provided to PRRIP with the final copy of burn plan for each burn unit.

331
332

333 **VI. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

334 All interested parties having experience providing the services listed in this RFP are requested to submit a
335 proposal.

336

337 Instructions for Submitting Proposals

338 One original and two (2) copies of your proposal and supporting documentation must be submitted by
339 mail to Tim Tunnell *no later than 12:00 PM Central Time Friday, February 19, 2016*. A proposal is late
340 if received after that time and will not be considered. Proposals should be submitted to:

341

342 Tim Tunnell, Land Manager
343 Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
344 4111 4th Avenue, Suite 6
345 Kearney, NE 68845

346

347 Questions regarding the information contained in this RFP should be submitted to Tim Tunnell at
348 tunnelt@headwaterscorp.com. A list of compiled Contractor questions and responses will be maintained
349 on the Program web site (www.PlatteRiverProgram.org) in the same location as this RFP solicitation.

350

351 RFP Schedule

352 The ED Office expects to complete the selection process and award the work by approximately February
353 25, 2016. The following table represents the RFP schedule:

354

Description	Date	Time (Central)
Issue RFP	January 15, 2016	NA
Pre-proposal meeting	February 4, 2016	1:00 PM
Last day for respondents to submit questions regarding the RFP	February 11, 2016	12:00 PM
Proposals due from respondents	February 19, 2016	12:00 PM
Evaluation of proposals	February 19, 2016 - February 25, 2016	
Award of Work	On February 25, 2016	
Start of Work	Approximately April 1 each year	
Completion of Work	Approximately May 15 each year	

355

356 Pre-Proposal Meeting

357 A **mandatory** pre-proposal meeting of interested parties will be held on February 4, 2016 from 1:00 to
358 2:00 p.m. Central Time via conference call for the purpose of familiarizing the respondents with the work
359 scope and requirements included herein before submitting a response to this RFP. Please email Tim
360 Tunnell (tunnelt@headwaterscorp.com) for the conference call dial-in information along with a list of
361 people from your party expected to join in the pre-proposal conference call by 12:00 p.m. central time on
362 February 1, 2016.

363

364 It is the Consultant’s responsibility, while at the pre-proposal meeting/conference call, to ask questions
365 necessary to understand the RFP so the respondent can submit a proposal that is complete and in



366 accordance with RFP requirements. There shall be no minutes distributed by the ED Office regarding the
367 meeting.

368

369 Proposal Content

370 Proposals must include the following contents and documentation:

371

372 1) **Executive summary** that presents a brief firm overview that condenses and highlights the contents of
373 the proposal in such a way as to provide a broad understanding of the Contractor's qualifications and
374 proposal.

375

376 2) **Project Understanding** that demonstrates the Contractor's understanding of project objectives and
377 identifies issues critical to project success.

378

379 3) **Project approach** that documents how the Contractor would organize and execute the scope of work
380 detailed in this RFP and provides project team organization, certifications, and responsibilities and
381 specifies which team members will work on each specific task.

382

383 4) **Qualifications and project experience** relevant to this project including the involvement/role of the
384 proposed team in those projects. A sample project experience/reference form is included in Section
385 VII.

386

387 5) **Equipment** list that includes all equipment that would be mobilized for this project.

388

389 6) **Cost rate** per acre for prescribed fire implementation. A cost form has been included in Section VII.

390

391 7) **Description of insurance** shall be provided with the proposal. Proof of insurance will be required
392 before a contract is issued. Minimum insurance requirements are described in Section V.

393

394 8) **Affirmative statement** that neither the firm nor the principals of the firm are on the federal
395 suspended and disbarred list. If the firm has a DUNS number, please provide to assist in verification.

396

397 Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

398 The GC will appoint a Proposal Selection Panel that will evaluate all proposals and select a Consultant
399 based on the following principal considerations:

400

401 1. Understanding of the overall objectives of the project and approach to meeting those objectives.

402

403 2. Qualifications and experience completing comparably sized prescribed burn projects safely and in a
404 timely manner.

405

406 3. The number/type of qualified personnel/equipment proposed to be dedicated to the project.

407

408 4. Ability to provide turn-key prescribed burns services.

409

410 5. Price proposal.

411

412 The winning proposal will be selected to best meet overall project objectives. Should the successful
413 Proposers be unable at any time to accomplish the work they have been contracted for or meet any of the



414 requirements or standards listed in this Proposal, the next ranked Contractor may be contacted to provide
415 the required work.

416
417 Award Notice

418 After completing the evaluation of all proposals, the Proposal Selection Panel will select a Contractor.
419 That firm will negotiate with the ED Office to establish a fair and equitable contract. If an agreement
420 cannot be reached, a second firm will be invited to negotiate and so on. If the Program is unable to
421 negotiate a mutually satisfactory contract with a Consultant, it may, at its sole discretion, cancel and
422 reissue a new RFP.

423
424 Program Perspective

425 The Program GC has the sole discretion and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in
426 response to this RFP and to cancel this solicitation if it is deemed in the best interest of the Program to do
427 so. Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the Program to award a contract, or to
428 pay Contractor's costs incurred either in the preparation of a response to his RFP or during negotiations,
429 if any, of a contract for services. The Program also reserves the right to make amendments to this RFP by
430 giving written notice to Contractors, and to request clarification, supplements, and additions to the
431 information provided by a Contractor.

432
433 By submitting a proposal in response to this solicitation, Contractors understand and agree that any
434 selection of a Contractor any decision to reject any or all responses or to establish no contracts shall be at
435 the sole discretion of the Program. To the extent authorized by law, the Contractor shall indemnify, save,
436 and hold harmless the Nebraska Community Foundation, the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and
437 Nebraska, the Department of the Interior, members of the GC, and the ED Office, their employees,
438 employers, and agents, against any and all claims, damages, liability, and court awards including costs,
439 expenses, and attorney fees incurred as a result of any act or omission by the Contractor or its employees,
440 agents, sub-Contractors, or assignees pursuant to the terms of this project. Additionally, by submitting a
441 proposal, Contractors agree that they waive any claim for the recovery of any costs or expenses incurred
442 in preparing and submitting a proposal.

443
444 **VII. PROPOSAL RESPONSE FORMS**

445 The following forms are to be submitted as part of Contractor proposals.

446
447



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

**2016-2018 PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICES
COST RATE:**

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Lump sum rates will include all pre-burn planning (burn unit reconasissance, burn plan development, obtaining burn permit from appropriate fire department, neighbor notifications), fire-line preparation, mobilization and demobilization. Per-acre rates will include ignition and stand-by time, mop-up and monitoring time (within the first 24 hours after ignition is complete) as well as all other labor, materials, equipment, tools, transportation, equipment mobilization, and supplies required to complete the work.

The Contractor is required to submit unit prices for all work Items below.

Item No.	Description	Unit	Unit Price
001	Mobilization and Demobilization ¹	LS	\$ _____
002	Prescribed Fire Administration ²	LS	\$ _____
003	Prescribed Fire Implementation ³	AC	\$ _____

460

¹ Item includes costs to mobilize all personnel and equipment needed to complete the work from contractor’s base of operations to NE and costs to demobilize from NE to contractor’s base of operations at the termination of the performance period.

² Item includes burn unit reconnaissance, burn plan development, obtaining burn permit from appropriate fire department, and neighbor notifications for each unit.

³ Item includes cost of labor for fully equipped NWCG crew for a prescribed burning detail within PRRIP project area. This includes ignition and stand by time, mop up and monitoring time within the first 24 hours after ignition is complete on each unit. Item also includes all materials, equipment, tools, transportation, fuel and supplies to complete the work for a prescribed burning detail.



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

SIMILAR PROJECTS:

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COMPLETED PROJECT: _____

AGENCY/COMPANY: _____

CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

START DATE: _____ COMPLETION DATE: _____

(month/year) (month/year)

NUMBER OF ACRES RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING/YEAR: _____

DESCRIPTION OF STAND TYPE(S)/FUEL LEVEL(S) BURNED: _____

IGNITION METHOD(S) USED: _____

TOTAL ACRES BURNED: _____

CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER(S) ASSIGNED TO PROJECT: _____

COMPLETED PROJECT: _____

AGENCY/COMPANY: _____

CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

START DATE: _____ COMPLETION DATE: _____

(month/year) (month/year)

NUMBER OF ACRES RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING/YEAR: _____

DESCRIPTION OF STAND TYPE(S)/FUEL LEVEL(S) BURNED: _____

IGNITION METHOD(S) USED: _____

TOTAL ACRES BURNED: _____

CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER(S) ASSIGNED TO PROJECT: _____



510 COMPLETED PROJECT: _____

511
512 AGENCY/COMPANY: _____

513 CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

514
515 START DATE: _____ COMPLETION DATE: _____
516 (month/year) (month/year)

517 NUMBER OF ACRES RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING/YEAR: _____

518
519 DESCRIPTION OF STAND TYPE(S)/FUEL LEVEL(S) BURNED: _____
520 _____
521 _____

522
523 IGNITION METHOD(S) USED: _____

524
525 TOTAL ACRES BURNED: _____

526
527 CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER(S) ASSIGNED TO PROJECT: _____
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534 COMPLETED PROJECT: _____

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536 AGENCY/COMPANY: _____

537 CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

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539 START DATE: _____ COMPLETION DATE: _____
540 (month/year) (month/year)

541 NUMBER OF ACRES RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING/YEAR: _____

542
543 DESCRIPTION OF STAND TYPE(S)/FUEL LEVEL(S) BURNED: _____
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547 IGNITION METHOD(S) USED: _____

548
549 TOTAL ACRES BURNED: _____

550
551 CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER(S) ASSIGNED TO PROJECT: _____
552 _____
553 _____

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557



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

REFERENCES:

(Names/address/telephone of three clients who can attest to your experience as it relates to the services you are proposing.)

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FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAX: _____

FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAX: _____

FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAX: _____



591 **APPENDIX - A**
592 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
593 **PRESCRIBED FIRE STANDARDS**
594

595 **INTRODUCTION**

596 These Standards are designed to define procedures to be used by personnel involved in the planning,
597 reviewing, approving and implementing of prescribed fire on Platte River Recovery Implementation
598 Program (PRRIP) property.
599

600 **GUIDELINES**

601 **1. Prescribed Fire Implementation**
602

603 Prescribed fires on PRRIP lands are required to be conducted in compliance with Nebraska Statutes
604 subsection 81-520.01 and 81-520-02 and any other applicable laws.
605

606 Fireline installation and plowing will follow guidelines identified in the PRRIP Fireline Standards
607 document (Appendix B).
608

609 By 5:00 PM one day prior to ignition or by 8:30 AM the day of the burn, the Burn Manager responsible
610 for conducting the burn will notify the PRRIP Land Manager by *e-mail* indicating the location of the burn
611 area (Section, Township, Range), the tract name, the county where the burn will be conducted, and the
612 approximate acreage planned. The Land Specialist and the PRRIP Receptionist will also be copied on this
613 e-mail. In the event of an escaped prescribed fire, contractors should initiate suppression actions, contact
614 local fire chief with jurisdiction over the area, and then notify the PRRIP Land Manager or the Land
615 Specialist. If the escape impacts private property, the landowner should be contacted by the Land
616 Specialist. The Burn Manager responsible for conducting the burn should document the results of the
617 escape using photos, GPS, maps, and a written narrative describing the incident including any adverse
618 results; any involvement from local fire department with jurisdiction over the area to contain the escape
619 should also be documented. Written communication outlining the general details of the incident should be
620 sent to the PRRIP Land Manager within 48 hours. A full report documenting the all the above
621 information should be submitted within one week following the incident.
622

623 **2. Prescribed Burn Manager Requirements**
624

625 All prescribed fires on PRRIP land will be managed by a NWCG Certified Prescribed Burn Boss as
626 defined in the Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide published by the National
627 Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Publication Numbers PMS 310-1 and NFES 1414 (January 2009)
628 and shall have detailed functional knowledge and specialized experience with prescribed burning in
629 grassland fuels. The certified Burn Manager must be present on site at all times during burn operations.
630 An updated copy of the Burn Manager's current certification status card must be provided to Land
631 Manager prior to ignition. All required personnel, equipment, firebreaks and permits as established by law
632 must also be accounted for prior to ignition.

633 **3. Training/Safety Criteria**
634

635 Due to the inherent dangers of working with fire, minimum requirements must be implemented to ensure
636 that personnel are adequately trained and equipped to participate in a prescribed fire. These minimum



637 requirements apply to all participants involved in prescribed fire on PRRIP lands including PRRIP
638 personnel, burn contractors, cooperators from other agencies and students. The Contractor shall ensure
639 that all of his personnel are qualified to perform the duties of ignition, holding, patrol and mop-up as
640 defined in the Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide published by NWCG,
641 Publication Numbers PMS 310-1 and NFES 1414 (January 2009).

642

643 Personal Protection Equipment:

644 The Contractor shall ensure that all crew members arrive at the work site with required personal
645 protective clothing and equipment, including: a serviceable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
646 approved fire shelter; a NFPA approved hardhat; eye protection; hearing protection; NFPA approved
647 flame resistant shirt and pants; NFPA approved leather gloves; and heavy-duty, leather, laced boots with
648 non-skid soles and tops at least eight inches high. The Contractor shall ensure the personal protective
649 clothing and equipment is operable and maintained in good repair. All personnel shall wear personal
650 protective clothing and equipment during all burning and mop-up operations. All personnel on a burn site
651 must have two-way radio communications with the burn manager and required suppression equipment.
652 Contractors are also encouraged to obtain radios that are programmable.

653

654 4. Prescribed Burn Purpose/Objectives

655

656 The burn purpose and objective for each prescribed burn will be determined by PRRIP staff. This
657 information will be conveyed to contractors before the burn is implemented to help with burn plan
658 development. In general, the burn purpose will describe an overall goal such as site preparation or hazard
659 reduction and the burn objective will identify a specific, measurable, parameter such as remove 75% of
660 available fuels. Prior to the burn, Burn Managers will evaluate the site to determine the type of ignition
661 methods, firing techniques and weather conditions needed to meet the pre-determined objective, safely
662 conduct the burn, and minimize negative effects such as duff ignition/soil damage, crown scorch, or
663 smoke management problems. This information will be included in the burn plan.

664

665 5. Prescribed Burn Plans

666

667 Burn plans will be written on a NWCG approved burn form or an alternative form approved by the
668 PRRIP Land Manager. Fully completed, legible, burn plans will be delivered to the PRRIP Land Manager
669 within one week following the completion of the burn. These plans must be signed by the Burn Manager.
670 Burn Managers will follow the PRRIP's Weather Parameter Standards (Appendix–A) when planning and
671 implementing prescribed burns. Fire weather forecasts for the appropriate county containing the burn site
672 will be used the day of the burn. These are available from the following National
673 Weather Service online sources:

674

675 Hastings:

676 <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/text.php?sid=JAX&pil=FWF>

677

678 North Platte:

679 <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/productview.php?pil=TAEFWFTA&version=0>

680

681 **A copy of these forecasts must accompany the burn plan when**
682 **submitted to the PRRIP.**

683



684 The PRRIP requires that contractors keep good records of all pre-burn planning and site evaluation
 685 measures as well as actual firing techniques used during prescribed burn implementation. This will
 686 include full documentation of information such as: burn purpose and objective, Forecasted and actual
 687 weather conditions, soil moisture conditions (including soil saturation and depth to water in wetlands), the
 688 location of heavy duff layers, days since rain, and amount of rain received on the actual burn block,
 689 Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI), etc. This information should be included in the burn plan or as an
 690 attachment. A copy of the burn plan and a site map showing burn area location, firelines, roads, and
 691 natural features shall be in the possession of the burn manager at the time of the burn. PRRIP staff will
 692 provide burn managers with a map and/or ground location point of any areas personnel should avoid.
 693 PRRIP staff may ask personnel to avoid disking, plowing or igniting fires in these areas. These sites may
 694 contain historical resources, threatened and endangered plant or animal locations, public use facilities or
 695 exotic plant infestations. Contractors will notify the PRRIP’s Land Manager within 24 hours if the
 696 following circumstances occur after the burn has been completed: 1) fire has escaped, 2) burn objectives
 697 were not met or 3) negative publicity or smoke management problems occurred.

698
699 6. GIS Requirements

700
701 Contractors must submit a shapefile showing acres burned with each invoice. To receive payment, the
 702 acreage identified in shapefile must be identical to the acreage listed on the invoice to the nearest 1/10
 703 acre. PRRIP staff will field verify and make payment based on this acreage. Shapefiles will be projected
 704 to: NAD 1983 Nebraska State Plane Feet.
 705

706 **WEATHER PARAMETER STANDARDS**

Relative Humidity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • > or = 25%
Fine Dead Fuel Moisture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6% Minimum • Based on predicted fine fuel moisture (from tables) or direct measurement
Wind Speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum mid-flame wind speed is 15 mph • Maximum forecast 20 ft wind speed is 18 mph
Category Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category II in rural areas unaffected by smoke • Category III when there are smoke sensitive areas downwind
KBDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • = or < 400
Palmer Drought Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least -1
Temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90°F Maximum.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 mph Minimum transport wind speed • 2,000 ft Minimum Mixing Height

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708



APPENDIX – B
PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
FIRELINE STANDARDS

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INTRODUCTION:

These Standards are designed to be used by contractors, cooperators and Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) employees in the planning, reviewing, approving and construction of firelines.

GUIDELINES:

A prescribed burn will not be conducted without adequate firebreaks surrounding the burn plot. The installation and maintenance of firelines along PRRIP ownership boundaries and main public use roads is primary while minimizing interior lines whenever possible. Natural and artificial firebreaks should be utilized before installing new lines. This will help minimize soil erosion, hydrologic alterations, and impacts on natural plant communities and historic or prehistoric resources. Types of natural firebreaks include: rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, etc. Artificial firebreaks are existing disturbances, facilities or cleared areas that may include: firelines, roads, ditches, trails, utility easements, blacklines and foam.

PRRIP personnel must approve the establishment of new firelines prior to construction. This approval will consider justification of need and route of firelines. Consideration will be given to the effect of the proposed fireline route on hydrology. Fireline routes will also be assessed for threatened and endangered species, archeological sites, public access facilities and exotic plants to avoid disturbing or spreading these. The addition of new firelines should be considered only if necessary for accomplishing safe prescribed burning. When possible, firelines should be coupled with other types of firebreaks (natural/artificial) to minimize ground disturbance.

Prescribed fires that escape or become out-of-prescription are often subject to emergency plowing. On PRRIP land, the preferred method for controlling such a fire is with a brush truck or other water delivery vehicle or to let the fire burn to the nearest firebreak. If these methods cannot be safely and effectively implemented, a tractor and fire plow should be used for suppression purposes.

PROCEDURES:

Fireline Installation and Maintenance:

- a) Fireline installation should not adversely impact listed plant or animal species, archeological resources, public use facilities such as bike or hiking trails, or enable the spread of exotic plant infestations. PRRIP staff will provide maps and/or ground location points of any areas to be avoided. These sites may contain historical resources, threatened and endangered plant or animal locations, public use facilities or exotic plant infestations.

- b) The PRRIP requires that all fireline installation and maintenance work produce a flat line that does not contain berms that may block or channel water flow. Root mats or heavy vegetation should be spread out within the block to avoid fuel build-up along the edges. The PRRIP prefers that firelines be reworked and maintained using



- 757 a heavy duty (forestry) harrow. Firelines installed with a dozer blade
758 or fire plow will be reworked to yield a flat line. The use of a fireplow
759 or dozer blade to install a fireline must be approved by the PRRIP
760 Land Manager.
- 761
- 762 c) If a fire plow is used to install a fireline, or control an escaped or
763 out of prescription fire, the burn contractor must rework the plowed
764 lines before demobilizing from site.
- 765
- 766 d) If a fireplow is used to control an escaped or out of prescription
767 fire, plow depth should be no greater than required to expose
768 mineral soil and stop the fire. A map of existing firebreaks, roads,
769 natural features and avoidance areas should be in the possession of
770 the plow operator and crew members at all times.
- 771
- 772 e) Firelines will not be constructed so that they create new travel
773 corridors or paths through or around areas that are cabled, gated, or
774 fenced. If a fire line is being installed along a public use road, disking
775 must be off to one side of the road, but not in the ditch, to allow
776 vehicles to continue to use the road.
- 777
- 778 f) Firelines should follow the contour of the land when possible, to
779 avoid downslope erosion. Lines should be stabilized if subject to
780 water flow by the use of water bars or turnouts.
- 781 g) Plow and harrow depth should be kept at the minimum possible at
782 all times.
- 783
- 784 h) Width of exposed mineral soil should be 6 to 8 feet for interior
785 lines after reworking.
- 786
- 787 i) Perimeter lines are critical to ensure that fires do not leave PRRIP
788 lands and impact private property. They should be wider than interior
789 lines and should be cleared 12 to 16 feet of trees and overhanging
790 vegetation. Wider lines may be required because of adjacent
791 property with heavy fuels or residential structures. Width of exposed
792 soil should be 8 to 10 feet and the line must be reworked if newly
793 plowed.
- 794
- 795 j) Wetlands should be avoided when installing firelines. A line
796 running up to a wetland incorporating it as a fire break is the best
797 method providing it does not act as a drain to channel water out of,
798 or cause erosion into the wetland. Wetlands should be burned when
799 it is possible to mimic the historical fire frequency and when it can be
800 done without risk of an organic peat layer (duff) fire.
- 801
- 802 k) When connecting firelines to wetlands and other hydrologic
803 features such as intermittent/perennial streams, rivers, lakes,
804 sinkholes, etc., firelines should stop a minimum of 75 feet from the

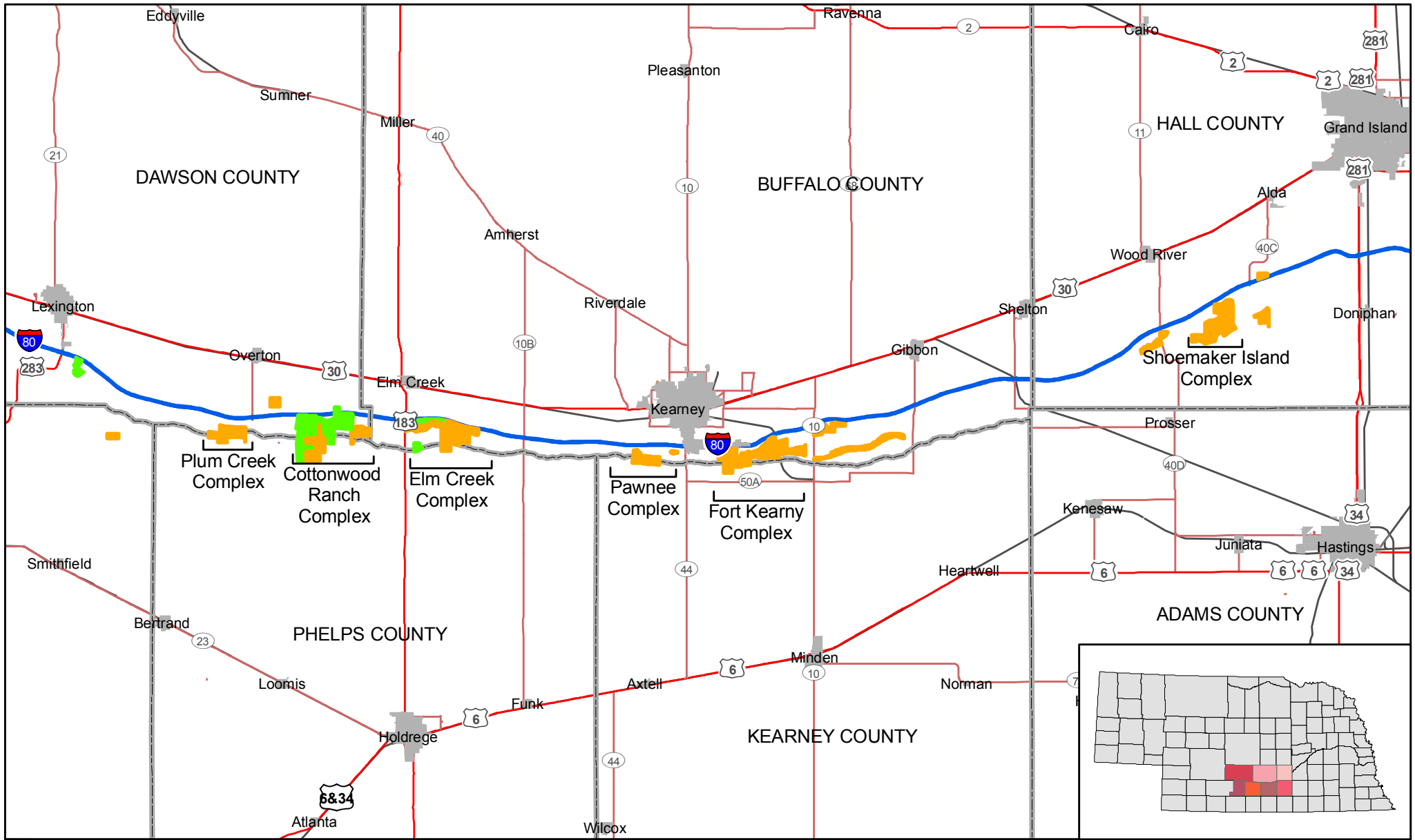


805 edge of these features. A wetline or handline can be used to tie in
806 the remaining distance.

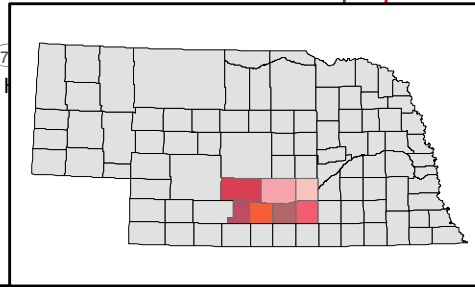
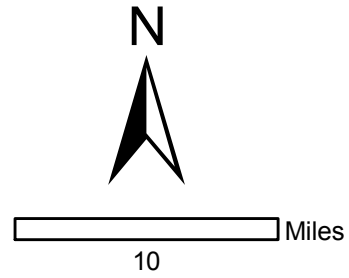
807
808 l) Firelines should not follow the edge of a natural plant community
809 because it may disturb the ecotone and destroy rare plants that
810 often occupy this zone.

811
812 m) Primary firelines such as tract boundaries should be maintained
813 at least once a year by disking if needed. Adjacent areas may
814 require mowing. When possible, fireline maintenance should occur
815 during early growing season.

816
817



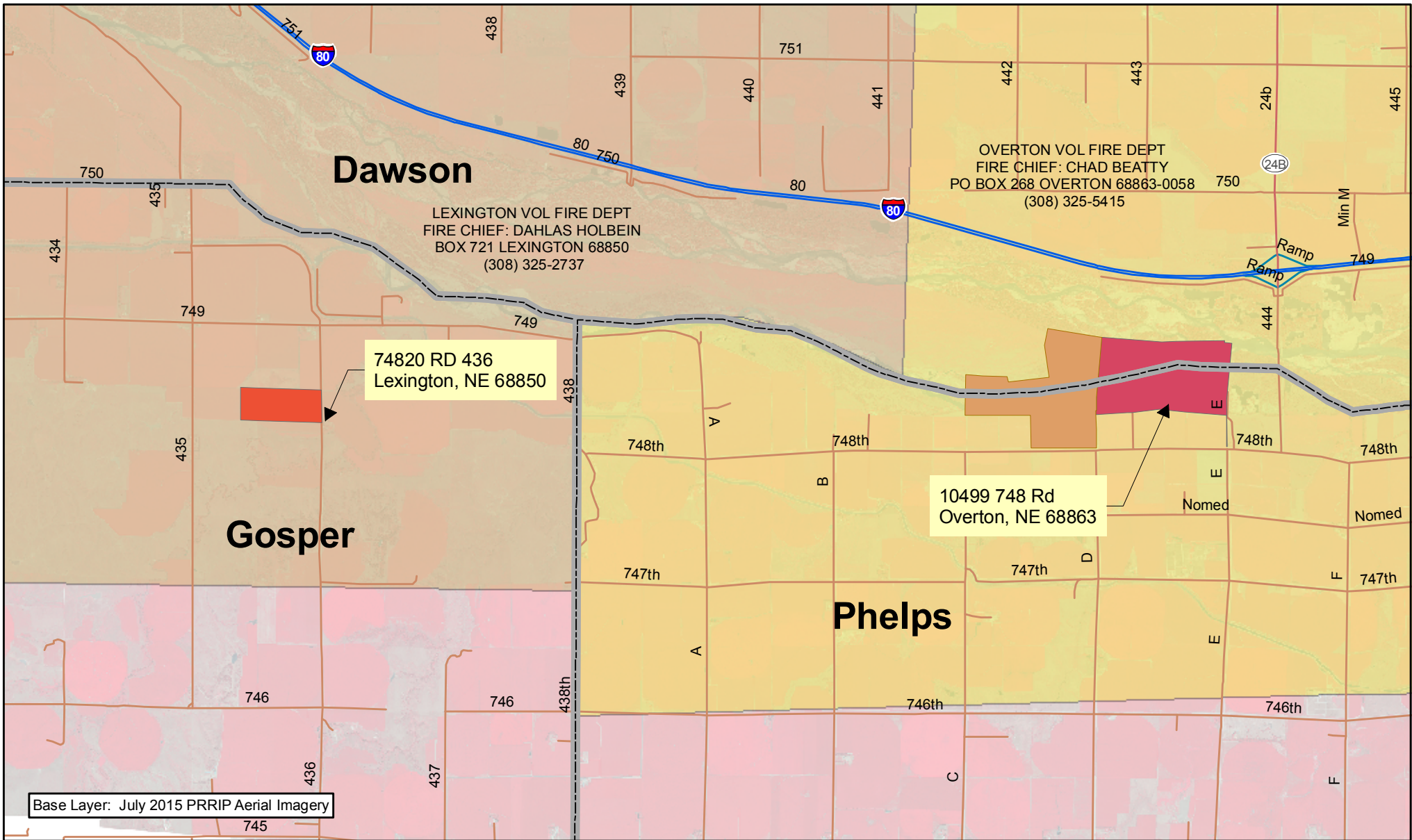
- Legend**
- PRRIP
 - NPPD
 - County









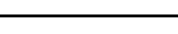
**PRRIP
HABITAT COMPLEXES
FY 2016-2018**

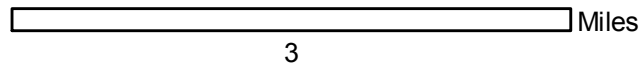
Date: 11/05/15
By: TRT

Figure 1



Legend

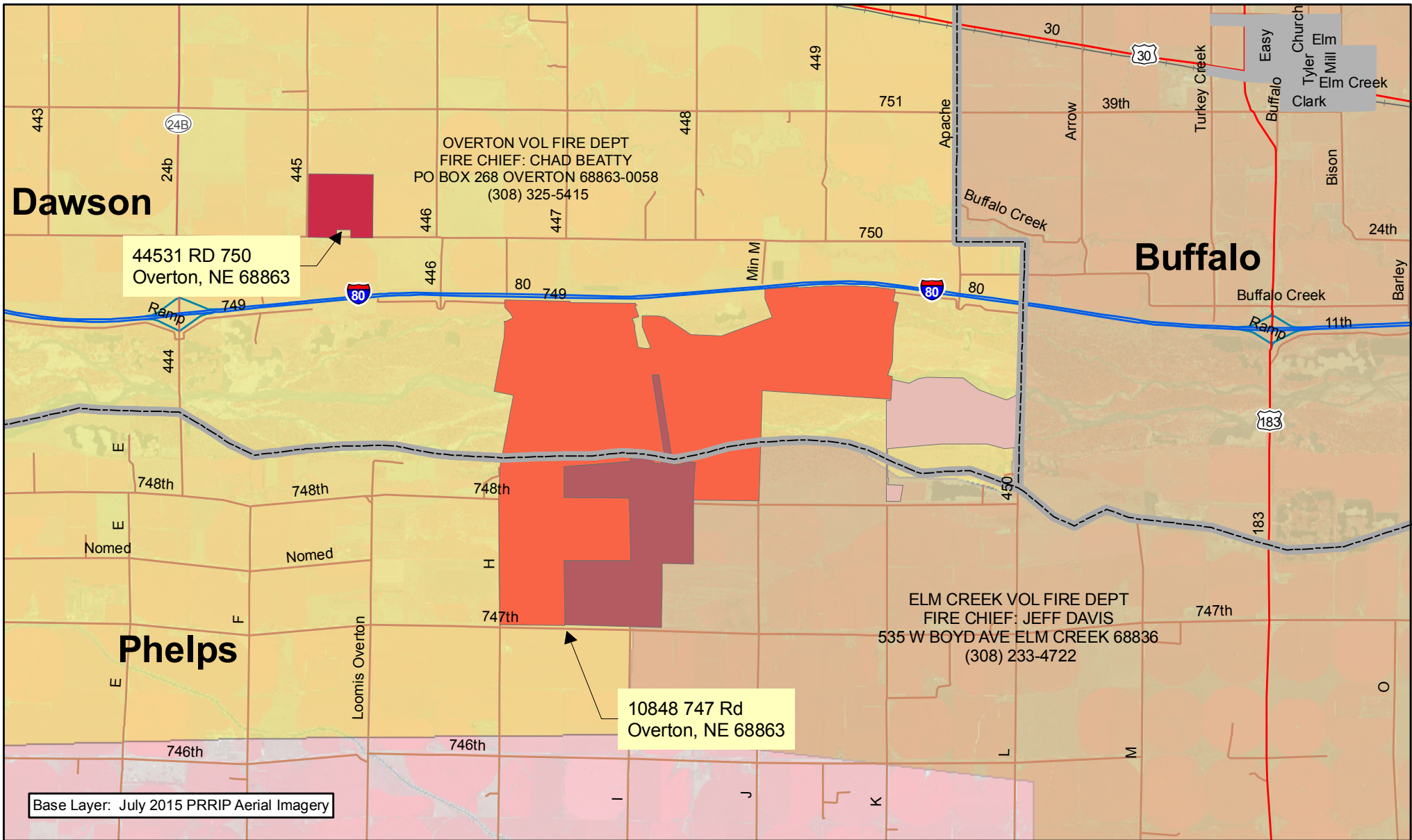
-  County
- VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICTS**
-  PRRIP Tract
-  LEXINGTON VOL FIRE DEPT
-  OVERTON VOL FIRE DEPT
-  2009003
-  2009007
-  2012004










**PLUM CREEK COMPLEX
FY 2016-2018**

Date: 11/5/15
By: TRT

Figure 2



Legend

-  County
- PRRIPTract**
-  2008002
-  2009006
-  2010001
-  2013001
- VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICTS**
-  ELM CREEK VOL FIRE DEPT
-  OVERTON VOL FIRE DEPT

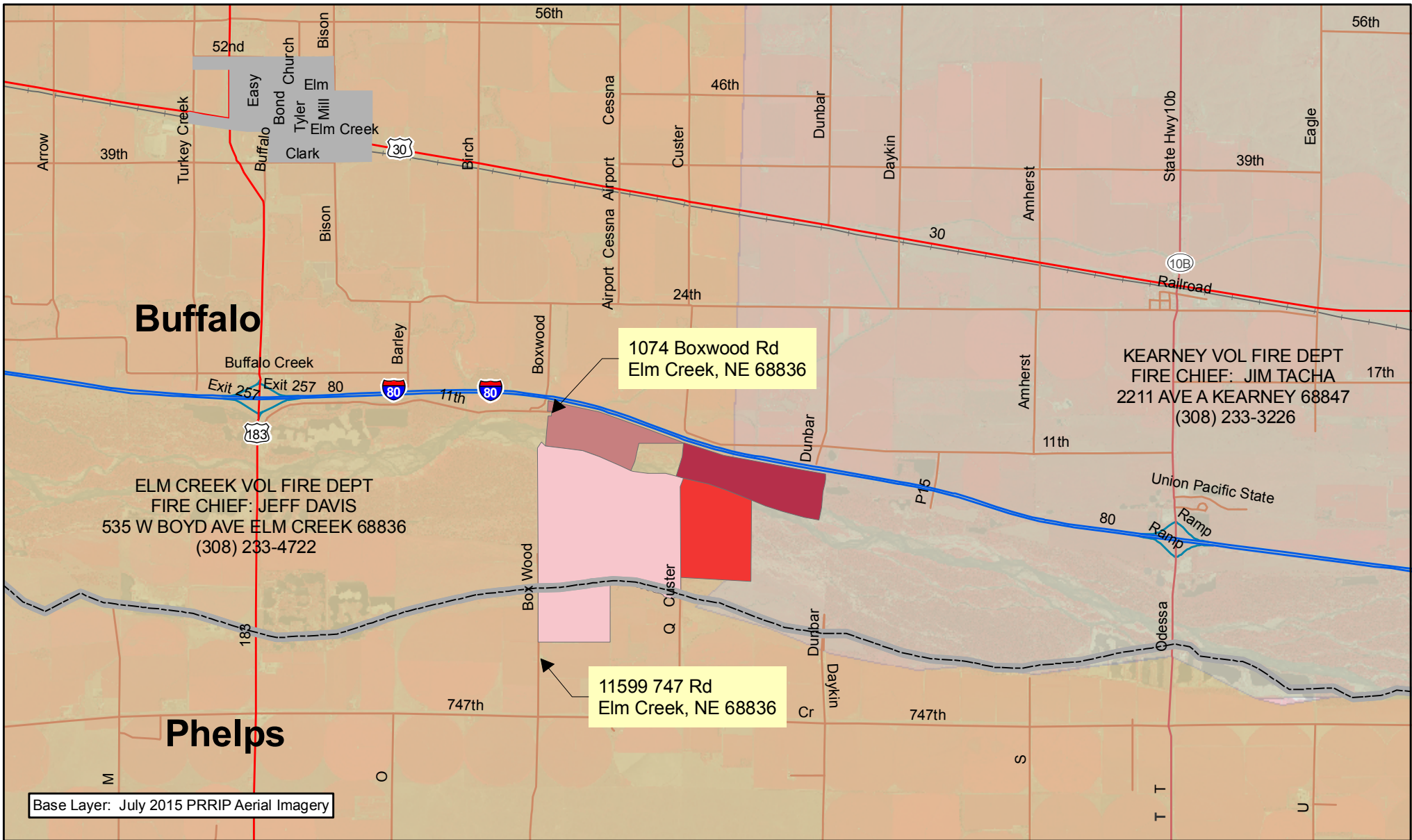


3 Miles

COTTONWOOD RANCH
COMPLEX
FY 2016-2018

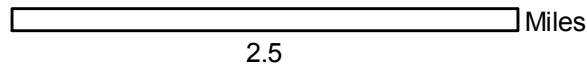
Date: 11/5/15
By: TRT

Figure 3



Legend

- | | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------------------|
| | County | VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICTS |
| | PRRIP Tract | ELM CREEK VOL FIRE DEPT |
| | 2009002 | KEARNEY VOL FIRE DEPT |
| | 2009005 | |
| | 2012001 | |
| | 2012002 | |

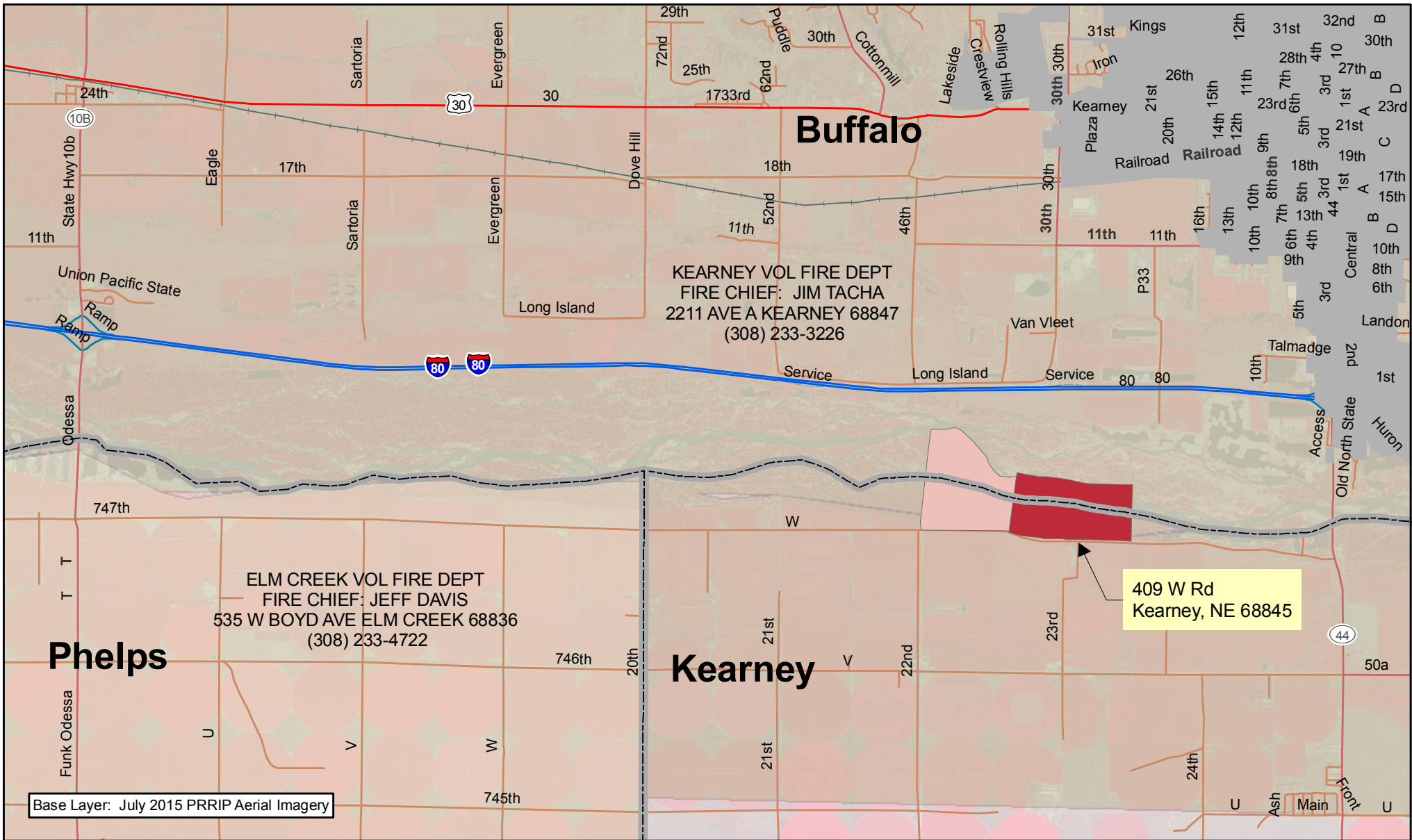


ELM CREEK
COMPLEX
FY 2016-2018

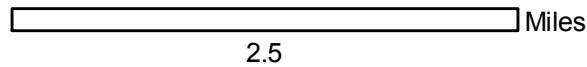
Date: 11/5/15
By: TRT

Figure 4





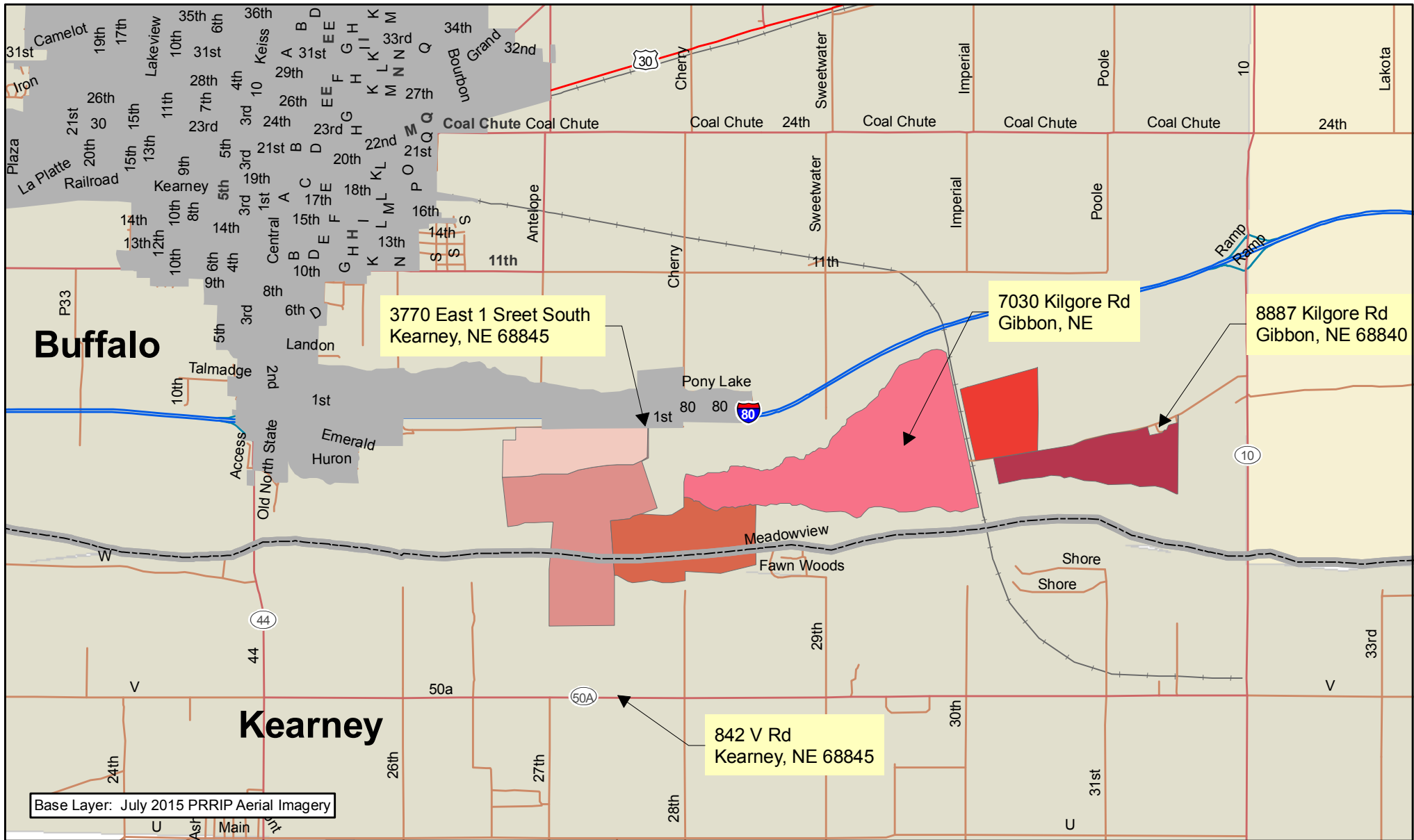
- Legend**
- County
 - VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICTS**
 - PRRIP Tract
 - 2014002 ELM CREEK VOL FIRE DEPT
 - 2015002 KEARNEY VOL FIRE DEPT



PAWNEE
 COMPLEX
 FY 2016-2018

Date: 11/5/15
 By: TRT

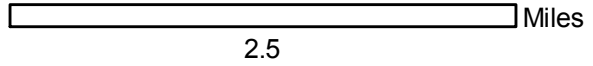
Figure 5



Base Layer: July 2015 PRRIP Aerial Imagery



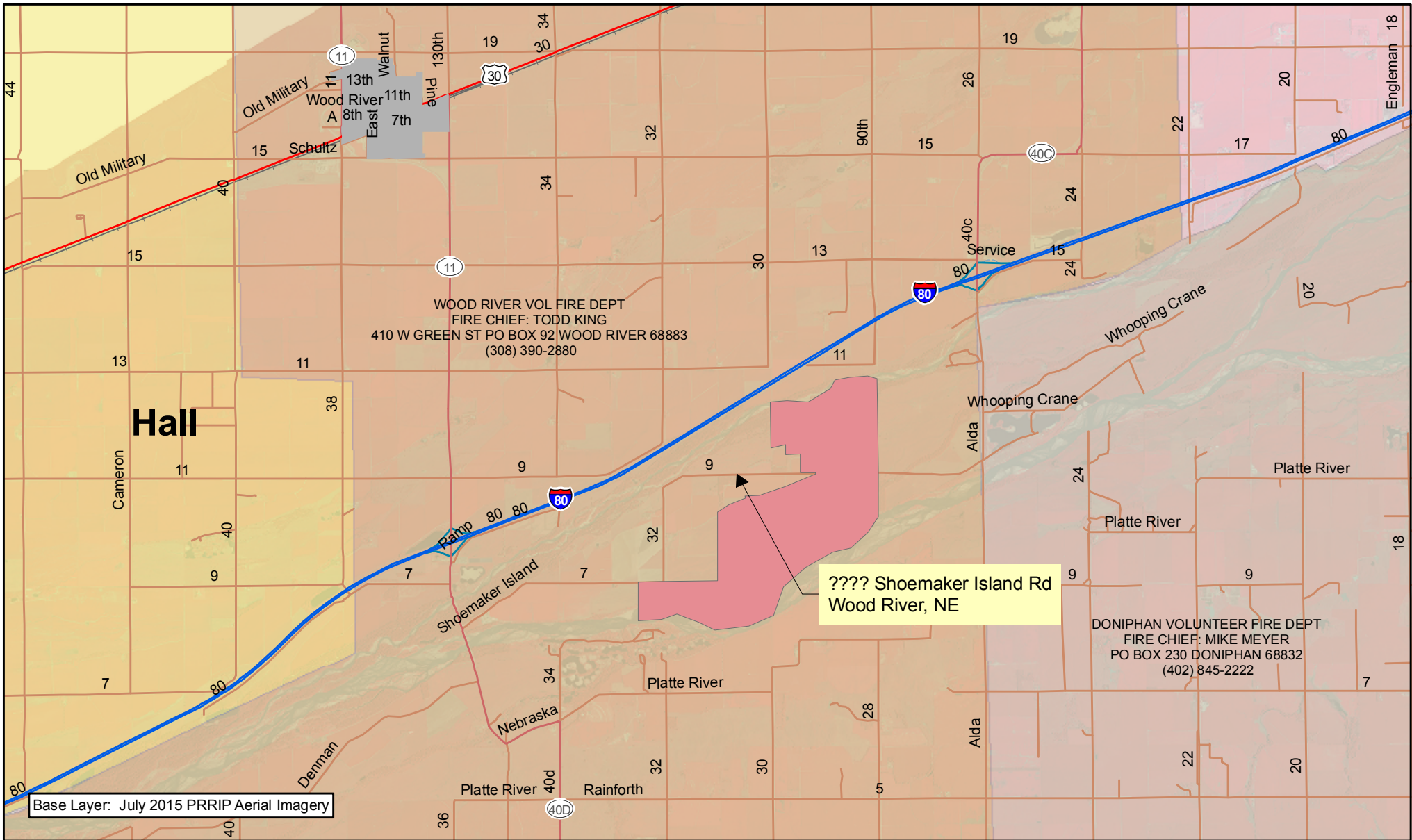
Legend	
	County
	PRRIP Tract
	GIBBON VOL FIRE DEPT & RESCUE SQUAD
	KEARNEY VOL FIRE DEPT
	2008001
	2009001
	2009004
	2010003
	2012003
	2015001



FORT KEARNEY
COMPLEX
FY 2016-2018

Date: 11/5/15
By: TRT

Figure 6



Legend

	County		VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICTS
	2010004		DONIPHAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT
			SHELTON VOL FIRE & RESCUE
			WOOD RIVER VOL FIRE DEPT

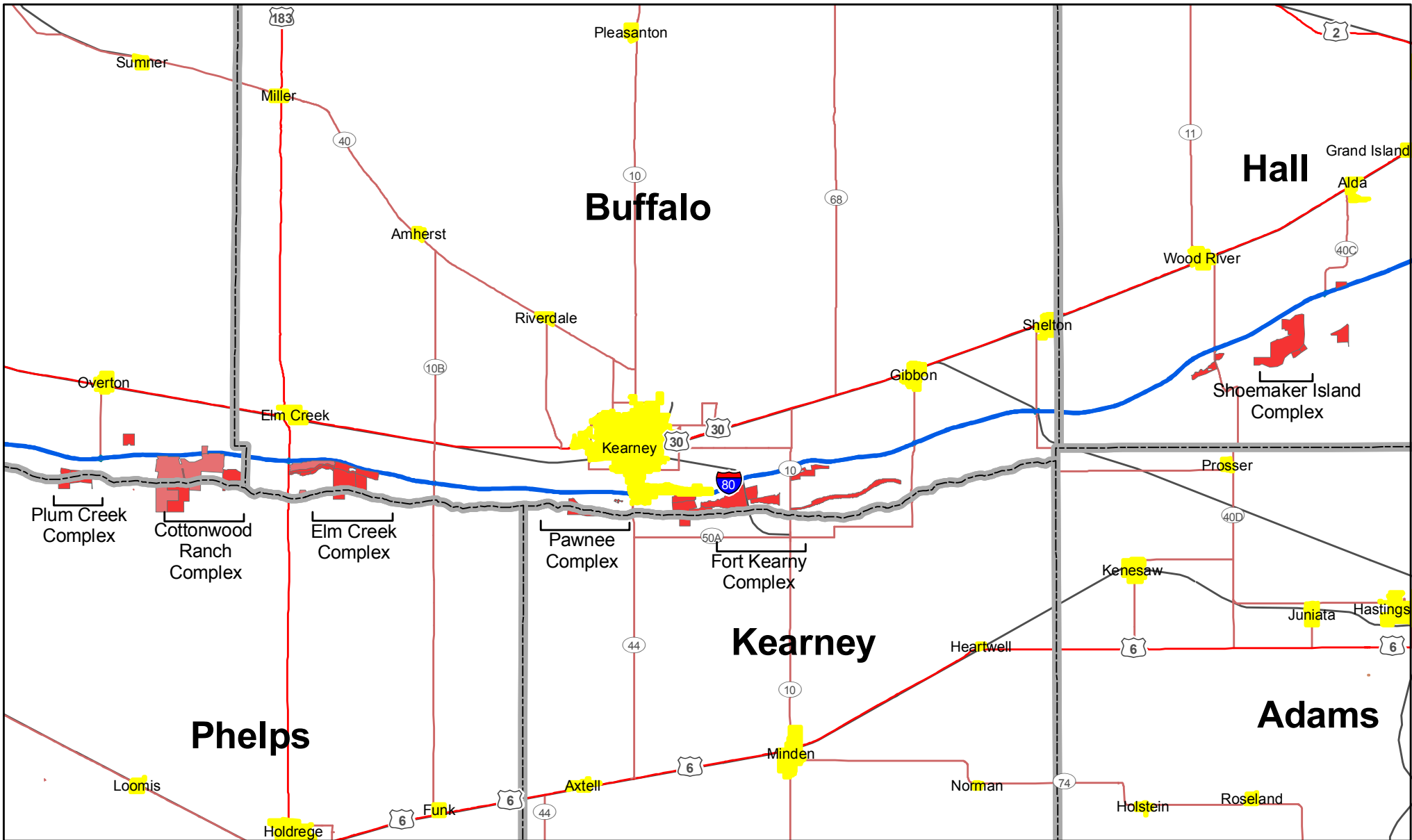


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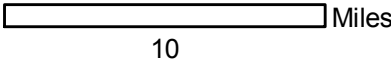
**SHOEMAKER ISLAND
COMPLEX
FY 2016-2018**

Date: 11/5/15
By: TRT

Figure 7



- Legend**
- Communities
 - County
 - NPPD
 - PRRIP



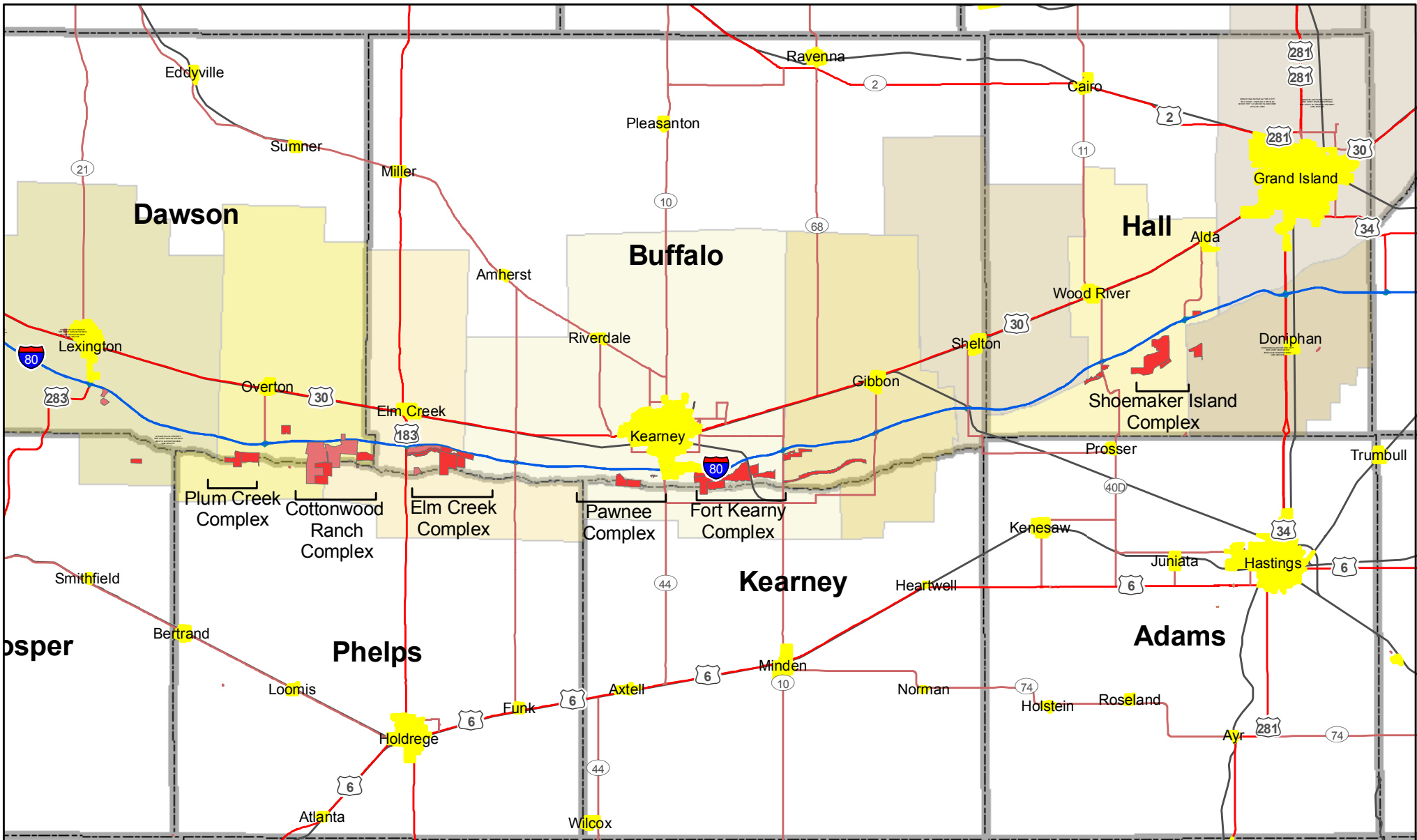
COMMUNITIES AT RISK

FY 2016-2018

Date: 11/5/15
By: TRT

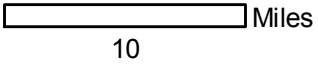
Figure-8





Legend

- Communities
 - NPPD
 - PRRIP
 - County
- VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICTS**
- LEXINGTON VOL FIRE DEPT
 - OVERTON VOL FIRE DEPT
 - ELM CREEK VOL FIRE DEPT
 - KEARNEY VOL FIRE DEPT
 - GIBBON VOL FIRE DEPT & RESCUE SQUAD
 - SHELTON VOL FIRE & RESCUE
 - WOOD RIVER VOL FIRE DEPT
 - DONIPHAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT
 - GRAND ISLAND RURAL FIRE DEPT



**CENTRAL PLATTE
FIRE DISTRICTS**

FY 2016-2018

Date: 11/5/15
By: TRT

Figure-9