



Monthly Report for December 2010

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Programs / Projects / Activities

- **River Obstruction Removal:** On December 9th, I, Marlin Petermann (P-MRNRD), John Miyoshi & Mike Sousek (LPNNRD), representatives of both Olsson Associates & NGPC met with members of USFWS & USACE. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential options for removing the obstructions near Two Rivers State Recreation Area and to better understand the parameters for the previously stated requirement to build a temporary bridge to remove the obstructions. The meeting resulted in a continued assertion by USFWS and USACE that a temporary bridge would be required to complete the project. The cost estimate for a temporary bridge would essentially more than double the cost of the project. We will continue to discuss any potential options in the weeks leading up to and after the next Quarterly Meeting.
- **Cumulative Impact Study:** The draft documents from the USGS work under Phase III were delivered to the USACE & LPRCA at the end of December. The draft reports, "Geomorphologic Classification and Evaluation of Channel Width and Emergent Sandbar Habitat Relationships on the Lower Platte River, Nebraska" and "Sediment Samples and Channel-Geometry Data, Lower Platte River Watershed, 2010" are currently being reviewed by USACE and the LPRCA. Comments will be provided in January and the USACE will begin to work to develop the actual sediment budget for the Lower Platte River.
- **Environmental Suitability Assessment:** I continued to work with HDR on making some small edits to the ESA viewer and ground-truthing for the LSA model. We will be holding a TAC meeting for the LSA at the end of January or first part of February to gather feedback on the output of the LSA and make any recommended revisions. We will also be scheduling meetings with several counties in the corridor to review the report and model. HDR should begin working with Chris Poole at LPNNRD to integrate the ESA viewer into MapMaker.
- **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. In December, Mary Bomberger Brown of the Tern & Plover Partnership, John Winkler (P-MRNRD), and I met with the Lower Platte Weed Management Area to discuss options and opportunities to utilize the funds to provide habitat while also contributing to the invasive species programs. The Tern & Plover Partnership will be joining the NRDs and LPWMA to remove vegetation from sandbars for the 2011 year. I will be meeting with Mary, Mike Reid, and Chris Poole to better pinpoint their focus areas during January.
- **Upcoming meetings/conferences/events:**
 - **LPRCA Quarterly Meeting:** Tuesday, January 18th, 2011, 9:30 a.m., LPNNRD
 - **NARD Annual Legislative Conference:** January 25-26, 2011, Embassy Suites, Lincoln