

## PLATTE VALLEY and WEST CENTRAL WEED MANAGEMENT AREA's

### Policy On Cost Share Programs For Controlling Invasive Plant Species Within the Platte River Corridor. Effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

#### Introduction

Since 2007 the PVWMA and WCWMA's have initiated and coordinated a landscape scale control effort on invasive plant species within and along the Platte River channels. An estimated 14,000 acres of Phragmites infestation occur within a 336 mile stretch of the Platte River. Project area is from Kingsley Dam on the North Platte River, Big Springs on the South Platte River to the city of North Platte, down to Columbus, Nebraska on the Platte River. Goals of this effort are:

- 1) Control infestations of Phragmites and other invasive plant species by chemical and/or mechanical techniques
- 2) Removal of dead biomass within the channels of the Platte River to:
  - a. Increase flow conveyance
  - b. Increase wildlife habitat
  - c. Decrease water usage by invasive plant species
  - d. Decrease flooding potential within the Platte River valley

Costs of these treatments may reach \$300.00 per acre for individual landowners. PVWMA and WCWMA have received multiple grants and funds from local interest groups to complete project goals. The following cost share guide lines will be followed while implementing control techniques on private landowners within the project area.

#### Cost-Share Guide Lines

Invasive plant species (Phragmites, Saltcedar, Russian olive trees, cedar trees, etc.) that are within Platte River Channels and control techniques that are implemented and coordinated by the WMA's project coordinator will be 100% funded by WMA sources. These channels are documented by 2001 USGS colored infrared aerial photography. River channels within this photo data set are shown in blue (running water) or a darker, monotone maroon color (monoculture stands of Phragmites). Trees and other back water channels are brighter red in color and interspersed with mature trees (Appendix A).

Invasive plant species (Phragmites, Saltcedar, Russian olive trees, cedar trees, etc.) that occur outside documented river channels may be cost shared up to 85% with the remaining 15% contribution from the landowner as a cash match. The 85% cost share amount maybe met by a variety of funding sources, including grant dollars and local interest group monies.

We encourage landowners to independently apply through other funding sources, such as NRCS's CCPI EQIP and CCPI WHIP programs. Landowners who receive other monies

and/or implement control measures themselves on invasive plant species within the Platte River Corridors and want to receive up to 85% cost-share through the WMA's must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Attempt enrollment in NRCS's CCPI EQIP program or CCPI WHIP program. Landowners do not have to qualify for programs or receive federal money but must attempt enrollment. Landowners must prove rejection by NRCS programs. This will allow WMA's grant monies to assist in more cost-share treatments.
- 2) Landowner must obtain at least two price quotes from qualified contractors. WMA's can provide a contractor list if needed. Landowners may choose any contractor or perform treatments themselves.
- 3) Landowners that choose to perform treatments themselves will be paid the lowest price of three qualified contractors' price quotes of like treatments. One of the three must be the county, or closest neighboring county weed control authority price for performing like tasks.
- 4) Landowners must supply WMA's with documentation of performance. This will consist of a copy of chemical purchase receipt and a map showing acres of application and/or removal area. Area applied must also be approved by county weed superintendant or appointed person by county weed superintendant.
- 5) Landowners that chose to perform treatments themselves must hold private applicators license, in correct categories, to receive cost share from WMA's.
- 6) Landowners must be pre-approved by WMA finance committee; finance committee consists of at least two representatives from PVWMA, two representatives from WCWMA and project coordinator.

Cost share policy approved on \_\_\_\_\_ by PVWMA and \_\_\_\_\_ by WCWMA.

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PVWMA chairman

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WCWMA chairman

## Appendix A

2001 aerial photos showing multiple flowing channels of the Platte River west of Kearney, Nebraska

