

Prairie chicken does not get support from commissioners

Written by Darci Tomky

A change in the status of the lesser prairie chicken did not get support from the Phillips County commissioners. When asked for their input on whether or not the species should be put on the endangered list, commissioners replied with a letter to the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that they were not in support of the lesser prairie chicken listed as endangered.

“It can really foul up farming operations,” said Phillips County Administrator Randy Schafer, noting the restrictions that come when a species is on the endangered list. The change in status would really impact agriculture in the area.

Colorado is one of the five states that could be affected, along with Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Commissioners explained that if the lesser prairie chicken was listed as endangered, Phillips County would have to endure the strict requirements, even though the best habitat for the birds is actually in the southeast corner of Colorado.

For the full article, consider an e-Subscription. Call 970-854-2811.

Holyoke Enterprise April 3, 2014