

# Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Oil & Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

Biologically-based

## MITIGATION FRAMEWORK

The Oil & Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) is a voluntary conservation strategy that establishes a biologically-based mitigation program administered by WAFWA and permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Established in 2014, the CCAA is a partnership between the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, the oil and gas industry and private landowners.

Industry's Commitment Avoid, Minimize & Mitigate Impacts on 5.7 million

Acres



## 10-Years of Accomplishments

Avoided Impacts
27,142
Habitat Acres

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High Quality Habitat 75%

Avoidance Rate

Mitigated

19,448

Habitat Acres

I. Avoid Habitat Impacts

Oil & gas projects have an impressive 58% collocation rate with existing development to avoid new impacts to habitat.

**II. Minimize** Impacts to High Quality Habitat When avoidance is not possible, projects are strategically located in low-quality habitat to minimize the effect on high-quality habitat.

III. Mitigate Habitat Impacts
Remaining impacts are offset (mitigated) by
the CCAA's conservation efforts at a 2:1 ratio
to ensure a conservation benefit.

## Landscape-Level

Uniquely addresses impacts to habitat quality and quantity across the species range

#### Collaborative

Partnership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WAFWA, oil & gas companies and private landowners



#### **Habitat Conservation**

Addresses the effects of oil & gas activities on lesser prairiechicken and its habitat

35% Permanent Easements 65% 10-Year Agreements

10,299 Habitat Acres Restored

#### INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WAFWA's Oil & Gas CCAA is a 30-year agreement in which participating companies voluntarily agree to undertake management activities on enrolled non-federal lands to conserve the lesser prairie-chicken, prior to the species becoming federally listed.

In exchange for proactive conservation actions, the agreement provides its participants with assurance that if the species becomes listed then their permitted oil & gas activities may continue without further regulation, provided the company continues to implement the agreed-to management activities and follows the terms of their CCAA agreement.



#### **Conservation Measures**

Designed to promote avoidance and minimization of impacts to lesser prairie-chicken and its habitat, as well as mitigate any remaining habitat impacts

## Biologically-Based

Incorporates habitat quality to quantify the impacts and improvements to habitat

## 2:1 Mitigation Ratio

Ensures 1 acre impact is offset by at least 2 acres of quality habitat conserved

2024
MITIGATED IMPACTS

19,448 Habitat Acres Impacted
(cumulative since the start of the program)

# Habitat Quality = LOW

Habitat Quality Score: 0.35 (range 0.0-1.0) with a stable trend of habitat quality

Majority (75%) of impacts occur in

low quality habitat (CHAT 3-4)

Percentage of leks observed within 1.25 miles: 4%

(64% of the habitat was surveyed)

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**CONSERVATION OFFSET** 

49,925 Habitat Acres Conserved

(provided in 2024)

## Habitat Quality = HIGH

Habitat Quality Score: 0.71 (range 0.0-1.0) with a trend of increased habitat quality

Majority (98%) of conservation occurs in high quality habitat (CHAT 1-2)

Percentage of leks observed within 1.25 miles: 85% (90% of the habitat was surveyed)

Credits Exceed Debits 42,575 Credit Units

12,500 Debit Units • Credits Exceed Debi

Conservation Efforts are Greater than Impacts



