



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Spring 2015 Prescribed Fire Management Services

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Office of the Executive Director
4111 4th Avenue, Suite 6
Kearney, Nebraska 68845

January ??, 2015



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Appendix A – PRRIP Prescribed Fire Standards

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PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

SUBJECT: Spring 2015 Prescribed Fire Management Services
REQUEST DATE: January ??, 2015
PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING: February ??, 2015
CLOSING DATE: February ??, 2015
POINT OF CONTACT: Tim Tunnell, Land Manager
 Headwaters Corporation
 (402) 219-3883
tunnellt@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 are located in Nebraska and Colorado and are responsible for assisting in carrying out Program-related activities.

One of the major components of Program implementation is acquisition and management of 10,000 acres of habitat for the benefit of the target species. To date, approximately 10,500 acres have been acquired and are being managed by the Executive Director’s Office (EDO). Prescribed fire is an important tool used by the Program to manage grassland composition and structure. To date, the program has relied on strategic partnerships with local agencies and conservation organizations to implement prescribed fire. However, as Program land ownership has increased, prescribed fire needs have surpassed local capacity. **As such, the GC is requesting proposals from National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) qualified contractors for spring 2015 prescribed fire management services to be performed starting April 1, 2015.**

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION & SCOPE OF WORK

Project Description

The Program is requesting proposals for prescribed fire management services during the spring of 2015. The performance period will begin on April 1 and will end on May 31. The Contractor will be responsible for lodging and all labor, materials, equipment, tools, transportation and supplies required to complete the work. Fire management services will include, but are not limited to, prescribed fire planning and implementation, fire-line preparation, post burn mop-up and monitoring, and if needed wildfire suppression. Contractors must be able to provide their own equipment.



Contractors must also be available respond to any issues that may arise after the contractor's prescribed burn is complete. These issues could include: smoke management problems, mop-up concerns, post-burn monitoring needs or escapes. This response must occur during the same day of contact by the Rural Fire Protection Districts local fire chief with jurisdiction over the burn unit or EDO staff and must include the appropriate personnel, equipment or contingency measures.

The PRRIP is requesting that the contractor be available during the eight (8) week period to fully utilize weather windows that meet prescriptions for each of the five (5) habitat complexes.

Scope of Work

Habitat Complexes

Program lands are organized into approximately 2,000 to 3,000 acre blocks referred to as habitat complexes. There are five habitat complex distributed across the project area, containing the majority of land to be burned on an annual basis (**Figure-1**). The following description generally applies to areas that will be burned:

- Most burn blocks on these tracts have been burned once over the last five to ten years; stand types are primarily lowland, tall grass prairie that have been heavily invaded with introduced cool-season grasses and often include natural riparian forest;
- most burn units have been grazed and/or hayed;

The following sections of the scope of work provide specific information about the burn units within each habitat complex.

Plum Creek Complex

Contractors should be aware of the following points:

1. Plum Creek Complex is located less than 1 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between the towns of Lexington and Overton, NE.
2. Plum Creek complex contains 2 tracts of land and is 2 miles long with the majority of the land located on the south side of the Platte river; mostly grassland fuels; There are 2 burn units (labeled A & B) and is approximately 233 acres and can be divided into smaller areas (**Figure-2**).
3. All trees have been removed from the east mile of the complex and ~30 acres of cropland has been reseeded back to native grass. The west end of the complex is a native hay meadow with the majority of the tract remaining in cropland. There is a ground water drain that traverses the west tract towards the east side. This drain is ~20 feet deep and extends to the river. There is a wooden bridge that crosses the drain. There is a lodge located at the southern end of the sandpits towards the east end of the unit. The northern fire-line will be the Platte River; the southern fire line will be a mowed two-track road, crop stubble field, and alfalfa field. The east and west fire-lines will be mowed lines along property boundary.
4. Fire-lines are often limited to roads, ditches, mowed/hayed lines and river/ slough edges; contractors should be comfortable burning from these features; additional fire-line establishment can be conducted but must be authorized by the PRRIP Land Manager.



91 Cottonwood Ranch Complex

92 Contractors should be aware of the following points:

93
94 1. Cottonwood Ranch Complex is located less than 1 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between the towns
95 of Overton and Elm Creek, NE.

96
97 2. Cottonwood Ranch complex contains 3 tracts of land and is 4 miles long with the majority of the land
98 located on the south side of the main channel of the Platte river; mostly grassland fuels; There are three
99 burn units (labeled A-C) and is approximately 396 acres and can be divided into smaller areas (**Figure-3**).

100
101 3. **Units A and B** are located south of the Platte River and are predominately lowland tall grass prairie
102 heavily infested with tall wheatgrass. Grazing was not deferred on this unit during the 2014 grazing
103 season. The primary firebreak is a 20-30 ft mowed line around the inside perimeter of both burn units.
104 There are manmade and natural wetland features on Unit B. **Unit C** is located directly southeast of Unit
105 B. The tract is hay meadow and restored cropland that was broadcast seeded in the winter of 2011.
106 Grazing/ haying on this unit was deferred during 2014. The primary firebreak around the perimeter of the
107 unit is a 20-30ft mowed line. The secondary firebreak on the north is a hay meadow, a gravel road on the
108 west, blacktop on the south, and a hayed grassland to the east.

109
110 4. Fire-lines are often limited to roads, ditches, mowed/hayed lines and river/ slough edges; contractors
111 should be comfortable burning from these features; additional fire-line establishment can be conducted
112 but must be authorized by the PRRIP Land Manager.

113
114 Elm Creek Complex

115 Contractors should be aware of the following points:

116
117 1. Elm Creek Complex is located less than 1/4 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between the towns of Elm
118 Creek and Odessa, NE.

119
120 2. Elm Creek complex contains 4 tracts of land and is 2 miles long with two tracts being located on the
121 north side of the Platte river and the other located on the south side of the Platte river. There are 4 burn
122 units (labeled A-D) and is approximately 388 acres that can be divided into smaller areas (**Figure-4**).

123
124 3. **Units A and B** are located between Interstate 80 and the north channel of the Platte River. **Unit A** is a
125 native hay meadow (36 acre) and **Unit B** is predominately riparian forrest (149 acres). The primary
126 firebreak on the north is a 20-30ft mowed line and the secondary firebreak is Interstate 80. Trees have
127 been cleared back approximately 60' on the east and west side on the two units. There is an 115Kv
128 transmission line that extends the length of the tract on the north boundary of Unit B. There is a state
129 owned wildlife management area on the west. **Unit C** is 61 acres located within a ~380 acre pasture. Unit
130 C has undergone extensive tree clearing over the past 30+ years and construction of wetland features in
131 the past 5 years. The unit is predominatly tallgrass prairie and has a history of moderate grazing. The
132 north boundary is a constructed wetled slough and the east and west boundary is a 20-30 ft mowed line.
133 The secondary northern firebreak is the main channel of the Platte River. The west property outside of the
134 boundary is privately owned, and the south boundary is a 20-30 ft mowed line or a two track road. **Unit D**
135 is 182 acres and is predominatly tallgrass prairie with a history of moderate grazing. The unit has
136 undergone aboveground tree removal in 2012. Cut trees were piled and burned and buried. The burn unit
137 will be secured by mowed lines on the north and east. The east control line will be a mowed line and a
138 closed county road. The southern control line will be the south channel of the Platte River. Unit E is 45



acres and has undergone tree clearing in 2010 and was reseed to native grass in 2011. The north boundary is the main channel of the Platte River, the south boundary is a secondary channel of the Platte River, east and west boundaries are mowed lines. There is an active bald eagle nest in a group of trees located to the west of Unit E. Care must be taken to avoid allowing fire to escape to this area.

4. Fire-lines are often limited to roads, ditches, mowed/hayed lines and river/ slough edges; contractors should be comfortable burning from these features; additional fire-line establishment can be conducted but must be authorized by the PRRIP Land Manager.

Fort Kearny Complex

Contractors should be aware of the following points:

1. The Fort Kearny Complex is located less than 1/4 mile to the south of Interstate 80 and is located between 2 channels of the Platte River near the town of Kearney, NE and Highway 10.

2. The Fort Kearny complex contains 3 tracts of land and is 5 miles long. There are 4 burn units (labeled A-D) and is approximately 416 acres and can be divided into smaller areas (**Figure-5**).

3. **Unit A** is located between Interstate 80 and the north channel of the Platte River and is predominately open grassland with a mature shelterbelt along the northern edge of the unit. The primary firebreak on the north, south and west is a 20-30 ft mowed line and on the east is a 2 track road that extends the length of the unit and crop field (planted to corn in 2014). The secondary firebreak to the north is a gravel road between the unit and Interstate 80. The secondary firebreak to the south is a 2 track road on the south side of the fence between the unit and the north channel of the Platte River. **Unit B** is located between Interstate 80 and the north channel of the Platte River and is predominately open grassland with scattered cottonwood trees along the northern edge of the unit. Most understory trees have been removed and there has been grazing on the unit in 2014. The primary firebreak on the north is a 2 track road that extends the length of the unit and crop field (planted to corn in 2014). The secondary firebreak is Interstate 80. A hand line will be required on the east and west boundaries. There is a dike consisting of concrete rubble along the east boundary on the adjacent property. The firebreak on the south is the main channel of the Platte River. **Unit C** is an open wet meadow heavily infested with intermediate wheatgrass. The unit has been heavily grazed since 2009. The west and south sides of the unit are privately owned cropfield, the east side is wet meadow heavily infested with intermediate wheatgrass and eastern red cedar. The primary firebreak around the inside perimeter of the burn unit is a 20-30 ft mowed line. **Unit D** is located between the main channel of the Platte River and a gravel county road. The unit was previously cropfield and was broadcast sown with native grass in winter of 2011. The unit was deferred from grazing/ haying in 2014. The primary firebreak on the north is a gravel county road, on the south is the Platte River, on the east is privately owned cropfield, and the west is a mowed line. There are two privately owned residence at the NE corner of the unit and one at the SW corner of the unit.

4. Fire-lines are often limited to roads, ditches, mowed/hayed lines and river/ slough edges; contractors should be comfortable burning from these features; additional fire-line establishment can be conducted but must be authorized by the PRRIP Land Manager.

Shoemaker Island Complex

Contractors should be aware of the following points:



1. Shoemaker Island Complex is located less than 1/2 mile to the south of Interstate 80 between 2 channels of the Platte River near the towns of Wood River and Alda, NE.

2. Shoemaker Island complex contains 1 tract of land and is 3 miles long; There are 4 burn units (labeled A-D) and is approximately 465 acres and can be divided into smaller areas (**Figure-6**).

3. Unit A is a hay meadow that was hayed in early August of 2014. The north firebreak is a gravel county road on the west and a two track on the east and Platte River on the south. Mowed lines will be used on the east and west. **Unit B** is grazed and was not deferred in 2014. The south, east, and west boundaries will be mowed lines and the north boundary is cropfield and gravel county road. **Unit C** is a hayed meadow. The south, east, and west boundaries will be mowed lines and the north boundary is a gravel county road. **Unit D** is a native grassland that was moderately grazed in 2014. The north and east firebreak is a two track road and the south firebreak is the Platte River. There are two residences to the north of Unit A and one north of the northwest corner of Unit B.

4. Fire-lines are often limited to roads, ditches, mowed/hayed lines and river/ slough edges; contractors should be comfortable burning from these features; additional fire-line establishment can be conducted but must be authorized by the PRRIP Land Manager.

Smoke Sensitive Areas:

The tracts are primarily located in rural landscape with scattered farmsteads however they are near interstates, major highway(s) and/or populated areas.

Communities at Risk:

Nine communities exist within the PRRIP project area: Lexington-Grand Island (**Figure-7**). Their proximity to PRRIP properties makes them vulnerable to smoke and other hazards related to wildfire and prescribed burning. Additional outlying communities that may also be affected by smoke include Bertrand, Loomis, Holdrege, Funk, Axtell, Minden, Heartwell, Kenesaw, Juniata, Hastings, Doniphan, Cairo, Riverdale, Amherst, and Miller (**Figure-7**).

Wildfire Suppression and Escaped Prescribed Fires:

In the event of an escaped prescribed fire originally ignited by the contractor, contractors may be responsible for coordinating with and working under the direction of the Rural Fire Protection Districts local fire chief with jurisdiction over the area on containment, mop-up and monitoring issues until fire is called out by the appropriate agency (**Figure-8**). During this process contractors may be responsible for paying suppression costs charged for fire suppression and may be required to conduct work or provide assistance without compensation by the PRRIP.

Long-Term Mop-Up, Smoke Management, and Re-Burn Situations:

Compliance with smoke management guidelines are voluntary in Nebraska, however, the Contractor shall make every effort to meet them. All prescribed fire plans shall address smoke management as a primary issue and prescription parameter. Contractors may be required to conduct long-term mop-up, monitoring and smoke management procedures without compensation. This may occur if PRRIP personnel determine a lack of due diligence and planning occurred before ignition began or if proper procedures were not taken to mop-up and secure fire after ignition was completed.



Submittals:

Prescribed Burn Plans - Burn plans must be developed by a NWCG qualified Rx Burn planner prior to the proposed burn date. Plans will be written on a NWCG approved burn form or an alternative form approved by the PRRIP Land Manager. The prescribed burn plan shall be in accordance with Nebraska Statutes subsection 81-520.01 and 81-520-02. **Fully completed, legible, plans with a copy of the open burn permit will be delivered to the PRRIP Land Manager within five business days following the completion of each burn.** These plans must be signed by the Burn Manager. Plans can be scanned and e-mailed, faxed or hand delivered. They must include all actual weather data recorded the day of the burn and any other planning notes recorded before or during the burn.

Burn Managers will follow the PRRIP Weather Parameter Standards (**APPENDIX–A**) when planning and implementing prescribed burns. Fire weather forecasts for the appropriate county containing the burn site will be used the day of the burn. These are available from the following National Weather Service online sources:

Hastings:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gid/?n=firewx>

North Platte:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/forecasts/firewx/firewx.php>

A copy of these forecasts must accompany the burn plan when submitted to the PRRIP.

The PRRIP requires that contractors keep good records of all pre-burn planning and site evaluation measures as well as actual firing techniques used during prescribed burn implementation. This includes full documentation of information such as: burn purpose and objective, forecasted and actual weather conditions, spot weather forecasts, soil moisture conditions (including soil saturation and depth to water in wetlands), days since rain, amount of rain received on the actual burn block, Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI), etc. This information should be included in the burn plan or as an attachment.

The burn purpose and burn objective will be determined by PRRIP staff. This information will be conveyed to contractors before the burn is implemented to help with burn plan development. In general, the burn purpose will describe an overall goal such as site preparation or hazard reduction and the burn objective will identify a specific, measurable, parameter such as remove 75% of available fuels or top-kill 50% of trees less than three (3) inches diameter at breast height (DBH).

Prior to the burn, Burn Managers will evaluate the site to determine the type of ignition methods, firing techniques and weather conditions needed to meet the pre-determined objective, safely conduct the burn, and minimize negative effects such as duff ignition/soil damage, crown scorch, or smoke management problems. This information will be included in the burn plan.

A copy of the burn plan and a site map showing burn area location, fire-lines, roads, and natural features shall be in the possession of the burn manager at the time of the burn. PRRIP staff will provide burn managers with a map and/or ground location point of any areas personnel should avoid. PRRIP staff may instruct personnel to avoid disking, plowing or igniting fires in these areas. These sites may contain historical resources, threatened and endangered plant or animal locations, public use facilities or exotic plant infestations.



Contractors will notify the PRRIP's Land Manager as soon as possible but at least within 24 hours if the following circumstances occur after the burn has been completed: 1) fire has escaped, 2) burn objectives were not met or 3) negative conditions or smoke management problems occurred.

Prescribed Burn Notification - By 5:00 PM one day prior to ignition or by 8:30 AM the day of the burn, the Burn Manager responsible for conducting the burn will notify the PRRIP Land Manager by *e-mail* indicating the location of the burn area (Section, Township, Range), the tract name/number, the county where the burn will be conducted, and the approximate acreage planned.

Implement Burn Plans – Prescribed fires on PRRIP lands are required to be conducted in compliance with Nebraska Statutes subsection 81-520.01 and 81-520-02 and any other applicable laws. The Contractor shall monitor all burn units and to determine when a unit is in prescription. All prescribed fires will also be conducted in compliance with all aspects of the PRRIP Prescribed Fire *Standards (APPENDIX-A)*.

Fireline installation and plowing will follow guidelines identified in the PRRIP Fireline Standards (**APPENDIX-B**).

Escaped Prescribed Fires - In the event of an escaped prescribed fire, contractors shall initiate suppression actions, contact directly affected parties, Rural Fire Protection Districts local fire chief with jurisdiction over the area, and then notify the PRRIP Land Manager or the Land Specialist. In general, the PRRIP Land Manager or Land Specialist will lead all discussion with affected parties. The Burn Manager responsible for conducting the burn should document the conditions of the escape using photos, GPS data, maps, and a written narrative describing the incident including any adverse results and any lessons learned or measures that could be taken in the future to prevent another incident. Any involvement from local fire department with jurisdiction over the area to contain the escape should also be documented. Written or email communication outlining the general details of the incident should be sent to the PRRIP Land Manager within 48 hours. A full report documenting all the above information should be submitted to the PRRIP within one week following the incident.

Shapefiles – Before a burn is conducted, the PRRIP will provide contractors with GIS shapefiles of areas to be burned. After the burn is complete, contractors must submit a shapefile showing the areas that were actually burned. These shapefiles must be included with the each invoice. To receive payment, the acreage identified in shapefiles must be identical to the acreage listed on the invoice to the nearest 1/10 acre. Shapefiles will be projected to: NAD 1983 Nebraska State Plane Feet. The PRRIP shall field verify and pay based on this acreage.

Equipment Information:

Minimum Wildland Engine Specifications: Wildland engines used by contractors on PRRIP burns must meet or exceed all equipment specifications of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) for Type 6 engines, with the added requirements of four-wheel drive (4X4) and foam proportioner. Type 6 specifications include: minimum tank size of 150 gallons; a pump rated at 50 gallons per minute (GPM) @ 100 pounds per square inch (PSI); a hose and reel with a minimum of 50' of 1" hose; 300' feet of additional 1" hose; fire hydrant adapters and the ability to draft water.

On most burns, contractors will have a minimum of one engine and two UTV units on site.



Contractors are also required to provide all personal protective equipment (PPE) listed in the Program's Prescribed Fire Standard under Training and Safety Requirements (National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Standard). (APPENDIX – A)

III. PROJECT BUDGET

The PRRIP has budgeted \$XXXXXX for prescribe fire services in 2015. Contractors will submit a mobilization/demobilization cost, administration cost and per-acre cost for prescribed fire services. Contractor compensation will be based on the number of acres burned during the performance period.

IV. FIELD AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Potential Contractors will own or acquire all field and office equipment and software required to provide prescribed fire management services.

V. CONTRACT TERMS

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

The Contractor will be subject to (but not limited to) the following contract terms:

Certification/Training Requirements: See certification and training requirements in Appendix A.

Insurance Requirements: If awarded, contractor shall represent and guarantee that all employees, agents, servants or representatives of contractor, and all employees, agents, servants, or representatives of subconsultants are covered by workers' compensation insurance as required by Nebraska Statute. Prior to entering into contract with PRRIP, contractor shall furnish PRRIP with certificates of insurance, naming PRRIP as named or additional insured without waiving any defense of sovereign immunity or increasing the limits of PRRIP's liability in excess of Nebraska State Statute for item (3) below, providing evidence that contractor has in full force and effect the following minimum insurance with insurers authorized to do business in the State of Nebraska. The certificate of insurance shall also provide that PRRIP shall be notified in writing by the carrier at least 30 days prior to any cancellation of said insurance.

1. Workers' compensation insurance as required above;
2. Motor vehicular liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit which insurance shall be applicable to any and all vehicles utilized by contractor to provide the services requested by PRRIP;
3. General liability insurance for all services rendered by contractor for the requested services with a minimum of \$1,000,000 personal and advertising injury and \$1,000,000 general aggregate.

Contractor Liability: If a wildfire occurs as the result of the Contractor's failure to follow the approved Prescribed Fire Plan, the Contractor shall be liable for all damages and all costs for labor, subsistence, equipment, supplies, and transportation deemed necessary to control the escaped fire and repair/replace all PRRIP, personal and/or non-federal public property.

Open Burning Permits: A burning permit from the Rural Fire Protection Districts fire chief with jurisdiction over the area to be burned is required. Names and contact information of the local fire chief will be available and it will be the responsibility of the burn manager to make contact with the fire chief,



present the written burn plan and obtain a signed copy of the “Open Burning Permit.” A copy of this burn permit must be provided to PRRIP with the final copy of burn plan for each burn unit.

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 original and two (2) copies of your proposal and supporting documentation must be submitted by mail to Tim Tunnell *no later than 12:00 PM Central Time Thursday, February ??, 2015*. A proposal is late if received after that time and will not be considered. Proposals should be submitted to:

Tim Tunnell, Land Manager
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
4111 4th Avenue, Suite 6
Kearney, NE 68845

Questions regarding the information contained in this RFP should be submitted to Tim Tunnell at tunnelt@headwaterscorp.com. A list of compiled Contractor 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 ??, 2015. The following table represents the RFP schedule:

Description	Date	Time (Central)
Issue RFP	January ??, 2015	NA
Pre-proposal meeting	February ??, 2015	1:00 PM
Last day for respondents to submit questions regarding the RFP	February ??, 2015	12:00 PM
Proposals due from respondents	February ??, 2015	12:00 PM
Evaluation of proposals	February ??, 2015	
Award of Work	On February ??, 2015	
Start of Work	Approximately March ??, 2015	
Completion of Work	Approximately April ??, 2015	

Pre-Proposal Meeting

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting of interested parties will be held on February ??, 2015 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 Tim Tunnell (tunnelt@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 February ?, 2015.

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. There shall be no minutes distributed by the ED Office regarding the meeting.

Proposal Content

Proposals must include the following contents and documentation:

- 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 Contractor's qualifications and proposal.
- 2) **Project Understanding** that demonstrates the Contractor's understanding of project objectives and identifies issues critical to project success.
- 3) **Project approach** that documents how the Contractor would organize and execute the scope of work detailed in this RFP and provides project team organization, certifications, 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. A sample project experience/reference form is included in Section VII.
- 5) **Equipment** list that includes all equipment that would be mobilized for this project.
- 6) **Cost rate** per acre for prescribed fire implementation. A cost form has been included in Section VII.
- 7) **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 Section V.
- 8) **Affirmative statement** that neither the firm nor the principals of the firm are on the federal suspended and disbarred list. If the firm has a DUNS number, please provide to assist in verification.

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.
2. Qualifications and experience completing comparably sized prescribed burn projects safely and in a timely manner.
3. The number/type of qualified personnel/equipment proposed to be dedicated to the project.
4. Ability to provide turn-key prescribed burns services.
5. Price proposal.

The winning proposal will be selected to best meet overall project objectives. Should the successful Proposers be unable at any time to accomplish the work they have been contracted for or meet any of the



requirements or standards listed in this Proposal, the next ranked Contractor may be contacted to provide the required work.

Award Notice

After completing the evaluation of all proposals, the Proposal Selection Panel will select a Contractor. 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 Contractor'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 Contractors, and to request clarification, supplements, and additions to the information provided by a Contractor.

By submitting a proposal in response to this solicitation, Contractors understand and agree that any selection of a Contractor 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 Contractor 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 Contractor or its employees, agents, sub-Contractors, or assignees pursuant to the terms of this project. Additionally, by submitting a proposal, Contractors agree that they waive any claim for the recovery of any costs or expenses incurred in preparing and submitting a proposal.

VII. PROPOSAL RESPONSE FORMS

The following forms are to be submitted as part of Contractor proposals.



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

**2015 PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICES
COST RATE:**

Lump sum rates will include all pre-burn planning (burn unit reconnaissance, burn plan development, obtaining burn permit from appropriate fire department, neighbor notifications), fire-line preparation, mobilization and demobilization. Per-acre rates will include ignition and stand-by time, mop-up and monitoring time (within the first 24 hours after ignition is complete) as well as all other labor, materials, equipment, tools, transportation, equipment mobilization, and supplies required to complete the work.

The Contractor is required to submit unit prices for all work Items below.

Item No.	Description	Unit	Unit Price
001	Mobilization and Demobilization ¹	LS	\$ _____
002	Prescribed Fire Administration ²	LS	\$ _____
003	Prescribed Fire Implementation ³	AC	\$ _____

¹ Item includes costs to mobilize all personnel and equipment needed to complete the work from contractor's base of operations to NE and costs to demobilize from NE to contractor's base of operations at the termination of the performance period.

² Item includes burn unit reconnaissance, burn plan development, obtaining burn permit from appropriate fire department, and neighbor notifications for each unit.

³ Item includes cost of labor for fully equipped NWCG crew for a prescribed burning detail within PRRIP project area. This includes ignition and stand by time, mop up and monitoring time within the first 24 hours after ignition is complete on each unit. Item also includes all materials, equipment, tools, transportation, fuel and supplies to complete the work for a prescribed burning detail.



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

SIMILAR PROJECTS:

COMPLETED PROJECT: _____

AGENCY/COMPANY: _____

CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

START DATE: _____ COMPLETION DATE: _____
(month/year) (month/year)

NUMBER OF ACRES RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING/YEAR: _____

DESCRIPTION OF STAND TYPE(S)/FUEL LEVEL(S) BURNED: _____

IGNITION METHOD(S) USED: _____

TOTAL ACRES BURNED: _____

CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER(S) ASSIGNED TO PROJECT: _____

COMPLETED PROJECT: _____

AGENCY/COMPANY: _____

CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

START DATE: _____ COMPLETION DATE: _____
(month/year) (month/year)

NUMBER OF ACRES RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING/YEAR: _____

DESCRIPTION OF STAND TYPE(S)/FUEL LEVEL(S) BURNED: _____

IGNITION METHOD(S) USED: _____

TOTAL ACRES BURNED: _____

CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER(S) ASSIGNED TO PROJECT: _____



COMPLETED PROJECT: _____

AGENCY/COMPANY: _____

CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

START DATE: _____ COMPLETION DATE: _____
(month/year) (month/year)

NUMBER OF ACRES RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING/YEAR: _____

DESCRIPTION OF STAND TYPE(S)/FUEL LEVEL(S) BURNED: _____

IGNITION METHOD(S) USED: _____

TOTAL ACRES BURNED: _____

CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER(S) ASSIGNED TO PROJECT: _____

COMPLETED PROJECT: _____

AGENCY/COMPANY: _____

CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

START DATE: _____ COMPLETION DATE: _____
(month/year) (month/year)

NUMBER OF ACRES RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING/YEAR: _____

DESCRIPTION OF STAND TYPE(S)/FUEL LEVEL(S) BURNED: _____

IGNITION METHOD(S) USED: _____

TOTAL ACRES BURNED: _____

CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER(S) ASSIGNED TO PROJECT: _____



PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

REFERENCES:

(Names/address/telephone of three clients who can attest to your experience as it relates to the services you are proposing.)

FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAX: _____

FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAX: _____

FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAX: _____



APPENDIX - A PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM PRESCRIBED FIRE STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

These Standards are designed to define procedures to be used by personnel involved in the planning, reviewing, approving and implementing of prescribed fire on Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) property.

GUIDELINES

1. Prescribed Fire Implementation

Prescribed fires on PRRIP lands are required to be conducted in compliance with Nebraska Statutes subsection 81-520.01 and 81-520-02 and any other applicable laws.

Fireline installation and plowing will follow guidelines identified in the PRRIP Fireline Standards document (Appendix B).

By 5:00 PM one day prior to ignition or by 8:30 AM the day of the burn, the Burn Manager responsible for conducting the burn will notify the PRRIP Land Manager by *e-mail* indicating the location of the burn area (Section, Township, Range), the tract name, the county where the burn will be conducted, and the approximate acreage planned. The Land Specialist and the PRRIP Receptionist will also be copied on this e-mail. In the event of an escaped prescribed fire, contractors should initiate suppression actions, contact local fire chief with jurisdiction over the area, and then notify the PRRIP Land Manager or the Land Specialist. If the escape impacts private property, the landowner should be contacted by the Land Specialist. The Burn Manager responsible for conducting the burn should document the results of the escape using photos, GPS, maps, and a written narrative describing the incident including any adverse results; any involvement from local fire department with jurisdiction over the area to contain the escape should also be documented. Written communication outlining the general details of the incident should be sent to the PRRIP Land Manager within 48 hours. A full report documenting the all the above information should be submitted within one week following the incident.

2. Prescribed Burn Manager Requirements

All prescribed fires on PRRIP land will be managed by a NWCG Certified Prescribed Burn Boss as defined in the Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide published by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Publication Numbers PMS 310-1 and NFES 1414 (January 2009) and shall have detailed functional knowledge and specialized experience with prescribed burning in grassland fuels. The certified Burn Manager must be present on site at all times during burn operations. An updated copy of the Burn Manager's current certification status card must be provided to Land Manager prior to ignition. All required personnel, equipment, firebreaks and permits as established by law must also be accounted for prior to ignition.

3. Training/Safety Criteria

Due to the inherent dangers of working with fire, minimum requirements must be implemented to ensure that personnel are adequately trained and equipped to participate in a prescribed fire. These minimum



requirements apply to all participants involved in prescribed fire on PRRIP lands including PRRIP personnel, burn contractors, cooperators from other agencies and students. The Contractor shall ensure that all of his personnel are qualified to perform the duties of ignition, holding, patrol and mop-up as defined in the Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide published by NWCG, Publication Numbers PMS 310-1 and NFES 1414 (January 2009).

Personal Protection Equipment:

The Contractor shall ensure that all crew members arrive at the work site with required personal protective clothing and equipment, including: a serviceable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) approved fire shelter; a NFPA approved hardhat; eye protection; hearing protection; NFPA approved flame resistant shirt and pants; NFPA approved leather gloves; and heavy-duty, leather, laced boots with non-skid soles and tops at least eight inches high. The Contractor shall ensure the personal protective clothing and equipment is operable and maintained in good repair. All personnel shall wear personal protective clothing and equipment during all burning and mop-up operations. All personnel on a burn site must have two-way radio communications with the burn manager and required suppression equipment. Contractors are also encouraged to obtain radios that are programmable.

4. Prescribed Burn Purpose/Objectives

The burn purpose and objective for each prescribed burn will be determined by PRRIP staff. This information will be conveyed to contractors before the burn is implemented to help with burn plan development. In general, the burn purpose will describe an overall goal such as site preparation or hazard reduction and the burn objective will identify a specific, measurable, parameter such as remove 75% of available fuels. Prior to the burn, Burn Managers will evaluate the site to determine the type of ignition methods, firing techniques and weather conditions needed to meet the pre-determined objective, safely conduct the burn, and minimize negative effects such as duff ignition/soil damage, crown scorch, or smoke management problems. This information will be included in the burn plan.

5. Prescribed Burn Plans

Burn plans will be written on a NWCG approved burn form or an alternative form approved by the PRRIP Land Manager. Fully completed, legible, burn plans will be delivered to the PRRIP Land Manager within one week following the completion of the burn. These plans must be signed by the Burn Manager. Burn Managers will follow the PRRIP's Weather Parameter Standards (Appendix–A) when planning and implementing prescribed burns. Fire weather forecasts for the appropriate county containing the burn site will be used the day of the burn. These are available from the following National Weather Service online sources:

Hastings:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/text.php?sid=JAX&pil=FWF>

North Platte:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/productview.php?pil=TAEFWFTA&version=0>

A copy of these forecasts must accompany the burn plan when submitted to the PRRIP.



The PRRIP requires that contractors keep good records of all pre-burn planning and site evaluation measures as well as actual firing techniques used during prescribed burn implementation. This will include full documentation of information such as: burn purpose and objective, Forecasted and actual weather conditions, soil moisture conditions (including soil saturation and depth to water in wetlands), the location of heavy duff layers, days since rain, and amount of rain received on the actual burn block, Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI), etc. This information should be included in the burn plan or as an attachment. A copy of the burn plan and a site map showing burn area location, firelines, roads, and natural features shall be in the possession of the burn manager at the time of the burn. PRRIP staff will provide burn managers with a map and/or ground location point of any areas personnel should avoid. PRRIP staff may ask personnel to avoid disking, plowing or igniting fires in these areas. These sites may contain historical resources, threatened and endangered plant or animal locations, public use facilities or exotic plant infestations. Contractors will notify the PRRIP's Land Manager within 24 hours if the following circumstances occur after the burn has been completed: 1) fire has escaped, 2) burn objectives were not met or 3) negative publicity or smoke management problems occurred.

6. GIS Requirements

Contractors must submit a shapefile showing acres burned with each invoice. To receive payment, the acreage identified in shapefile must be identical to the acreage listed on the invoice to the nearest 1/10 acre. PRRIP staff will field verify and make payment based on this acreage. Shapefiles will be projected to: NAD 1983 Nebraska State Plane Feet.

WEATHER PARAMETER STANDARDS

Relative Humidity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• > or = 25%
Fine Dead Fuel Moisture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6% Minimum• Based on predicted fine fuel moisture (from tables) or direct measurement
Wind Speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximum mid-flame wind speed is 15 mph• Maximum forecast 20 ft wind speed is 18 mph
Category Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Category II in rural areas unaffected by smoke• Category III when there are smoke sensitive areas downwind
KBDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• = or < 400
Palmer Drought Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least -1
Temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 90°F Maximum.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 mph Minimum transport wind speed• 2,000 ft Minimum Mixing Height



APPENDIX – B PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FIRELINE STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION:

These Standards are designed to be used by contractors, cooperators and Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) employees in the planning, reviewing, approving and construction of firelines.

GUIDELINES:

A prescribed burn will not be conducted without adequate firebreaks surrounding the burn plot. The installation and maintenance of firelines along PRRIP ownership boundaries and main public use roads is primary while minimizing interior lines whenever possible. Natural and artificial firebreaks should be utilized before installing new lines. This will help minimize soil erosion, hydrologic alterations, and impacts on natural plant communities and historic or prehistoric resources. Types of natural firebreaks include: rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, etc. Artificial firebreaks are existing disturbances, facilities or cleared areas that may include: firelines, roads, ditches, trails, utility easements, blacklines and foam.

PRRIP personnel must approve the establishment of new firelines prior to construction. This approval will consider justification of need and route of firelines. Consideration will be given to the effect of the proposed fireline route on hydrology. Fireline routes will also be assessed for threatened and endangered species, archeological sites, public access facilities and exotic plants to avoid disturbing or spreading these. The addition of new firelines should be considered only if necessary for accomplishing safe prescribed burning. When possible, firelines should be coupled with other types of firebreaks (natural/artificial) to minimize ground disturbance.

Prescribed fires that escape or become out-of-prescription are often subject to emergency plowing. On PRRIP land, the preferred method for controlling such a fire is with a brush truck or other water delivery vehicle or to let the fire burn to the nearest firebreak. If these methods cannot be safely and effectively implemented, a tractor and fire plow should be used for suppression purposes.

PROCEDURES:

Fireline Installation and Maintenance:

a) Fireline installation should not adversely impact listed plant or animal species, archeological resources, public use facilities such as bike or hiking trails, or enable the spread of exotic plant infestations. PRRIP staff will provide maps and/or ground location points of any areas to be avoided. These sites may contain historical resources, threatened and endangered plant or animal locations, public use facilities or exotic plant infestations.

b) The PRRIP requires that all fireline installation and maintenance work produce a flat line that does not contain berms that may block or channel water flow. Root mats or heavy vegetation should be spread out within the block to avoid fuel build-up along the edges. The PRRIP prefers that firelines be reworked and maintained using



a heavy duty (forestry) harrow. Firelines installed with a dozer blade or fire plow will be reworked to yield a flat line. The use of a fireplow or dozer blade to install a fireline must be approved by the PRRIP Land Manager.

c) If a fire plow is used to install a fireline, or control an escaped or out of prescription fire, the burn contractor must rework the plowed lines before demobilizing from site.

d) If a fireplow is used to control an escaped or out of prescription fire, plow depth should be no greater than required to expose mineral soil and stop the fire. A map of existing firebreaks, roads, natural features and avoidance areas should be in the possession of the plow operator and crew members at all times.

e) Firelines will not be constructed so that they create new travel corridors or paths through or around areas that are cabled, gated, or fenced. If a fire line is being installed along a public use road, disking must be off to one side of the road, but not in the ditch, to allow vehicles to continue to use the road.

f) Firelines should follow the contour of the land when possible, to avoid downslope erosion. Lines should be stabilized if subject to water flow by the use of water bars or turnouts.

g) Plow and harrow depth should be kept at the minimum possible at all times.

h) Width of exposed mineral soil should be 6 to 8 feet for interior lines after reworking.

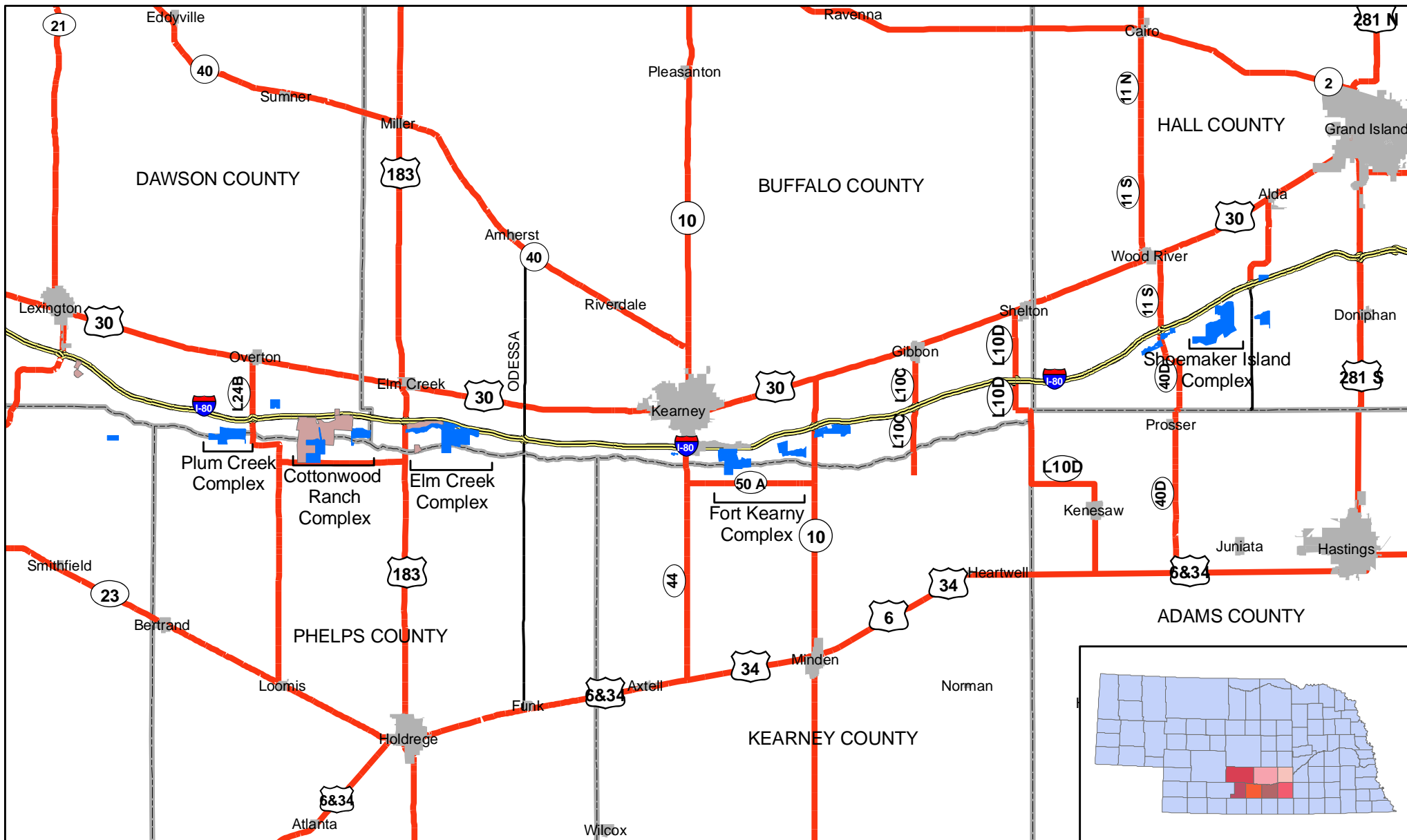
i) Perimeter lines are critical to ensure that fires do not leave PRRIP lands and impact private property. They should be wider than interior lines and should be cleared 12 to 16 feet of trees and overhanging vegetation. Wider lines may be required because of adjacent property with heavy fuels or residential structures. Width of exposed soil should be 8 to 10 feet and the line must be reworked if newly plowed.

j) Wetlands should be avoided when installing firelines. A line running up to a wetland incorporating it as a fire break is the best method providing it does not act as a drain to channel water out of, or cause erosion into the wetland. Wetlands should be burned when it is possible to mimic the historical fire frequency and when it can be done without risk of an organic peat layer (duff) fire.

k) When connecting firelines to wetlands and other hydrologic features such as intermittent/perennial streams, rivers, lakes, sinkholes, etc., firelines should stop a minimum of 75 feet from the



851 edge of these features. A wetline or handline can be used to tie in
852 the remaining distance.
853
854 l) Firelines should not follow the edge of a natural plant community
855 because it may disturb the ecotone and destroy rare plants that
856 often occupy this zone.
857
858 m) Primary firelines such as tract boundaries should be maintained
859 at least once a year by disking if needed. Adjacent areas may
860 require mowing. When possible, fireline maintenance should occur
861 during early growing season.
862
863



Legend

County

Property Boundary

PRRIP

NPPD



Miles

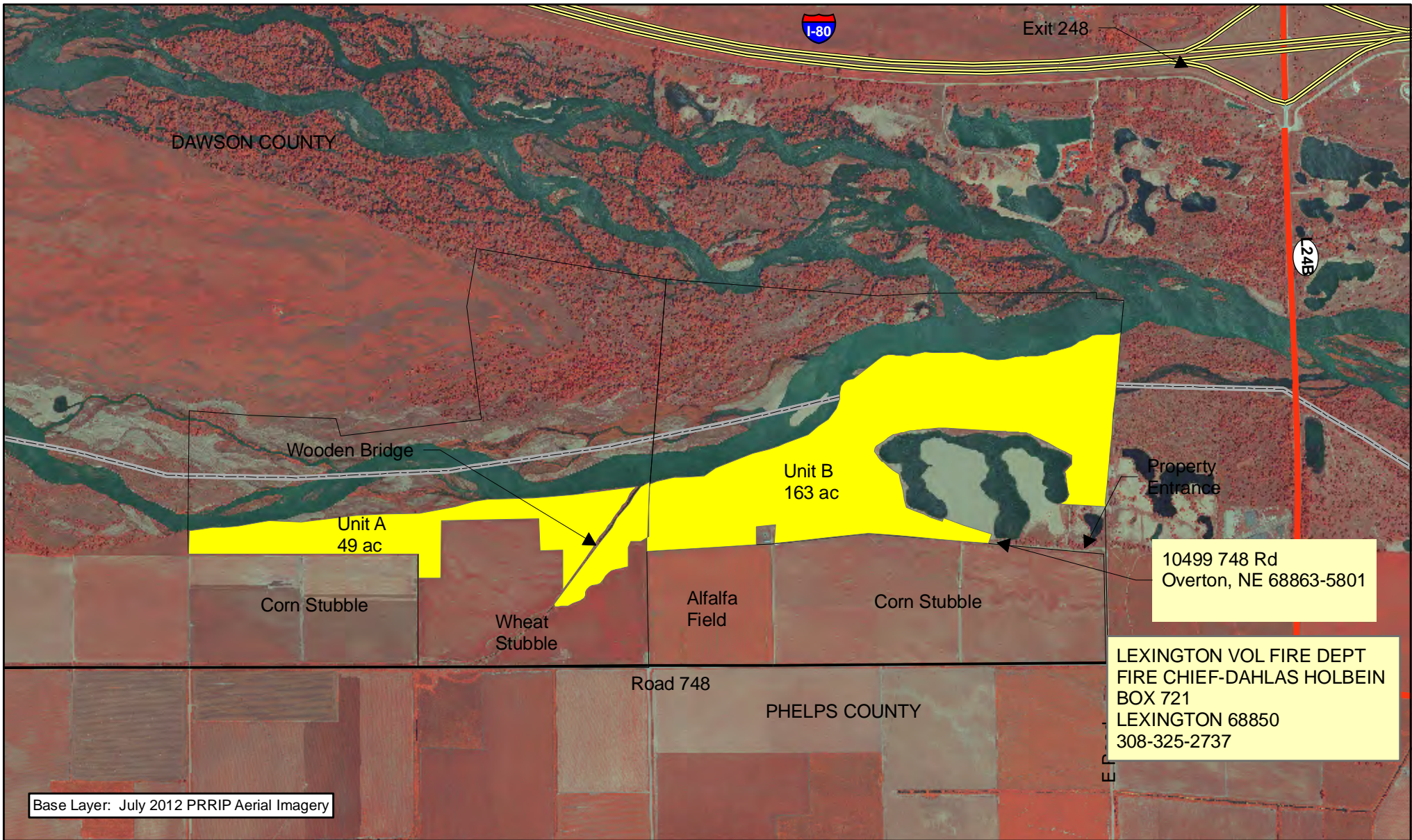
10

HABITAT COMPLEXES FY 2015 SPRING BURN UNITS

Date: 12/9/2014

By: TRT

Figure 1



Legend

- Property Boundary
- County
- 2015

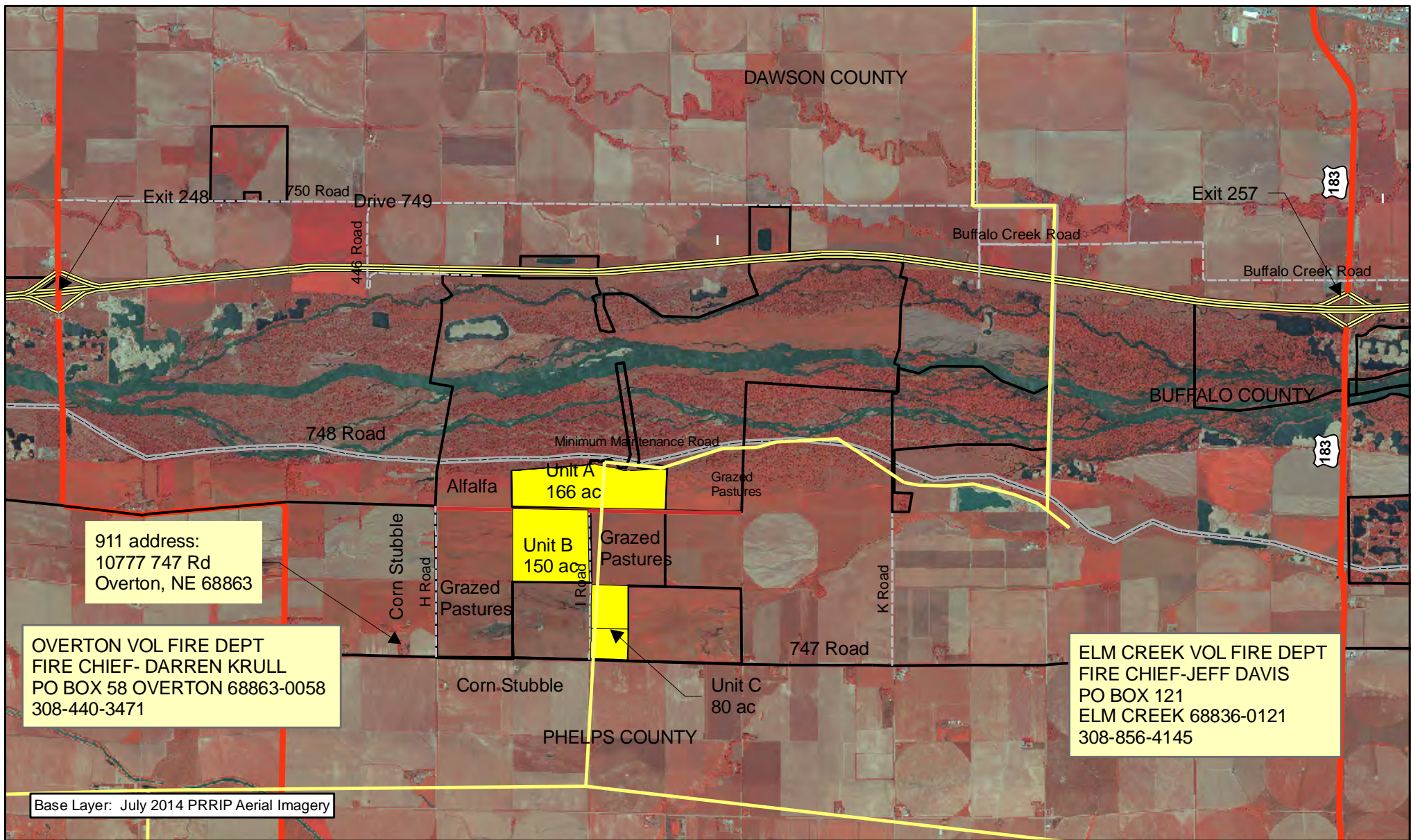


0.5 Miles

PLUM CREEK COMPLEX FY 2015 SPRING BURN UNIT

Date: 12/9/2014
By: TRT

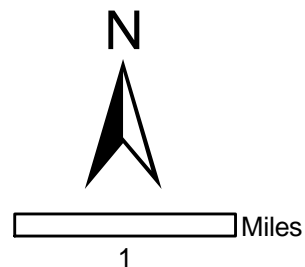
Figure 2



Legend

- Property Boundary
- County
- Central_Platte_Fire_Districts
- Transmission Line

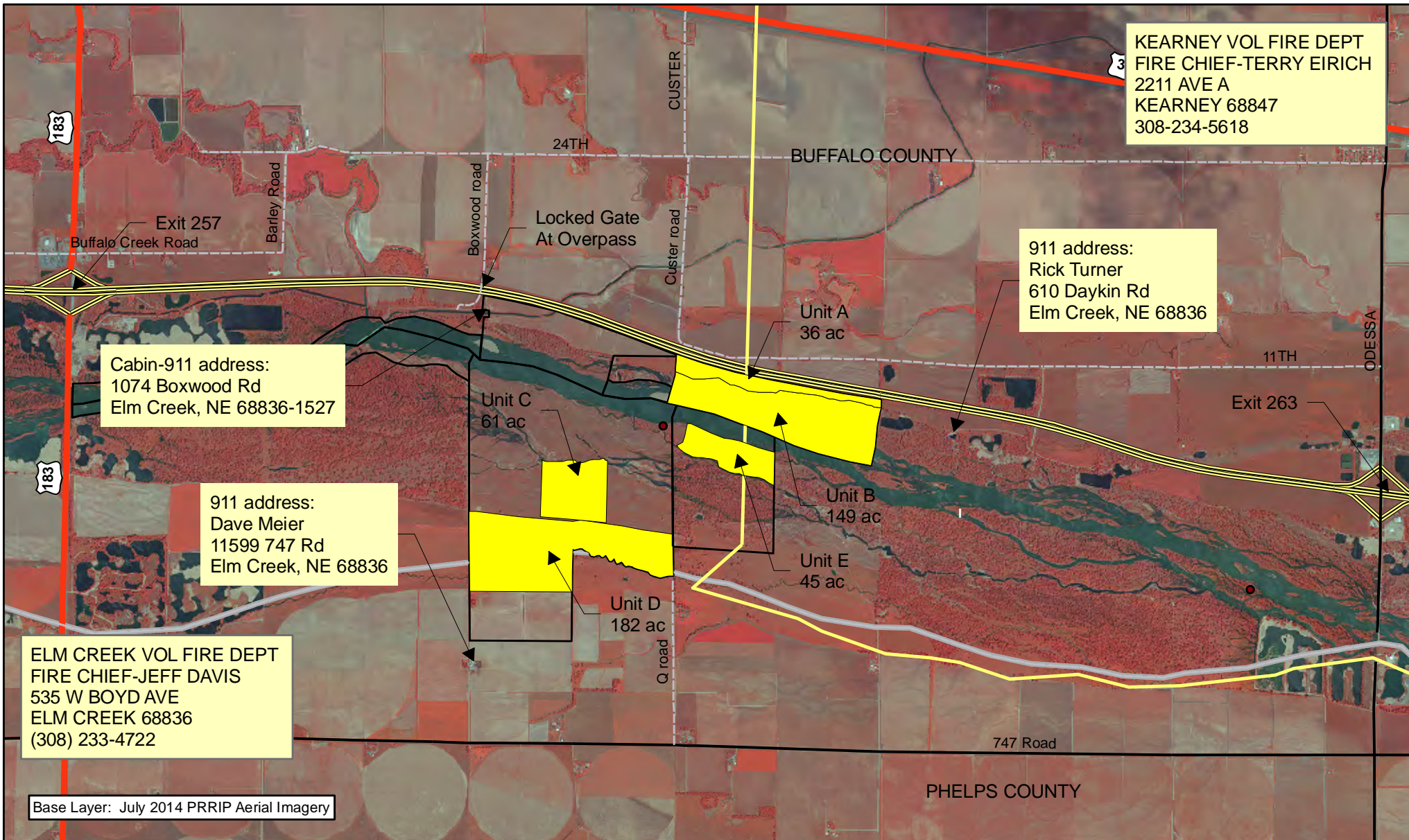
2015



COTTONWOOD RANCH COMPLEX FY 2015 SPRING BURN UNITS

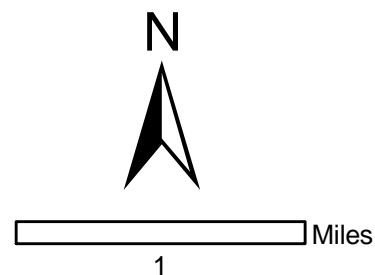
Date: 12/9/2015
By: TRT

Figure 3



Legend

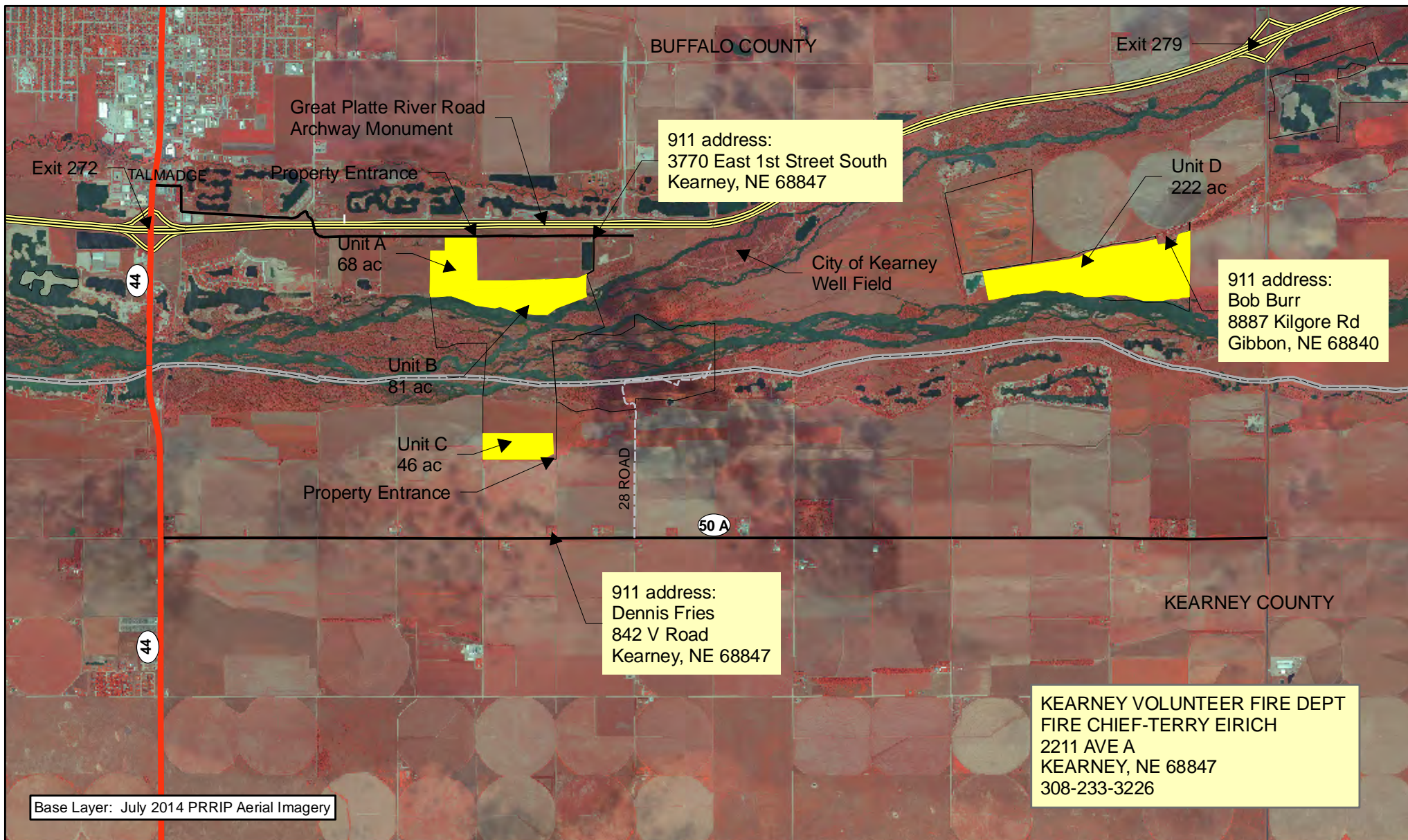
- 2015
- Bald Eagle Nest
- Central_Platte_Fire_Districts
- Property Boundary
- County



ELM CREEK COMPLEX FY 2015 SPRING BURN UNITS

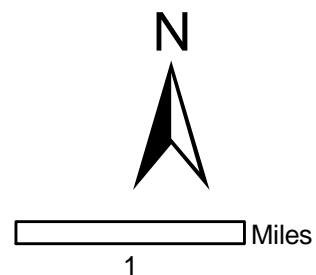
Date: 12/9/2014
 By: TRT

Figure 4



Legend

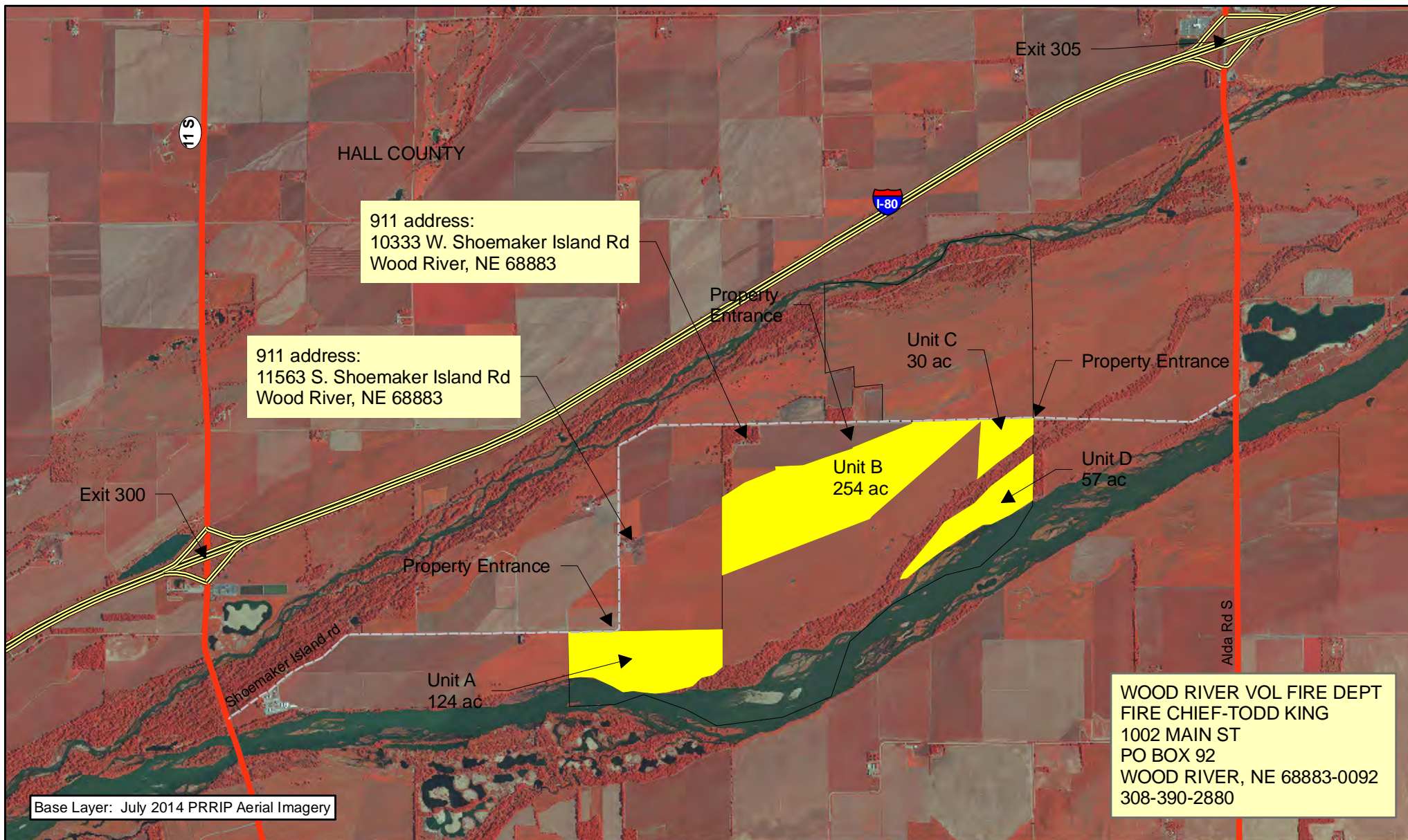
- PRRIP
- County
- 2015



FORT KEARNY COMPLEX FY 2015 SPRING BURN UNITS

Date: 12/9/2015
By: TRT

Figure 5



Legend

Property Boundary

□

■ 2015

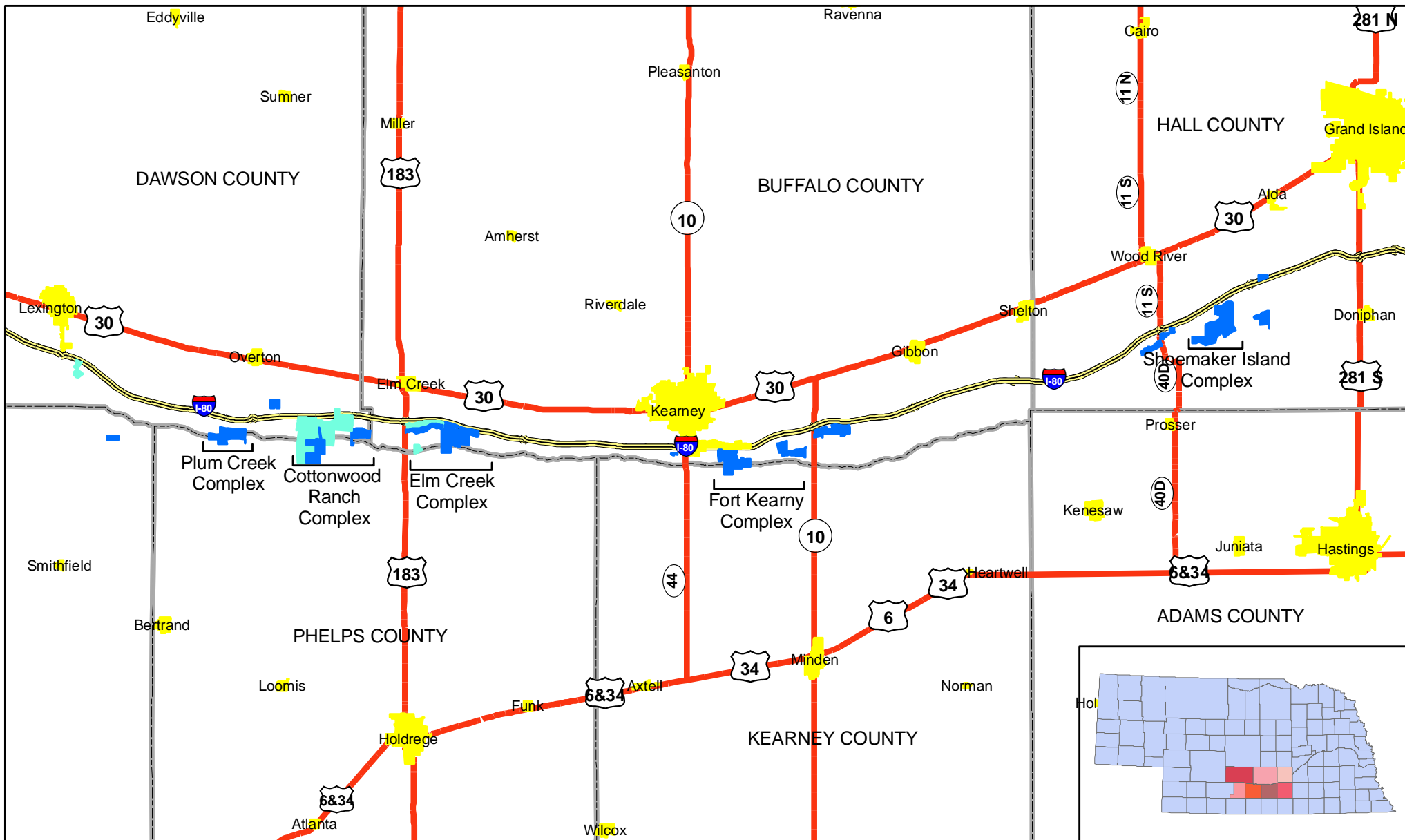


1 Miles

**SHOEMAKER ISLAND
COMPLEX
FY 2015
SPRING
BURN UNITS**

Date: 12/9/2015
By: TRT

Figure 6



Legend
Property Boundary
OWNERSHIP

- PRRIP
- NPPD

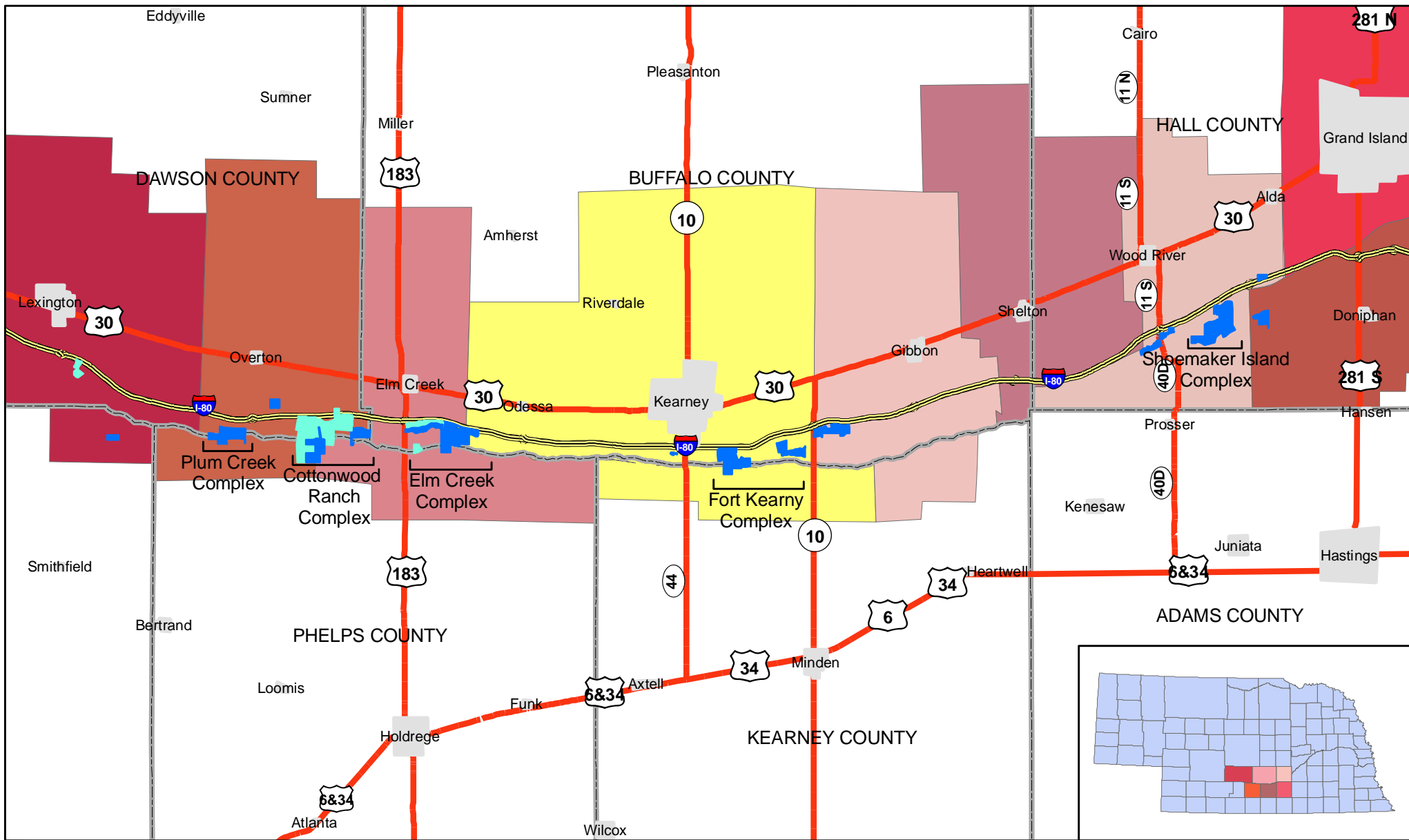


Miles
10

COMMUNITIES AT RISK
FY 2015
SPRING
BURN UNITS

Date: 12/9/2014
By: TRT

Figure 7



Legend

- LEXINGTON VOL FIRE DEPT
- OVERTON VOL FIRE DEPT
- ELM CREEK VOL FIRE DEPT
- KEARNEY VOL FIRE DEPT
- GIBBON VOL FIRE DEPT & RESCUE SQUAD
- SHELTON VOL FIRE & RESCUE
- WOOD RIVER VOL FIRE DEPT
- DONIPHAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT
- GRAND ISLAND RURAL FIRE DEPT



10 Miles

CENTRAL PLATTE FIRE DISTRICTS FY 2015 SPRING BURN UNITS

Date: 12/9/2014
By: TRT

Figure 8