

Hammerhead Geared Up to Handle Your Lesser Prairie Chicken Concerns

As if oil and gas producers didn't have enough bureaucracy to contend with, in March, the "lesser prairie chicken" (LPC) was listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. This created a whole new set of special compliance regulations for the oil and gas industry. To meet industry demand for qualified people to help producers negotiate this maze with the best results, full-service lease broker Hammerhead Resources, LLC, has stepped to the forefront with the creation of an LPC consulting and survey division.

Located in Wichita, Kansas, Hammerhead's goal is to help the oil and gas industry understand LPC regulations so companies can decide whether or not they want to participate in the plan. But, that is a decision for each company. Hammerhead is available to provide confidential consultation, preliminary reports and estimated mitigation costs. In Hammerhead's experience, mitigation costs in some cases are substantially less than the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) schedule.

"Hammerhead's services will provide the industry the necessary information for drill site selection and other facets of exploration and development. If a company decides to enroll, Hammerhead is there to provide additional service with three certified technical service providers, including biologist **Ryan Davis**. Hammerhead is certified to perform the required habitat survey for WAFWA," said **Greg Baker**, managing partner. "Hammerhead will be a valuable tool for the oil and gas industry in planning, due diligence, expediting their operations, and avoiding very real penalties, including criminal sanctions and costly civil fines,"

Baker suggests surveying soon to avoid potential delays this year and for next year's mating and nesting season. "Don't wait until it's staked," he said. For more information, contact Greg Baker or **Kirby Becker** at Hammerhead at 316-263-8800 or Email: hammerheadresources@gmail.com

In May this year, federal regulations went into effect regarding the LPC issue that affects five states - Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. In June, Kansas joined a lawsuit against the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service over listing the LPC as a threatened species. It was felt that this LPC regulation was an overreach by the federal government to intrude in state affairs, thus creating a negative impact on the state's business climate, particularly in the agricultural, oil and gas, and wind energy sectors. The lawsuit believes the federal government has no authority to regulate PC or their habitats.