



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

April - June 2021

A State in Transition

It came as a bit of a surprise when our Quail Forever State Coordinator, Dustin Lamoreaux, announced he was leaving QF to take another job—but only a bit. An NRCS job that would move him and his wife to southern Utah proved too appealing for Dustin to turn down. We are thrilled for Dustin as he has been able to move back to be near family and the mountains where he learned to hunt and love nature.



The Oklahoma Quail Forever Team of Tanner Swank, Laura McIver, Leslie Elmore, and Elizabeth Elliott at our Team Retreat this Spring.

(Photo by Dustin Lamoreaux)

Over the next few months we expect to hear more about the search for our next Oklahoma State Coordinator. We are excited to see what the next chapter holds and confident that the person hired to this position will be no less passionate about the mission of Quail Forever.

In the meantime, we aren't slowing down. I am proud to share this quarterly report, which provides an overview of the connections we have made with landowners, field offices, and partners, as well as the outreach and training opportunities we take advantage of, even in the light of COVID restrictions on travel and gatherings. We are adapting and continuing to make strides for conservation!

For me, this quarter has largely focused on my NRCS responsibilities. Along with the NRCS State Biologist, I contributed to an online training course on the monarch butterfly seeding calculator. This training will be posted online and available to field offices soon. He and I also continue working to update the Land Use WHEGs and improve numerous seed calculators used by NRCS staff and partners in Oklahoma. These activities as well as site visits, trainings, and surveys with NRCS, the Oklahoma County Conservation District, ODWC, and other partners have made for a great final quarter of FY2021.

Conservation Planning (Dustin's reported numbers in parentheses)
◆ 19 (3) landowner contacts
◆ 7 (3) site visits
◆ 1 burn plan
◆ 3 conservation plans
◆ (1 habitat plan)

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
CTA Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Conservation Cover)	640 (3)
EQIP Forest Stand Improvement	270
EQIP Prescribed Burning	34
Total	947



Local SWCDs

Thank you so much for your support!

Without this partnership we would not be able to provide assistance to private landowners and positively impact conservation in Oklahoma!

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Outreach & Education

- I created a handout summarizing state and federal programs, including FA and CTA, that benefit quail, monarchs, and pollinators. It can be customized for specific regions or expanded for state-wide applicability.
- I distributed the “Programs” handout during my presentation at the monthly meeting of Plainsmen’s Chapter.
- I updated the Oklahoma QF Team flyer to reflect the changes in the team with Dustin’s departure, the biologists’ county coverage, and the QF mission statement.
- I created eleven social media posts, including four #MonarchMonday posts and three #PollinatorWeek posts. Most posts focused on the importance of forbs and how to identify and encourage them.
- I have taken over a couple of Dustin’s unfinished pollinator projects, including the following:
 - The Plainsmen Chapter is working to plant pollinator habitat on several acres near one of Enid’s primary grain mills . This will be a fantastic location to educate their neighbors on the importance of pollinators.
 - Enid Surgery Center is looking to convert a large area of bermudagrass to habitat for pollinators and monarch butterflies and a sanctuary for their workers during breaks.



These pollinator kits specifically designed for their planting region are being sold for the price of a membership. Membership included!



Timely mowing provides resource-rich “rest stops” where butterflies can feed without being pressured to cross the road and search in other areas.

Outreach & Education	Count
Events/Workshops	(2)
Participants	(10)
Presentations Delivered	1
Flyers Created	1
Flyers Updated	1
Social Media Articles	11
Total	14 (2)

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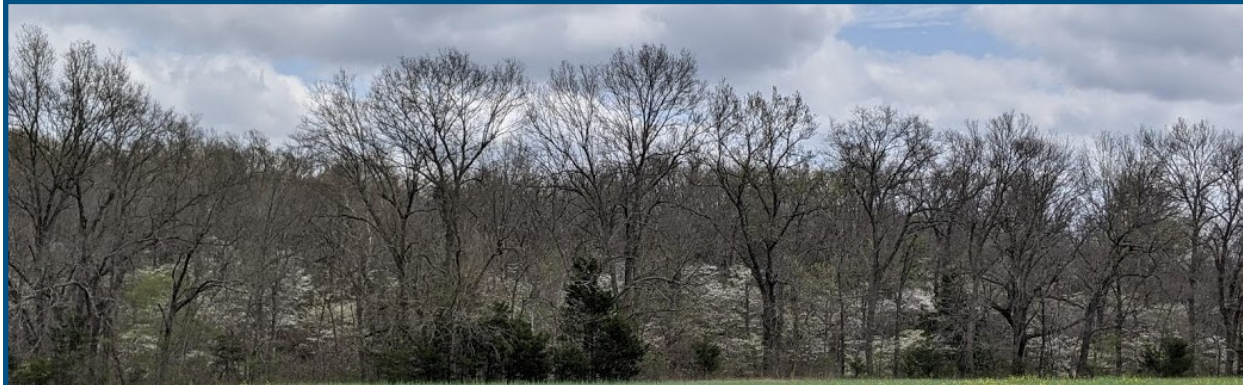


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April - June 2021



I was treated to a beautiful show of flowering dogwoods this April. This property in Seminole County had the highest density of flowering dogwoods have ever seen. Absolutely stunning!

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Prescribed Fire Training	Participated in a prescribed burn within Cross Timbers, working towards CPS-338 JAA.
ArcGIS Pro	This training was given by NRCS ahead of an upcoming program change to explain some of the program differences and how to get started with the new mapping program..
Level III Certified Conservation Planner	This quarter I completed four more courses towards the Level III Certified Conservation Planner Certification.
Various online webinars	I watched four webinars hosted by Monarch Joint Venture, ForestHER, and the Xerces Society.
2021 Annual CSP Classic Training	This training helped me better understand the requirements and process of CSP Classic .

Looking Forward

- Attending the Annual National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting in Bentonville, Arkansas next month.
- Hosting my first Quail Forever State Convention in September. This year's event will be hosted in the field where participants can get hands-on experience with a variety of management tools and techniques.
- Attending ODWC's Wildlife Expo in September.
- Presenting an online training in which I demonstrate the Monarch Butterfly planting calculator for use by NRCS staff and partners.
- Going to the Hot Air Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April-June 2021

Position Update

The summer is heating up fast here in Northeast Oklahoma and so has the workflow. It has been a busy quarter with NRCS program deadlines and technical assistance planning. I have worked on EQIP, CSP, and State Cost Share projects. Plans I've completed for the field offices include burn, habitat management, conservation, and grazing. Recently, I have been working with landowners in Rogers County to create whitetail deer habitat. The property consists of closed-canopy oak-hickory woods and mixed-grass pastures. The goal is to reduce the tree canopy and allow sunlight to reach to ground to release the seedbank. I have also been working with landowners to create pollinator and monarch habitat across the region. Projects include summer burning, introduced grass conversion, and brush control on rangelands.

I recently completed two continuing education college courses: soils science and plant biology. I wanted to connect what I have learned on the job with the classroom fundamentals. These courses have helped to improve my understanding of soil health and plant growth patterns. I have followed up my classes with infield training– early season grass identification and soil texturing. This has allowed me to better implement conservation practices on private land.

Summertime is Calling

One hot afternoon this June while I was driving the through Craig County, I happened upon an incredible native hay meadow. I couldn't resist stopping to enjoy the sights and sounds between site visits.

Within the field bees buzzed from rattlesnake master to pale purple coneflower. Butterflies fluttered from foxglove beardtongue to green antelope horn milkweed. Prairie blazing star and ashy sunflowers waited for their time to bloom. Bunch grasses swayed in the wind to the calls of "bob-white" emanating from the tree line surrounding the meadow. Although I could only stay for a short time it was a reminder of why I do what I do: The beauty of nature and wildlife on a working landscape!



Craig County Hay Meadow

Conservation Planning

- 39 Landowner Contacts
- 17 Site Visits
- EQIP Burn Plans: 6
- EQIP Conservation Plans: 2
- EQIP Habitat Plan: 1
- CTA Habitat Plan: 1
- State Cost Share Plans: 12
- CTA Seed Mix: 1
- EQIP Grazing Plan: 1

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP Grazing Plan	6944.80
EQIP Burn Plans	195.41
EQIP Conservation Plans	446.80
EQIP Habitat Management Plan	39
CTA Habitat Management Plan	389.80
CTA Seed Mix	4
Total	8019.91



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 2021



Outreach & Education:

- Pollinators around the world were honored June 21-27, 2021 during Pollinator Week! To celebrate I hosted a biologist walk and talk. We spent Tuesday evening walking along Tulsa's River Parks to The Gathering Place enjoying the native flower plantings near the trail. We stopped to identify plant and bee species, spoke about the differences between native and introduced species, and took lots of pictures as we went!
- I personally celebrated pollinator week with the help of our national office and the pollinator habitat kit. I added three new species to my existing contain garden. With this planting I tried to create a better drainage system within my pot by adding a layer of rocks to the bottom. In the past I have had issues with water flooding the plants during large rain events. With the container it is important to water often because pots tend to lose moisture quicker than when planted in the ground.
- On April 16, 2021 I attended the Big Hill Connor State College QF Chapter annual banquet. I spoke about my role as a biologist and how I can help landowners manage wildlife on their properties.
- Throughout this past quarter I created various social media posts. Topics include pollinator week, native flowers, and grasses.



Outreach & Education	Count
Pollinator Week Walk and Talk	1
Presentation	1
Social Media Posts	5
Total	7



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April-June 2021



Native forbs! June 2021

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Oklahoma Quail Forever team conference calls	The OK team has had a number of video conference calls over the past three months. This has allowed us to continue to stay in touch and complete work in a timely manner. These meetings have been utilized to help plan and coordinate upcoming events.
NRCS Virtual CART Meetings	Attended teams trainings for CSP program updates and CART ranking.
NRCS Virtual Meetings	Attended the NRCS East Zone Quarterly meeting.
GRIP Training	I attended a RCPP Grasslands Restoration Incentive Program training with OPJV Coordinator to walk through the program and planning steps.
NRCS Virtual ArcGIS PRO Training	NRCS hosted an online training for the ArcGIS PRO. This training was to help us learn computer software tools to better serve customers.

Looking Forward

- Oklahoma QF State Convention Weekend– helping put together a successful outdoor field day!
- Attending ODWC Wildlife Expo in September
- Completing technical assistance habitat management projects for landowners in OK
- Continued in field plant identification training
- Getting my kayak out and going to the lake for the day!

**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

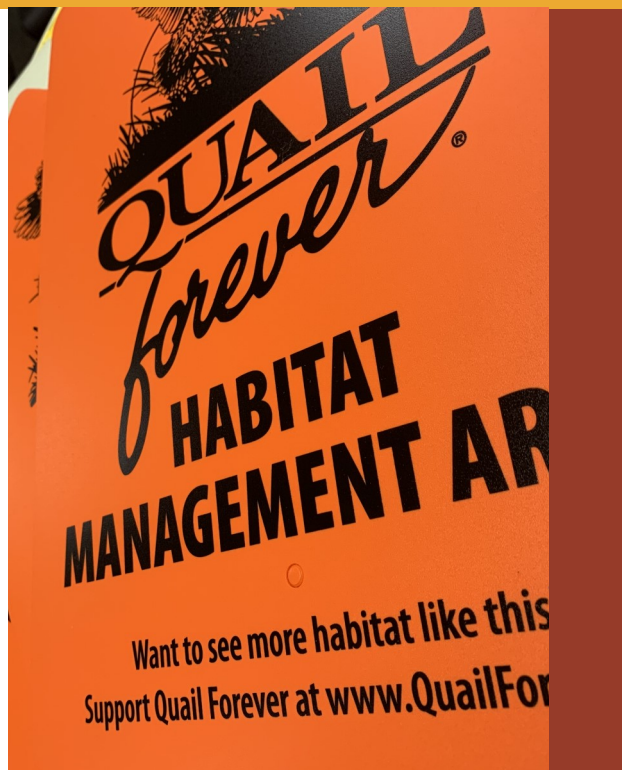
April – June 2021

Position Update

This spring has been plenty busy with EQIP in full swing and CRP renewals. Even with dodging Covid and the we had another very productive program year. With GPGI coming out in 2022, we look forward to having additional opportunities to make even more of an impact. New doors have been opening out here seemingly all the time, with new producers and new ideas and opportunities!

Another Year, Another Big Impact

EQIP has been very friendly to us out here the last couple years, allowing us to make a significant impact on the landscape. We have been very busy, going around NW OK and meeting with producers who are desperately needing assistance with woody encroachment from cedars, and we have successfully been able to facilitate mechanical removal, prescribed burning, and proper grazing management. Producers have been very motivated to get after it. The tides are turning, more interest is there, and we are capitalizing and making an impact.



These signs are being posted at certain properties, and are adding even more interest to the work we're doing.

Conservation Planning

- 100 Landowner Contacts
- 36 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plans
- 106 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
CTA USDA/Nonprogram/State Cost Share		1,769.88
EQIP Brush Management, Conservation Cover, Forest Stand Improvement, Wetland Restoration, Prescribed Fire		11,872.03
OLAP		112
CRP	6,825	71
CSP		
Total	6,825	13,824.91



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 2021



This photo was taken in May during the youth field day in Beaver. These 4H kids of all ages did a pollinator plot, and then other various stations such as fishing, shooting, and education.

Outreach & Education

- I assisted in a youth 4H field day in beaver. We hosted kids of all ages, who planted a pollinator plot at Beaver WMA, then participated in educational stations such as habitat for prairies and shooting, followed by an afternoon of fishing.
- I traveled to Elk City for a radio interview on an AG Radio show. We discussed woody encroachment and grazing strategies for livestock and wildlife, and where producers can find assistance. In return have got a ton of positive feedback and interaction. We will be doing more of these in the future.
- I assisted ODWC and OSU film a second segment in our Oklahoma wild turkey management series. We did a “before management” segment last summer, and then came back for an “after management” segment. The episodes will be available for use in spring of 2022.

Outreach & Education	Count
Newsletter Articles/State Facebook Articles Written	10
Conservation/Outreach Event	3
Total	13



Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

April – June 2021



This photo of Butterfly Milkweed growing amongst scorched cedars was taken in June while evaluating vegetation recovery following mechanical cedar removal and prescribed fire. The EQIP Monarch program is proving to be a HUGE benefit to producers in NW OK.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
CRP Training	Attended NRCS training on CRP renewals for Ellis County.
Team 3 EQIP	Attended virtual team 3 meeting regarding EQIP, discussing deadlines, as well as upcoming work loads, EQIP Monarch. And practice completion/checkout for payment.
ARCGIS PRO Training	Attended virtual training for the new GIS tool for NRCS. This will be a tremendous tool for us moving forward.

Looking Forward

- We are in the planning stages of the 2021 state habitat convention. We will be doing more of an outdoors field day style this year, with actual habitat management demonstrations.
- I will be attending the NBTC in Arkansas the first week of August to further advance my knowledge, skills, and bring new ideas back to Oklahoma.
- I will also be traveling to Nebraska for the Great Plains Fire Summit to further my knowledge and learn new strategies to advance prescribed fire in Oklahoma.
- We have Wildlife Expo coming up in September, we will be hosting an educational booth.
- 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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Oklahoma Biologists FY2021 4th Quarter Summary



Dustin Lamoreaux, Elizabeth Elliott, Tanner Swank, Leslie Elmore April 2021 – June 2021

Oklahoma Quarterly Accomplishments:

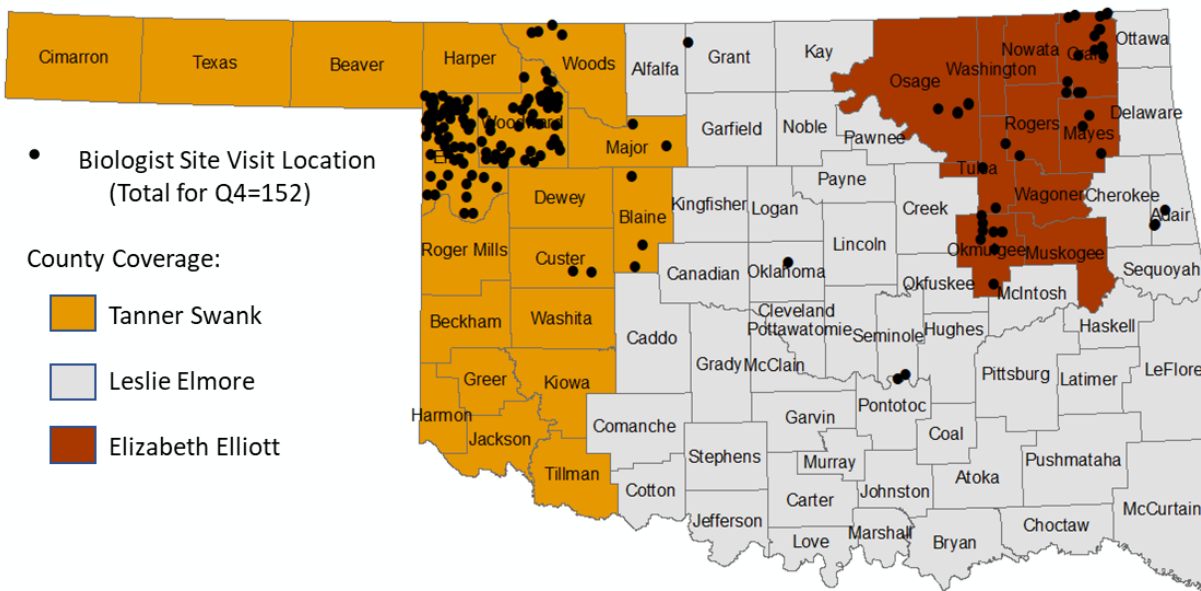
The tables below quantify the some of the deliverables of the Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists in this final quarter of FY21.

Conservation Planning	Count
Landowner Contacts	125
Site Visits	133
Habitat Plans/Proposals	65

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	2
Articles, fliers, outreach materials	28
Youth Events, outreach events, Workshops	6
Total	36

Programs	Acres Impacted
CRP	0
CSP	0
CTA	2806.68
EQIP	19802.14
OLAP	112
Total	22720.82

**Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists' Footprint Map FY21 Q4
April 2021 – June 2021**



Oklahoma Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Wildlife Biologists are funded in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.





Oklahoma Biologists

FY2021 Summary of Accomplishments



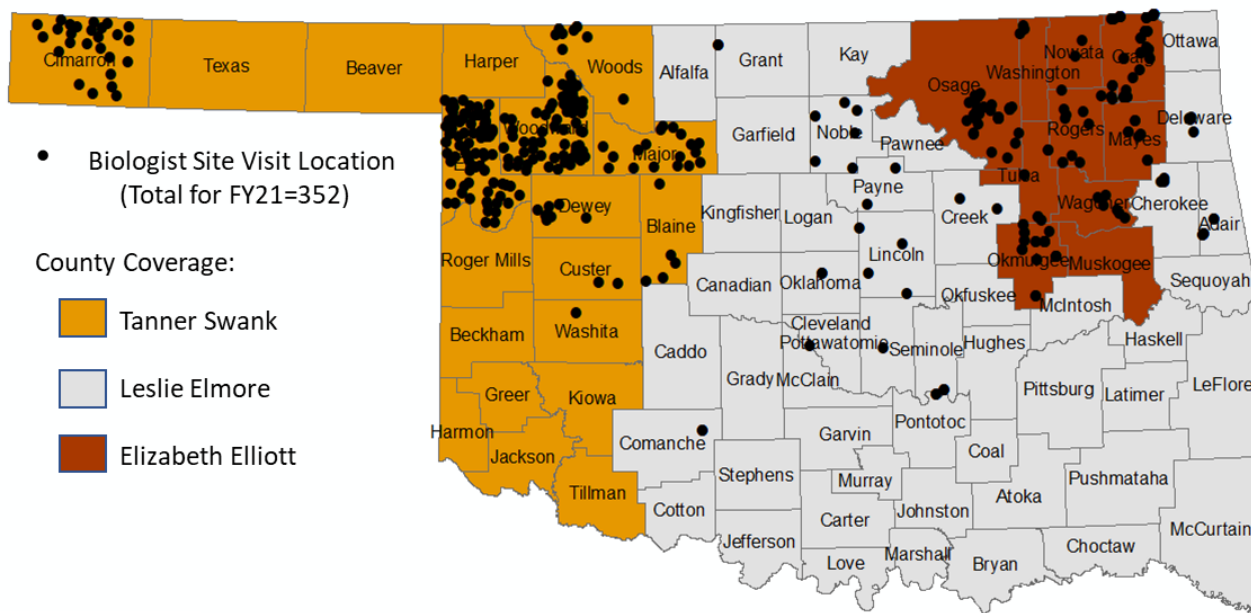
Dustin Lamoreaux, Elizabeth Elliott, Tanner Swank, Leslie Elmore April 2021 – June 2021

The tables below summarize the quantity of work performed by Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists during FY2021. The quality of work is incalculable!

Conservation Planning	Count
Landowner Contacts	444
Site Visits	325
Habitat Plans/Proposals	120
Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	18
Articles, fliers, outreach materials	91
Youth Events, outreach events, Workshops	17
Workshop Participants	325
Total Engagements	126

Programs	Acres Impacted
Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR)	2157
CRP	231
CSP	11928.97
CTA	17361.83
EQIP	32565.53
OLAP	112
Total	64356.33

Oklahoma PF/QF Biologists' Footprint Map FY21
July 2020 – June 2021



Oklahoma Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Wildlife Biologists are funded in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

