

Project 09-118 Invasive Species Control along the Platte River

Project Legend:

In 2008 the Platte Valley Weed Management Area (PVWMA) and West Central Weed Management Area (WCWMA), collectively referred to as WMA's, collaborated to apply and receive grant funding for invasive plant species control within the Platte River channels of Nebraska. The primary goal of this project is to improve native wildlife habitat and river channel flow conveyance through the eradication and clearing of invasive vegetation species. Long Term management will be done by working with the landowners to implement grazing systems focusing on maintaining native wildlife habitat. A secondary goal is to develop a long-term set of "best management practices" for phragmites based on efficacy of treatments, cost effectiveness and wildlife habitat benefits.

Proposal Context: Regional

Duration: 2009–2014

Cost: \$3,973,750.89 Total, \$999,963.70 awarded from NET

NET Funding Objective: Habitat, Water

Process:

- Aerial and ground application techniques were used to apply herbicide while disking and shredding were used for biomass removal.
- Bid packages were sent to all contractors that showed interest in the project. Contractors were selected on price, quality of previous work, references and time frame available.
- To date, the majority of applications have been performed by helicopter and the biomass removal has been both by disking and shredding.
- High river flows in 2010 prevented partial biomass removal from occurring but flows snapped two-year dead phragmites stems and removed the majority of standing dead biomass.
- Infestations within and along Platte River channels were paid in full by partnering agencies.
- A cost-share policy was established for landowners with infestations outside of channel high banks.
- Initial evaluation of control has been very positive. Herbicide application has proved effective with minimal re-infestations occurring. Flow conveyance has improved within the central Platte River as a result of this project and wildlife habitat has increased.

Domains: The removal/clearing of invasive species that took place throughout the course of this project has greatly improved the native wildlife habitat and placed this project under the Environmental domain. The Technological domain is also represented because of the different techniques used for the removal of biomass.

Transferability: Biomass removal and invasive species control operations could be implemented along affected river channels in a variety of settings. These treatment techniques could be recommended for any area experiencing similar problems.

