



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)

Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC)

2023 External Solicitation for Fluvial Geomorphologist

Application Materials Submission Deadline: Friday, March 10, 2023 by 12:00 PM Central Time

POSITION SUMMARY

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP -or- Program) is seeking candidates for one (1) open seat on the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) in 2023. The ISAC evaluates the implementation, analysis, and synthesis of PRRIP science and provides independent scientific counsel and advice to the Governance Committee (GC), the decision-making body for the PRRIP. The ISAC is currently composed of six (6) members covering a wide range of areas of scientific expertise. A stipend of \$32,400 for approximately 18 days of work is available for each ISAC member for FY2023. This is an opportunity to join an interdisciplinary panel of independent science experts from around the world that provides actionable scientific counsel to one of the most successful collaborative endangered species recovery programs in the nation. It is also an opportunity to help connect cutting-edge science with decision-making for endangered species management and restoration program governance.

The PRRIP is seeking a new ISAC member who is an expert in fluvial geomorphology with specific expertise and experience as described below:

Fluvial geomorphology (sediment/morphology/alluvial river focus). Expertise in and experience with science disciplines related to sand bed river restoration including hydrology, eco-hydraulics, sediment dynamics/transport, and hydrologic/hydraulic modeling. Prefer familiarity with these techniques in the context of challenges related to non-stationarity, channel capacity limitations, and infrastructure.

OVERVIEW OF THE PRRIP AND THE ISAC

The PRRIP initiated on January 1, 2007, as a basin-wide effort between the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska and the Department of Interior (Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to provide land, water, and scientific monitoring and research to assist in the conservation of and evaluate Program benefits for the target species (whooping crane, interior least tern [now de-listed], piping plover, pallid sturgeon). 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 Service’s 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.



45 The Program is led by the GC consisting of representatives of Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, the Bureau
46 of Reclamation, the Service, South Platte River water users, North Platte River water users, Nebraska
47 water users, and environmental groups. The Program established key standing Advisory Committees to
48 assist the GC in implementing the Program. Those committees include the Technical Advisory
49 Committee (TAC), the Land Advisory Committee (LAC), the Water Advisory Committee (WAC), the
50 Finance Committee (FC), and the ISAC. In a unique approach, the Program is staffed by an independent
51 Executive Director (ED; Mr. Jason Farnsworth) and Executive Director’s Office (EDO) personnel provided
52 by Headwaters Corporation, a private, for-profit natural resources consulting company. Dr. Chadwin
53 Smith of the EDO coordinates the work of the ISAC and other independent science for the Program.
54

55 The ISAC is a standing Advisory Committee for the PRRIP and will be comprised of six independent
56 scientists knowledgeable in technical areas critical to implementation of the Extension Science Plan.
57 Members of the ISAC should be experienced scientists with demonstrated achievement and high
58 standing in their field. They will be chosen to fill specific areas of expertise needed by the Program (as
59 described above). There should be a balance between scientists with specific knowledge of the Platte
60 River basin and those with more broad and diverse experience. Members will be expected to provide
61 objective scientific advice in a timely and professional manner and work effectively in a multi-
62 disciplinary setting. ISAC membership will be open to individuals employed by all agencies, institutions,
63 and organizations, with the exception that members may not be salaried employees of member entities
64 of the GC or organizations with specific mandated representation on the LAC, WAC, and TAC.
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66 New ISAC members will be evaluated by an ISAC Member Selection Panel appointed by the GC to
67 develop criteria for evaluating potential ISAC candidates, review application materials, interview
68 candidates, and recommend new members to the GC. The GC will make the final decision on ISAC
69 member appointments. Dr. Smith of the EDO will facilitate this process, which may include virtual
70 and/or phone discussions with Dr. Smith and a virtual interview with members of the Selection Panel
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72 For more information on the PRRIP, visit our website at <https://platteriverprogram.org/>.
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74 **MAJOR DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 75 • Advising the GC, TAC, and EDO on implementation of the Extension Science Plan, including providing
76 an independent opinion on the design and implementation of science activities and adaptive
77 management and the scientific rigor of proposed management actions and associated monitoring
78 and research.
79
- 80 • Reviewing scientific information collected by the Program and providing an independent opinion on
81 these results in terms of the response (or lack thereof) of the river and target species to
82 management interventions.
83
- 84 • Review and interpret selected non-Program science (typically in the form of a publication from a
85 refereed journal) to provide recommendation(s) on if/how to on-board technical aspects of the non-
86 Program science in question to improve PRRIP science and its application.
87
- 88 • Responding to specific questions of a scientific nature from the GC, TAC, and EDO.



- 89 • Advising the GC, TAC, and EDO on the need for additional peer review.
- 90
- 91 • Two multi-day, in-person meetings each year – annual Science Plan Reporting Session, usually in
- 92 February in Omaha, Nebraska or Denver Colorado; fall ISAC Meeting, usually in October in Kearney,
- 93 Nebraska.
- 94
- 95 • Virtual participation in the March GC Quarterly Meeting to communicate with the GC after the
- 96 February Science Plan Reporting Session; virtual participation in other GC Quarterly Meetings as
- 97 requested and/or for general interest.
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- 99 • Additional virtual meetings and communication via email and phone.

100 REMUNERATION

101 The PRRIP provides ISAC members with a fixed-price stipend (invoiced quarterly), including document
102 review, virtual meetings, in-person meetings, and travel time associated with attending in-person
103 meetings. The approved general ISAC member stipend for FY2023 is \$32,400 (for the 2023/24 contract
104 period, this will equate to 18 days of time [8-hour days] at a rate of \$225/hour). ISAC members begin
105 with a three-year appointment but work is contracted annually via approved contract amendments.
106 ISAC member contract amendments typically have an initiation date of July 1 of the current calendar
107 year and extend through June 30 of the following calendar year. The ISAC scope of work and stipend
108 rate is determined annually by the GC during the PRRIP budget and work plan development process. In
109 addition, all ISAC member travel expenses (airfare, hotels, meals, etc.) for in-person meetings are fully
110 reimbursed as direct expenses by the PRRIP based on submitted receipts.

112 QUALIFICATIONS

- 113 • **Education** – Ph.D. or other terminal degree in a field related to the scientific area(s) of expertise
114 identified above.
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- 117 • **Experience** – Ten (10) or more years in a relevant field related to the scientific area(s) of expertise
118 identified above. This may include research and/or teaching experience, publication in refereed
119 journals, participation on editorial boards or funding review panels, or on-the-ground work in river
120 settings or restoration contexts. Prior experience providing independent science oversight or
121 guidance for large-scale restoration or endangered species recovery programs like the PRRIP or as
122 part of other independent science advisory panels is desirable.
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- 124 • **Considerations** – Specific ISAC membership considerations include:
 - 125 a) High achievement in a relevant scientific discipline.
 - 126 b) A strong record of scientific accomplishment documented by contribution to the peer-
 - 127 reviewed literature or other evidence of creative scientific accomplishment.
 - 128 c) High standards of scientific integrity, independence, and objectivity.
 - 129 d) Ability to forge creative solutions to complex problems.
 - 130 e) Interest in and ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary setting.



131 **APPLICATION MATERIALS SUBMISSION**

132 If you believe you meet the qualifications described above and are interested in being considered for
133 the open ISAC member position, please submit the following initial application materials:
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- 135 • A *cover letter* that describes your interest in the position, summarizes your expertise and
136 experience, and speaks to the ISAC membership considerations noted above. The cover letter
137 should be addressed to:

138
139 Chadwin Smith, Ph.D.
140 Science Policy Coordinator
141 Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
142 4111 4th Ave., Suite 6
143 Kearney, NE 68845
144

- 145 • A *detailed CV* that details your education, experience, publication history, and other aspects of your
146 background that relate to the area of expertise described above.
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148 *Please submit the cover letter and detailed CV electronically in PDF format to Dr. Chadwin Smith at*
149 smithc@headwaterscorp.com. Your materials will then be evaluated by the ISAC Member Selection
150 Panel with other potential candidates and Dr. Smith may contact you for additional information or
151 clarifications. If you have any questions about the PRRIP, the ISAC member openings, the function of the
152 ISAC, or this external solicitation process please contact Dr. Smith at smithc@headwaterscorp.com or
153 (402) 432-7950.
154

155 **NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS**

156 Once appointed by the GC, during the contracting process all ISAC members must formally agree to a set
157 of requirements that includes, but is not limited to:

- 158 1. Signing a “No Conflict of Interest” statement. This affirms whether or not any potential conflicts of
159 interest exist between the PRRIP and other past or on-going work in which the ISAC member is
160 involved, including any projects currently being conducted for the PRRIP.
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- 162 2. Providing a Dun & Bradstreet (D-U-N-S) number or other similar declaration. This affirms the ISAC
163 member is not disbarred from doing work for the federal government.
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- 165 3. Signing a “Certification Regarding Lobbying.” This affirms the ISAC member has not received or
166 directed federal funds to lobby federal employees, agencies, or other entities to secure federal work
167 or contracts.
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