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WAFWA Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-wide Plan 2022 Mitigation Fee Adjustment December 30, 2021

The WAFWA and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative Council (LPCIC) approved an annual adjustment of the mitigation fees for the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) and Wildlife Conservation Agreement (WCA). The revised rates will take effect on January 1, 2022.

As part of the adaptive management process, an annual review determines adjustments to mitigation fees, specifically the habitat management cost (unit value) and the administration cost. The unit value determines both landowner payment rates and mitigation costs, and it is limited to increases of 3% per year for inflation based on USDA practice costs and 4% per year for changes to adaptive management. The administrative percentage rate determines what proportion of the mitigation rates are committed to administration of the program, and it can be adjusted up to 4% per year. The last rate increase was authorized in 2018.

Effective January 1st, the habitat management and administration costs are as follows for each of the four service areas (ecoregions). These rates apply to active contracts and new contracts.

Service Area/Ecoregion	Habitat Management Cost		Administration Cost	
	Current (2018-2021)	2022	Current (2018-2021)	2022
Mixedgrass Prairie	\$49.35	\$50.83 (+3%)	16.5%	17.2% (+4%)
Sand Sagebrush Prairie	\$20.12	\$20.72 (+3%)	16.5%	17.2% (+4%)
Shinnery Oak Prairie	\$32.65	\$33.63 (+3%)	16.5%	17.2% (+4%)
Shortgrass Prairie	\$30.12	\$31.02 (+3%)	16.5%	17.2% (+4%)

The capped rate increase of 3% for habitat management costs was determined necessary based on inflation of USDA practice costs from 2018-2021. These values equate to the average cost per acre to fund landowners who are implementing conservation practices for lesser prairie-chickens. The capped rate increase of 4% for administration costs was determined necessary based on inflation costs for services over the last four years.

Please contact Chanda Pettie, LPC Program Manager, at chanda.pettie@wafwa.org if you have any questions.

Attachment: Restoration Base Payment Rate changes resulting from the USDA practice cost review, in support of the 2022 habitat management costs.

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**WAFWA Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-wide Plan
2022 Mitigation Fee Adjustment**

December 30, 2021

Restoration Base Payment Rates

	Mixedgrass Prairie		Sand Sagebrush Prairie		Shinnery Oak Prairie		Shortgrass Prairie	
	2018-2021	2022	2018-2021	2022	2018-2021	2022	2018-2021	2022
RESTORATION PRACTICES (1 x payment)								
Brush Management: Chemical	\$70.0	\$70.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$70.0	\$70.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Brush Management: Heavy Infestation	\$405.00	\$405.00	\$405.00	\$405.00	\$405.00	\$405.00	\$405.00	\$405.00
Brush Management: Moderate Infestation	\$195.00	\$197.00	\$195.00	\$197.00	\$195.00	\$197.00	\$195.00	\$197.00
Brush Management: Light Infestation	\$120.00	\$122.00	\$120.00	\$122.00	\$120.00	\$122.00	\$120.00	\$122.00
Grassland Restoration: Range Planting	\$240.00	\$275.00	\$240.00	\$275.00	\$240.00	\$275.00	\$240.00	\$275.00
2022 Inflation Rate Increase		3%		3%		3%		3%

The restoration base payment rates were developed by WAFWA staff who based their recommendations on the 2022 USDA payment rates. These rates were established by averaging the state NRCS practice costs for Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas. In some cases, the average rates are higher than presented in this table. The Lesser Prairie-Chicken Oil & Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances restricts the annual cost increase to 3% due to inflation.