

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPECIES, HABITAT, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Karen Sinard, Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation

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)

- A revised, draft 2020 DSL Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) and the associated draft Environmental Assessment were published in the Federal Register (FR) on November 20, 2020 with a 30-day comment period. Comments were due on/before December 21, 2020.
- A SHOC sub-workgroup reviewed the draft CCAA and EA and worked closely with the sand mining industry representatives to develop comments. PBPA submitted extensive comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on December 21, 2020, which were emailed to SHOC members on December 22, 2020.
- The 2020 DSL CCAA was finalized on January 20, 2021 with the Enhancement of Survival Permit issued to Canyon Environmental. Copies of the CCAA and the associated permit were emailed to SHOC members on February 5, 2021.
- Canyon Environmental presented an overview of the CCAA and answered questions during the February 10, 2021 SHOC meeting. The presentation was provided to all SHOC members on February 10th.
- The CCAA is available for enrollment of oil and gas activities, linear infrastructure (e.g. pipelines, Rights-of Way, etc.), local government, agriculture, ranching, sand mining, and renewable energy to provide assurances that should the DSL become listed, no additional Conservation Measures will be required.
- The Texas Conservation Plan and associated permit was transferred to American Conservation Foundation on October 19, 2020. The TCP is limited to Participants in the TCP that were active on November 10, 2018 and were in good standing, and that have a Certificate of Inclusion that is consistent with the TCP.
- FWS is undergoing a status review of the DSL to determine whether listing is warranted. Exact timing for the finding decision is unknown but expected mid-2021.

Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC)

- WAFWA submitted a White Paper to FWS on December 14, 2020 to highlight the success of the CCAA, describe the progress to date on the issues identified in the July 2019 audit, and the actions underway to enhance the financial sustainability of the CCAA.
- ICF, WAFWA's consultant for the realignment process, issued a final Findings and Recommendations report in December 2020 after some Committee members provided detailed comments on the draft report.
- WAFWA presented the proposed resolutions to the WAFWA Board of Directors on March 9, 2021 and four resolutions were approved. The resolutions are: 1) transfer \$10 million from the conservation endowment to the administrative endowment; 2) sell the Sunview Ranch in Kansas while maintaining the conservation benefits for the Range-wide Plan; 3) sell the WAFWA building in Boise; and 4) right-size the mitigation properties and associated costs. WAFWA plans to implement the resolutions expeditiously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPECIES, HABITAT, OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CONTINUED

- Some Committee members continue to work with WAFWA on the administrative budget and on the resolutions to increase stakeholder involvement and transparency with financial decisions.
- FWS has a listing decision on the LPC due no later than May 26, 2021.
- PBPA encourages additional industry partners to get involved in this CCAA realignment process.

Other Issues

- SHOC continues to monitor possible FWS actions on the following:
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - Designating Critical Habitat
 - Monarch Butterfly listing decision