



Oklahoma Biologists Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard & Dustin Lamoreaux

October – December 2017

Finally Official!! Wait for it.....A New Coordinating Biologist!!

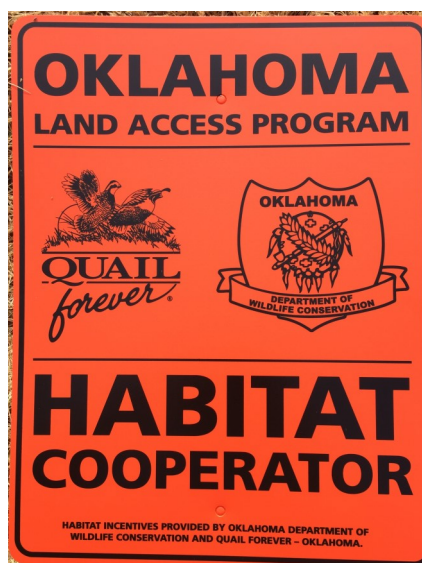
Haley has been much busier this quarter! She finally has her Lincpass and access to NRCS systems which is a big win and has attended several meetings/trainings with NRCS staff. Haley has spent several days in the field completing wildlife habitat evaluations for the Monarch Initiative. She also has two CSP contract renewals looking to improve lesser prairie chicken (LPC) habitat through brush management and grazing. She also finished entering LPCI vegetation monitoring data from last season. In addition, Haley has gotten her feet wet by completing her first grazing plan on a property managed primarily for wildlife.

In December 2017, Dustin Lamoreaux was hired as a Coordinating Wildlife Biologist aimed at coordinating and implementing the application of the RCPP-Monarch Program within the State of Oklahoma. Dustin will provide technical assistance and guidance to landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and all other partners involved. Dustin is excited about his new role and is ready to dive into conservation in Oklahoma.

'Tis the Season of OLAP

Haley spent a lot of time this quarter working with Jeff Tibbits, ODWC Wildlife Biologist, to develop procedures, practices, and policy for the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP). ODWC and Quail Forever-Oklahoma chapters are providing funds to cost-share practices that improve wildlife habitat on lands enrolled in OLAP. This is a great opportunity to put habitat on the ground and provide hunting opportunities for the public.

Haley spent time surveying OLAP properties for use. She talked with 8 quail hunters. They are having moderate success, but all were thrilled to have the acres open to public hunting (and they welcome more).



Hot off the press! These new Habitat Cooperator signs will be posted on participating OLAP properties.

Conservation Planning

- 23 Landowner Contacts
- 1 Conservation Plan
- 6 Site Visits

Program WHEGs	Acres
Monarch Initiative Brush Management, Prescribed Burning	2241
CSP Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing	398
Total	2639

OLAP User Surveys

- 8 Hunter Contacts
- 15 Total Users
- 57 site checks



Local SWCDs

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

Haley Lockard
Range & Wildlife Conservationist
580-735-2033 x104
hlockard@pheasantsforever.org

Dustin Lamoreaux
Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
405-714-7893
dlamoreaux@pheasantsforever.org



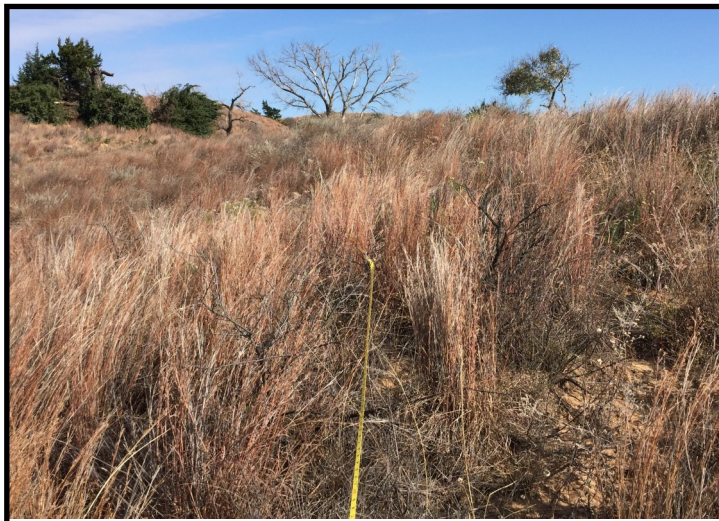
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Wings of the Butterfly - Monarch WHEG in Woods County



This photo was taken in Oct. 2017 while finishing a transect for a Monarch habitat evaluation. This property has potential to attract pollinators after Eastern Red Cedar are removed. We didn't find milkweed on this transect, but did elsewhere on the property. The brush management will benefit upland wildlife in addition to pollinators.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Conservation Breakfast	The Harper County Conservation District hosted a breakfast for local producers. This provided an opportunity to meet more landowners and hear presentations on vegetation recovery after the March wildfires.
LPC SWAT Team Meeting	Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever Kansas and LPCI staff gathered in Chanute, KS for staff meetings and team building. In addition, staff from Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism discussed various habitat improvement projects throughout the state.
Northwest Cattleman's Association	Assisted ODWC staff with a booth. This was another great opportunity to meet producers from all my counties. We spoke with attendees about OLAP and showed pictures of vegetation recovery from wildfires.
PBA Start	Haley was honored to be a participant in the Harper County Prescribed Burn Association formation meeting. A select group of interested landowners joined to officially create the newest PBA in Oklahoma.
Range Evaluation Field Day	The NRCS resource specialist hosted a field day for staff from Harper, Beaver, and Texas counties on forage inventory and rangeland health assessments. We practiced different evaluation tools and techniques.
Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria	Oklahoma NRCS Resource Specialists and Ecological Sciences Staff to discuss Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria. Discussed screening levels, simplifying and justifying practices to assist field offices in streamlining process.

Looking Forward

- Dustin will attend a NFWF Monarch Coordinators Meeting, January 22-24, to meet counterparts from Iowa and Missouri to discuss work products and goals.
- Haley will attend the 2018 National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic in Sioux Falls, SD to assist LPCI booth to talk about work biologists are doing to benefit Lesser Prairie Chickens in the Southern Great Plains.
- February 21-23 is the Natural Resources Conference in Tulsa, OK. This will be a great opportunity to converse with others working in the Monarch world along with many other wildlife species. Hope to see you there!
- Oklahoma-PF/QF will host it's State Convention March 23-24 in Oklahoma City. Chapters and interested parties will gather for awards and presentations on dog training, soil health, wildlife habitat and much more.

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

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