



# Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) Update

South Platte Forum

October 19, 2011

# PRRIP Background



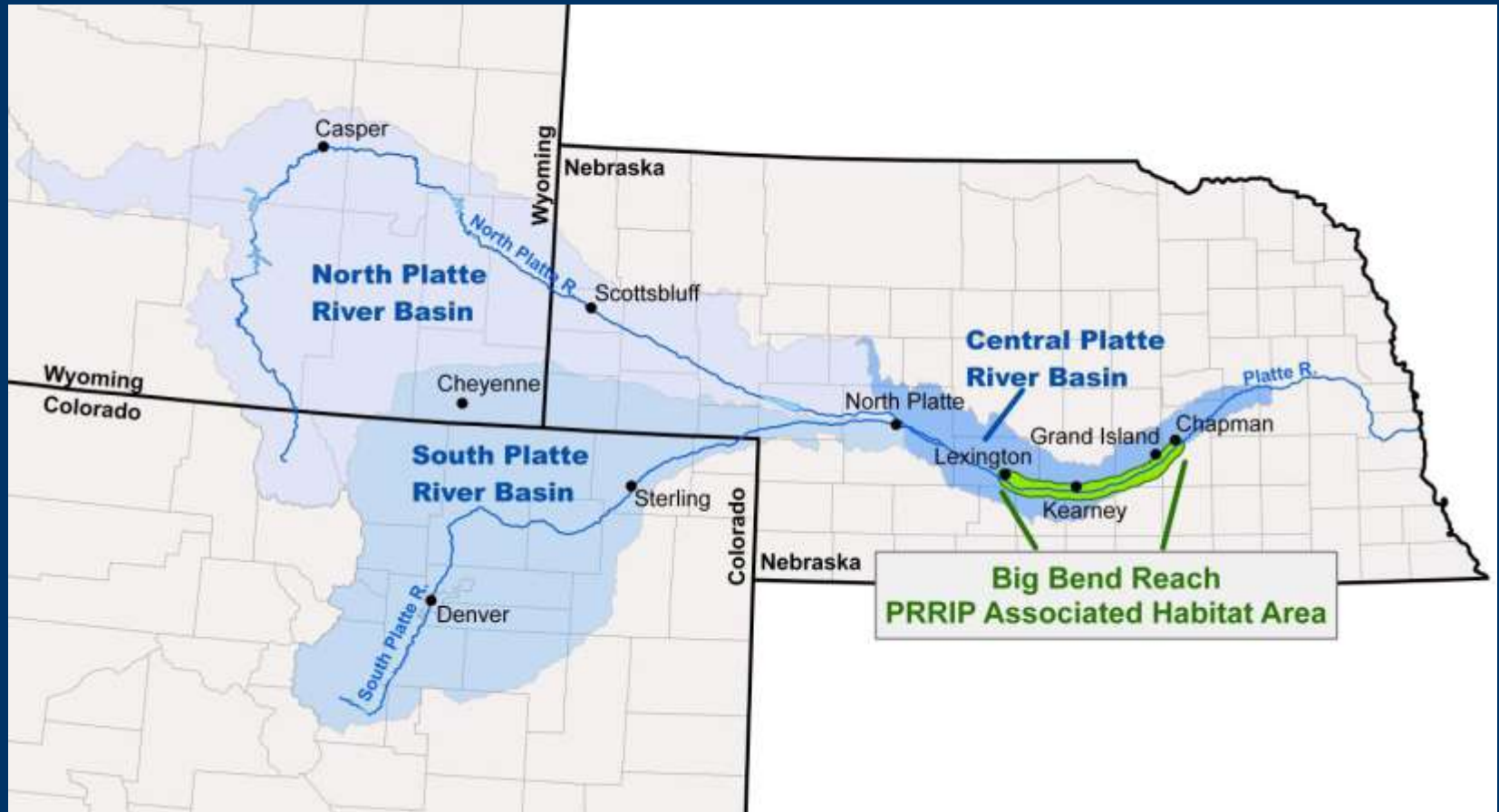
- Program began July 1, 2007
- Incremental agreement between CO, WY, NE, DOI, Env. NGOs and Water Users
- First increment lasts for 13 years
- Provides compliance with Sec. 7 of the ESA
- Recovery of 4 threatened and endangered species

# PRRIP Background



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# PRRIP Background



# PRRIP – Financial Resources

	Obligation*	Funds to Date**
Federal Agencies	\$157 Million	\$24.8 Million
Colorado	\$24 Million	\$25.5 Million
Wyoming	\$6 Million	\$6 Million

\*financial obligation is in 2005 (or 2008, depending on the context) dollars

\*\*payments must be adjusted for inflation


# PRRIP – Land

- To date, the Program:
  - Obtained 8,600 of the 10,000 acres required
  - Sub-leases up to 1880 acres for agricultural use
  - Conducts land management activities (predator fencing, tree removal, demolition, seeding)



# PRRIP Water

## Water Obligations

	<b>Existing Activities</b>	<b>Future Activities</b>
Program	50 K - 70 K acre-ft	
Colorado	80 K (CO - 10K) acre-ft	Post -97 depletions
Wyoming		Post -97 depletions
Nebraska		Post -97 depletions
Federal Agencies		Post -97 depletions

# PRRIP Water

- Entered agreement to obtain 4,800 ac-ft from Pathfinder Dam in WY
- Moving forward with J-2 Return Reregulating reservoir
  - cooperation agreement
  - additional FS work
- Conducting ground water recharge pilot study



# PRRIP Water

- Performed Choke Point Modeling and Analysis at North Platte
  - High sustained flows (> 4,000 cfs) at North Platte this summer
  - Potential Reevaluation of Flood Stage
- Participated in efforts to eradicate phragmites



# PRRIP Water - Colorado

- Tamarack I Ground Water Recharge:
  - Retimes up to 10 K acre-feet of water
  - Covers CO's "existing" water activities
  - Pumps in priority & at times of surplus at the habitat (often Dec & Jan)
  - Accretions occur at times of deficit at the habitat (February - June)
  - Retimed full 10 K ac-ft in 2010



# PRRIP Water - Colorado



- Tamarack II Ground Water Recharge:
  - Retimes water from CO's post-1997 population growth
  - Pumps in priority & during surplus in CO (Jul - Apr)
  - Accretions occur during net deficit (May - June)
  - Mitigated 1,800 ac-ft of depletions in 2010

# PRRIP Water - Colorado

- Tamarack I & II Groundwater Recharge Project includes:
  - 10 existing wells & 4 existing recharge ponds
  - Future build-out: add'l 6 wells & 3 recharge ponds
  - Recharge credits from Ducks Unlimited (DU) projects
  - Leasing of recharge credits from other CO projects



# PRRIP Water - Colorado

- State of CO's Role in CO Water Program:
  - funding the \$24 Million
  - funding 1 operator for Tamarack project
  - to fund \$1 Million for Tamarack build-out
  - contributed to 2 DU recharge projects
  - provided Tamarack SWA for project site
  - obtaining recharge water rights
  - represents CO with PRRIP



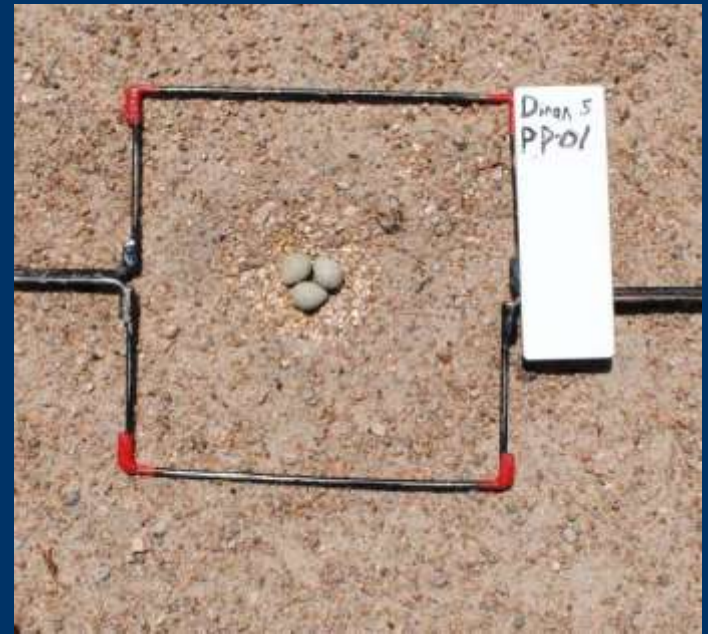
# PRRIP Water - Colorado

- South Platte Water Related Activities Program's (SPWRAP) Role:
  - providing remainder of CO's water obligations
  - funding O&M of Tamarack project
  - fulfills CO's accounting and reporting requirements
  - members covered by CO's depletion plan
  - represents CO water users with PRRIP



# PRRIP – Adaptive Management

- PRRIP Annual Monitoring:
  - whooping cranes
  - terns and plovers
  - forage fish
  - water quality
  - geomorphology
  - in-channel vegetation
  - ground surface elevation (LiDAR)
  - aerial photography
  - time-lapse photography of Platte River



# PRRIP – Adaptive Management

- Program's Recent Research:
  - Lower Platte Stage Change Study
  - Tern and Plover Foraging Habits Study
  - Directed Vegetation Research
  - Whooping Crane Telemetry
  - Wet Meadows Information Review
  - Habitat Availability and Selection Studies



# PRRIP – Adaptive Management

## Recent Implementation Projects :

- hydraulic/sediment transport modeling
- off-channel sand and water (“OCSW”) habitat construction
- habitat rehabilitation
- sediment augmentation pilot project
- pulse flow events
- natural high flows
- flow consolidation



# PRRIP – Adaptive Management

tern & plover off-channel sand & water habitat



# PRRIP – Adaptive Management

human sand and water habitat



# PPRIP – Benefits for Species



- Upward trend in use of managed river and sandpit habitat by terns and plover since 2001
- Record number (279) of wild whooping cranes as of March 1, 2011
- Steady trend in Program habitat use by whooping cranes since 2007
- As hoped, PPRIP activities will have ~ no impact on pallid sturgeon habitat

# PRRIP – Benefits for Us



- Streamlined Section 7 consultation process
- FWS has provided 96 (71% in CO) consultations since 2007
- No litigation
- Allows continued water use and development

# PRRIP – Learn More

Next PRRIP Governance Committee Meeting:  
December 6 & 7, 2011  
at Warwick Hotel in Denver



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