



State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

October – December 2019

Position Update!

Throughout the quarter I have been working on gaining traction for the Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) program in Oklahoma. A big highlight was the “ACR OK Kickoff” meeting hosted in Stillwater, bringing in private lands staff from around the state to hear about the program and how to identify landowners with potential interest. This provided the opportunity for an interactive discussion with private lands staff, address any questions, and future ecoregion protocol development. Since the meeting, I have been working on setting up ranch visits with landowners that have already shown interest in hearing more about the ACR program.

I have also been participating in PF/QF's Pollinator Habitat Working Group (PHWG) monthly teleconferences. This working group was initiated to create a list of priorities and deliverables that our organization would like to accomplish within the next year and beyond.

Other Happenings

I attended a, “Using Grazing to Manage Wildlife Habitat,” field day at Cross Timbers WMA. This was a terrific field day with lots of valuable information and great speakers. At the meeting, I gave a short introduction to the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists working in Oklahoma with Quail Forever and the roles they play in assisting landowners. A highlight from this day was leaving Stillwater, at 3am, to be at Cross Timbers WMA to assist ODWC with an NBCI fall quail flush count.

In addition, our Oklahoma Quail Forever Team has been busy working out details for our upcoming State Meeting, which will take place February 28-29, 2020 in Oklahoma City. Our State Meeting will feature great speakers, food, and fun. Be sure to mark your calendars!



Photo: Taken at the Audubon Conservation Ranching OK Kickoff Meeting in Stillwater, OK.

Conservation Planning

- 19 Landowner Contacts
- 2 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!

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State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

October – December 2019

Outreach & Education

- Hosted a three-way booth at the OSU Botanical Gardens, Garden Fest. I was representing Quail Forever, Okies for Monarchs, and Audubon Conservation Ranching. Lots of interaction with landowners from Stillwater and surrounding areas. Monarchs were in full migration during this event, amazing sight to see!
- Planned and hosted the Audubon Conservation Ranching Oklahoma Kickoff Meeting in Stillwater, OK. Meeting brought partners, working on private lands, together to hear about the program and how we can identify potential landowners and connect them to the right person.
- PF/QF Team staffed a booth at the 33rd Prairie Grouse Technical Council Meeting in Bartlesville, OK. Provided the opportunity to talk with professionals about research on prairie grouse and catch up with professionals I have not seen in many years.
- Hunter's Hangout in Beaver, OK on the evening of quail opener in conjunction with Homseteader's Chapter, ODWC, OSU Extension, and OK PF/QF. This event brought hunters together to share their stories, ask questions, and collect data from harvested birds. Hunters from several states attended and enjoyed the forum and conversation.
- I have had the opportunity to mentor a woman in Stillwater wanting to harvest a deer with archery equipment. After attending the "Buffalo Gals" event put on by the Cherokee Strip Chapter she was eager and excited about the possibility.



Photo: Taken at OSU Botanic Gardens during Garden Fest. Pollinators, birds, and grazing!



Photo: Booth setup and ready for the 33rd Prairie Grouse Technical Council meeting in Bartlesville, OK.

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshops/Trainings	1
Outreach Events	2
Presentations Delivered	1
Total	4

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	21

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State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

October – December 2019

Cross Timbers WMA Field Day



NBCI Quail Point



Mechanical Tree Removal



Bermuda Conversion to Natives

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Audubon Conservation Ranching KC Roundup	Audubon Conservation Ranching meeting in Kansas City. This meeting brought partners and producers together to hear about the ACR program and all that it entails. This was a great opportunity to talk with others working on the ACR program and hear their challenges and successes. Having landowners in the room created some great discussion among all in attendance.
Cross Timbers Field Day	Great field day centered around, "Using Grazing to Manage Wildlife Habitat." Talked about grazing management, setting stocking rates, and using prescribed fire. We got to see mechanical implements for taking down brush and a successful bermuda conversion to native habitat. Gave a short introduction to Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists in OK.
33rd Prairie Grouse Technical Council Meeting	Conference that included research updates, opportunities to connect with professionals in the field, site visits with researchers and land managers, and tours of captive breeding facilities for Masked Bobwhites and Atwater's Prairie-Chickens.
Audubon Conservation Ranching: OK Kickoff Meeting	Brought partners together from across Oklahoma that work on private land to hear about the program and how we can make connections to ranchers that may be interested in the Audubon Conservation Ranching concept. This meeting got the ACR conversation started and will lead to some regionalized, more landowner centric, meetings in the near future.

Looking Forward

- Oklahoma Grazing Lands Coalition Annual Meeting January 15-17, 2020 in Weatherford, OK.
- Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference February 10-12, 2020 in Norman, OK.
- National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic February 14-16, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN.
- Pheasants and Quail Forever State Meeting February 28-29, 2020 in Oklahoma City, OK.
- Audubon Conservation Ranching Winter Meeting March 2-5, 2020 in Austin, TX.

**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

October – December 2019

2020 Vision for the Monarch RCPP

In this quarter I have progressed by leaps and bounds in my understanding and involvement of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for Monarch Butterflies.

I have worked with my RCPP team to compile biannual and quarterly reports, invoices, and justifications at the end of FY19. As FY20 begins, I participated in an 8-state Monarch-RCPP teleconference in which representatives from each state gave updates on sign-up plans and remaining FA and TA. We discussed how to best use and possibly move the remaining dollars to have the biggest impact in the region.

As I begin preparing for the 2020 RCPP, I have sought guidance for priorities, needs, county coverage, and other logistics from the NRCS State Biologist Mike Sams, former RCPP Coordinator Dustin Lamoreaux, and EQIP Program Manager Brandon Bishop. Their insights have been invaluable!

Although I will not have guidance on the RCPP from National as early as most years, I am able to begin planning ways to modify the program in Oklahoma for FY20. The biggest change this year will be expanding eligibility from 9 counties to 27 counties, covering the entire Central region of the state. This will mean a lot of travel in a short amount of time, but I am hopeful that by expanding coverage and focusing EQIP and CStP on specific objectives, we will see a tremendous response from producers wanting to provide habitat for monarch butterflies in 2020!

To this end, I have created a brochure that provides an overview of the program to share at meetings and during visits. I am hopeful that landowners will take these to share with neighbors. In this way it will be a powerful tool to help spread the word about the program.



The 2020 Monarch RCPP aims to restore or enhance monarch butterfly habitat in Oklahoma

Conservation Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 12 landowner visits ◆ 8 site visits

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CTA Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Plan	80



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

October – December 2019

Outreach & Education

- I participated in the *Women, Wine, and Wings* event in October. This event brought together women in the Tulsa area who are interested in learning more about conservation and the outdoors. During the evening I had the opportunity to visit with a woman who rears monarch caterpillars, an active birder, one recent transplant interested in learning more about the natural world in her new hometown, several others with a variety of interest, plus several graduate students from OSU's NREM department. I provided pollinator seed packets to all attendees.
- I gave an introduction to programs and assistance focused on monarchs and pollinators, and assistance available to landowners wanting to provide habitat for pollinators at the Hunters' Hangout on Beaver WMA Quail Opener.
- I participated in the Youth Mentor Hunt hosted by the Plainsmen QF Chapter. Approximately 9 young men from 3 shooting sports teams attended. They learned firearm and field safety, had opportunities to shoot pen-raised quail over pointing dogs, and learned how to clean birds. During the event I had an opportunity to visit with two landowners I work with in the vicinity.
- I have created several promotional items, including a PBA graphic and a revamped Oklahoma QF Team flyer to provide real-world examples of how we work with landowners, and can help people connect to their local chapter or get involved with one of our programs (e.g., No Child Left Indoors, Women on the Wing).



Photo booth at the Women, Wine, & Wings event



Opening Day hunt at Beaver WMA before Hunters' Hangout



Youth Mentor Hunt with the Plainsmen QF Chapter

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	30
Workshops/Outreach Events	2
Promotional/Outreach Items	3
Presentations Delivered	1
Total	6



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

October – December 2019



A managed wetland



Mike Sams tests for a plow pan.



Arizona Milkweed

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Active Shooter Training	This required training by the NRCS is designed to help employees be prepared in the case of an active shooter on the premises.
Crop Training	This required training by the NRCS helped me understand common cropping systems and practices in Oklahoma, as well as forms and procedures used by NRCS staff evaluating resource concerns in cropland.
Wetland Management and Plant ID training	This training helped me identify common wetland plants, the function and definition of a wetland, and management techniques for various landowner management goals.
Prairie Grouse Technical Committee	This was a great conference to learn about the status of several grouse species around the country, as well as network with a variety of researchers. Visiting with trail-blazing land managers was very encouraging.
Monarch Joint Venture Partners Conference	During this national meeting for the partners of the MJV, I learned more about the various groups working to conserve the monarch butterfly. Visiting with and learning from individuals doing similar work was invaluable.
Using Grazing to Manage Wildlife Habitat	Knowledge gained at this training will be tremendously helpful as I work with landowners with wildlife management goals, who wish to continue grazing on their land.
Monarch WHEG training	This training was conducted with Mike Sams and an Alfalfa County NRCS employee on property in Alfalfa County that might be enrolled in the Monarch program. I had the opportunity to meet another NRCS employee and learn late-summer plants better.
Tribal Pollinator and Conservation Workshop	I had an opportunity to share the RCPP financial assistance program with the attendees, including Dr. Carol Crouch with the NRCS.
OK-Fire Training	This training demonstrated the OK-Fire website and showed attendees how to determine if/when conditions were acceptable for conducting prescribed fire. This training will help me write prescribed burn plans more effectively.
Ag Learn coursework	I began working on Ag Learn coursework to be certified as an Apprentice Conservation Planner. I completed USDA Records Management Fundamentals.

Looking Forward

- Gain approval for 2020 Monarch RCPP changes*
- Write a burn plan for neighboring field office and complete fire training
- Complete training for the Apprentice Conservation Planner classification, including Conservation Desktop training
- Pass ODAFF Pest Certification Exam
- Join RCPP conference call; complete quarterly report
- NWTF Partner Field Day (2/1)
- OK Natural Resources Conference (2/10)
- Host 2020 QF State Convention with the team (2/29)
- **Visit monarch butterfly wintering grounds in 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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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October-December 2019

Falling into Winter...

This quarter I organized and hosted my first two outreach events with Quail Forever. The first was the “*Prescribed Fire in Northeast Oklahoma Field Day*” on October 5, 2019 north of Vinita, OK. Quail Forever partnered with; OSU Extension, NRCS, Craig County Conservation District, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife. This event helped to educate local landowners and agency professionals on seasons of burn and the impacts they have on livestock, native range and wildlife. The weather held off just long enough for the landowners to tour the property, learn from the experts, and have a great lunch provided by the Indian Territories Quail Forever chapter.

On October 16, 2019 at the Cabin Boys Brewery in Tulsa, OK Quail Forever hosted our inaugural *Women, Wine & Wings* event. This event brought together women leaders in conservation from across the state to share their knowledge and experiences with local women interested in urban and rural conservation. It was a night that allowed women to mingle with new people, expand their knowledge, and enjoy some good food and drinks!



This photo was taken October 16, 2019 of the OK QF staff at the Women, Wine & Wings Event

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CStP	62.7
Burn Plans	
Total	62.7

Conservation Planning

- 33 Landowner Contacts
- 2 Burn Plans
- 23 Site Visits

Celebrating!!!

I can't believe I celebrated my one year anniversary on October 22, 2019 with Quail Forever in Oklahoma. This last year has flown by faster than I could have imagined. I have made a wonderful home in OK. I've had so many opportunities to learn from conservation experts and local landowners about ranching and wildlife management. It has been amazing to help landowners create and maintain habitat. I am very much looking forward to the new year and the continued growth with OK Quail Forever!



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

October-December 2019

Outreach & Education

- On October 5, Quail Forever, Craig County Conservation District, NRCS, OSU Extension, NWTF, and ODWC hosted a Prescribed Fire in Northeast Oklahoma Field Day outside of Vinita, OK. 30 landowners and agency partners came and learned about fire management for wildlife and cattle. It was a great day with lots of questions and guest participation.



Prescribed Fire in Northeast Oklahoma Field Day Saturday October 5, 2019

- On October 15, I taught about pollinators and helped make cupcake butterflies to over 500 Pre-K to 3rd graders at the Connors State College Fall on the Farm Day.



Connors State College Quail Forever Chapter members at the Fall on the Farm Day– October 15, 2019

- On October 16, Quail Forever hosted *Women, Wine & Wings* event at the Cabin Boys Brewery in Tulsa, OK. We had 36 women from around the state come for good food and drinks and to learn about Oklahoma Conservation from local Women leaders. It was a fantastic evening!

- November 4-7, Quail Forever had a booth at the 33rd Prairie Grouse Technical Council meeting in Bartlesville, OK. This was a great place to meet grouse experts from across the country. I learned what is happening in research and conservation management of prairie grouse. Along with speaking with attendees about Quail Forever and what we do as Farm Bill Biologists and at the local chapter levels.

- I created a number of posts on the Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever State Facebook page. About chapter and biologist outreach events that were hosted around NE OK.

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	564

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop	1
Outreach Event	3
Promotional Literature	5
Total	9



Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October-December 2019



These pictures were taken October 15, 2019 at Woodward Park in Tulsa, OK

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NRCS Cropland Training	October 8-10 attended NRCS Cropland Conservation Planner Training. This was a step towards becoming a Certified Planner.
NRCS Active Shooter Training	November 12, I attended NRCS Active Shooter Training in Claremore, OK.
Audubon Conservation Ranching Partners Meeting	November 14, I attended a partners meeting in Stillwater, OK for an introduction into the Audubon Conservation Ranching Program, all that it entails, and ways to connect interested landowners to the right person.
GRIP Proposal Workshop	November 26, Rosalee Walker Private Lands Biologist with ODWC and I trained together on a Grassland Restoration Incentive Program project proposal.
NRCS Conservation Desktop Training	December 10, I attended the second portion of Conservation Desktop Training with NRCS in the Dewey Field Office. I learned about the update site and features. I worked through the lesson plans and workbook.
Tulsa County Partners Meeting	December 11, I met with Tulsa County 4H Extension and Sandy Schwinn from Monarch Watch to discuss potential collaboration for local education events.
OK Fire Workshop	December 12, I attended the Stillwater OK Fire Workshop covering the website and how to utilize it for better burn planning.
NRCS Annual East Zone Meeting	December 18, I attended the East Zone Meeting in McAlester, OK. We had a introduction to the new CART program and heard from Gary O'Neal the State Conservationist for NRCS.

Looking Forward

- Northeast OK Mentor Hunt on January 11, 2020
- NWTF Wildlife Conservation Field Day at the Cherokee Wildlife Management Area on February 1, 2020
- Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference February 10-12, 2020
- OK 2020 State Convention February 28-29, 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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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October – December 2019

Position Update

This Fall I have been contacted by multiple landowners, as well as assisting and attending meetings, workshops, and trainings.

A large general CRP signup is currently ongoing, as well as landowners wanting to signup for EQIP to control cedar infestation levels, along with converting pastures back to native range. This October marked 1 year with Pheasants and Quail Forever, and I will continue to utilize my knowledge and skills to help landowners achieve their land management goals.

If you build it, they will come!

Many of the landowners I have been in contact with recently all have a similar tune: "what's happening to all my quail?" Folks are concerned about not seeing birds and are becoming eager to do what they can on their properties. Eastern Red Cedar still plague our landscapes, and landowners are increasingly motivated to remove them and return the landscapes to a healthy prairie once again. Removing these trees are going to play a crucial role in the upcoming years for many grassland species such as quail, turkey and prairie chickens. I am hopeful that between EQIP and the new CRP signups this year we can make a dent in these trees, providing more quality habitat and balanced grazing systems that will work for both ranchers and wildlife.



Photo: Taken in November, during a site visit where the landowner wants to convert Old World Bluestem to natives for wildlife habitat.

Conservation Planning

- 42 Landowner Contacts
- 3 Habitat Plans/ Conservation Plans
- 16 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CTA	1862.5
USDA/Nonprogram/State Cost Share	
Total	1862.5



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



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

October – December 2019

Outreach & Education

- On October 3rd I, along with the other NRCS staff attended a “Public Farm Bill day” in Woodward. This was a chance for the public to come talk with us about various ways we could assist them in their property needs. Addressing resource concerns and what conservation practices are used for them.
- On October 29th I was invited to the local work group meeting in Taloga to talk about wildlife impacts and recovery since the Rhea Fire. Talked about how NRCS can assist landowners in helping control cedars and erosion since the fire.
- November 4-7th we hosted a booth at the 33rd Prairie Grouse Technical Committee meeting in Bartlesville. This was a multi-day event hearing about research and conservation efforts for various grouse species across the country, as well as meet with members of other agencies and organizations that were in attendance.
- November 9th, OK QF staff hosted a “Hunters Hangout”, the first of it’s kind, in Beaver, OK. This event celebrated the opening of quail season, and hunters from all over the US were in attendance. This was an amazing opportunity for people to meet with our biologists, along with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Biologists and talk quail!
- On December 6th I attended a soil health meeting in Taloga, OK with the Dewey County Conservation District and the local work group. Here I gave a presentation on how the new CRP sign up can help with soil health, water quality, and preventing erosion.



Photo: Taken in October while trapping quail at Cooper WMA. A member of SCWDS is weighing a captured Bobwhite Quail.

- I wrote several different outreach articles this quarter. One article was for the State Facebook page, highlighting the efforts of ODWC and Southeast Collaborative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) to study the Oklahoma quail population in relation to fitness, immunity to diseases, and eye worm impacts.
- Another article was for the Dewey County Conservation District spring magazine, regarding wildlife impacts post Rhea Fire, their recovery, and how landowners can help. I also wrote an article with a similar theme for the spring issue of the Quail Forever Magazine.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	4
Newsletter Articles/State Facebook Articles Written	5
Outreach Events, Booths	3
Total	12

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	110

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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

October – December 2019



This photo was taken in November at the 5th annual Covey Rise Quail Forever Chapter banquet in Woodward. I hosted a habitat booth and got to visit with multiple landowners. There was a fantastic turnout of over 100 people and like-minded folks could meet and talk quail, habitat, hunting, as well as win prizes, guns, and even enjoy a steak and sausage dinner.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
ODWC/SCWDS Quail trapping	I went out with the ODWC Upland Game Biologist and a member of SCWDS to assist in trapping and retrieving data from quail at 3 Wildlife Management Areas in Northwest Oklahoma. This research will better understand the level of fitness our quail have compared to other states, as well as what impacts (if any) eyeworms truly have on them.
Audobon Conservation Ranching Training	Staff from National Audobon Society came and a partners meeting was held in Stillwater. Here we went over the actual wildlife management plan that will be implemented on ranches agreeing to this program, as well as the protocols in evaluating these ranches for the plan.
OK-FIRE Mesonet Training	Members from OSU extension came to Woodward and hosted an all-day training on how we can better utilize the Mesonet for prescribed burn weather, predicting wildfire danger, and being able to detect wildfires from satellite imagery in real time.
Managing Fuel Loads with Firescaping Training	This online webinar training was hosted by the Southeast Fire Science, regarding how to manage fuel loads in order to mitigate wildfire impacts. There were a couple research presentations showing various levels of fuel loads that led to more rapid wildfire growth in cross timbers and oak savannah settings.

Looking Forward

- I will be attending conservation desktop training per requirements for my apprentice planner certification for NRCS.
- Prescribed burn season for many landowners and Prescribed Burn Associations is coming up, so I will be coordinating with both to assist in burn plan writing technical assistance.
- I will be assisting ODWC in surveys for Lesser Prairie Chicken leks, starting in February/March.
- I will be teaming up with ODWC in January to host a landowner meeting in Freedom, regarding a big pool of funding for habitat work in Woods County on Lesser Prairie Chicken, Turkey, and quail.
- EQIP and CRP signups are currently ongoing, and I will be headed out to the field to conduct evaluations and assessments for these programs.

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

Tanner Swank

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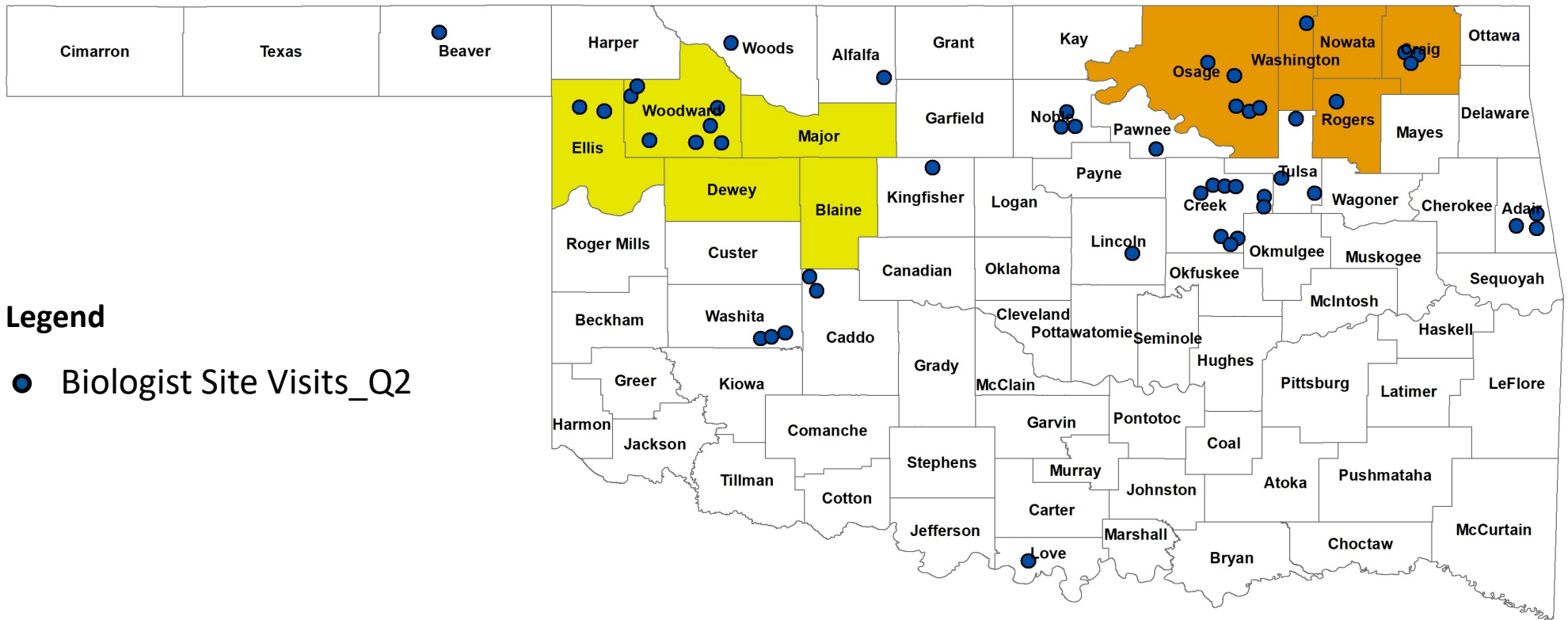
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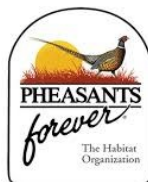
FY20 Oklahoma PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map October 2019—December 2019



Legend

● Biologist Site Visits_Q2

FY20_Q2 Site Visit Total: 49



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

Quarter 2 FY2020 Summary



Dustin Lamoreaux, Elizabeth Elliott, Tanner Swank, Leslie Elmore October – December 2019

Oklahoma Accomplishments:

December 31st marked the end of Pheasants & Quail Forever’s Q2 of Fiscal Year 2020. Tables below are a summary of the work performed by Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists over the past quarter.

Conservation Planning

- 106 Landowner Contacts
- 49 Site Visits
- 6 Habitat Plans, Burn Plans

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
CSP	62.7
CTA	1,942.5
Total	2,005.2

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	6
Articles, fliers, outreach materials	13
Youth Events, outreach events, workshops, booths	12
Total	31

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	725