TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

SUBJECT: HABITAT PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANT

DATE: 8/14/2014

At the June 2014 Governance Committee (GC) meeting, the GC approved a motion endorsing allocation of $200,000 per year in Program funds from line item WP1-b for the next three Program fiscal years (FY15-FY17) to be considered as matching funds in a grant application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for continuation of in-channel spraying and habitat work. The endorsement was made subject to Finance Committee (FC) approval of the final grant application and distribution of the final grant application to the GC. The grant application (attached) is substantially complete and is being distributed to the FC for review and approval. Specific items of note include:

- The total Program contribution would be $200,000 per year for three years. Of that total, $550,000 would be used for on-the-ground management activities including spraying of invasive species and mechanical vegetation removal. The remaining $50,000 would be used for information and education activities to increase landowner awareness and facilitate contacts.
- In addition to monetary support, Program staff would be involved in project oversight and evaluation of effectiveness of management activities.
- A portion of the grant funding would be used to fund a full-time coordinator that will be responsible for landowner coordination and overseeing management activities. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) originally planned on hosting that position. In the final application, that position is shifted to the Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD) and the CPNRD would provide in-kind support in the form of office space, equipment, and a vehicle.
- The grant application is substantially complete but it is anticipated that additional cash and/or in-kind contributions will be incorporated prior to the submission deadline on September 2nd.
- The final grant application will be forwarded to the GC at the time it is submitted to the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

3. County(s) where project is located: **Buffalo, Dawson, Deuel, Hall, Keith, Lincoln, Merrick, Phelps**, **Polk**

4. Nearest towns**: Aurora, Big Springs, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, Ogallala**

5. Total Amount Requested:

6. Years of funding requested: **3**

Contact Person:
7. Name: **Andy Bishop**

8. Title: **Coordinator**

9. Organization: **Rainwater Basin Joint Venture**

10. Address, City, State & Zip: **2550 N. Diers Ave., Suite G, Grand Island, NE 68803**

11. Daytime Phone: **(308) 382-8112**

12. Alternate phone: **(308) 380-8691**

13. Fax: **(308) 384-2668**

14. E-mail: **andy_bishop@fws.gov**

15. Sponsor web page: **www.rwbjv.org**

16. Is this a continuation request for a project previously funded by the Trust: **Yes**

Is this a resubmission of a project application previously not funded by the Trust: **No**

17. Please indicate which category best describes the applicant: Natural Resource District
Selections are: Individual City or County Natural Resources District Federal Agency Private for Profit Private Nonprofit Consortium School, Irrigation, Power or Development District State Agency Other (specify):

18. Will this project receive federal funds or require a federal review or permit? Yes
If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role: Approximately 84% of Platte River Recovery Implementation Program contributions come from the Department of the Interior.

19. Will this project receive other State of Nebraska funds or require a state review or permit? No
If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role:

20. In **300 words or less** provide an overview of the project for which you seek funding. If you are asking the Trust to fund only a portion of the project, indicate the components for which you seek funding.

The Platte River is world famous for its diverse range of flora and fauna and is home to many species of concern. Not only does the Platte River supply needed habitat for wildlife its braided channels allow water from upstream reservoirs to flow into irrigation diversions and lower Platte River habitat reaches. This partnership will focus on two critical elements of Platte River function: channel hydrology and vegetation composition over the 336 mile stretch of River from Ogallala to Columbus. Channel hydrology focuses on increasing flow conveyance, decreasing water consumption by invasive vegetation and increasing wildlife habitat availability. This grant will continue the work accomplished over the past five years by the Weed Management Areas by maintaining control of invasive vegetation within active channels and also expand on removal of herbaceous vegetation that is causing choke points and increased water usage. By utilizing a coordinated partnership approach resources can be combined and leveraged to maximize acres impacted. This partnership will be science based, transparent, and focused on mutually defined and accepted standards. It will be system scale with understandable metrics; outcome based and short-term success will be used to build long-term sustainability. Working on large landscape with multiple partners requires a high level of coordination. To assist with this a full time project coordinator will be hired to work with the different partners as well as area landowners to implement grant objectives. All aspects of grant will be monitored and evaluated by numerous techniques. Information gained will be utilized to assist developing a long-term management philosophy that will focus on maintaining work accomplished and expanding on areas where control is needed. Information will be accessible by partners and distributed to landowners.

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

In five pages or less, provide a discussion of your project. Be sure to cover the points specified in the instruct

21. On behalf of the sponsor(s) named above, I hereby certify that the information contained in this application, including all attachments, is true, accurate and complete.

Authorized Signature of Sponsor Organization	Title	Date
		8/11/2014

Typed or Printed Name of Authorized Signatory	Typed or Printed Title
Andy Bishop	Coordinator

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

NARRATIVE SECTION

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

Platte River Conservation Need:

The Platte River is world famous for its diverse range of flora and fauna. Labeled the 'ribbon of life' by some wildlife enthusiasts, the Platte River is home to many species of concern. It is critical habitat for endangered Whooping Cranes (CWS and USFWS 2007) and is utilized by threatened Piping Plover (USFWS 1988) and endangered Least Terns (USFWS 1990). It is home to species of concern such as: Great Plains Narrowmouth toad, Short Eared Owl, Cerulean Warbler, Common Snipe, Least Bittern, Swamp Sparrow, Black Crowned Night Heron, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow Throated Vireo, Smooth Green Snake, Redbelly Snake, Plains Blackhead Snake,the blacknose, silverband,Topeka shiner, finescale, blacknose, northern redbelly dace,and bluntnose minnow (Schneider et al. 2011). Portions of the project area are also of great importance in the Central Flyway as a critical spring stopover site for a suite of migratory birds (Brown et al. 2001, Fellows et al. 2001, Kushlan et al. 2002, North American Waterfowl Management Plan - NAWMP 2012, RWBJV 2013a).

These species as well as river system ecology are listed as a priority landscape for management under the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project (Schneider et al. 2011). We will address four of the conservation strategies listed in the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project: 1) Implement programs to control invasive exotic species 2) Encourage implementation of innovative grazing and haying regimes on private land to reduce exotics and promote native plants 3) Restore the hydrology to wet meadows and other wetlands (by opening up surface water area in existing wetlands) and 4) manage channel conveyance using a variety of methods and measures.

Not only does the Platte River supply needed habitat for wildlife its braided channels allow water from upstream reservoirs to flow into diversions that provide irrigation water for approximately 185,650 acres (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources 2011). These irrigated acres are economically important and significantly contribute to the local and the state economy. In 2004, Nebraska Legislative Bill 962 was passed. This bill provided a proactive framework to manage the states surface and groundwater. As a result of this legislation the upper portion of this project area, Ogallala to Elm Creek, was classified as over-appropriated, and the remaining portion was classified as fully appropriated. These designations have challenged the Platte Basin Natural Resource Districts, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and area producers to find new opportunities to more effectively manage surface and groundwater. Management of invasive species within the active channel and adjacent floodplain is one of the strategies that can reduce consumptive water use and maximize water for wildlife and production agriculture.

Some of the common invasive species are salt cedar, reed canarygrass, non-native *phragmites*, Russian olive, Eastern Red Cedar and purple loosestrife. These species transpire significant amounts of water and out-compete more xeric native vegetation that utilize less water. Establishment of invasive species not only impacts water use, biodiversity is also reduced, eliminating habitat niches for many of the priority species that rely on the Platte River. This happens because invasive species often form dense monocultures that suppress germination of native species. In addition, some native species can't compete for nutrients, within the dense stand and die.

Today, invasive vegetation is taking over riverbanks, wetlands, meadows, side channels, sloughs and sandbars, displacing native plant communities. As invasive species become more established detrital litter can accumulate and reduce volumetric flows through channels. This can result in 'choke points' that can significantly reduce water conveyance. During heavy rain events 'choke points' cause the pulse of water to increase in height resulting in a flood stage that lasts longer and is above the historic level. Presence of invasive species also alters the natural erosion/sediment deposition processes of the river as well by stabilizing riverbanks and sandbars. Historic natural processes maintained wider, shallower channels, which is important for water conveyance and provides critical habitat to wintering, breeding and migrating water birds and native fish species.

The vision of this project is to build upon the prior efforts of the Platte River Conservation Community to support and enhance a partnership that will maintain and improve the hydrology, reduce distribution and abundance of invasive species, and promote desired native vegetation species. This grant seeks funding to add the capacity necessary to coordinate activities at the system scale. Funding to support the on-the-ground conservation

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

actions (mechanical and chemical treatment of invasive species) will also be supported through this grant. The monitoring and evaluation components that will be completed at treated sites will add to previously collated data and be used to develop a better blueprint for effective river channel conveyance and management of invasive species in the foreseeable future. The cumulative activities supported by this grant will build off the successful model that has been implemented by the Weed Management Areas (WMAs – Platte Valley and West Central) over the last five years.

Objectives:

This partnership will focus on two critical elements of Platte River function: channel hydrology and vegetation composition. Channel hydrology focuses on increasing flow conveyance, decreasing water consumption by invasive vegetation and increasing wildlife habitat availability. In order to achieve success this partnership will use the early detection and rapid response protocol developed by the WMAs for invasive vegetation. This system will be updated annually, in a Geographical Information System (GIS), with the management activities completed during that year as well as the monitoring data collected at each management site. This spatial assessment tool will allow the partners to evaluate conditions at the management sites, prioritize activities to areas of infestation, and identify areas that need to be revisited and possibly treated. This monitoring data will be analyzed in conjunction with the physical and biological data collected by the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program to further evaluate the effectiveness of treatments. The database will be shared with all interested partners to leverage resources and raise awareness of flow management across the system. For this project invasive species management will be targeted within the 500 year floodplain, but will also be completed along the tributaries and drainage ditches that output into the river.

To achieve objectives the following strategies will be implemented:

1) Continue coordination of PVWMA and WCWMA to implement follow up and maintenance herbicide application on invasive *phragmites* and purple loosestrife from Kingsley Dam (Ogallala) to Columbus.
2) Develop outreach capacity to market management opportunities to willing landowners
3) Continue implementation of cost share programs with landowners for controlling invasive vegetation on backwater and side channels.
4) Design and implement herbaceous vegetation removal on willing landowners within existing banks of Platte River from Ogallala to Columbus.
5) Catalogue management treatments on an annual basis to prioritize actions and outreach
6) Design/implement a monitoring program using simple, landscape metrics (example, increase flow conveyance at gauges, miles of river that are of quality habitat condition, etc.) to quantify success. This monitoring program will build upon Platte River Recovery Implementation Program's existing metric to ensure a common currency and ensure cost efficiency.

Project Design:

This partnership will be science based, transparent, and focused on mutually defined and accepted standards. It will be system scale with understandable metrics; outcome based and short term success will be used to build long term sustainability. The focus of this grant is the 336 river miles of the Platte River, between Ogallala and Columbus, Nebraska. This represents a regional watershed encompassing the North Platte River from Kingsley Dam (up-stream barrier), the South Platte from the Colorado state line through the Platte River system down to the confluence with the Loup River, near Columbus. The activities outlined in this grant will promote channel conveyance and desired vegetation communities by controlling invasive vegetation within the Platte River. By focusing on the entire system the project will maximize resources through a collaborative

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

partnership focused on rehabilitation of the active channel, promoting long-term maintenance, and developing an early detection and rapid response protocol to prevent re-infestations.

A loose partnership currently exists that allows the different government agencies and nongovernment conservation organizations to communicate about existing river management as well as collaborate on new opportunities. Funding provided through this proposal will be a catalyst to increase communication and maximize partner contributions to river management. This partnership is designed to be flexible all interested parties will be invited to help identify project opportunities (Disking, herbicide treatment, etc.). .). Primary contributing partners are the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, Central Platte NRD, Twin Platte NRD, and the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. Other partners could include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Central Platte/Tri-Basin/Twin Platte/South Platte Natural Resource Districts, the aforementioned Weed Management Districts, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, The Crane Trust, and other interested parties. We plan to have monthly calls and regularly scheduled meetings to identify new projects and review existing projects. Usually there is only a small window of opportunity to implement management actions and the monthly meetings will allow us to be flexible and reprioritize as conditions change.

As described earlier, this project hopes to facilitate management over a 336 mile stretch of river, a significant portion of the Platte River within the state of Nebraska. This project will also address the presence of invasive species along the intermittent streams and drainages that output into the active channel. These water features have not been a focus of past management actions and have the potential to be a major seed source, jeopardizing long-term success within the active river channel. Recognizing the magnitude of this project close coordination between and among the partners will be required. As part of this project we plan to hire a Riverine Habitat Specialist (RHS) that will coordinate with the partners to identify projects. In addition to working with partners, this individual will directly work with landowners to market river management opportunities. The RHS will be hired by Central Platte Natural Resources District and supported by grant funds.

Performing the mechanical and hydrological maintenance on the river is only beneficial if it is done at a system wide scale, in close coordination amongst the partners, monitored for success, and modified when necessary as new techniques or better information becomes available. To help evaluate the success of our management activities records will be generated in a GIS database. This spatially explicit database will allow us to record our actions and annually return to evaluate success. Photo points will also be established to record the vegetation community response to the management. This annual assessment will help us maximize long-term contribution of these management actions. As we learn about the response of species to different treatments or combination of treatments we will modify our actions to integrate those treatments that are the most effective. The annual monitoring will also help us evaluate conditions at the system scale allowing early detection and rapid response protocol to prevent re-infestations.

Project Delivery:

Since this is a system wide partnership approach, coordination will be critical. Funding as part of this grant will be used to hire a RHS to assist with and coordinate amongst the partners as well as work with willing landowners. This position will be a full time term position hired by Central Platte Natural Resources District. The RHS specialist will work with the different partners to identify management actions on their properties, as well as on private lands where the partners are already working with the owner or tenant. Evaluation of the initial sets of projects will help identify gaps or areas where partners are currently not implementing management activities. The RHS will work with the partners to identify priorities in these areas where limited management is occurring. These stretches of river are probably largely privately owned. The RHS will work with landowners in these stretches to develop landowner agreements. These will be 10 year agreements that will outline the target species, management activities, acres to be treated, and the contributions from the different partners-including the landowner. These projects will be compiled and reviewed by the partnership identifying tiers or priorities.

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

Groups of projects that are in close geographic proximity will be bundled and put out to bid to all local and statewide contractors. This will provide a transparent mechanism to complete the bidding process and should help promote a competition that will reduce costs and maximize treated acres with our limited funding.

Benefits/Economic, Social, and Public Health Impacts:

This project has the potential to provide significant economic, social, and public health benefits. As described, if invasive species are not addressed detrital litter accumulates within the active channel. This causes choke points within the river that reduce water conveyance and can cause water to back up and rise during periods of high flows. As a result, flooding occurs in low lying areas. If this happens near confined animal feeding operations, leach fields, or sewage treatment facilities significant amounts of raw sewage and harmful bacteria can be loaded into the river water causing potential harm to local residents, wildlife, and municipal drinking water facilities. Removal of the invasive species before monocultures are established will elevate these potential issues.

The outreach and coordination with landowners along the river will increase understanding regarding the importance of management to promote river conveyance and management of invasive species. At times there is a perception that habitat management and production agriculture cannot be compatible, however control of invasive species is a "win-win" strategy that reduces consumptive use of water, increases river conveyance, and provide another tool for the Natural Resource Districts and Department of Natural Resources to manage our groundwater and surface water resources.

Investing in a proactive management approach provides cost effective control of invasive vegetation and provides greater security to all water uses within the Platte River system. Locations within the project area will serve as education and demonstration sites.

Cost Effectiveness:

The collaborative approach outlined in this proposal will facilitate implementation of cost effective management treatments. Bundling geographically close sites will maximize the number of acres to be treated and increase the number of contractors providing bids. Competition has been shown to significantly reduce the cost/acre for the different management treatments. The landowners will also be involved and contribute to projects. Their contribution will ensure treatments are maintained. Building off the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program system-scale monitoring data will maximize money spent on the ground, test effectiveness, and help modify treatment techniques as we learn new information.

Who is Contributing – In What Way:

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program is a major contributor to this project. The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program has committed $600,000 to this project ($550,000 implementation and $50,000 education). Central Platte and Twin Platte Natural Resource Districts are contributing $75,000 for implementation, while the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture is contributing $30,000 to support the GIS technician that will be integrating all of the management records into the spatial database. This represents a $705,000 contribution of cash match to the project. In addition Central Platte Natural Resource District has agreed to hold this position, providing office space, equipment, and a vehicle. As described earlier in the proposal numerous partners (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Weed Management Districts, The Natural Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, The Crane Trust, and other interested parties) will support successful implementation of conservation actions through their involvement on the monthly planning and project review calls. These same partners will also serve as local liaisons to their neighbors, helping to identify and implement additional management activities.

Measures and Evaluation of Success:

Increase in water conveyance success will be assessed using stream flow measurements taken at historical gauging sites of Cozad, Lexington and Grand Island. Comparing historic gauge measurements prior to invasive vegetation infestations to current and post project treatments water conveyance can be assessed. By increasing

NARRATIVE SECTION

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

water conveyance in the upper reaches of the Platte River wildlife habitat in the central and lower river will greatly benefit. Treatment sites will be monitored using photo points to document changes in vegetation composition and Platte River Recovery Implementation Program system-scale geomorphology and vegetation monitoring will be used to evaluate reach-scale effectiveness.

A set of standards will be developed that measures river function. Each bridge segment of the river will be evaluated to that set of criteria pre and post implementation. River segment changes based on this set of criteria will be used to evaluate partnership.

Need for Continuing Maintenance/Costs/Responsibility:

The need for continued maintenance will be site specific; often times multiple treatments are needed to significantly reduce the distribution and abundance of invasive species at a site. Since the landowner will be a partner on these projects they will work with the all parties to ensure we maximize treatments and minimize re-infestation. If additional treatments are needed the partners will work to leverage the required funds to address the issue.

Federal or State Permits Required for This Project: None

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

BONUS POINT JUSTIFICATION

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

Explanation of Why This Project May be Eligible for Feature Program Bonus Points:

The project is designed on an eco-system, resource-based, or regional approach. Our project, "Platte River Management and Enhancement", is based on the regional ecosystem of the Platte River. The project area is bordered on the west by Kingsley Dam (up-stream barrier) and the Colorado/Nebraska state line (jurisdiction boundary), and on the east by the Loup and Platte rivers' confluence. By focusing on this regional watershed approach this project will have maximum long-term benefits of controlling invasive species while benefiting wildlife habitat.

The project includes components to inform and educate on sound resource management practices. Portions of this grant application are designated as public outreach and communications. Monies from this category will used to host public meetings, hold landowner workshops, and to present at and attend regional meetings on invasive species.

The project includes representatives of public and private interested parties and organizations in comprehensive planning, design, and evaluation activities. Private landowners and conservation organizations, as well as representatives of numerous local, state, and federal agencies, will be involved in all aspects of this project (design, planning, implementation, oversight, and evaluation) under the umbrella of the RWBJV.

The project recognizes community and economic values that may affect conservation action, and designs appropriate actions to enhance attainment and sustainability of resource objectives. By focusing on the regional scale, community and economic values are also considered. This project takes into consideration and acknowledges that by reducing invasive species upstream it will allow water conveyance and improve wildlife habitat downstream. The project goal is to improve the entire region's river wildlife habitat while incorporating private landowner-based management practices. Local economies may benefit from an increase in forage capacity for cattle production and recreational opportunities while the regional economy may benefit from ecotourism based on the spring migration of waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. Revenue from hunting will also benefit area communities.

The project creates efficiencies of delivery and maximizes available resources through the development of formal and informal interlocal or interagency agreements and/or public/private partnerships. Project design, efficiency, and delivery are achieved through Landowner Agreements with landowners and resource agencies before management or streambed enhancement occurs. Delivery of these projects will be reviewed during monthly calls or at regularly scheduled meetings with the partners to ensure consistency in application and successful outcomes. In addition, the public/private partnership established through the RWBJV is a model of success for resource protection, restoration, and enhancement.

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION BUDGET SUMMARY

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

BUDGET YEAR: **SUMMARY**

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
1. Source of Funds ►	**Nebraska Environmental Trust**	**Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program**	**Central Platte and Twin Platte NRDs**	**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture**	**TOTALS ▼**
2. Budget Category ▼					
3. Contracted Services (invasive vegetation management and herbaceous vegetation removal)	$925,000.00	$550,000.00	$75,000.00		**$1,550,000**
4. Salary (Implementation Coordinator)	$168,000.00				**$168,000**
5. Travel	$36,000.00				**$36,000**
6. Public Outreach	$100,000.00	$50,000.00			**$150,000**
7. Management tracking				$30,000	**$30,000**
8. Grant Administration	$61,450.00				**$61,450**
9. TOTALS ►	**$1,290,450**	**$600,000**	**$75,000**	**$30,000**	**$1,995,450**

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR ONE

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

BUDGET YEAR: **ONE**
(This page is used by multi-year grants only. If your project is not a multi-year grant, then ignore or delete this page.)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
1. Source of Funds ►	**Nebraska Environmental Trust**	**Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program**	**Central Platte and Twin Platte NRDs**	**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture**	**TOTALS ▼**
2. Budget Category ▼					
3. Contracted Services (invasive vegetation management and herbaceous vegetation removal)	$308,333	$183,333	$25,000		**$516,666**
4. Salary (Implementation Coordinator)	$56,000				**$56,000**
5. Travel	$12,000				**$12,000**
6. Public Outreach	$33,333	$16,667			**$50,000**
7. Management tracking				$10,000	**$10,000**
8. Grant Administration	$20,484				**$20,484**
9. TOTALS ►	**$430,150**	**$200,000**	**$25,000**	**$10,000**	**$665,150**

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR TWO

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

BUDGET YEAR: **TWO**
(This page is used by multi-year grants only. If your project is not a multi-year grant, then ignore or delete this page.)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
1. Source of Funds ►	**Nebraska Environmental Trust**	**Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program**	**Central Platte and Twin Platte NRDs**	**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture**	**TOTALS ▼**
2. Budget Category ▼					
3. Contracted Services (invasive vegetation management and herbaceous vegetation removal)	$308,333	$183,333	$25,000		**$516,666**
4. Salary (Implementation Coordinator)	$56,000				**$56,000**
5. Travel	$12,000				**$12,000**
6. Public Outreach	$33,333	$16,667			**$50,000**
7. Management tracking				$10,000	**$10,000**
8. Grant Administration	$20,484				**$20,484**
9. TOTALS ►	**$430,150**	**$200,000**	**$25,000**	**$10,000**	**$665,150**

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR THREE

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

BUDGET YEAR: **THREE**
(This page is used by multi-year grants only. If your project is not a multi-year grant, then ignore or delete this page.)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
1. Source of Funds ►	**Nebraska Environmental Trust**	**Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program**	**Central Platte and Twin Platte NRDs**	**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture**	**TOTALS ▼**
2. Budget Category ▼					
3. Contracted Services (invasive vegetation management and herbaceous vegetation removal)	$308,333	$183,333	$25,000		**$516,666**
4. Salary (Implementation Coordinator)	$56,000				**$56,000**
5. Travel	$12,000				**$12,000**
6. Public Outreach	$33,333	$16,667			**$50,000**
7. Management tracking				$10,000	**$10,000**
8. Grant Administration	$20,484				**$20,484**
9. TOTALS ►	**$430,150**	**$200,000**	**$25,000**	**$10,000**	**$665,150**

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

1. Have other sources of funding not listed in the Budget Worksheet been approached for project support? If yes, name them and explain the outcome of your request.

2. Are all of the matching funds in the Budget Worksheet confirmed? If not, please identify those entities and list the date when confirmation is expected. Explain how you will implement the project if these sources do not confirm participation.
Yes

3. If any of the project costs identified in Column B of the Budget Worksheet have been expended or if debt has been incurred for these costs or a sponsor or partner is obligated for these costs in any other way: List these costs here. Explain clearly why Trust grant funds are requested for these costs.

4. For each line item in column A of the Budget Worksheet, justify the basis for the dollar amount indicated for that item.

CATEGORY/COMPONENT (from Column A of the Budget Worksheet)	BASIS USED TO DETERMINE COST	Attachment? Y or N	ATTACHMENT LABEL
3. Contracted Services	Will be based on current contractor bids. Bidding process per project will be used to get best and lowest price. Previous work has approximately been $75.00 per acre for disking, $300.00 per acre for tree removal, $2,100.00 per hour for helicopter applications.	**NO**	
4. Salary (Implementation Coordinator)	Central Platte NRD hosting position. Salary includes benefits	**NO**	
5. Travel	Includes mileage reimbursement to CPNRD at current federal rate, overnight lodging for coordinator to attend regional meetings and present project at meetings,	**NO**	
6. Public Outreach	Development of public messages, bi-yearly mailings to landowners, public meeting expenses	**NO**	
7. Management Tracking	The salaries and benefits are based on the 15%/year of Federal Full Time Employee.	**NO**	
9. Grant administration	The RWBJV recovers a portion of administrative costs with a 2.5% grant administration fee.	**NO**	

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

PROJECT SPONSOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	
FY 2014 Federal Funds Budget	
Salary/Benefits	$271,040.95
Travel	$4,376.47
Space/Cell Phones	$21,667.13
Equipment Maintenance	$25,339.21
Supplies/Fuel	$9,821.24
Equipment	$4,000.00
On-the-ground Project Delivery	$95,000.00
Total	**$431,245.00**

Please see the instructions for section C-3. Attachments to this document may be necessary to complete this section. Include these attachments with your hard copy submission.

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

TIMELINE

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

See instructions for section D.

Month/Year	Task Description:
April 2016	Grant awarded
May 2016 - August 2016	Landowner outreach and partner coordination meetings
August 2016 – October 2016	Management treatments implemented
January 2017 – August 2017	Landowner outreach and partner coordination meetings
August 2017 – October 2017	Management Treatments implemented
January 2018 – June 2018	Landowner outreach and partner coordination meetings
July 2018	Management Treatments implemented

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

PARTNERS

H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

Please see the instructions for filling out section E. Letters of confirmation should be included with your hard copy submission.

Partner	Contribution
Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program	$600,000 to support active management treatments and education and outreach
Twin Platte and Central Platte NRD's	$25,000 annually to support active management treatments
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Determined on a site by site basis
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Determined on a site by site basis
West Central and Platte Valley Weed Management Areas	Determined on a site by site basis
Private Landowners	Determined on a site by site basis
Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	$30,000 25% of FTE GIS Technician to develop and update GIS database

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

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H1. Project Sponsor: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

H2. Project Name: Platte River Management and Enhancement

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