



# 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.

**100<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary

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

## FENCE VISUAL MARKERS

to Reduce Wildlife Collision & Mortality

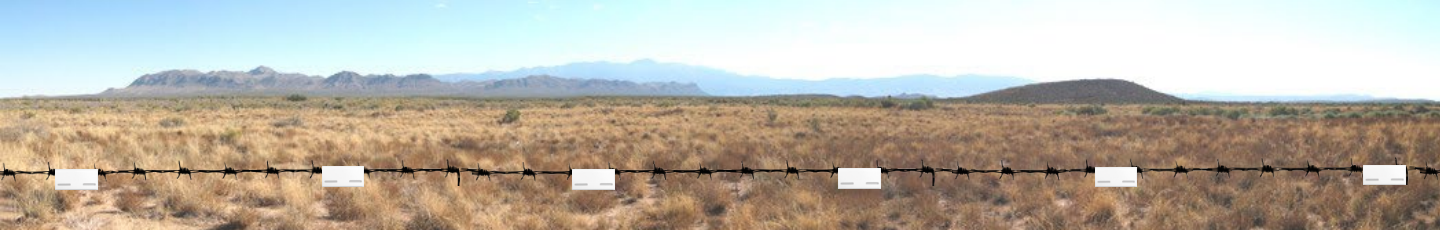
Under WAFWA's Lesser Prairie Chicken Range-wide Conservation Plan and the Oil and Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCA), the conservation program restores and enhances lesser prairie-chicken habitat to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation of grasslands and shrublands in the southern Great Plains.

In addition to restoration activities, the CCA utilizes **Conservation Measures** to minimize any adverse impacts to the species. One of these measures addresses the potential for mortality caused by or in association with fencing. Fences occurring in sensitive breeding areas can cause travel corridors for mammalian predators, perches for raptors and covid predators, and they can pose a collision potential for lesser prairie-chickens.

The CCA Conservation Measures for fences are provided within this guidance document, including the design criteria for building and installing visual fence markers to reduce fence collisions.



Installation of visual fence markers.



## Permanent Fence CONSERVATION MEASURES

### AVOIDANCE

#### Route Fences Away from Leks

Avoid potential for collisions by ensuring that new fences are installed at least a **0.5-mile** away from occupied leks. Consider temporary electric fencing instead. Remove or relocate existing permanent fences within this sensitive whenever possible.

### MINIMIZATION

#### Strategic Placement of Fence Markers

If avoidance is not possible, it is required by the CCAA program to mark any fences that are within **0.25-miles** of an occupied lek or in areas where collisions are known to occur; to increase fence visibility and reduce the potential of collision.

### REDUCE DISTURBANCE

#### Seasonal Timing Restrictions

To prevent disturbances during the breeding season, avoid human activities, including fence construction or maintenance, within 0.5 miles of an occupied lek from March 1<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>. If brief activities must occur such as fence repair, it will be conducted after 10:00 am when lek activities are lessened.

## FENCE MARKER DESIGN

*efficient and cost-effective*

### Marker Material Criteria

1. Markers should not add significant weight or wind resistance to fence lines or have the potential to cause wear to the wire,
2. not harmful to livestock or wildlife,
3. be durable to last for 3-5 years, and
4. provide high contrast with the landscape.

### Marker Placement Criteria

1. Mark all permanent fences within 0.25 miles of an occupied lek or where collisions are known to occur,
2. at 3-foot intervals along the fence line,
3. installed outside of the breeding season (March 1 – July 15).

### WAFWA Approved Design & Installation

Vinyl Siding Strips. The use of small sections of white, vinyl house siding (undersill) applied to the fence wire is an efficient and cost-effective technique approved by WAFWA to improve fence visibility for lesser prairie-chickens.

*The attached brochure provides details on making and installing fence visual markers.*



For additional information:

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

## LOCATE KNOWN OCCUPIED LEKS

Please visit the Southern Great Plains Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool ([www.SGPCHAT.org](http://www.SGPCHAT.org)) to locate known occupied leks.

# Make and Install Visual Fence Markers

## GETTING STARTED

### MATERIALS

- **Vinyl "undersill" Trim, White**  
Trim is manufactured for house siding and is sold at most home improvement stores in 12 ft. sections. (12 ft. yields 48 markers)
- **Reflective Tape** (optional)  
All-weather foil. Preferably white or silver.

### TOOLS

- Miter Saw & Fine-Toothed Blade
- Tin Snips (if not using a saw)
- Tape Measure
- Scissors (if using reflective tape)
- Safety Equipment (eye/ear protection)

### DETERMINE QUANTITY OF MATERIALS NEEDED

Length of fence to be marked divided by 3 equals the number of markers needed.

**Fence \_\_\_\_\_ ft. / 3 = # markers needed** (approx. 1,760 markers per mile)

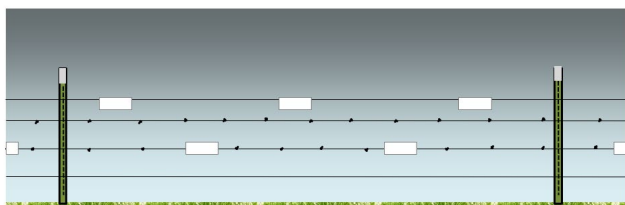
## CONSTRUCTION

1. If using reflective tape, apply the tape to the uncut sections of undersill; to the flat side. Or, if using a wider tape (2-3" wide) apply it so that it wraps over the top and down the flat side.
2. Cut the undersill into 3-inch sections or to a length that will fit in-between the barbs on the wire (older fences may have less space between barbs). If using a miter saw, use a fine-toothed blade or a vinyl siding blade to reduce splintering. Multiple sections of undersill can be stacked and cut at once.



## INSTALLATION

Markers should be placed approximately every six (6) feet apart on the top and on the third wire; in an alternating pattern. This visually results in a marker every three (3) feet.



*Example:* on a 5-strand 20' post spacing there will be 3 markers on the top wire and 2 on the 3rd wire down.

Markers quickly snap into place on the wire. Placement generally takes 1-2 hours per mile. When using reflective tape, ensure that the reflective sides alternate so that both sides of the fence have reflective markings.

Periodically check the fence for damaged or missing markers and replace as necessary.

