

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

JUN 14 2012

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Governor Brownback:

I want to applaud the outstanding work being done through the Western Governors' Association's (WGA) Wildlife Corridors Initiative. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is using information created through this Initiative to help guide the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI).

The lesser prairie chicken is currently a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Given the amount of private land across the range of the species, NRCS launched LPCI to help farmers and ranchers implement voluntary conservation measures to improve lesser prairie-chicken habitat and significantly reduce threats to the species. NRCS is employing the Southern Great Plains Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT), collaboratively developed by five States, to help focus LPCI financial and technical assistance in priority habitats and corridors for the lesser prairie-chicken.

CHAT helps NRCS concentrate resources to improve the viability of the species, as well as promote the overall health of grazing lands and the long-term sustainability of ranching operations.

NRCS recognizes that landscape scale resource concerns, such as species conservation, cannot be treated effectively based on geo-political boundaries. We need to rely on the best available science and leverage partner interests and resources to maximize limited resources. For all of these reasons we appreciate the investment of resources, science, and development that you have made in CHAT. NRCS anticipates using future iterations of CHAT and is looking forward to continuing to work with WGA toward our shared goal of natural resources conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave White
Chief

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

The Honorable Sam Brownback
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Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Denver, Colorado 80203

The Honorable Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Governor of New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

cc:

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The Honorable Sam Brownback
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Ms. Robin Jennison
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