

PLATTE RIVER

NEBRASKA

Project Name: Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

Project Type:

- Acquisition/Easement/Protection
- Restoration (Target Species Habitat)
- Species Recovery
- Recreation

Project Description: Over the last 100 years the Platte River has undergone extensive development. The river system today contains 15 major dams and reservoirs, provides water for about 3.5 million people, hydroelectric power, irrigation water, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. Substantial portions of the economies of the Platte River Basin States are based on water supplied by the Platte River. The states of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming; the Department of the Interior; water users in the three states; and environmental and conservation groups have come together to pursue a basin-wide, cooperative recovery program to improve and maintain habitat for species which use the Central and Lower Platte River in Nebraska.

The Program's goals include acquiring interest in land and ensuring water flows to improve and maintain habitat for target species. Platte River habitat is essential to the recovery of the Whooping crane, Interior least tern, Piping plover, and Pallid sturgeon, all threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service complements the Program's activities by restoring critical riparian and stream habitat on private lands for the same target species. In addition, the Program and the Service are improving recreational opportunities for hunting and bird watching.

Federal Agencies:

- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Non-Federal Partners:

- Several Federal, state, and non-profit partner organizations

Outcomes for 2012:

- Implement pilot sediment augmentation project
- Implement the Integrated Monitoring & Research Plan, including species monitoring
- Improve and upgrade the internet reservation website and deer lottery application
- Collaborate with private landowners to restore habitat

