Lesser Prairie Chicken Update

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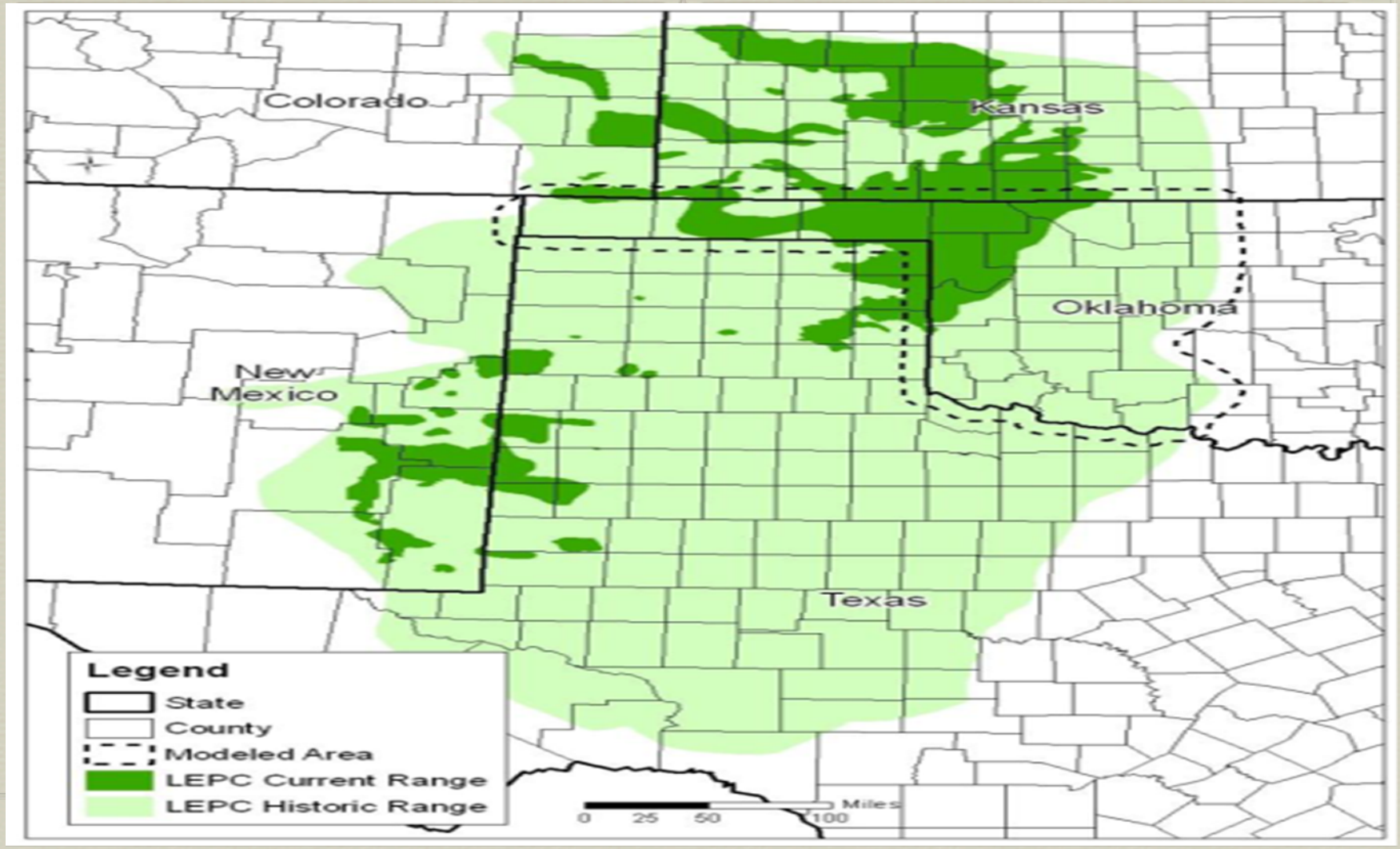
ODWC

Range


Colorado
Kansas
Oklahoma
New Mexico
Texas
Legend
State
County
Modeled Area
LEPC Current Range
LEPC Historic Range
0
25
50
100
Miles

Conservation status

- Oct. 1995 –petitioned for listing
- June 1998 – Listing warranted but precluded
- December 2008- LPN changed from 8 to 2
  - Wind energy and associated development
- November 2012 – USFWS proposed to list as threatened
- March 2014 – final listing decision
  - Just received confirmation 6/26/2013

Threats

- Habitat conversion to agriculture
- Livestock grazing (over grazing)
- Shrub control and eradication
- Altered fire regimes and woody encroachment
- Wind power and energy transmission
- Oil and gas production
- Climate change
- Collision
- Habitat loss and fragmentation

Ag CCAA

- Candidate Conservation Agreement w/ Assurances
- 25 year conservation agreement
- Agree to certain land restrictions to promote LEPC habitat and continue land operations without worry of "take"
  - Appropriate stocking rate
  - Fire
  - Fence removal or fence marking
  - Deferring haying near leks
  - Cedar removal

Ag CCAA

- Finalized January 2013
- Goal – 200,000 acres by January 2020
- 110,000 acres of plans written currently
- 93,809.9 acres of plans in the works
- Total 203,809.9
- Applied to double initial acreage to 400,000
    - Anticipating approval of the application
    - Receiving CCAA applications on an almost daily basis

Ag CCAA

- **Acres by county**
  - Beaver - 32,415.90
  - Cimarron – 15,410
  - Custer – 158
  - Dewey – 4,240
  - Ellis – 77,701
  - Harper – 16,381
  - Roger Mills – 10,039
  - Woods – 25,466
  - Woodward – 21,999

Research

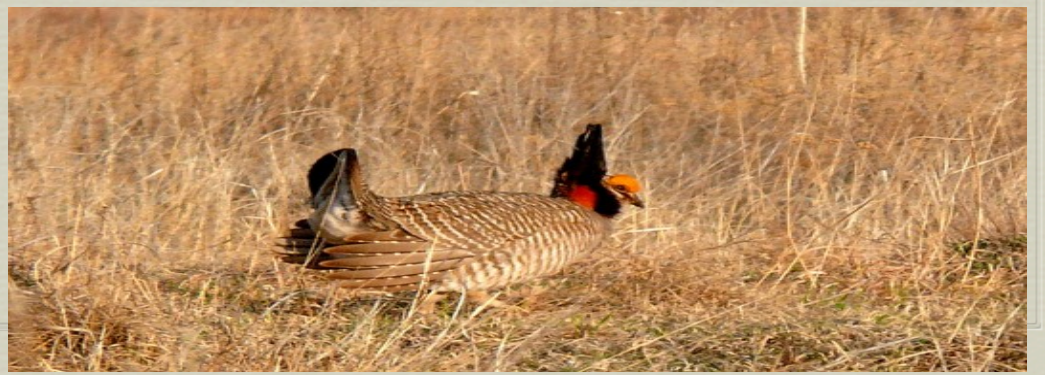
- Osu
  - ~25 collared birds
    - Some mortality
  - 2 birds currently sitting on nest
  - 1 female succeeded
    - 7 chicks on ground
  - More precip, less heat, large forb and grasshopper crop

Going Forward

- Comment period for 4(d), 5 state plan, listing decision closed 6/20
- USFWS in process of reviewing comments

Going Forward

- WAFWA submitted revised plan during comment period
- USFWS will meet with interstate working group early July to discuss and fine-tune mitigation framework in range-wide plan
- New plan will be available for public comment most likely late July



The American Burying Beetle

- Listed as endangered in 1989
  - Extirpated from 90% of range
- Largest American carrion beetle
  - 1.5 inches
- Habitat generalist
  - Eastern half of Oklahoma
  - Not limiting factor

ABB

- Possible limiting factors
  - Artificial lighting can decrease populations active at night
  - Changing sources of carrion because of habitat alterations
  - Isolation of preferred habitat due to land use changes
  - Increased edge effect favors mammalian predators which compete for carrion

  Cause for decline is complex and difficult to understand these factors are possibilities

ABB

- GCP along with EIS will be open for public comment either August or September 2013
- Dog update
  - Developing protocol for take coverage in offseason
  - Not sure if feasible at this point
  - Secretions may help

Questions?

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