

Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
Second Meeting – April 6, 2010

Items Discussed

- Overview of the Panhandle economy and work of economic developers to grow the region.
- The status of Conservation Reserve Program lands and potential for participating lands to come out of this program. Dr. Joe Outlaw with the Texas A&M University Agricultural and Food Policy Center provided a discussion on the work he and his staff are doing in analyzing possible changes in this program in Texas.
- TPWD provided an overview of the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances available to willing landowners in the area.
- TPWD presented updates on the on-going lesser prairie-chicken surveys in the Texas Panhandle.
- The committee discussed the potential impact the proposed CREZ transmission lines could have on lesser prairie-chicken habitat and the overall economic considerations in developing these transmission lines.
- Ongoing research projects related to the lesser prairie-chicken.

Action taken

- In response to a request from a committee member, the advisory committee agreed to draft a letter to be sent to the task force describing the awareness of the economics of the transmission line and the location of lesser prairie chicken habitat. The committee requested the task force send a letter with these concerns to the Public Utility Commission.

Next steps

- The next meeting will be held May 18, 2010, in Hereford.
- Agenda items will include:
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture programs available to assist in management of lesser prairie-chicken habitat;
 - Management tools and initiatives for specific prairie birds across the country;
 - An overview of the processes involved with the Endangered Species Act; and