

KRVN Natural Resources Report
November 19, 2008
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I'm John Thorburn with Tri-Basin NRD in Holdrege, and this is the Natural Resources Report.

In 2006, Governor Dave Heineman committed the State of Nebraska to participate in the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. This program is a cooperative effort between the states of Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is intended to restore and enhance habitat for endangered Whooping Cranes and Piping Plovers.

The Platte River Program provides an alternative to regulation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for irrigation districts and public power districts that need federal permits for their operations. In exchange for regulatory relief, the participating states have agreed to help the Fish and Wildlife Service restore bird habitat along the Platte River in central Nebraska.

The program will purchase as many as 10,000 acres of land along the river. It will also build projects that will deliver as much as 150,000 acre-feet of water a year to the Platte River. The program also plans to excavate many tons of sand and gravel and dump it in the riverbed to create new sandbars and islands.

The Platte River Program has many ambitious plans to improve wildlife habitat, but it also has a good neighbor policy that commits the program to prevent any harm to private lands. Furthermore, the program can only buy land from willing sellers.

Platte Basin NRDs represent local landowners on program committees, making sure that the program lives up to its commitment to be a good neighbor.

If you want more information about the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, call their office in Kearney. Their phone number is 308 237-5728.

Thank you for listening. I'm John Thorburn with Tri-Basin NRD, keeping you informed about your natural resources.