



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program) recently received a recognition plaque for being named part of President Barack Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative.

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Contact: Jeff Buettner
Public Relations Coordinator
Office: (308) 995-8601
Cell: (308) 991-3228
E-mail: jbuettner@cnppid.com

The Program is recognized as a model of conserving and restoring a river while complying with Endangered Species Act issues. In 2011, the Program and the Platte River Recreation Access program were chosen by Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar as the two Nebraska projects that represent the most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the natural world. The projects were selected as part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative to establish a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda and reconnect Americans to the outdoors. The projects were identified for their potential to conserve important lands and build recreation opportunities and economic growth for the surrounding communities.

The Program provides Endangered Species Act compliance for water-related activities within Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming, while working to recover the threatened and endangered target species (interior least tern, piping plover, whooping crane, pallid sturgeon). The Program is authorized for a 13-year first increment, which began in 2007, and is estimated to cost roughly \$320 million in 2005 dollars with the monetary portion of that being \$187 million. The federal government will contribute \$157 million in cash, and Colorado and Wyoming will jointly contribute \$30 million. The remaining portion will come in terms of land and water from the states; Nebraska's entire contribution will be of this nature. The total cost of the Program in terms of cash, water and land is shared equally between the federal government and the states. To date, the majority of the states' funds have been secured.



The Platte River Program's Governance Committee representatives: (from left) Don Ament, GC chairman, representing Colorado; Jerry Kenny, CEO and president of Headwaters Corp., the natural resources systems management consulting firm providing services to the Program ; and Gary Campbell, representing the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.



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