REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Channel Geomorphology and In-Channel Vegetation Monitoring

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
Office of the Executive Director
4111 4th Avenue, Suite 6
Kearney, Nebraska 68845

September 27, 2011

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PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

SUBJECT:	Systematic Monitoring of Channel Geomorphology and In-Channel Vegetation
REQUEST DATE:	January 12, 2012
PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING:	January 24, 2012
CLOSING DATE:	February 2, 2012
POINT OF CONTACT:	Steve Smith Headwaters Corporation (720) 524-6115 *smiths@headwaterscorp.com*

I. OVERVIEW

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program ("Program" or "PRRIP") was initiated on January 1, 2007 between Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, and the Department of the Interior to address threatened and endangered species issues in the central and lower Platte River basin. The species considered in the Program, referred to as "target species", are the whooping crane, piping plover, interior least tern, and pallid sturgeon.

A Governance Committee (GC) reviews, directs, and provides oversight for Program activities. The GC is comprised of one representative from each of the three states, three water user representatives, two representatives from environmental groups, and two members representing federal agencies. The GC has named Dr. Jerry Kenny to serve as the Program Executive Director (ED). Dr. Kenny established Headwaters Corporation as the staffing mechanism for the Program. Program staff is located in Nebraska and Colorado and are responsible for assisting in carrying out Program-related activities.

In 2007, the Program began its 13-year First Increment. The Program's management objectives are to 1) improve survival of whooping cranes during migration, 2) improve least tern and piping plover production, and 3) avoid adverse impacts on pallid sturgeon in the Lower Platte River. One of the Program's management strategies to achieve these objectives is the Flow-Sediment-Mechanical (FSM) management strategy, which includes flow management, sediment management, and land management (e.g., mechanically consolidating flow paths to increase stream power and braided nature of the Platte River). The second management strategy is the Mechanical Creation and Maintenance (MCM) strategy, which includes a combination of off-channel sandpit management, mechanical creation and maintenance of bare sand riverine islands, and creation and maintenance of inundated wetlands and upland areas.

Adaptive management will be used to reduce uncertainty associated with the potential performance of management actions. This will be achieved by explicitly acknowledging uncertainty in the form of alternative hypotheses of management action performance, and collecting and analyzing data to reduce uncertainty associated with Program hypotheses and related management actions. The Program's Adaptive Management Plan ("AMP") will be implemented to learn more about the physical processes of the central Platte River and the response of the four target species to management actions.

Several critical scientific and technical uncertainties about Program target species, physical processes, and the response of the target species to management actions will be the focus of the application of rigorous adaptive management in the First Increment through implementation of the Program's AMP. These uncertainties are captured in statements of broad hypotheses on pages 14-17 of the AMP and, as a means

of better linking science learning to Program decision-making, those uncertainties comprise a set of "Big Questions" that provide a template for linking specific hypotheses and performance measures to management objectives and overall Program goals.

Three "Big Questions" relate directly to river morphology and are influenced by in-channel vegetation:

- **Big Question #6 –** How do short-duration high flows (SDHF), restoring sediment balance, and mechanical channel alterations contribute to the maintenance of channel width and creation of a braided river channel?
- **Big Question #7 –** What is the relationship between SDHF, sediment balance, and tern and plover riverine nesting habitat meeting Program minimum criteria?
- **Big Question #8 –** What is the relationship between SDHF, sediment balance, and whooping crane habitat meeting Program minimum criteria?

Broad hypotheses directly related to river morphology and influenced by in-channel vegetation include:

S-1: A combination of flow management, sediment management, and land management (i.e., Clear/Level/Pulse) will/will not generate detectable changes in the channel morphology of the Platte River on Program lands, and/or habitats for whooping crane, least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon, and other species of concern.

S-2: A combination of non-managed flows, sediment management, and land management (i.e., Clear/Level/Mechanical Maintenance) will/will not generate detectable changes in the channel morphology of the Platte River, and/or habitats for whooping crane, least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon, and other species of concern.

S-4: Program management actions will/will not be of sufficient scale and magnitude to cause detectable system wide changes in channel morphology and/or habitats for the target species.

PP-1: Flows of varying magnitude, duration, frequency and rate of change affect the morphology and habitat quality of the river, including:

- Flows of 5,000 to 8,000 cfs magnitude in the habitat reach for a duration of three days at Overton on an annual or near-annual basis will build sand bars to an elevation suitable for least tern and piping plover habitat;
- Flows of 5,000 to 8,000 cfs magnitude in the habitat reach for a duration of three days at Overton on an annual or near-annual basis will increase the average width of the vegetation-free channel;
- Variations in flows of lesser magnitude will positively or negatively affect the sand bar habitat benefits for least terns and piping plovers.

PP-2: Between Lexington and Chapman, eliminating the sediment imbalance of approximately 400,000 tons annually in eroding reaches will:

- Reduce net erosion of the river bed;
- Increase the sustainability of a braided river;
- Contribute to channel widening;

- Shift the river over time to a relatively stable condition, in contrast to present conditions where reaches vary longitudinally between degrading, aggrading, and stable conditions; and
- Reduce the potential for degradation in the north channel of Jeffrey Island resulting from headcuts.

PP-3: Designed mechanical alterations of the channel at select locations can accelerate changes towards braided channel conditions and desired river habitat using techniques including:

- Mechanically cutting the banks and islands to widen the channel to a width sustainable by program flows at that site, and distributing the material in the channel;
- At specific locations, narrowing the river corridor and increasing stream power by consolidating over 85 percent of river flow into one channel will accelerate the plan form change from anastomosed to braided, promoting wider channels and more sand bars.
- Clearing vegetation from banks and islands will help to increase the width-to-depth ratio of the river

More detailed hypotheses that address uncertainty in underlying physical process relationships are formalized in the AMP as flow, sediment, and mechanical priority hypotheses (AMP, Table 2). The Program recently refined the list of priority hypotheses. Tier I physical process priority hypotheses include:

Flow #1: ↑ the variation between river stage at peak (indexed by Q1.5 flow @ Overton) and average flows (1,200 cfs index flow), by ↑ the stage of the peak (1.5-yr) flow through Program flows, will ↑ the height of sand bars between Overton and Chapman by 30% to 50% from existing conditions.

Flow #3: ↑ Q1.5 with Program flows will ↑ local boundary shear stress and frequency of inundation @ existing green line (elevation at which riparian vegetation can establish). These changes will ↑ riparian plant mortality along margins of channel, raising elevation of green line. Raised green line = more exposed sand bar area and wider unvegetated main channel.

Flow #5: ↑ magnitude and duration of flow will ↑ riparian plant mortality along the margins of the river. There will be different relations (graphs) for different species.

Sediment #1: Average sediment augmentation near Overton of 185,000 tons/yr under existing flow regime and 225,000 tons/yr under GC proposed flow regime achieves a sediment balance to Kearney.

Mechanical #2: ↑ the Q1.5 in the main channel by consolidating 85% of the flow, and aided by Program flow and a sediment balance, flows will exceed stream power thresholds that will convert main channel from meander morphology in anastomosed reaches to braided morphology with an average braiding index > 3.

Several Program protocols are being implemented to monitor target species, habitat, and physical processes to better understand interrelationships and provide data for evaluating species response to management actions. This RFP is related to the Program's protocol for channel geomorphology and in-channel vegetation monitoring. Information from this protocol will be used to help evaluate the linkages between land and water management activities of the Program, and effects on the Central Platte's channel geomorphology (e.g., river planform, width-to-depth ratio, and sand bar creation and maintenance) and in-channel vegetation.

The GC submits this Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from Consultants to implement the Program's protocol for monitoring channel geomorphology and in-channel vegetation in the central Platte River (Nebraska). The term Consultant shall be used throughout this document to describe both the RFP Respondent providing the proposal and the Consultant (the successful Respondent) who would be performing the work upon award of the project.

This RFP describes a multi-year program of work encompassing annual channel geomorphology and in-channel vegetation monitoring activities once a year (end of summer when flows are relatively low) from summer 2012 through summer 2015. Annual budgets for implementing the protocol will be developed in conjunction with the selected Consultant. A four-year program of monitoring and reporting will begin in 2012, with potential extension beyond 2015. Under the final contract, annual written Notice to Proceed from the Program ED Office will be required before work begins. All work will be contingent on availability of Program funding.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION & SCOPE OF WORK

The Consultant will rigorously implement the Program's Channel Geomorphology and In-Channel Vegetation Monitoring Protocol (see Attachment A) for the Program's approximate 95-mile associated habitat within the Central Platte River. As described in the Protocol (Attachment A), 25 system-wide anchor points will be sampled each year. Each anchor point will include several transects sampled systematically to determine representative in-channel geomorphology and vegetation characteristics. The Protocol provides extensive detail about the study area, timing, and survey/data collection methods. Consultants responding to this RFP should provide information detailing their ability to implement all aspects of the Protocol.

Monitoring Tasks

In particular, potential Consultants should be aware of the following details related to implementation of the Protocol:

1) The area of interest for geomorphology and vegetation monitoring is the Program's associated habitat area, which consists of channels within an area 3.5-miles either side of the centerline of the Platte River from the junction of U.S. Highway 283 and Interstate 80 near Lexington, Nebraska, to Chapman, Nebraska (approximately 95 miles).

2) Timing of annual monitoring should occur during an annual low flow (ideally between 250 and 500 cfs) that typically occurs between July 1 and August 31. This will maximize the amount of data available to track changes in channel topography and vegetation. Although monitoring will ideally be completed during low flows, monitoring will be completed annually even in years when flows remain high. Consultants' proposals should demonstrate their ability to complete annual monitoring at a variety of flow levels.

3) Anchor points have been placed along the centerline of the main channel of the Platte River at approximately 2.5-mile intervals, and each point has been labeled with a UTM location and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers river mile. Geomorphology and in-channel vegetation monitoring will use these anchor points and the accompanying geomorphology and vegetation transects as the basic sampling unit for data collection and analyses. A total of 40 anchor points have been established within the area of interest. Anchor points sampled in any given year will include 20 pure panel anchor points that are

sampled each year (approximately 5 miles apart), and 5 rotating panel anchor points. There are 4 groups of rotating anchor points, and each group will be revisited once every four years.

4) Channel Geomorphology Monitoring – designed to document trends in channel geomorphology throughout the First Increment. Monitoring will focus on measuring and tracking changes in river plandform, cross-section geometry, longitudinal bed profile, sediment loads, and grain size distribution. A group of three transects at 500 foot spacing, with the middle transect centered each of anchor point, will be used to survey topography.

5) In-channel Vegetation Monitoring – designed to provide system-wide status in areal coverage and elevation range of in-channel seedling and invasive vegetation. Vegetation monitoring will be conducted at the same pure panel and rotating panel anchor points as the geomorphology survey. Seven linear vegetation transects spaced approximately 165 feet apart will be monitored at each of the anchor points, with three of the transects corresponding with the three geomorphology transects. Vegetation monitoring data will be collected for all vegetation species, but data will be analyzed and reported only for Program species of interest. Current vegetation species of interest include woody vegetation less than 1.5 meters tall, including willows, cottonwood, false indigo, sltcedar, and Russian olive, as well as purple lossestrife, phragmites, and cattails.

6) Monitoring data to be collected by the Consultant will include topographic ground and vegetation surveys, bed material surveys, ground photography, flow measurements, and sediment transport measurements. Additional data to be provided to the Consultant for analysis includes color-infrared (CIR) orthophotography and light detection and ranging (LiDAR). Two annual sets of aerial photographs will be provided: early summer (May-June), and late fall (November-December). Annual LiDAR data will also be provideded, which will be collected concurrently with aerial photographs during the late fall. Data from the Program's 1-dimensional hydraulic model (e.g., stage-discharge rating curves) will also be provided to the Consultant to assist in the data analysis (described in the following section).

Data Analysis

The successful Consultant will be expected to provide an analysis of collected channel geomorphology and in-channel vegetation data in accordance with data needs as directed by the ED Office. A data analysis plan is currently being developed by the ED Office and the existing channel geomorphology and in-channel vegetation monitoring contractor. The following table summarizes data analyses that will be completed, and relates each of the analyses to the pertinent Program broad hypothesis. Specific analyses and protocols for analyses will be detailed in the forthcoming data analysis plan.

Program Hypothesis	Supporting Data Analyses
S-1: A combination of flow management, sediment management, and land management (i.e., Clear/Level/Pulse) will/will not generate detectable changes in the channel morphology of the Platte River on Program lands, and/or habitats for whooping crane, least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon, and other species of concern.	• Total channel width at Program reference flows • Wetted width at Program reference flows • Width-to-depth ratio at Program reference flows • Unvegetated channel width at Program reference flows • Braiding index at Program reference flows
S-2: A combination of non-managed flows, sediment management, and land management (i.e., Clear/Level/Mechanical Maintenance) will/will not generate detectable changes in the channel morphology of the Platte River, and/or habitats for whooping crane, least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon, and other species of concern.	• Total channel width at Program reference flows • Wetted channel width at Program reference flows • Unvegetated channel width at Program reference flows • Width-to-depth ratio at Program reference flows • Braiding index at Program reference flows
S-4: Program management actions will/will not be of sufficient scale and magnitude to cause detectable system wide changes in channel morphology and/or habitats for the target species.	• Total channel width at Program reference flows • Wetted channel width at Program reference flows • Braiding index at Program reference flows • Reach-averaged width-to-depth ratio at Program reference flows • Longitudinal profile (e.g., change in thalweg elevation and channel slope) • Reach-averaged channel volume
PP-1: Flows of varying magnitude, duration, frequency and rate of change affect the morphology and habitat quality of the river, including: • Flows of 5,000 to 8,000 cfs magnitude in the habitat reach for a duration of three days at Overton on an annual or near-annual basis will build sand bars to an elevation suitable for least tern and piping plover habitat; • Flows of 5,000 to 8,000 cfs magnitude in the habitat reach for a duration of three days at Overton on an annual or near-annual basis will increase the average width of the vegetation-free channel; • Variations in flows of lesser magnitude will positively or negatively affect the sand bar habitat benefits for least terns and piping plovers.	• Sand bar height (e.g., bed relief index) • Total channel width at Program reference flows • Unvegetated channel width at Program reference flows • Green line elevation relative to Program reference flows • Green line elevation relative to peak annual flow • Green line elevation relative to flow frequency during vegetation germination season • Vegetation percent cover • Vegetation species elevation relative to Program reference flows
PP-2: Between Lexington and Chapman, eliminating the sediment imbalance of approximately 400,000 tons annually in eroding reaches will: • Reduce net erosion of the river bed;	• Sediment load • Bed and bar material grain size distribution • Bank material grain size distribution

Program Hypothesis	Supporting Data Analyses
• Increase the sustainability of a braided river; • Contribute to channel widening; • Shift the river over time to a relatively stable condition, in contrast to present conditions where reaches vary longitudinally between degrading, aggrading, and stable conditions; and • Reduce the potential for degradation in the north channel of Jeffrey Island resulting from headcuts.	• Channel volume • Braiding index at Program reference flows • Longitudinal profile • Total channel width at Program reference flows • Wetted width at Program reference flows
PP-3: Designed mechanical alterations of the channel at select locations can accelerate changes towards braided channel conditions and desired river habitat using techniques including: • Mechanically cutting the banks and islands to widen the channel to a width sustainable by program flows at that site, and distributing the material in the channel • At specific locations, narrowing the river corridor and increasing stream power by consolidating over 85 percent of river flow into one channel will accelerate the plan form change from anastomosed to braided, promoting wider channels and more sand bars • Clearing vegetation from banks and islands will help to increase the width-to-depth ratio of the river	• Braiding index at Program reference flows • Total channel width at Program reference flows • Wetted channel width at Program reference flows • Width-to-depth ratio at Program reference flows • Unvegetated channel width at Program reference flows • Vegetation percent cover
Flow 1: ↑ the variation between river stage at peak (indexed by Q1.5 flow @ Overton) and average flows (1,200 cfs index flow), by ↑ the stage of the peak (1.5-yr) flow through Program flows, will ↑ the height of sand bars between Overton and Chapman by 30% to 50% from existing conditions.	• Sand bar height (e.g., bed relief index)
Flow #3: ↑ Q1.5 with Program flows will ↑ local boundary shear stress and frequency of inundation @ existing green line (elevation at which riparian vegetation can establish). These changes will ↑ riparian plant mortality along margins of channel, raising elevation of green line. Raised green line = more exposed sand bar area and wider unvegetated main channel.	• Unvegetated channel width at Program reference flows • Vegetation percent cover • Green line elevation relative to peak annual flow • Green line elevation relative to flow frequency during vegetation germination season
Flow #5: ↑ magnitude and duration of flow will ↑ riparian plant mortality along the margins of the river. There will be different relations (graphs) for different species.	• Green line elevation relative to peak annual flow • Green line elevation relative to flow frequency during vegetation germination season • Vegetation percent cover • Vegetation species elevation relative to Program reference flows

Program Hypothesis	Supporting Data Analyses
Sediment #1: Average sediment augmentation near Overton of 185,000 tons/yr under existing flow regime and 225,000 tons/yr under GC proposed flow regime achieves a sediment balance to Kearney.	• Sediment load • Bed and bar material grain size distribution • Bank material grain size distribution • Channel volume • Braiding index at Program reference flows • Longitudinal profile
Mechanical #2: ↑ the Q1.5 in the main channel by consolidating 85% of the flow, and aided by Program flow and a sediment balance, flows will exceed stream power thresholds that will convert main channel from meander morphology in anastomosed reaches to braided morphology with an average braiding index > 3.	• Braiding index at Program reference flows

Reporting

The successful Consultant will generate a draft (Microsoft Word) and final (Microsoft Word and PDF) report at the completion of each monitoring season that includes methods, results, data analysis (as requested by the Program), photographs of field work, and other associated data. Reports will be delivered electronically to the ED Office for review and comment by the ED Office and the Program's Technical Advisory Committee. The Consultant will be responsible for uploading annual monitoring data to the Program's online database in a format consistent with other Program data. The successful Consultant will also be required to prepare for, attend, develop an Executive Summary for, and deliver a presentation at the Program's annual AMP Reporting Session generally held in Denver, CO in early March of each year.

III. PROJECT BUDGET

An estimated project budget should be submitted in the proposal, on a not-to-exceed time and expense basis for the work to be completed. A final budget will be established as part of the Project Scoping and Kickoff and will depend upon the budget estimate provided in the proposal for the selected Consultant.

Proposals will be evaluated on criteria described in **Section V** below, including understanding of the objectives of the project, qualifications of the team members, and clarity/content of project schedule, scope, and budget. **The work will not be awarded based solely on a lowest cost basis.**

IV. FIELD AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Potential Consultants will own or acquire all field and office equipment and software required to implement the In-channel Geomorphology and Vegetation Monitoring Protocol.

V. CONTRACT TERMS

The selected Consultant will be retained by: Nebraska Community Foundation
PO Box 83107
Lincoln, NE 68501

Proposal should indicate whether the Consultant agrees to the contract terms, as outlined in the attached Program's Consultant Contract (Attachment B), or provides a clear description of any exceptions to the terms and conditions.

The initial term of the contract will be for a period beginning in March 2012 and terminating in March 2016 with an option to renew at the sole discretion of the GC. Contracted services will be performed on a time and material not to exceed basis. Under the final contract, written Notice to Proceed from the ED will be required before works begins. All work will be contingent on availability of Program funding.

VI. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All interested parties having experience providing the services listed in this RFP are requested to submit a proposal.

Instructions for Submitting Proposals

One electronic copy of your proposal must be submitted in PDF format to Steve Smith at *smiths@headwaterscorp.com* *no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) Central time on Thursday, February 2, 2012*. Maximum allowable proposal PDF size is 8MB, and proposals are to be limited to a total of 50 pages or less. A proposal is late if received any time after 12:00 p.m. Central time and will not be eligible for consideration.

Questions regarding the information contained in this RFP should be submitted to Steve Smith at *smiths@headwaterscorp.com*. A list of compiled Consultant questions and responses will be maintained on the Program web site (*www.PlatteRiverProgram.org*) in the same location as this RFP solicitation.

RFP Schedule

The ED Office expects to complete the selection process and award the work by approximately February 20, 2012. The following table represents the RFP schedule:

Description	Date	Time (Central)
Issue RFP	January 12, 2012	NA
Pre-proposal meeting	January 24, 2012	1:00 PM
Last day for respondents to submit questions regarding the RFP	January 30, 2012	12:00 PM
Proposals due from respondents	February 2, 2012	12:00 PM
Evaluation of proposals	February 2, 2012 to February 10, 2012	
Award of Work	On or before February 20, 2012	
Start of Work	Approximately March 15, 2012	
Completion of Work	Approximately March 31, 2016	

Pre-Proposal Meeting

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting of interested parties will be held on January 24, 2012 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Central Time via conference call for the purpose of familiarizing the respondents with the work scope and requirements included herein before submitting a response to this RFP. Please email Steve Smith (smiths@headwaterscorp.com) for the conference call dial-in information along with a list of people from your party expected to join in the pre-proposal conference call by 12:00 p.m. Central time on January 20, 2012.

The meeting will include a brief overview by the ED Office regarding the objectives of the project, the scope of services, and the timeline. It is the Consultant's responsibility, while at the pre-proposal meeting/conference call, to ask questions necessary to understand the RFP so the respondent can submit a

proposal that is complete and in accordance with RFP requirements. It is highly recommended that all prospective Consultants participate in the pre-proposal meeting/conference call as there shall be no minutes distributed by the ED Office regarding the meeting.

Proposal Content

Proposals should respond to the following general topics:

1) **Executive summary** that presents a brief firm overview that condenses and highlights the contents of the proposal in such a way as to provide a broad understanding of the Consultant's qualifications and proposal.

2) **Project understanding** that demonstrates the Consultant understands project goals and objectives and identifies issues critical to project success.

3) **Project approach** that documents how the Consultant would organize and execute the scope of work detailed in this RFP and provides project team organization, resumes, and responsibilities and specifies which team members will work on each specific task.

4) **Qualifications and project experience** relevant to this project including the involvement/role of the proposed team in those projects. Be clear which team members will work on specific tasks outlined in the Project Approach and focus on those team members' qualifications specific to assigned task.

5) **Schedule** for completing the tasks identified in the project approach. Include potential constraints or challenges based on the tasks described above.

6) **Compensation** for services to complete the project for the term of the contract (i.e., 4 years of monitoring, data analysis, and reporting) – see Section III above for additional details. Assumptions used must be clearly stated and a total estimated cost must be included. Consultant must specify the estimated number of labor hours for each team member, billable rate and estimated direct expenses (e.g., travel), and total project cost to complete the each task/subtask detailed herein and Consultant's other recommended or optional tasks.

7) **Conflict of interest statement** addressing whether or not any potential conflict of interest exists between this project and other past or on-going projects, including any projects currently being conducted for the Program.

8) **Description of insurance** shall be provided with the proposal. Proof of insurance will be required before a contract is issued. Minimum insurance requirements are described in the attached Program's Consultant Contract (Attachment B).

9) **Acceptance of the terms and conditions** as outlined in the attached Program's Consultant Contract, or clear description of any exceptions to the terms and conditions.

Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

The GC will appoint a Proposal Selection Panel that will evaluate all proposals and select a Consultant based on the following principal considerations:

1. Understanding of the overall objectives of the project and approach to meeting those objectives and addressing critical project tasks and issues.

2. Qualifications and the relevant experience of the proposed project team members.

3. Clarity and content of the project schedule, scope, and budget.

Award Notice

After completing the evaluation of all proposals and, if deemed necessary, interviews, the Proposal Selection Panel will select a Consultant. That firm will negotiate with the ED Office to establish a fair and equitable contract. If an agreement cannot be reached, a second firm will be invited to negotiate and so on. If the Program is unable to negotiate a mutually satisfactory contract with a Consultant, it may, at its sole discretion, cancel and reissue a new RFP.

Program Perspective

The Program GC has the sole discretion and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP and to cancel this solicitation if it is deemed in the best interest of the Program to do so. Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the Program to award a contract, or to pay Consultant's costs incurred either in the preparation of a response to his RFP or during negotiations, if any, of a contract for services. The Program also reserves the right to make amendments to this RFP by giving written notice to Consultants, and to request clarification, supplements, and additions to the information provided by a Consultant.

By submitting a proposal in response to this solicitation, Consultants understand and agree that any selection of a Consultant or any decision to reject any or all responses or to establish no contracts shall be at the sole discretion of the Program. To the extent authorized by law, the Consultant shall indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Nebraska Community Foundation, the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska, the Department of the Interior, members of the GC, and the ED Office, their employees, employers, and agents, against any and all claims, damages, liability, and court awards including costs, expenses, and attorney fees incurred as a result of any act or omission by the Consultant or its employees, agents, sub-Consultants, or assignees pursuant to the terms of this project. Additionally, by submitting a proposal, Consultants agree that they waive any claim for the recovery of any costs or expenses incurred in preparing and submitting a proposal.

VII. AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The following pertinent Program-related documents can be accessed from the Program's website (*www.PlatteRiverProgram.org*):

- *Platte River Recovery Implementation Program: Final Program Document*. October 24, 2006.
- *Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, Attachment 3: Adaptive Management Plan*. October 24, 2006.
- *Platte River Recovery Implementation Program,*. October 24, 2006.
- *Platte River Recovery Implementation Program: Monitoring the Channel Geomorphology and In-Channel Vegetation of the Central Platte River*. April 23, 2010.
- *Platte River Recovery Implementation Program: Year 1 (2009) Report. Channel Geomorphology and In-Channel Vegetation Monitoring of the Central Platte River*. Prepared by Ayres Associates and Olsson Associates. February 2010.

- *Platte River Recovery Implementation Program: Year 2 (2010) Report. Channel Geomorphology and In-Channel Vegetation Monitoring of the Central Platte River*. Prepared by Ayres Associates and Olsson Associates. March 2011.