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| **Region:** | Laramie |
| **Habitat Priority Area Name:** | North Platte River - Saratoga |
| **Habitat Area Type (s):** | **Aquatic  Terrestrial  Combined**  Stream, riparian, wetland, cottonwood |
| **Habitat Issues:** | Channel instability, loss of age-class diversity in cottonwoods, excessive bank erosion and sediment deposition, and over-widened channel |
| **Reason Selected:** | The North Platte River from Highway 130 through Saratoga has been highlighted by several entities (i.e., Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District and Trout Unlimited) as a priority reach for restoration. This reach is highly unstable with areas of excessive bank erosion and sediment deposition. Through the town of Saratoga, the river is over-widened and lacks floodplain access. Currently, the Town of Saratoga is in the planning stages of a river restoration through town. Consultants have been hired to collect data for a conceptual design plan for approximately 1 mile of river channel. The design will focus on narrowing and deepening the river channel to improve sediment transport. Bankfull benches will also be developed to encourage energy dissipation during bankfull flows. A restored river through Saratoga will provide deeper pools for trout, as well as additional cover through woody debris and riparian enhancements.  A landowner less than one mile downstream of Highway 130 is also working with local agencies to restore a meander on his property. Presently, the river is threatening to cut a new channel across productive pastureland. Restoring the meander radius will protect the pasture, while also decreasing sediment inputs into the river. The bank stabilization will also incorporate fish habitat enhancements including woody debris cover. |
| **Area Boundary Description:** | From Highway 130 downstream to about 1 mile below the Town of Saratoga. |
| **Focal species or species assemblage(s) (limit 6):**  **SWAP Tier 1 species:** | Rainbow trout, brown trout, bald eagle, mule deer  boreal toad |
| **Solutions or actions:** | * Provide information to landowners and Platte Valley community members regarding the fundamentals of hydrology and stream restoration. * Encourage landowners to use natural channel design for stabilizing riverbanks and/or reaches. * Work to lessen the effects of existing levees and bank armoring in the reach. * Investigate opportunities to replace irrigation push-up dams with stable rock structures. * Work with interested landowners, to improve river form and function. |
| **Additional Information:** |  |
| **General land ownership and surface area:** | |  | | --- | | BLM: 10 ac (0%),  USFS: 0 ac (0%),  State: 416 ac (6%),  Local Gvt: 2 ac (0%),  Private: 6,490 ac (90%),  Water: 314 ac (4%),  Total area: 7,232 ac | |