

Ranking Category–WILDLIFE HABITAT

Primary Resource Concern–

- **Fish and Wildlife–Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (Greater Prairie–Chicken [GPC], Lesser Prairie–Chicken [LPC])**

Eligible Land Use–

- **Grazed Range**

Priority–

- **High, Low**
 - o **Field offices shall designate HIGH PRIORITY for applications scheduling perimeter or boundary fence on CRP that expired on or after September 30, 2008, and LOW PRIORITY for applications scheduling perimeter or boundary fence on CRP that expired on or before September 30, 2007. All applications shall have a priority designation of either HIGH or LOW. Applications that do not have perimeter or boundary fence scheduled shall be designated HIGH PRIORITY.**

Additional Requirements for this Category–

- **To be eligible under this ranking category, greater than 50 percent of the application acres are within the designated critical habitat area for GPC and LPC.**

State Issues

1. Answer ONE of the following questions related to the location of the application:

- (a) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located within the current range for the GPC and/or LPC. (35 points)
- (b) At least 75.0 percent of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, are located within the current range for the GPC and/or LPC. (25 points)
- (c) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 75 percent, is located within the current range for the GPC and/or LPC. (15 points)

2. Answer ONE of the following questions related to the habitat area:

- (a) Any part of the unit of concern is within a Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) Core Habitat area for GPC or within a Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) “Irreplaceable” habitat area for LPC. (10 points)
- (b) Any part of the unit of concern is within a PLJV Core Buffer Habitat area for GPC or within a CHAT “Limiting” or “Significant” habitat area for LPC. (5 points)

Ranking Category–WILDLIFE HABITAT

Local Issues–

1. Answer EACH of the following six questions related to the application:
 - (a) Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). (5 points)
 - (b) Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (5 points)
 - (c) Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2011. (5 points)
 - (d) Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or other cost-share programs. (5 points)
 - (e) Planned treatment will benefit natural wetlands exceeding one acre in size. A certified wetland determination is not required. (5 points)

2. Answer ONE of the following questions related to trees on the unit of concern. If none apply, answer “NO” to all:
 - (a) Unit of concern has no trees present, except low elevations and narrow riparian areas that do not fragment prairie–chicken habitat. (15 points)
 - (b) Unit of concern has trees widely scattered over the upland areas (1.0 to 5.0 percent coverage). (10 points)
 - (c) Unit of concern has trees widespread over the entire area (5.1 to 15.0 percent coverage). (5 points)