



State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

October – December 2020

Position Update!

Once again, this quarter was far from ordinary, but the ringing of a new year brings some optimism. Throughout the quarter I have been working on various components of the ACR program. I created an ACR presentation for use at the January Tulsa Audubon Society (TAS) virtual meeting. In addition, I have been coordinating with ODWC and have finalized our QF OLAP Habitat Incentives document. This incentives program, thanks to contributions from Oklahoma PF/QF Chapters, is for OLAP enrolled landowners to improve current habitat for increased hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities to the public.

I have also been participating in the PF/QF Pollinator and Habitat Working Group calls. These working group calls are designed to create outreach materials and identify new opportunities to pursue.

Audubon Conservation Ranching

Throughout the quarter I have been attending the ACR Practices and Protocols bi-monthly calls, along with the ACR monthly calls.

I was able to visit a ranch south of Tulsa, who's ACR certification is nearly complete. I was invited to assist with plant identification while this ranch was going through their data collection to set a short-term and long-term ecological monitoring baseline for their Savory Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV). This was excellent, allowing me to see all the data collected for the EOV and how it is utilized.

I also, had several calls with a large ranch in western Oklahoma. I have made connections, for the ranch, to current ACR market partners to see how this ranch can make it work. Once hunting season wraps, we will be meeting on-site to discuss grazing details and start assembling the Habitat Management Plan (HMP).



Photo: Taken while on ranch visit , in eastern Osage County, for Audubon Conservation Ranching.

Conservation Planning

- 23 Landowner Contacts
- 5 Site Visits



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!

Dustin Lamoreaux

100 USDA Suite 206

405-714-7893

Oklahoma State Coordinator

Stillwater, OK 74074

dlamoreaux@pheasantsforever.org



State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



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October – December 2020

Outreach & Education

- Big Bluestem Quail Forever Chapter Banquet. I assisted the chapter in running their banquet. I also had the opportunity to give a short talk about PF/QF biologists, habitat, and getting youth involved.
- Hunter's Hangout on the opening evening of quail season in Beaver, OK. Attendance was down compared to 2019, but we still had a nice forum of speakers and plenty of discussion time.
- OSU student Capstone project at Lake McMurry. Met with OSU students to discuss different habitat management techniques, teach plant identification, and discuss goals and objectives for this pollinator area with a 1/2 mile ADA trail and interpretive/educational signage.
- Created an ACR powerpoint for upcoming, January, Tulsa Audubon Society (TAS) monthly meeting.
- Posted a number of social media posts, including:
 - Monarch Emergence
 - Quail Utilizing Restoration Site
 - Ranch Management for Wildlife
 - A Beginner's Guide to Conservation Grazing, Parts 1 & 2
 - Edge Feathering



Photo: Taken at Big Bluestem QF Chapter Banquet, in Dewey, OK.



Photo: Taken at my house and part of the Monarch Emergence social media post. I watched this monarch emerge and got photos of it prepping it's wings for flight.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations	2
Informational Literature	7
Workshops, Outreach Events	2
Total	11

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	100

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100 USDA Suite 206

405-714-7893

Oklahoma State Coordinator

Stillwater, OK 74074

dlamoreaux@pheasantsforever.org



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Tasty Little Treat!



This photo was taken early November, in SE Oklahoma. This was the first time I have had the opportunity to experience ripe American Beautyberry! What a tasty little treat, and the wildlife seemed to agree. Interesting info: Beautyberry leaves have a natural mosquito repellent in them, callicarpene and intermedeol, which were crushed and rubbed on horses, mules & people.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
PF/QF Sack Lunch Webinar	"We're burning to get things done in Arkansas." Webinar went through prescribed burning in AR, Habitat Specialists, and implementation. Habitat Specialists in AR are providing on-the-ground habitat management, including prescribed fire.
Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinators Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting	Gave update for the lands work group and what items are remaining to complete on the action tracker. This was a bittersweet call, as this was my last call as a steering committee member. Leslie Elmore has now taken over as the PF/QF and NRCS representative for the steering committee.
Chickasaw NRA	Met with NPS staff and a local, conservation minded, landowner at Chickasaw NRA to discuss management of a 20ac. site. Meeting lined out brush management, prescribed burning, herbicide applications, and individual duties.
NRCS and PF/QF Family Meeting	NRCS and PF/QF leadership will be hosting a series of meetings to discuss and share challenges and success with the partnership. This was the initial kickoff meeting with a smaller group to discuss direction for future meetings. Moving forward, additional states will be invited to join the conversation. This provides great opportunity to just talk as a group.

Looking Forward

- Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) virtual presentation at the Tulsa Audubon Society monthly meeting. January 19, 2021.
- Complete Habitat Management Plan and submit ACR application to Food Alliance for Oklahoma's third ACR certification.
- 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.
- Continue working with large ranch in western Oklahoma to become ACR certified.
- Support PF/QF staff in Oklahoma as well as our chapters.

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

Dustin Lamoreaux

100 USDA Suite 206

405-714-7893

Oklahoma State Coordinator

Stillwater, OK 74074

dlamoreaux@pheasantsforever.org



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

October - December 2020

Position Update

The 2017-2020 *Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies* Regional Conservation Partnership Program wrapped up in October 2020. Together three PF/QF biologists and I delivered over 5,600 acres of critical habitat for monarchs and pollinators, hosted 51 workshops, and reported more than 14,000 landowner contacts. Our coordination with NRCS led to many additional, non-RCPP monarch contracts and implementation of monarch/pollinator-beneficial practices within the project geography.

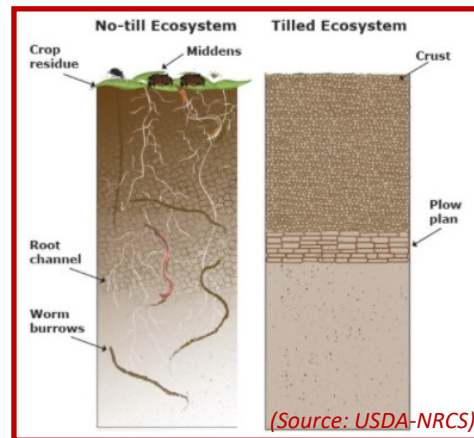
With the conclusion of the RCPP, my role has shifted to serving as the NRCS contact for monarch butterfly and pollinator work and representative at technical meetings occurring throughout Oklahoma. What has not changed is my commitment to serving the people of Oklahoma and partners around the state for the benefit of the land and people and wildlife depending upon it!

'Tis the Season ... for Planting

As counterintuitive as it may seem, November and December are ideal months to plant... wildlife habitat. Seeds of native forbs require freezing temperatures to break open their seed coat.. Planting in the fall rather than spring dramatically boosts the expression and diversity of insect-attracting flowers, just in time for next spring's chicks.

Recently I visited a landowner interested in planting a less-productive area of a crop field with a mix of native grasses and forbs to benefit quail. This field has been under no-till practices for more than 10 years. Digging down, I discovered this soil was very different from that of fields where conventional tillage has created a "plow pan" — a layer of compacted soil, impenetrable to plant roots beyond about 8-10 inches. Although clay, the soil in this no-till field was porous and ready for a native seed mix planting!

Fields with plow pans can still be viable options for native plantings, though. Landowners may try breaking up the compaction layer with turnips, tillage radishes, or annual sunflower; however, ripping the plow pan improves the likelihood that native plants can put down deep roots that will help them weather Oklahoma's droughts and storms.



A plow pan (or hard pan) develops just below the level of tillage in annually plowed fields.

Conservation Planning	
◆	12 landowner contacts
◆	3 site visits
◆	7 burn plans
◆	3 conservation plans
◆	1 seed mix

Program	Acres Impacted
CSP Prescribed Burning	20
CTA Brush Management Prescribed Burning	80 321.5
EQIP Brush Management Prescribed Burning	35 110
EQIP-RCPP Wildlife Habitat Planting	3.5
Total	570



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!

Leslie Elmore

100 USDA Suite 206

405-714-8886

Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Stillwater, OK 74074

lelmore@quailforever.org



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore - Statewide

October - December 2020

Outreach & Education

- This quarter's social media posts covered native plantings: prep and beneficial species, timber thinning, burning brush piles, and the celebration of the *Day of the Dead* on November 1st and its connection to the return of monarchs to their wintering grounds in Mexico. So far, these posts have reached ~5400 people and engaged nearly 300 fans.
- While the fall season is a slow time for outreach events, it is a perfect time to begin planning and making goals for the upcoming year. My planner is now full of checklists of outreach to-do's and connections I will make during this coming year.
- As part of the Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative, I reviewed our press release following the announcement by USFWS that listing the Monarch Butterfly under the Endangered Species Act is "warranted but precluded." Oklahoma City news channel KFOR picked up this article and ran a segment on air.
- I spent many hours researching and writing an article about potential impacts to quail during late-season hunting and harvest. This will be published as a *Quail Forever* blog in early 2021.
- I drafted Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides for land classified as Pasture/Hayland, Range: Prairie and Shrubland, and Range: Savannah and Woodland by NRCS. I edited drafts of the Farmstead WHEG created by the NRCS State Biologist. These new WHEGs will be used by conservationists to more thoroughly assess wildlife habitat on different land uses of producers applying for the Conservation Stewardship Program.



Planting habitat for quail, pollinators, and



The American Beautyberry is a great native shrub. It provides cover for spiders, ants, and wasps. In early fall its ripen fruit is consumed by birds and mammals.

Outreach & Education	Count
Media Articles	8
Total	8

Leslie Elmore

100 USDA Suite 206

405-714-8886

Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Stillwater, OK 74074

lelmore@quailforever.org



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

October - December 2020

Declining Insect Diversity and Abundance

An increasing number of studies are showing declines in insects around the world.

The work you are doing supporting Farm Bill Conservation Practices on the ground is important!

During this season of COVID, travel restrictions, and office shut-downs, trainings and meetings have gone virtual.

Virtual meetings provided the opportunity for me to learn from presenters at meetings I may not have otherwise been able to attend.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
2021 Annual SEAFWA Conference (virtual)	I joined in the session focused on conservation programs and practices for wildlife, including quail and monarch butterflies.
Arkansas Monarch and Pollinator Forum (virtual)	I participated in this 2-day webinar, learning from biologists in Arkansas and neighboring states.
Demonstration of Land Use Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides	I conducted Turkey and Land Use WHEGs under the tutelage of the NRCS State Wildlife Biologist. This was be tremendously helpful as I reformatted and rewrote the Land Use WHEGs.
Burn Certification	I completed my burn certification form, including all burn plans written, prescribed fire training attended, and seminars viewed. This was sent in for review by the State Rangeland Management Specialist as part of my ongoing working to attain a higher Job Approval Authority for prescribed burns.
Various online webinars	I watched 13 webinars hosted by Monarch Joint Venture, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, NRCS, and Pheasants Forever. These webinars focused on habitat management and conservation of quail and monarchs, as well as provided insights into programs and successes in other states. Most of these webinars count towards Continuing Education hours required by NRCS.

Looking Forward

- Collaborating with the Oklahoma NRCS State Wildlife Biologist to finalize land use Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides (WHEGs).
- Collaborating with the Oklahoma NRCS State Wildlife Biologist to create a Pollinator WHEG.
- Creating flyers for outreach, including one covering all conservation programs that benefit monarch butterflies and pollinators.
- Working with my Oklahoma QF Team to schedule R3 events for 2021 and beyond.

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



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October– December 2020

Welcome, 2021! I am so excited to welcome 2021 and say goodbye to 2020. The last quarter has meant a lot of time working from home on outreach and education program development and social media posts. Or, being out in the field.

In October I spent two days helping with the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP), 10 year forest stand evaluation. HFRP is a easement program dedicated to helping landowners manage their properties for endangered species: in this case bats. Mike Sams (NRCS State Biologist) and I ran the Forest Inventory Method know as Zig-Zag Transects. This inventory method can be used to determine: Average tree diameter, range of tree diameter, basal area, stocking rate, stand composition, stand condition (health). Inventories were done to see if the property needed further tree reduction, which allowed me to practice tree inventory methods and tree identification. Also, I assisted with another HFRP site, to help with a prescribed burn plan for a forest stand, on steep slopes. I learned what to look for and how to follow the slopes and ravines for firebreaks and issues that may arise.



I have been working on Conservation Technical Assistance/ Environmental Quality Incentives Program for landowners in Osage County. The inventories I have been conducting included conducting dry weight ranks, range health assessments/ pasture condition scores, brush and herbaceous transects, and stream evaluations (when applicable). I conducted a number of site visits for the Conservation Stewardship Program in Rogers County, including full field inventory on a property for CSP renewal and site evaluation for a new CSP-GCI (Grassland Conservation Incentive).

As the new year starts I am excited to continue growing and learning the in-and-outs of all of the NRCS cost share programs and the computer portions of the planning process. January is shaping up to be a busy month with lots of time spent outdoors!

Conservation Planning

- 20 Landowner Contacts
- 17 Site Visits
- 6 Burn Plans

	Acres Impacted
EQIP Burn Plans	20.73
CTA Burn Plans	14.4
Total	35.13



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!

Elizabeth Elliott
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

1900 West Will Rogers Circle, Suite A
Claremore, OK 74017

319-400-6432
eelliott@pheasantsforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report

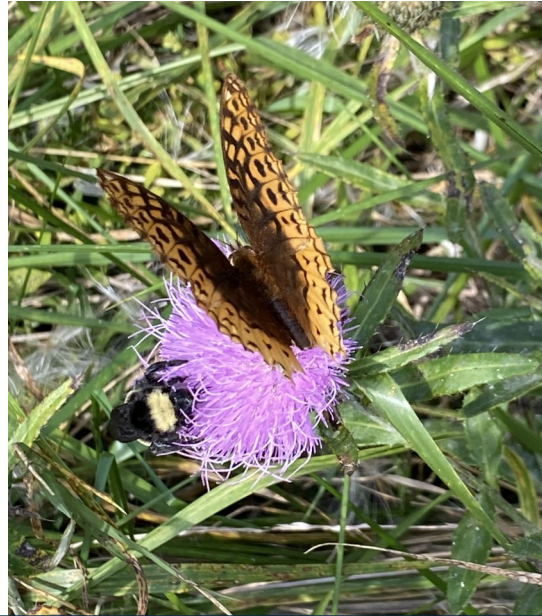


Elizabeth Elliott– Craig, Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Washington

October-December 2020

Outreach & Education

- Elizabeth worked to create a number of power points for future outreach and education programs. Powerpoints listed below:
 - Quail Forever and Who We Are on national, state, and local levels.
 - Oklahoma QF Partners and Cost Share opportunities for landowners.
 - Northeast OK RCPP Grassland Restoration Incentives Program (GRIP).
 - Life History and Habitat Needs for Quail, Pollinators, and Monarch.
- Elizabeth created a 6 part social media post for the Oklahoma Quail Forever Facebook Page on the North American Quail Species. This included: Bobwhite Quail, Scaled Quail, Mearns Quail, California Quail, Gambel's Quail, and Mountain Quail.
- Elizabeth created a series of social media posts on bees for the OK QF Facebook page. This included the evolution of bees from wasps: "A bee is a wasp that has gone vegetarian". Read through the posts and you will learn about the coevolution of bees and flowers and how they depend upon each other. Learn about solitary bees and nesting habits– tunnel and ground nesters. Social bees– honey, bumble, and sweat!



Butterfly and Bee on a Native Thistle October 2020



Carpenter Bee out foraging!

Outreach & Education	Count
Social Media Posts	13
Total	13



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Elizabeth Elliott– Craig,

October-December 2020



Forestry Inventories for Healthy Forest Reserve Program– October 2020

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. Discuss upcoming programs, events, and outreach.
NRCS Virtual Meeting	December 10, 2020 Elizabeth participated in the NRCS East Zone All Team Meeting over Teams. She learned about up coming NRCS program signup deadlines and COVID related updates.
PF/QF Sack Lunch Webinars	Watched Pheasants Forever Sack Lunch Webinar Series with different state coordinators. These provide a look at how other states are implementing habitat techniques, how their partnerships were established, and challenges and successes within those states.

Looking Forward

- To helping with QF's upcoming Jan 18th, 2021 Youth Hunt in Inola, OK.
- Helping Osage County NRCS with new EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program applications. This involves site visits, relevant inventories and evaluations, and computer mapping work.
- I am excited for Winter and seeing snow and cooler weather!

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

Elizabeth Elliott
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

1900 West Will Rogers Circle, Suite A
Claremore, OK 74017

319-400-6432
eelliott@pheasantsforever.org



Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October – December 2020

Position Update

The end of 2020 proved to be very challenging. With COVID resurging, offices kept closing for safety and health precautions. As a result, much of this quarter was reduced to telework only mode. With regard to safety of us and producers, in-person site visits and producer contacts have been kept to a minimum. However, this paved the way for virtual trainings and events, allowing for new opportunities in the future.

Turning The Page

As everyone looks to the new year, there is a light at the end of this tunnel. Hopefully soon things will begin to transition back to “normal,” if there is such a thing anymore. On some positive notes, producers in all counties are already submitting applications for cedar removal, prescribed fire, native grass planting, and prescribed grazing assistance. There are also General CRP, including State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), and CRP Grasslands signup periods on the horizon as well. Even with all the uncertainty and turmoil, things are looking very positive for another productive year for conservation!



This picture was taken in November during my monthly wildfire recovery assessment. Monitoring recovery is critical following wildfires, for both wildlife and livestock.

Conservation Planning

- 41 Landowner Contacts
- 4 Management Plan/ Conservation Plans
- 18 Site Visits

Programs	Acres Impacted
Other CTA USDA/ CTA Nonprogram/State ODWC/ LPC	150
EQIP Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing, Cover Crops, Prescribed Fire	1,696.8
Total	1,846.8



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!

Tanner Swank

3300 Oklahoma Ave

620-566-7179

Farm Bill Biologist II

Woodward OK, 73801

tswank@pheasantsforever.org



Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October– December 2020



This photo was taken in Beaver following the Hunter's Hangout. Attendance was down, but still very positive, as landowners got to visit with both QF and ODWC biologists, and getting many questions and concerns answered.

Outreach & Education

- I assisted in judging the K-12 poster contest for OACD. The theme this year was "Where would we BEE without Pollinators?" There was a 1st and 2nd place winner from each grade, and were sent on to the statewide contest
- Also this quarter I came up with a brochure for a new pilot idea with ODWC. It is the "Save the Shrubs, Save the Quail" campaign, and consists of a seed packet, planting instructions, and background information.
- OK QF, QF Homesteader's Chapter, and ODWC hosted the 2nd Annual Hunter's Hangout in Beaver on opening day of quail season. With poor hunting conditions and COVID, attendance was down this year compared to last. However, producers and hunters got to interact with us biologists and answer any questions they may have.
- Due to COVID restrictions, most field days have still been cancelled/postponed. However, this opened the door for online events. I gave a presentation on quail hunting equipment and habitat improvement assistance programs during ODWC's Learn to Quail Hunt online webinar.

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Presentations	3
Articles/Flyers Written	1
Other Outreach Events	1
Total	5

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	55



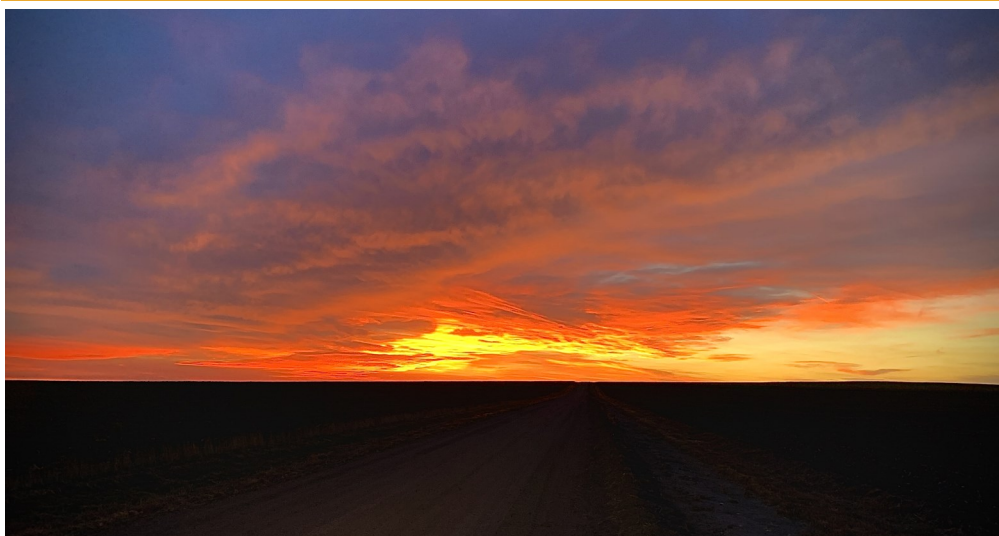
Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October– December 2020



This photo was taken in December in Dewey county, after a day of monitoring wildfire recovery. There were a number of woody residue contracts that needed certification of completion by the end of the year, making for some late days.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
GPS Field Training	Provided field training on using handheld GPS to new employees while also checking out cedar removal for practice completion for EQIP Monarch contracts.
Online CART Training	Attended online training showing updated CART resource concerns, as well as sorting out bugs and answering questions so it will move smoother this year.
Local Work Group Meeting	Gave presentation on biggest wildlife/range resource concerns in Ellis county to local work group for FY21 programs. This is assisting them to decide their top resource concerns in the county.
NW OK NRCS Zone Meeting	Attended NRCS west zone meeting where year achievements and program statistics were shared, as well as upcoming program updates, signup dates, and details.

Looking Forward

- We are already getting calls and applications for cedar removal and prescribed fire for the upcoming year, so I will be making initial contacts and field/producer visits as safe as possible following the application period.
- There will be another CRP signup for both General (including SAFE) and Grasslands. I will be assisting in assessing applications again, similar to 2020.
- I will be looking for new opportunities to branch out further and reaching out to new landowners.
- I will be actively planning prescribed burns, and assisting landowner in executing prescribed burns, particularly first time burners. It is looking like there is going to be a very active burn season this spring!

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Tanner Swank

3300 Oklahoma Ave

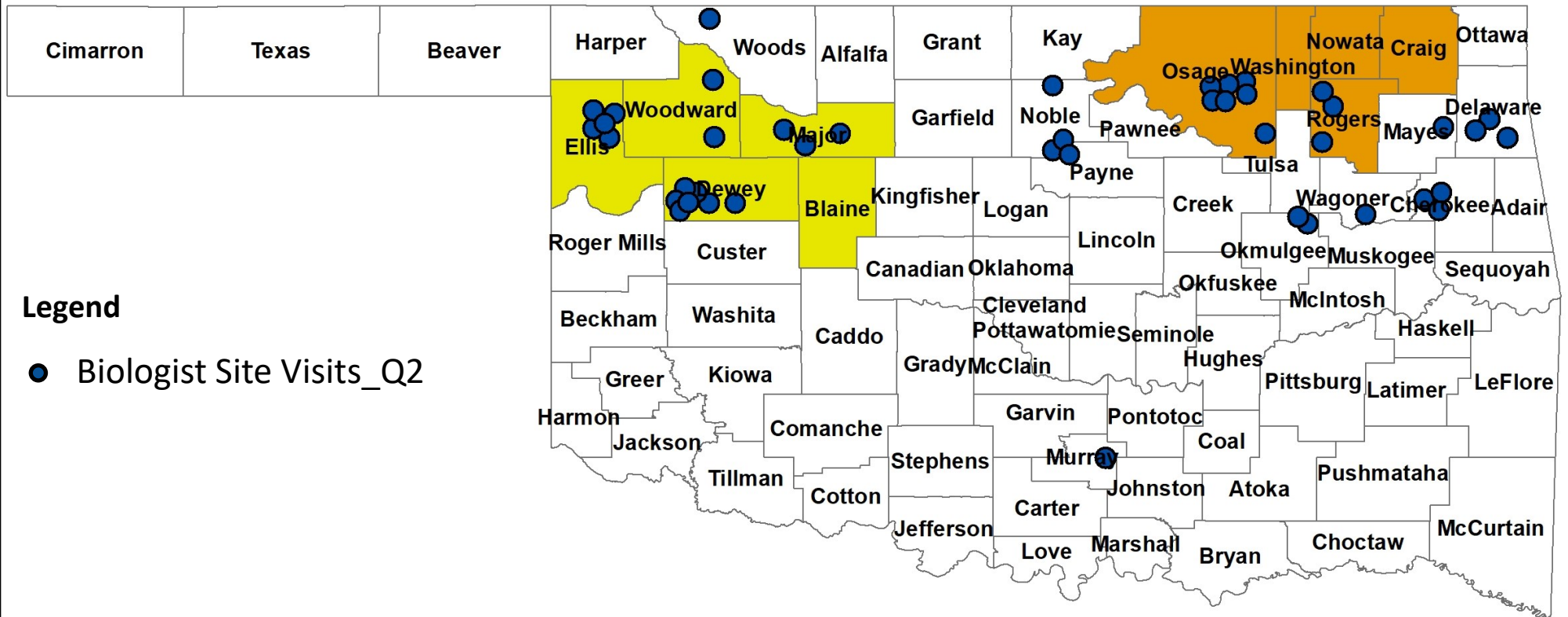
620-566-7179

Farm Bill Biologist II

Woodward OK, 73801

tswank@pheasantsforever.org

FY21 Oklahoma PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map October 2020—December 2020



FY21_Q2 Site Visit Total: 43



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 2 Summary



Dustin Lamoreaux, Elizabeth Elliott, Tanner Swank, Leslie Elmore October – December 2020

Oklahoma Accomplishments:

December 31st marked the end of Pheasants & Quail Forever’s Q2 of Fiscal Year 2021. Tables below are a summary of the work performed by Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists over the past quarter.

Conservation Planning

- 96 Landowner Contacts
- 43 Site Visits
- 21 Habitat Plans/Proposals

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
EQIP	1,866.03
CSP	20.0
CTA	565.9
Total	2,451.93

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	5
Articles, fliers, outreach materials	29
Youth Events, outreach events, Workshops	5
Total	39

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	155