



# Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

April – June 2018

### All Corners of Oklahoma.....Monarch Work Begins

This past quarter has proved to be very beneficial for a number of reasons. I have had the opportunity to participate in several outreach and educational events scattered throughout Oklahoma. Anything from Monarch RCPP presentations and talks to putting milkweed plugs in the ground with volunteers. Over the last 3 months I have nearly hit all corners of Oklahoma providing outreach, trainings, site visits and wildlife habitat recommendations.

April 20th marked the application cut-off period for the Monarch RCPP. Now with Monarch work in full swing, site visits are beginning to pick up. The month of June has been particularly busy running Monarch WHEG's, collecting resource inventories and assisting NRCS Field Offices with monarch conservation planning. In conjunction, landowner contacts are continuing to pickup and there are a couple that are particularly interested in managing for monarchs and pollinators.

In addition, I have been coordinating with Quail Forever counterparts in Iowa and Missouri to compile information for our first official NFWF report, which was recently submitted. This has given us the opportunity to work on adjusting PF/QF's Biologist Reporting structure to make gathering monarch/pollinator data more efficient as we move forward for future reports.



Photo: Burn training OSU patch burn/graze research plots

### A Little Burn Training

I had the opportunity to assist with a prescribed burn at the OSU Patch burn-graze research plots. John Weir handed me a drip torch and said, "there is no better training than this, have fun."

#### Conservation Planning

- 11 Landowner Contacts
- 8 Site Visits
- 10 WHEG's
- 3 Management Plans

Other Programs	Acres assessed	Acres Impacted
EQIP Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Plans (Monarch)		1,180
EQIP Monarch Applications	1,700	TBD
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,180</b>



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!**



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**April – June 2018**

### Outreach & Education

- Presentation at Wichita Mountains Quail Forever Chapter Banquet. Talked to the group about Monarch 101, Monarch RCPP and OLAP.
- Had the opportunity to present information to partners about the Monarch RCPP and the Southern Great Plains strategy for monarch conservation while at a GRIP, Cross Timbers and Monarch RCPP training in Holdenville, OK.
- Partnered with Missouri PF/QF Staff to lead a facilitated discussion on monarch conservation across several states and reporting efforts within those states while attending PF/QF South Region Team Meeting.
- Assisted with Central Oklahoma Quail Forever's Chapter Youth Event at OKC Gun Club. Kids learned about pollinators, quality wildlife habitat, it's importance and eventually they seeded an area along the entrance of the gun club. ODWC had their shooting trailer which allowed kids to take their aim at breaking some clays.
- Assisted Laura McIver with a presentation at the State 4H Convention in Stillwater, OK. Educated 4H leaders on pollinator habitat, it's importance and provided them the tools to take back to their youth and engage their communities.
- Wrote an article for ODWC's Your Side of the Fence publication. Article highlighted wildlife driven programs available to private landowners through NRCS. Monarch Initiative, Cross Timbers Initiative, and Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (GRIP) were the programs highlighted.



Top Photo: Breaking clays at Youth Event.  
Bottom Photo: Spreading pollinator seed at Youth Event

- Setup booth at Beavers Bend State Park, during Owa-Chita Festival, in southeast Oklahoma to talk about wildlife, pollinators, natural resources conservation and expose people to Pheasants & Quail Forever's mission.



Photo of myself waiting for people to stream by at Beavers Bend.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	3
Articles, information booth	2
Youth Events	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

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## Prescribed Burning & Wildlife



Photo from an early June burn done at OSU Research Station outside of Stillwater. Nearly 100 people were in attendance to hear about growing season burns and all the benefits that come from them. Not only do they leave some residual cover for wildlife, but also extend the burn window for getting projects done. A couple big takeaways were fire frequency and staggering burn seasons to create heterogeneity or diversity.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>GRIP, Cross Timbers, &amp; Monarch RCPP Training</b>	Partners gathered in Holdenville to discuss these three programs and how partners can play a role in assisting with data collection and planning assistance for NRCS Farm Bill conservation programs.
<b>PF/QF South Region Team Meeting</b>	Great team building opportunity with PF/QF Staff across the south region. Provided the opportunity for biologists to discuss and share ideas across state lines to better improve habitat delivery.
<b>Monarch WHEG Training</b>	Provided Monarch WHEG Training to NRCS staff in Pawnee County. Discussed monarch habitat, recommendations to landowners and how to better manage for monarchs in certain situations they were not familiar with.
<b>Summer Fire Field Day</b>	Fire frequency was a big takeaway from this workshop. Also, was able to interact with local PBA's and create more contacts for prescribed fire. Creating heterogeneity by burning in multiple seasons is crucial for addressing all habitat needs.

### Looking Forward

- Continue working on Monarch Conservation Plans for NRCS Offices and landowners.
- Conservation Planning course with NRCS, in Stillwater July 17-19, 2018.
- Quail Forever Youth Event at Grand Lake July 21, 2018.
- Growing Season Burn Workshop at Noble Research Institute in early August.
- ODWC Oklahoma Wildlife Expo September 21-23, 2018.
- Cherokee Strip Quail Forever Chapter Women's Hunt September 15, 2018.
- 2nd Annual Great Plains Fire Summit in Ardmore October 1-3, 2018.

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

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# Range & Wildlife Conservationist

## Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Northwest OK

April—June 2018

### Birds and Butterflies

The last three months were all about the lesser prairie chicken and monarch butterfly. April started with lek surveys for lesser prairie chicken leks in Harper, Ellis, and Woodward countries. I am happy to report that I was able to locate several leks along the routes. The most exciting morning occurred late in the season when I was finally able to see an Oklahoma lesser prairie chicken! Along with lek surveys, was the start of annual vegetation monitoring for LPCI as well as the Range Wide plan with WAFWA. I enjoyed the opportunity to see a variety of LPC habitats from far southwestern Kansas to the shinnery oak shrubland of western OK.

In between chasing prairie chickens, I worked with NRCS staff on cedar brush inventories and evaluations for numerous Monarch EQIP applications. Looking at the applications let me experience me new parts of my counties. These cedars may be cut in the name of the Monarch, but it will greatly benefit prairie chicken habitat as well. The level of cedar infestation ranged from very minor to an impenetrable forest. For the Monarch we are recommending a prescribed burn to follow the removal of cedar in low to moderate density stands.

I was grateful for the spring rains. Not just because we desperately needed the moisture, but because the flowers bloomed in full force and I was able to hone my plant identification skills. I also found some plants I'd never seen in the wild.



This photo of Broadleaf Milkweed was taken June 2018 while evaluating applications for the Monarch Initiative.

Conservation Planning		Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted	Vegetation Monitoring	# Points/Transects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Landowner Contacts</li> <li>• 21 Habitat Proposals &amp; Conservation Plans</li> <li>• 33 Site Visits</li> <li>• 9 WHEGS Completed</li> </ul>	EQIP LPCI Brush Management	1673	TBD	LPCI	50
	EQIP Monarch Initiative Brush Management	5,555	2,699	WAFWA Range	26
	EQIP Monarch RCPP Brush Management	3925	1838	<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,153</b>	<b>4,537</b>	<b>Lek Surveys-</b>	148 points



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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April—June 2018

### Outreach & Education

- On May 1st, I gave presentations to 6th graders from Buffalo and Laverne schools as part of the Harper County Conservation District Outdoor Classroom. We did an activity demonstrating how most of the foods we enjoy require pollination by insects. I additionally, discussed ways they can improve pollinator habitat.
- During the Woodward County Conservation District's outdoor classroom day, I spoke with over 200 third graders about the importance of pollinators.
- The Homesteaders Quail Forever chapter hosted an youth conservation day on May 19th. I tested out a new game to demonstrate the habitat requirements for lesser prairie chickens and the challenges they face.



Kids playing a new Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat activity at the Homesteaders Youth Conservation Day in May 2018.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>



# Range & Wildlife Conservationist

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April – June 2018



This photo was taken in June 2018 of a guzzler installed at the Beaver WMA. During the Field Day, we discussed managing invasive salt cedar for turkey, shrubs for quail and water for all

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
<b>South Region Team Meeting</b>	PF and QF staff gathered at Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. This provided the opportunity to network and learn from our peers in different states. I was grateful for the chance to brainstorm new solutions and gain new perspectives from my peers.
<b>OSU Extension Field Day</b>	Wildlife professionals and local landowners gathered at ODWC's Beaver WMA to discuss wildlife management for quail, turkey and deer. We looked at the removal of invasive salt cedar to restore cottonwoods for wild turkey, shrub preferences for quail,

### Looking Forward

- From July 17-19 I will be attending NRCS Conservation Planning in Stillwater, OK.
- I will fork to finalize conservation plans for LPCI and Monarch Initiative contracts.
- In July I will wrap-up annual vegetation monitoring for NRCS.
- In August, I plan to attend a growing season burn workshop with the Noble Foundation.

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# Oklahoma Biologists FY 2018 Annual Summary



Haley Lockard & Dustin Lamoreaux

July 2017 – June 2018

## Oklahoma Accomplishments:

June 30th marked the end of Pheasants & Quail Forever’s Fiscal Year 2018. What an exciting year it has been; two new partner biologists becoming integrated within the state and high expectations moving into FY 2019. Tables below are a summary of the work performed by Haley & Dustin over the past year.

<b>Conservation Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 Landowner Contacts</li> <li>• 60 Site Visits</li> <li>• 21 WHEG’s</li> <li>• 30 Habitat Plans/Proposals</li> </ul>	Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted	Vegetation Monitoring	# Points/Transects
	EQIP	9,200	LPCI	50
	CSP	398	WAFWA Range	26
	WRE	400	Wide Plan	
	CTA	770	<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,768</b>	<b>LPCI</b>	
		<b>Lek Surveys:</b>	<b>148</b>	

Outreach & Education	Count	<b>OLAP</b> <b>User Surveys</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 67 Site Checks</li> <li>• 16 Users</li> </ul>
Presentations Delivered	9	
Articles, information booth	4	
Youth Events	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Workshop/Training Participants</b>	<b>593</b>	