**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- PROGRAM)**

Outside Science On-Boarding Framework

**Purpose:**

This framework provides a rigorous, repeatable, and trackable process for evaluating science generated by parties outside the structure of the PRRIP; determining if that outside science is relevant to the PRRIP and could potentially impact decision-making related to management actions and the PRRIP Science Plan; and establishing a forum for integrating that outside science into PRRIP implementation (e.g., use in Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools, retained as an alternative hypothesis).

**What is “outside science”?**

* Scientific/technical publication (peer-reviewed manuscript, report, other similar document) that relates to Program target species (whooping crane, piping plover, pallid sturgeon), river processes (e.g., geomorphology, sediment transport, vegetation scour), and overall PRRIP implementation (e.g., adaptive management (AM), adaptive governance, decision-making).
* Outside science = monitoring, research, analysis, and/or synthesis that is not undertaken by the EDO, PRRIP partner entity, or PRRIP contractor as part of PRRIP Science Plan implementation.
* Authors may be affiliated with PRRIP partner entities, current or former ISAC members, current or former PRRIP contractors, or any outside party to the Program (e.g., academia, private consultant, governmental or non-governmental organization).
* Focus will be on articles published in refereed journals but could also include other documents like monitoring reports or compendium evaluations of similar large-scale restoration programs that suggest reflecting on PRRIP governance, decision-making, science, and use of AM.

**How is outside science introduced?**

1. EDO alerted to published manuscript, report, document via Google Scholar or through other means.
2. PRRIP participant (e.g., member of GC, TAC, ISAC) provides published manuscript or report to EDO.
3. Author(s) contacts EDO or PRRIP participant directly.

**On-Boarding Process:**

1. EDO reviews manuscript/report/document to provide written summary of potential relevance to Program; including:

* Relationship to past/ongoing PRRIP implementation, specifically Extension Science Plan Big Questions and associated monitoring/research.
* Compare/contrast data, methods, and results with past/ongoing PRRIP science.
* Identify areas of uncertainty that may require further discussion and exploration.
* Highlight questions and areas of significance for discussion with TAC and ISAC.

1. EDO asks the author(s)/sponsor(s) to provide a short statement of their interpretation of the relevance of the research methods and conclusions in the manuscript/report/document to ongoing PRRIP implementation, particularly Extension Science Plan Big Questions and questions related to assessing the response of river form/function/processes and Program target species to Program management actions.
2. Manuscript/document, EDO summary, and author/sponsor summary provided to TAC members for discussion at the next scheduled TAC meeting. *Author(s)/sponsor(s) of the document invited to participate (in-person or virtually) at the next scheduled TAC meeting, ISAC meeting, or Science Plan Reporting Session to provide context and more insight.* TAC and author/sponsor discussion summarized as part of meeting minutes, that discussion added to EDO summary document as part of the official record.
3. If warranted, the TAC will then request ISAC review of manuscript/document, EDO summary, author/sponsor summary, and summary of TAC discussion to provide independent evaluation of potential relevance to Program and implications for Program science (hypotheses, variables of interest, monitoring protocols, data collection, data analysis, data synthesis). The ISAC may be convened virtually or as part of next scheduled ISAC meeting to discuss and write up short summary of ISAC discussion.
4. EDO facilitates discussion with TAC to develop consensus recommendation for GC. TAC develops a recommendation for further consideration/evaluation and use in Program implementation, or for filing document as additional science of interest but no longer considered formally in further Program implementation. Documentation for this discussion includes manuscript/report, EDO summary, author/sponsor summary, TAC summary, and ISAC summary. If consensus recommendation cannot be reached, include majority and minority opinions.
5. Discuss at next scheduled GC meeting to inform GC of how outside science may or may not influence the direction of Program science and ultimately how (or if) it will factor into GC decision-making (e.g., through integration into SDM tools, changes to Program science implementation).