



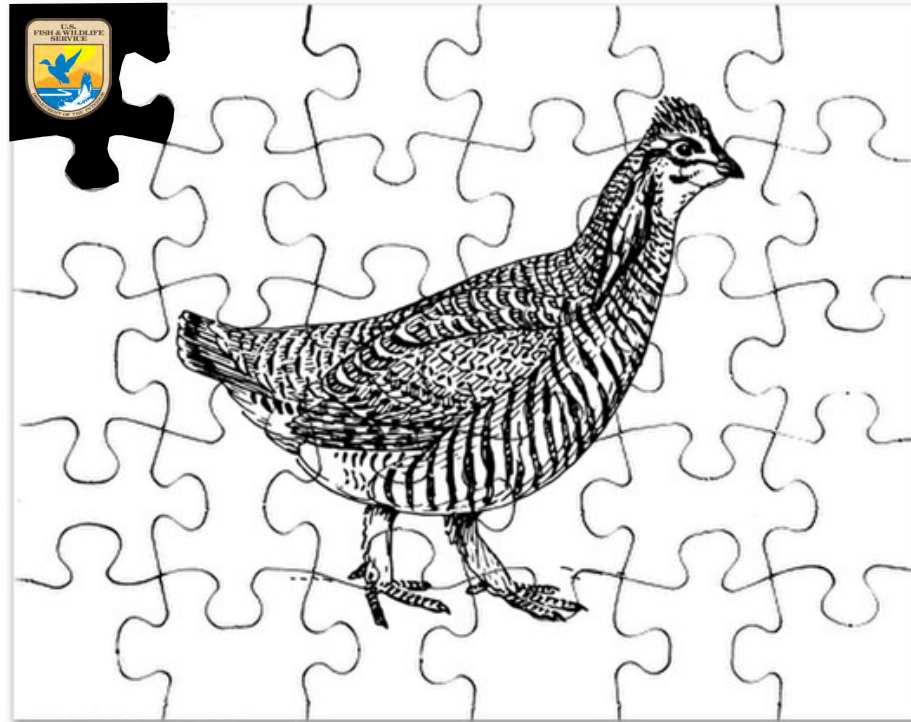
# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

## Lesser Prairie-Chicken: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Actions Past, Present, and Future

33<sup>rd</sup> Prairie Grouse Technical Council Biennial Meeting: 2019  
November 4-7, 2019  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

## Mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Work with others  
to conserve, protect and enhance  
fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats  
for the continuing benefit of the American people



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Programs with some connection to LEPC\*:

- Ecological Services
- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- National Wildlife Refuge System
- Science Applications

\* Lesser Prairie-Chicken abbreviated LEPC per Peter Pyle, Institute for Bird Populations (<https://www.birdpop.org/pages/birdSpeciesCodes.php>)



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

## **Some General Processes under the Endangered Species Act:**

- Regulatory Compliance Options
  - Federal (Section 7 Conferencing and Consultations, and
  - Non-Federal (Section 10 Habitat Conservation Plans, Research and Recovery Permits)
- Recovery Planning
- Grants
- Pre-listing Conservation



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

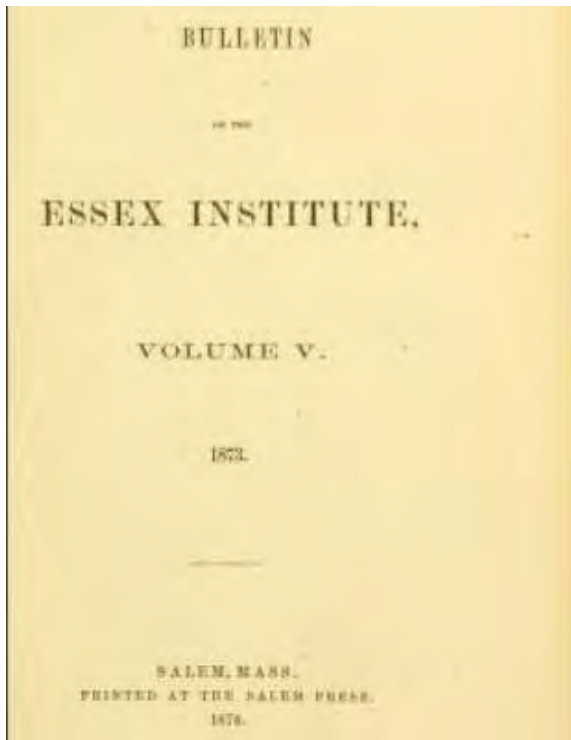
## **Outcomes / Opportunities of General ESA Processes:**

- Funding to support research (as funding is available)
- Regulatory Predictability and Assurances for:
  - Landowner, land manager, industry, agency actions
  - Voluntary conservation programs
- Avoidance, or minimization and mitigation for adverse effects

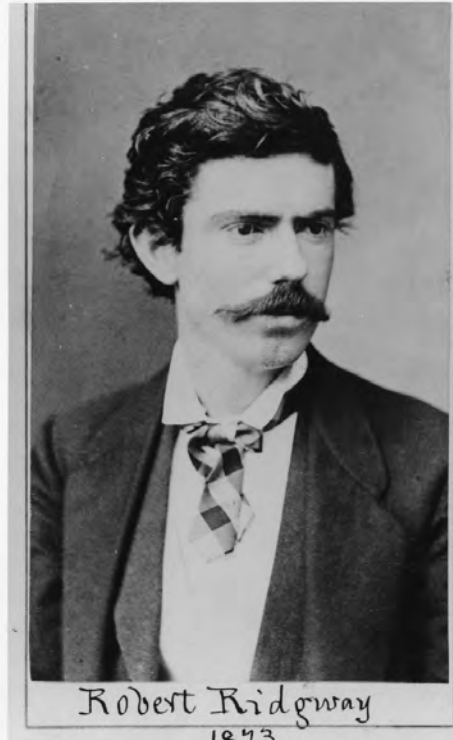


# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

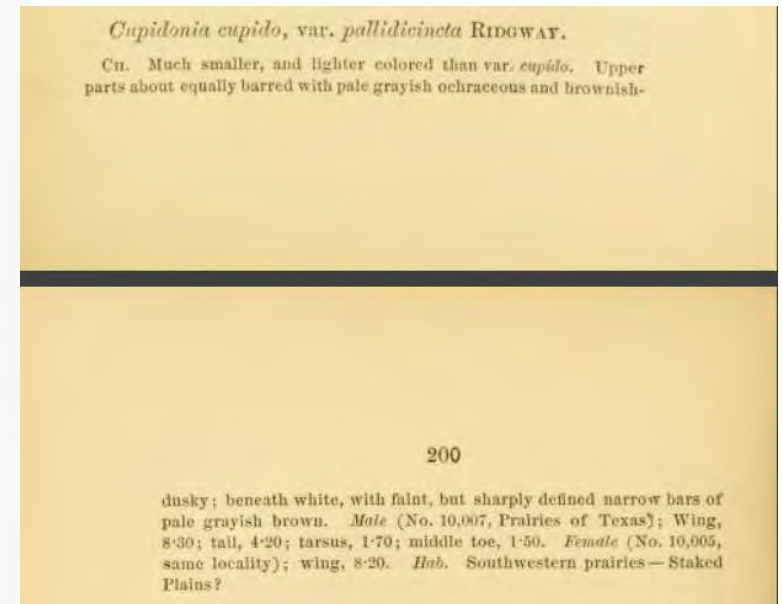
## The Past



<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/35566#page/5/mode/1up>



<https://siarchives.si.edu/blog/meet-robert-ridgway-ornithologist>



Ridgway, Robert. 1873. A new variety of prairie chicken. Bulletin Essex Institute 5(12):199





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

ecos.fws.gov/ecp/

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**ECOS** Environmental Conservation Online System  
*Conserving the Nature of America*

Search ECOS

ECOS / Home

**Public Applications**

- Conservation Plans
- Wildlife & Environmental Contaminants Mapper
- Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)
- National Wild Fish Health Survey Database (NWFHSDb)
- Species Reports

**Threatened & Endangered Species**

ECOS serves a variety of reports related to FWS Threatened and Endangered Species. A selection of our most popular reports is listed below. See the [Species Reports](#) for the complete list.

- [All Threatened and Endangered Animals](#)
- [All Threatened and Endangered Plants](#)
- [Critical Habitat Report](#)
- [Section 7 Consultation Issued Biological Opinions](#)
- [Delisted Species](#)
- [Listed Species Summary](#)
- [Reclassified Species](#)

**OBTAINING AN OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST:**

Use [IPaC](#) to identify your project location and receive an official species list (pursuant to 50 CFR 402.12) of T&E species that should be considered when evaluating the potential impacts of a project.

**ADDITIONAL SEARCH TOOLS:**

Search for a Listed species by name:

lesser prairie-chicken

[Lesser prairie-chicken](#) (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)

Search for a Listed species by County name:

[Secure Login](#)

**Related Sites**

- FWS Endangered Species Program
- National Wildlife Refuge System

**Wildlife & Environmental Contaminants Mapper**

The Wildlife & Environmental Contaminants Mapper displays the locations of over 100,000 samples from the "Environmental Contaminants Database Management System" (ECDMS). Click on sample collection locations to view the details about the samples, and download available results from laboratory tests performed.

- [Use the Wildlife & Environmental Contaminants Mapper](#)

Species Profile Page Search

<https://ecos.fws.gov>





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?sld=1924



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**ECOS** Environmental Conservation Online System

*Conserving the Nature of America*

Search ECOS



[ECOS](#) / Species Profile

## Lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)

[Range Information](#) | [Candidate Info](#) | [Federal Register](#) | [Recovery](#) | [Critical Habitat](#) | [SSA](#) | [Conservation Plans](#) | [Petitions](#)  
[Biological Opinions](#) | [Life History](#)

Taxonomy: [View taxonomy in ITIS](#)

[Search for images on  
digitalmedia.fws.gov](#)

**Listing Status:** **Under Review**

### General Information

Medium-sized, grayish brown grouse. Total length 38-41 cm (Johnsgard 1983, Olawsky 1987). Sexes similar, and plumages similar throughout year. In adults, most of body is barred with alternating dark (brown) and light (buffy white) bands. Dark bands on upperparts are complex, including black and cinnamon tones; light bands on upperparts range from buff to white. Upperparts are therefore darker and more richly colored than underparts. Chin and throat largely unmarked. Tail short, rounded, and brownish black. Male displays bright yellow eye-comb above eye and dull red esophageal "air sacs" on side of neck during courtship (Copelin 1963, Sutton 1977, Johnsgard 1983). Male also has a tuft of elongated feathers (pinnae) on each side of neck; these are held erect during courtship display. Females have shorter pinnae. Immatures similar to adults, but more richly colored, especially on throat.

The species historical range included Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas. See below for information about where the species is known or believed to occur.

### Current Listing Status Summary

Status	Date Listed	Lead Region	Where Listed
<b>Under Review</b>	05-12-2014	<a href="#">Southwest Region (Region 2)</a>	Wherever found



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Example

ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?slid=1924

» Federal Register Documents

Federal Register Documents

Show 10 entries

Date	Citation Page	Title	Supporting Documents
10/30/2001	66 FR 54808 54832	<a href="#">ETWP; Review of Plant and Animal Species That Are Candidates or Proposed for Listing as Endangered or Threatened; Annual Notice of Findings on Recycled Petitions, and Annual Description of Progress on Listing Actions; Proposed Rule</a>	
01/08/2001	66 FR 1295 1300	<a href="#">Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Annual Notice of Findings on Recycled Petitions</a>	
10/25/1999	64 FR 57535 57547	<a href="#">Review of Plant and Animal Taxa That Are Candidates or Proposed for Listing as Endangered or Threatened; Annual Notice of Findings on Recycled Petitions; Annual Description of Progress on Listing Actions</a>	
06/09/1998	63 FR 31400 31406	<a href="#">12-Month Finding for a Petition To List the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as Threatened and Designate Critical Habitat</a>	
07/08/1997	62 FR 36482 36484	<a href="#">90-Day Finding for a Petition To List the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as Threatened</a>	

Showing 21 to 25 of 25 entries

< Previous 1 2 3 Next >





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Timeline of Major Events

	List of Major Events			
	#	Month	Year	Action
PAST	1	October	1995	Received petition to list the LEPC
	2	July	1997	1st 90-day finding; Positive
	3	June	1998	1st 12-month finding; Warranted but precluded
	4	January	2001	Annual recycled petition finding
	5	October	2001	Annual recycled petition finding
	6	June	2002	Annual recycled petition finding
	7	May	2004	Annual recycled petition finding
	8	May	2005	Annual recycled petition finding
	9	September	2006	Annual recycled petition finding
	10	December	2007	Annual recycled petition finding
	11	April	2008	New Mexico CEHMM DSL LEPC CCAA and CCA
	12	December	2008	Listing priority number 8 to 2; Due to increased magnitude of threats
	13	December	2008	BLM Special Status Species RMPA
	14	November	2009	Annual recycled petition finding
	15	November	2010	Annual recycled petition finding
	16	September	2011	Proposed listing rule settlement agreement
	17	October	2011	Annual recycled petition finding
	18	June	2012	Individual Kansas landowner CCAA expires
FUTURE	19	December	2012	Proposed listing rule published
	20	January	2013	ODWC Agriculture LEPC CCAA
	21	May	2013	Proposed 4(d) rule published
	22	October	2013	Service endorsed WAFWA RWP
	23	February	2014	WAFWA LEPC CCAA for oil and gas activities
	24	April	2014	Final listing rule published in Federal Register – Threatened with 4(d)
	25	May	2014	ODWC LEPC CCAA
	26	June	2014	Multiple LEPC lawsuit filed
	27	June	2014	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department LEPC CCAA
	28	March	2015	Programmatic Conservation Banking Agreement
	29	April	2015	Service initiates LEPC Species Status Assessment
	30	September	2015	Court orders vacature of LEPC final listing rule
	31	July	2016	Service removes LEPC from ESA list following court order
	32	September	2016	Received petition to list the LEPC
	33	November	2016	90-day finding on petition; substantial
	34	February	2019	NOI for lawsuit on LEPC 12-month finding
	35	September	2019	12-Month finding settlement agreement
	36	May	2021	12-month finding due to Federal Register
	37	November	2026	TPWD LEPC CCAA expires
	38	December	2028	New Mexico CEHMM DSL LEPC CCAA and CCA expires
	39	February	2036	ODWC LEPC CCAA expires
	40	March	2039	ODWC Agriculture LEPC CCAA expires
	41	February	2044	WAFWA LEPC CCAA for oil and gas activities expires

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

- Petitions are in blue
- Rules/Findings are in green
- Legal actions are in red
- CCA, CCAA, or other Conservation Action are in purple
- SSA work in brown
- Permits expire

Updated: 03 November 2019

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Kansas Ecological Services Field Office



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

## The Present



C. O'Meilia





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?sld=1924



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**ECOS** Environmental Conservation Online System

*Conserving the Nature of America*

Search ECOS

[ECOS](#) / Species Profile

## Lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)

[Range Information](#) | [Candidate Info](#) | [Federal Register](#) | [Recovery](#) | [Critical Habitat](#) | [SSA](#) | [Conservation Plans](#) | [Petitions](#)  
[Biological Opinions](#) | [Life History](#)

Taxonomy: [View taxonomy in ITIS](#)

[Search for images on  
digitalmedia.fws.gov](#)

**Present**

**Listing Status:** **Under Review**

### General Information

Medium-sized, grayish brown grouse. Total length 38-41 cm (Johnsgard 1983, Olawsky 1987). Sexes similar, and plumages similar throughout year. In adults, most of body is barred with alternating dark (brown) and light (buffy white) bands. Dark bands on upperparts are complex, including black and cinnamon tones; light bands on upperparts range from buff to white. Upperparts are therefore darker and more richly colored than underparts. Chin and throat largely unmarked. Tail short, rounded, and brownish black. Male displays bright yellow eye-comb above eye and dull red esophageal "air sacs" on side of neck during courtship (Copelin 1963, Sutton 1977, Johnsgard 1983). Male also has a tuft of elongated feathers (pinnae) on each side of neck; these are held erect during courtship display. Females have shorter pinnae. Immatures similar to adults, but more richly colored, especially on throat.

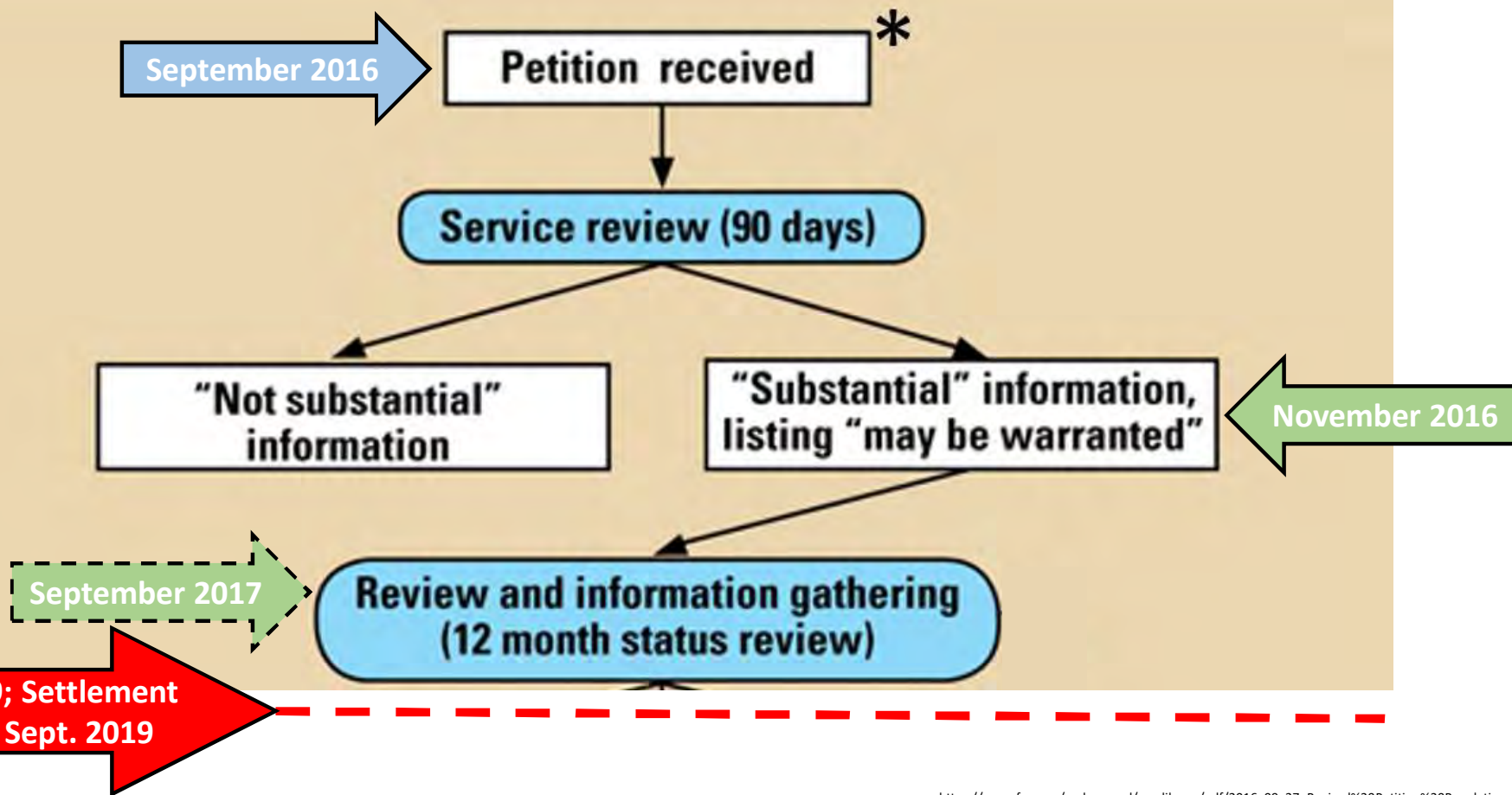
The species historical range included Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas. See below for information about where the species is known or believed to occur.

### Current Listing Status Summary

Status	Date Listed	Lead Region	Where Listed
<b>Under Review</b>	05-12-2014	<a href="#">Southwest Region (Region 2)</a>	Wherever found



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

## The Future



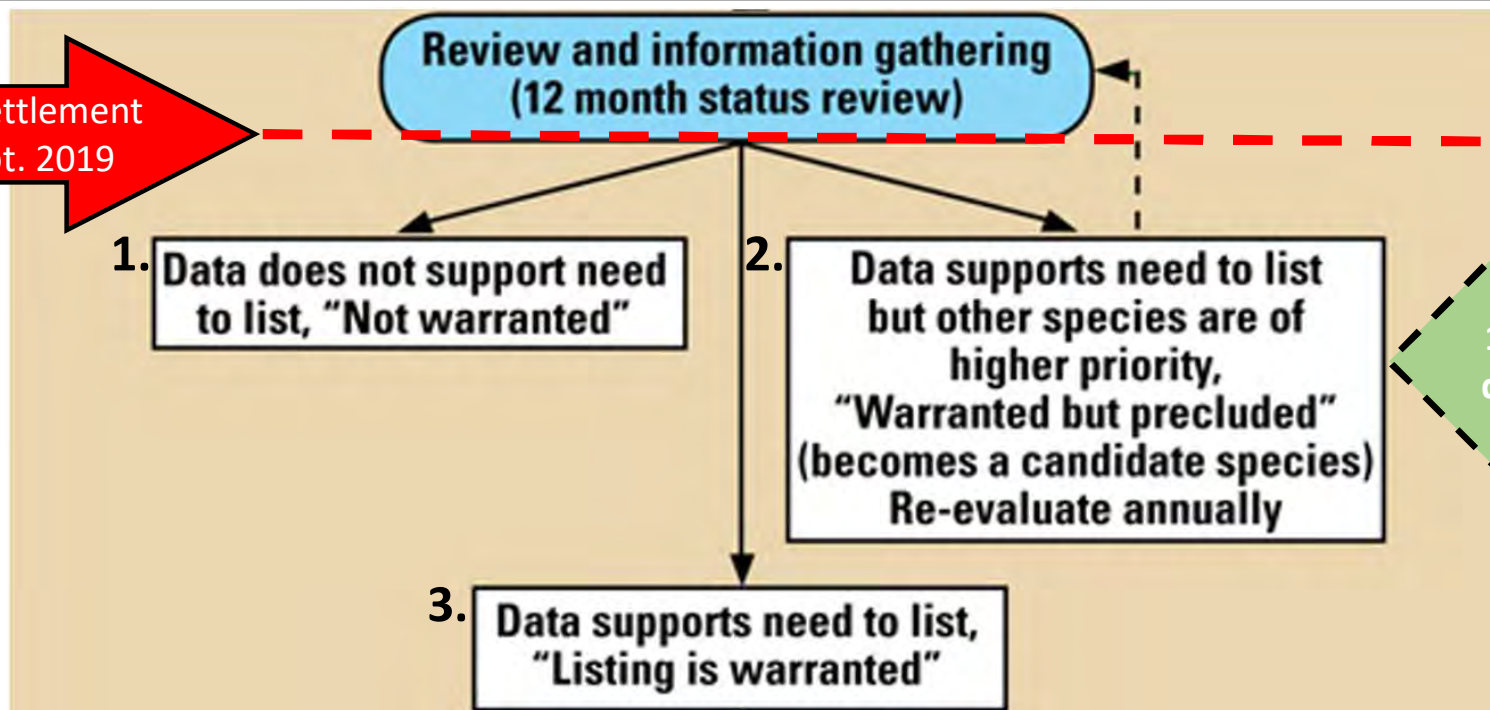
C. O'Meilia





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

NOI Feb 2019; Settlement  
Agreement Sept. 2019

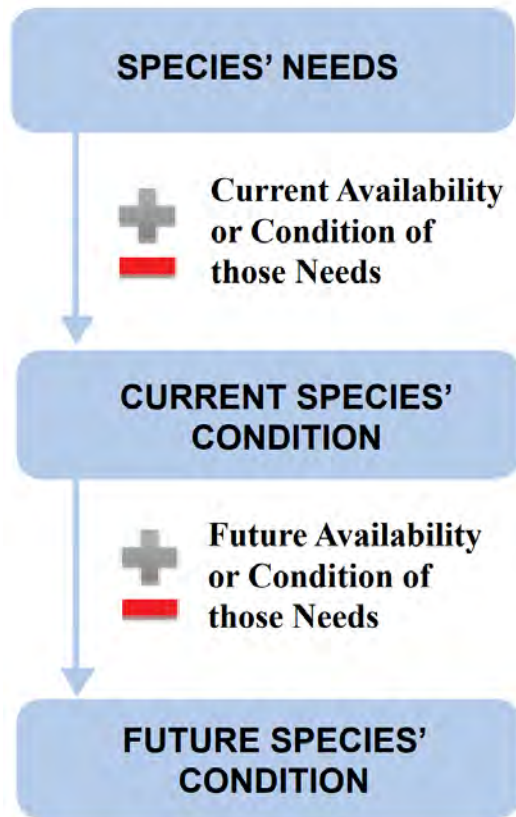


12-month finding  
due May 26, 2021



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

## Species Status Assessment Framework



## Species Status Assessment (SSA)

*“...foundational science for informing all ESA decisions...”*

- Viability
- 3 R's:
  - Resiliency
  - Redundancy
  - Representation
- Regulatory decision context

Service's LEPC Core Team is developing a project plan for management approval on path forward for continuing LEPC SSA in support of 12-month finding.

[https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving\\_esa/ssa.html](https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_esa/ssa.html)



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

January 2017



## Examples of Landowner Tools for At-Risk Species Conservation

<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/endangered-species-act/at-risk-species/>

	Best Management Practices	Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Program	Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA)	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)	Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA)	Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)	Conservation Banks
<b>Purpose of the Tool</b>	Voluntary guidelines to identify resource management options that benefit at-risk species when implemented.	Restore fish and wildlife habitats through voluntary agreements between the landowner and FWS.	Conserve species by removing enough threats to preclude the need to list under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).	Use regulatory assurances to provide incentives to landowners to conserve species by removing enough threats to preclude the need to list under the ESA.	Use regulatory assurances to provide incentives to conserve Federally listed species and contribute to their recovery.	Conserve species while providing a mechanism that allows development and other economic activities to continue.	Conserve Federally listed species by using a mitigation credit market to permanently protect land that is managed as mitigation for habitat loss elsewhere.
<b>Participants</b>	Any landowner/land manager on public or private lands.	Partners: Private landowners, and any non-Federal and non-state landowners. Coastal: Any landowner or land manager.	Any landowner/land manager.	Non-federal entities (public and/or private sector)	Non-federal entities (public and/or private sector).	Non-federal entities (public and/or private sector).	Any landowner/land manager can set up a bank, but Federal entities may require special consideration.
<b>Species Covered</b>	All species	All species, but the focus is on Federally listed, candidate and imperiled species, and their habitats.	Species that are candidates, or likely to become candidates for listing under the ESA.	Species that are candidates, or likely to become candidates for listing under the ESA.	Federally listed species.	Must include a Federally listed species; can also include non-listed species.	Candidate species and imperiled species may be included as part of an effort for listed species.
<b>Regulatory Standard</b>	BMPs have voluntary standards, and may be used in formal conservation agreements that provide regulatory certainty, such as CCAA, SHA, HCP.	Cooperative agreements. Partners: with a minimum duration of 10 years. Coastal: no minimum duration, although long-term conservation is preferred.	The Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts (PECE) may apply. PECE assesses whether proposed conservation measures are likely to be implemented and are sufficient to reduce or eliminate threats to the species.	FWS must determine that the benefits of the conservation measures to be implemented by the property owner under a CCAA are reasonably expected to improve the status of and result in a net conservation benefit to the covered species. FWS may also consider the PECE standard.	Landowner must provide a net conservation benefit that contributes to species recovery.	Landowner must minimize and mitigate expected incidental "take" to the maximum extent practicable.	FWS has guidance under the ESA for conservation banks. Banked land is protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement, with a management plan and a management endowment.





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

	Certified Best Management Practices	Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Programs	Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA)	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)	Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA)	Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)	Conservation Banks
<b>Assurances to Signatories</b>	None. There is no formal conservation agreement required. However, Certified BMPs can be a basis for any other formal conservation agreement, which can provide regulatory certainty.	Partners: Agreements may potentially be converted to a CCAA. Coastal: Agreements may be converted to a CCA or CCAA.	None	Would not be asked to do more than agreed to in the CCAA, even if the covered species is listed under the ESA in the future.	Will not be required to carry out additional land management/conservation actions beyond the terms of the SHA. May return to the species' original baseline condition at the end of the SHA term.	Landowners will not be required to carry out additional land management/conservation actions beyond the terms of a properly functioning HCP.	The mitigation credit buyer can receive documented credit for their conservation investment and continue with development activities elsewhere.
<b>Benefits for Species</b>	Reduction of threats and conservation of important habitats.	Reduction of threats and conservation of important habitats.	Removal of threats, which should improve species' status.	Provides a net conservation benefit for the species by removing or minimizing threats so that populations are stabilized, the number of individuals is increased, or habitat is improved.	Provides a net conservation benefit that contributes to the recovery of enrolled species.	Impacts to the species are minimized and mitigated.	Permanently preserved habitat managed specifically for the species.
<b>Benefits for Landowners</b>	Fulfills habitat conservation goals through independent stewardship actions.	Fulfilling habitat conservation goals on the land by working one-on-one in partnership with local FWS biologist, who provides expert technical and financial assistance.	Intrinsic benefits and satisfaction of conserving species.  Potential funding platform for cost share in conservation actions.	Flexibility in management and conservation actions. If the species is listed: (1) regulatory certainty that they will not have to do anything more because they have already done their part, and (2) an incidental "take" permit for prescribed management activities. Programmatic agreements with States issuing certificates of inclusion to landowners can facilitate the process and buffer landowners from "red tape." Potential funding.	Regulatory certainty that they have flexibility to return to baseline conditions for the species. Will not be penalized for land management that improves listed species habitat.  Programmatic agreements with States or municipalities issuing certificates of inclusion to landowners can facilitate the process and buffer landowners from "red tape."	Local solutions for species conservation. Can proceed with economic enterprises. Regulatory certainty that landowners will not be asked for more commitment of resources and/or mitigation. Programmatic agreements with local governments can facilitate the process and buffer landowners from "red tape."	The landowner retains title to land while making money by selling mitigation credits to other landowners who need to mitigate for development impacts on listed species.
<b>Potential FWS Funding Sources</b>	Certified BMPs are the basis for formal conservation agreements, other funding identified here may be available.	Program-specific financial assistance; State Wildlife Grants.	States can provide grants to landowners via Sec. 6 funds.	States can provide grants to landowners via Sec. 6 funds.	States can provide grants to landowners via Sec. 6 funds.	Section 6, HCP Planning Assistance Grants to States (competitive grants).	This is a market-based system, public funding is not available.

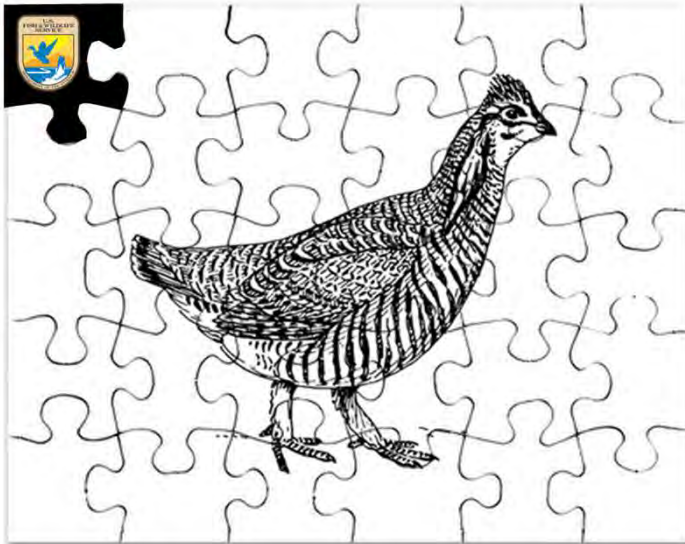


# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

- Habitat Conservation Plan
  - Candidate Conservation Agreement
  - Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances
    - Safe Harbor Agreements
      - Conservation Bank
    - Cooperative Agreements (PFW)
  - **Avoidance Measures**
    - **General Conservation Plan**
    - **Voluntary Prelisting Conservation Policy**
      - **Recovery Credit System**
    - **Endangered Species Tax Deduction**
      - **Pending ESA Reforms?**
- Federal
  - Non-Federal
  - Federally Listed
  - Pre-Listing
  - Voluntary
  - Statutory (permit)
  - \$ Incentivized
  - Not \$ Incentivized



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken



## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service LEPC Contacts:**

Texas – Clay Nichols, [clay\\_nichols@fws.gov](mailto:clay_nichols@fws.gov);

New Mexico – Jenny Davis, [jennifer\\_l\\_davis@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_l_davis@fws.gov);

Oklahoma – Patricia Echo-Hawk, [patricia\\_echo-hawk@fws.gov](mailto:patricia_echo-hawk@fws.gov)

Colorado – Leslie Elwood, [leslie\\_ellwood@fws.gov](mailto:leslie_ellwood@fws.gov); or Kevin Burgess, [kevin\\_burgess@fws.gov](mailto:kevin_burgess@fws.gov)

Kansas – Chris O’Meilia, [chris\\_omeilia@fws.gov](mailto:chris_omeilia@fws.gov)





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken



C. O'Melia/USFWS





# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

## LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN: UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S ACTIONS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

CHRIS O'MEILIA\*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Ecological Services Field Office, Manhattan, KS 66502 USA, CLAY NICHOLS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington Ecological Services Field Office, Arlington, TX 76006 USA, PATRICIA ECHO-HAWK, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office, Tulsa, OK 74129 USA, JENNIFER DAVIS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Albuquerque, NM 87113 USA, KEVIN BURGESS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region Six Regional Office, Lakewood, CO 80228 USA.

The objective of this talk is to provide a general overview of past, present, and possible future actions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) using its authorities to support conservation of the lesser prairie-chicken, *Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*, and meet statutory obligations of the agency. Service actions are only a portion of significant past and on-going work on the species. This presentation will only discuss actions that are connected to a specific statutory obligation of the Service to administer. Much of the information on past and present actions was gathered from the Service's Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS; [ecos.fws.gov](https://ecos.fws.gov)), communication with Service staff, and the statutory and policy framework of Service authorities, as derived from the Service's Mission and the Endangered Species Act. Service work on the species began in 1995, with receipt of a petition to list, and includes a range of regulatory processes and determinations, as well as conservation tools designed to provide benefits to lesser prairie-chickens through partnerships and permits with public and private landowners, land managers, industry and state wildlife agencies. To date there have been many statutory actions completed under Service authority, as well as potential opportunities for tools not yet utilized (e.g., Habitat Conservation Plans, mitigation credit transactions through Conservation Banking).

[chris\\_omeilia@fws.gov](mailto:chris_omeilia@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Kansas Ecological Services Field Office  
2609 Anderson Avenue  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2801  
785-539-3474 x104  
PAPER  
Microsoft PowerPoint