

- USFWS bureaucrats in Denver, Colorado, will become our masters. The CA program, which has already become a federal government job creation boon, will grow, and grow, and grow. The USFWS will control our river, and our use of it. The USFWS is an agency that is willing to go to any extreme to achieve its goals.

- Since the beginning of the CA development process back in 1997, we have stood foursquare against the CA. Whenever and wherever possible, we have lobbied, protested, and fought against it. We have met with governors Johanns and Heineman, and presented them with options that would generate increased Platte River flows without harming irrigation rights. Responsible forest management in the mountains from which the headwaters of the North Platte River are born would generate the additional flows sought. Studies by respected and credentialed hydrologists document this fact. Forest management is a good thing that has been neglected for years by the US Forest Service. It is very important to know that without forest management, flows reaching the measuring station at Grand Island will be reduced every year by about 22,000 acre feet.

The other recommendation we presented to Governor Johanns was the construction of new dams. Increased storage of water will allow for timed and measured releases of flows when needed. These two options, forest management and new impoundments, would easily create the additional flows desired by the US Fish and Wildlife Service without adversely affecting our number one industry which is struggling with enough troubles already.

- Finally, we do not have a water shortage problem in Nebraska. Consider these facts: Every year, on average, 2 million acre feet of water flow into Nebraska from Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas. Unfortunately, because of poor surface water management, we let 8 million acre feet of water flow out of Nebraska into the Missouri River and then into the Gulf of Mexico where it becomes useless salt water. Also, on average, 90 million acre feet of precipitation falls onto our state every year. Again, we do not have a water shortage problem. More reservoirs in the right places would take care of it all.

- We look at the central Platte and see the heart and soul of Nebraska. The USFWS looks at the same central Platte and sees wetlands, roosting sites, nesting areas and foraging habitats. We see thriving communities all along the Platte now in the 21st century. They want things to be returned to how they were in the 19th century.

- Governor Heineman must not sign off on the Cooperative Agreement. If he does sign it, ultimate control of the Platte River will be handed over to the USFWS.

- The DNR has scheduled three public hearings to hear what the public has to say about the Cooperative Agreement program, as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
September 6	1:00 p.m. MDT	Gering Civic Center 1050 M Street Gering
September 22	1:00 p.m. CDT	Fonner Park 4H Bldg. 700 E. Stolley Park Rd. Grand Island
October 10	1:00 p.m. CDT	Embassy Suites 1040 P Street Lincoln

- We will be there. We need as many of our members, supporters and allies to attend and speak out loud and clear against the Cooperative Agreement.

- This CA is not Governor Heineman's program. He inherited it from Governor Johanns who inherited from Governor Ben Nelson. Unfortunately for Governor Heineman, he now is in the tough position of whether or not to sign it. We need to let him know that he will have great support if he does the right thing for Nebraska and chooses not to sign the CA.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Please check your records and if you have not already renewed your Nebraskans First membership, now is a good time to do so before the busy harvest season kicks in.