



National and  
International Programs  
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July 22, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and  
Wildlife  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom McClintock  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and  
Wildlife  
House Natural Resources Committee  
4120 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Huffman and Ranking Member McClintock,

On behalf of the National Audubon Society's 1 million plus members, we urge you and your colleagues on the Subcommittee and Water, Oceans and Wildlife to support H.R. 3237, the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Extension Act introduced by Representative Neguse. The legislation seeks to extend authorization of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP).

PRRIP is a collaborative endeavor that addresses threatened and endangered species issues in a highly regulated system among Federal agencies, non-Federal entities, and stakeholders. This multiple state effort began in 1997, when the governors of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska joined with the Secretary of Interior to sign the "Cooperative Agreement for Platte River Research and Other Efforts Relating to Endangered Species Habitat along the Central Platte River, Nebraska", as they understood this approach would prevent years of courtroom battles over limited water supplies and individual river species.

The Program works to increase stream flows in the central Platte River during relevant time periods; enhances, restores and protects habitat for target bird species; and accommodates new water-related activities. PRRIP also operates with the required underlying principles that land is only acquired from willing participants and actions avoid increasing tax burdens to local citizens by paying taxes or their equivalent on Platte River Recovery Implementation Program lands.



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PRRIP is important for many in the region to allow irrigation and recreation projects to continue with reduced regulatory burden while addressing the needs of threatened and endangered species. We look forward to working with you and members of the House Natural Resources Committee to advance this important legislation, which will help protect birds and the places they need, now and into the future. Again, we encourage your support of H.R. 3237 and thank Representative Neguse for his leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Julie Hill-Gabriel  
Vice President, Water Conservation  
National Audubon Society

CC:  
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Chair  
House Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Joe Neguse (D-CO)