



State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

July – September 2020

Position Update!

Just like that, the first quarter of FY2021 has passed us by. This quarter has been similar to the last, conducting business in the new normal of COVID uncertainty. Even though most meetings and events have been moved to virtual, they still hold value in ensuring that our work never stops. Throughout the quarter I have attended several virtual meetings, small in-person meetings, on-line webinars, and given presentations at PF/QF District Meetings and a QF Chapter Banquet. I also had the opportunity to conduct vegetation monitoring on an AEP right-of-way, near Chickasha.

I have also been participating in the PF/QF Pollinator Habitat Working Group monthly calls, Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) Practices and Protocols Team bi-monthly calls, and ACR monthly calls.

PF/QF finalized a three-year agreement for our Coordinating Wildlife Biologist, Leslie Elmore, with NRCS. Funding support for this position was also provided by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). This agreement is to continue the monarch and pollinator efforts in Oklahoma.

Audubon Conservation Ranching

I have completed the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for a ranch south of Tulsa. This particular ranch is already practicing grassfed, grass finished beef production and currently have their own marketing platform developed. We are near the finish line with this ranch and look forward to their involvement.

I have also been working with a ranch south of Waurika, who is also practicing grass-fed, grass finished beef production. This ranch is part of the Grassfed Livestock Alliance (GLA). Currently, working to wrap-up their HMP and get their ACR application submitted.



Photo: One of the many monarch caterpillars munching on Swamp milkweed in my native wildflower plantings at home!

Conservation Planning

- 14 Landowner Contacts
- 4 Site Visits
- 1 Habitat Management Plan

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
ACR Upland Habitat Management, Grazing Management, Prescribed Fire, Woodland Thinning	320
Total	320



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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July – September 2020

Outreach & Education

- Gave presentations at the PF/QF District meetings in Enid and Arcadia. Talked about work the Farm Bill Biologists do, summary of results from biologist's work, and how funds are used to support Farm Bill Biologists.
- Completed a one-page Scaled Quail fact sheet for use by PF/QF chapters, biologists, and others. This was done as part of the PF/QF Pollinator & Habitat Working Group (PHWG), other fact sheets to follow.
- ACR Facebook on Oklahoma Quail Forever page. Post was to draw attention and education to the program and provide my contact information for people to reach out. Post was shared by others in OK.
- ACR video post on OK Quail Forever Facebook page that talks about Blue Nest Beef and how their work is impacting grassland birds. Post was shared by others in OK.
- Was asked to speak at the Tallgrass Heritage QF Banquet. Talked about our biologists, their accomplishments, OLAP, and how our biologists can assist anyone in the room with wildlife and habitat needs on their properties.



Photo: Mike Fernandez/Audubon

Photo: This photo was part of an ACR Facebook post.



Photo: Taken in Osage County. I used this Leavenworth's eryngo photo for a Facebook post, testing people's knowledge and pointing out it's importance for a late-season flowering species.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations	3
Informational Literature	3
Outreach Events	1
Total	7

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	96

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Vegetation Monitoring, AEP right-of-way!



Photo: Conducted vegetation monitoring at AEP right-of-way site near Chickasha. A more diverse, native seed mix was developed and planted on this site instead of the typical non-native seed mix. This more diverse mix is being compared to a control site, which is located across the road.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
OK NRCS WLFW Strategy Meeting	Meeting brought stakeholders to the table to discuss OK's strategy for the upcoming WLFW Great Plains Grasslands Initiative. Discussed strategies, core areas, conservation practices, outreach, Farm Bill programs and other funding sources. Follow-up meetings to continue discussion and strategy planning.
National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting	Meeting brought together interested parties and all the states involved in the Bobwhite Technical Committee. There were multiple subcommittee meetings where issues and opportunities were discussed and best course of action to address these topics.
OK PF/QF District Meetings	Attended and gave presentations at two of the three meetings. Presentation covered biologists, biologist's accomplishments, how funds are used for biologists, and ACR. Also, brought chapters together to discuss FY2021 planning and discussions for the state moving forward.
OK PF/QF Team Meeting	Annual OK Team meeting. Provided the opportunity for continued team building, FY2021 planning, tips and tricks from other biologists, and assessed an area at Lake McMurtry to determine what work needs to be done for a pollinator area with an ADA trail.

Looking Forward

- Complete remaining items for two additional ACR ranches in OK.
- Continue seeking additional ranches to reach out to for Audubon Conservation Ranching to increase participation.
- Develop outreach strategy for ACR in Oklahoma to provide more education aimed at attracting more people to the program.
- Support PF/QF staff in Oklahoma as well as our chapters.
- Big Bluestem Chapter Banquet in Bartlesville, November 7, 2020.
- Plainsman Chapter Banquet in Enid, November 7, 2020.
- Hunter's Hangout evening for quail season opener in Beaver, November 14, 2020.

**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 Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

July - September 2020

A Summer of Milestones

July marked my one year anniversary with Quail Forever. It has been such an exciting and interesting year of learning with and from my teammates, partners, and producers. I feel so incredibly fortunate to be in this position, and look forward to working for our natural resources every day.

My summer was focused on training and continuing education. In addition to several fire trainings (including a field day that turned up several monarch eggs and larvae, pictured below), I completed the in-depth Conservation Planning course through NRCS, the last of the coursework to achieve Apprentice Level of Conservation Planner through NRCS. With appropriate Job Approval Authority gained through NRCS coursework, I can serve producers with this new knowledge in a more timely fashion.



Delightful roadside art discovered on my way to a landowner visit .

Pen to Paper

After having resources assessed on their properties, eligible producers began the process of signing contracts, agreeing to conduct conservation practices such as prescribed burning and brush management on their property to bolster nectar plants for monarchs.

All totaled, Oklahoma will provide \$161,644 in RCPP-EQIP funds over the next year to improve 1,606 acres in the 27 counties of NRCS's Central Zone. CSP will provide \$10,597 to improve 9.1 acres over the next five years. Thanks to the field office staff and Dustin Lamoreaux for their work in this and past years to get producers' pen to paper.

Additionally I will follow-up with five landowners who were interested in doing work through the RCPP, but are eager to continue even without financial assistance. Approximately 700 more acres can be improved through this Conservation Technical Assistance.

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CSP	
Wildlife Habitat Planting	0.10
CTA	
Brush Management	160
CTA	
Forest Stand Improvement	270
CTA	
Prescribed Burning	45
CTA	
Shrub Planting	0.25
EQIP	
Pollinator Planting	0.02
Total	475.37

Conservation Planning

- ◆ 17 landowner contacts
- ◆ 3 site visits
- ◆ 2 seed plans
- ◆ 3 conservation plans



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

Quarterly Partners' Report

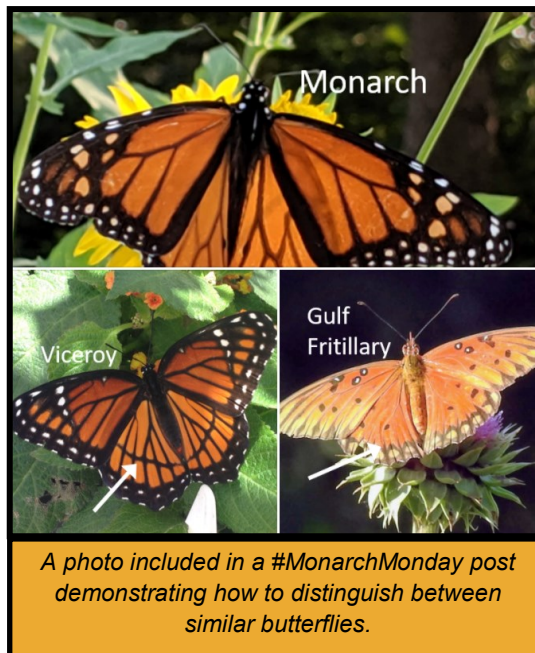


Leslie Elmore - Statewide

July - September 2020

Outreach & Education

- The season of virtual events continued this quarter with limited in-person training and outreach events. But social media remains a great way to educate our audience with bite-size nuggets of wisdom.
- In addition to social media posts about quail and habitat issues surrounding them, I have continued posting with the hashtag MonarchMonday. So far, three #MonarchMonday posts that focused on plant ID and importance, prescribed fire benefits, and citizen science have reached over 2,500 people and engaged nearly 400.
- The Sportsman's Bazaar Garage Sale was an outreach event hosted by NWTF, ODWC, and OK Quail Forever. The event provided slightly used gear at reduced prices to attract new outdoors people to get out in the field and enjoy the natural world.
- Although not a part of the official program, I was happy to contribute and provide information upon request at the Growing Season Fire Day in Creek County.
- I spoke with a *Yukon Progress* reporter, who was writing an article on the fall migration of the monarch butterfly. I shared with her information on food resources they would be seeking, and weather conditions and the citizen science-based webpage *Journey North* to help identify peak numbers during migration.
- Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever's Women on the Wing Initiative hosted the inaugural *Women, Wine & Wild Game* virtual event. I took this opportunity to introduce a friend to QF. I purchased tickets and gifted her with the annual QF membership. Here's to recruiting new members!



Outreach & Education	Count
Media Articles	7
Total	7

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Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

July - September 2020



A summer burn rejuvenated this milkweed, providing a host plant for early season monarchs to lay eggs.

This larva is part of the "Super Generation" that will over-winter in Mexico before returning north next spring.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
PFQF Pollinator Habitat Working Group monthly "Sack Lunch" series	I watched two presentations in this series: "Quail Success in Missouri" with Casey Bergthold and "Programs and Initiatives Taking Place in North Dakota" with Rachel Bush.
Conservation Planning Course - Field Portion and Presentation	This training covered the fundamentals of conservation planning. My team members consisted of NRCS FO staff. Together we visited a landowner and prepared and presented a conservation plan to the NRCS state agency personnel and other classmates. It is credited toward apprentice level of Conservation Planner, which I have now completed!
Monarch Joint Venture webinars	The Monarch Joint Venture hosts a series of monthly webinars. This quarter I caught "BMPs for Monarchs and Other Pollinators on Rangelands." Additionally, I watched five webinars to learn more about planting for pollinators, monarch migration, monarch conservation, seed mixes, and programs for producers.
Fire Field Days	I participated in two fire field days. The "Growing Season Fire Field Day" in Ames focused on benefits of summer burning to habitats for wildlife, including quail, turkey, deer, and pollinators. The Rx Fire Field Day near Kellyville focused on response and control measures for beneficial and noxious plants.
Alabama Extension webinars	I tuned in to four presentations presented by Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. Two that were particularly relevant to my work in Oklahoma were, "Identifying and Controlling Invasive Plants" and "Encouraging Native Grasses for Wildlife."

Looking Forward

- Writing CTA wildlife and burn plans for producers ineligible for the Monarch RCPP.
- Continuing ed with MJV, QF, NRCS webinars.
- Collaborating with the Oklahoma NRCS State Wildlife Biologist to develop a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide for pollinators.

**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 Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July - September 2020

Position Update!

On the last day of the quarter I adventured out to Osage county to conduct a range health assessment on a property I'd been working on for the last few months. After spending several minutes and one failed attempt to enter the field, I found my way in. Not thinking too much about the small puddle of muddy water that sat in the cross section between the fields, I switched the truck into 4-wheel drive and tapped the gas. Suffice it to say, I misjudged the "small puddle of mud" and got the truck very stuck. I then proceeded to get myself stuck in the mud.

I managed to dig myself out and call the landowner to help pull the truck back to dry land. In the process of rescuing my truck, he also got stuck! We eventually got both trucks to dry land, but what an adventure. It is moments like this that remind me why I love my job as a Wildlife Biologist with Quail Forever! It is the amazing people I get to work with everyday.

Over the past three months I have been busy in the field. I've spent much of my time in Osage county working on a Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) project to inventory and assess two large ranches. This includes native range fields, pastures, and forested areas. I completed a number of landowner site visits for CTA grazing and wildlife habitat management plans. I have worked with NRCS to conduct site visits for EQIP, ACEP, and CSP projects. I also helped Craig County complete five state cost share conservation plans and maps for the OK soil health initiative.

I have also been working to further my knowledge base and skills. I have spent time working on a rangeland management course. This is to help me better understand ranching and livestock operation aspects of my field work. In turn I will be able to provide better assistance to the landowners I work with. I have also worked with NRCS on grass and tree identification training in the field.



Stuck in Osage County



Conservation Planning

- 25 Landowner Contacts
- 21 Site Visits
- Grazing Plans: 1
- SCS Conservation Plans: 5

	Acres Impacted
CTA Grazing Plan	345
Total	345



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 Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July - September 2020

Outreach & Education

- During 2020 Social Media outreach has become evermore important to help OK Quail Forever interact with and stay connected. Through Facebook posts I have been able to share what I've been doing as a biologist in the field. One such post was a video I captured in July at a site visit in Wagoner County of male Bobwhites calling. This was a small crop field that the landowner was in the process of converting to native range. The goal of this project is to help restore quail habitat to the property. I always get the question if there are still Quail in Northeast Oklahoma and I was happy to show there are!



Goldenrod in Osage County September 2, 2020

- August 1, 2020 Oklahoma Quail Forever, ODWC, and NWTF held our first Sportsman's Bizarre at Arcadia Lake Education Center. We collected donations from around the state from generous local donors. The donations included outdoor recreation clothing, camping supplies, fishing, hunting, and more. This was an excellent event where beginners to the outdoors were provided with the opportunity to purchase items at a discounted rate. Also during the event guests had the opportunity to participate in an outdoor fishing clinic with ODWC.
- August 29, 2020 was the Tallgrass Heritage Quail Forever Banquet. Here I had the opportunity to give a short impromptu presentation about what I do as a biologist and that I am here to assist landowners of Oklahoma in implementing quality wildlife habitat.
- On September 24, I posted a Facebook post about native Oklahoma Goldenrods: "Have you seen any of these beauties while driving recently?" In the post I highlighted two of the many native goldenrod species to Oklahoma. These perennial flowers feature bright yellow/golden flowers that bloom during late summer. Goldenrods are attractive sources of pollen and nectar for many of our native pollinators, including migrating Monarchs during the fall!

Outreach & Education	Count
Promotional Literature	2
Presentations	1
Outreach Event	1
Total	4

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	70



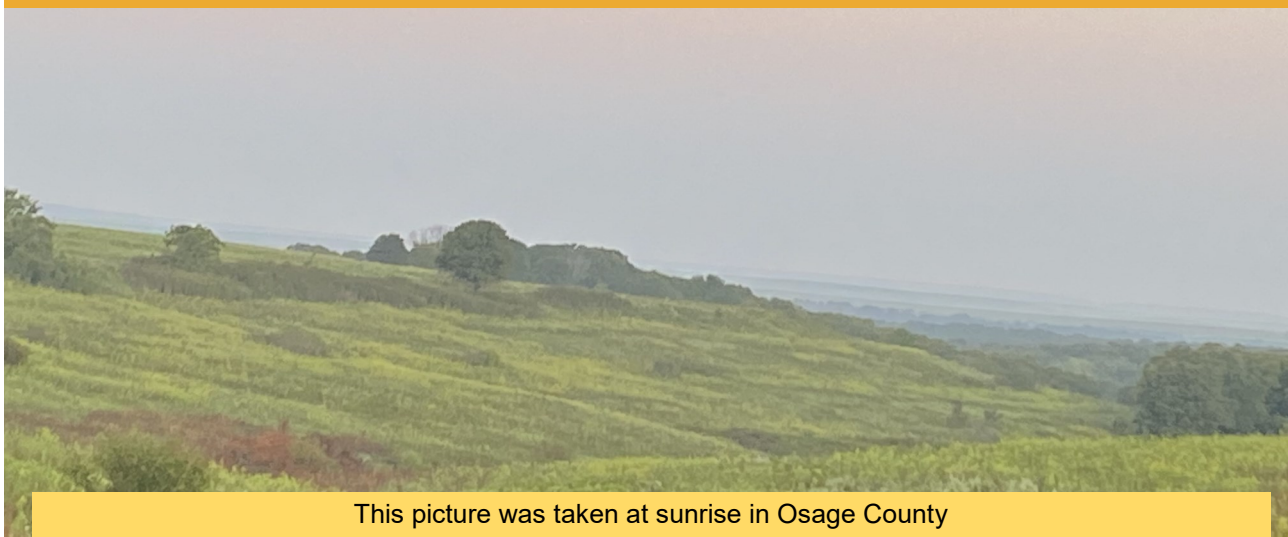
Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July - September 2020



This picture was taken at sunrise in Osage County

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Oklahoma Quail Forever Team Conference Calls	The OK team has had a number of video and phone conference calls over the past three months. This has allowed us to continue to stay in touch and complete work in a timely manner.
Oklahoma Quail Forever Team Meeting	The OK Team met September 17-18 at Lake McMurdy near Stillwater, OK for a two day team meeting. We discussed strategies for biologists in the field, future field days, year ahead planning, and had a good time camping, cooking, and fishing!
Grass Identification Training	Training with the northeast area NRCS Resource Specialist in Osage County on native grass identification.
PF/QF District Meeting	On August 11, Elizabeth attended the Northeast OK PF/QF District Meeting in Tulsa. We discussed the new banquet package, COVID regulations, and talked about the year ahead.

Looking Forward

- October 6th and 7th, field training with NRCS on the Deer and Turkey Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide.
- OK QF Big Bluestem Chapter hosting their 2nd annual banquet on November 7, 2020.
- Continue to work on various training aspects, including grazing systems, to ensure I have all the tools needed for any situation while in the field.
- I am looking forward to continuing to work with landowners to develop wildlife habitat on their properties around NE OK!

**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 Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July – September 2020

Position Update

Programs were very generous to us this quarter. EQIP Monarch highlighted the programs by funding 34 projects, spending a large portion of EQIP Monarch money for cedar removal, prescribed grazing, and prescribed fire. CRP Grasslands was a popular sign-up once again in the panhandle, as we inventoried 22 applications spanning 15,000ac over the course of 3 days. COVID-19 is proving quite problematic, as the Woodward office has been closed since late August, and closed through the end of September. During this time field staff has been in telework only mode, so we are all chomping at the bit to get the green light to open back up and get back to business!



This picture was taken in August during my monthly recording of the wildfire that threatened Fargo in November of 2019. I am documenting the recovery of the landscape every month for at least a year following the fire. The vegetation community has recovered marvelously, thanks to mostly mild and wet majority of the summer.

Doldrums of Summer

July started out hot and dry, but quickly gave way to a mild, wet spell before drying off again in August, and into September. Timely rains have proven critical, and broods of pheasant, quail, and turkeys at multiple ages are being seen, showing signs of productive multiple hatches. Management earlier in the year is showing quite positive results in improving habitats, implementing responsible grazing and getting more fire on the ground. It appears as if the ball is rolling in the right direction, as we are already getting calls regarding next year's signups!

Conservation Planning

- 88 Landowner Contacts
- 37 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plans
- 42 Site Visits

	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
CTA CTA USDA/ CTA Nonprogram/State ODWC/LPC		10,554
EQIP Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing, Cover Crops, Prescribed Fire		10,897.89
CRP	15,572.57	
CSP	11,000	11,908.3
Total	26,572.57	33,360.19



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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Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July – September 2020



This photo was taken this summer at a ranch in Ellis county, where we have been doing active management. This was the site of the Wild Turkey Management videos, put on by ODWC, QF, OSU, and NWTF. Multiple subjects were covered including habitats, various management techniques, and cost share assistance availability.

Outreach & Education

- This quarter myself, along with OSU's Dwayne Elmore were featured in a informational video with ODWC and NWTF, addressing Wild Turkey habitat and management techniques in Northwest Oklahoma. This will be used in OSU, and ODWC promotional and informational pieces for habitat management, as well as being aired on Outdoor Oklahoma.
- Also this quarter I assisted with a fact sheet on Scaled Quail for a series of upland species fact sheets for PF/ QF.
- OK QF, ODWC, and NWTF hosted their first ever "Sportsman's Bazaar", a garage sale type event for outdoors equipment. The public donated items they no longer use, and were sold at garage sale prices to folks just getting into the outdoors. This was an R3 event and featured a free fishing clinic with ODWC.
- Due to Covid restrictions, most field days have still been cancelled/postponed. Upcoming events are in the planning stages, pending the status of COVID in the future!

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Presentations	2
Articles/Flyers Written	1
Other Outreach Events	1
Total	4



Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July – September 2020



This photo was taken in August while out doing field reviews. A severe thunderstorm was fast approaching, and lightning struck twice, starting two simultaneous sister wildfires. The fires were relatively short lived, as the rain soon overtook them.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Oklahoma QF Team Meeting	Recently the Oklahoma biologists had our annual team meeting. Over a couple days, there were multiple ideas formed, and plans were formed for the upcoming year, especially how to deal with Covid-19.
OSU Old World Bluestem Control Field Meeting	Attended a field meeting with OSU, ODWC, OCC, and FSA regarding ongoing research being conducted on methods to control Old World Bluestem. Preliminary results are showing that growing season prescribed fires are very effective in reducing OWB density, by as much as 90-98%. Once this research is published, it opens the door to management opportunities for Oklahoma, specifically for CRP management in the panhandle.
Virtual ACR Meeting	Joined a zoom meeting with Dustin and members of the Audubon Conservation Ranching team informing them about a handful of ranches in Northwest Oklahoma that would be ideal candidates for the Audubon Conservation Ranching program. These are landowners I have been working with and have already written management plans for. Certification requires following a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and grazing plan for proper grassland bird habitat and grazing management.

Looking Forward

- We are already getting calls and applications for cedar removal and prescribed fire for next year, so I will be making initial contacts and field/producer visits as soon as our offices open back up from Covid-19.
- We are in the planning stages of our second QF Hunter's Hangout on opening day of quail season out at Beaver River WMA. This event was a HUGE hit last year, and many people are looking forward to the event this year.
- I will be looking for new opportunities to branch out further and reaching out to new landowners
- I will be tentatively planning a couple field days for this winter/spring, pending Covid-19 restrictions.

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

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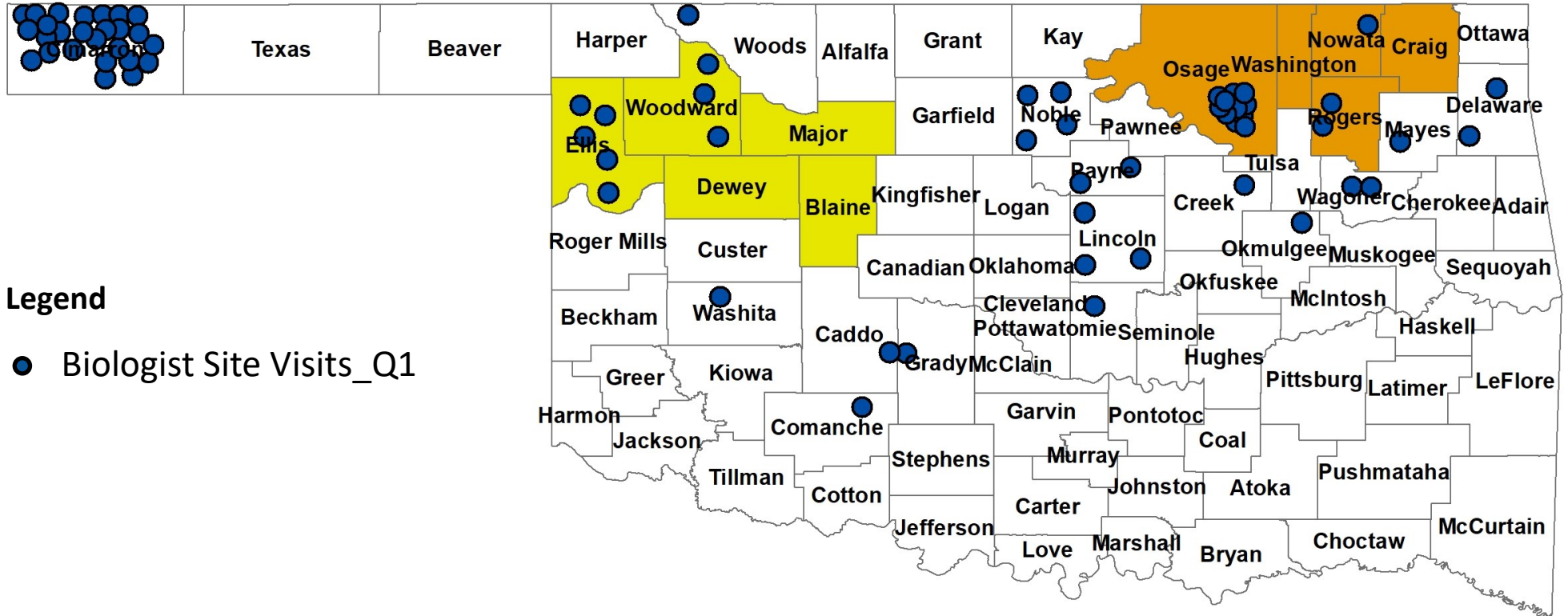
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FY21 Oklahoma PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map July 2020—September 2020



Legend

- Biologist Site Visits_Q1

FY21_Q1 Site Visit Total: 70



Oklahoma Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists are funded in partnership cooperation with the Oklahoma Department Of Wildlife Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Oklahoma Biologists

FY2021, Quarter 1 Summary



Dustin Lamoreaux, Elizabeth Elliott, Tanner Swank, Leslie Elmore

July – September 2020

Oklahoma Accomplishments:

September 30th marked the end of Pheasants & Quail Forever’s Q1 of Fiscal Year 2021. Tables below are a summary of the work performed by Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists over the past quarter.

Conservation Planning

- 144 Landowner Contacts
- 70 Site Visits
- 49 Habitat Plans/Proposals

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
EQIP	10,897.91
CSP	11,908.4
CTA	11,374.25
Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR)	320
Total	34,500.56

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	6
Articles, fliers, outreach materials	13
Youth Events, outreach events, Workshops	3
Total	22

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	166