



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Denver Federal Center
Building 56, Room 2604
P.O. Box 25426
Denver, Colorado 80225-0426

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 683

SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

Re: Transmit County-level Climatic Information; Lesser Prairie Chicken Biological Opinion, Conservation Measures, Flow Chart and Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT); Colorado Working Lands for Wildlife Implementation Plan; and cancel obsolete CO-ECS-05 worksheets

This Technical Guide Notice transmits the following materials to the Colorado electronic Field Office Technical Guide ([FOTG](#)).

Section I, Maps, General

[Colorado Land Resource Regions](#) (LRR)

Section II, Climatic Data, County Level Climatic Data

[Colorado Counties and FIPS Codes](#). National Weather Service map of Colorado FIPS codes.

[Using the WETS Table](#). Provides a hyperlink to the NRCS National Water and Climate Center's website on "WETS Table Documentation".

WETS tables are available in Section II under Climate Data, County Level Climate Data, by selecting the [Agricultural Applied Climate Information System \(AgACIS\)](#) link. The Office ID number is the local FIPS Code.

The objective of the WETS Table is to define the normal range for monthly precipitation and normal range for growing season required to assess the climatic characteristics for a geographic area over a representative time period.

Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, Threatened and Endangered Species, ESA Programmatic Consultation

[LPC Biological Opinion](#). New Content. On 09/14/2014 the NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formalized the "*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) Initiative and Associated Procedures, Conservation Practices, and Conservation Measures.*" (aka LPC Biological Opinion). This document replaces the LPC Conference Opinion, 11/22/2013.

Conservation planning occurring within LPC potential habitat will follow the conservation measures as outlined in the Opinion. GM_190_410_410.22

[LPC Conservation Measures](#). New Content. Provides an excerpt of the LPC Biological Opinion's conservation measures, including state-specific criteria.

[LPC Flow Chart](#). New Content. Provides an excerpt of the flowchart provided in the LPC Biological Opinion (Appendix VII), in a fillable .pdf format. This flowchart demonstrates when the LPC Biological Opinion would apply.

[LPC Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool \(CHAT\)](#) – New content. An online mapping application to provide information on lesser prairie-chicken habitat. For NRCS planning purposes, CHAT will be used for: targeting conservation efforts for the Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative (LPCI); helping to determine when the NRCS' LPCI Biological Opinion conservation measures apply (defined the Action Area); and for CRP conservation planning to ensure compliance with the provisions of FSA' LPC Biological Opinion.

Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, Threatened and Endangered Species, ESA Predictability

[CO's WLFW Implementation Plan](#). New Content. The WLFW implementation plan was relayed previously as state policy in Bulletin CO-300-14-9. Changes: reference to the lesser prairie-chicken conference opinion have been replaced with the biological opinion.

- [WLFW/ESA Predictability General Handout](#)
- [WLFW/ESA Predictability Handout for LPCI](#)
- [WLFW/ESA Predictability Handout for SGI](#)
- [WLFW/ESA Predictability Handout for SWFL](#)

This Technical Guide Notice cancels the following forms and worksheets and removes them from the Colorado FOTG.

Section IV, Planning Forms

All versions of the CO-ECS-05, Grass Seeding Planned and Applied worksheet, and CO-ECS-05, Range and Pasture/Hayland Seeding worksheet, dated prior to July 2013, including the following versions.

CO-ECS-05, Grass Seeding: Part I - Planned, Part II - Applied, April 1992

CO-ECS-05, Grass Seeding: Part I - Planned, Part II - Applied, July 2004

CO-ECS-05, Grass Seeding: Part I - Planned, Part II – Applied, January 2007

CO-ECS-5, Range and Pasture / Hayland Seeding, May 2008

CO-ECS-5, Range and Pasture / Hayland Seeding, March 2011

CO-ECS-5, Range and Pasture / Hayland Seeding, April 2011

CO-ECS-05, Grass Seeding Planned and Applied, August 2011

Printing and Filing Instructions

District Conservationists are not required to maintain a hard copy of the eFOTG in their respective field offices. One copy of the Colorado eFOTG is maintained at the National Information Technology Center (NITC) Web Farm at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?Map=CO.

This notice is filed in the Section I, Transmittals folder of the Colorado eFOTG. A Section I Transmittals Index is available in PDF format to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998.

Contact Information

Contact Chanda Pettie, State Biologist, at 720-544-2804 or chanda.pettie@co.usda.gov, for questions regarding the biology content of this notice.

Contact Eugene Backhaus, State Resource Conservationist, at 720-544-2868 or eugene.backhaus@co.usda.gov, for questions regarding the CO-ECS-05, Grass Seeding Planned and Applied Worksheet.

This is the only copy of this notice you will receive from the State office.

/s/

MARIA COLLAZO
Acting State Conservationist

Dist: A, D