



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
National Weather Service  
5250 E Lee Bird Drive  
North Platte, Nebraska 69101

DATE: July 29, 2020

TO: PRRIP Chokepoint Test Group

FROM: *Teresa Keck*  
Teresa Keck, Meteorologist in Charge  
North Platte, Nebraska

SUBJECT: NWS Observations from the July 2020 Test Flow Release

During the test flow release, there were notable differences between the north side of the North Platte River and areas along the south side of the river. The National Weather Service determined the established flood stage of 6.0 feet results in minor flooding along the south side of the North Platte River. Minor impacts began at 6.0 feet and at 6.5 feet; the impacts observed rose to the moderate flood category with inundation to structures and roads.

On the north side of the river no flood waters were observed impacting properties in the neighborhood around North River Road, nor along and south of Hall School Road.

Instead, impacts were along the southern portion of the river, where observed minor to near moderate flooding as defined by [National Weather Service definitions and general terminology dated November 26, 2019](#). Two significant impacts were near the River's Edge Golf Course and the Buffalo Bill State Park Campground to include:

- At 6.0 feet, water was observed flowing over the riverbank near a residence on Red Fox Road. The homeowner stated the weekend of July 18-19; his septic system began having issues as his leach field flooded. At around 6.5 feet, the water reached within five feet of the foundation of his home.
- The homeowner on Red Fox Road stated the river is now flooding at a lower flood stage level than previously seen since 2011 when the river overflowed the bank at 7.0 feet.
- On Vieyra Drive, floodwaters surrounded an abandoned structure with water flowing from the river.
- On Darlene Road, we observed a cellar with about two feet of water inside that appeared to be caused by groundwater. The homeowner reported septic tank issues and said toilets would not flush. A barn on the northeast side of the property was inaccessible due to water flowing across the access road. The homeowner stated the structure was flooded with a couple of feet of water.
- Additional minor flooding not previously observed of agricultural land observed about six miles northwest of the Highway 83 bridge, near the Muskrat Run State Wildlife Management Area.
- At Cody Park, the historical flood observations did not change.

In review, flood categories will remain the same for the gage on the North Platte River, at North Platte.