

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPECIES, HABITAT, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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The SHOC Committee meets bi-monthly meetings to discuss important issues related to species and/or their habitat that may impact operations in the Permian Basin.

The SHOC submits the following Committee Report detailing significant issues that are being followed and worked by SHOC member companies.

Dunes Sagebrush Lizard (DSL)

- On September 20, 2019 Texas Parks and Wildlife proposed to add DSL as a State Threatened Species list. PBPA was preparing comments; however, TPWD withdrew the proposed rule on November 1, 2019.
- No new updates on the status of the Texas Conservation Plan and/or the new Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA).

Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC)

- Some Committee members and industry continue to meet with the State Directors and WAFWA to discuss the path forward for the realignment process to address the CCAA audit findings and possibly provide funding necessary to administer the CCAA in the interim.
- On November 13, 2019, WAFWA sent a notice to RWP Industry Participants notifying them that the web portal for project submissions would be going offline on November 18, and that the Southern Great Plains Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (SGP-CHAT) will also be going offline on November 18. All participants will be notified with the new address when they are established; however, no notification has been received to date.
- All current and potential participants in the CCAA are encouraged to look at their operations in LPC habitat and watch as the CCAA revisions unfold. Current participants will need to amend their Certificates of Inclusion (CIs) once the CCAA revisions become final.

Endangered Species Act

- On September 25, 2019, 17 states, including New Mexico, filed a lawsuit in federal court to block the new ESA rules, which the lawsuit contends will make it more difficult to protect wildlife in the midst of a global extinction crisis.

The most recent SHOC meeting was December 11th with the next scheduled meeting to be held on February 12, 2020.