



# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Oil & Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

*Advancing Collaborative, Proactive, Science-Based  
Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management Across the West*



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Since 1922, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) has worked to advance conservation in western North America.



We take pride in the many partnerships forged to conserve our treasured fish and wildlife resources. Working together with private landowners, conservation partners and state and federal agencies, we have been the catalyst in developing collaborative landscape-scale conservation efforts across the West. These voluntary efforts are making a difference in the health of iconic western species like lesser prairie-chicken.

As WAFWA moves into its second century, its member agencies are confident that by working together, the fish and wildlife resources of the West and the habitat upon which they depend will be conserved and enhanced for generations to come.

### Brad Loveless

Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks  
Chair, Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative Council

## REMEDIATION

Under WAFWA's Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-wide Conservation Plan (RWP) and the Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), the mitigation system incentivizes the remediation of impacts on the landscape as a conservation measure to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation of native grasslands and prairies of the southern Great Plains.

In some instances, remediation is required in order to maintain compliance with the terms of the CCAA. The RWP established impact thresholds for lesser prairie-chicken focal areas and connectivity zones (FACZ). Only 30% of a focal area, or 60% of a connectivity zone, may be impacted by development such as roads, transmission lines and well pads. If a focal area or connectivity zone is over the threshold, then any new CCAA impacts requires remediation of existing impacts before new impacts may occur.

Please visit the Southern Great Plains Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (SGP CHAT) to view the focal areas and connectivity zones:



[www.sgpchat.org](http://www.sgpchat.org)

## Industry Perspectives:

### The Benefit of Using Remediation on CCAA Mitigated Projects

For projects mitigated through the CCAA, there exists the opportunity for a **refund of the project's original mitigation cost**, minus the administrative fee, if the project is remediated to the standards set forth in the terms of the CCAA. This option is available for projects started (ground disturbed or infrastructure installed) but not completed, such as a dry hole, or where the project was operational and later shut-down for any reason, including if required by law or regulation

### The Benefit of Generating CCAA Remediation Credits

For projects not mitigated through the CCAA, there exists the opportunity to **receive remediation 'credits'** that can be applied to cover future mitigation needs; if the remediation meets the standards set forth in the terms of the CCAA. Credits are generated at half the rate of debit credits in order to provide a 2:1 mitigation ratio, and the company is assessed half of the full administration fee. Credits are company-specific and non-expiring and may be generated by remediating a third-party project.

## CCAA

# REMEDIATION STANDARDS

## *the basics*

The project site, including its staging area and ingress/egress, are reclaimed to a condition similar to the surrounding natural area.

- I. **Removal of Structures.** Remove all surface structures that were installed in association with the project such as tank batteries, pump jacks, utility lines, and turbines.
- II. **Return to Grade.** Re-establish the grade to approximately the slope and condition before impacts occurred. Including the return to grade of well pads, access roads and pits or ponds. Ensure the top-soil is re-established at the surface and prepared to encourage seeding and reduce erosion.
- III. **Seed with Native Vegetation.** Disturbed areas are seeded with native vegetation, after adequate seedbed preparation, by following the NRCS guidelines for range planting. The site is managed for vegetation success until fully established. If restoring back to active cropland, this action is not required by the CCAA.

Conservation measures, such as seasonal timing restrictions around leks, apply to remediation activities.

## Conservation Perspectives:

Use of early and effective remediation techniques to return developed lands with inactive impacts back to pre-impact conditions can help to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation of the southern Great Plains.

If reclamation of those impacts is done according to the conservation measures outlined in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan, the benefits can be strengthened to provide enhanced habitat conditions for the lesser prairie-chicken and other grassland species.



For additional information:

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[www.wafwa.org/initiative-programs/lesser-prairie-chicken/](http://www.wafwa.org/initiative-programs/lesser-prairie-chicken/)