



State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

April – June 2019

New Positions!

This past quarter has been a wet and productive one with a few big changes. First off, I have started in a new role as Oklahoma State Coordinator with Pheasants and Quail Forever in Oklahoma. My new position will be focusing on Audubon's Conservation Ranching Program, while continuing to supervise our biologists within Oklahoma and grow partnerships to further the delivery of our conservation mission. This changing role has opened the door to hiring Leslie Elmore as our new Coordinating Wildlife Biologist. Leslie will be based in Stillwater and start July 08, 2019. I am looking forward to having her onboard hitting the ground and assisting on the Monarch RCPP project and other wildlife-related work in the state.

I have coordinated with the NRCS State Office staff to complete Monarch RCPP program guidance and policy documents for program implementation. In addition, I have provided NRCS field offices with Monarch Wildlife Habitat Evaluation trainings and conservation planning assistance. I also coordinated with OSU Extension, ODWC, NWTF and NRCS to conduct several field days throughout Oklahoma.

Main Event!!

A big event from the past quarter was Pheasants and Quail Forever's National Team Meeting at Honey Creek State Park in Iowa. This provided the opportunity to converse with biologists from across the country and share ideas on different states' habitat management strategies. It also allowed our biologists to become more familiar with the organization and gain a better understanding of PF/QF's mission.

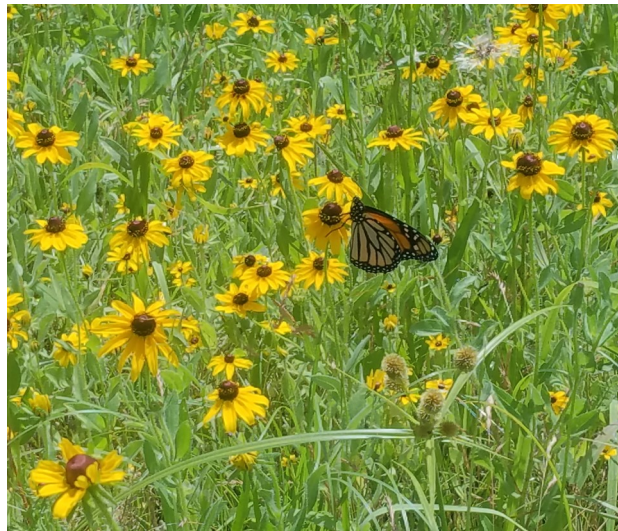


Photo: Observed several female monarchs nectaring exclusively on Black-eyed Susans while conducting monarch habitat evaluations.

Conservation Planning

- 45 Landowner Contacts
- 20 Site Visits
- 4 Management

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CTA Upland Habitat Management	400
CSP Monarch Enhancement	0.8
Total	400.8



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

- In coordination with OSU Extension, ODWC, NWTF and NRCS a field day was conducted at Spavinaw Wildlife Management Area to discuss different forest habitat management techniques and the use of prescribed fire to benefit wildlife.
- In coordination with OSU Extension, ODWC and NRCS a landowner field day was conducted at Groendyke's Ranch near Nash, OK. Topics of discussion included range management, prescribed fire, pollinators, use of wildlife feeders and cattle production as it relates to wildlife habitat management.
- Provided Monarch Wildlife Habitat Evaluation and conservation planning assistance to Creek and Lincoln County NRCS offices. We even had a landowner join us for the training.
- In coordination with OSU Extension, ODWC, NWTF and NRCS a field day was conducted at Pushmataha Wildlife Management Area to discuss and observe different forest management practices in the research plots. We also discussed wildlife habitat management (e.g., white-tailed deer, wild turkey, quail, songbirds, pollinators) along with how grazing intensity and fire affects forage quality and quantity.
- Created Monarch RCPP-EQIP & Monarch RCPP-CSP Press Releases to promote open application periods and inform landowners.



Photo: First stop at Spavinaw WMA Field Day.



Photo: First stop at Groendyke Ranch for landowner field day.

- Created flier for Pushmataha WMA Field Day which was shared through multiple media outlets including: ODWC, NRCS, local Conservation Districts, PF/QF and Okies for Monarchs.

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	92

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshops/Trainings	4
Promotional Materials	3
Presentations Delivered	3
Total	10

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Pushmataha WMA Field Day



Photo taken during Pushmataha WMA Field Day. This is one of the forest research plots on the WMA showcasing the results from different management techniques. You can walk along a road, lined with research plots, and get a great visual of management results and then implement these management techniques to achieve your personal goals and objectives for your property.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Spavinaw WMA Field Day	Field day for landowners and agency folks and covered a variety of habitat management topics. Primarily centered around forest management for wildlife and concluded with a prescribed burn to show people that green grass will actually burn.
Groendyke Ranch Field Day	Field day for landowners in the area and covered a variety of habitat management topics. Primarily was centered around range management to benefit quail, pollinators, other wildlife and grazing management.
Audubon Conservation	Met with Chris Wilson, Director of Audubon Conservation Ranching Program (ACR). Chris provided an introduction to ACR and how this program can be beneficial to ranchers looking at an all grass finishing operation. I learned how I will assist with ACR.
PF/QF National Team Meeting	Team meeting in Iowa. This was a great opportunity and learning experience. Interacted with PF/QF staff from across the nation and shared information across state lines. Our meeting brought in several partners so we were able to converse with them.
Monarch WHEG Training	Provided Monarch WHEG and conservation planning assistance to several NRCS field offices. This is a great opportunity to make sure we are all on the same page when it comes to monarch conservation in Oklahoma.
Pushmataha WMA Field Day	Field day for landowners and agency folks and covered a variety of habitat management topics. Primarily centered around forest management for wildlife and

Looking Forward

- Will be attending the National Bobwhite Technical Committee meeting in Illinois, July 22-26, 2019.
- PF/QF District Meetings being held July 25th, 27th, 30th & Aug 1st, 3rd.
- Will be assisting NRCS field offices with any follow-up supporting documents that are needed for the Conservation Plan.
- Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture GRIP and partners meeting August 08, 2019.
- NWTF Wildlife Conservation Field Day August 17, 2019 at Cross Timbers WMA.

**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

April – June 2019

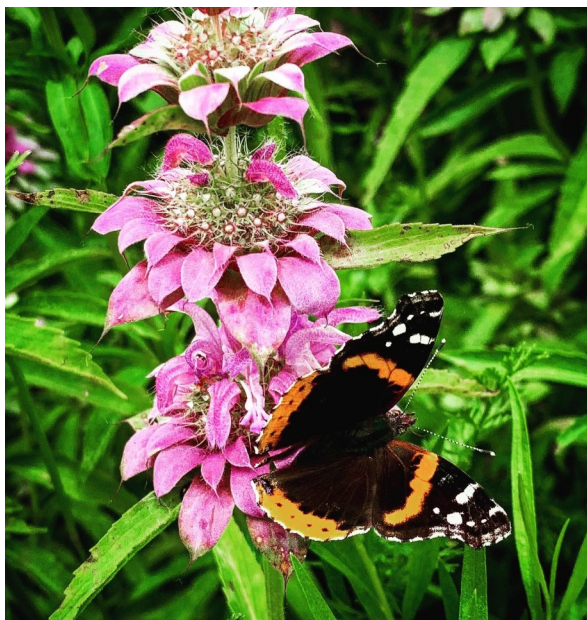
Position Update

With the cool, wet spring, it has been a spectacular season for wildflowers! Most of this quarter has been occupied by EQIP Monarch applications. I am seeing a lot of interest in my region, as a way landowners can remove redcedars, while improving range health and wildlife habitat. Another large chunk of time has been dedicated to assisting in taking inventories on woody residue treatments for the Northwest Oklahoma Wildfire Initiative, which was formed to assist landowners in removing tree skeletons on their properties, following recent wildfires.

April Showers Bring May Flowers!

With it being one of the wettest years on record, there has been an explosion of vegetation. The quail are calling hard trying to make a rebound (already hearing reports of broods), the flowers are blooming, and the pollinators are having a feast!

Landowners are showing increased interest in helping pollinators and wildlife. They are seeing the results of the “damaging” wildfires, which have actually benefitted rangeland and wildlife habitat, and they are wanting the same benefits on their properties. They now see eastern redcedar as a major problem and want them gone. So, whether it’s a phone call, site visit, creating a management plan, assisting in the implementation of Farm Bill programs, or working through a prescribed burn plan, I will be helping producers every step of the way to restore the most productive rangeland and quality habitat, working in unison for livestock and wildlife benefit.



This photo was taken in May' 25th of a Red Admiral Butterfly while out conducting EQIP Monarch WHEGs .

Conservation Planning

- 94 Landowner Contacts
- 9 Habitat Plans
- 77 Site Visits

EQIP	Acres Impacted	Acres Assessed
Prescribed Burning	1,048	4,030
Brush Management	0	2,870.2
Monarch/Pollinator	1	7,787.75
LPCI	3,226	7,140
Woody Residue	0	8,353.3
Total	4,275	30,181.25



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 Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April - June 2019

Outreach & Education

- On April 23rd, I traveled to Sandy Sanders WMA in the southwest part of the state to assist OSU field technicians trap Bobwhite Quail, as part of an ongoing research project looking at how temperature affects site selection. This will be valuable research to better understand and provide bobwhites' needs across the landscape.
- On May 2, I hosted a booth at the 2019 Woodward County Outdoor Classroom for 3rd graders, put on by the Woodward County Conservation Commission. My booth was about the importance of pollinators, as demonstrated by using an ice cream. Participants made sundaes with ingredients from insect-pollinated plants.
- On June 6, I hosted another booth at the Beaver County 4H Youth Field day. Youths aged 7-16 installed a pollinator habitat plot at the Beaver River WMA, attended various stations dedicated to the outdoors and fished in the afternoon. I filled in at the knot-tying booth and taught the youths how to tie their own fishing knots.
- I created several pieces of media this quarter, specifically flyers and posts to the "Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Oklahoma" Facebook page. I am particularly proud of a flyer that was used to announce the Woodward County State Cost Share application period opening and a Facebook video post showing how plants and wildlife respond after redcedars are removed from the landscape.



This photo was taken June 7th at the Beaver Field Day. 4H kids gathered for a day filled with pollinator planting, fishing, and other outdoors activities.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	3
Workshops	2
Promotional Literature/	5
Total	10



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

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April - June 2019



This photo was taken in May while out conducting assessments and woody residue inventories for the NW OK Wildfire Initiative applications. These areas that were burned saw extremely high diversity, and very healthy cattle herds. Increased quail whistling in these areas has people considering prescribed fire as a way to bring them back to their properties.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NRCS West Zone	We discussed livestock water resource concerns and vehicle management training logs.
NRCS Conservation Planning Course	I attended the Conservation Planning Course in Stillwater per my Apprentice Planner requirements. There, we got training in all different areas of conservation planning, to better assist us in the field when out with landowners, and how/where to plug different programs in, to address resource concerns.
WHEG Training	I gave WHEG training for EQIP Monarch applications for team 3 at different Field Offices in the counties.
Growing Season Fire Day	Over 150 people from 5 different states gathered in Stillwater to learn the benefits of a growing season prescribed burn. There were several stations where benefits to the landscape, livestock, and wildlife were demonstrated.
Pheasants Forever All Team Meeting	All employees gathered at Honey Creek Iowa for a week of seminars, meetings, and interactions to mold together better as a team and learn new ways to get habitat on the ground.
61st Annual Bankers Award Banquet	Gathering of producers and landowners to celebrate the past years conservation success in Woodward County, as well as recognize certain producers who went above and beyond to make their properties especially productive, efficient, and wildlife-friendly.

Looking Forward

- I will be attending the NRCS Northwest Zone meeting on July 17th, to meet with my coworkers on upcoming events and projects.
- In August I'll be cohosting a Prescribed Fire field day, along with OSU extension and the local PBA geared towards youth, although others are welcome as well.
- Starting at the end of July, there will be district Quail Forever chapter meetings; the team will split them up so we have representation at all meetings.
- Also in August, I'll be attending the week long NRCS Summer Burn school in Stillwater to further advance my knowledge of prescribed fire.

**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



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

April - June 2019

Stop and Smell the Wildflowers...

It has been a busy, busy spring! Between the rain and the heat I've spent much of my time outdoors. This spring I got to apply my new Prescribed Fire skills by writing a number of wildlife related burn plans. I also had the opportunity to shadow on field day burns around the state. This June, it was all about the Monarch. I've been working with the local NRCS offices to complete WHEG's and field inventories for the 2019 Monarch EQIP program.

The last three months I have been dedicated to learning about forestry management for wildlife in Northeast Oklahoma. On June 4th, I spent the day with Dwayne Elmore from OSU Extension at Lake Carl Blackwell near Stillwater. Here I saw first hand forest restoration practices combined with prescribed fire and the results over an eight year period. I learned so much, from creating instant browse for deer to new plant identification and the wildlife that utilize it. The best part of the day was seeing my first wild quail in Oklahoma. The male was sitting about 100 yards away from us calling. I got to see the target species (for the restoration) come back to the site. What a wonderful thing!

Bee, Butterflies, and Wildflowers

My new favorite past time is learning new species of flowers. I often come back from the field with 20 new pictures and a hand full of specimens to identify and press. I have to stop myself from pulling over on the side of the road to go pick flowers I don't know. I love figuring out which forb it is and the benefits they provide to wildlife. I am looking forward to this summer to add to my collection.



Passion Flower in June Photo from OSU Research Range outside Stillwater, OK



Common Milkweed in June from The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County

Conservation Planning

- 31 Landowner Contacts
- 6 Habitat Plans
- 32 Site Visit

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP	350.2
Herbaceous Weed Control	
Brush Management	
Prescribed Grazing	
CTA	75
Burn Plan	
Total	425.2



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 Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April - June 2019

Outreach & Education

- On April 9, 2019 I helped with the Rogers County Rangeland Judging, where agriculture students from across Northeast Oklahoma came to test their range site knowledge and skills. Students had to identify 20 species of plants and evaluated habitat for quail and other wildlife.
- On April 11, 2019 I had a Quail Forever booth at the Craig and Ottawa counties trade show. My booth's focus was on pollinator and quail habitat in Oklahoma. I met many new landowners and conservation professionals.
- For Earth Day 2019 I helped teach about natural resources to third grade classes in Craig County. Students learned what natural resources are and how to conserve them.
- On May 1 and 2, 2019 I had a booth at the Washington County Natural Resources Days. I taught 500 fourth graders all about bird adaptations. We used a balloon and soccer ball to demonstrate how hollow bones help a bird to fly. Using hand warmers and ice we tested the difference between endotherm and ectotherm. Finally, we tried to camouflage bright, red feathers with our surroundings.



This photo was taken during the Craig and Ottawa Counties Trade Show in April, 2019

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop	2
Outreach Event	3
Promotional Literature	1
Total	5



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April - June 2019

Butterfly Milkweed and beyond



This photo was taken at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Spavinaw Field Day	May 3, I attended the PF/QF Landowner Field Day at Spavinaw WMA. I learned about different management techniques and met new landowners in my region.
PF/QF National Team Meeting	In May, the entire team met in Iowa for our bi-annual All-Team Meeting. It was amazing to meet people from across the country and learning how PF/QF operates as one unit.
Forestry Training	In June I met with Dwayne Elmore– OSU Extension Wildlife Specialist at Lake Carl Blackwell in Stillwater, OK. I learned about some OSU research, covering topics from forest restoration for deer/quail/turkey to plant identification
Pushmataha Forest Field Day	On June 6, I attended the Pushmataha Field Day. Here I learned from OSU professors and the WMA staff about the work and research that has been conducted at the site, including wildlife, livestock, and timber management.
OSU Summer Fire Field Day	On June 13, I attended OSU Summer Fire Field Day in Stillwater, OK. Here I learned all about summer burns from technical application to effects on wildlife and livestock.
NRCS Conservation Planner Bootcamp	June 24-28, I attended NRCS New Planner Bootcamp in Stillwater, OK. This training is a part of the Apprentice Level Certification.

Looking Forward

- I will be working with the Tallgrass Heritage Chapter Youth Day and Pollinator Planting
- Part two of NRCS Conservation Planner Training– Crop and Rangeland
- Getting out into the field, assisting landowners and field offices and discovering new species of forbs.

**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 FY 2019 Annual Summary



Annual Summary

July 2018 – June 2019

Oklahoma Accomplishments:

June 30th marked the end of Pheasants & Quail Forever’s Fiscal Year 2019. What an exciting year it has been; we now have two Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists, a Coordinating Wildlife Biologist and a State Coordinator. With more staff on the ground, we are looking forward to more effectively and efficiently improving habitat and providing outreach and education across Oklahoma in FY20. Tables below include a summary of the work performed by our biologists over the past year.

Conservation Planning

- 422 Landowner Contacts
- 243 Site Visits
- 62 Habitat Plans/Proposals

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
EQIP	20,141.2
CSP	307.8
CTA	2792.78
Total	23,241.78

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	28
Articles, information booth	29
Youth Events	6
Workshops/Trainings/ Events	11
Total	74

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshops Participants	457

OLAP

Habitat Evaluations

- 1,080 Acres