



News Release

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TEXAS COURT VACATES LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN THREATENED SPECIES RULE

On September 1, 2015 Federal District Court in the Western District of Texas overturned a decision by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in Listing the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as a Threatened Species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The decision, effective immediately found USFWS did not follow their own internal Policies for evaluating species and local conservation efforts.

The Kansas Natural Resources Coalition (KNRC), a coalition of Kansas counties played an instrumental role by unearthing information, raising public awareness, giving testimony and filing briefs in Federal Court.

When asked about the role and effectiveness of KNRC Counties in affecting the decision, Executive Director Jim Carlson rattles off a laundry list of technical, political and public initiatives undertaken by KNRC. *“We are delighted to see justice, quips Carlson.” “Now if we only could recoup economic damage to industry, agriculture and commerce wrought by the specter of a threatened listing, we would be good-to-go.”*

The Kansas Natural Resource Coalition (KNRC) is an association of counties who maintain collective and participatory involvement in administrative government on behalf of its citizenry. The Coalition serves as a conduit between local, state and federal governments to promote balanced, necessary and effective administrative policymaking through the mechanism of government-to-government coordination. Our mission is to monitor, analyze, understand, communicate, and participate in those initiatives that materially affect the natural or human systems governed by individual member counties.