

13th Platte River Basin Ecosystem Symposium

Restoring, conserving, and understanding the Central Platte River Valley from wet meadows to Whooping Cranes: where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going

June 5th and 6th, 2018



Request for Presentation Proposals

The *Platte River Basin Ecosystem Symposium* was held yearly then biannually from 1990 to 2003 with funding provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and coordination by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Platte Watershed Program which has since been inactive. Its intent was to provide researchers and land stewards an opportunity to stay abreast of ongoing research within the Platte River Basin and develop shared goals for future inquiry. Organizations including the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, and the Crane Trust have been actively conserving and studying habitat in the Central Platte River Valley since the 1970s cooperating with regional partners including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U. S. Geological Survey, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, and others. Additionally, in 2007, we saw the initiation of the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program, which has focused on studying and improving habitat for federally threatened and endangered species.

To celebrate 40 years operating on the Platte River, the Crane Trust (est. 1978) is planning to host and reconvene the *Platte River Basin Ecosystem Symposium* with the support of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Nebraska Water Center and our conservation partners throughout the Platte River Basin. Our goal for this effort is to provide a snapshot of ongoing research in the Central Platte River Valley, a broad assessment of the ecosystem's current condition, and further clarify future conservation and research priorities. We are seeking applied science presentations from practitioners, academics, graduate students, and others on all topics

related to conservation efforts in the Central Platte River Valley and adjacent ecosystems. We welcome abstract submissions regarding fish and wildlife conservation and ecology, hydrology, water quality, vegetation ecology, wet meadows, prairie and wetland restoration, exotic species control and management, songbird, shorebird, and crane ecology, endangered species topics, habitat mapping and modeling, insect conservation, natural history, herpetology, and all other topics relevant to the conservation of the Central Platte River Valley and adjacent ecosystems.

Presentation Structure:

- 15 minute (regular) or 25 minute (extended) both including a 5 minute question and answer period afterwards. Please specify your preference along with your abstract submission.

Abstract Submission:

- Abstract submission should include a working title, authors and affiliations, and a description of the project under 300 words. Please specify how this topic relates to conservation efforts within the Platte River Basin and adjacent habitats.
- Please submit presentation abstracts by April 15th, 2018 for consideration and indicate whether you would like to participate in the interactive workshop on June 6th examining knowledge gaps and conservation needs within the Platte River Valley.
- A registration fee of \$25 to help cover the costs of meals/operations can be sent payable to the “Crane Trust” via check at The Crane Trust, attention Catherine Cargill, 6611 W Whooping Crane Drive, Wood River, Nebraska or paid during the registration period on the morning of June 5th.
- Submit abstracts as a word or pdf document dually to:
Andy Caven, Lead Biologist, Crane Trust; acaven@cranetrust.org
Nicole Arcilla, Lead Scientist, Crane Trust; narcilla@cranetrust.org

Support and Coordination Provided by



The Crane Trust and The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Nebraska Water Center

Draft Schedule of Events

June 5th (Symposium)		
Period	Time	Event
Morning	700 am	Bird Walk
	700 am to 800 am	Registration Period
	800 am	Welcome
	820 am Session 1	Presentations 5, 15 min
	1000 am	Break
	1020 am Session 2	Presentations 2, 15 min 2, 25 min
Lunch Break	1200 pm	Lunch Break
Afternoon	100 pm Session 3	Presentations 5, 15 min
	240 pm	Break
	300 pm Session 4	Presentations 4, 25 min
	500 pm	Thank You
Evening	530 pm	Social Hour/Buffer
	700 pm	Independent Film Showing
June 6th (Workshop)		
Morning	800 am	Breakfast
	830 am	Workshop 1 Conservation Needs CPRV
	1000 am	Break
	1030 am	Workshop 2 Knowledge Gaps in CPRV
	1200 pm	Closing