



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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Monthly Report for November 2011

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Land Suitability Analysis

In November, the LPRCA entered into a contract with HDR Inc to develop the predictive component of the Land Suitability Analysis portion of the Environmental Suitability Assessment. Following the first of the year, I will be working with HDR to begin to assemble a technical advisory committee to assist us with developing the scenarios (i.e. various percentages of change in land use) 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. I am looking forward to continuing to build upon the ESA and LSA to provide continued comprehensive and coordinated land use information to stakeholders. The viewer can be found at <http://nrdmapmaker.org/lpresa/>.

River Obstruction Removal at Two Rivers

During November, discussions about the design and permitting of the removal of the obstructions located near Two Rivers State Recreation continued. Olsson Associates prepared a revised scope reflecting the changes to the original design as suggested by the USACE and USFWS. The revised design was sent to the NRDs, USACE, USFWS and NGPC for their review and comments were received. A meeting will be held in early December between the LPRCA, NGPC, USFWS and USACE to discuss the design considerations.

Cumulative Impact Study

Phase III of the CIS continues to progress. The USACE developed a scope for the sediment budget analysis in November. USGS provided a proposal to address the necessary tasks under the scope and a conference call was held at the end of November to discuss the proposal. USGS will be analyzing the sediment samples they collected as part of the first portion of Phase III of the CIS. The samples will be analyzed to identify annual sediment movement in the river system. The LPRCA and USACE will review the results of the USGS work and a report for Phase III of the CIS will be developed by the USACE. It is anticipated that Phase III, including the conceptual ecological model that we are currently still working on, will be completed during Summer 2012.

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. An additional area may be added depending on financial constraints. 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.

Heidi Christensen

Heidi Christensen has served as the LPRCA Intern since August of 2010. Heidi will be leaving her position with the LPRCA on Monday, December 12th as she pursues a new exciting career with the railroad. She has been an invaluable asset to the LPRCA and our many projects, programs, and events and I know all of you that have had the opportunity to work with Heidi over the last year will second her contribution to the LPRCA. We thank her and wish her all the best!

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting: January 19th, 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