



State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



Dustin Lamoreaux - Statewide

April – June 2020

Position Update!

This past quarter has been unlike any other since working with Pheasants and Quail Forever. The quarter required a lot of change in the normal ways business has been conducted. Video conferences have replaced normal meeting settings, which has taken away from the in-person meeting benefits. However, getting creative and utilizing video conferencing has become the new norm and can still prove beneficial. Nearly all in-person meetings and events have been cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19. Field work on the other hand is something that we are still able to perform and that has been a great relief. This has allowed me to meet with two different ranches interested in the Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) program. I have also been participating in the ACR monthly and bi-monthly video conferences where we have discussed Bird Friendly Index, Soil Carbon Monitoring, and Habitat Management Plans (HMP's).

Audubon Conservation Ranching

In early June, bird surveys were conducted at Godfrey Farms, which is Oklahoma's first ACR ranch, located in Kay County. Initial bird survey is to set a baseline for comparing future years data.

I had the opportunity to visit two different ranches that are interested in becoming ACR certified. First visit was to a ranch south of Tulsa and the second ranch visit was south of Waurika. Since the ranch visits, I have been working on Habitat Management Plans (HMP's) for these two ranches.

While on my ranch visit south of Tulsa I noticed the amount of floral diversity the ranch had to offer. After talking with the owner about the diversity, he informed me that they are a registered Monarch Waystation.

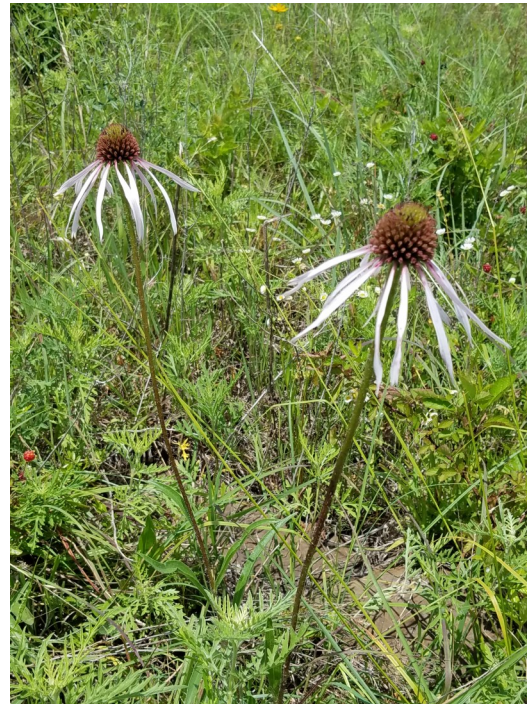


Photo: Taken while on ranch visit , south of Tulsa, for Audubon Conservation Ranching.

Conservation Planning

- 24 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



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April – June 2020

Outreach & Education

- Created Facebook post highlighting small burn and cedar removal project at Lake McMurtry. Post was to showcase that removing cedar and allowing sunlight to reach the soil surface can produce tremendous herbaceous results.
- Gave presentation to a PF/QF Chapter explaining work the Farm Bill Biologists do, summary of results from biologist's work, and how funds are used to support Farm Bill Biologists.
- Created a Facebook post "Tuesday Buzz," during Pollinator Week, highlighting the benefits of small areas in the yard that can be transformed into beneficial pollinator areas. In addition, posted a short video of Brown-belted bumble bees foraging on Wild bergamot.



Top Photo: Taken at Lake McMurtry after hay baler caught on fire and quickly spread to cedars nearby.

Bottom Photo: Taken at the same spot as above, but two years post fire and cedar skeletons removed.



Photo: Brown-belted bumble bees foraging on Wild Bergamot.



Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations	1
Informational Literature	3
Total	4

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	10

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State Coordinator Quarterly Partners' Report



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April – June 2020

Photos From the Field!



Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Ouachita National Forest's Tiak Project	Several partners were on the video conference to listen to the powerpoint for the project. Discussed proposed management actions and monitoring efforts in relation to wildlife species and other outcomes.
CRP SAFE STAC Subcommittee Meeting	Discussed if there was interest in any new proposals. Also, discussed the current SAFE project and potential revisions to that. Group agreed that expanding the geography would be beneficial to increase participation.
Audubon Conservation Ranching Videoconference	Discussed the Bird Friendly Index and all of the associated components. Also, discussed soil carbon monitoring and what the best path forward is to getting this implemented across all ACR ranches. Finally, we discussed Habitat Management Plans (HMP's) and ensuring they stay consistent in appearance across the different regions.
Missouri PF/QF "Quail Success in MO"	This is part of PF/QF's monthly "Sack Lunch Series" presentation sponsored by PF/QF's Pollinator Habitat Working Group. These webinars are designed to highlight work going on in other states and is a great way for PF/QF staff to connect and share experiences.

Looking Forward

- Complete Habitat Management Plan for Oklahoma's second Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) certification.
- Complete Habitat Management Plan 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.
- 1st Annual Sportsmen's Bazaar for R3 and Free Fishing Clinic August 1, 2020.
- National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting, which will be held virtually July 27-30, 2020.
- 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.*

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

April - June 2020

A Partnership in Bloom

A field tape, a pasture stick, and good plant identification skills are necessary to assess resources on properties eligible for the Monarch Butterfly Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). But the biggest necessity is the partnership!

This partnership program between NRCS and Quail Forever succeeds when NRCS field office staff do what only they can do — guide landowners through the application process for the conservation program. The RCPP offers an additional option to assist landowners in conservation practices such as prescribed burning and/or brush removal.

Restoring habitat for monarchs can be relatively easy on native rangeland. Simply cutting dense cedars and allowing sunlight to reach the ground will allow for a forb release, and summer burns are ideal to encourage fall-nectaring blooms, just in time for the monarch's migration.

During this final year of the Monarch RCPP, with guidance from NRCS and QF biologists, I made a big push to get financial assistance spread throughout Oklahoma by stream-lining the practices and tripling the county coverage to include the 27 counties of NRCS's Central Zone. Months ahead of the sign-up deadline, I visited, called, or emailed every resource conservationist in those offices to discuss the program and address questions and concerns.



A tape, a pasture stick, and **good plant ID skills** are necessary to assess resources on properties hoping to win an EQIP contract.

Conservation Planning
◆ 48 landowner contacts
◆ 23 site visits
◆ 6 burn plans
◆ 2 seed plans

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CRP	
Conservation Cover	9
CSP	
Prescribed Burning	132
CTA	
Conservation Cover, Prescribed Burning	90
Total	231



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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Quarterly Partners' Report

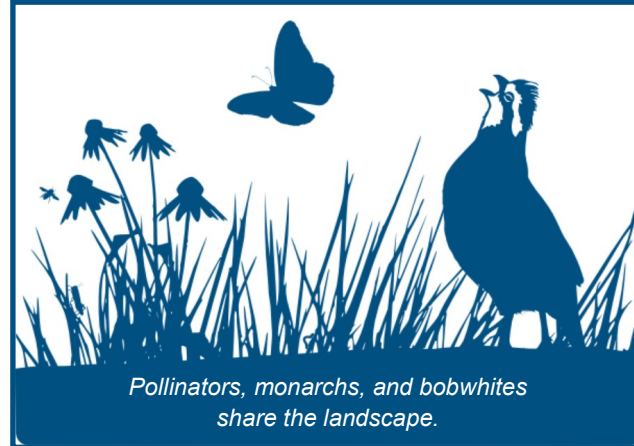


Leslie Elmore - Statewide

April - June 2020

Outreach & Education

- In a "Conservation Programs for Wildlife" presentation I made the connection between similarities in monarch habitat and quail habitat before discussing financial assistance programs available to producers wanting to clear brush and/or plant native, beneficial wildflowers. These presentations drew 15 participants at three virtual chapter meetings.
- Social media has been ever more vital for communicating with our constituents during the shut-down. #MonarchMonday is one way I educated our followers on the benefits of pollinators, the importance of biological diversity, and assistance programs available to support improvements on their property for butterflies and bobwhites.
- Landowners are encouraged to join in during site visits for programs. These visits are a unique opportunity to educate landowners about quail and monarch habitat components, as well as undesirable plants, on their property and ways they may make improvements. It allows time to address specific concerns and explain how practices are intended to work.



Pollinators, monarchs, and bobwhites share the landscape.



A monarch butterfly nectars on an aster bloom.



A landowner's property I visited this spring to assess available monarch resources.

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	3
Media Articles	13
Total	16

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	15

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

April - June 2020



Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Nebraska QF "Innovative Programs and Positions"	This is one of a series of monthly "Sack Lunch" presentations sponsored by the Pollinator Habitat Working Group during this Spring/Summer. It is a great way to connect QF staff members and share experiences.
Fleet Vehicle Training	This annual training is required to continue using government vehicles.
Identifying Grassland Bird Calls Training	This training was given by the American Bird Conservancy. It was a great refresher on bird calls. It helps me be more informed during site visits (and impress the landowners), plus it was a nice change of pace for the three hours it lasted.
Conservation Planning Course - Classroom	This training covers the fundamentals of conservation planning. Although delivered remotely, it was beneficial. It is credited toward apprentice level of Conservation Planner.
Ag Learn coursework	I completed the final online course, "Using Basic Soil Survey Information in Conservation Planning," towards the Conservation Planner Apprentice Certification.

Looking Forward

- With 12 successful Monarch RCPP EQIP applications, I have plenty of plan-writing ahead of me, primarily wildlife and burn plans.
- I am looking forward to seeing which projects are accepted into the Monarch RCPP CSP.
- Writing more burn plans (for EQIP and CTA) and assisting in conducting prescribed burns will help me work towards completing all requirements for burn certification.
- Completing the field portion of the Conservation Planning course to achieve the Apprentice Conservation Planner classification.
- Virtually attending the National Bobwhite Technical Committee meeting.
- Expanding my knowledge through webinars by Monarch Joint Venture, QF, NRCS, etc.
- Collaborating with the Oklahoma NRCS State Wildlife Biologist to develop a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide for pollinators.

**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

April – June 2020

This quarter has been different from any other. With COVID-19 the NRCS shifted office procedures to ensure safety of employees and producers. Starting at the end of March, I began teleworking from home. It took me a little while to adjust being at home and the challenges of being out of the office. Luckily we are still able to conduct our field work.

During the last three months I have spent time studying individual wildlife species and their life history needs to better help the landowners I work with. I have also conducted research on habitat management practices that are commonly applied within my area of work. This includes spending time out in the field implementing these practices. I had the opportunity to spend a day with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation at Spavinaw Wildlife Management Area, which allowed me to see a project restoring ridge tops to a savannah ecosystem. Pines and oaks were flagged as trees to keep while smaller diameter trees were removed. Removing trees allows sunlight to reach the soil surface, promoting the native seedbed to germinate. Project will be maintained project with a prescribed fire regime.

I spent two days in June with Mike Sams, NRCS State Biologist, conducting zig-zag transects on trees stands in the Healthy Forest Reserve Program. We conducted the 10-year follow up assessment to determine if the initial thinning and prescribed fire had maintained the proper forest structure and composition. We were looking to see if the larger diameter trees had been maintained with open understory vegetation between. This easement program was designed in part to help support endangered bats, by providing an open wood habitat the bats would be able to more easily catch insects they are feeding on.

Over the last quarter I took the Hunter Education Course online and got my first hunting and fishing license! I have been out fishing in Stillwater, OK catching three types of sunfish! I am looking forward to fall and hunting season! The past three months have reminded me why I choose to work in the outdoors. Getting to see habitat projects come to life and positive changes on public and private lands is the most rewarding part of my job as a Farm Bill Biologist with Quail Forever.



Bees at Roman Nose State Park!

Conservation Planning

- 45 Landowner Contacts
- 20 Site Visits
- 26 Habitat Management Plans/ Burn Plans/Conservation Plans

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQUIP RCPP GRIP	190
CTA	379.5
Total	569.5



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



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

April – June 2020

Outreach & Education

- National Pollinator Week was the week of June 22-28, 2020 this year. To celebrate I made Coconut Almond Brownies. They were delicious! Then I took the recipe and eliminated all of the ingredients that require pollinators. This meant I no longer had chocolate, sugar, almonds, coconut, and vanilla extract. I then challenged myself to create something out of the remaining ingredients. What did I come up with? Homemade PASTA! These baking sessions became an outreach post on Oklahoma's Quail Forever Facebook Page highlighting the importance of pollinators for the foods we eat!

Coconut Almond Brownie Recipe with Pollinators	Coconut Almond Brownie Recipe without Pollinators
1/2 cup butter	1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar	1 cup sugar-Bees
2 eggs	2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	1 teaspoon vanilla extract Bees
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder	1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder Flies
1/2 cup all-purpose flour	1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking powder	1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup chopped almonds	1 cup chopped almonds Bees
1/2 cup coconut chips	1/2 cup coconut chips
	Insects and Bats



- I created a number of Facebook Posts on various conservation topics. Including on Forest Management for Quail. "Have you ever wondered if you could manage your forest for quail? Closed canopied timber stands don't allow much sunlight to reach the forest floor. This limits escape/thermal cover, nesting and brooding habitat for quail. By reducing overhead canopy cover you increase understory structure quail need to survive. Opening up the canopy allows sunlight to reach the soil surface stimulating the native seedbed. Re-sprouts of trees create shrubs needed for quail. By utilizing a two-three year prescribed fire return interval, after initial thinning, you will help maintain shrub cover, limit litter, and create forb/legume cover."

- For the upcoming Prescribed Fire Field Day in Kellyville, OK I had two outreach planning meetings for the field day event. I created an outreach flyer for the upcoming August 29, 2020 Prescribed Fire Field Day in Kellyville, OK. I also wrote a sponsorship letter for the field day.

Outreach & Education	Count
Promotional Literature	9
Outreach Meeting	2
Total	11



Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April – June 2020



This picture was taken of a native flower planting at River Walk Park in Tulsa, OK

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Oklahoma Quail Forever team conference calls	The OK team has had a number of video and phone conference calls over the past three months. This has allowed us to continue to stay in touch and complete work in a timely manner.
Partners meeting for Kellyville Field Day	I met with OSU Extension, OPBA, NRCS, Creek County Conservation District, and Creek County PBA at the site for the upcoming August 29, 2020 Prescribed Fire Field Day. We discussed potential topics, speakers, and details about the day.
OPJV GRIP Bird ID Training	I attended two conference call trainings hosted by OPJV to learn how to identify the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program Priority Bird Species via visual and auditory methods.
Pasture and Rangeland NRCS Training	Attended NRCS pasture and rangeland inventory and analysis field training in Okmulgee, OK.

Looking Forward

- August 29, 2020 OK Quail Forever along with our conservation partners from across OK will be hosting a Prescribed Fire Field Day in Creek County near Kellyville, OK. Topics will include: safety, planning, wildlife, livestock, and vegetation responses to growing season burns. Weather permitting attendees will get to see a prescribed burn take place.
- Tulsa's Quail Forever Tallgrass Heritage Chapter Banquet will be held August 29, 2020 at Buddy LaFortune Park.
- OK QF Indian Territories Chapter hosting their annual Outdoor Youth Day July 18, 2020.
- I am looking forward to continuing to work with landowners to develop wildlife habitat on their properties around NE 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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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April – June 2020

Position Update

This spring I spent most of my time out of the office conducting field work for the Team. There was a high workload for EQIP Monarch again this year, as many landowners want/need assistance in getting their cedars cut. I also had the opportunity to visit several ranches for CTA visits, which all resulted in writing habitat management plans. I anticipate multiple applications getting approved for Monarch, which will be outstanding to be able to get more land cleared of ERC and in turn make the landscape more profitable and safer for all.

So Far, So Good!

The mild, moist early spring provided a solid window of opportunity for spring burning. With things drying out and heating up, there have been multiple wildfires in recent weeks. Even though we are below average for rainfall so far this year, it is proving to be beneficial for ground nesting birds. Multiple broods of turkey, quail, and pheasant are being seen, even after the recent heavy rains. We still have a long ways to go, and things can certainly change in an instant, but (knock on wood) early nest attempts have apparently been relatively successful. With the recent rains, I anticipate an uptick in growing season Rx burns next month, meaning even more habitat opportunities. Optimism still remains, for now, for a good season!



This photo was taken in May, during a CTA visit looking at wildfire recovery and management. A turkey roost tree severely crippled from the fire due to cedars.

Conservation Planning

- 172 Landowner Contacts
- 6 Habitat Plans/Burn Plans/Conservation Plans
- 95 Site Visits

	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
CTA USDA/Nonprogram/State Cost Share	6,100	30,030.8
EQIP Brush Management, Conservation Cover, Forest Stand Improvement, Wetland Restoration, Prescribed Fire	31,535.44	50
CRP		74.5
CSP	500	500
Total	38,135.44	30,655.3



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

April – June 2020



This photo was taken in May while assisting a landowner on a prescribed burn. This was the first burn he had ever been on/conducted, and the local PBA came to assist him in the burn as I walked him through the process of the burn and explained what was taking place and why. The best education we can provide is hands on, in real time!

Outreach & Education

- This quarter was occupied almost exclusively with field work. The heavy workload with EQIP proved to take up most of the quarter. The education I provided were mainly in the form of phone calls, and in real time when visiting landowners or assisting them on prescribed burns.
- It was also challenging for Education/outreach opportunities due to Covid-19 restrictions. With all of the spring outreach events being cancelled/postponed, we as an OK QF team began an education campaign via our state Facebook page. Everyone gets a day of the week to post a short educational write up. That has proven very effective and folks are eating up what we're laying out for them!
- There are multiple E&O opportunities upcoming later this summer, and several in the planning stage at this point. So, if everything works out, we will be able to host some field days once again soon!

Outreach & Education	Count
Newsletter Articles/State Facebook Articles Written	4
Total	4



Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April – June 2020



This photo was taken in May while out providing training for brush management inventories for field staff who needed refreshers for their EQIP Monarch applications.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
CSP Field Training	Helped provide range health, pasture score, and wildlife land use and monarch WHEG training for field staff for CSP applications.
CART Training	Attended conference call for CART ranking on EQIP Monarch applications and assisted in planning out what resource concerns/fund pools to put applications in.
Partner Training	Provided brush inventories for cedar and range health assessment trainings to fellow QF Biologist Leslie Elmore.
Range Health Training	Provided Range Health Assessment training to field staff for EQIP Monarch field assessments.

Looking Forward

- I will be assisting partners such as ODWC, NWTF, and OSU to conduct a video docuseries on wild turkey management in Oklahoma.
- I will be attending a growing season prescribed burn workshop in late July in Major County.
- I will also be attending and speaking at a wild turkey management workshop in August at Black Kettle WMA.
- I will be writing plans for those EQIP Monarch applications that are selected for funding for the team, and potentially surrounding teams as well, depending on what gets funded.
- I will be checking on the status of current EQIP contracts to track progress in their management.
- I will be working with landowners individually on training them proper burning techniques. interested in burning their lands.
- I will also be meeting with several ranches in the near future for furthering their management needs.

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

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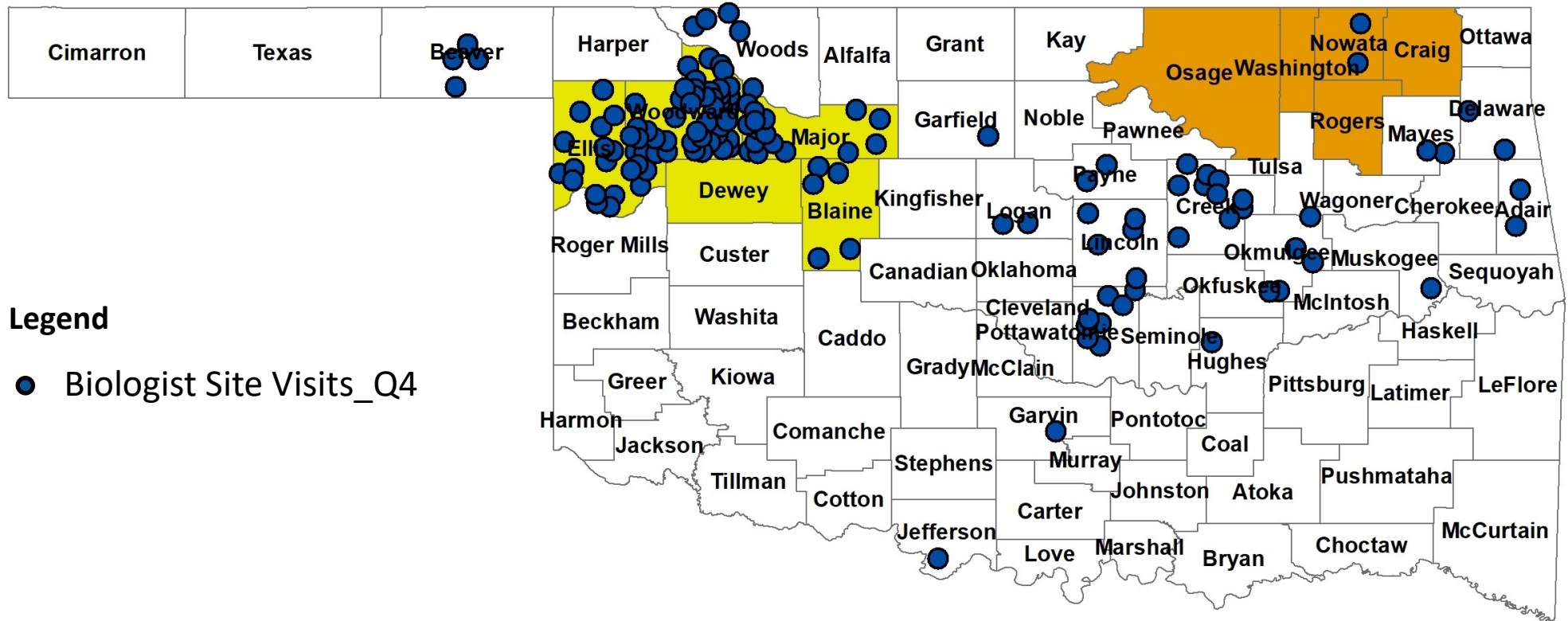
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FY20 Oklahoma PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map April 2020—June 2020



Legend

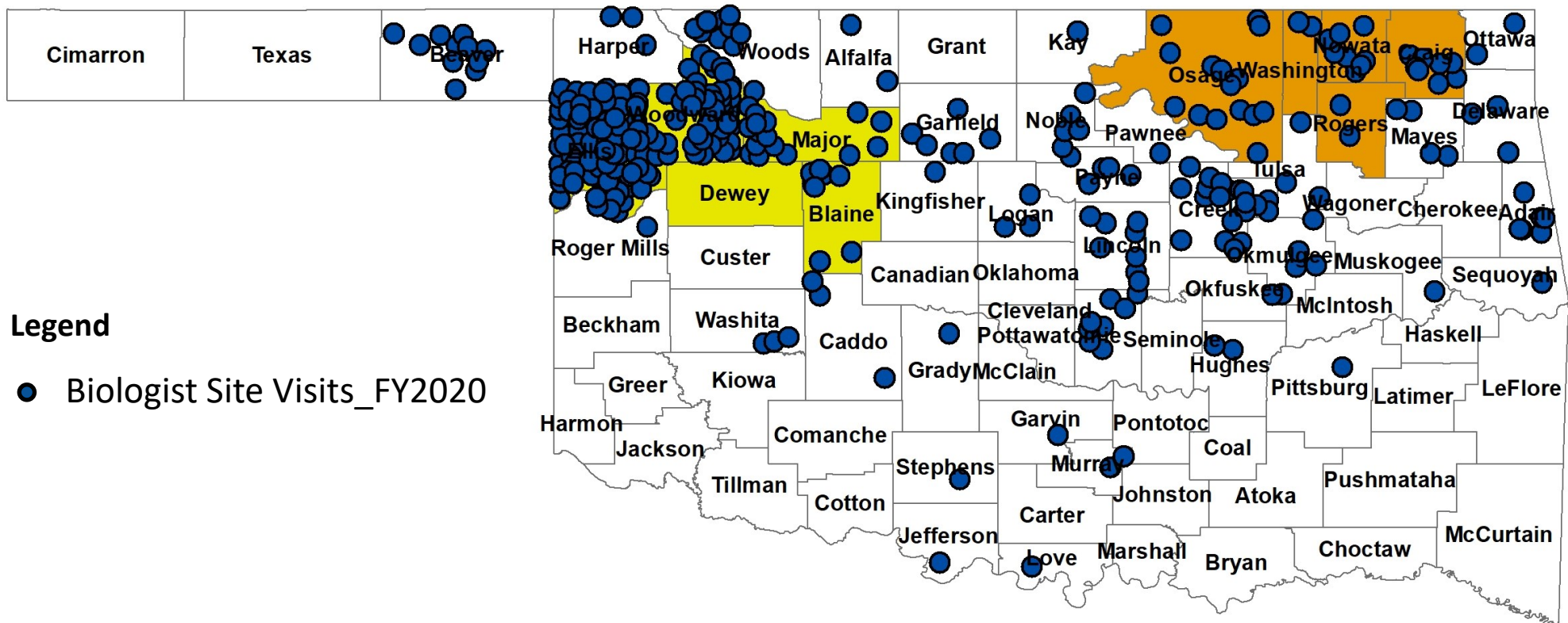
● Biologist Site Visits_Q4

FY20_Q4 Site Visit Total: 140



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.

FY20 Oklahoma PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map July 2019—June 2020



Legend
● Biologist Site Visits_FY2020

FY2020 Site Visit Total: 328



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Oklahoma Biologists FY2020 Annual Summary



Dustin Lamoreaux, Elizabeth Elliott, Tanner Swank, Leslie Elmore

July 2019 – June 2020

Oklahoma Accomplishments:

June 30th marked the end of Pheasants & Quail Forever’s Fiscal Year 2020. What an exciting and changing year it has been. Tables below are a summary of the work performed by Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists over FY2020.

Conservation Planning

- 693 Landowner Contacts
- 328 Site Visits
- 111 Habitat Plans/Proposals

Programs & CTA	Acres Impacted
EQIP	17,778
CSP	813
CTA	36,759
CRP	519
Soil Health Initiative: State Cost Share	1,105
Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR)	1,000
Total	57,974

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	25
Articles, fliers, outreach materials	78
Youth Events, outreach events, Workshops	37
Total	140

Outreach & Education	Count
Workshop Participants	1,269