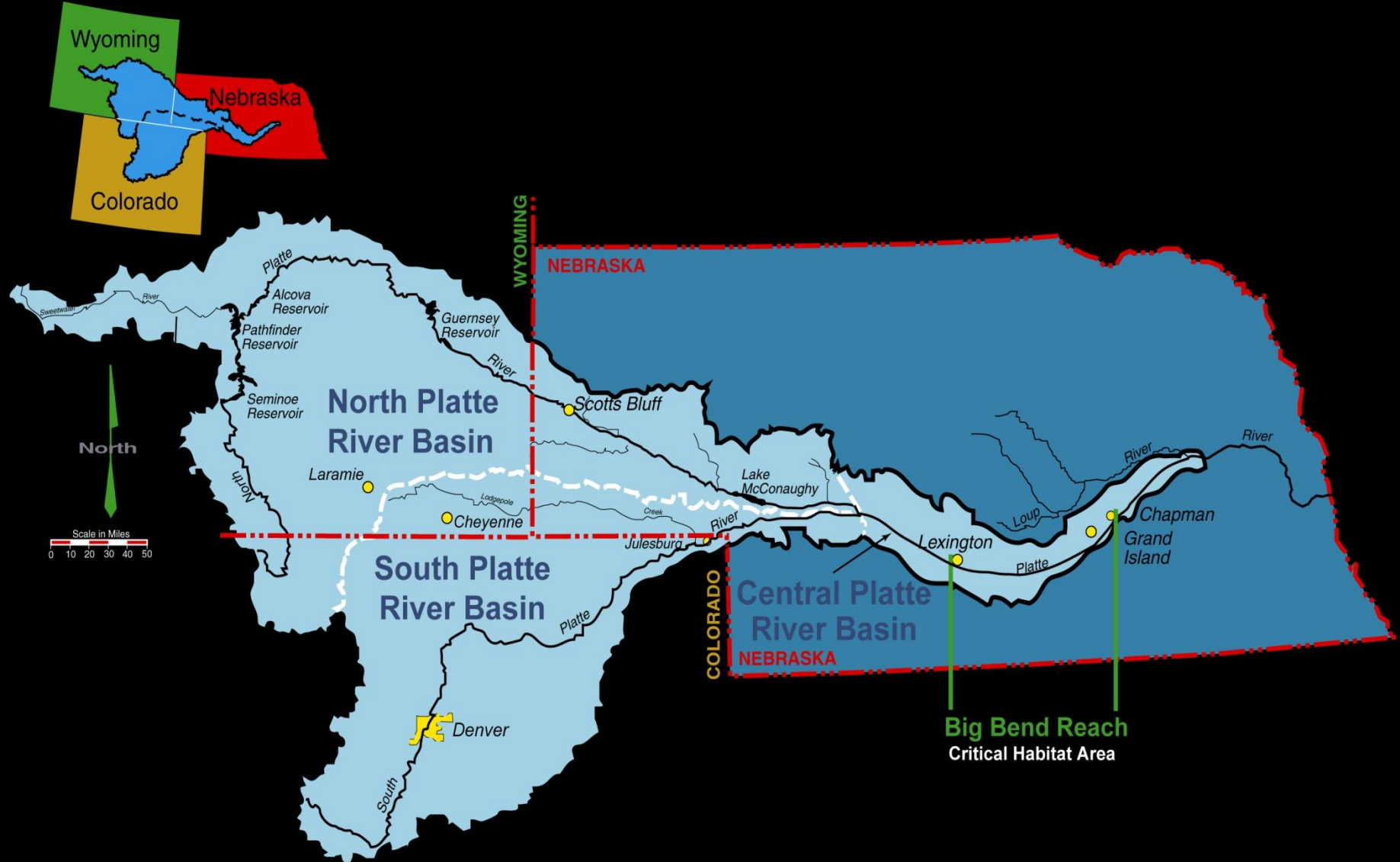


# Platte River basin





# T & E species on the Platte River— Whooping crane, Interior least tern, Piping plover, Pallid sturgeon



Credit: ICF



Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

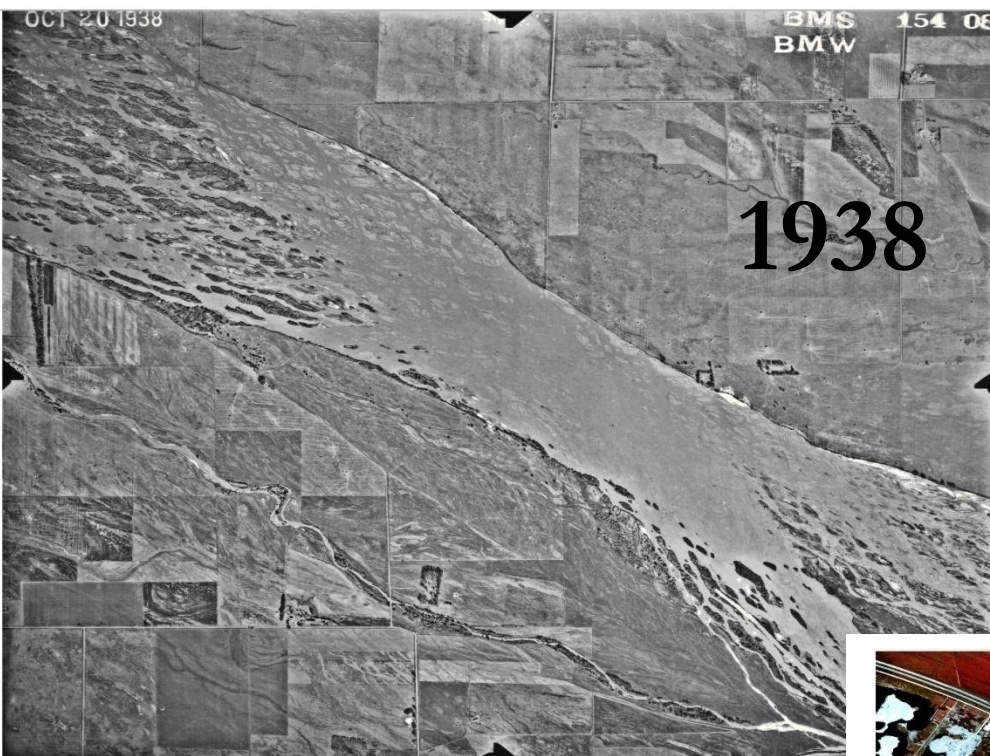


Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Credit: North Dakota Game & Fish-Department





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



# Cooperative Agreement history

- ESA issues in all three states
- NE, WY, CO decide to discuss potential for Cooperative Agreement with federal agencies in 1993
- Cooperative Agreement signed on July 1, 1997
- 1997 through 2006 – Negotiations among Governance Committee: USFWS, BOR, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, upstream North Platte water users, upstream Colorado South Platte water users, downstream water users, environmental/conservation groups
- 2007- Program initiated. Federal authorization obtained in 2008.



Credit: Michael Forsberg



Credit: Brian Lehmann/UNK



# PRRIP and Platte River Ecosystem

- Improve habitat, provide regulatory certainty, avoid ESA conflict
- Increment #1 (13 years)
  - Land Plan - Protect and restore habitat in central Platte
  - Water Plan - Reduce flow shortages in central Platte
  - Adaptive Management Plan - Test and monitor to improve management



Credit: K. Dewey, HPRCC

# First Increment Objectives - Land

- ➔ Protection and restoration of 10,000 acres of habitat for the three avian species
  - Habitat Complexes
  - Non-complex Habitat



29. 7. 2003

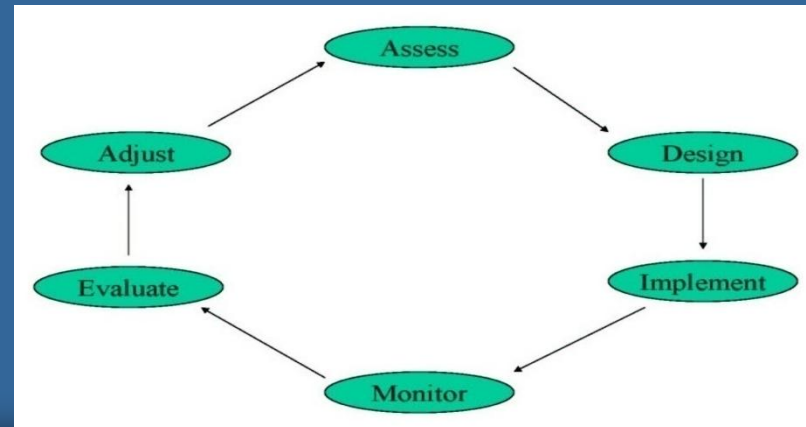


# Ecosystem Restoration



# Key Features of the PRRIP Adaptive Management Plan

- AM allows the Program to move forward in the face of uncertainty
- Systematic process to test hypotheses & apply information learned to improve management of land and water
- Scientific Rigor is Critical
  - Technical Advisory Committee,
  - Adaptive Management Working Group,
  - Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC),
  - Peer Reviews Panels,
  - other input





# Management Objectives

- ⇒ Improve production of least tern and piping plover from the central Platte River.
- ⇒ Improve survival of whooping cranes during migration.
- ⇒ Avoid adverse impact from Program actions on pallid sturgeon populations.

# First Increment Objectives-Water

- ➡ Reduce deficits to USFWS target flows by annual average of 130,000 to 150,000 acre-feet.
- ➡ Generate “Pulse Flows”





# Colorado's water obligations

- ⇒ Tamarack I-Colorado must have the infrastructure in place to retime up to 10,000 acre-feet from times of surplus at the habitat to times of deficit at the habitat (December-January retimed to February-June).
- ⇒ Tamarack II-Colorado's depletions plan. Colorado must retime water from population growth from times of net accretion to times of net depletion (July-April retimed to May and June).
- ⇒ North Platte depletions plan. Different baselines.
- ⇒ Tamarack III-(50,000 acre-feet, Program pays).

# **Recent Challenges-Channel Capacity Reduced by Deposition and Vegetation**



**Meander Channel Blockage Due to  
Phragmite Growth, North Platte River**



# Accomplishments

Aransas/Wood Buffalo NP Wild Population	Adult	Young	Total		Adult Pairs
September 30, 2008		227	39	266	72
October 29, 2007		236	?	236	69
April 1, 2006		189	25	214	69
March 22, 2005		182	33	215	67
February 29, 2004		169	25	194	64
March 31, 2003		169	15	184	
March 1, 2002		160	14	174	

# Accomplishments

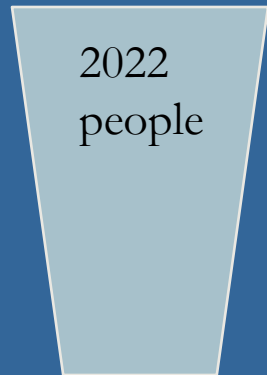
- Finances
  - Wyoming has its \$6 million obligation
  - Colorado has approximately \$20 million towards its \$24 million obligation
  - Federal funding has been steady (\$9 million 07-08, \$12 million in the 08-09 budget, 12.8 million in 09-10).
- Land (Cottonwood Ranch and Wyoming property).
  - Approximately 3,000 acres credit
  - many properties in the pipeline
- Water
  - Water Management Study, Phase I and Phase I
    - Alternative source and delivery evaluation
    - Hydrologic Routing Model
    - Chokepoint issues



# 2009 Activities

- Pulse Flow occurred in March 2009
- Continue land purchases and initiate land restoration and management activities
- Phragmites removal, island removal, chokepoint issues
- Finalize Research and Monitoring Protocols
- Evaluate Water Action Plan Alternatives
- Independent Scientific Advisory Committee/Peer Review Panels initiate their reviews

# North Platte Depletions Plan



Municipal



Agriculture



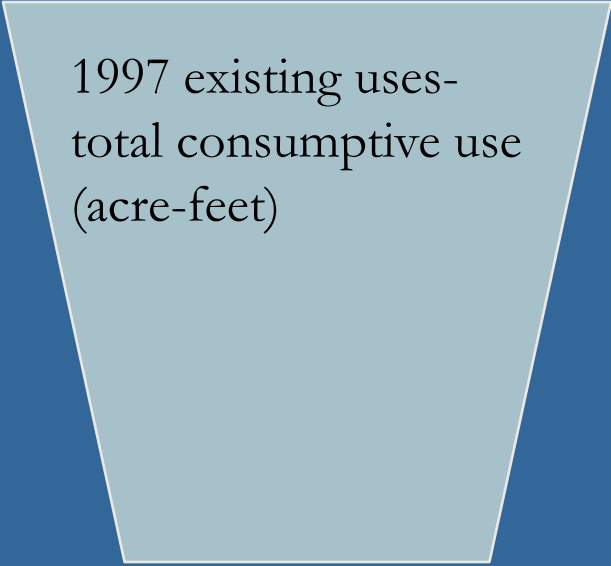
Industrial



Piscatorial,  
Environmental,  
Wildlife Uses



# Proposed North Platte Depletions Plan



1997 existing uses-  
total consumptive use  
(acre-feet)

All consumptive uses will  
be covered under “one  
bucket”