

Restoring Health to the Riparian Ecosystem

Riparian Migratory Bird and Wetland
Restoration Project

City of Greeley and US Army Corps of Engineers



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Natural Areas & Trails Program
970-339-2417

www.greeleygov.com/naturalareas

Project Background

- General Investigation Study of 17 downstream miles of CLP River for:
 - flood risk management
 - ecosystem restoration needs and potential
- Final feasibility report and environmental assessment - proposed ecosystem restoration projects on a 9-mile span from 83rd Ave to Hwy 85.
- Positive cost-benefit
- 8 final project sites recommended
 - 446 acres
 - Increase riparian forest from 80 acres to 198 acres
 - Increase wetlands from 11 acres to 179 acres
 - Reduce low quality rangeland and other land 286 acres



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Objectives of ER Project

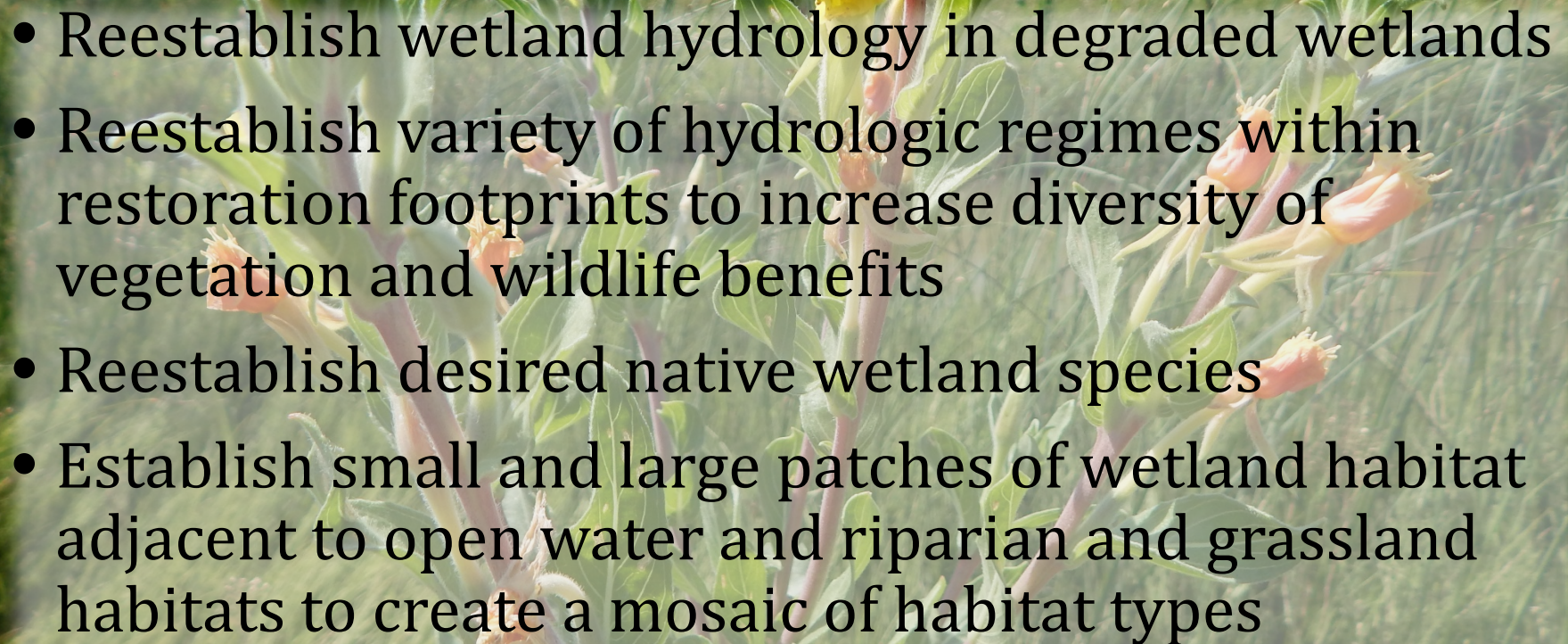
Migratory Birds and Wetlands

- Develop a riparian corridor along the CLP, increasing connection between ecosystems of the S. Platte River to the east and the mountainous ecosystem to the west
- Increase density and canopy cover of woody vegetation near water
- Reestablish plains cottonwood and peachleaf willow trees, native riparian shrubs, herbs and grasses
- Reestablish trees, shrubs and understory to create multi-story habitat structure



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- Reestablish wetland hydrology in degraded wetlands
 - Reestablish variety of hydrologic regimes within restoration footprints to increase diversity of vegetation and wildlife benefits
 - Reestablish desired native wetland species
 - Establish small and large patches of wetland habitat adjacent to open water and riparian and grassland habitats to create a mosaic of habitat types



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Current status

- Groundwater monitoring since 2016
- Design completed for two sites
 - Area B – Signature Bluffs NA
 - Area C – Sheep Draw NA
- Project bid and contract award pending
- Construction 2018
- Projects include soft-surface and boardwalk trails, interpretive signage
- Design work for next 3 sites (A, D & E) in 2018



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