

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPECIES, HABITAT, & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (SHOC)

Karen Sinard, Oxy

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).
FWS is working towards completing their 90-day finding determination; however, the statutory deadline of November 1, 2018 has passed.
- A Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the DSL and Permit Application was submitted by the Comptroller's office to FWS Region 2 on August 3, 2018.
- The DSL CCAA and EA were expected to be published early June and the Comptroller's office had scheduled public meetings. The DSL CCAA and EA were not published and the public meetings were postponed.
- Comptroller Hegar has had recent conversations with DOI and FWS and had meetings scheduled in early July to determine status of DSL CCAA and EA. Comptroller Hegar and staff are committed to resolve issues and work toward a final plan.

Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC)

- After receiving the letter from WAFWA announcing their re-evaluation of their role in the administration of the Range-Wide Conservation Plan, PBPA submitted a detailed request for reconsideration letter to WAFWA. The letter was emailed on May 16, 2019 and emailed to Committee members on May 20, 2019.
- PBPA has been closely following the audit process and some Committee members have had conversations with the State Directors to involve oil and gas partners in any RWP changes, including fee changes, changing of administrator, and potential increased conservation requirements.
- On June 12, 2019, CBD, DoW and WildEarth Guardians filed a federal lawsuit against the Interior Department in an effort to force the agency to protect the lesser prairie chicken from habitat loss and the impacts of climate change.
- WAFWA Summer Meeting scheduled and industry meeting to be held on Sunday, July 14, 2019 where the audit results and potential pathways forward will be presented to CCAA Participants.

Monarch Butterfly

- The draft Monarch CCAA was published on April 14, 2019 with comments due on June 14, 2019.
- FWS has extended the deadline for a listing decision from June 30, 2019 until December 15, 2020.

Other Issues

- FWS has published their 5-year Listing Workplan with 4 species identified for proposed listing in Fiscal Year 2021: LPC; Desert massasauga (rattlesnake); Tharp blue-star (plant); and Rio Grande cooter (turtle) (this species is included with the Texas Hornshell mussel CCAA).
- Robert Wallace was confirmed as the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

The next scheduled SHOC meeting is August 14, 2019.