U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Platte River

Recovery Implementation Plan

Piping plover / USFWS

Background

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) is a comprehensive, basin-wide program with the goal of enhancing the recovery of four federally listed species, the whooping crane (endangered), interior least tern (endangered), the Northern Great Plains population of the piping plover (threatened), and the pallid sturgeon (endangered), while accommodating continued water development in the Platte basin.

The states of Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska, and the U.S. Department of Interior are signatories to the program agreement, and a diverse group of water-user interests and environment groups are involved in governance of the Program and in its advisory committees.

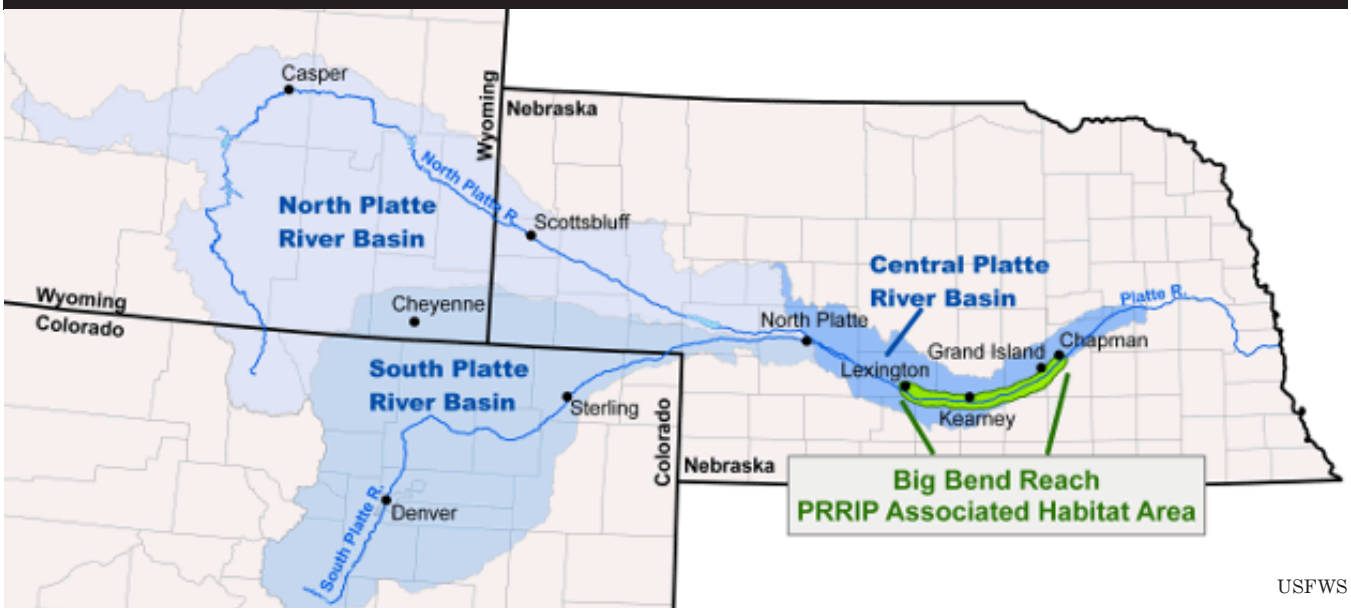
The PRRIP is being implemented in an incremental manner, with the First Increment covering the 13-year period from 2007 through 2019. There are ambitious goals during the first increment of the Program, including major water management changes (e.g. re-regulating existing flows and adding to flows through conservation and acquisition), acquisition and restoration of 10,000 acres of Central Platte River habitat for the species in Nebraska, and a robust Adaptive Management component of the Program to learn more about species recovery needs.

Pallid Sturgeon / USFWS

Piping plover chick / USFWS

Whooping Crane / USFWS

Least stern / USFWS



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Program Area
The land acquisition and management for the target bird species will occur in the central Platte River region (Lexington to Chapman, Nebraska). Program water activities will be designed to provide benefits for the target bird species in the central Platte region and for the pallid sturgeon in the lower Platte River stretch (below the Elkhorn River confluence). These areas are generally known as the "associated habitats."

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October 2010