



CEHMM

Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management



Lesser Prairie-Chicken – Sand Dune Lizard Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) and Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) Frequently Asked Questions

What is a CCAA and why do I need it?

Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) are voluntary conservation agreements between the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Center for Excellence (CEHMM), and private parties for activities on private or State land. Landowners, CEHMM and the USFWS will identify threats to candidate species, plan the measures needed to address the threats and conserve these species, develop agreements, design and implement conservation measures and monitor their effectiveness.

One of the primary reasons the USFWS developed the CCAA program is to address concerns by landowners about the potential regulatory implications of having a listed species on their land. The CCAA program is specifically targeted for non-Federal landowners/lease holders and provides them with the assurance that if they implement various conservation activities, they will not be subject to additional restrictions if the species becomes listed under the ESA. The assurances are only available for non-Federal entities for actions on non-Federal lands.

What is a CCA and why do I need it?

Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs) are voluntary conservation agreements between the USFWS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CEHMM, and private parties for actions (such as grazing or oil and gas development) occurring on Federal (BLM) land. The CCA applies to activities on Federal Land, and provides a high level of certainty that if parties implement conservation activities, they will not be subject to additional restrictions if the species becomes listed under the ESA.

How will I know if I have lesser prairie-chicken or sand dune lizard habitat on my property/lease?

Lesser prairie-chickens will be found in shinnery oak, sand sage and bluestem prairies (please reference handout for more information). Contact USFWS representatives, CEHMM, or the BLM to conduct a site visit.

Sand dune lizards will be found in shinnery oak dunes (please reference handout for more information). Contact the USFWS, CEHMM, or BLM to conduct a site visit.

If I do not have lesser prairie -chicken or sand dune lizard habitat do I need to participate?

If your property is located in suitable or occupied habitat for either species, or if your land/lease is adjacent to suitable or occupied habitat, you would benefit from a CCA or CCAA.

How will ranchers pay for practices that are agreed to in the CCA/CCAA?

Funds for conservation can come from CCA Conservation funds, USDA Conservation Programs, BLM Restore New Mexico Funds, Partners for Fish and Wildlife (USFWS), or other state, federal or non-government sources. The landowner is not expected to be the sole funding source for conservation.

How long do I have to complete conservation measures on my property?

The conservation measures must be completed, or progress should be made depending on the date agreed upon in the Certificate of Inclusion or Participation. There may be separate deadlines for funding agreements with other federal or state conservation programs.

