



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie (Welch) Elmore- Statewide

April - June 2023

Spring Training

This spring has been full of trainings: some I given and some I've participated in. In all instances, they have been opportunities to get to know my colleagues better and learn from each other.

It is encouraging to have partners request training to learn how they assess properties for the Bobwhite, Grasslands, and Savanna Initiative and even more encouraging to hear their eagerness to start applying it on the landscape. The amount of time and physical labor needed to inventory closed-canopy hardwoods can be intense.

Currently the NRCS State Biologist and I are planning another training in the SE/SC part of the state to help equip field office staff for a big year of conservation!



A great old post oak that could benefit from competition reduction (above).

This same treatment would provide much more herbaceous food and cover for these two breeding box turtles (below).



Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP 338 - Rx Burning	50.0
Total	50

Conservation Planning

- ◆ 35 landowner contacts
- ◆ 9 site visits
- ◆ 2 habitat plans
- ◆ 2 burn 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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Outreach & Education

- I presented the Bobwhite, Grasslands, and Savanna Initiative and how it can be used to manage crosstimbers on private lands for wildlife. This presentation was given to producers, partners, and NRCS staff at the Tribal Conservation Workshop in Ada, OK.
- I provided training to partners on the tools and methods for assessing properties interested in enrolling in the Cross Timbers Initiative. This was followed up with training on how to use the timber inventory calculator and TSI practice specifications to prescribe treatment for a property.
- I trained NRCS field staff on the Monarch, Bobwhite, and Savanna WHEGs.
- I participated in an NRCS biologists' meeting where we discussed conservation, programs, and our experiences.
- I worked with Johnston's Seed Company to improve the diversity of their Okies for Monarchs seed mixes, while establishing appropriate seeding rates for different areas of the state.
- I developed a 2-page document to help field offices and producers understand how to manage crosstimbers for various species of wildlife, including monarch butterflies, bobwhite, wild turkey, and white-tailed deer.



Participants learn about a variety of conservation programs at the Tribal Conservation Workshop in Ada.



Goats have been a part of the management system for years on the Cross Timbers Experimental Research Station

Outreach & Education	Count
Events/Workshops	4
Participants	60
Publications	1
Presentations Delivered	4
Total	5



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*Some days
are just
better than
others!*



Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
PF/QF Landowner Outreach Guide	This demonstrated a guide available for assisting landowners in conservation.
NRCS Endangered Species Training	The NRCS State Biologist prepared us for species that may soon be listed as endangered and how this could affect our work.
NRCS Security Awareness Training	This is an annual training to help prevent cyber-security breaches,
NRCS Environmental Evaluation Training	

Looking Forward to ...

- Oklahoma Quail Forever Annual Convention
- Wrapping up some site visits and planning for conservation.
- More training on the Working Lands for Wildlife: Bobwhite Framework
- Seeing southern New Mexico!

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

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Field Staff

Quarterly Partners' Report



Zach Brewer - Northeast Oklahoma Counties

May-July 2023

During the last quarter I have been assisting field office staff and landowners with burn plan for the upcoming Fall 2023 & Spring 2024 burn season. I have also been helping finishing up the EQIP contract paperwork with the field offices. I am currently working on serval CTA habitat management plan for serval different landowners in my coverage area here in eastern Oklahoma.



The Picture on the left is NRCS East Zone Meeting and the right is a picture from a CTA site visit I went on in Nowata County for Forest Stand Improvement Plan.

- Conservation Planning**
- 6 Landowner Contacts
 - 2 New Cooperator
 - 3 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plan
 - 6 Site Visits
 - 1 Survey and date Collection
 - 3 NRCS Planner Training

Thank you so much for your support!

Other Programs	Acres Impact ed
CTA--Prescribed Burn Plan (338)	124.6
EQIP- Prescribed Burn Plan (338)	140
EQIP-GRIP - Prescribe Burn Plan (338)	46.9
Total	311.5



Field Staff

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Outreach & Education

May–July 2023

- On April 20th, I presented on life history and Habitat of Northern Bobwhite Quail at the **Washington County Natural Resources Day** for Nowata/Washington county 4th graders.
- On June 17th, I attended the **Big Bluestem Quail Forever** hands on habitat day at Rock Creek Unit of the Osage WMA.
- Looking forward to helping with the **Indian Territory QF Chapter** Youth event on Lake Hudson in Mayes County.
- Looking forward to helping and attending the **Oklahoma QF All District State Meeting** at the end of July.



This photo was taken at the Big Bluestem QF Chapter Hands on Habitat Day at the Rock Creek Unit of the Osage WMA.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	1
Outreach Events	1
Total	2



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Zach Brewer - Northeast Oklahoma Counties

May-July 2023

Biologist's Point of View - Outreach Evening



This photo was taken at the NRCS Biologist / Partners Biologist Meeting at NRCS State Office in Stillwater Oklahoma

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NRCS/Partners Meeting at NRCS State office	Learning about the new practices in CSP IRA and EQIP IRA for the upcoming 2024 fiscal year. Also went to OSU study sites at lake Carl Blackwell and the OSU Research Ranch outside of Stillwater. We got to see research on woody encroachment control and Burn research in rangeland and pasture.
NRCS East Zone Meeting	The meeting hold to have CPR Training and round table with NRCS State Office employees about programs and practices.
NRCS CSP Training	Training on CSP practices and Soil Health Training with Site visit to Current CSP Contracted Landowner out side of Wagoner, 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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Field Staff

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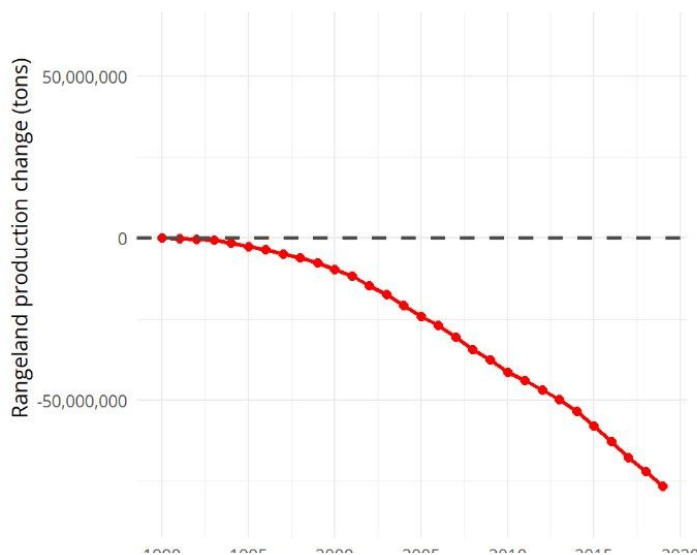


Tanner Swank - Northwest Oklahoma Counties

May-July 2023

During the last quarter I have been running all over assisting in prescribed burns, writing contracts, and getting projects lined out for the current contract year. There are an increasingly large number of projects over a larger area than the last couple cycles, which is encouraging! The image depicts

rangeland production loss over the years for NW OK, which is the leading edge of woody encroachment. Starting in July, we will be hosting more outreach and awareness for fighting the good fight against woody encroachment.



Conservation Planning

- 30 Landowner Contacts
- 22 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plan
- 30 Site Visits
- 4 NRCS/Partner Training

Other Programs	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
CTA USDA/Nonprogram/State Cost Share		
EQIP Brush Management, Conservation Cover, Forest Stand Improvement, Wetland Restoration, Prescribed Fire	0	1,685
OLAP		
CRP General, Grasslands		
GPGI Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing/ burning, IPM	0	7,885
Total		9,570

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Oklahoma Biologists FY 2023 Annual Summary



Leslie Elmore, Tanner Swank, Zach Brewer, Jordan Menge

July 2022 – June 2023

Oklahoma Accomplishments:

June 30th marked the end of Pheasants & Quail Forever’s Fiscal Year 2023. So many changes have occurred over this past year! Moving forward with three of our team members moving out of state to other positions and organizations, Tanner has been working hard to fill the vacant positions along with talking with several partners to bring in additional wildlife biologists across Oklahoma. Looking forward to being able to create even more impact across Oklahoma for our upland birds and wildlife!

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
EQIP	15,780.14
CSP	158.46
CTA	476.42
GPGI	7,885
OLAP	30
STATE COST SHARE PRESCRIBED FIRE	6,594.60
Total	30,924.62

Conservation Planning

- 271 Landowner Contacts
- 173 Site Visits
- 87 Habitat Plans/Proposals

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	15
Articles, information booth	4
Events/Outreach/Workshops	29
Total	60