



**The Wildlife Society**  
The Kansas Chapter

Promoting Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship  
Through Science and Education

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The Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

February 28, 2013

Comments on Proposed Rule; Listing the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as a Threatened Species.  
Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2012-0017

The Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, representing a professional society of wildlife biologists, managers, researchers and educators in Kansas provide the following comments on the proposed rule to list the Lesser Prairie-chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

We believe the planning process the five states in which the Lesser Prairie-chicken occurs will enable the states to implement a successful range wide conservation strategy and preclude the need to list this species.

Specifically we endorse the range wide population and habitat goals, monitoring plans and conservation efforts which will be implemented across the range and in four distinct ecoregions: shinnery oak, sandsage, mixed-grass, and shortgrass prairies. We also believe that the species will benefit from unifying and targeted voluntary conservation practices across all agencies and partners under a range wide strategy. Development of a common framework for mitigation and promotion of conservation agreements with industries and landowners will also provide distinct benefits to the species.

We believe the range-wide conservation plan for the lesser prairie-chicken will provide the certainty necessary for the conservation and management of this species for now and into the future. We are hopeful that a finding of not warranted for listing will be the final decision reached based on the diligent work by the five states and their partners in this conservation effort.

Respectfully submitted,

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