



## Monthly Report for November 2010

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### Programs / Projects / Activities

- **River Obstruction Removal:** Olsson Associates have developed cost estimates for the obstruction removal project at Two Rivers State Recreation Area. The new cost estimates provide options for removal of the obstructions using a temporary bridge which has been preliminarily requested by USFWS. Additionally the estimates provide an option to utilize equipment that can work within the river. As can be expected all options provide considerable escalated costs for removal. During November a summary memo was drafted and distributed to partners. We will be meeting with the USACE, NGPC and possibly USFWS on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Papio NRD office to discuss options.
- **Cumulative Impact Study:** As part of the CIS, Jeff Greenwald (USACE) and I returned focus to the conceptual model (CM) that we began exploring last winter. We held a conference call with Chad Smith, Platte River Recovery Program, to discuss the CM development process more fully and begin to formulate our next steps. Jeff and I are currently doing research and will be meeting in December to begin to assemble a draft CM for the Lower Platte River. We then hope to meet with several other scientists, managers, and technicians for review and input of our draft CM.

I also began returning some attention to the in-kind accounting for the Lower Platte River & Tributaries Authority. I will be working with each NRD, DNR, and NGPC during December and January to hopefully finalize the accounting process.

Finally, the sediment samples collected by USGS this past summer as part of Phase III should be analyzed by the contracting lab during December, January and February. Phase III should be completed by the end of the next fiscal year.

- **Environmental Suitability Assessment:** HDR is currently making some small edits to the ESA viewer. I met with Matt Pillard to review the current look and feel of the viewer and consult with him on some changes. Additionally we are in process of ground-truthing the LSA model and making edits to the model. We will be working with Dave Sands of the Nebraska Land Trust to schedule a meeting with their Lower Platte Workgroup and we will also be scheduling a meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee to further refine and review the model.
- **Waters of Nebraska:** In November the final version of the “Discover the Waters of Nebraska” educational booklet was finalized and printed. It was very exciting to receive the final booklets after three years of working on this project dating back to my days at the National Drought Mitigation Center. We will be finalizing the educator’s guide and then will be working the NRDs, UNL, State Department of Education, and other agencies to distribute the 50,000 free copies we received as part of our agreement with Project WET.
- **Tern & Plover Partnership:** The Tern & Plover Partnership was awarded funds through the State Wildlife Grant Program for the renovation and restoration of sandbars in the Lower Platte for Tern and Plover habitat. I met with Mary Bomberger Brown (Tern & Plover Partnership coordinator) during November to discuss options and opportunities to utilize the funds to provide habitat while also contributing to the invasive species programs. In early December, Mary and I will be meeting with John Winkler (P-MRNRD) and Joel Jorgensen (NGPC) to further discuss the opportunities and begin to formalize a plan to utilize the funds to benefit all partners and the Lower Platte.

- **Upcoming meetings/conferences/events:**

- **NDEQ Retreat Presentation:** Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>
- **LPRCA Quarterly Meeting:** Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 9:30 a.m., LPNNRD