

Kansas Field Office Technical Guide- **Section II**

Special Environmental Concerns

6. Endangered and Threatened Species

In order to comply with [Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act](#), NRCS field office personnel in Kansas should access the following web sites to determine the status of federal endangered or threatened species listed within their respective counties.

An environmental evaluation (EE) must be conducted during conservation planning to assure that installation of conservation practice(s) will not adversely affect any federal species listed, or proposed for listing.

The [USFWS Endangered Species Website](#), will be accessed to determine if a federal species is expected to occur within the county of planning assistance.

If the web site does not include any species within the county, planning can continue without further evaluation.

Document in conservation assistance notes that the website did not report occurrence of any listed or proposed species in the county.

If the web site lists one or more species as occurring in the county, a determination of "effect" must be made for each species. An EE that results in a determination of "no effect" from implementation of the proposed plan alternative will allow assistance to continue without further action. "No effect" determinations should be documented in conservation assistance notes.

If the EE indicates a potential adverse effect, NRCS will advise the client of the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and recommend alternative conservation treatment that avoids adverse effect. If the client does not select an alternative that will have "no effect" and wishes to continue with conservation treatment that "may affect" a federal species or its designated critical habitat, the client must request, in writing, that NRCS consult with FWS on possible effects of the proposed conservation plan.

Further assistance from NRCS will depend upon the opinion received from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An opinion of "likely to adversely affect" the species(s) will require revision of the proposed plan to avoid adverse effect or termination of NRCS assistance. An opinion of "not likely to adversely affect" will allow NRCS to continue with conservation planning with inclusion of conservation measures suggested by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

References:

Primary information can be found at the following U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) websites: [USFWS Endangered Species Website](#) and [USFWS IPaC \(Information, Planning, and Conservation System\) Website](#) .

After accessing the site, select the *State/county list* radio button, then Kansas, and the applicable county. Follow the steps, and both of these websites will generate an Endangered Species Act Species List that often provides valuable information

about identification, habitat description, endangerment factors, etc.

Additional information on Threatened and Endangered species may be found at:

<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>

NatureServe Explorer, is an authoritative source for information on more than 65,000 plants, animals, and ecosystems of the United States and Canada. Explorer includes particularly in-depth coverage for rare and endangered species. NRCS personnel are encouraged to reference this site for additional information of selected species.

***This is not an official list and should be used for reference only.**

***These sites should be visited on a regular basis as they are regularly updated to list information concerning the status to the various species.**