

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
LPCI-Lesser Prairie Chicken**

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10 Point(s)
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is there a documented lek on or within 2 miles of the offered acres that will be under contract if approved? (If the lek is located on the applicants operation they must be willing to share this information in order to receive points).	300 Point(s)
2. Will the offered acres include expired or expiring (this calendar year) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres that will be maintained, enhanced, and or established?	300 Point(s)
3. Will the offered acres include treatment of woody vegetation to improve LEPC habitat?	300 Point(s)
4. Will the offered acres include cropland acres that will be converted to LEPC habitat?	100 Point(s)
5. Will a Prescribed Burn Plan promoting LEPC habitat be applied under contract?	25 Point(s)
6. Will a Prescribed Grazing Plan promoting LEPC habitat be applied under contract?	25 Point(s)
7. Is the application supported by a current (less than 5 years old) approved Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation plan, that addresses LEPC concerns?	25 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Core Conservation - location of enrollment in relationship to identified core conservation areas identified in the Oklahoma Lesser Prairie Chicken Conservation Plan. Answer yes to the one question below which best describes this offer. A map of the core areas is available on the Oklahoma LPCI website and on the local field office servers.	
1. a. Is the majority of the project area (>50%) within a Core Area identified in the Oklahoma Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation Plan?	300 Point(s)
1. b. Is a portion less than 50% of the project area within a Core Area identified in the Oklahoma Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation Plan?	200 Point(s)
1. c. The project area is not within a Core Area but is within 2 miles of a core area identified in the Oklahoma Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation Plan?	100 Point(s)
The following questions refer to the score of this property on the modified Oklahoma Lesser Prairie-Chicken Spatial Planning Tool layer found in your county toolkit files. A map of the ratings is also available on the Oklahoma Programs website. The unmodified Oklahoma Lesser Prairie Chicken Spatial Planning Tool is available from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservatuion and can be found at http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/lepcdevelopmentplanning.htm . Answer yes to only one of the following questions.	
2. a. Does this proposed project contain lands with a rating of 7 or higher?	50 Point(s)
2. b. Does this proposed project contain lands with a rating of 4, 5 ,or 6?	30 Point(s)
2. c. Does this proposed project contain lands with a rating of 3, 2 ,or 1	0 Point(s)
Contiguous Acres of Existing Native Grassland or Shrubland Habitat that is expected as a result of this Enrollment. Contiguous acres may include lands owned by others. Answer yes to all of the following questions that apply. A particiapnt restoring 40 acres of grass that is adjacent to 1500 acres of contiguous habitat(iregardless of ownership) would recieve points for all three questions.	
3. a. Will the proposed project create habitat that is adjacent to 1240 or more contiguous acres of native grassland or shrubland? Points may be awarded regardless of the acres in the contract. Credit is given for adjacent lands.	20 Point(s)
3. b. Will the proposed project create habitat that is adjacent to 640 or more contiguous acres of native grassland or shrubland? Points may be awarded regardless of the acres in the contract. Credit is given for adjacent lands.	20 Point(s)
3. c. Regardless of the size of offered acreage, is the application area located within one half mile of 1240 or more contiguous acres of native grassland or shrubland? (Applications receiving points for Questions 2.a. or 2.b. can also receive points for this question, if applicable).	10 Point(s)
3. d. Are High Power Transmission lines present along the perimeter of an offered area that is less than 160 acres in size or dissects the offered area into units less than 160 acres in size. (Refer to question E.3. of the Lesser Prairie-chicken Habitat Evaluation Form - Technical Note Biology OK-34)	-50 Point(s)
3. e. Do Stand-Alone Manmade Vertical Structures in proximity of proposed project area (including wind turbines, communication towers, tank batteries, oil and gas wells, and buildings. Do not include working windmills for stock water or single pole electric utility lines along roads and highways) average more than 1 per 160 acres. (Refer to question E.4. of the Lesser Prairie-chicken Habitat Evaluation Form - Technical Note Biology OK-34)	-50 Point(s)
Identification of Specific LPC Resource Concerns and Threats to be Treated. The applicant agrees to address potential threats to Lesser Prairie Chicken from existing infrastructure. Answer yes to each of the following questions that are true.	
4. a. Applicant agrees to either mark or remove all barbed wire or hog wire fences.	30 Point(s)
4. b. Applicant agrees to fit all existing watering troughs with properly designed wildlife escape ranps.	10 Point(s)
Restoration of LPC Habitat. Answer yes to each of the following questions that are true.	
5. a. Will the applicant agree to convert introduced pastureland (i.e. bermudagrass, lovegrass and old- world bluestems) back to native grasses, forbs, legumes, and shrubs?	30 Point(s)
5. b. Will the applicant agree not to use herbicides on native grasslands and shrublands except as part of an approved LEPC wildlife management plan?	30 Point(s)