

WAFWA Lesser Prairie-Chicken Oil & Gas CCAA 2026 Mitigation Fee Adjustment

The WAFWA and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative Council (LPCIC) approved an annual adjustment of the mitigation fees for the Oil & Gas Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the lesser prairie-chicken (CCAA).

Under the CCAA's 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 fees, and 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 cost determines what proportion of the paid mitigation fees are committed to administration of the program, and can be adjusted up to 4% per year to keep pace with the U.S. inflation rate.

Effective January 1st 2026, the habitat management and administration costs are as follows for each of the four service areas (ecoregions). These rates apply to active and new CCAA contracts.

Service Area/Ecoregion	Habitat Management Cost		Administration Cost	
	2025	2026	2025	2026
Mixedgrass Prairie	\$56.87	\$56.87	17.2%	17.7% (2.7%)
Sand Sagebrush Prairie	\$27.02	\$27.82 (+3%)	17.2%	17.7% (2.7%)
Shinnery Oak Prairie	\$39.54	\$39.54	17.2%	17.7% (2.7%)
Shortgrass Prairie	\$37.16	\$3716	17.2%	17.7% (2.7%)

Additionally, annual adjustment is made to the restoration payment rates. Rates are established by review of the USDA-NRCS practice payment rates for Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas. The 2026 restoration payment rates, per acre, are as follows:

RESTORATION PRACTICES (1 x payment)	Sand Sagebrush Prairie	Shortgrass Prairie	Mixedgrass Prairie	Shinnery Oak Prairie
Woody Invasive Control (NRCS Code 315)				
• Chemical, Aerial Application	\$31	\$31	\$31	\$31
• Chemical, Ground Application	\$37	\$38	\$38	\$37
• Chemical, Individual Plant Treatment	\$88	\$45	\$45	\$43
• Mechanical & Chemical	\$122	\$123	\$123	\$117
• Mechanical, Hand Application	\$72	\$72	\$72	\$70
• Chemical & Mechanical, Multi-Year	\$155	\$159	\$159	\$154
Range Planting (NRCS Code 550)				
• Grassland Restoration w/ Native Species	\$589	\$570	\$565	\$597