



# PLATTE RIVER HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

## AN EVALUATION OF PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBLE NON-PARTICIPANTS

### FINAL REPORT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nebraska's native prairies are a valued resource and under constant anthropogenic demand and degradation. By engaging land owners in voluntary programs, the Platte River Habitat Partnership aims to restore and enhance this important natural resource. This report presents the results of an assessment of land owners' perceptions of the Platte River Habitat Partnership. Specifically, land owners who live in the region covered by the Partnership but did not participate, and those that did participate in the Partnership were surveyed in order to answer four key questions:

1. How knowledgeable are these land owners about the Partnership?
2. What is the nature of these land owners' interactions with the Partnership?
3. How is the Partnership itself generally perceived by these land owners?
4. What would encourage land owners who had not participated in the Partnership to participate?

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## MAJOR FINDINGS

The findings are based on 77 completed surveys, consisting of 17 land owners who participated in the Partnership and 60 land owners who did not participate but are eligible.

[1] Overall, land owners responded they were not particularly knowledgeable about the Partnership. Most of the respondents indicated moderate levels of awareness or less. Comparatively, however, participation in the Partnership was associated with greater awareness of the Partnership generally, as well as of the Partnership's policies and staff. Participation in the Partnership was not associated with greater awareness of its practices or goals. *These findings lead us to recommend that the Partnership undertake actions to increase land owner knowledge and awareness, especially of those land owners not currently participating in Partnership programs.*

[2] Consistent with their lack of knowledge about the Partnership, neither the land owners who participated in the Partnership nor the non-participants had a great deal of regular interaction with the Partnership. However, when land owners did interact with the Partnership, they rated their experience as generally positive. When asked about the degree to which the Partnership had met its goals and what changes would most improve it, land owners responses indicated that although the Partnership can be improved, none of the goals or changes seems to require particular attention as compared to the rest. Participation with the Partnership was related only to having more contact with the Partnership staff. *These findings lead us to recommend that any knowledge and awareness strategies employed by the Partnership include direct contacts by the Partnership with land owners in activities designed to make land owners subjectively feel they understand the Partnership's goals.*

[3] Land owners had generally positive perceptions of the Partnership. Specifically, respondents were most positive regarding their belief that the Partnership treats the public with respect and that the Partnership shares their values. Although land owners lowest ratings were for the impartiality of the Partnership – a belief that the Partnership is not overly influenced by specific interests – this rating was still positive overall. Land owners who participated in Partnership and non-participants differed only in that Partnership participants felt that the Partnership was even more respectful than did non-participants. *These findings lead us to recommend that the Partnership focus on portraying itself as not overly influenced by special interest through transparency regarding the rationales for its actions.*

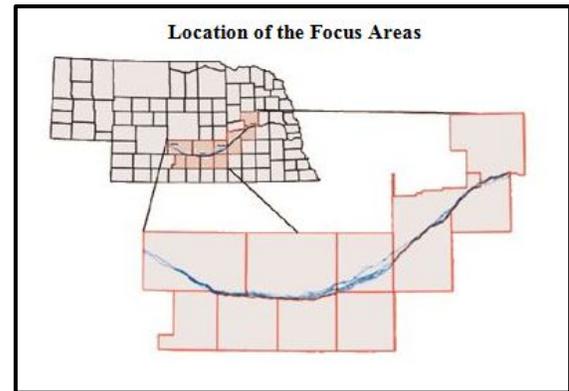
[4] Non-participants in the Partnership indicated they would be willing to participate in the Partnership if asked “today” when they had positive attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management. Specifically, land owners were most likely to report that they would join the Partnership when they felt that ecological restoration and land management were not too complicated or inconvenient and when they felt ecological restoration and land management have positive benefits to land owners. Other variables with a positive influence related to knowledge about and perceptions of the Partnership. *These findings lead us to recommend that the Partnership engage land owners regarding the inconvenience and complication of ecological restoration and land management.* In so doing, the Partnership is likely to increase land owner knowledge of it as well as improve attitudes regarding ecological restoration and land management and improve perceptions of itself by showing concern for land owners’ views.

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## BACKGROUND

Nebraska's native grassland prairie is under increasing anthropomorphic pressure from development. Cities like Grand Island and Kearney are rapidly growing, and the resultant division of previously large parcels of land is directly contributing to habitat fragmentation and degradation in the region.

The Platte River Habitat Partnership combines resources from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and The Nature Conservancy to create voluntary land owner programs that seek to preserve and restore Platte Valley grasslands around the Big Bend region of the Platte River in Nebraska. Specifically, the Partnership encourages land owners along the Platte River to engage in ecological restoration and land management practices by providing them with economic and technical support.



After seven years of successful operation – which have included the signing of 71 agreements on over 6,500 acres,– the Partnership received Nebraska Environmental Trust funding to commission an independent, third-party evaluation that would:

*assess and report on the experiences and beliefs of participating land owners (who have signed contracts) and those who have declined to enroll, to determine what is working and what can be improved- information that will benefit ALL community-based private lands in the [Platte River] valley.*

This report presents the findings of an independent evaluation conducted by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Partnership participants and eligible non-participants were surveyed about their awareness, experiences, and general perceptions of the Partnership.

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## SURVEY APPROACH

Surveys assessed the experiences and attitudes/beliefs of land owners. Specifically, the survey asked about land owner awareness, participation in Partnership, and experiences and perceptions of the Partnership. Slightly different surveys were sent to land owners who had participated in the Partnership program as compared to those who had not, with the only differences being questions specifically discussing their participation or non-participation. Land owners also were asked a series of demographic questions.

In order to maximize the number of responses, the Public Policy Center used a common and well-recognized process that includes multiple contacts with potential survey respondents and an incentive (in this survey, respondents were entered into a drawing for one, \$100 Cabela's gift-

card). Survey packets were mailed twice to potential respondents. Initially, surveys were sent out to 385 land owners identified by the Partnership (August 2011). Several months later (December 2011), surveys were again sent out, excluding those who already responded to the first mailing or had their packets returned for bad addresses.

In total, 48 surveys were sent to Partnership participants, of which 20 were returned. Three of those surveys were returned for a bad address, and the rest were returned completed, leaving 17 useable surveys (35% of the original 48). Three hundred and thirty-seven surveys were sent to land owners who had not participated in Partnership programs, of which 87 were returned. Twenty-seven (27) of these were returned for bad addresses, leaving 60 completed surveys (18% of the original 337).



## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

As shown in Table 1, the land owners were predominately Male (81%), White (93%), and Republican (53%). The average age was 59, with a range of 25 to 92 years old. Most respondents were willing to take “significant” or “moderate” personal risks for the sake of the environment (59%), indicating that it was at least somewhat important to them.

**TABLE 1. DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

MAJORITY/PLURALITY BOLDED

NOTE THAT ROW PERCENTAGES MAY NOT TOTAL 100% BECAUSE OF MISSING DATA (RESPONDENT MARKED “PREFER NOT TO ANSWER,” LEFT RESPONSE BLANK, ETC.)

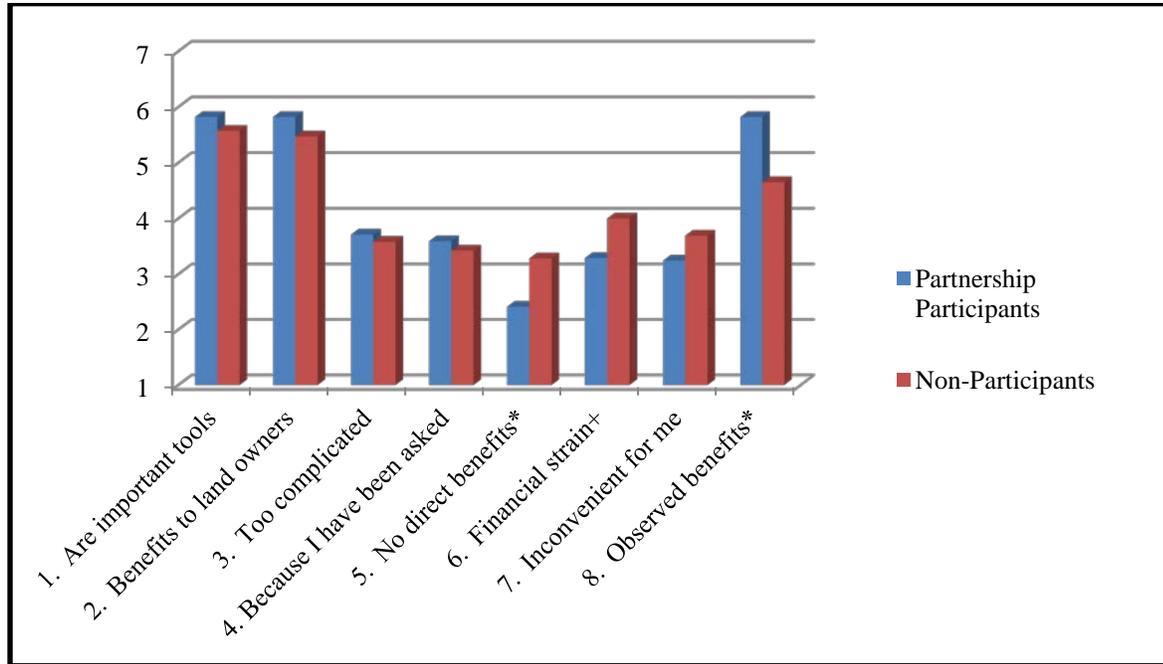
Variable	Complete Sample %	Participants	% Non-Participants
<b>Gender</b>			
<i>Male</i>	<b>81</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>79</b>
<i>Female</i>	16	6	20
<b>Race</b>			
<i>African American</i>	0	0	0
<i>Asian American</i>	0	0	0
<i>Latino/a</i>	0	0	0
<i>Native Hawaiian</i>	0	0	0
<i>Native American</i>	1	0	2
<i>White</i>	<b>93</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>93</b>
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0
<i>Prefer not to answer</i>	3	6	2
<b>Political Affiliation</b>			
<i>Republican</i>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>Non-partisan but lean Republican</i>	15	15	12
<i>Non-partisan</i>	8	9	6
<i>Non-partisan but lean Democrat</i>	8	9	6
<i>Democrat</i>	13	11	18
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0
<i>Prefer not to answer</i>	3	4	0
<b>Willingness to Accept Personal Risk for the Environment</b>			
<i>“Significant” risk</i>	11	12	11
<i>“Moderate” risk</i>	<b>48</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>
<i>“Small” risk</i>	23	35	23
<i>“No” risk</i>	5	0	5

The respondents reported having positive or neutral attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management (see Figure 1<sup>1</sup>). Finally, respondents reported having a strong willingness to trust other people generally (the average response was 2.64 on a 1-7 scale where 1 indicated more trust and 7 indicated less trust), suggesting that these land owners are not fundamentally distrustful about others.

**FIGURE 1.** TO WHAT EXTENT TO YOU AGREE (1) OR DISAGREE (7) WITH STATEMENTS REGARDING THE ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT?

\*INDICATES STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS AND NON-PARTICIPANTS;

+INDICATES MARGINALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES



Partnership participants did not differ considerably from non-participants on most of the sample characteristics indicating that, for the most part, participants in the Partnership were much the same as non-participants. The only significant differences identified indicated that Partnership participants tended to have more positive attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management. Specifically, Partnership participants were more likely to say they have personally observed benefits, and they were less likely to indicate they felt that ecological restoration and land management had no direct benefits to land owners. Additionally, Partnership participants were somewhat less likely to believe that ecological restoration and land management caused a financial strain for them (see Figure 1).

<sup>1</sup> In the figures, \*’s indicate significant differences across respondent groups (between participants and non-participants in the Partnership) while +’s indicate marginally significant difference. Traditionally statistical significance is defined as having less than a 5% chance that the difference is due to chance. A marginally significant difference is defined as having less than a 10% probability. In the text, statistically significant differences will be referred to as differences while marginally significant differences will be referred to as “trends” or “likely” differences.

## QUESTION ONE: HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE ARE THESE LAND OWNERS ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP?

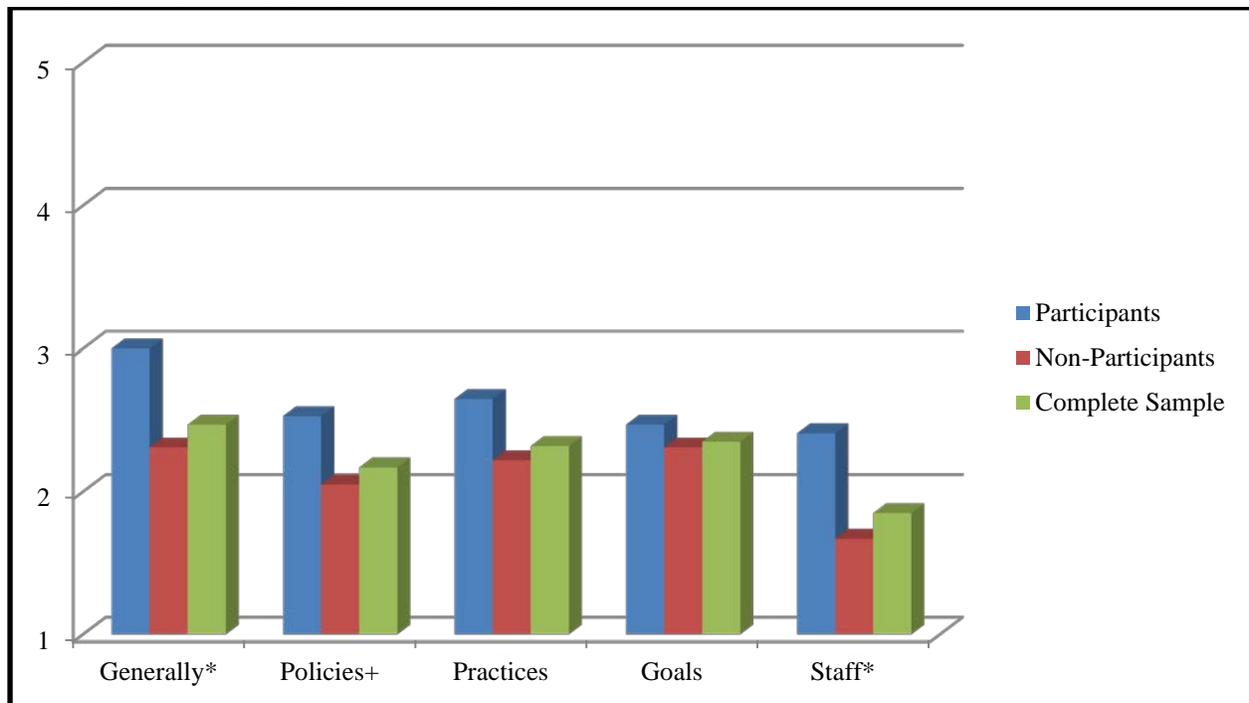
Land owners responded to a series of questions intended to assess how knowledgeable they were about various aspects of the Partnership. They were asked about their subjective knowledge and also asked about their objective knowledge. Finally, respondents were asked about the source of their knowledge about the Partnership.

The land owners indicated low awareness of the Partnership, overall. In general, responses were lowest regarding their rating of their knowledge of the Partnership staff and its policies (see Figure 2). On the other hand, land owners reported greater knowledgeable about the Partnership generally, its practices, and its goals; however, even these scores were still well below the mid-point of the scale. This suggests that most Partnership participants felt that they were not very knowledgeable about the Partnership.

**FIGURE 2. HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ASPECTS OF THE PARTNERSHIP?**

\*INDICATES STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS AND NON-PARTICIPANTS;

+INDICATES MARGINALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES



Respondents also scored poorly on questions intended to measure their actual knowledge. Specifically, land owners were asked to name the institutions involved in the Partnership, the geographical area in which it works, and its goal. These responses were scored by the Partnership as correct if they were generally accurate responses. Overall, 71% of respondents answered none of the questions correctly – only 3% of land owners were able to correctly answer all three.

The most common sources of knowledge about the Partnership across both participants and non-participants in the Partnership were formal education (97%) and other's experiences (89%). Notably, neither of these sources necessarily involves direct contact with the Partnership, indicating that much of the transmission of knowledge occurs indirectly rather than directly from the Partnership. Only a little more than half of the sample (54%) indicated gaining their knowledge of the Partnership from personal experience with the Partnership.

As would be expected, participation in the Partnership was generally associated with increases in knowledge: Partnership participants reported being more knowledgeable about the Partnership generally and its staff, and more knowledgeable about its policies. Although Partnership participants were numerically more accurate at answering some objective knowledge questions, none of the differences reached statistical levels of significance, indicating that the small observed differences are possibly due to chance.

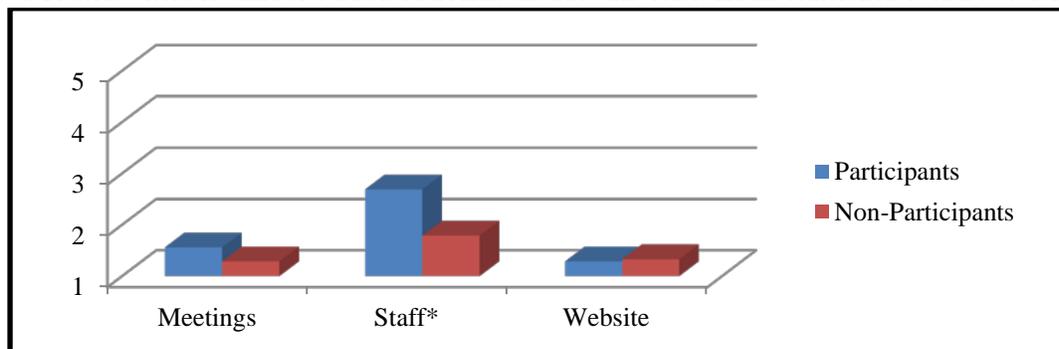
## QUESTION TWO - WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THESE LAND OWNERS' INTERACTIONS WITH THE PARTNERSHIP?

Land owners were asked to respond to a series of questions about the nature of their interaction with the Partnership. Specifically, they were asked about how often they interacted with the Partnership through various mediums, and whether they would rate their interaction as generally positive or generally negative. Respondents were also asked how often they felt they experienced a list of problems with the Partnership and which changes would most improve the Partnership. Because of their specific experiences, Partnership participants were also asked whether they would recommend joining the Partnership to their family and friends while non-participants were asked how likely they were to join the Partnership if asked “today.”

**FIGURE 3. HOW OFTEN DO YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH THE PARTNERSHIP?**

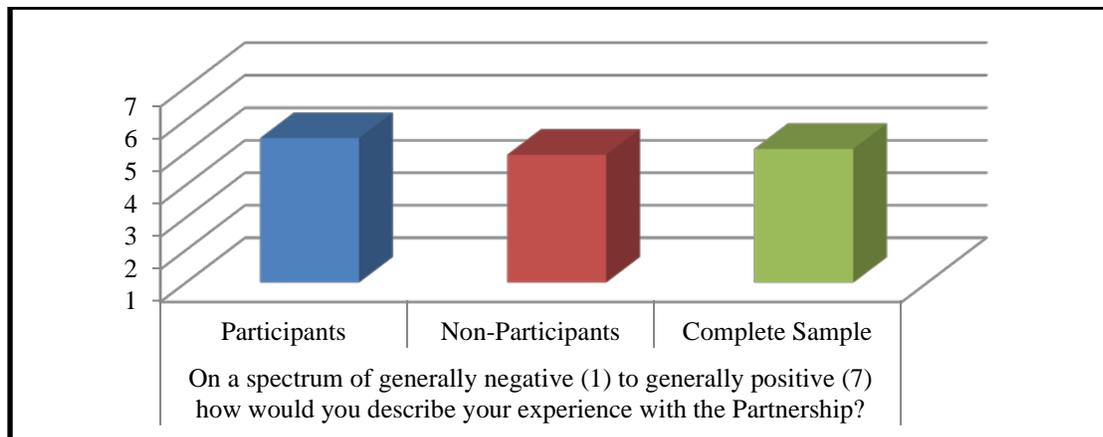
5 = WEEKLY; 4 = MONTHLY; 3 = ONCE EVERY YEAR; 2 = ONCE EVERY FEW YEARS; 1 = NEVER

\*INDICATES STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS AND NON-PARTICIPANTS



As summarized in Figure 3, the land owners indicated fairly infrequent contact with the Partnership, whether through its meetings, direct contact with the staff, or visiting the Partnership’s website. For the most part, land owners indicated they had contacts “once every few years.” Partnership participants reported significantly more contacts with Partnership staff. Most respondents did indicate that their experience with the Partnership was positive (see Figure 4).

**FIGURE 4. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE PARTNERSHIP?**



Partnership participants were asked about whether they would recommend participation in the Partnership to others. The vast majority, 75%, said they would recommend participation without reservation. Only six percent indicated that they would not, with another 19% saying they would recommend with reservations. When asked about the frequency with which they experienced specific problems with the Partnership (e.g., personal financial hardships, and personal inconvenience), most Partnership participants reported “rarely.” None of the problems were reported as being experienced more often than the others.

Non-participants were asked how likely they would be to participate in the Partnership if they were asked. Most of them indicated “maybe.” Of those who answered “yes” or “no,” a larger number answered “yes” than “no.” Open-ended responses to questions asking what changes would most encourage participation centered on themes of knowledge (e.g., wanting to know more about the Partnership) and decreasing the resources needed to participate (e.g., time and money) (see Appendix C for all comments).

When asked about the Partnership’s success at accomplishing its goals (e.g., increasing knowledge about ecological restoration and land management) and which changes would be most beneficial to improving it (e.g., staff spending more time with land owners), the majority of the land owners indicated that although the Partnership could certainly be improved, none of the improvements mentioned (goals to be met or changes to the Partnership) were particularly more or less pressing than the rest (for a complete list of improvements suggested, see Appendix Tables 13 [goals] and 17 [changes]). Partnership participants responded roughly the same as non-participants to these questions.

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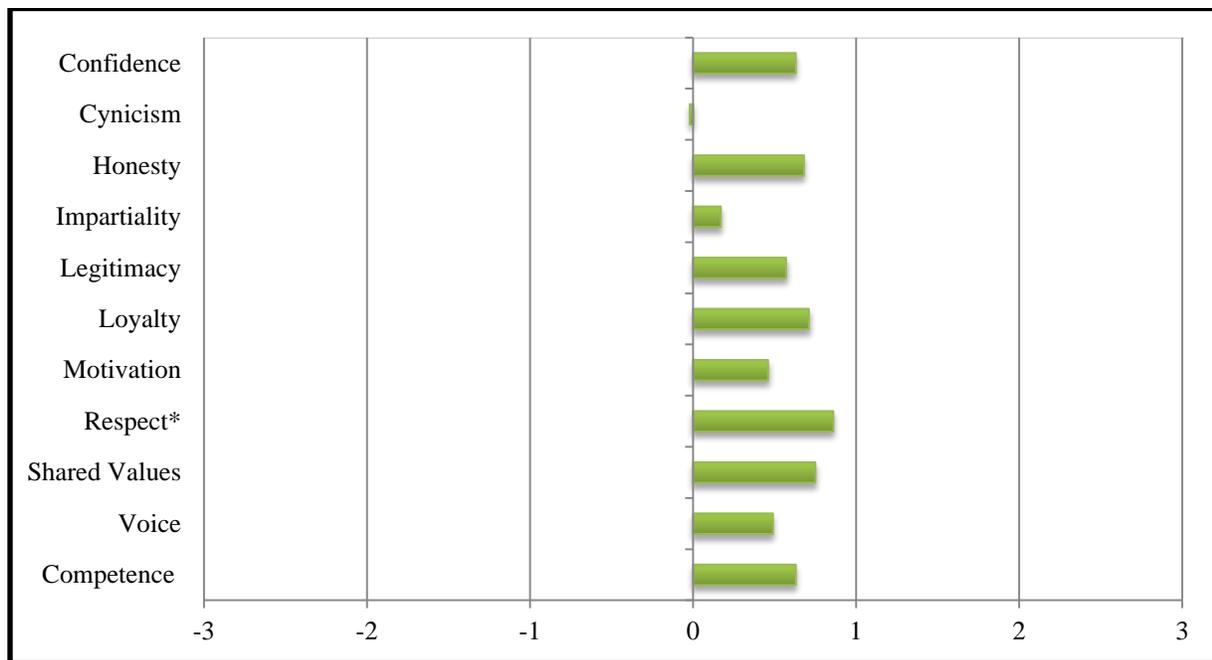
## QUESTION THREE - HOW IS THE PARTNERSHIP ITSELF GENERALLY PERCEIVED BY THESE LAND OWNERS?

Land owners were asked a series of questions regarding their perceptions of the Partnership. Specifically, they were asked about their confidence in the Partnership; whether it understands and protects landowners' interests ("cynicism"); its honesty, impartiality, and legitimacy; whether landowners feel loyal to the Partnership; its motivations; the respect it affords the public; the extent to which the Partnership and land owners share values; the voice the public has in Partnership decisions; and the competence of the Partnership.

As shown in Figure 5,<sup>2</sup> the data indicates that the land owners have largely positive perceptions of the Partnership. Specifically, respondents ranked the Partnership most positively regarding the respect it gives to the public and a belief that the Partnership shares values with land owners. Interestingly, the Partnership was ranked most poorly on impartiality (a belief that the Partnership is overly influenced by special interests), but even these less positive perceptions were still positive overall.

Participants in the Partnership did not generally perceive the Partnership differently than non-participants. The sole exception was that Partnership participants were even more likely to indicate the Partnership treated the public with respect than non-participants.

**FIGURE 5.** PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC EVALUATIONS OF THE PARTNERSHIP IN THE COMPLETE SAMPLE



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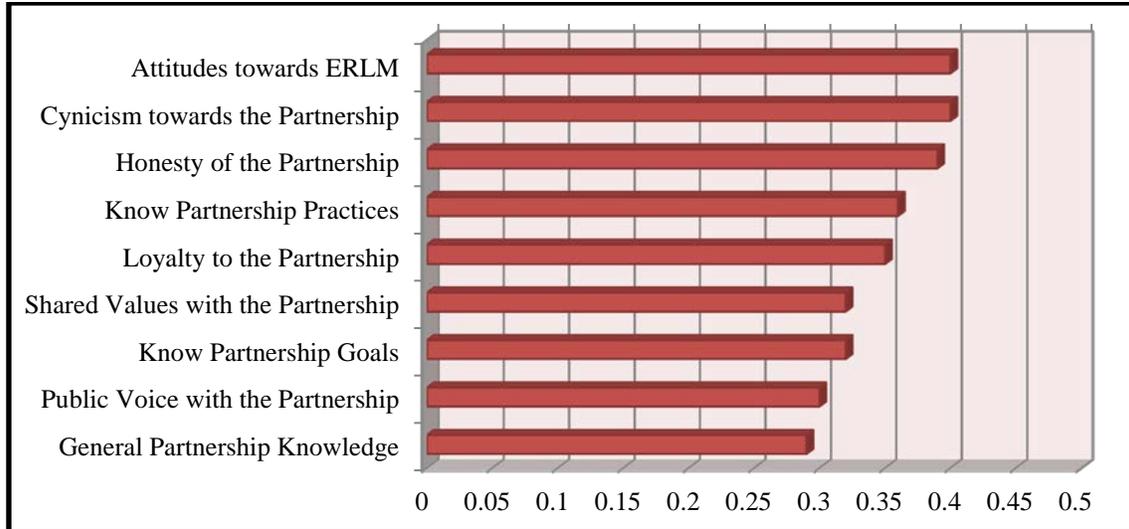
<sup>2</sup> Note that the figure has been rescaled such that the middle option, labeled "neither agree nor disagree," corresponds to a score of zero. Thus the extent to which the construct's bar extends to the right indicates the presence of the construct and to the left indicates its absence.

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## QUESTION FOUR - WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE LAND OWNERS WHO HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE PARTNERSHIP TO PARTICIPATE?

In order to learn whether land owners who had not participated in the Partnership might become a participant, we examined the survey data to see if we could identify what might prompt a non-participant to join the Partnership if asked “today.” Although several variables were related to increases in the probability (see Figure 6 for the comparative sizes of the effects<sup>3</sup>), land owners who were not currently enrolled in the Partnership were *most likely to say they would join the Partnership when they had more positive attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management*. Specifically, the probability of reporting that the land owner would join if asked today was greatest when they believed that ecological restoration and land management were not too complicated to implement, that ecological restoration and land management had direct benefits to the land owner, and that it was not inconvenient for the land owner. Several general perceptions of the Partnership (cynicism towards it, perceived honesty, loyalty to it, shared values with the Partnership, and the voice granted the public by the Partnership) as well as knowledge variables (knowledge about the Partnership generally as well as its practices and goals) were also related to increases in the probability that land owners would report that they would join.

**FIGURE 6.** EFFECT SIZES OF VARIABLES THAT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT NON-PARTICIPANTS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PARTNERSHIP



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<sup>3</sup> Note that the effect sizes reported are correlations ( $r$ -values) which range from 0 to 1 where larger values have stronger effects on increasing the probability of a “yes” response.

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## CONCLUSIONS AND CAVEATS

As with any survey, care should be taken when generalizing the results of this survey beyond the respondents who completed it. Despite the good response rates (38% and 19%), the low sample size does leave room for the possibility that the views expressed by the sample here may not reflect those of land owners living around the Big Bend of the Platte River. The low sample size is also confounded with participants responding with views on other partnerships, such as Platte River Recovery Program and Platte Valley Weed Management Area, as noted in open-ended question. Nevertheless, the results of this survey do point to some specific conclusions.

The data suggest *land owners are not as aware of the Partnership* as would be optimal. Self-reported experience with and knowledge about the Partnership were consistently low. Furthermore, responses to open-ended questions about the land owners' experience with the Partnership often directly referenced other conservation organizations and efforts in the area. Although Partnership participants were somewhat more aware of the Partnership, these differences were minimal. Despite this, however, *the Partnership generally enjoys the goodwill of the respondents*. Although few of the relevant items reached the most positive values, responses were typically positive. Importantly, the low awareness of the Partnership leaves room for the possibility that the land owners may have been responding regarding their perceptions of other organizations or efforts, underscoring importance of increasing land owner awareness of the Partnership and distinguishing it from others.



*Participation in the Partnership has only a limited influence on evaluations of the Partnership.* Across the questions, Partnership participants and non-participants gave basically equivalent evaluations of the Partnership, especially in terms of its goal accomplishment, encountering problems with the Partnership, and perceptions of it generally.

There are some *factors that may increase the probability that land owners would participate in the Partnership*. Land owner attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management in particular were associated with the greatest increase in likelihood of participation, especially attitudes about their complication and inconvenience.

Taken together, the results of this survey do provide one clear recommendation to the Partnership. Specifically, the low knowledge reported by land owners coupled with the evidence that knowledge is likely to increase the probability that new land owners would join the Partnership suggests that *the Partnership would be well-served by working to increase land owner familiarity with them*. Additionally, attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management could be improved if the Partnership's efforts to increase familiarity included efforts to address the concerns about complication and convenience. Less resource intensive options might include town hall meetings and or other group meeting opportunities, but it may be necessary to take more resource intensive efforts like personal visits to potential participants. Importantly, any efforts might have a beneficial impact for the Partnership as many land owners in the area get their information about the Partnership from sources other than the Partnership itself.

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## APPENDIX A - TECHNICAL RESULTS

The technical results presented below are divided – like the above report – into five sections, one for sample characteristics (which addresses variables like age and gender of the sample) and one for each of the four key questions.



Each section is further sub-divided into subsections. We first present a series of subsections discussing each grouping of items in the survey. These subsections typically begin with a brief explanation of the reason we included the variables and then, for quantitative responses, include a presentation of the majority or plurality answer on each of the items. Although these responses can be expected to represent the sample, care should be taken to identify whether the remaining responses are skewed in one direction or the other or are distributed more “normally.” Where signaled as appropriate by good theoretical and statistical evidence that the items measured a single underlying construct (Cronbach’s Alpha, a measure which quantifies the internal consistency of the items), similar items were combined to create a scale and the scale statistics are reported. Scale statistics are thus the average of the responses for that grouping of items. After reporting the item and scale statistics, the subsection will contain a discussion of any differences between Partnership participants and non-participants on the items reported above. These comparisons are typically conducted using analyses of variance (ANOVA) which, by evaluation of the group means in light of the variability in responses, identify the probability ( $p$ ) that any numerical difference is due to chance. A statistically significant difference would indicate that the difference identified in the items endorsed by the groups is unlikely to be the result of chance ( $p < .05$ ) and should be treated as different. A marginally significant difference indicates that the numerical difference between the groups is still unlikely to have occurred by chance ( $p < .1$ ), but less so than with statistical significance. In the social sciences, these differences are often thought of as noteworthy trends, but something short of a true difference.

For qualitative items, the researchers evaluated responses to identify overall valence and major trends in responses. All qualitative responses, after being removed of any primary or secondary identifying information, have been included in this report in Appendix C.

Following these subsections is a final subsection discussing the relationship of the items in that section to the other sample characteristics. These comparisons were conducted using ANOVAs for gender, and political affiliation, and correlations for age, acceptance of risk for the environment, and dispositional trust. Correlations measure the association between scale variables. As with ANOVAs, statistically significant correlations (associations) should be accepted as probable and marginal associations as notable trends. As a note of caution, most of the sample characteristics involve comparisons of small groups. The inequity of the sample sizes is of greater concern for the ANOVA comparisons which isolate the groups to utilize the variance between groups to identify differences (as opposed to correlations which do not create groups and utilizes all of the variance to identify associations). The extent to which these smaller groups represent the larger their larger populations (e.g., women in this study to women generally) is directly related to the size of the groups. As such, findings regarding differences with small group sizes should be accepted with some caution.

## Characteristics of the Sample

**Demographics.** As reported in Appendix Table 1, the 77 survey respondents were predominately male (81%) and white (93%). The age of respondents ranged from 25 to 92 with an average age of 59. Slightly over half the respondents indicated they were Republican (with another 12% leaning Republican). No statistically significant differences between respondents who participated in the Partnership and those who did not were identified for any of the demographic, indicating that demographics were roughly equivalently represented in the two respondent groups.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1. DEMOGRAPHICS BY SAMPLE**

Variable	Complete Sample %	Partnership participants %	Non-Participants %
<b>Gender</b>			
<i>Male</i>	<b>81</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>79</b>
<i>Female</i>	16	6	20
<b>Race</b>			
<i>African American</i>	0	0	0
<i>Asian American</i>	0	0	0
<i>Latino/a</i>	0	0	0
<i>Native Hawaiian</i>	0	0	0
<i>Native American</i>	1	0	2
<i>White</i>	<b>93</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>93</b>
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0
<i>Prefer not to answer</i>	3	6	2
<b>Political Affiliation</b>			
<i>Republican</i>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>Non-partisan but lean Republican</i>	15	15	12
<i>Non-partisan</i>	8	9	6
<i>Non-partisan but lean Democrat</i>	8	9	6
<i>Democrat</i>	13	11	18
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0
<i>Prefer not to answer</i>	3	4	0

No differences are statistically significant between groups. **Bolded** values are largest in the category by row (gender, race, and political affiliation)

**Attitudes towards Ecological Restoration and Land Management.** Participant attitudes towards restoration were measured using eight items assessing various aspects of ecological restoration and land management. All eight items were measured on a 1 to 7 scale where 1 indicated “strongly disagree,” 4 indicated a neutral attitude (“neither agree nor disagree”), and 7 indicated “strongly agree.” Finding good internal consistency ( $\alpha = .83$ ), we combined the items into a single scale by averaging participant responses on all eight items (positively worded items were recoded such that high scores on all items indicated more positive attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management). The resulting complete sample mean was 4.18 indicating that most respondents had slightly positive attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management. Comparatively, Partnership participants’ scale mean indicated marginally more

positive attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management ( $M = 5.15$ ) than non-participants ( $M = 4.71$ ). We also evaluated responses to individual questions. The plurality response to items one and two were “agree;” while the remaining items were “neither agree nor disagree” (percentages reported by response option for the complete sample in Appendix Table 2; responses for Partnership participants and non-participants reported in Appendix Table 3). Regarding the individual items, significant differences between Partnership participants and non-participants were identified for items five and eight with an additional difference on item six being marginally significant. As summarized in Appendix Table 2, participants in the Partnership were significantly less likely to endorse that “ecological restoration and land management have no direct benefits to them,” significantly more likely to endorse that they “have personally observed the benefits of ecological restoration and land management on [their] land,” and marginally less likely to endorse that “ecological restoration and land management cause a financial strain for [them].”

**APPENDIX TABLE 2.** ATTITUDES TOWARDS ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT (COMPLETE SAMPLE)

Item	Mean	Strongly Agree% (7)	Agree% (6)	Somewhat Agree% (5)	Neither% (4)	Somewhat Disagree% (3)	Disagree% (2)	Strongly Disagree% (1)
1. Are important tools	5.63	19	<b>49</b>	13	19	0	1	0
2. Benefits to land owners	5.56	17	<b>44</b>	19	17	3	0	0
3. Too complicated	3.61	1	4	17	<b>38</b>	16	16	7
4. Only because I have been asked	3.46	0	7	12	<b>35</b>	19	22	6
5. No direct benefits to me*	3.07	0	6	10	<b>29</b>	10	33	13
6. Cause a financial strain for me <sup>+</sup>	3.83	1	10	19	<b>28</b>	9	17	6
7. Inconvenient for me	3.58	0	10	17	<b>28</b>	16	23	6
8. Personally observed the benefits*	4.94	15	27	19	<b>28</b>	3	7	2

\*significantly different between respondent groups; <sup>+</sup> marginally different between respondent groups; **bolded** percentages are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding

**APPENDIX TABLE 3. ATTITUDES TOWARDS ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT (FOR PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS/NON-PARTICIPANTS)**

Item	Means	Strongly Agree% (7)	Agree% (6)	Somewhat Agree% (5)	Neither% (4)	Somewhat Disagree% (3)	Disagree% (2)	Strongly Disagree% (1)
1.Are important tools	5.82/5.57	18/19	<b>65/43</b>	12/13	0/25	0/0	6/0	0/0
2.Benefits to land owners	5.82/5.47	18/17	<b>65/38</b>	6/23	6/21	6/2	0/0	0/0
3.Too complicated	3.71/3.58	0/2	12/2	18/17	24/ <b>42</b>	<b>29/12</b>	12/17	0/8
4.Only because I have been asked	3.59/3.42	0/0	6/8	18/10	29/ <b>37</b>	29/15	12/25	6/6
5.No direct benefits to me*	2.41/3.28	0/0	0/8	0/13	18/ <b>32</b>	18/5	<b>53/26</b>	12/13
6.Cause a financial strain for me <sup>+</sup>	3.29/4.00	0/2	6/12	18/19	18/ <b>44</b>	24/4	<b>29/14</b>	6/6
7.Inconvenient for me	3.24/3.69	0/0	12/10	18/18	6/ <b>35</b>	<b>24/14</b>	29/21	12/4
8.Personally observed the benefits*	5.82/4.65	<b>35/8</b>	29/26	18/20	18/ <b>31</b>	0/4	0/10	0/2

\*significantly different between respondent groups; <sup>+</sup> marginally different between respondent groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding

**Attitudes toward Risk.** We next asked respondents about the level of personal risk they would be willing to accept for the sake of the environment. As shown in Appendix Table 4, the plurality of the complete sample indicated that they would be willing to accept “moderate” personal risks for the sake of the environment (48%). An additional 11% was willing to accept “significant” personal risk and 26% was willing to accept “small” risk. Four percent of the complete sample was unwilling to accept any personal risk for the environment. Partnership participants and non-participants were not statistically significantly different in their willingness to accept risk, although it is of interest to note that no Partnership participants reported being unwilling to accept any risk for the sake of the environment.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4. WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT PERSONAL RISK FOR THE SAKE OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY SAMPLE**

Amount of Risk	Complete Sample %	Partnership Participants %	Non-Participants %
“Significant” Risk	11	12	11
“Moderate” Risk	<b>48</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>
“Small” Risk	26	35	23
“No” Risk	5	0	5

No differences were statistically significant between groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the column.

**Dispositional Trust.** Respondents completed a scale intended to measure their personality trait based propensity to trust others across situations (dispositional trust). Dispositional trust was measured using three items frequently used in the General Social Survey and the National Election Survey and includes three items which ask about the land owner’s belief regarding whether “most people” are trustworthy (see Appendix Table 5). Scale reliability analyses (measured using Cronbach’s Alpha;  $\alpha$ ) indicated good internal consistency of the items ( $\alpha = .93$ ). Taking this as evidence that the items could reasonably be expected to measure a single underlying construct, we combined the three items by averaging them to create a single dispositional trust scale value. Because the items were measured on a 1 to 7 response scale where lower numbers indicate more trust, higher numbers indicate distrust, and the midpoint (4) is neutral, the complete sample mean score of 2.64 indicates that the complete sample was moderately likely to trust others across situations. Respondents who participated in the Partnership were not statistically significantly different on dispositional trust from those who did not.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5.** DISPOSITIONAL TRUST ITEM MEANS BY SAMPLE

Amount of Trust	Complete Sample <i>M</i>	Partnership Participants <i>M</i>	Non-Participants <i>M</i>
1- <i>Generally speaking, I would say that most people can be trusted.</i>	2.70	2.87	<b>2.65</b>
2- <i>I think that most people would try to be fair.</i>	2.64	2.87	<b>2.57</b>
3- <i>I would say that most of the time, people try to be helpful</i>	2.59	2.67	<b>2.57</b>

No differences were statistically significant between groups; **bolded** means indicate the most trusting group for that question.

## QUESTION ONE - HOW AWARE IS THE PUBLIC OF THE PARTNERSHIP?

*Subjective Awareness of the Partnership.* We next evaluated a series of questions intended to identify how aware the respondents were of the Partnership. As reported in Appendix Table 6 (percentages for Partnership participants and non-participants in Appendix Table 7), a small minority of the complete sample self-reported as “very” or “extremely” knowledgeable about the Partnership generally (14%) or about its policies (7%), practices (10%), or goals (11%). The majority of the complete sample indicated that they knew the Partnership’s policies “slightly” and its practices and goals “moderately.” The majority of the sample also indicated that it knew the Partnership staff “not at all.” When asked about the source of their awareness, 97% of the sample reported awareness from their formal education, 89% from others’ experiences, 87% through exposure at work, 76% from their personal research, 72% from their family or friends, 63% from the media, and 54% from their personal experience.

As would be expected, a number of the awareness variables were different as a function of the respondent’s participation group. Specifically, respondents who had participated in the Partnership felt statistically significantly more knowledgeable about the Partnership in general and its staff. Partnership participants also felt marginally significantly more knowledgeable about the Partnership’s policies. Additionally, participants in the Partnership were significantly more likely to report that their knowledge was from their personal experience and marginally significantly more likely to have knowledge from other people’s experience. Potentially as importantly however, the respondent groups were *not* appreciably different in their self-reported knowledge of the Partnership’s practices or goals (and were only marginally more knowledgeable about the Partnership’s policies). Thus, while Partnership participants had a general sense of knowing more than non-participants, they did not feel very knowledgeable about some specifics of the Partnership.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6.** AWARENESS OF THE PARTNERSHIP (COMPLETE SAMPLE)

Item	Mean	Not at all% (1)	Slightly% (2)	Moderately% (3)	Very% (4)	Extremely% (5)
Knowledgeable about Partnership generally*	2.47	17	35	35	13	1
Knowledgeable about policies <sup>+</sup>	2.17	26	<b>39</b>	28	6	1
Knowledgeable about practices	2.32	24	32	<b>35</b>	8	1
Knowledgeable about goals	2.35	26	26	<b>36</b>	8	3
How well do you know the Partnership staff*	1.85	<b>46</b>	35	10	8	1

\*significantly different between respondent groups; <sup>+</sup> marginally different between respondent groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages might not total 100 because of rounding.

**APPENDIX TABLE 7. AWARENESS OF THE PARTNERSHIP (FOR PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS/NON-PARTICIPANTS)**

Item	Mean	Not at all% (1)	Slightly% (2)	Moderately% (3)	Very% (4)	Extremely% (5)
Knowledgeable about Partnership generally*	3.00/2.31	6/20	18/ <b>40</b>	<b>47</b> /31	29/7	0/2
Knowledgeable about policies <sup>+</sup>	2.53/2.05	6/33	41/ <b>38</b>	<b>47</b> /22	6/6	0/2
Knowledgeable about practices	2.65/2.22	6/29	<b>47</b> /27	24/ <b>38</b>	24/4	0/2
Knowledgeable about goals	2.47/2.31	18/29	24/27	<b>53</b> /31	6/9	0/4
How well do you know the Partnership staff*	2.41/1.67	12/ <b>56</b>	<b>53</b> /29	18/7	18/6	0/2

\*significantly different between respondent groups; <sup>+</sup> marginally different between respondent groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages might not total 100 because of rounding.

**Objective Knowledge of the Partnership.** Both respondent groups were next asked three open-ended factual questions in order to gauge their objective knowledge about the Partnership. Specifically, respondents were asked to list the institutions involved in the Partnership, to name the geographical region covered by the Partnership, and its goal (responses were considered correct if they were generally accurate). Overall, a minority of respondents answered the questions correctly (see Appendix Table 8). Specifically, 71% failed to answer any of the questions correctly, while only three percent was able to correctly respond to all three. Partnership participants were not statistically significantly more able to answer the questions correctly; however, it is interesting to note that Partnership participants were numerically more correct answering questions one and three.

**APPENDIX TABLE 8. PERCENTAGE CORRECT ON OBJECTIVE KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS**

Question	Complete Sample %	Partnership Participants %	Non-Participants %
1-Please list the institutions involved in the Partnership.	15	<b>24</b>	13
2-What geographical region is covered by the Partnership?	15	12	<b>16</b>
3-What is the goal of the Partnership?	15	<b>23</b>	13

No differences were statistically significant between groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row.

**Sample Characteristics and Awareness.** We next evaluated awareness as a function of the sample characteristics. Because only one respondent indicated that he or she was non-white, race was not used in these analyses. No differences were identified as a function of the gender of the respondent (males = 59; females = 12). For ease in interpretation, political affiliation was recoded to compare Republicans and independents who lean Republican ( $n = 33$ ) to Democrats

and independents who lean Democrat ( $n = 8$ ; respondents who indicated “other” were excluded from analysis). Democrats and independents who lean Democrat were marginally less likely to know the practices of the Partnership, significantly less likely to know the goals of the Partnership and significantly less likely to have obtained their knowledge of the Partnership from personal research. Respondents who would accept more personal risk for the sake of the environment were significantly more likely to report knowing the Partnership’s policies, practices, and goals. Additionally, they were marginally more likely to report knowing the Partnership generally and its staff. Older respondents were significantly less likely to report knowing staff and less likely to have obtained their awareness from formal education or from work. Respondents who reported higher dispositional trust were marginally less likely to report being knowledgeable about the Partnership’s practices.

## QUESTION TWO – WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE PUBLIC’S INTERACTION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP?

*Frequency of Interaction with the Partnership.* Next we evaluated a series of questions intended to quantify the respondent’s participation with the Partnership. The first few questions were asked of both respondent groups (those who participated in the Partnership and those who did not) and were followed by more specific questions relevant to the particular respondent group. The general questions began by asking how often the respondent interacts with the Partnership. Most respondents in the complete sample had never attended a Partnership meeting (71%), never interacted with the staff personally (42%), and never visited the website (77%; see Appendix Table 9; percentages for Partnership participants and non-participants in Appendix Table 10). Respondent groups differed significantly only in the frequency of their personal contact with the Partnership staff such that respondents who had participated in the Partnership had significantly more personal contact with the Partnership staff than those who had not participated.

**APPENDIX TABLE 9.** FREQUENCY OF INTERACTION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP (COMPLETE SAMPLE)

Item	Mean	Never% (1)	Once Every Few Years% (2)	Once a Year% (3)	Monthly% (4)	Weekly% (5)
Attended Partnership meetings	1.35	<b>71</b>	24	6	0	0
Personal contact with Partnership Staff*	2.00	<b>42</b>	26	23	7	1
Visit Partnership website	1.32	<b>77</b>	15	6	2	0

\*significantly different between respondent groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

**APPENDIX TABLE 10.** FREQUENCY OF INTERACTION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP (FOR PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS/NON-PARTICIPANTS)

Item	Mean	Never% (1)	Once Every Few Years% (2)	Once a Year% (3)	Monthly% (4)	Weekly% (5)
Attended Partnership meetings	1.56/1.29	<b>50/77</b>	44/17	6/6	0/0	0/0
Personal contact with Partnership Staff*	2.69/1.79	6/ <b>53</b>	<b>44/21</b>	25/23	25/2	0/2
Visit Partnership website	1.29/1.33	<b>79/77</b>	14/16	7/6	0/2	0/0

\*significantly different between respondent groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

**Evaluations of Experience with the Partnership.** Next respondents were asked to evaluate their experience with the Partnership. Both respondent groups were asked, generally how positive or negative their experience was with the Partnership. The question was asked on a 1-7 scale where 1 indicated generally negative and 7 indicated generally positive. The only change in how the question was asked across respondent groups was that respondents who did not participate in the Partnership were permitted to indicate that they did not have enough experience with the Partnership to give a general impression.<sup>4</sup> The mean score for the complete sample was 5.1 indicating that the average respondent had a generally positive experience. Respondent groups were not significantly different on this variable indicating that participants in the Partnership did not have a statistically significantly more positive evaluation of their experience than did respondents who did not participate. Following this question, Partnership participants were asked to volunteer any information they wished to share about why they rated their experience as they did. Twenty-four of the total 77 respondents (31%) took advantage of this opportunity. Most of the positive entries revolved around a satisfaction with participating in the Partnership in terms of accomplished goals (e.g., “clearing the invasive species”) and interaction with the staff (e.g., “they understand”). The negative entries tended to revolve around dissatisfaction with the outcomes (e.g., “they planted Canadian Thistle on my property which is very costly to control”) and institutional performance (e.g., “they used to be more active but recently fell off the radar screen”). A full list of comments is listed in Appendix C.

**Participation.** Respondents then completed a series of questions specific to whether they participated in the Partnership. Partnership participants were asked first whether they would recommend participating to their family and friends. As reported in Appendix Table 11, the far majority of the Partnership participants indicated that they would recommend participating in the Partnership (94%) with a large percentage indicating they would recommend the Partnership strongly (31%). Partnership participants were then asked why they would or would not recommend participation. Only five respondents offered comments; two were generally negative and revolved around losses (“I had not anticipated losing so much land to the river”) and bureaucracy (e.g., “the Pass the Buck system- never got an answer or a solution”). Two were generally positive and mentioned satisfaction with the Partnership (e.g., “we are happy with the project they did”) and environmental concern (e.g., “we like the idea of working together to preserve... for our future generations... this would have been overwhelming and cost prohibitive to do on our own...”). The fifth response was somewhat ambiguous but the respondent rated their experience as generally negative, expressing dissatisfaction with a field that failed to produce a plant the Partnership had planted there.

**APPENDIX TABLE 11. RECOMMEND PARTICIPATION (PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS ONLY)**

Item	Mean	Yes, strongly% (1)	Yes% (2)	Yes with Reservations% (3)	No% (4)
Would you recommend participation in the Partnership?	2.00	31	<b>44</b>	19	6

**Bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

<sup>4</sup> These “insufficient information” responses were coded as missing for the overall mean and comparison between respondent groups.

In place of the above two questions, non-participants were asked whether they have been approached about participating in the Partnership and whether they would participate if they were asked today. As reported in Appendix Table 12, 75% of the sample indicated that they had not been approached and 76% of the sample indicated “maybe” when asked about participating if asked “today.” Following this question, non-participants saw an open-ended question asking what changes in the Partnership would most strongly impact their decision to participate and 25 non-participants took advantage of the opportunity. Some responses centered on a decrease in the resources required of the land owner (e.g., “cost/time/materials needed [to participate]”) but knowledge was by far the most pervasive theme (e.g., “if I knew what [the Partnership] was,” and “[knowing] requirements of involvement [in the Partnership]”).

**APPENDIX TABLE 12.** APPROACHED ABOUT AND LIKELIHOOD OF PARTICIPATION (NON-PARTICIPANTS ONLY)

Item	Mean	% Responded			
		Yes and I was accepted (1)	Yes and I was undecided (2)	Yes and I was declined (3)	No (4)
Have you been approached about participation in the Partnership?	3.31	21	2	2	<b>75</b>
	Mean	Yes (1)	Maybe (2)	No (3)	
Would you participate in the Partnership if you were asked today?	1.92	16	<b>76</b>	8	

**Bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

**Performance of the Partnership.** All respondents were then asked about how they felt the Partnership had performed to date and about ways to improve the Partnership. Specifically, both respondent groups were first asked to what extent the Partnership had accomplished its goals. As reported in Appendix Table 13 (percentages for Partnership participants and non-participants in Appendix Table 14), the majority of the sample indicated that the Partnership had “moderately” accomplished its goal of restoring important habitat (35%), increasing use of ecological restoration and land management (42%), and generally improving the grasslands (33%). Increasing knowledge about ecological restoration and land management was slightly less met with respondents equally endorsing “slightly” and “moderately” met. None of these variables were different as a function of respondent group, indicating that participants in the Partnership did not feel that these goals were more or less met than non-participants.

**APPENDIX TABLE 13. ACCOMPLISHING OF GOALS (COMPLETE SAMPLE)**

Item	Mean	Not at all% (1)	Slightly% (2)	Moderately% (3)	Very% (4)	Extremely% (5)
Increased knowledge about ecological restoration and land management.	2.68	13	32	32	19	4
Restored important habitat	3.00	10	22	<b>35</b>	26	8
Increased use of ecological restoration and land management	2.98	12	15	<b>42</b>	25	6
Generally improving riparian grassland	3.00	6	28	<b>33</b>	28	6

No differences were statistically significant between groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

**APPENDIX TABLE 14. ACCOMPLISHING OF GOALS (FOR PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS/NON-PARTICIPANTS)**

Item	Mean	Not at all% (1)	Slightly% (2)	Moderately% (3)	Very% (4)	Extremely% (5)
Increased knowledge about ecological restoration and land management.	2.71/2.67	6/17	<b>47/25</b>	24/ <b>36</b>	18/19	6/3
Restored important habitat	3.06/2.97	13/9	6/29	<b>44/31</b>	38/20	0/11
Increased use of ecological restoration and land management	3.19/2.89	6/14	6/19	<b>50/39</b>	38/19	0/8
Generally improving riparian grassland	3.06/2.97	0/9	31/26	38/ <b>31</b>	<b>25/29</b>	6/6

No differences were statistically significant between groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

Participants in the Partnership were next asked how often they experience various problems in their dealings with it. Specifically, most Partnership participants felt that they “rarely” experienced a lack of follow through (50%), confusion as the staff’s actions (40%), personal financial hardships (40%), and inconvenience in implementing ecological restoration and land management (36%; see Appendix Table 15). Partnership participants were then asked to explain any problems they felt they experienced “a lot.” Only one participant wrote an explanation, which discussed a lack of coherency between the actions of the Whooping Crane Trust, Game and Parks, and Ducks Unlimited.

**APPENDIX TABLE 15.** FREQUENCY OF EXPERIENCING SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH THE PARTNERSHIP (PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS ONLY)

Item	Mean	Never% (1)	Rarely% (2)	Sometimes% (3)	Frequently% (4)	Always% (5)
A lack of follow-through	2.44	13	<b>50</b>	19	19	0
Confusion as to the staff's actions	2.33	20	<b>40</b>	27	13	0
Personal financial hardships	2.07	27	<b>40</b>	33	0	0
Personal inconvenience	2.14	29	<b>36</b>	28	7	0

**Bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

*Improving the Partnership.* Next, both respondent groups were asked to what extent several changes to the Partnership would improve it (for Partnership participants) or make the respondent more likely to participate (for non-participants). As reported in Appendix Table 16 (percentages for Partnership participants and non-participants in Appendix Table 17), the average response corresponded with the middle option indicating that most participants felt that the Partnership would be “moderately” be improved by staff spending more time with land owners (42%), a more regularly updated website (28%), regular news letters mailed to land owners (34%), more financial incentive to land owners (33%) and making ecological restoration and land management more straight-forward (35%). Regularly emailed newsletters was reported as slightly more helpful with the equal numbers of respondents endorsing “moderately” and “mostly.” There were no differences between Partnership participants and non-participants in their average ratings of the potential changes. Respondents were then asked to write in any other changes that would improve the Partnership (Partnership participants) or would make their participation in the Partnership more likely (non-participants). Twenty-three respondents (30% of the complete sample) took advantage of this opportunity and responses centered on a desire for more information about the Partnership (e.g., “more information, I have heard very little about it,” “if I know more about it”).

**APPENDIX TABLE 16.** CHANGES TO IMPROVE PROGRAM/INCREASE PARTICIPATION (COMPLETE SAMPLE)

Item	Mean	Not at all% (1)	Slightly% (2)	Moderately% (3)	Mostly% (4)	Completely% (5)
Staff spending more time with land owners	3.41	5	9	<b>42</b>	29	15
More regularly updated website	2.67	24	20	<b>28</b>	20	7
Regular newsletter – mail	3.32	5	19	<b>34</b>	24	19
Regular newsletter – email	3.05	16	19	25	25	16
More/larger financial incentives	3.33	10	14	<b>33</b>	23	21
Make ecological restoration and land management more straight-forward	3.31	5	17	<b>35</b>	28	16

No differences were statistically significant between groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

**APPENDIX TABLE 17.** CHANGES TO IMPROVE PROGRAM/INCREASE PARTICIPATION (FOR PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANTS/NON-PARTICIPANTS)

Item	Mean	Not at all% (1)	Slightly% (2)	Moderately% (3)	Mostly% (4)	Completely% (5)
Staff spending more time with land owners	3.47/3.38	6/5	6/10	<b>47/41</b>	18/33	24/12
More regularly updated website	2.75/2.63	31/21	19/21	6/ <b>37</b>	31/16	13/5
Regular newsletter – mail	3.59/3.21	6/5	18/19	18/ <b>41</b>	29/21	29/14
Regular newsletter – email	3.00/3.07	25/12	13/22	19/ <b>26</b>	25/24	19/15
More/larger financial incentives	3.63/3.19	0/14	19/11	31/ <b>33</b>	19/25	31/17
Make ecological restoration and land management more straight-forward	3.47/3.24	6/5	24/15	18/ <b>42</b>	24/29	<b>29/10</b>

No differences were statistically significant between groups; **bolded** numbers are the largest in the row; note that row percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

*Sample Characteristics and Participation.* Next, the participation of the respondents as a function of the sample characteristics was evaluated. Female respondents ( $n = 12$ ) were significantly more likely to feel that staff spending more time with land owners would benefit the Partnership than were male respondents ( $n = 59$ ). Democrat and independent respondents who lean Democrat ( $n = 8$ ) were less likely to feel that regular mailed newsletters would improve the

Partnership. Respondents who indicated they would accept less risk for the environment were marginally less likely to report having personal contact with the Partnership staff, significantly less likely to indicate that the Partnership's goals of increasing important habitat, increasing the use of ecological restoration and land management, and improving grasslands were met. In addition, these respondents indicated that staff spending more time with land owners, regular newsletters via mail and email, and more financial incentives would be less important to improving the Partnership as compared to respondents who were willing to accept more risk. Older respondents were less likely to attend meetings, interact with staff personally, and visit the website. They were significantly more likely to have been approached about participating in the Partnership and marginally less likely to recommend participating in the Partnership or feel that financial incentive increases would improve the Partnership. Respondents who reported having higher dispositional trust, were significantly more likely to see an inconvenience to themselves in implementing ecological restoration and land management and marginally more likely to recommend participating to their family and friends.

## QUESTION THREE – HOW IS THE PARTNERSHIP PERCEIVED GENERALLY?

In the last part of the survey, respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their perceptions of the Partnership. Following the relevant literature and our own work in the area, we measured perceptions of the competence, honesty, impartiality, legitimacy, and motivations of the Partnership as well as confidence in, cynicism towards, loyalty to, shared values with, respect given by, and the voice that the public has with the Partnership. Research has shown that these constructs are important for institutions because of their associations with increased support, compliance, and cooperation. As reported in Appendix Table 18, most respondents had positive perceptions of the Partnership (note that responses were scored on 1-7 scales where 1 indicated more of the construct). Specifically, they were most positive about the respect with which the Partnership treats the public and least about its impartiality (although these values were still positive). Partnership participants and non-participants differed only in their ratings of the respect afforded by the Partnership such that Partnership participants perceived the Partnership as more respectful ( $M = 2.67$ ) than non-participants ( $M = 3.29$ ).

**APPENDIX TABLE 18.** PERCEPTIONS (COMPLETE SAMPLE)

Construct	Number of Items	Example Item	Mean	Internal Consist. ( $\alpha$ )
Competence	2	Most decision makers of the [PARTNERSHIP] are highly qualified individuals.	3.37	.97
Confidence	4	The [PARTNERSHIP] does its job well.	3.37	.97
Cynicism	4	The [PARTNERSHIP] does not protect my interests.	4.20	.91
Honesty	2	The [PARTNERSHIP] is honest.	3.32	.94
Impartiality	4	The [PARTNERSHIP] is overly influenced by special interest groups.	3.83	.86
Legitimacy	4	The [PARTNERSHIP] uses its influence appropriately.	3.43	.92
Loyalty	4	I support the [PARTNERSHIP].	3.29	.92
Motivation	3	For the most part the [PARTNERSHIP] advice is presented out of care and concern for area residents.	3.54	.92
Respect*	3	Most members of [PARTNERSHIP] treat people with respect.	3.14	.93
Shared Values	4	I believe that the [PARTNERSHIP] supports my values about natural resources.	3.25	.95
Voice	4	Residents have voice with the [PARTNERSHIP].	3.51	.89

\*significantly different between respondent groups; note that mean scores are reported instead of the responses indicated for ease in comparison across constructs. All of these items were measured on 1-7 scales where 1 was labeled “agree” and 7 was “disagree,” as such, the median potential score on was a 4 and was labeled “neither agree nor disagree.” To the extent that the mean deviates from a 4 it can be said to indicate the presence (if lower than four) or absence (if greater than four) of the construct.

## QUESTION FOUR - WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE LAND OWNERS WHO HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE PARTNERSHIP TO PARTICIPATE?

Because of the interest in understanding how land owners who had not participated in the Partnership could best be encouraged to participate, we re-evaluated the preceding survey data. Specifically, we sought to understand which survey items were best related to non-participant responses on the question that asked whether the non-participant would join the Partnership if asked today. In order to accomplish this, we created a contrast variable from the original variable that specifically contrasted non-participants who would join against those who responded “maybe” or “no.” This contrast variable therefore explains what separates “yes” responses from the rest.

We first evaluated the likelihood of a “yes” response by attempting to correlate all of the relevant survey item responses with the contrast variable. Specifically, we correlated the contrast variable with the sample characteristics (demographics, the attitudes towards risk scale, the ecological restoration and land management scale, and the dispositional willingness to trust others scale), subjective knowledge (self-reported knowledge of the Partnership generally as well as its policies, practices, goals, and staff), and the general perceptions scales (confidence, voice, etc.). As reported in Appendix Table 19, “yes” responses were most likely (as compared to “maybe” or “no” responses), when the non-participant had more positive attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management, better knew the practices of the Partnership, felt the Partnership was more honest, and was less cynical about Partnership was it ( $p < .015$ ). “Yes” responses were also more likely than “maybe” or “no” responses when the non-participant felt more loyal to the Partnership; felt that the Partnership shared important values with them, granted more voice to the public, and was more legitimate; and were more knowledgeable about the Partnership’s goals and generally ( $p < .05$ ). Trends were also identified, suggesting that “yes” responses might be more likely when the non-participant felt the Partnership was more respectful to the public and more competent, had more confidence in the Partnership, better knew it’s policies, and felt that their general experience with the Partnership was more positive ( $p < .1$ ).

**APPENDIX TABLE 19.** EFFECT SIZES OF SIGNIFICANT PREDICTORS OF A “YES” RESPONSE TO WHETHER THE NON-PARTICIPANT WOULD JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP IF ASKED TODAY (IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE)

Predictor	Effect Size ( <i>r</i> -value)	Probability ( <i>p</i> -value)
<i>Attitudes towards Ecological Restoration and Land Management</i>	.40	.006
<i>Cynicism towards the Partnership</i>	-.40	.007
<i>Honesty of the Partnership</i>	.39	.008
<i>Know Partnership Practices</i>	.36	.011
<i>Loyalty to the Partnership</i>	.35	.019
<i>Shared Values with the Partnership</i>	.32	.030
<i>Know Partnership Goals</i>	.32	.032
<i>Public Voice with the Partnership</i>	.30	.042
<i>Knowledge of the Partnership Generally</i>	.29	.044

Note that the Effect Size reported above is the correlation of the predictor with the contrast variable – the larger the effect size, the greater the likelihood of a “yes” response (range is 0 - 1).

We then compared the relative influence these variables had on increasing the probability that a non-participant would respond “yes” as opposed to “maybe” or “no” when asked if they would participate in the Partnership today. Specifically, we entered all of the variables into a model predicting “yes” responses (as compared to “maybe” or “no”). When the variables were considered together, the strongest (and only significant) predictor of “yes” responses was attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management such that non-participants with more positive attitudes were substantially more likely to respond “yes” than “maybe” or “no.”

Because these attitudes had been combined into a scale, we next compared the relative influence of the specific attitudes towards ecological restoration and land management. When considered together, the strongest (and only significant) predictor of a “yes” response was a belief that ecological land management was not too complicated to implement. Two other specific attitudes also seemed important for increases in the likelihood of a “yes” response, namely, that ecological restoration and land management had direct benefits to and was not inconvenient the land owner.

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## APPENDIX B – COMPLETE QUESTIONS LISTS

Note that all questions are listed in the order presented to respondents.

### **COMPLETE QUESTION LIST FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PARTNERSHIP**

- How knowledgeable are you about the Platte River Habitat Partnership generally?
- How knowledgeable are you about the policies of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How knowledgeable are you about the practices of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How knowledgeable are you about the goals of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How well do you feel you know the staff of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- What is the source of your awareness about Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How often do you attend meetings held by the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How often do you personally have contact with the Platte River Habitat Partnership staff?
- How often do you visit the Platte River Habitat Partnership’s website?
- Please list the institutions that are involved in the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- What geographical area is covered by the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- What is the goal of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- On a spectrum of “generally negative” to “generally positive,” how would you describe your experience with the PRHP?
- What events or occurrences made your experience positive or negative?
- Would you recommend participating in the PRHP to family or friends?
- Please explain your answer above
- To what degree do you feel that the PRHP has accomplished the following goals?
  - Increased local knowledge about ecological restoration actions and land management techniques.
  - Restored habitat along the big bend of the Platte River.
  - Increased use of ecological restoration actions and/or land management that is economically viable.
  - Generally improving the Central Platte’s riparian grasslands.
- How often do you experience the following problems with the PRHP?
  - A lack of follow-through on the part of the PRHP staff
  - Confusion as to the PRHP staff’s actions
  - Financial hardships from implementing ecological restoration action and land management as recommended by the PRHP
  - Inconvenience in implementing ecological restoration action and land management as recommended by the PRHP
- Please explain any problems that you feel you experience a lot
- To what extent do you think the following changes would improve the PRHP?
  - PRHP staff spending more time meeting with land owners
  - A more regularly updated website with information about PRHP progress
  - Regular newsletters mailed to your home
  - Regular newsletters emailed to you

- More/larger financial incentives
- Make restoration actions and/or land management more straight-forward
- Do you have other ideas about how the PRHP might better meet its goals, improve its services, its communication with its members, or the impression it makes with the public?
- To what extent do you agree with the following statements?
  - My confidence in the Platte River Habitat Partnership is high.
  - The Platte River Habitat Partnership does its job well.
  - I have confidence in the Platte River Habitat Partnership to do its job.
  - I believe the Platte River Habitat Partnership will perform its functions as it should.
  - The decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership are selected using fair procedures.
  - The procedures followed by the Platte River Habitat Partnership are lawful.
  - The Platte River Habitat Partnership uses its influence appropriately.
  - The Platte River Habitat Partnership is a legitimate authority on natural resource management.
  - Most members of the Platte River Habitat Partnership treat people with respect.
  - I think the Platte River Habitat Partnership respects my rights.
  - Even when dealing with people who disagree with it, the Platte River Habitat Partnership is still fair and transparent.
  - Citizens can influence the Platte River Habitat Partnership.
  - I think the Platte River Habitat Partnership acts in the interests of some groups over others.
  - The advice presented by the Platte River Habitat Partnership is biased.
  - The Platte River Habitat Partnership is overly influenced by special interest groups.
  - The Platte River Habitat Partnership can be trusted to present advice that is right for the entire community.
  - I feel like the Platte River Habitat Partnership listens to the opinions of the people it works with.
  - Residents have voice with the Platte River Habitat Partnership.
  - Citizens can influence the Platte River Habitat Partnership.
  - The Platte River Habitat Partnership has the right amount of influence
  - I support the Platte River Habitat Partnership.
  - I would support the Platte River Habitat Partnership even if I disagree with some of its specific advice.
  - Even when I disagree with the Platte River Habitat Partnership, I still believe it deserves respect.
  - I believe the Platte River Habitat Partnership shares my values about natural resources.
  - To the extent that I understand them, I share the Platte River Habitat Partnership values about natural resources.
  - Even when it is difficult, the Platte River Habitat Partnership still maintains its values.

- For the most part, the Platte River Habitat Partnership’s advice is presented out of care and concern for area residents.
- Most decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership care about residents in the area they work.
- The decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership put aside their own personal interests in presenting advice that is right for the community.
- Most decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership are competent to do their jobs.
- Most decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership are highly qualified individuals.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership is honest.
- I believe that the Platte River Habitat Partnership supports my values about natural resources.
- Most Platte River Habitat Partnership decision makers have integrity.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership does not protect my interests.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership is not representative of Nebraskans.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership is out of touch with what’s going on in the communities where it works.
- The decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership are primarily motivated to do whatever they need to stay in power.
- Ecological restoration action and land management are important tools for me as a land owner.
- Ecological restoration action and land management have benefits to land owners beyond the restoration of the prairie.
- Ecological restoration action and land management are too complicated for me to implement.
- I do/would engage in ecological restoration action and land management only because I have been asked to.
- Ecological restoration action and land management have no direct benefits to me.
- Ecological restoration action and land management cause a financial strain for me.
- Ecological restoration action and land management are inconvenient for me.
- I have personally observed the benefits of ecological restoration action and land management on my land.
- What is your gender?
- What race/ethnicity do you consider yourself?
- What is your age?
- Regarding your political affiliation, would you say that you are: (*Republican, Non-partisan but lean Republican, Non-partisan, Non-partisan but lean Democrat, Democrat, Other*)
- Which of the following statements best describes you generally? (*I am willing to accept significant/moderate/small/no personal risks for the sake of the environment.*)
- Please respond to the following questions about yourself generally.
  - Generally speaking, I would say that most people can be trusted.
  - I think that most people would try to be fair.
  - I would say that most of the time people try to be helpful.

## COMPLETE QUESTION LIST FOR NON-PARTICIPANTS

- How knowledgeable are you about the Platte River Habitat Partnership generally?
- How knowledgeable are you about the policies of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How knowledgeable are you about the practices of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How knowledgeable are you about the goals of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How well do you feel you know the staff of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- What is the source of your awareness about Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How often do you attend meetings held by the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- How often do you personally have contact with the Platte River Habitat Partnership staff?
- How often do you visit the Platte River Habitat Partnership's website?
- Please list the institutions that are involved in the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- What geographical area is covered by the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- What is the goal of the Platte River Habitat Partnership?
- On a spectrum of "generally negative" to "generally positive," how would you describe your impression of the PRHP?
- What events or occurrences made your impression positive or negative?
- Have you been approached by the Partnership staff about participating in the PRHP?
- Would you participate in the PRHP if you were asked today?
- What would impact your decision?
- To what degree do you feel that the PRHP has accomplished the following goals?
  - Increased local knowledge about ecological restoration action and land management.
  - Restored important habitat along the big bend of the Platte River.
  - Increased use of economically viable restoration actions and land management that is environmentally beneficial.
  - Generally improving Central Platte riparian grassland.
- To what extent do you think the following changes would make you more likely to participate in the PRHP?
  - PRHP staff spending more time meeting with land owners
  - A more regularly updated website with information about PRHP progress
  - Regular newsletters mailed to your home
  - Regular newsletters emailed to you
  - More/larger financial incentives
  - Make ecological restoration actions and/or land management more straight-forward
- What changes would need to be implemented in order for you to participate in the incentive programs?
- To what extent do you agree with the following statements?
  - My confidence in the Platte River Habitat Partnership is high.
  - The Platte River Habitat Partnership does its job well.

- I have confidence in the Platte River Habitat Partnership to do its job.
- I believe the Platte River Habitat Partnership will perform its functions as it should.
- The decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership are selected using fair procedures.
- The procedures followed by the Platte River Habitat Partnership are lawful.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership uses its influence appropriately.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership is a legitimate authority on natural resource management.
- Most members of the Platte River Habitat Partnership treat people with respect.
- I think the Platte River Habitat Partnership respects my rights.
- Even when dealing with people who disagree with it, the Platte River Habitat Partnership is still fair and transparent.
- Citizens can influence the Platte River Habitat Partnership.
- I think the Platte River Habitat Partnership acts in the interests of some groups over others.
- The advice presented by the Platte River Habitat Partnership is biased.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership is overly influenced by special interest groups.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership can be trusted to present advice that is right for the entire community.
- I feel like the Platte River Habitat Partnership listens to the opinions of the people it works with.
- Residents have voice with the Platte River Habitat Partnership.
- Citizens can influence the Platte River Habitat Partnership.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership has the right amount of influence
- I support the Platte River Habitat Partnership.
- I would support the Platte River Habitat Partnership even if I disagree with some of its specific advice.
- Even when I disagree with the Platte River Habitat Partnership, I still believe it deserves respect.
- I believe the Platte River Habitat Partnership shares my values about natural resources.
- To the extent that I understand them, I share the Platte River Habitat Partnership values about natural resources.
- Even when it is difficult, the Platte River Habitat Partnership still maintains its values.
- For the most part, the Platte River Habitat Partnership's advice is presented out of care and concern for area residents.
- Most decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership care about residents in the area they work.
- The decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership put aside their own personal interests in presenting advice that is right for the community.
- Most decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership are competent to do their jobs.

- Most decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership are highly qualified individuals.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership is honest.
- I believe that the Platte River Habitat Partnership supports my values about natural resources.
- Most Platte River Habitat Partnership decision makers have integrity.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership does not protect my interests.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership is not representative of Nebraskans.
- The Platte River Habitat Partnership is out of touch with what's going on in the communities where it works.
- The decision makers of the Platte River Habitat Partnership are primarily motivated to do whatever they need to stay in power.
- Ecological restoration action and land management are important tools for me as a land owner.
- Ecological restoration action and land management have benefits to land owners beyond the restoration of the prairie.
- Ecological restoration action and land management are too complicated for me to implement.
- I do/would engage in ecological restoration action and land management only because I have been asked to.
- Ecological restoration action and land management have no direct benefits to me.
- Ecological restoration action and land management cause a financial strain for me.
- Ecological restoration action and land management are inconvenient for me.
- I have personally observed the benefits of ecological restoration action and land management on my land.
- What is your gender?
- What race/ethnicity do you consider yourself?
- What is your age?
- Regarding your political affiliation, would you say that you are: (Republican, Non-partisan but lean Republican, Non-partisan, Non-partisan but lean Democrat, Democrat, Other)
- Which of the following statements best describes you generally? (I am willing to accept significant/moderate/small/no personal risks for the sake of the environment.)
- Please respond to the following questions about yourself generally.
  - Generally speaking, I would say that most people can be trusted.
  - I think that most people would try to be fair.
  - I would say that most of the time people try to be helpful

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## APPENDIX C – COMPLETE COMMENTS LISTS

Note that comments were copied verbatim except where reasonable assumptions could be made about misspellings. Unreadable words are replaced with (*unreadable*) in the comment.

### **PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPANT COMMENTS**

**Partnership Participants Open-ended Question Prompt 1** – What events made your experience with the Partnership positive or negative?

*(Note that responses 6-9 do not appear to reference the Platte River Habitat Partnership.)*

1. Good communication, carry through to completion of projects; fencing, cost share wells cost share cedar tree removal
2. Rich is very easy to work with. A lot of different ways to meet objectives to different plans can be made for each individual
3. They understand
4. I was glad to see phragmites removal. We took out 40 acres to trees which I thought was good at the time, but now often flooding the banks are covering off and I have lost much of my pasture ground, not good.
5. They planted Canadian Thistle on my property which is very costly to control (if not impossible). There is virtually no grass (they are broadcasted in 40 MPH wind)
6. Cleaning the river and its banks of invasive weeds
7. Cooperation on protect on my property
8. Negative- Ducks unlimited came in and made sloughs on the crane trusts and now we have permanent damage on our side that still hasn't been addressed. Deer management policies are not adjacent land owner friendly. It's a pass the buck system- when and if there are problems. No one accountable. Positive- Bruce Sackett
9. Positive help from staff

**Partnership Participants Open-ended Question Prompt 2** – Please explain why you would or would not recommend participation in the Partnership to your family and friends.

1. I had not anticipated losing so much property to the river. Now have a very wide channel but much less grass for livestock.
2. I have never even heard of Canadian Thistle before. I now have a lot of it on both properties where they planted it. I'm supposed to be able to graze it but the only thing growing out there is weeds thistle and alfalfa (which was the previous crop).
3. Because of what I mentioned above- the Pass the Buck system- Never get an answer or a solution.
4. We like the idea of working together to preserve our grasslands/pastures for future generations. This would have been overwhelming and cost prohibitive to do on our own. The knowledge of the PRHP staff has been instrumental in educating ourselves about land husbandry.
5. We are happy with the project they did.

**Partnership Participants Open-ended Question Prompt 3** – Please explain any problems with the Partnership that you feel you experience a lot.

1. Headwaters Bruce Sackett has been great to work with he listens to us and tries to find solutions. But when it comes to Whooping Crane Trust, Game and Parks and Ducks Unlimited have never been easy to work with and they don't listen to land owners.

**Partnership Participants Open-ended Question Prompt 4** – Do you have any other ideas for the Partnership to meet its goals?

1. Doing a good job now
2. Better public outreach. Wider notifications of different incentive programs
3. They need to spend more money and time controlling thistle on property that they own, and less money on expensive electronic gates to lent them in and out without getting out of their pickups. I've heard that they want to pump sand into the river to make it wider & shallower. This will make it flood farm ground and habitat for deer and turkeys. I've also heard that they are partially funded by my tax dollars. That really ticks me off!
4. Yes, town hall meetings let people come and ask questions and voice their concerns.

## NON-PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

**Non-Participant Open-ended Question Prompt 1** – What events made your experiences with the Partnership positive or negative?

*(Note that responses 6-15 do not appear to reference the Platte River Habitat Partnership.)*

1. They used to be more active but recently fell off the radar screen
2. I have seen several game species using our habitat
3. Have not heard anything negative
4. Not enough knowledge to make an assumption.
5. Original involvement with Tim Tunnel.
6. You are moving too much of the wildlife who have come to inhabit the land, the *(unreadable)* Are cleaning enough out with their sand *(unreadable)*. Ducks unlimited is also causing trouble for just a couple of months per year.
7. My interaction w/ Tim Tunnell has always been positive and proactive
8. The staff's directives in management activities on the land. Annual reevaluation of the property adjustments of practices.
9. I have entered into a conservation easement with them
10. Worked w/ them to remove invasives on my property
11. efforts to protect least tern pipping plover seem to prioritize over people
12. The Natural Conservancy has taken farming and that attracted turkeys and sandhills cranes and tried to plant grass. The weeds are usually so tall that cranes never go there and the many turkeys that were around are down in numbers- plus extreme fire hazard.
13. Clearing of invasive species in Platte River
14. NRD representatives are great!, NegativePublic Power and ID can't be trusted.
15. spraying the phragmites

**Non-Participant Open-ended Question Prompt 2** – What would impact your decision to join the Partnership if you were asked today?

1. Depending on the project and its effects on hunting and camping
2. Money & Time involved-What good they could do that is not already being done in the region-already and abundance of players and programs there
3. benefits to *(unreadable)* owner
4. If the program was value to the land and people not a waste of tax \$
5. It would depend on when and where held
6. Can you keep dividing the weed control?
7. They really don't do anything. A lot of talk, no action
8. All interactions are subject to city council approval
9. having good habitat for our wild birds and game
10. Negative payments in the first two years of the agreement were timely. The last few years, the payments have been very late. In my situation that's has caused a financial burden.
11. Not Invested
12. my impression is that are helping to keep the river open at the free of weeds and brush
13. the need to remove invasives
14. Land improvement, education, helping land owners instead of taxing them to death

15. Info on wildlife and habitat.
16. City policy & possible regulatory oversight by other agencies.
17. Ask.
18. I have to question the Nature Conservancy's participation. They do not control noxious weeds such as musk thistle. Their properties look like weed patches rather than prairies.
19. Benefit to preservation or protection of habitat. To public in NE or me and family/friends.
20. Depends on what you wanted.
21. NRD involvement
22. Cost/time/materials needed
23. If I knew what it was
24. requirements of involvement
25. economically logical decisions that encourage farmers and environmentalists to work together

**Non-Participant Open-ended Question Prompt 3** – What changes would need to be implemented in the Partnership in order for you to participate?

1. If I know more about it (*unreadable*) maybe
2. Demonstrate the benefits to (*unreadable*) owner
3. Land owner (*unreadable*) never contact us or mail us any info, I plan on learning more
4. Dumb Rick Walters TNC
5. We already participate in the program
6. Already involved
7. Do not know enough about it. Most action is east of our property.
8. Don't know enough about the institute.
9. There are so many wildlife groups, hunters, utilities, and environmental groups contacting landowners with requests to enter property, it's difficult to keep them all sorted out. Oh- and the key is ASKING FOR PERMISSION and not just showing up on your property.
10. I am not familiar with their cooperation with landowners other than the Platte River Recovery Implementation Project.
11. N/A-Note sure.
12. Straight forward expectations
13. I totally disagree with any "restoration" plan that calls for cutting, burning or tearing out trees and brush and planting grass along the Platte corridor. This is all special interest and motivated by special interest groups along with being politically motivated. Management and habitat are my thing. "Restoration" as you call it is totally different.
14. Turning over management of CN Public Power and ID (CNPPID) to the local NRDs. This would give local representation rather than concentrating the power in Phelps County. The entire region should be managed by local NRDs. The NGPC can't be trusted either.
15. To know what they are. Right now information we have is little to none.
16. get information out
17. don't know enough about it to comment
18. more information, I have heard very little about it