



Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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## Monthly Report for December 2011

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### **River Obstruction Removal at Two Rivers**

In early December, a meeting was held between the LPRCA, Olsson Associates, NGPC, USFWS and USACE to discuss the design considerations for the removal of the obstructions located near Two Rivers State Recreation. Following the meeting Don Day (OA) provided some revisions to the altered design to address the small concerns voiced by USACE and USFWS which were discussed at the meeting. Those revisions were shared with the three NRDs as well as the other agency representatives that attended the meeting. A meeting with the three NRDs and OA will take place in early January to discuss the revised design, cost, and next steps.

### **Land Suitability Analysis**

In December, I met with Matt Pillard to discuss the next steps in beginning the process of developing the predictive components of the LSA. In January we will be contacting the Technical Advisory Committee and a few additional individuals who will assist us in developing the scenarios. The scenarios will most likely be various percentages of change in land use and will serve to better inform stakeholders who utilize the tool what the impact on agriculture, water quality, recreation, and land preservation may be with a change in land use. We hope to have the scenarios fully developed by summer. The viewer can be found at <http://nrdmapmaker.org/lpresa/>.

### **Cumulative Impact Study**

Phase III of the CIS continues to progress. In December the agreement between the USACE and USGS was finalized. In January we will be meeting to kick off the second portion of Phase III of the CIS with the sediment budget analysis anticipated to be completed in summer 2012.

The conceptual ecological model is also progressing. Following our last conference call in November, USACE began assembling the actual model/diagram as well as the associated reports. We will be meeting again in January to review the model and draft reports and continue progress towards its completion this summer as well.

### **NEWSLETTER**

During December we returned focus to starting the LPRCA Newsletter once again. The Newsletter should be finalized in January and distributed to stakeholders of the Lower Platte River Corridor by the end of the month. Look for a new name and a new design!

### **PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

In December we received five sets of qualifications from firms in Lincoln and Omaha. The qualifications will be reviewed by a small group of LPRCA representatives in January with interviews and final selection to follow. We hope to have a firm in place and ready to start by February.

## **NDEQ/CALMIT**

I continued to work with NDEQ, Papio and CALMIT on the development of a project to use thermal imagery produced by CALMIT to identify non-point source contamination within the lower Platte River. The initial project plan was approved by NDEQ and will need to ultimately gain EPA approval. The project will encompass flights of the entire reach of the lower Platte River as well as Ginger Cove and the South Bend Area. We also now plan to add a flight over another housing area near Fremont to utilize the remainder of the funds if approved. Once this data has been collected and reviewed we will seek additional funding for education/outreach and a cost-share program with landowners/developments where non-point source contamination may be detected. We hope to finalize this contract in January.

## **Upcoming Events:**

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the Lower Platte North NRD

NARD Legislative Conference: January 23-25, 2012, Embassy Suites, Lincoln

River Management Society Symposium: April 23-27, 2012, Asheville, NC