

management framework should be incorporated as part of monitoring. Specific LEPC habitat treatments should be monitored to determine which specific treatments produced the best results in terms of habitat conditions. LEPC population responses to improvements in core areas should be monitored to assess the habitat amounts, sizes, and distributions recommended in this plan. As significant new information is generated, plan recommendations should be adjusted to incorporate the new results. A specific monitoring plan that includes an adaptive management design should be prepared and endorsed by the various research contributors. Responsibility: ODWC and other research and management partners. Timeline: 9 months (June 2013).

RISK ASSESSMENT

The OLEPCCP identifies actions to be taken that, if fully implemented, should produce a sustainable population of LEPC in Oklahoma while minimizing impacts to developments and human activities. Evaluating risks to LEPC in terms of the Endangered Species Act listing factors is best accomplished through a range-wide process. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) provided a summary of the current status of these listing factors for LEPC, for each of the five states, in two letters it sent to the USFWS (Letter to Dr. Dixie Bounds from Joe Maurier dated June 30, 2011 and letter to Dr. Benjamin Tuggle from Keith Sexson dated June 2, 2012). The OLEPCCP identifies future planned actions and delineates 15 core conservation areas where LEPC habitat improvement efforts will be prioritized, improving crucial habitat for the species. Efforts to avoid and minimize development activities within these core conservation areas will help to minimize fragmentation and help create large blocks of good to high quality habitat. The OLEPCCP is a voluntary plan, so its success will depend on providing sufficient incentives to engage landowners in habitat improvements on their lands, especially in core conservation areas. It will also depend on development industries providing sufficient attention to LEPC conservation needs to maintain un-fragmented habitat, especially in the core conservation areas. The identified action steps in the plan are designed to enhance these voluntary components.

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