



2011 Annual Report

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Lesser Prairie Chicken (LEPC) Initiative

This report contains fiscal year activity for the state of Colorado from the time period of October 2010 to September 2011.

Fiscal Year 2011 Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative

Statewide Activities

Number of Applications Contracted	3
Dollar Amount Approved.....	\$328,651
Acres Treated	10,335

Who We Are

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

“The success of this particular initiative will depend largely on cooperative management with operating ranchers who are willing to restore, enhance, and maintain suitable Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitats in Colorado.”

LEPC Program Manager

The Program

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LEPC) is a ground nesting bird present in regions of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.

The LEPC is best known for its unique courtship displays and “gobbling” grounds. Once present in large numbers, the LEPC population and its original distribution have declined significantly since 1800.

Human influences such as the conversion of native rangelands to cropland, decline in habitat quality due to herbicide use, petroleum and mineral extraction activities, and excessive grazing of rangelands by livestock have contributed to this decline.

Conservation efforts will be supported through both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

The Benefits

The initiative provides conservation assistance to landowners for implementation of a variety of practices throughout the LEPC range for the protection and enhancement of suitable habitat.

LEPC Funding Allocations

LEPC is funded through EQIP and are distributed in Colorado’s ten watershed areas.

These watershed areas are identified at the local level and are reviewed and supported by the State Technical Committee, made up of conservation partners from various Federal, state, and local agencies, several agricultural organizations, and others.

The Assistance

LEPC activities are carried out according to an EQIP plan of operation developed in conjunction with the producer.

- Contracts for confined livestock-feeding operations require the development and implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan.
- EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term of one year and a maximum term of ten years.
- NRCS pays up to 75 percent of the cost of certain conservation practices.

Total cost-share and incentive payments are limited to \$450,000 per individual.

For More Information

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