



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

July - September 2021

Getting Birdy

Years after making my first visit to the George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center and seeing the captive-reared Masked Bobwhite, I made a trip to southeast Arizona to see the efforts come full circle.

While I was at the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge I got to meet some of the biologists who run the program in Arizona, the land managers who maintain Masked Bobwhite habitat through brush management and prescribed burns, and the volunteers who energetically educate Refuge visitors.

As a long-time birder, this was a very long-awaited trip. Southeast Arizona is a birding hotspot, and we hit it at just the right time. Not only did I get to see “the other bobwhite” in its native range, but I racked up 12 life birds in one trip!



A sign to educate the public about the Masked Bobwhite release program and its important mission. (QF is a proud partner)

Quail Forever State Field Day

This year we moved our State Convention to the outdoors! Attendees were able to get hands-on training on plant identification—especially problem plants they may want to control on their property—and prescribed burning.

My favorite comment of the day came after the prescribed burn from a state employee who manages roadsides for monarchs: *I'm convinced! I'm a believer. I can do this!*

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CTA	
314 - Brush Management	50
420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting	17
538 - Prescribed Grazing	700
647 - Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	10
EQIP	
Prescribed Burning	170
Total	947

Conservation Planning
◆ 28 landowner contacts
◆ 6 site visits
◆ 1 burn plan
◆ 3 habitat plans
◆ 1 seed mix



Local SWCDs

Thank you so much for your support!

Without this partnership we would not be able to provide assistance to private landowners and positively impact conservation in Oklahoma!

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
Statewide

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Outreach & Education

- I presented a demonstration of how to complete the Monarch Butterfly planting calculator, as part of the "Designing Pollinator and Monarch Plantings" presentation by the NRCS State Biologist. This online training was viewed live by about 100 NRCS staff and partners and was recorded for future trainings.
- During a SW OK NRCS training, in partnership with OSU Extension, I covered how and why to oversee forbs and midgrasses into an existing low-diversity range planting. I discussed the benefits a greater diversity of plants would provide. I led a hands-on exercise to conduct a Monarch WHEG.
- My husband, Dwayne, and I conducted an interview for an "On the Wing" podcast episode that aired in early September.
- I created seven social media posts, focused largely on encouraging native plants through brush management, prescribed burning, and invasive control.
- Along with the rest of the Team, I helped organize and participate in the Oklahoma Quail Forever State Field Day. ODWC and QF biologists, including myself, presented programs and practices for wildlife habitat improvements field day attendees.

MONARCH PLANTS					
Milkweed: Show - A. speciosa	97.40	1.5%	0.20	5	1.3
Chickweed: Purple - B. terna	83.92	11.9%	1.67	5	7.8
Prairie Clover, Purple - D. purpurea	4.12	16.2%	0.32	5	2.8
Lemon Mint - M. citrodora *	1.64	4.6%	0.07	5	0.3
Monarch Sage - S. sp.	9.80	6.6%	0.10	5	2.6
White Dagwort - M. tuberosa	1.10	2.9%	0.02	5	0.1
Prairie Clover, White - D. candida	4.70	5.6%	0.23	5	1.2
Engelmann Daisy - E. persteris	97.66	10.2%	1.77	5	8.8
Black-eyed Susan - R. trifida	8.72	19.2%	0.32	5	0.4
Compass Plant - D. laevifolium	71.63	2.9%	1.42	5	7.1
Sunflower - Helianthus - H. annuus *	22.81	5.6%	1.30	5	7.8
Yellowflower Blackberry - R. coccinea	7.12	14.2%	0.28	5	4.3
Subtotal	100.0%	1.00	6.80	43.22	
Other Forbs/Legumes					
Illinois Bundleflower - D. illinoensis	95.36	1.6%	0.15	5	0.8
Medicinal Hat - R. columbiana	2.15	1.6%	0.02	5	0.1
Partridge Pea - C. fasciculata *	21.66	1.6%	0.21	5	1.1
Lespedeza monardae - L. sp.	7.92	1.6%	0.16	5	0.4
Subtotal	127.09	0.3%	1.54	5.00	
OTHER SHRUBS					
Subtotal	---	---	---	---	---
Total Forbs, Legumes and/or Shrubs	127.09	0.3%	1.54	5.00	1.2
TOTAL SEED MIX	100.0%	1.00	8.34	48.22	
Planting specifications are met for monarchs!					
Total seed mix equals 100%					
Composition of monarch plants in the mix is appropriate					
Composition of annual/biennials in the mix is appropriate					

Monarch Calculator Demonstration presentation screenshot



Hands-on plant ID at the QF Field Day (Thanks to all our partners who made it a success!)



Some plants much maligned by people are favorites of quail and monarch butterflies.

Outreach & Education	Count
Events/Workshops	3
Presentations Delivered	3
Podcasts	1
Social Media Articles	7
Total	10



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←
What a shot! Two royals together. I snapped this shot of a Queen Butterfly (left) and Monarch Butterfly (right) during the height of the Monarch migration through Oklahoma.

→
This small but mighty burn was conducted in August—prime time to stimulate a flush of blooms ahead of the Monarch migration.



Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Prescribed Fire Training	I participated in a prescribed burn on a restored native prairie.
Annual National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting	I joined the plenary session and awards banquet of the annual NBTC meeting virtually.
Level III Certified Conservation Planner	This quarter I completed four more courses towards the Level III Certified Conservation Planner Certification.
Various online webinars	I watched six webinars hosted by OK Invasive Plant Council, PF, Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund, and Monarch Joint Venture.
Patch Burn-Grazing	I made a site visit with the NRCS State Grazinglands Specialist to learn more about prescribed grazing, specifically, patch burn-grazing.

Looking Forward

- Presenting at the OSU Extension/Oklahoma-Arkansas-Missouri-Kansas *Woodcock Habitat Management Field Day*.
- Presenting to the *Introduction to Natural Resources* class freshmen at OSU. I will talk about my education and career path to my role as Coordinating Wildlife Biologist with Quail Forever.
- Working with our Oklahoma Quail Forever Team to develop the Oklahoma Strategic Plan.
- Joining the Lesser Prairie-Chicken State Implementation Team call.
- Cooler weather brings a decline in tick and chigger bites. What a terrible tick year!
- ... to meeting our next Quail Forever State Coordinator and Farm Bill Biologist.

If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested, please contact me at the information below.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Elizabeth Elliott– Craig, Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Washington

July-September 2021

This quarter has flown by so fast! It has been busy time with lots of projects being wrapped up. I completed a number of projects throughout my region, including a large conservation technical assistance project that I had been working on over the past year. This included a detailed inventory of the property conducting dry weight rank, pasture condition score, and brush/invasive species transects throughout each field. I also wrote a number of burn plans/ habitat management plans for a variety of programs.

Seasons of change..

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly three years since I start working for Oklahoma Quail Forever and it has been an amazing adventure. This will be my last quarterly report for QF. I have accepted a position as a Natural Resources Specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Virginia.



Native Wildflower Planting

Throughout my time as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist I have completed numerous habitat management plans, prescribed burn plans, and conservation plans for federal/state financial and technical assistance programs. I have had the opportunity to meet so many incredible people and make great friends along the way. Working for QF has taught me so much about conservation and habitat management on public and private land for wildlife. I will be forever grateful for the chance to be a part of the best team! My coworkers have made my time in Oklahoma some of the best times of my life. I can't thank everyone enough for all they have done for me and taught me along the way! Thank you all so much!

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP GRIP Habitat Management Plan	50
CSP Seed Mix	0.01
CSP Burn Plan	34.96
CTA Habitat Management Plan	272
CTA Conservation Management Plan	5903.60
CTA Burn Plans	207
Total	6467.57

Conservation Planning

- 25 Landowner Contacts
- 18 Site Visits
- EQIP GRIP Burn Plans: 2
- EQIP Habitat Plan: 1
- CTA Habitat Plan: 1
- CSP Seed Mix: 1
- CTA Habitat Management Plan: 2
- CTA Conservation Plan: 1
- CTA Burn Plans: 4



Local SWCDs

Thank you so much for your support! Without this partnership, I wouldn't be able to provide assistance to private landowners and positively impact conservation in Oklahoma!

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Elizabeth Elliott– Craig, Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Washington

July-September 2021

Outreach & Education:

On September 18, Oklahoma Quail Forever hosted our first State Field Day at Carl Blackwell Lake outside of Stillwater, OK. The day was made possible with our amazing partners OK State Extension and the OK Department of Wildlife. During the morning session attendees had the opportunity to learn about managing habitat for Bobwhites in rangelands and the cross timbers. And learn about potential problem plants and how to address them on their property. In the afternoon everyone had the chance to participate in or watch a 5-acre prescribed burn training. Attendees learned about prescribed burn planning, weather parameters, equipment, and more during the pre-burn meeting. Then those who choose got to go with a burn crew. The day was a great way to get people out into the field where they got to see different management practices first hand. Specially getting people out that have not had the opportunity to help on a burn before.



QF State Field Day Prescribed Burn
Saturday, September 18, 2021

It was amazing to see months of planning and preparations come together! It was a great to speak with all the landowners and chapter members from around the state and our partner biologists with ODWC! I had a fantastic day with everyone!



Tallgrass Heritage QF Chapter Sponsor Appreciation
Shoot at the Tulsa Gun Club July 30, 2021

On July 30, I helped to host and speak at the Tulsa Tallgrass Heritage Chapter Sponsor Appreciation Shoot held at the Tulsa Gun Club. I helped to organize the day. The sponsors got to shoot a round of sporting clays on the course. After everyone enjoyed a pizza lunch and time to get to know each other. During lunch I gave a Northeast Oklahoma Quail Forever position update and spoke about different technical assistance and cost share opportunities available to landowners.

In August, I attended 3 District Meeting in Tulsa, Ponca City, and Shawnee for Quail Forever. I spoke with chapter members and helped with setup/cleanup of the meetings. Throughout the quarter I created social media posts. Including one about how gardening with wildflowers can help to bring pollinators to your yard.

Outreach & Education	Count
QF Field Day	1
Presentation	1
Social Media Posts	2
Total	4



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Elizabeth Elliott– Craig, Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Washington

July-September 2021



All the Critters in the garden! July 2021

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Oklahoma Quail Forever team conference calls	The OK team has had a number of video conference calls over the past three months. This has allowed us to continue to stay in touch and complete work in a timely manner. These meetings have been utilized to help plan and coordinate upcoming events.
NRCS Virtual CART Meetings	Attended teams trainings for CSP program updates and CART ranking.
NRCS Virtual Meetings	Attended the NRCS East Zone Quarterly meeting.
District Meetings	Attended three district meetings in the central and northeast parts of Oklahoma to learn about upcoming PF/QF information/events.
All Teams NRCS Virtual Meeting	Attended the virtual NRCS All Teams Meeting on September 14, 2021

Looking Forward

- Exploring Virginia- hiking and camping in the national parks in the area!
- Starting my new journey in Virginia as a Natural Resource Specialist with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Swank—Woodward, Blaine, Major, Dewey, Ellis

July–September 2021

Position Update

This summer has been a busy one, even with covid impacts. CRP Grasslands has proved to have a tremendous workload here in Northwest Oklahoma, especially in the Panhandle.

I was moved to a Coordinating Wildlife Biologist position, which will allow me to broaden my scope and enhance my abilities to make an even larger impact on the landscape.

Turning Another Page

CRP Grasslands in Oklahoma has become increasingly popular this year, with over 500 applications for over 200,000ac in northwest/Panhandle alone! We are still plugging away at assessments, and hope to finish up the first week of October. Many folks are already chomping at the bit for burn plans for the spring, as well as EQIP applications for cedar removal. We are gaining traction out here, as more producers are wanting to get on board to make a difference. It has been a challenging, but very rewarding road, but the more traction we get, the bigger impact we will make.



Overlooking a large expanse of land while conducting CRP Grasslands assessments. Many places in No Man's Land remain unchanged.

Conservation Planning

- 108 Landowner Contacts
- 5 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plans
- 108 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
CTA USDA/Nonprogram/State Cost Share		3,000
CRP General, Grasslands	35,518.02	474.43
Total	35,518.02	3,474.43



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July–September 2021



Outreach & Education

- I assisted ODWC in creating the inaugural “Cut a Cedar” Day. This day was formed to create awareness of the damage cedars cause to our landscape, as well as an interactive day across the state.
- The PFQF team hosted our state meeting in the form of a Quail Habitat field day. It was hosted at Lake Carl Blackwell and those in attendance got a full day of land management techniques and a prescribed burn demonstration.
- I gave a speech at the OKC banquet on the Biologist programs and the OLAP incentives program.
- I gave another speech at the Elk City banquet about the biologist program and the OLAP incentives program.

This OLD cedar tree hid for a long time, depositing who knows how many seeds through its lifetime. But we got it!

Outreach & Education	Count
Newsletter Articles/State Facebook Articles Written	4
Conservation/Outreach Event	4
Workshops	2
Total	13



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July–September 2021



When in the field, look for the Orange signs. These signs represent properties that PFQF have helped improve via the OLAP Habitat Incentives Program.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NBCI Meeting	Attended NBTC to meet with other biologists and to learn about habitat work being done around the country.,
GPGI Meeting	Met with the new GPGI Coordinator located in SW KS, and we did a land tour talking about strategies on the OK/KS line..
Prescribed Grazing	Provided training for prescribed grazing to PFQF Biologists prior to state meeting.
OLAP Field Visits	Went with ODWC to several OLAP properties in Woods Co looking at potential for OLAP habitat projects.

Looking Forward

- I will be attending the Grand National Quail Hunt Club Rancher's Banquet in Enid, talking about PFQF in Oklahoma, and making myself available to producers.
- I will be joining the State Implementation Team for Lesser Prairie Chickens, and attending a statewide conference call regarding work being done.
- I will be assisting in onboarding our new biologist in Claremore, when they are hired on.
- Covid is still making events challenging to host, but we have been successful in adapting and adjusting to assure the safety of those who are wanting to attend.
- I will be working with landowners individually on training them proper burning techniques. interested in burning their lands.
- I will also be meeting with several ranches in the near future for furthering their management needs.
- Hunting season is FINALLY upon us once again, so I'll be looking forward to getting out and behind my dogs once again.

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Oklahoma Biologists FY2022 1st Quarter Summary



Leslie Elmore, Elizabeth Elliott, Tanner Swank

July– September 2021

Oklahoma Quarterly Accomplishments:

The tables below quantify some of the deliverables of the Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists in this first quarter of FY22.

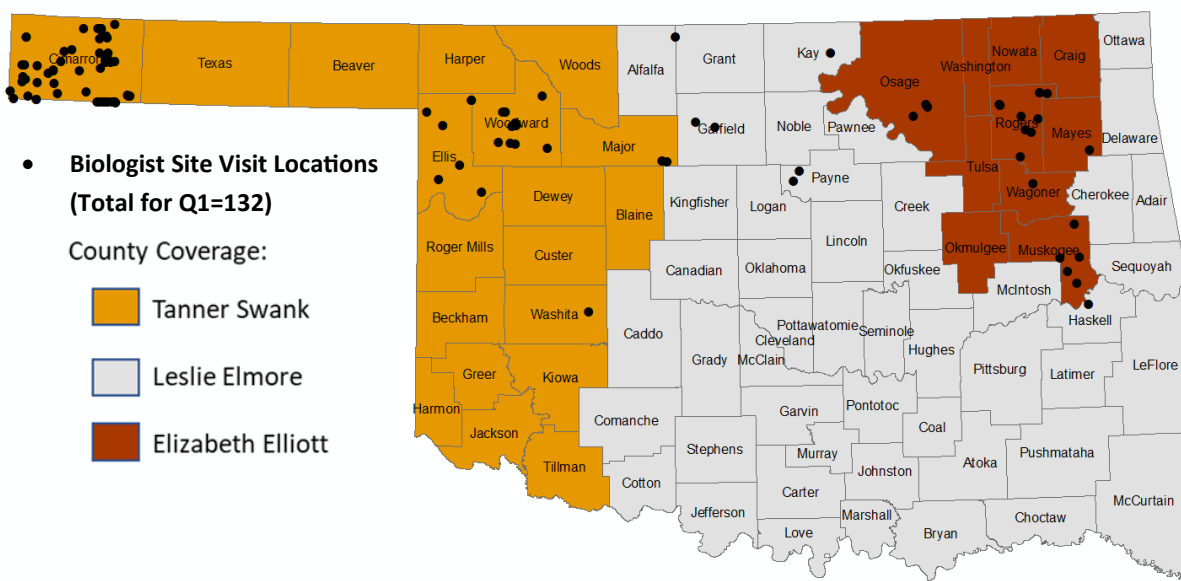
Conservation Planning	Count
Landowner Contacts	161
Site Visits	132
Habitat Plans/Proposals	22

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	7
Articles, fliers, outreach materials	13
Youth Events, outreach events, Workshops	10
Total	30

Programs	Acres Impacted
CRP	474.43
CSP	34.97
CTA	10,159.6
EQIP	220
OLAP	0
Total	10,889

Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists' Footprint FY22 Q1

July 2021 — September 2021



Oklahoma Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Wildlife Biologists are funded in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

