

## Resolution No. 2013-4

### A Resolution of Kiowa County Commissioners Opposing the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a Threatened or Endangered Species

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken, scientific name *Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*, as a threatened or endangered species;

**WHEREAS**, the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened or endangered species will create a wide range of adverse effects upon communities, industries, and people who are located within, reside, ranch, farm, and use the millions of acres of public and private lands identified as Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat in the states of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas;

**WHEREAS**, thousands of Kansans in agricultural operations, oil and gas operations and energy operations depend on reasonable access to their job sites in the affected areas to financially support their families and the communities in which they reside;

**WHEREAS**, the loss of the robust agriculture, oil and gas and energy employment sectors in the region, will also adversely impact thousands of support jobs necessary to sustain the region's economic health and vitality;

**WHEREAS**, local industries and employment sectors are already actively taking actions for mitigation and protecting wildlife and native species, including the Lesser Prairie Chicken; and

**WHEREAS**, the scope of protection offered by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken as "threatened" is excessive and will result in harm to working families, local industries and communities, as well as the State of Kansas.

**WHEREAS**, the detrimental effect on the local community would be devastating as agricultural production, oil and gas exploration and energy development would be severely limited as a result of the Lesser Prairie Chicken being placed on the Endangered Species List.

**WHEREAS**, the Kiowa County Commissioners is elected to represent the citizens of Kiowa County to assure the health, welfare and safety of all citizens.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMISSIONERS OF KIOWA COUNTY, KANSAS RESOLVE TO:**

1. **OPPOSE** the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken, *Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*, as a threatened and/or endangered species;
2. **ENCOURAGE** the Kansas Congressional Delegation to work vigorously to defeat the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing of this species;

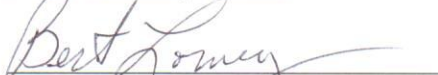
3. **ENCOURAGE** all cities, local chambers of commerce, civic organizations, and all citizens of Kiowa County to become engaged in the listing process and officially comment to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the adverse impacts the proposed listing will have on them, our community and state;
4. **REQUEST** Governor Brownback to actively participate with Kansas Counties in opposing the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken, and to secure resources from experts within the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Kansas Corporation Commission, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University, and/or any other state colleges and universities to assist the counties in their effort to oppose U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing;
5. **SECURE** from our local Senators and Representatives a commitment to support Kiowa County in this effort and to encourage other Kansas legislators to join the counties and state in opposing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing;
6. **SEND** a copy of this resolution to: U.S. Representative Tim Huelskamp; U.S. Senator Pat Roberts; U.S. Senator Jerry Moran; Governor Sam Brownback; Senator Susan Wagle, President of the Kansas Senate; KS Senator Larry Powell; KS Senator Ralph Ostmeyer; Representative Ray Merrick, Speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives; KS Representative Don Hineman; the following Kansas Counties: Barber, Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ellis, Finney, Ford, Gove, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kiowa, Lane, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Rush, Scott, Seward, Sherman, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Trego, Wallace, and Wichita; the Kansas Association of Counties; Robin Jennison, Secretary Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; Dale Rodman, Secretary Kansas Department of Agriculture; Pat George, Secretary Kansas Department of Commerce; Mark Sievers, Chair, Kansas Corporation Commission; Dan Ashe, Director, United States Secretary of Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and Oakley Graphic.

Adopted by the Board of Kiowa County Commissioners this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.


BOARD KIOWA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

  
John W. Unruh, Chairman

  
Ron Freeman, Member

  
Bert Lowery, Member

ATTEST:

  
County Clerk