

States Join Forces to Develop Conservation Plan

The State of Kansas is participating in a five state effort to develop a range-wide conservation plan to address the decline of the lesser prairie-chicken (LEPC) in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas and Colorado. The range-wide LEPC conservation plan is being developed by the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group, a cooperative effort of the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.

The plan will identify management strategies to improve LEPC population viability through improvements to LEPC habitat, emphasizing tools and incentives to encourage landowners to partner with agencies in conservation efforts while achieving their land use needs.

The portions of the range-wide conservation plan applicable to Kansas will be developed in September through December 2012, and will include LEPC population and habitat goals for Kansas and identification of areas in the state that will be the focus of conservation efforts.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism (KDWPT) is consulting with managers, scientists, affected stakeholders and the general public in developing the conservation plan. The KDWPT has contracted with the Ecosystem Management Research Institute to assist in preparing the plan (www.emri.org). Jan Caulfield Consulting will coordinate stakeholder and public involvement in the planning process.

If you would like to be added to the project contact list, please email Jan Caulfield, janc@gci.net. In the email, please include your name, organization (if applicable), address, phone, and email address.