

Voluntary Authorization for Release of Un-documented Lek Location Information to US Fish & Wildlife Service

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI) is a voluntary program that works with landowners to expand lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) habitat and improve producer sustainability. Having documented LPC on your property is not a requirement to participate in LPCI. However, known areas that are occupied by LPC are a priority for targeting conservation. LPC are most recognized when they congregate on breeding grounds known as “Leks” during the spring and fall. Leks are where LPC activities radiate from and are therefore used to identify occupied areas to target conservation efforts.

Some lek locations have been documented from road and aerial surveys but many remain un-documented. Landowners are encouraged to identify active lek locations on their property to NRCS for planning purposes. Leks are considered active if occupied by LPC within the previous 5 years. Lek locations, identified by the landowner or observed by NRCS during site visits, are protected information and NRCS is unable to share without written consent from the landowner.

As protected information NRCS is unable to award ranking points to LPCI applicants based on un-documented leks without written consent to share information with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Shared information may include location, date of last known occupancy and the numbers of LPC observed if known.

NOTE: Points awarded by acknowledging an un-documented lek merely increase the ranking of an application and does not guarantee award of a LPCI contract. Ranking of LPCI applications involves many elements of which nearby lek locations are only one. Applications not awarded points for nearby lek locations are still eligible for LPCI.

I, _____, have control of said property and acknowledge the location of un-documented lesser prairie-chicken lek(s). Furthermore, **I DO** give my consent for NRCS to share this information with the USFWS. This does not authorize access to my private property by non-NRCS agencies, groups, or individuals.

Name (Signature)

Date

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

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