



**Request for Proposal  
Technical Service Provider for Kansas  
(Ecological, Biological, Rangeland Mgmt.)  
Due: June 15, 2022  
2022-2027**

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency (WAFWA) is accepting proposals from qualified consultants and individuals to provide biological field-based services as a WAFWA-approved Technical Service Provider (TSP) for its Lesser Prairie-Chicken mitigation program. We invite interested applicants to submit a proposal by COB Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for consideration.

**Background of WAFWA**

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization representing 24 states and Canadian provinces, an area covering nearly 3.7 million square miles of some of North America's most wild and scenic country. WAFWA's reach encompasses more than 40 percent of North America, including two-thirds of the United States. WAFWA supports sound resource management and building partnerships at all levels to conserve wildlife for the use and benefit of all citizens, now and in the future.

**Overview of the Program**

The Range-Wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken is a voluntary conservation strategy that establishes a mitigation framework which is administered by the WAFWA and permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Established in 2014, the CCAA is in partnership with the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, the oil and gas industry and private landowners; for the purpose of providing the oil and gas industry with regulatory assurances should the Lesser Prairie-Chicken become listed under the Endangered Species Act. In exchange, industry participants have agreed to limit the impact of their activities on the species habitat and to mitigate any unavoidable impacts. Mitigation is provided through voluntary agreements with private landowners to manage their properties for the benefit of the lesser prairie-chicken.

WAFWA, 2014. Range-Wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) In Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Available online at: [www.wafwa.org/initiative-programs/lesser-prairie-chicken/](http://www.wafwa.org/initiative-programs/lesser-prairie-chicken/).

**Overview of WAFWA's Technical Service Providers**

Technical service providers (TSPs) provide biological, field-based services on behalf of WAFWA to implement the CCAA's habitat management & monitoring program and its industry compliance monitoring program. TSP's serve as conservation technical experts on lesser prairie-chicken habitat and ecology and can conduct basic, standardized habitat monitoring and offer conservation planning or advice on recommendations for habitat enhancement and restoration.

## Scope of Work

The 2022 field season will be an opportunity for training and on-boarding. The intent of this position will be to lead the Kansas work in subsequent years (2023-2027).

- Annual Monitoring of Conservation Properties. Conduct habitat evaluations on privately-owned conservation properties during April 1 – July 15 of each year. Each property will have a narrower timeframe within this season to conduct monitoring (a period of 20 days) to ensure consistency throughout the years. This timeframe, per property, will be provided annually to the assigned TSP (see Appendix A for the 2022 field season). The habitat monitoring protocol uses a WAFWA's LPC Habitat Evaluation Guide (HEG), refer to Appendix C. The HEG utilizes categorical variables to assess habitat quality, which includes a component of vegetation monitoring using transect sampling. The number of evaluations needed for each conservation property (including transect locations) is defined and will be provided annually to the assigned TSP. The monitoring protocol is designed to be conducted by one person, and generally takes 1 hour per transect. Unlike the other work items, this task is compensated at a fee per transect basis, at \$150 per transect.
- Annual Industry Compliance Reviews. Conduct field reviews on a random sample of industry projects from September 21 to November 30 of each year. The sample to review will be provided annually to the assigned TSP. The review is often conducted along with an industry representative. The review includes completion of a questionnaire with photo documentation. The monitoring protocol is designed to be conducted by one person. A sample of the questionnaire is provided in Appendix D.

## Optional Scope of Work (hired on an as-need basis)

- New Conservation Properties. On an as-need basis, the TSP will work with the LPC Program Manager to establish the baseline conditions for newly enrolled conservation properties. This will generally include site visits to confirm management unit boundaries, GPS existing infrastructure such as fence lines, roads, and stock tanks, and establish the location of vegetation transects for monitoring.
- Restoration or Reclamation Certification. On an as-need basis, the TSP will site review the completion of habitat restoration, enhancement or reclamation activities to certify if it was implemented to the planned standards and to document the current site conditions.
- Conservation Planning. On an as-need basis, the TSP will work with the LPC Program Manager and WAFWA's state wildlife agency point-of-contact to develop a plan for conservation properties that includes habitat restoration and enhancement prescriptions. These generally include prescriptions for woody vegetation encroachment (mesquite and eastern red cedar), re-seeding to native LPC-desired vegetation, and other actions to reduce threats to LPC and improve habitat conditions.
- Develop and Monitor Grazing Plan. On an as-need basis, annually review the rangeland conservation property's stocking rates, timing, and duration after the grazing season to ensure that the prescribed grazing plan is being followed and to make any needed adjustments for the upcoming year. On an as-need basis, the TSP will work with the landowner or manager of an enrolled conservation property to develop a grazing system that meets the requirements of the program.

## **Deliverables**

- Completion of annually assigned HEGs, as transmitted to WAFWA through the data collector app, by the due date of July 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Providing direct notification to the LPC Program manager of any issues found.
- Completion of annually assigned compliance review site visits, as transmitted to WAFWA through the data collector app, by the due date of November 30<sup>th</sup> each year.
- Any work items hired on an as-need basis will have the work assignment along with deliverables identified and agreed-upon before the work commences.

## **Training**

Training on the WAFWA protocols for monitoring and compliance reviews will be provided to the selected applicants. Upon successful completion of training, the applicant will receive certification as a WAFWA Technical Service Provider. Annual refreshers may be required. Please note: the 2022 field season will be a training season where there will be opportunity to assist the lead TSP in the field work (as needed).

## **Equipment**

The TSP will provide all field equipment required to conduct the work, including but not limited to iPad, Robel pole, 200' measuring tape, pin flags, dry erase boards, transportation, and safety or communications equipment.

## **Length of Engagement**

WAFWA is expecting to retain the TSPs under contract for a 5-year period (2022-2027). However, WAFWA reserves the right to terminate the contract sooner at its own discretion.

## **Expected Level of Effort**

- The time to monitor a conservation property will depend upon the number of Evaluation units/HEGs that need to be completed. These will be determined annually at the start of the field season (mid-March) and will generally remain consistent for the duration of the contract. See Appendix A for the 2022 monitoring needs. Each HEG will generally take 1 hour plus travel time to and between sites, and time for field season preparation including making notification to landowners to access the site.
- The time to conduct industry compliance reviews will depend on the number of reviews and that can fluctuate annually considering it's a random selection of projects. Generally, plan for about 10-20 site visits for a duration of time taking 2-4 days.
- The way the tasks are performed and the specific hours to be worked shall be determined by the TSP. Additionally, the TSP is entitled to engage third party vendors, contractors, subcontractors or other personnel approved by the TSP to perform some or all of the tasks.

## **Proposal**

Submitted proposals should include:

1. Provide a summary, no more than 3 pages, providing the applicant's qualifications related to the scope of work provided herein. Please include any education or experience in conducting habitat assessments, vegetation monitoring and/or grazing management plan development. Include any USDA-NRCS or WAFWA provided TSP training/certification or LPC HEG training received.
2. A description of where the applicant's location and defined extent in which the applicant is willing to work (e.g., ecoregion, state). See Appendix B for the geographic area covered by this RFP.

**Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is of the utmost importance to ensure the continued engagement of the Participants and landowners. TSPs will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

**Reserved Rights**

WAFWA has the right to: reject any or all the proposals; cancel the entire request for proposal (RFP) process; remedy the technical errors in the RFP; negotiate with any, all, or none of the respondents to the RFP; solicit the best and final offers from all or some of the prospective applicants; accept the written proposals as an “offer” without negotiations and issue a notice to proceed; contract with any respondent based solely on qualifications and capabilities; and solicit follow up information as deemed necessary, including references.

**Requests for additional information**

Additional information on WAFWA can be found at [www.wafwa.org](http://www.wafwa.org) and on the program at [www.wafwa.org/initiative-programs/lesser-prairie-chicken](http://www.wafwa.org/initiative-programs/lesser-prairie-chicken). Submit questions to Chanda Pettie, LPC Program Manager at [chanda.pettie@wafwa.org](mailto:chanda.pettie@wafwa.org) or by phone at 719-207-5053.

**Compensation**

A service agreement will be provided for a five-year term (2022-2027) with statements of work developed to specify the annual and/or as-needed tasks. Compensation for all tasks, except annual vegetation monitoring, will be provided at an hourly rate for field work and drive time. Per diem and mileage are included. Work will be contracted under a pre-defined, not-to-exceed basis. The hourly rate is \$60.00 to \$70.00 per hour based on experience. Per diem and mileage is provided at the government rate ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)), with subject to change. The annual vegetation monitoring will be compensated at a fee per transect basis, at \$150 per transect. Invoices, detailing the work performed, may be submitted on a bi-weekly basis.

**Submission and Selection Process**

Your proposal must be received by COB June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Email your proposal to Chanda Pettie, LPC Program Manager at [chanda.pettie@wafwa.org](mailto:chanda.pettie@wafwa.org). A final decision expected to be made by June 30, 2022.

Sincerely,

*Chanda Pettie*

Chanda Pettie  
LPC Program Manager

**Appendices:**

- Appendix A. 2022 Monitoring Season Workload for Kansas
- Appendix B. Geographic Work Area
- Appendix C. WAFWA's LPC Habitat Evaluation Guide (HEG) Form
- Appendix D. Industry Compliance Review Form

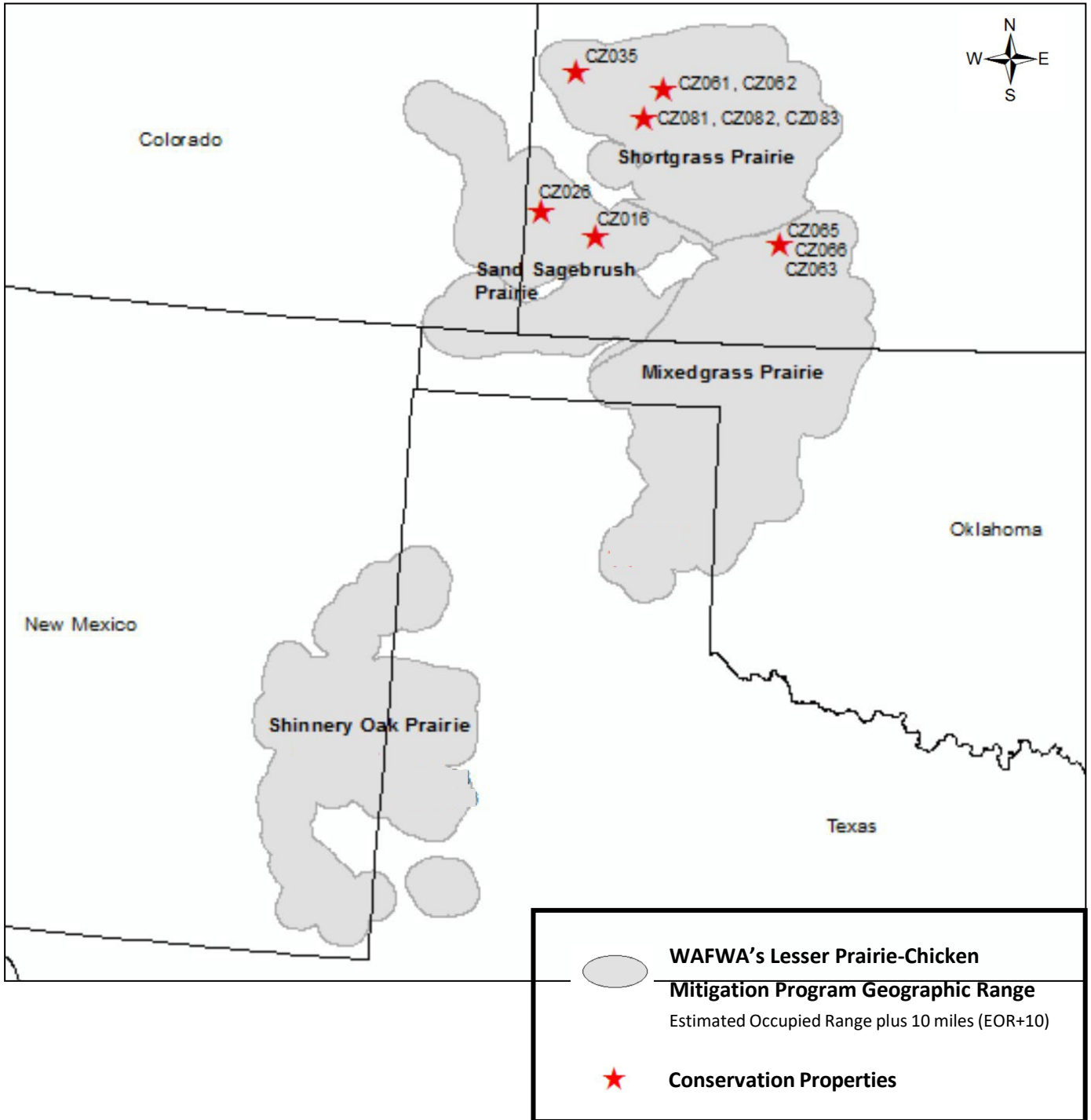
APPENDIX A – 2022 MONITORING SEASON WORKLOAD (KANSAS)

Table 1. Conservation Properties

Site	Ecoregion	Monitoring Type	Monitoring Dates	# of Plots
<b>Shortgrass Prairie (Kansas)</b>				
CZ061	Shortgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/20 (06/11 – 06/30)	6
CZ062	Shortgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Planted Grass Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/20 (06/11 – 06/30)	3
CZ081	Shortgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/30 (06/20 – 07/09)	3
CZ082	Shortgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/30 (06/20 – 07/09)	6
CZ083	Shortgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/30 (06/20 – 07/09)	6
CZ035	Shortgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 07/05 (06/26 – 07/15)	2
				<b>26</b>
<b>Sand Sagebrush Prairie (Kansas)</b>				
CZ016	Sand Sagebrush Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/22 (06/13 – 07/02)	8
CZ024	Sand Sagebrush Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 04/18 (04/09 – 04/28)	51
				<b>59</b>
<b>Mixedgrass Prairie (Kansas &amp; Texas)</b>				
CZ063	Mixedgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/26 (06/17 – 07/06)	2
CZ065	Mixedgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/26 (06/17 – 07/06)	2
CZ066	Mixedgrass Prairie (KS)	2022 Annual Monitoring, Rangeland Mgmt. Plan	Target Date: 06/26 (06/17 – 07/06)	1
				<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>90</b>

APPENDIX B – GEOGRAPHIC WORK AREA - KANSAS

The Range-Wide Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken is in partnership with the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas; covering the estimated occupied range of the lesser prairie-chicken.



APPENDIX C – WAFWA’s LPC HABITAT EVALUATION GUIDE (HEG) FORM

A sample of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Evaluation Guide (HEG) form. The monitoring data will be collected through a field data iPad app downloadable at: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/wafwa-habitat-assessment-tool/id1403978788>

		Score
<i>Instructions: Score by using a "x" adjacent to appropriate condition.</i>		
<b>A.</b>	<b>ANTHROPOGENIC FRAGMENTATION</b>	
Impact buffers will be applied to existing anthropogenic features prior to estimating the number of previously unimpacted acres within each evaluation unit. Those calculations will be done outside of this evaluation form.		
<u>Unimpacted Acreage (calculated by applying impact buffers)</u>		
	CHAT 1	832.55
	CHAT 2	0.00
	CHAT 3	0.00
	CHAT 4	0.00
<b>B.</b>	<b>SITE CONDITION</b>	
1.)	<u>Vegetation Cover</u> - Non-overlapping canopy cover of herbaceous plants and woody shrubs within evaluation unit	
a	Cover is >45%	1.00 x
b	Cover is 30-45%	0.85
c	Cover is 15-29%	0.60
d	Cover is <15%	0.25
e	Evaluation unit is used for crop production	0.05
	Assigned Point Value	1
2.)	<u>Vegetation Quality</u> - Relative cover of preferred native grasses and shrubs within the evaluation unit. These include little bluestem, sideoats grama, big bluestem, indiangrass, sand bluestem, switchgrass, sand sagebrush, and sand shinnery oak.	
a	>75% of vegetation is preferred species of grasses or shrubs	1.00 x
b	50-74% of vegetation is preferred species of grasses or shrubs	0.85
c	25-49% of vegetation is preferred species of grasses or shrubs	0.60
d	< 25% of vegetation is preferred species of grasses or shrubs	0.25
e	Evaluation unit is used for crop production	0.05
	Assigned Point Value	1
3.)	<u>Presence of Tall Woody Plants (excluding sand sagebrush)</u>	
a	No woody plants >3ft in height within the evaluation unit	1.00 x
b	Woody plants >3ft in height have an average canopy cover of <1% within the evaluation unit	0.85
c	Woody plants >3ft in height have an average canopy cover of 1-5% within the evaluation unit	0.60
d	Woody plants >3ft in height have an average canopy cover >5% within the evaluation unit	0.25
e	Evaluation unit is used for crop production	0.05
	Assigned Point Value	1
4.)	<u>Availability of Desired Plant Cover</u> - Percentage of area consisting of grass ; do not remove impacted acreage when making this calculation	
<i>Estimated within a one mile radius from center of evaluation unit (2000 acres)</i>		
a	>90% of area	1
b	80-90% of area	0.9
c	70-79% of area	0.8
d	60-69% of area	0.7 x
e	50-59% of area	0.6
f	40-49% of area	0.5
g	30-39% of area	0.4
h	20-29% of area	0.3
i	10-19% of area	0.2
j	1-9% of area	0.1
k	<1% of area	0
	Assigned Point Value	0.7

APPENDIX D – INDUSTRY COMPLIANCE REVIEW FORM



**WAFWA LPC-RWP Compliance Summary for 2022**

	Yes	No	Sold	Dry		
Were efforts to reach the company successful?	0	0	0	0		
Is the project constructed?			Yes	No		
			0	0		
Is the location of the project mapped accurately within CCAA standards?			Yes	No		
			0	0		
If this is a transmission project, are all poles in CHAT 1-3 monopole?		Yes	No	N/A		
		0	0	0		
If the site is within 1.25 miles of a lek and in CHAT 1-3, are there any impacts under the control of the participant company that were not mitigated for in this project that are not represented in the impact buffer map, including new above ground distribution lines?			Yes	No		
			0	0		
If the site is within 1.25 miles of a lek and in CHAT 1-3, are there escape ramps in all associated human-made water containment sources?		Yes	No	N/A		
		0	0	0		
If the site is within 1.25 miles of a lek and in CHAT 1-3, is there evidence of broadcast herbicide use outside the facility boundary that is attributed to the participant?			Yes	No		
			0	0		
If the site is within 1.25 miles of a lek and in CHAT 1-3, is the project compliant with respect to noise levels recorded at 30 feet from the facility boundary?		Yes	No	N/A		
		0	0	0		
Estimated wind speed using the Beaufort Scale (miles/hour)	0-4	5-7	8-11	12-18	19-24	25+
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maximum recorded decibels					<= 75dB	>75dB
					0	0
Are all fences associated with this project, and under the control of the participant, marked as needed (Necessary if not surveyed or within 0.25 miles of known leks)?					Yes	No
					0	0
Is there evidence of off-road travel during the breeding season?		Yes	No	N/A		
		0	0	0		
Is there evidence of violations of breeding season timing restrictions?		Yes	No	N/A		
		0	0	0		
			Yes	No		