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**NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE
TRANSMITTAL NOTICE NO. 64**

SUBJECT: ECS – Section II, Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conference Opinion

Effective Date: Effective upon receipt.

Purpose: To transmit the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conference Opinion for insertion into the New Mexico FOTG Section II and replacing the 2011 Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conference Report.

Affected Geographic Area; Quay, Curry, Roosevelt, Lea, Chaves, and Eddy Counties.

Explanation: *Conversion of the LPC Conference Report to a Conference Opinion.*

When the species' ESA listing changed on December 11, 2012 from a candidate species to a proposed species, the type of conferencing required also changed. NRCS and the Service began the process of converting the 2011 conference report into a conference opinion. The primary difference being that the conference opinion includes an "incidental take statement" that covers "take" of LPC by cooperators who implement the requirements of the opinion. NRCS also used this opportunity to improve upon the process. Refer to the attached Summary of Major Changes.

These documents are accessible through New Mexico NRCS electronic Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section II, T&E species, ESA Consultation.

http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//efotg_locator.aspx

*Acting SRC
Rudy Garcia*

GEORGE CHAVEZ
State Resource Conservationist

Attachments:

- LPC Conference Opinion.PDF
- LPC Conservation Measures.PDF
- Major Changes.PDF
- Flowchart.PDF

