



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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April 29, 2013

KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS190-13-3

SUBJECT: ECS—Proposed Specie Technical Assistance, Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Purpose. To provide guidance on technical assistance for Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC)

Expiration Date. September 2014

The Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) must consider threatened and endangered species (T&E) and other species of concern (General Manual Title 190, Section 410.22) when providing technical and financial assistance. The LPC is a federally proposed species and consequently NRCS, according to policy, will only develop or recommend alternatives which avoid adverse effects.

The LPC is known to use existing grass stands (including Conservation Reserve Program cover) for nesting and brood-rearing cover in their current range. The conversion of permanent cover to an annual cropping system in LPC range must be evaluated to determine if any adverse effect will occur due to cover conversion to annually planted crop.

The NRCS, in coordination with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, has developed a flowchart to assist in making a determination of effect on LPC and its habitat. The attached flowchart provides a sequential process which utilizes all available resources to assist NRCS in making a determination of effect.

NRCS shall use all available and current maps such as LPC Initiative Action Area, LPC Current Range, and/or the [Southern Great Plains Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool](#) (CHAT) to aid in identifying probable location of LPC and its habitat. These maps are accessible through Customer Service Toolkit and ArcGIS. A determination of effect will be made and clearly documented with all supporting documentation included in the client's case file and the Form NRCS-CPA-52, Environmental Evaluation Worksheet.

(more)

DIST: Areas 1 and 2, Management Team

NRCS district conservationists (DCs) are responsible for making the determination of effect. Site evaluations shall be clearly documented using the LPC Habitat Assessment in making a recommendation to the NRCS DC.

Contact: Andrew G. Burr, State Biologist, at 785-823-4593 or andy.burr@ks.usda.gov.

(signed)

DANIEL H. MEYERHOFF
Acting State Conservationist

Attachment