

# Nebraska Water Task Force

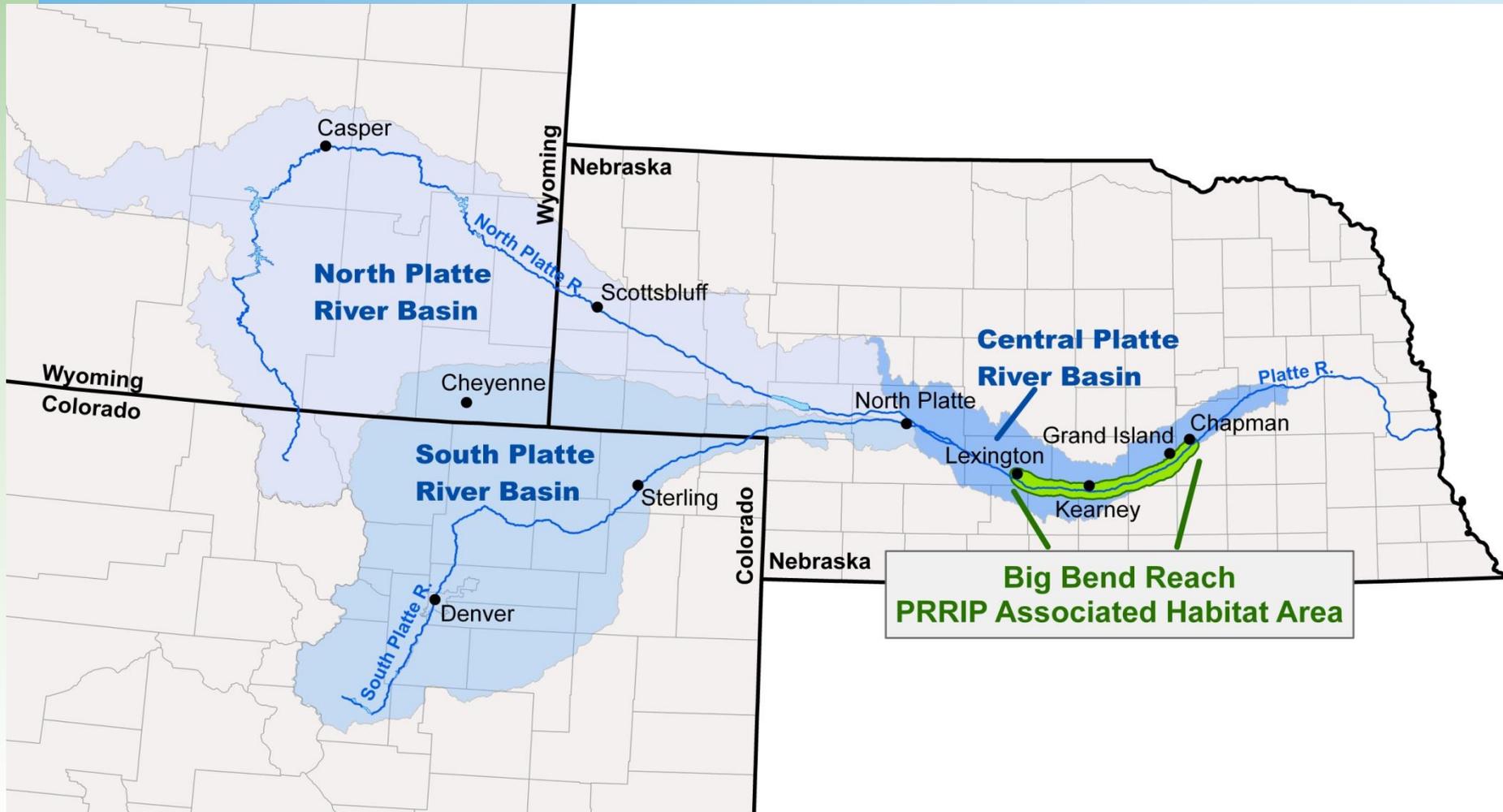
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PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**



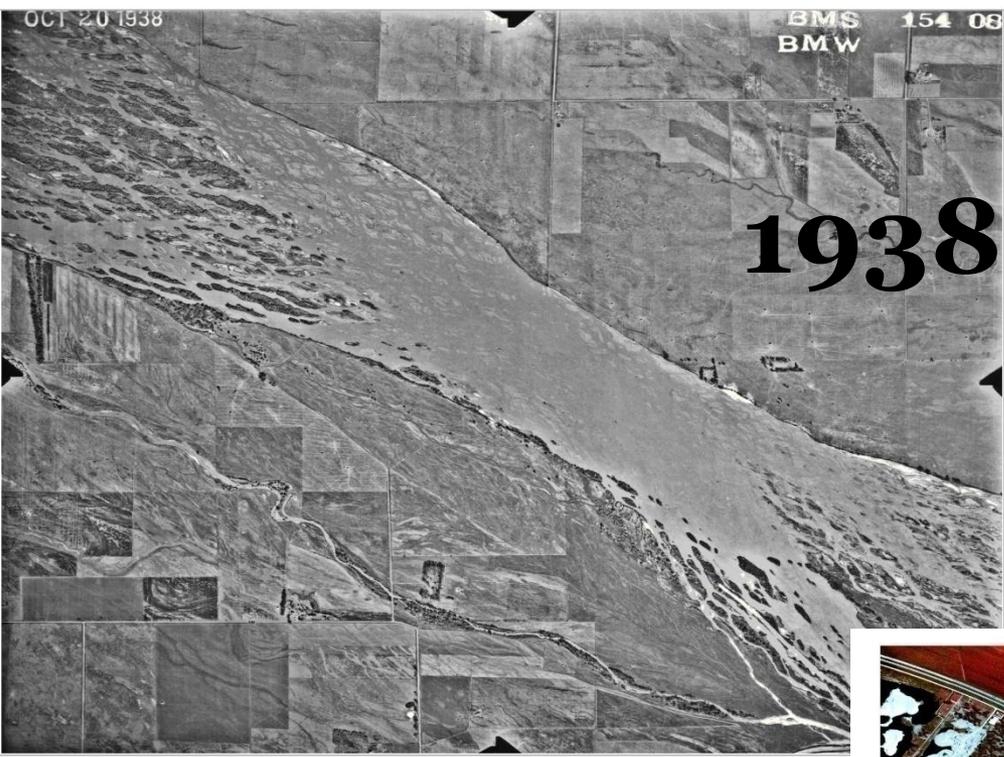
## PRRIP - Overview and Understandings

# Platte River Basin



# Threatened & Endangered Species on the Platte River





**Extent of Vegetation  
Expansion and Loss of  
Braided Nature of Platte  
River**

# ESA coverage for water users



# Key Program Understandings

- ESA Driving Force
  - ▣ Provides benefit to target species
  - ▣ Provides ESA compliance and greater regulatory certainty to water users
- Best Alternative .... that everyone could agree to
- Motivation - dire consequences should we fail
- First Increment – 01/01/07 – 12/31/19
- Collaborative Program, Not a Federal Program



# Collaborative Program

- Costs split 50/50 between States and Federal Government
- Governance by collaboration
  - ▣ Federal – USBR & USFWS
  - ▣ States - CO, WY, NE
  - ▣ Water Users – three seats
  - ▣ Environmental/Conservation - three seats (2 votes)
- Implementation by independent entity
- ISAC and Peer Review – guard against bias



# Program Components

**Adaptive  
Management**



**Land**

**Water**





# Water Plan

- Reducing Deficits to FWS Target Flows by average annual of 130,000 to 150,000 AFY
  
- “Short Duration High Flow” (SDHF) for Adaptive Management

# Addressing New Activities

- ❑ 3 States and Federal Depletions Plans
- ❑ Not counted toward the Program's water action plan goals – replacing impacts from new activities



# Addressing Existing Activities

- Reducing Deficits to FWS Target Flows by average annual of 130,000 to 150,000 AFY
  - ❖ 3 Initial Projects:
    - Tamarack I (CO),
    - Pathfinder Modification (WY), and
    - Lake McConaughy Environmental Account (NE)
  - credited 80,000 AFY
- ❖ New water conservation/supply projects
  - need 50,000 to 70,000 AFY





# Water Acquisition

- Retime excesses
- Acquire by lease or purchase
- Water Management Incentives
  - Reduce CU and increase return flows



# Storage

- ❑ Surface reservoir site under investigation
  - ❑ J2 Regulating Reservoir
- ❑ Pilot Test recharge
  - ❑ Phelps Canal
- ❑ Facilities owned and operated by local districts



# Leasing -Pathfinder Municipal Water

- Lease with Wyoming Water Development Commission
- Yield @4,800 AFY
  - Fair Reliability
  - Option for additional possible
  - Lump sum payment made for 38,400 AF



# Leasing - CPNRD

- Water Lease Agreement with CPNRD
  - Thirty Mile Canal Co.
  - Cozad Ditch Company
  - South Side Irrigation Co.
- Transferred SW, recharge of excess flow
- Yield – 0 to 20,000 AFY
  - Zero reliability
  - Average 8,000 AFY



# Leasing -NPPD

- Water Lease Agreement with NPPD
  - Dawson County Canal
  - Gothenburg Canal
  - Kearney Canal
- Transferred SW
- Yield - @1,000 AFY



# Other Potentials

- Net Controllable Conserved Water
  - CNPPID/NWF settlement (FERC Agreement)
  - Up to 10,000 AFY
  - 100% Reliable
  - Institutionally simple
  - High unit costs
  
- Lease from CNPPID
  - Transferred SW, short term arrangement
  - Dry year supply



# Water Plan Status

- 5,000+ AFY in hand
- Direction fairly clear for path to follow
  - 30,000 AFY from Surface Reservoir
  - 10,000 AFY from Nebraska GW Recharge
  - 10,000 AFY from Nebraska SW lease/purchase
  - 10,000 AFY lease from Colorado GW Recharge
- Conveyance still an issue
- Data – USGS funding cuts



# Program Funds for Water Projects

- Funds are available for joint projects in Platte Basin, but they are going fast
- J2 Regulating Reservoir uses most of water funds for 2013-2016
- Program funds come with Federal and other entanglements



*Serving the threatened and endangered  
species of the Platte River Basin  
as well as the people who live here.*



**PLATTE RIVER**  
RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

[www.platteriverprogram.org](http://www.platteriverprogram.org)