



**WAFWA ELIGIBILITY AND RANKING CRITERIA  
FOR SELECTING PERMANENT CONSERVATION SITES**

Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Check</i>
Shortgrass	
Sand Sagebrush	
Shinnery Oak	
Mixed Grass	

**RANKING POINTS (MAX = 600):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility Questions** – A property is not eligible if any ‘No’ responses are given.

1.) Has a lesser prairie-chicken lek been documented on the property or within a 3 mile buffer around its boundary during one of the last 5 breeding seasons?

Yes  No

2.) Is >50% of the unimpacted acreage contained within CHAT 1-3?

Yes  No

3.) Will the proposed conservation easement limit mineral development on acreage where those rights are still held by the surface owner?

Yes  No  NA

4.) Where the mineral rights have been severed, will the easement holder get a seat at the table during all negotiations between the surface owner and the mineral owner(s)/developer(s) **OR** Does a mineral remoteness report indicate the likelihood of development is so low as to be considered negligible?

Yes  No  NA

5.) Will the proposed conservation easement accomplish the following tasks?

a.) Prohibit vertical structures >150 feet?  Yes  No

b.) Limit road development and new residential and agricultural infrastructure to sites mutually agreed upon by the surface owner and the easement holder?

Yes  No

c.) Prohibit sodbusting of any planted or naturally occurring native grasses?

Yes  No

6.) Does the property contain at least one tract  $\geq 160$  contiguous acres?

Yes  No

7.) Will the property be managed without any payments from a federal conservation program at the time of signing and into the future?

Yes  No

8.) Is >50% of the acreage native range land or planted native grasses?

Yes  No



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## **Ranking Criteria**

1.) What is the highest scoring category in which >50% of the **unimpacted** acreage occurs?

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points</b>
CHAT 1	300
CHAT 1 & 2	150
CHAT 1, 2, & 3	25

Points: \_\_\_\_\_

2.) How many **unimpacted** acres will be contained within the easement?

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points</b>
≥ 20,000	150
15,000 – 19,999	75
10,000 – 14,999	35
5,000 – 9,999	15
1,000 – 4,999	5
160 – 999	0

Points: \_\_\_\_\_

3.) What percentage of the acreage is planted native grasses or native range land that consists of ecological sites with a LPC value rank  $\geq 3$  (see Appendix C in the range-wide plan for rankings).

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points</b>
90 – 100%	80
75 – 90%	40
50 – 74%	20
<50%	0

Points: \_\_\_\_\_



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4.) What percentage of the CHAT 1-4 area within a 10 mile buffer around the perimeter of the proposed property is already permanently conserved for lesser prairie-chickens? A property will be considered permanently conserved if there is a perpetual conservation easement on the property or it is under government ownership AND the NRCS core conservation practice(s) is/are being applied within the standards outlined in their biological opinion. Some examples of properties that might qualify for these points include National Grasslands, National Wildlife Refuges, State Wildlife Management Areas, and perpetual conservation easements on private lands.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Points</i>
≥ 50%	40
40 - 49%	30
30 - 39%	20
20 - 29%	10
10-19%	5
1-9%	1
<1%	0

Points: \_\_\_\_\_

5.) Is <30% of a 1.25 mile buffer around the property perimeter already considered to be impacted as defined by the buffers established in the WAFWA lesser prairie-chicken range-wide conservation plan?

<i>Category</i>	<i>Points</i>
Yes	20
No	0

Points: \_\_\_\_\_

6.) What is the highest scoring category that best defines the documented occurrence of a lesser prairie-chicken lek during one of the last 5 breeding seasons? The lek(s) must have been documented by WAFWA staff, a WAFWA representative, or the potential easement holder. The lek coordinates must be provided to WAFWA if the lek was documented by the easement holder.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Points</i>
Lek documented within the property boundary	10
Lek documented within 1.25 buffer around property perimeter	5
No leks have been documented on the property or within a 1.25 mile buffer of the perimeter	0

Points: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Other Factors Considered When Selecting Sites:**

- 1.) Are there any encumbrances on the title that could jeopardize the ability for the property to provide lesser prairie-chicken habitat?
- 2.) What is the immediacy and likelihood of future development on the site if it is not protected?
- 3.) What is the industry demand for offset units within the service area where the property occurs?
- 4.) Are there sufficient financial resources available to secure the easement and the management endowment at the current time?

**Person Completing Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assisting WAFWA Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_