

Mark Czaplewski

Add reference to Appendix A in the Table of Contents. **Change made.**

The numbers in Table 1 are close to but not exactly what was provided to the GC in June. The GC table for Complexes totaled 12,104 acres and Table 1 here shows 12,078 acres – already factoring in the recent sales of lands. **Table 1 updated to reflect current land totals. The correct Complex Land total is 11,994 which is 110 acres less than Bruce reported to the GC as he had a 194-acre agreement with TNC when the actual agreement only includes 84 acres.**

Table 1. PRRIP Habitat Complexes and Individual Parcels

| Complex Name | Bridge Segment | Complex Size (ac) | Complex Status |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Plum Creek | Lexington – Overton | 716 | Partial – Focus on Sediment Augmentation |
| Cottonwood Ranch | Overton – Elm Creek | 902 | Complete |
| Elm Creek | Elm Creek – Odessa | 1,171 | Complete |
| Pawnee | Odessa – Kearney | 474 | Partial – May Expand to West |
| Fort Kearny | Kearney – Minden | 2,190 | Complete |
| Younkin | Minden – Gibbon | 51 | PRRIP Ownership |
| Clark Island | Gibbon – Shelton | 784 | Partial – New Complex |
| N/A | Shelton – Wood River | 54 | Partial |
| Shoemaker Island | Wood River – Alda | 1,064 | Complete |
| | Sub Total | 7,406 | |
| Individual Complex Habitat Parcels | | | |
| Robb Management Agreement | Lexington – Overton | 150 | Sediment Augmentation Management Agreement |
| NPPD | Overton – Elm Creek | 2,650 | Sponsorship Agreement |
| Private Ownership | Elm Creek – Odessa | 267 | Management Agreement |
| DOR Agreement and Private Ownership | Odessa – Kearney | 268 | Management Agreement |
| Audubon Management Agreement | Minden – Gibbon | 783 | Management Agreement |
| TNC Management Agreement | Shelton – Wood River | 84 | Management Agreement |
| Crane Trust, and Private Ownership Management Agreement | Wood River – Alda | 90 | Management Agreement |
| Martin Meadows | Alda – Grand Island | 286 | Conservation Easement |
| Private Ownership | Grand Island – Chapman | 10 | Management Agreement |
| | Sub Total | 4,588 | |
| | Total¹ | 11,994 | |

¹ Reported total is reflective of the 2018 sale of excess lands at Tracts 2010004, 2011001, and 2012002.

Table 2 – for DeBore change “Fee Tile” to “Fee Title”. **Change made.**

Page 15, 2nd paragraph – I think it should be “Section V” not Section IV”. **Change made.**

Matt Rabbe

Page 11 - “In cases where the channel width is narrower than 650 ft, tree clearing and overbank disking will be utilized to encourage channel widening to at least 650 ft.” - I know at some complexes we’ve used a combination of these techniques in addition to mechanically pushing in the banks. I recommend adding “mechanically pushing in banks/islands” as an option in the toolbox in the event that circumstances dictate more aggressive channel widening that isn’t being accomplished using other techniques.

Page 11 - Therefore, in cases where unforested widths are narrower than 1,100 ft (NF X 2), forest clearing will be utilized to increase unforested width to 1,100 ft. In cases where the channel width is narrower than 650 ft, tree clearing, overbank disking, and/or mechanically pushing in banks/islands to widen the channel will be utilized to encourage channel widening to at least 650 ft.

Page 13 - I’m sure it’s already included in the tract specific management plans but as it reads in the “other species of concern” section, it makes it sound like other species of concern will only be considered on the plus up acres. Might want change the verbiage to state they are considered on a case by case situation on all the properties.

Page 13 - When implementing land management actions, the Program will, where practical, select restoration, maintenance and other management measures for the target species that do not harm or may benefit other “species of concern,” when such activities are consistent with the needs of the target species and are within the Program budget. An initial list of “species of concern” as related to land management is found in Section VI B.

Jojo La

Minor edits made throughout.

B.3.d – “Do no Harm” to Pallid Sturgeon – “Program participants are currently determining the best approach for the pallid sturgeon. The Program is currently developing a plan for potential future activities related to the pallid sturgeon.”

Page 10 - Although most Program management actions are site-specific, three activities are intended to provide system-scale benefits. The first is large, scale sediment (sand) augmentation to offset the sediment deficit due to clear-water hydropower returns via Central Nebraska Public and Power and Irrigation District’s (CNPPID) J-2 Return near Lexington. The second activity is flow management, specifically flow releases from the Environmental Account or other Program water projects for the purpose of benefiting Program target species. The third system-scale management activity the Program contributes too is phragmites control. Each of these activities is described in more detail below.

Ted LaGrange

Minor edits made throughout.

Page 8 - Should mention some of the wetland restoration work done--- e.g., slough restoration, water-control structures, sediment removal, etc. Planting of high diversity seedings could also be mentioned.

First Increment restoration activities at Program habitat complexes have included channel widening, clearing of woody vegetation to increase unobstructed sight distances for whooping cranes, slough restoration, construction of water-control structures to increase wetlands for whooping cranes, sediment removal, planting high diversity seedings, and mechanical creation of in-channel nesting islands for least terns and piping plovers.

Page 11 - I suggest that you also convey that there are wetlands scattered within the grasslands and most of these wetlands will be managed the same way the grasslands are (e.g., grazing, fire, etc.).

The Program currently manages lowland grasslands and other grassland buffer habitat for whooping crane and species of concern (e.g., sandhill cranes). Program grassland sites and wetlands within them will be managed through the use of rotations combining livestock grazing, haying, mowing, and prescribed fire to provide a diverse mixture of vegetative structure and species composition.

Page 14 - Maybe this is too fine a point, but grazing is a land management activity, and we don't want to get into a position where it is not allowed during the migration period. To address this, you might want to have an exemption for grazing.

For habitat restoration and mechanical land management activities in or within 0.25 miles of the Platte River channels occurring between March 6 and April 29 or October 9 and November 15 shall only take place from one hour following sunrise to two hours prior to sunset unless otherwise approved by the USFWS's Whooping Crane Coordinator.

Page 15 - Having this specified would be good and would help cover situations when new species are listed or existing species are delisted.

The Program will work with the USFWS and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) to identify potential impacts to state and/or federally listed endangered or threatened species and species of concern and will address them as part of this document.