

What don't we know about Whooping Cranes that we need to know to contribute to their survival ?

This question is outside the purpose of the Program. All the Program can do is provide habitat, which is pretty well defined other than the ongoing debate over the value of wet meadows for whooping cranes.

Are the individuals that stop along the Central Platte actually more "fit" than those birds that do not?

Are there certain scenarios where Program water could be added to existing base flows to achieve desired management goals and other scenarios where it is neither efficient or effective to use water to achieve these goals?

Whether flows at the time of decision to stop or not impact WC use of Platte. Also need to investigate what base flows are preferential to maintenance of fish guilds.

Is summer germination suppression possible with the amount of water available to the Program?

How to maximize existing Program water for WC use.

Why is fall WC use consistently lower than spring. Importance of early spring WC use (younger birds, stay longer periods of time, etc.) WC stay length affected by what factors?

Is a mechanical/chemical approach more effective at controlling summer vegetation germination?

How much does habitat selection preference equate to habitat need? What are the minimum habitat requirements that are adequate to survival/recovery, even if more would be better/preferred?

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Identify existing knowledge gaps (Johnson 1994, 1997).
Summer flow impacts on seedling germination (>2,500 cfs)
and fisheries health (>1,000 cfs). Do hydrological conditions
impact WHCR use of wet meadow (seasonal wetland) or
rivine habitats, etc.?