United States Department of Agriculture

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BIOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. NM-60 ***(Revision)***

SUBJECT: ECS – NEPA - Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conference Report

Purpose: On July 12, 2012 a national memo was released to provide ***new guidance*** on the implementation of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conference Report (Report). This revision of the NM Biology Technical Note No. 60 incorporates this National guidance.

Filing Instructions: The conservation measures will be located in NM Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV - Practice Standards and Specifications, and in NM FOTG Section I - Biology Technical Note No. 60 - Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conference Report.

Summary: Since the issuance of the Report, questions have arisen about how it applies to NRCS clients who are not participating in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI). The national memo provides clarification. A quick summary is provided below:

- Clients with projects located within the LPC Action Area, but who are not participating in the LPCI, *must follow* the conservation measures as outlined in the Report.
- The only exception is NRCS Practice Prescribed Grazing (528). If a client chooses to implement Prescribed Grazing (528) without applying the conservation measures, the action will not be covered by the Endangered Species Act certainty provided by the Report.

  EQIP applications within the Action Area that do not include 528 conservation measures will receive a zero "0" points for specific screening and ranking questions related to implementation of Prescribed Grazing, and will score a "low priority" for funding. For example questions 6 and 7 of the 2012 LPCI local issues would have received zero "0" points for both questions and would have scored a "low priority" for funding. This guidance will be incorporated into the 2013 EQIP ranking tool.

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Attachments:

- 190-ECS_NHQmemo_LPC-CR_07-2012.pdf
- LPC_CR_Conservation Measures_7-2012.pdf
- LEPC.NM.ActionArea.2011.pdf