



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

October – December 2018

As the Temps Fall.....Things Start to Heat Up!

This quarter has been a busy one and many things have happened. Our two new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists (Claremore & Woodward NRCS TSO's) are in place and have been getting up to speed, trained, and integrated into their NRCS offices. Oklahoma PF/QF Team had it's first meeting to set goals, start State Meeting planning, and get to know one another. In addition, I attended NRCS' Conservation Planning Course which was helpful in learning more about Oklahoma and the steps for successful Conservation Planning. I also attended the 2nd Great Plains Fire Summit in Ardmore, OK and while there several PF/QF Biologists assisted ODWC, at Cross Timbers WMA, in an early morning quail survey before the event got underway.

Late November I found myself in Nebraska at a Monarch Conservation Partners Meeting, which provided the opportunity to meet and network with many different organizations working on monarch/pollinator conservation. On the front end of this meeting, PF/QF coordinated a meeting with NFWF and NRCS, across 8 states, to discuss the current status of the Monarch RCPP and plans moving into FY2019.



Photo: Hoverfly nectaring on Leavenworth's eryngo

December Heat!!

Before leaving for Nebraska I worked with NRCS to create two press releases to promote and spark more landowner interest for the following EQIP projects: Cross Timbers and the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Project. These press releases along with some additional outreach materials were very successful in reaching a wide range of landowners in Oklahoma. Up until the December 21st EQIP application deadline my phone and email heated up with landowner inquiries. This promotion has provided me with landowners to work with in the coming months and years.

Conservation Planning

- 97 Landowner Contacts
- 16 Site Visits
- 6 Management Plans

Programs/Technical Assistance	Acres Impacted
CTA Upland Habitat Management	36.75
EQIP Monarch	538
CSP Monarch Enhancement (seed mixes)	306
Total	880.75



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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Outreach & Education

- Gave presentation on “Pheasants and Producers Working Together,” at the first Chisholm Trail PF/QF Annual Banquet in Pond Creek, OK.
- In conjunction with NRCS a Press Release for the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Project EQIP application period was created and distributed through many outlets including: social media, radio, ODWC, NRCS, PF/QF, Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative (OMPC) and reached newspaper outlets throughout the entire state.
- In conjunction with NRCS a Press Release was created for the Cross Timbers EQIP application period to spark some interest in this area.
- Coordinated a wildlife outreach meeting with a landowner in Wilburton, OK. “Quail & Pollinators in SE OK.” Created flyers, conducted radio spots, social media plugs, PF/QF, NRCS, local Conservation Districts, OSU, ODWC and NWTF. **Due to weather, re-scheduled for February 08, 2019.**
- Wrote an “Upland Update” with ODWC to promote the Wilburton, OK outreach meeting “Quail & Pollinators in SE OK.”
- Spent an afternoon in the field with one of our new biologists, Elizabeth Elliott, running Monarch and Quail Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides (WHEG’s).



Photo: Dustin giving presentation at Chisholm Trail's 1st PF/QF Banquet in Pond Creek, OK.

- Gave a short talk about PF/QF Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists and how we can assist landowners at the Homesteader's Quail Forever Annual Banquet in Beaver, OK. Homesteader's Banquet = opening day of Quail season.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	3
Articles/Press Releases/ Interviews	8
Total	11

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	150



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Azure Following Fire



Photo from attending the Great Plains Fire Summit in Ardmore, OK in early October. This particular area was burned the previous spring and is clearly showing the benefits; flowering plants expressing themselves and great livestock forage. You can identify the blue sage in the foreground, but there are many more flowers in the background along with some woody skeletons.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Oklahoma NRCS Conservation Planning Course	Planning training focused on the different categories within NRCS including cropland, rangeland, pastureland, and wildlife. Applied more tools and in-field evaluation for all disciplines to become well rounded Conservation Planners.
Great Plains Fire Summit	3 day summit focused on all facets of prescribed fire. There was a lot of great presentations covering a lot of information. In addition, there was a ranch tour showcasing their burn program and a burn was conducted.
Monarch Conservation Partners Meeting	Great networking meeting with people from many different organizations. Met several new contacts for future project ideas and was able to finally meet face-to-face with particular individuals. There is a lot of support in the monarch/pollinator realm and this meeting sure proved it.
Monarch RCPP Partner Meeting	PF/QF coordinated a meeting with NFWF and NRCS across 8 States to discuss the Monarch RCPP project, where we currently sit, FA & TA allocations/re-allocations, what states would like additional guidance and plans for FY2019.
OPBA Annual Board Meeting	Provided me the opportunity to meet and interact with some of the new regional fire coordinators and what they have going on in their areas. Also, talked about our new biologists and getting them integrated with their local PBA's.
Oklahoma PF/QF Team Meeting	With 4 biologists and one regional representative in Oklahoma we sat down as a team and discussed goals, State Meeting planning, and got to know one another.

Looking Forward

- Speaking to 4H group in Perry, OK about monarchs & pollinators, January 8, 2019.
- Noble Research Institute, Using Fire to Benefit Wildlife and Livestock, January 15, 2019.
- Timber Land Quail Hunt and Survey at Three Rivers WMA, January 18-19, 2019.
- Wildlife outreach meeting at Bowers Community Building, Wilburton, OK February 8th, 2019 at 7pm.
- Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference, Tulsa, February 20-22, 2019.
- Oklahoma PF/QF State Meeting, Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, March 8-9, 2019.

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

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Statewide

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Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Northwest OK

October – December 2018

Power of Teamwork

To start of the quarter, Quail Forever Biologists from 4 states attending the 2nd annual Great Plains Fire Summit assisted ODWC staff at Cross Timbers WMA with a morning covey call count. The extra ears on the ground knocked out more than half of the required points and greatly reduced the pressure to get all the points completed on time.

Assisting NRCS staff with inventories in Cimarron county was one of the highlights of the past quarter. NRCS staff from five counties as well as Tanner Swank (QF FBWB) and myself spent three days in the panhandle taking inventory of rangelands enrolled in CRP Grasslands. From our inventories of species and available forage, the local field office calculated a suitable stocking rate to maintain healthy grasslands. The group truly showed the power of team work. We broke up into 4 units and tackled the acres in record time. The impending snow was a great motivator. While it was great to get out in the field for days at a time, the biggest reward was learning from everyone around me. A sighting of two Golden Eagles was icing on the cake.



Quail Forever Biologists after a Covey Call survey with ODWC. Pictured (L-R): Will Newman, Derek Wiley, Haley Lockard, Courtney Nicks. Not pictured: Dustin Lamoreaux & Ryan Diener

OLAP on the Rise

This quarter I was also able to do quite a bit of outreach for the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP). With hunting on a lot of people's minds I have seen an increase in the number of people coming into the office to discuss OLAP. I also met with the board of directors for Harper and Beaver County Conservation Districts to promote OLAP in NW Oklahoma. With several new landowners, there are even greater opportunities to pursue quail in Harper, Woods, and Woodward counties. I know a few hunters have already found success! I'm honored to be a part of the OLAP team and watch the program grow in its first two years. I look forward to what the partnerships can accomplish in the future.

Conservation Planning

- 21 Landowner Contacts
- 2 Habitat Proposals & Seeding Plans
- 8 Site Visits

Technical Assistance	Acres Impacted
Pollinators	12.03
CRP: Grasslands	1584.06
Total	1596.09



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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Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Northwest OK

October – December 2018

Outreach & Education

- I put the finishing touches on an article highlighting OLAP for the Quail Forever Journal. The article will appear online after the winter journal is published.
- At the Harper County Conservation District Breakfast, I gave a brief introduction and position update.
- On November 3, I hosted a habitat booth at the Covey Rise QF chapter banquet. It was a great opportunity to meet new landowners and discuss their habitat interests.



2nd Great Plains Fire Summit



- On November 13, I attended the Beaver and Harper County Conservation District board meetings. I spoke with the directors about the Oklahoma Land Access Program and Quail Forever's partnership for habitat incentives. The board members were enthusiastic about the program.

- A big Thank You to the Beaver Conservation District! As a result of my presentation, the district ran a write-up on OLAP with their regular advertisement. I provided a brief program overview to increase community awareness. This is a huge step in expanding OLAP to Beaver county.
- In early December, I was honored to break bread with two Quail Forever chapter and committee members from Memphis, Tennessee. These dedicated hunters traveled to chase quail on nearby OLAP. I gave them some suggestions on where to hunt and we discussed the work QF is doing in Oklahoma. Thankfully, they were able to find some quail before heading home.



Covey Call Sunrise at Cross Timbers WMA

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	3
Publications	3
Other	1
Total	8



Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Northwest OK

October – December 2018

Conservation Planning: Foundation for change



These photos were taken in the middle of October while attending the NRCS Conservation Planning Training for crop and grazing lands.

Top - ephemeral erosion in a conventional till wheat field.

Bottom - evaluating quail habitat on grazing lands.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
2nd Great Plains Fire Summit	Professionals and landowners of the Great Plains gathered in Ardmore, OK to learn and exchange information about prescribed fire. It was a great opportunity to learn how prescribed fire is used in other states as well as some of the common challenges professionals face to get fire on the ground.
NRCS Conservation Planning: Crop and Grazing Lands	This is an NRCS requirement for becoming a certified planner. During the week we discussed tools and resources for conservation planning on crop lands as well as grazing lands and wildlife.
OK Team Staff Meeting	All QF staff met in Enid to team build and plan for the year ahead. We were able to introduce ourselves and get to know the two new members of the team. We also discussed the state meeting in March.
Team 2 Staff Meeting	Staff from NRCS Team 2 (Beaver, Harper, and Woods counties) met in Buffalo, OK to discuss the NRCS restructure now in effect. We discussed expectations and responsibilities.
Beaver and Harper County Conservation District board meetings	At both meetings I gave the board an update on my position and an overview of the OLAP and QF partnership for habitat improvements. Attendees were enthusiastic about the program and interested in spreading the word. The meetings also provided opportunity to hear the districts more pressing resource concerns.
NRCS Zone 1 Annual Meeting	Staff from the entire West Zone gathered in Elk City, OK for updates on the restructure, AgLearn troubleshooting, irrigation system safety, and performance awards.

Looking Forward

- Field work will start back up with EQIP application evaluations and field visits.
- Oklahoma Quail Forever will host the 2nd annual State habitat meeting on March 8-9 in Oklahoma City. Join us!!!

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

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Oklahoma Biologists Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October – December 2018

Welcome Home New Biologists!

In October 2018, I was hired as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist aimed at helping landowners and NRCS staff with implementing wildlife projects in Northeast Oklahoma, by providing technical assistance and support. In addition to wildlife planning, I will be working with landowners in the inventory and planning of their native rangeland and pasture.

Over the past three months I have learned so much from everyone around me. I have been working with NRCS to train on Pasture and Range Health Assessments. I am becoming more familiar with the inventory process, which incorporates the use of grazing tools such as NRCS GrazeCalc, pasture sticks, and dry weight rank to help evaluate the individual site conditions. I am currently working towards my NRCS apprentice level certifications for Conservation Planners. This includes prescribed burn certification. Once I have finished the final step of writing a complete burn plan; I will be able to help plan and participate in local burns. I am excited to help landowners integrate fire onto their landscape.



This photo is from the field of an Osage County, OK producer. We were conducting a dry weight rank for a Rangeland Health Evaluation.

It has been wonderful getting out in the field to train and explore Northeastern Oklahoma. It's always a great day when I get to see a White-tailed Deer or turkey wandering through the same trees I'm standing in. My favorite day so far has to be doing tree identification in December using bark as the main determining characteristic. I'm looking forward to working with everyone to incorporate wildlife into their projects!

Conservation Planning

- 8 Site Visits
- 3 Landowner Contacts

	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
EQIP Brush Management	468	TBD
CTA Prescribed Burn Plan for Wildlife	300	300
Total	768	300



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

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Field Staff Title

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October – December 2018

Working together in Osage County



This photo was taken in December 2018 in Osage County. Working together with the landowner, NRCS and USFWS we discuss potential to create a riparian forest buffer, wetland, pollinator habitat, and livestock watering facility.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
OSU Led Wildlife Training on WRP	I attended an NRCS wildlife training led by OSU professors at a WRP site. I learned how to apply specific restoration activities to sites per landowners objective.
Prescribed Burning	I completed the online and classroom portions required for the first level of NRCS Prescribed Burning Certification.
Prescribed Grazing Training	I attended multiple NRCS led trainings, on landowners sites, learning to conduct pasture and range inventory.
GRIP Meeting	I meet with all the Oklahoma Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (GRIP) partners in Shawnee, OK to review the program.

Looking Forward

- In January, I will be attending new employee orientation in St Paul, MN. I am excited to get to meet other PF/QF employees.
- In February, I am planning to attend the Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference in Tulsa.
- I will be working to complete my NRCS apprentice level for Conservation Planning Certification.
- I look forward to working with the field offices conducting inventories and helping with wildlife goals.

**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 Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October– December 2018

Position Update

In October 2018, I was hired as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (FBWB) in Oklahoma. I will be providing technical assistance as well as getting my boots on the ground for conservation practices to producers and landowners in my district. The duties of my position entail serving as a resource to the team by providing leadership and expertise as well as getting even more wildlife conservation applied, here in Oklahoma.

Save it to cherish, or leave it to Perish!

This quote applies not only to wildlife habitat, but also directly to the wildlife itself. What I mean by this is, if we as landowners and stewards of conservation, don't do all we can to preserve our wildlife and natural resources, there won't be any left for future generations to enjoy.

With that in mind, each project takes precise planning, implementation, and constant evaluation to provide and maintain high quality habitat and management. In the first couple months since my hiring, I have already begun providing landowners technical assistance for those exact stages of wildlife habitat conservation. Whether it is establishing a watering source, conducting grazing plan evaluations, monitoring a CRP field during mid-contract management, these projects all go through the conservation planning process. This quarter, I have conducted several site visits with landowners to discuss possible plans, assisted with grazing plan plant species inventories, as well as meeting with landowners to discuss ways to make their properties both cattle and wildlife friendly. As winter turns to spring, more prescribed fire will be put on the ground to enhance habitats across the landscape.



I observed this Monarch feeding on Tall Blazing Star while conducting quail habitat surveys.

Conservation Planning

- 11 Landowner Contacts
- 8 Site Visits
- 3 Projects w/acres assessed

EQUIP	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
Prescribed Burning	150	TBD
Brush Management	200	TBD
Prescribed Grazing	1,220	TBD
Total	1,570	TBD
Watering Sources	7	



Local SWCDs

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October– December 2018

Bounty of Habitat Improvement



This pheasant was harvested on land enrolled in CRP and actively practicing habitat improvement. Proper management of CRP through prescribed burning and grazing provides necessary habitat for wildlife.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
PF Team Meeting	We discussed yearly objectives and goals, as well as beginning to plan for the state meeting in March.
Blaine County Board Meeting	In this meeting I was introduced to the NRCS employees in Blaine County, and discussed resource concerns for that county.
Blaine County Local Work Group Meeting	This meeting was set up to discuss producer questions and concerns for the county.
Zone 1 Meeting	I attended this meeting to learn about how the new restructure format of NRCS was going to look like, as well as meet other employees in the zone.
Prescribed Fire Training	This specific meeting in Stillwater was put on for me to acquire my prescribed fire certification.
Team 3 Meeting	During this meeting, I met the other members of my team that I will be working with.

**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 Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



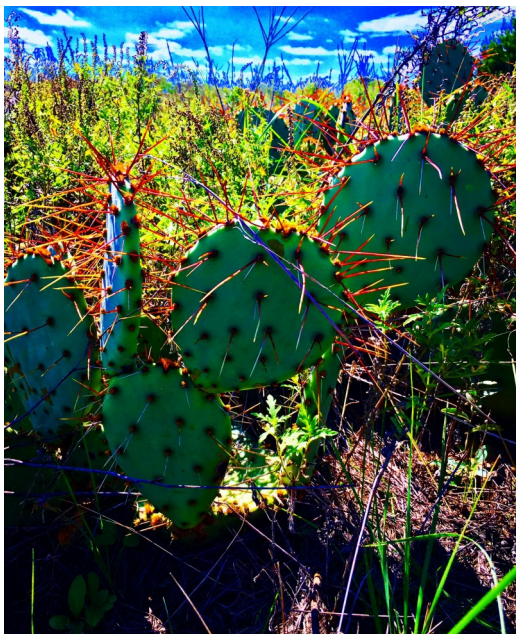
Tanner Swank - Blaine, Ellis, Dewey, Major, Woodward

October– December 2018

Bounty of Habitat Improvement

Looking Forward

- I will be attending a prescribed fire training conference on January 5th in Elk City, OK, that is being hosted by the Noble Research Foundation.
- In February, I will be attending the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference.
- Our Pheasants Forever State meeting is in March, where I will be giving a presentation on how Producers and Pheasants can work together.
- Also in January, I will be traveling to the Pheasants Forever National Headquarters for a new employee orientation.
- Additionally, in the near future I plan to give a presentation to students at Oklahoma State University, regarding wildlife management, and what they can be doing to stand out to potential employers.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners who are working on current projects as well as those who want to plan for new projects.



This Prickly Pear was observed while conducting Quail nest research. Mature Prickly Pear can be crucial Quail nesting and thermal cover, as well as provide food when their fruits and seeds mature.

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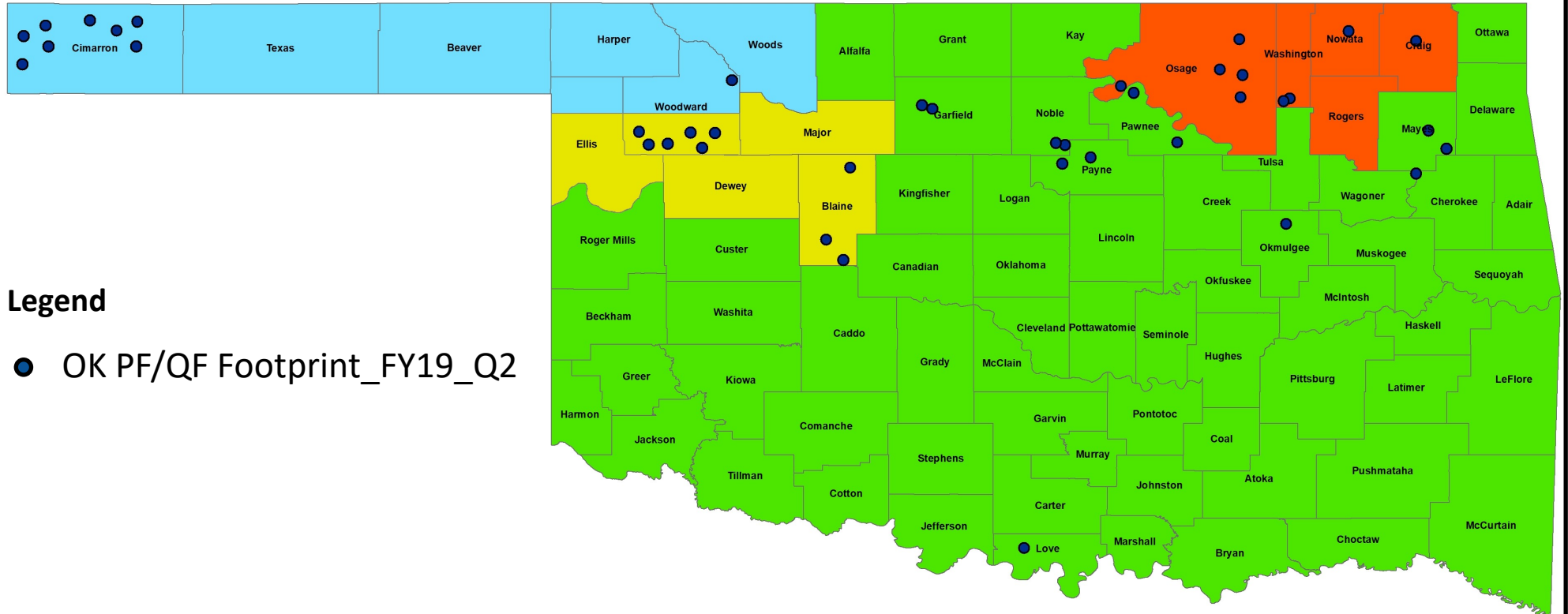
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FY19 Oklahoma PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map October 2018—December 2018



FY19_Q2 Visit Total: 40



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.