



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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Monthly Report for September 2011

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Water Trail

The LPRCA is helping the NGPC in mapping, exploring funding and eventually development of educational material to formalize and/or expand the lower Platte River water trail. This is a great opportunity to continue our collaboration, expand opportunities to get stakeholders on the river and increase visibility of the LPRCA. I spent a couple of additional days on the water in September with NGPC and LPSNRD personnel mapping and exploring areas for either refurbished access areas or entirely new ones. The existing information for the water trail will be available during October for public viewing. NGPC has asked for help from the LPRCA in naming the segments of the water trail on the lower Platte. I will be working with other LPRCA representatives to name the segments. We will continue more extensive mapping in October if the weather permits and I am planning to work with NGPC personnel as well as the NRDs on further identifying locations and funding options for additional access or stopping points along the trail.

Environmental Suitability Assessment

The Environmental Suitability Assessment and Land Suitability Analysis went “live” on the NRD Mapmaker site during September. LPNNRD personnel continue to work out some minor tweaks within the viewer. I will be having the ESA viewer on display at the UNL Climate Water & Ecosystems Symposium in October in Lincoln. We plan to demonstrate the tool to LPRCA representatives at the next Quarterly Meeting on October 20th, at Papio NRD.

River Obstruction Removal at Two Rivers

During September, discussions about the design and permitting of the removal of the obstructions located near Two Rivers State Recreation area commenced again. I had a lengthy discussion with Bob Harms of USFWS about concerns of using causeways for the removal effort as well as a potential “middle ground solution”. Olsson Associates is currently looking at a design alternative cost and feasibility. We will be discussing that and other issues regarding the potential removal at a meeting with USFWS, USACE, the NRDS, and NGPC on October 20th.

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting

The next LPRCA Quarterly Meeting will be Thursday, October 20th at 930 a.m. at Papio-Missouri River NRD. We will be demonstrating the ESA/LSA viewer as well as discussing updates on the on-going projects. Additionally, Jana Sittler Hafer of the Nebraska Land Trust will be providing an update on the NLT’s work within the lower Platte River Corridor.