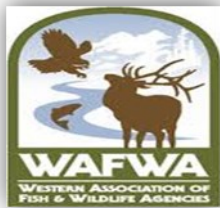




# LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN INITIATIVE QUARTERLY PARTNERS' REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017



It has been an excellent quarter this fall and early winter. I have had the opportunity to attend a few conferences and workshops the last few months. In particular, The American Grasslands Conference that took place in Fort Worth, TX was well worth it. We were able to have view points from conservationist and landowners that are initiating landscape habitat management. I was able to give a presentation on the Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative partnerships, habitat conservation goals across the 5 state range and some of the specific threats to LEPC.

This last quarter has been working with landowners with reenrolled CP2 acres going to CP38E SAFE acres. I have been meeting with landowners, going over the requirements of their Mid-contract management and their overseeding seed mixes, which will be conducted between Dec. 1-June 1 this FY 18. With around 9,000 acres being reenrolled with about 30 different landowners being accepted.

I have had the opportunity to certify some LPCI EQIP contracts this quarter for 645-Upland Wildlife Habitat management, which involves a variety of different activities ranging from Plant ID, Quail call counts, wildlife escape ramps, fence markers and wildlife guzzlers as a few examples.



*Giving a presentation on LPCI at American Grasslands Conference in Fort Worth, TX.*

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## Pictures in the Field

- **Producer installing wildlife waterers for implementation of 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management on their property.** (Left Picture)
- **Producer installed grazing exclosures to monitor forage production on property to help make management decisions to benefit LEPC and their cattle operation.** (Right Picture)



Training/ Presentation / Workshop	Location	Outcomes
American Grasslands Conference	Fort Worth, TX	Opportunity to speak with various other NGO about LPCI and habitat conservation activity and models across the range.
CKWRI Quail Short Course	San Antonio, TX	Listened to some of the current research projects that have been conducted by Cesar Kleberg Research Wild-
Texas Section of Society of Range Management	San Angelo, TX	Opportunity to listen to current research going on in Texas in terms of Rangeland management.

Other Programs	Conservation Planning	Certification of completed practice
<b>LPCI EQIP</b> Brush mgmt., Upland Wildlife Habitat mgmt., Herbaceous weed control	<b>4,797</b>	<b>6,561</b>
<b>Total acres impacted</b>	<b>4,797</b>	<b>6,561</b>

*“Take nothing but memories,  
leave nothing but footprints!”  
Chief Seattle*

<b>Landowner Contacts</b>	<b>8</b>
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CRP/CCRP Practices	Acres impacted
<b>CP 38E –SAFE</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

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# LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN INITIATIVE

QUARTERLY PARTNERS' REPORT  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017



This quarter I have been working on recruiting and communicating with landowners that are interested in participating in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative. I have also been helping plan CP-38E Lesser prairie-chicken SAFE contracts in the LPC counties, which has helped connect me to landowners that may also be interested in participating in LPCI.

I have landowners that are interested in doing projects to improve scaled and bobwhite quail habitat with support from Pheasants Forever chapters, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and NRCS.

I also conducted a pollinator outreach through the Pheasants Forever Youth Pollinator Project for 85 second graders, with assistance from CPW and NRCS.



*Assisting with Range and Wildlife judging contest.*

**Marina Osier**

Range/Wildlife

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### Pictures in the Field

- During field checks in November, happened upon a tarantula traveling along the prairie. (Left Picture)
- Marina holding a hognose snake that is playing dead while LPCI monitoring this summer. (Right Picture)



Training/ Presentation / Workshop	Location	Outcomes
FFA State Range Judging Contest	Lamar, CO	Assisted with the FFA State Range judging contest that took place in Lamar, CO.
Colorado SRM	Pueblo, CO	Attended Colorado Section for Society of Range Management meeting in Pueblo, CO.
CACD Annual meeting	Loveland, CO	Attended Colorado Annual Conservation District meeting in Loveland, CO. Helped run a booth with partners.

Other Programs	Conservation Planning	Certification of completed practice
<b>LPCI EQIP</b> Brush mgmt., Upland Wildlife Habitat mgmt., Herbaceous	<b>217</b>	<b>1,001</b>
<b>Total acres</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1,001</b>

“Nature, it seems, has a way of returning things to how they should be.”

*Fennel Hudson*

Landowner Contacts	<b>7</b>
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CRP/CCRP Practices	Acres impacted
CP 38E –SAFE	<b>3,036</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,036</b>

#### Marina Osier

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**LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN INITIATIVE**



# LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN INITIATIVE

## QUARTERLY PARTNERS' REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017

This quarter was geared towards training, establishing contact with local producers, and further learning the lay of the land. After wrapping up data entry I had the opportunity to shadow the NRCS Portales Rangeland Management Specialist and Soil Conservationist on various duties. This included multiple CRP spot checks, Natural Resource Inventories, and various EQIP practice check outs including fences, range plantings, drinkers, and pipelines. I was also able to assist with various Conservation Technical Assistance on several occasions, including measuring well outputs with the NRCS Portales Engineer. NRCS field office staff provided training for EQIP application procedures, similarity index, prescribed grazing plans, and Toolkit mapping.

I attended several conferences and meetings throughout the quarter, such as the Sagamore Wind Project Luncheon, Prairie Partners Meeting, Curry County Innovative Farmers Conference, and Wetlands Across Borders: Playas of the Southern High Plains Meeting to name a few. Attending these presentations, whether it be meetings, conferences, or luncheons, has allowed me to learn new conservation methods to pass on to our producers.

I rounded out this quarter with the Roosevelt County SWCD Annual Partners meeting, discussing plans for current LPCI applications, and was even able to experience my first snow. I look forward to all the new experiences and learning opportunities this next quarter has to offer.

**Amber Brown**

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*CRP Field check in Roosevelt county, NM*

## Pictures in the Field

- **Attended the PLJV– Wetlands Across Borders: Playas of the Southern Plains meeting.** (Left Picture)
- **Assisting NRCS field staff with EQIP checkout on Installed Solar Panel pump out in the field.** (Right Picture)



Training/ Presentation / Workshop	Location	Outcomes
Wetlands Across Borders: Playas of the Southern High Plains Meeting	Clovis, NM	Attended Playa Lakes Joint Venture workshop to increase working knowledge of playas in NM.
Prairie Partners Meeting	Tucumcari, NM	Attended Prairie Partners meeting in Tucumcari, NM with NRCS counterparts.
Curry County Innovative Farmers Conference	Clovis, NM	Attended Curry County Innovative Farmers Conference in Clovis, NM with NRCS counterparts to learn about

Other Programs	Conservation Planning	Certification of completed practice
EQIP Prescribe grazing, range planting	<b>8063</b>	<b>321</b>  <b>7007 ft</b>
<b>Total acres impacted</b>	<b>8063</b>	<b>321</b>

“Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife, are in fact plans to protect man.”

— [Stewart L. Udall](#)

Landowner Contacts	<b>16</b>
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CRP/CCRP Practices	Acres impacted
<b>CP 2</b>	<b>1461.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1461.1</b>

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**LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN INITIATIVE**



# LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN INITIATIVE

## QUARTERLY PARTNERS' REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017

Activity picked-up this quarter. I spent several days with NRCS staff completing habitat evaluations for new Monarch Initiative contracts as well as a couple LPC evaluations for CSP contract renewals. I also had the opportunity to work with NRCS staff on a grazing plan targeting improved LEPC habitat. At several Conservation District meetings and events, I was able to meet many new area producers. Due to the wildfires in March, we will be conducting numerous forage inventories and writing grazing recommendations for deferred grazing contracts in two of my counties. In preparation, I was able to attend a range assessment training with local staff. I look forward to working on these inventories and recommendations. Additionally, this quarter, I had the opportunity to visit field offices to deliver annual vegetation datasheets as well as review LPCI contracts. It was very helpful to see where the contracts started and how things have changed so far.

For ODWC, I conducted weekly use surveys of 10 tracts enrolled in the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP) in Harper and Woods County. It is great to see people using the properties. All the hunters I've spoken with are happy to have more acres open to public hunting and want even more. The OLAP landowners also seem happy with the way things are going and haven't had any issues. ODWC staff and I met to outline and discuss habitat practices for the upcoming habitat incentives offered on OLAP properties. We are all very excited about the opportunity to put more habitat on the ground and improve hunter experiences on these properties.

**Haley Lockard**

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*Monarch habitat evaluation in Woods Co. Oklahoma.*



**Pictures in the Field**

- Range assessment and habitat evaluation for CSP contract renewal. (Left Picture)
- Conducting parking lot surveys with hunters using Oklahoma Land Access program. (Right Picture)



Training/ Presentation / Workshop	Location	Outcomes
Conservation Breakfast	Buffalo, OK	Introduction to local landowners of Harper County, OK.
PBA Start meeting	Buffalo, OK	Attended Prescribe Burn Association start up meeting.
NW Cattlemen's Association	Woodward, OK	Helped with vendor booth with ODWC regarding OLAP and habitat incentives programs and introductions to local producers.

Other Programs	Conservation Planning	Certification of completed practice
CSP	<b>397.3</b>	—
EQIP Brush mgmt., Upland Wildlife Habitat mgmt., Herbaceous weed	<b>2352.7</b>	—
<b>Total acres</b>	<b>2750</b>	—

**“The outstanding scientific discovery of the twentieth century is not television, or radio, but rather the complexity of the land organism.”**  
 — Aldo Leopold

Landowner Contacts	<b>22</b>
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CRP/CCRP Practices	Acres impacted
<b>CP 38E –SAFE</b>	—
<b>Total</b>	—

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