



Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Northwest OK

January – March 2018

The More you Know...

The last three months have flown by. I spent a lot of time training and trying to soak up as much knowledge as I could from the experts around me. Most recently, I completed the NRCS Prescribed Burning apprentice certification which will allow me to better assist landowners and get fire on the ground. I have already laid the ground work to assist the local prescribed burn association with plan development as well. I'm excited this partnership will encourage more fire on the ground to reduce fuel loads and benefit wildlife habitat at the same time. In addition to burn training, I have worked with NRCS staff on tree planting/windbreak design, watering facility engineering/design, and assessing range health.

I was privileged to attend the annual Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in February. Along with numerous staff from PF and NRCS we shared the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) program with visitors. While most were not aware of WLFW, many people thanked us for what are doing and said to "keep up the good work". It's refreshing to have people not directly impacted by our conservation efforts appreciate the power of this program and partnership. Pheasant Fest also provided the opportunity to talk with other PF/QF staff, agencies, and NRCS staff from across the country. I was able to glean new information and strategies to further wildlife habitat conservation in Oklahoma.

A common thread to all the conferences, trainings and meetings I attended this quarter was heterogeneity. Although a foundational concept for natural resources, managing for heterogeneity sometimes gets lost in the details of conservation planning. On all of my site visits and discussion with field staff, I stressed the point that there are lots of little things we can do to make a big difference in the heterogeneity to benefit habitat. I am looking forward to working with them to add more diversity to the contracts by including more species diversity in seed mixes, and disturbances such as brush management or prescribed fire.



Gaining a quail's perspective while conducting a Range Health Assessment.

Conservation Planning

- 10 Landowner Contacts
- 4 Conservation Plans

Programs	Acres
EQIP Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing	1242
CTA Windbreak/tree planting, Upland Habitat Management	520
WRP Prescribed Burning	120
Total	1882

OLAP

User Surveys

- 1 Total Users
- 10 site checks

Season ended Feb 15.



Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Northwest OK

January – March 2018



The highlight of the weekend! JD Strong, ODWC, and Howard Vincent, PF/QF, sign a Memorandum of Understanding at the OK State Habitat Conference March 23, 2018.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Prescribed Burning	I completed the online and classroom portions required to earn the first level of NRCS Prescribed Burning Certification.
NRCS Conservation Planning	I completed the first half of required online courses for apprentice level conservation planning certification.
Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic	PF/QF staff from across the organization came together to host the annual upland bird convention in Sioux Falls, SD. I assisted with the Working Lands For Wildlife booth.
OK Natural Resource Conference	Natural resource staff from Oklahoma gathered to discuss the latest research and management strategies, as well as discuss opportunities for collaboration.
LPCI Grazing Workshop, Woodward, OK	PF/QF, ODWC, WAFWA and OSU staff gathered in Woodward, OK to talk about research on Lesser prairie chickens. Topics included: grazing systems, prescribed fire, CRP, vegetation monitoring techniques, setting stocking rates and pollinators.
PF/QF OK State Habitat Conference	PF/QF staff hosted the first Oklahoma only meeting to show appreciation to partners and volunteers, as well as share conservation techniques. The highlight of the meeting was an MOU signing between Quail Forever and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Looking Forward

- This Spring and Summer will be very busy conducting annual vegetation monitoring on LPCI and WAFWA contracts in Oklahoma and Kansas.
- I will give presentations on pollinators at the Harper and Woodward Co. outdoor youth days on May 1st and 3rd.
- In early June, I will attend the PF/QF South Region team meeting
- I will also conduct several surveys to locate Lesser Prairie-Chicken leks in NW OK.
- I look forward to assisting the field offices with inventories, range planting seed mixes, and habitat planning on EQIP contracts.

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

Haley Lockard

R & W Conservationist

Beaver, Ellis, Harper, Texas, Woods, Woodward

1275 N 190 Rd

Buffalo, OK 73834

580-735-2033 x104

hlockard@pheasantsforever.org



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

January – March 2018

Foundation Being Laid...Continuing to Grow

Over the last three months there has been a lot of running and gunning. Assisting NRCS with revisions to the Monarch Technical Note and Pollinator Technical Note have certainly been rewarding and a great learning experience. In addition, I have completed NRCS' Prescribed Burn training steps needed for apprentice certification and look forward to that being official. Once official and more on-the-ground burning, I will be better equipped to assist landowners and other fire enthusiasts across the state. I have also assisted NRCS in developing documents for the Monarch Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), which the April 20th application period is quickly approaching. This RCPP program is utilizing NRCS' EQIP and CSP technical and financial assistance to put Monarch conservation on the ground. If you know anyone interested in Monarch conservation have them visit their local USDA Service Center or contact me directly.

Over this time period I have had the opportunity to meet a few ODWC Biologists and talk about ways we can work together on projects or point people to the various pathways to best fit their objectives.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this last quarter is the fact that my phone is beginning to ring with landowner requests for habitat recommendations. Attending and speaking at PF/QF events have paved the way for more interaction with landowners and has put me in contact with important individuals within those communities.

Okies for Monarchs

I also hold a spot for PF/QF on the Oklahoma Monarch Pollinator Collaborative (OMPC) Steering Committee and this effort is taking flight! April 2nd marked the official launch of this statewide effort and there are 40+ organizations and citizen groups on deck. There are various working groups within the collaborative, each with specific objectives to reach all target audiences across Oklahoma.

Conservation Planning

- 7 Landowner Contacts
- 3 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CTA Upland Habitat Management	400
WRE Prescribed Burn Plan	280
Total	680



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!



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

January – March 2018

Outreach & Education

- **Haley** gave a presentation on Lesser Prairie Chickens and “Working Lands for Wildlife” at the Pheasants & Quail Forever State Habitat Convention in Oklahoma City. Her key message, “**Keep Working Lands Working.**”
- I gave presentation on Monarch Butterflies and “Working Lands for Wildlife.” This presentation touched on the new **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** aimed at providing critical habitat for migrating monarchs.
- A fun and interesting topic “**Factors Contributing to Quail Population Decline Other than Habitat Loss**” was the focal point of a talk I gave at the Indian Territory Quail Forever Banquet March 10th in Claremore, OK.
- While attending a **Tribal Alliance for Pollinators Conference**, I was asked to introduce myself and talk to the tribes about the programs I work with and how my assistance can benefit them. There were 17 tribes represented at the conference.
- I provided a press release, **Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies PDF** and my contact information to the Osage Tribe.
- Working with NRCS Public Relations/Outreach a **MEME and Press Release**, for Social Media and Twitter, were developed to advertise the upcoming Monarch-RCPP application period for NRCS EQIP & CSP Programs.



Top Photo: **Haley** talking Lesser Prairie Chickens
Bottom Photo: **Dustin** talking Monarch Butterflies

- March 30th was **Lake McMurtry’s Annual Spring Celebration**, near Stillwater, OK. I setup a table with Monarch outreach materials and talked “**Okies for Monarchs**” and the “**Monarch RCPP Program.**” Talked with the public about the importance of monarchs and what they can do to help.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	3
Press Releases	2
Monarch Information Table	1
Total	6





Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

January – March 2018

DO YOU SEE IT?? Jackpot!



A misty February afternoon at OG&E Sooner Power Plant near Ponca City, OK proved beneficial. Dustin met with representatives from OG&E to discuss Monarch and pollinator habitat. Bingo, what a jackpot!! This rangeland goldmine has outstanding potential. Once OG&E decides on acreage to commit, a management plan will be written with Monarchs and pollinators as the foundation!

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Tribal Alliance for pollinators Conference	Conference aimed at increasing pollinator interest and awareness with tribes across Oklahoma, many tribes are already working towards this endeavor. I was able to speak in front of 17 represented tribes about how I may assist them.
OK Natural Resource Conference	Gathering of OK Natural Resources staff to discuss the latest and greatest research of all aspects pertaining to natural resource conservation across the state of Oklahoma. Great networking opportunity with all avenues in the state.
LPCI Grazing Workshop, Woodward, OK	PF/QF, ODWC, WAFWA and OSU staff gathered in Woodward, OK to talk about research on Lesser prairie chickens. Topics included: grazing systems, prescribed fire, CRP, vegetation monitoring techniques, setting stocking rates and pollinators.
NRCS Prescribed Burn Training	Completed all tasks for apprentice burn certification with NRCS. This is a big step forward, getting more fire on the ground can prove extremely beneficial on a large scale. This is a foundation for a large portion of the work in Oklahoma.
PF/QF State Habitat Convention	This marks the first Oklahoma stand alone State Convention! Interested parties from around the state poured into Oklahoma City for this two day event. An MOU was signed between PF/QF and ODWC. In addition, there were seminars talking about habitat, governmental affairs & Farm Bill, social media and PF/QF Chapter related topics.

Looking Forward

- I will be speaking at Wichita Mountains Quail Forever's Chapter Banquet April 14, 2018.
- Monarch RCPP EQIP & CSP application cutoff date April 20, 2018.
- I will be assisting with a Youth Pollinator Event in Kingston, OK April 28th.
- PF/QF South Region Team Meeting will be held June 4-7, 2018 in Missouri.
- Field work is finally on the horizon and I am looking forward to assisting landowners and working on solid Conservation Plans to meet their objectives and conservation objectives.
- Conservation planning courses with NRCS are being scheduled and courses will begin in June.

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

Dustin Lamoreaux
Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
Statewide

100 USDA Suite 206
Stillwater, OK 7407

405-714-7893
dlamoreaux@pheasantsforever.org