

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPECIES, HABITAT, & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (SHOC)

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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 June 1, 2018, a petition to list the DSL was submitted to FWS by Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Defenders of Wildlife (DoW). This petition begins a 90-day timeframe during which FWS will determine whether the listing petition is warranted. Concurrently, a 12-month finding for proposal to list will be completed by FWS.
- A Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the DSL is being developed with input from the current Texas Conservation Plan (TCP) Participants.
- Comptroller Hegar wants to submit a conservation agreement document to FWS by the end of July.
- A new habitat suitability map is being developed by Texas State University. An alpha version of the map (shapefiles) were released by the CPA on June 18th and sent to SHOC members on June 19th. The new map looks similar to the Hibbitts map, on which the TCP was based; however, there are approximately 60,000 additional acres included in the new habitat map.
- The latest version of the draft CCAA was released by CPA on July 12th.

Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC)

- LPC surveys were completed in May. Initial results suggest that LPC populations have gone up in all 4 ecoregions. Final numbers are expected in July.
- FWS focused on publishing 12-mo finding on LPC by end of September with the Species Status Assessment expected around the same time.
- There have been no new enrollments since the 2017 annual report. Currently, there is approximately 7.1 MM acres enrolled across the five-state range.

Texas Hornshell Mussel (TXHS)

- On March 12, 2018, the TXHS became an endangered species.
- During SHOC meeting on June 18th, discussed confirmation by CEHMM and SLO that 3-day notice is satisfied with 15-day notice. No additional notice is required unless there are changes to initial notification.
- Also during SHOC meeting on June 18th, members discussed truck traffic and road quality along or near the Delaware River. NMSLO has indicated that no new ROWs will be approved along these routes.