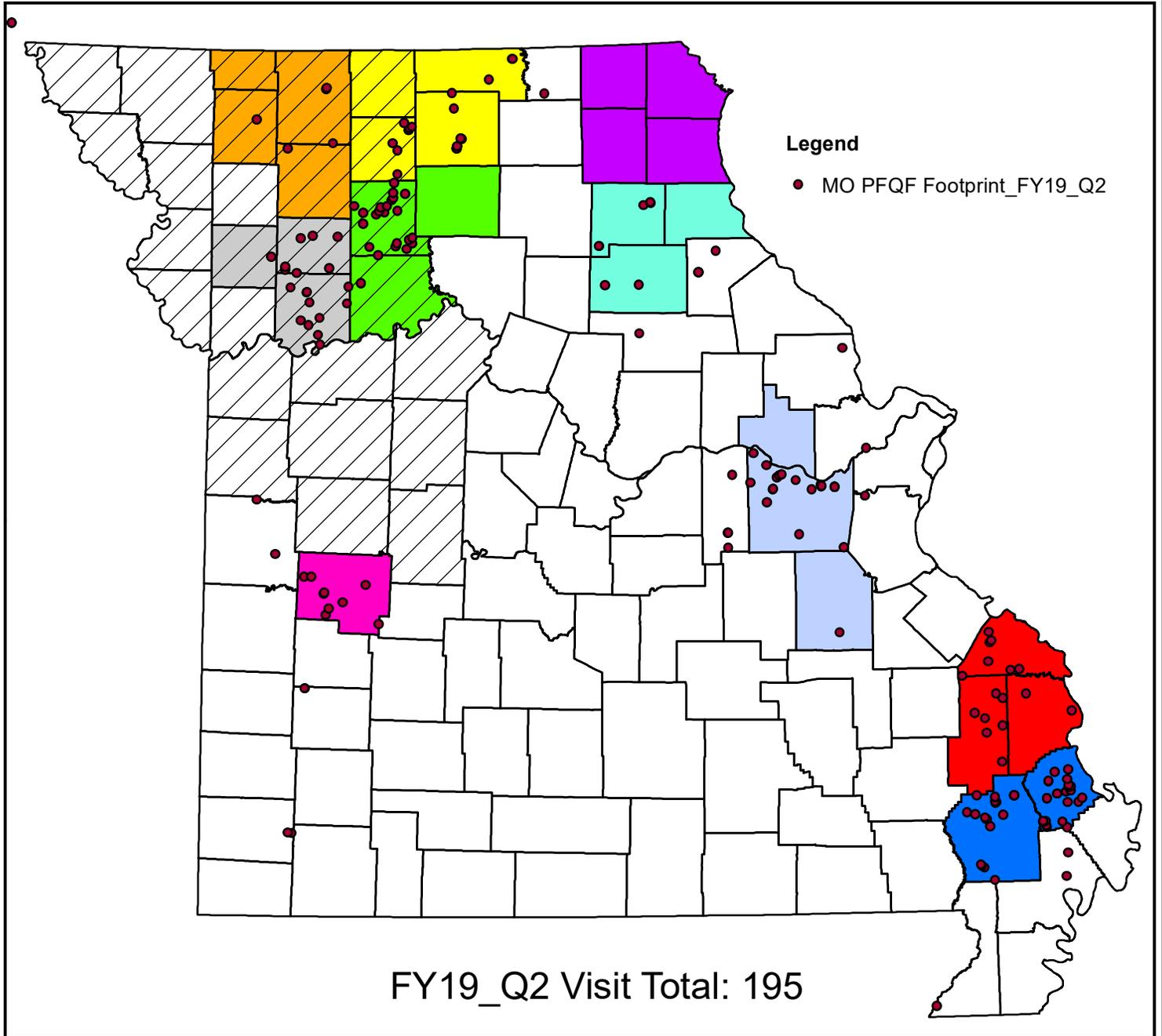


FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP October 2018 - December 2018



Updated: 1/14/2019



Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

October – December 2018

Position Update

This past quarter was spent assisting landowners enrolled in CSP-RCPP and EQIP-RCPP projects in seed mix verification and installment. Additionally, time was spend on monitoring and status reviews for CRP and other programs alike. Selected as the lead for our annual State Habitat Meeting, I have been coordinating efforts associated with the planning and execution of this meeting, while continuing to provide technical assistance to landowners, as well as mentoring some of our newer staff.

NBCI Covey Count Surveys

For the past several years, I have assisted the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative and the Missouri Department of Conservation in a multi-year study that sets out to see if there is a correlation between the densities of the bobwhite quail and other upland song birds in relation to habitat management.



Photo: MDC

The study takes place during two times of the year, in the spring (Breeding Bird Survey) and fall (Covey Survey). During the breeding bird surveys in the spring, we listen for the distinctive BOB-WHITE whistle of quail, as well as the calls of ring-neck pheasant, dicksissel, field sparrow and eastern meadowlark. During the covey call survey, which takes place in October, we are strictly listening for the bobwhite's come-back covey call. There are various listening points located within two areas that are approximately 6,000 acres, with one being intensely managed for quail, while the other has little, to no management at all.

With intensive management comes diversity, of not only the vegetation, but of the critters that inhabit that area. Fortunately my points rest within the managed area, which allows me to witness some pretty incredible things. There is so much going on, that it is somewhat difficult to keep up logging each bird that calls within my listening area.

So, what do you think we are finding in these monitoring areas? If you guessed the managed area has a higher density of quail and other upland songbirds, you'd be right! Each year, the managed area has shown a significant increase in quail and other song bird densities, compared to the unmanaged area. This past spring breeding bird survey showed us a density of quail that yielded a bird per acre. This is the first time in decades that Missouri has seen wild quail densities at this magnitude. During the October Covey Count survey, I took fellow MO FBB, Ethan Kleekamp with me to one of my listening points on 10/24. You can imagine our excitement when we logged 18 coveys during that survey! Ethan was able to catch some footage during the survey that can be found at https://www.facebook.com/pg/MissouriQF/videos/?ref=page_internal. Thanks to this partnership, these monitoring efforts are providing the proof that habitat is your key to quail! Don't forget to give the Missouri QF Facebook page a like after you watch!

Programs	Acres Impacted
FSA	1,028.74
NRCS	244.00
TOTAL	1,388.34

Conservation Planning

- 124 Landowner Contacts
- 22 Site Visits
- 28 Conservation Plans Written/Modified
- 13 Status Review/Checkout
- 43 Eligibility/Ranking Assessments
- 1 Rx Burn Plans Completed

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Andrew White - Livingston, Linn, and Carroll Counties

October – December 2018

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NBCI Monitoring Training	Assisted Beth Emmerich with a training on how to conduct NBCI monitoring surveys for new MO PF/QF staff.
FY19 EQIP Rollout Training	Participated in a conference call/webinar and received updates regarding policy changes and other topics for FY19 EQIP sign up.
UTV Training	Participated in an online and in-person training to safely operate UTVs, given by ROHVA and provided by NRCS.
NRCS Area Planners Meetings	Attended two Area 1 planners meetings to receive updates and guidance when working with NRCS Programs.

Outreach & Education

- Assisted NBCI and MDC partners in conducting the NBCI Fall Covey Count Surveys in the 2C Focus Area.
- Assisted local MDC office in Fall Covey Count Surveys at Poosey Conservation Area.
- Hosted a Landowner Assistance station at the 32nd Annual Poosey Conservation Area Fall Driving Tour. The tour received over 3,000 were in visitors.
- Have been meeting and will continue to meet with local QF chapters to assist with banquet planning.

Looking Forward

- Will present, along with Linn County PLC, Rich Crowe, during a Landowner Rx Burn Workshop.
- Currently participating and will complete S130/S190 fire training curriculum, as part of a Missouri QF team effort to become certified.
- Will be assisting the 2C and Shortgrass QF chapters with their annual banquets.
- Selected to attend the Missouri Natural Resources Conference at Tan-Tar-A in February where natural resource professionals converge to share the latest news in natural resources conservation.
- Continue to provide technical assistance to partners and landowners within my work area.
- Continue training to maintain NRCS Conservation Planner certification.

If you would like to discuss habitat projects on your land or if you know someone else that is interested in wildlife habitat work, please contact me using the information below.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe, & Shelby Counties

Oct-Dec 2018

Beyond State Lines



Fire Summit, Ardmore, Oklahoma

The second quarter of FY19 began with an exciting training opportunity in Ardmore, Oklahoma

where the topic of conversation was implementing large scale prescribed fire. I had the opportunity to hear from professionals and landowners who promoted the useful effects of fire on the landscape and the challenges they have faced. The seminars and discussions were followed by a demonstration burn on a large property within the Oklahoma Arbuckles (an area with extensive rock outcropping). The terrain was fascinating and their methods enlightening. Much to my surprise the late summer burn was very effective in reaching their management objectives. It burned hot enough to remove much of the debris and green vegetation. I observed areas burned the previous year where beneficial forage (a critical component to their grazing operation) flourished. It was also very apparent how heavily prescribed fire is relied upon to control cedar encroachment within these systems.



Fire Summit, Ardmore, Oklahoma

QUAIL SURVEY: While in Oklahoma, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever staff helped the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) complete several annual covey counts. The brisk, early morning and great cooperation between Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma biologists allowed for us to not only assist ODWC but to build professional relationships across state lines while experiencing Oklahoma's unique landscape.

Quarter Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 57 Landowner Contacts
- 16 Site Visits
- 4 Projects With Acres
- 3 Outreach Events
- 5 Outreach Publications
- 4 Trainings

Total Acres Impacted: 24.9

SOIL HEALTH

Making a Difference

I attended the Soil Health Workshop hosted by the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District. I encouraged several landowners to attend the function. It was a great workshop that was applauded by many. The rainfall simulator set the stage for the valuable information provided throughout the day. Barry Fisher, NRCS Soil Health Specialist, shared his knowledge of soil health, cover crops, and no-till systems. It was an incredible day of learning. Landowners and professionals alike were engaged and traveled back home with understanding of some very valuable concepts..



Rainfall Simulator, Monroe County

Courtney Nicks
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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report

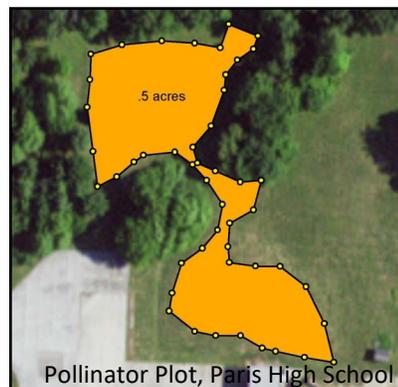


Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe, & Shelby Counties

Oct-Dec 2018

Ongoing and Upcoming

What an exciting time to put our best foot forward! This fall I had the opportunity to work with many of our partners to seed a pollinator plot at the Paris High School. MFA Precision Agronomy Manager, Matt Hill, MDC Private Land Conservationist, Jamie Ebbesmeyer and I met with Paris High School Ag teacher, Josh Bondy, to discuss the seeding of a half-acre pollinator plot. After spending an afternoon with Mr. Bondy we were able to identify an area that would work great for a pollinator seeding. The site selected for enhancement was a mowed area adjacent to a grove of native trees planted nearly 20 years ago. An area ideal for a local walking trail and opportunity to showcase valuable conservation that can easily be replicated.



Pollinator Plot, Paris High School

We proceeded with two herbicide applications, equipment supplied by the Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter, to set back cool season grasses that dominated the plot. MFA supplied a quality 20 species seed mix that we determined beneficial for a variety of pollinator species, including Monarchs. On the day of planting, Mr. Bondy and 10 of his students (a mix of sophomores, juniors, and seniors) combined the pollinator seed with a pine mini-flakes carrier to evenly distribute the seed. Once mixed, each student broadcast the seed over the prepped area bucket by bucket.



Students Mixing Pollinator Seed with Carrier



Students Seeding Pollinator Plot

We couldn't have asked for a better day. With temperatures in the upper 40s and the sun shining, positive comments streamed from the students as they laughed and joked, discarding the fluffy seeds over the area. After about an hour, the plot was seeded and ready for the light rain forecasted for that evening.

Mr. Bondy and his students will be growing a sample of the seeds in the school's greenhouse, offering a chance to observe which species to expect from the plot down the road. I am very excited to see the progress of this project. It is a great opportunity for the students to manage the plot as it matures and lend a helping hand in its progress. In fact, this effort has already sparked a new interests in continuing conservation on the school district acres. Discussions of bush honey suckle removal have started and before too long will be implemented. I am confident that this project will instigate many future conservation efforts for the school and community.

A big thanks to the Paris High School Administration, Students, and Partners for making this possible!

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Marion, Monroe, & Shelby Counties

Oct-Dec 2018

Accomplishments and more...

- **Oct 1st - 3rd** Attended the Fire Summit in Ardmore, Oklahoma
- **Oct 2nd** ODWC NBCI covey count on Cross Timber WMA
- **Oct 11th** Assisted with the wildlife portion of the Envirothon competition, Mark Twain Visitors Center
- **Oct 13th** Helped coordinate the Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter Banquet, Madison, MO
- **Oct 26th** Submitted a poster presentation abstract for MNRC, "How Does Seeding Rate Influence Plant Expression? Observation of Three Third-year Native Plantings"

- **Nov 20th** Submitted "Habitat in the Snow", an article in the SWCD Soil Conscious Newsletter
- **Dec 1st** Created a contest on social media to support Casey's General Store promotion of QF & PF
- **Dec 12th** Soil Health Workshop, Madison, MO
- **Dec 19th** Worked with partners to complete Paris High School Pollinator Seeding

Completed Trainings

- * **Oct 16th** UTV Online Training - NRCS
- * **Oct 17th** UTV Field Training - NRCS
- * **Oct 23rd** Webinar - Role of Agriculture in Supporting Pollinators
- * **Nov 13th** Agroforestry Training - NRCS

A PERSONAL NOTE

This quarter has not only been great professionally but also personally. In November I accompanied my family on a Colorado mule deer hunt where we harvested some great deer. Following that adventure, I was able to hunt opening weekend of Missouri's rifle season and proud to say I have filled my freezer! Now my weekends are directed towards training my 9 month old pup. Full of energy, like most German Shorthair Pointers, he can be a handful, but blessed with a good nose.

The final and best part of this quarter was spending the holidays with close family and friends. Hopefully like many, 2019 has started with good health and big smiles. Can't get much better than that!

May the new year be even better than the last!

Looking Forward, I will...

- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners.
- Complete the online S130/190 fire training curriculum
- Complete MDC level 2 and 3 fire training
- Continue the NRCS conservation planner apprentice training
- Help build Missouri Quail Forever R3 outreach efforts
- Present seed study poster at the 2019 Missouri Natural Resource Conference.
- Help coordinate our Quail Forever State Habitat Meeting
- Assist with MDC burn trainings open to landowners
- Attend NEMO Soil Health Workshop in Monroe City, MO
- Attend upcoming Quail Forever chapter meetings and functions

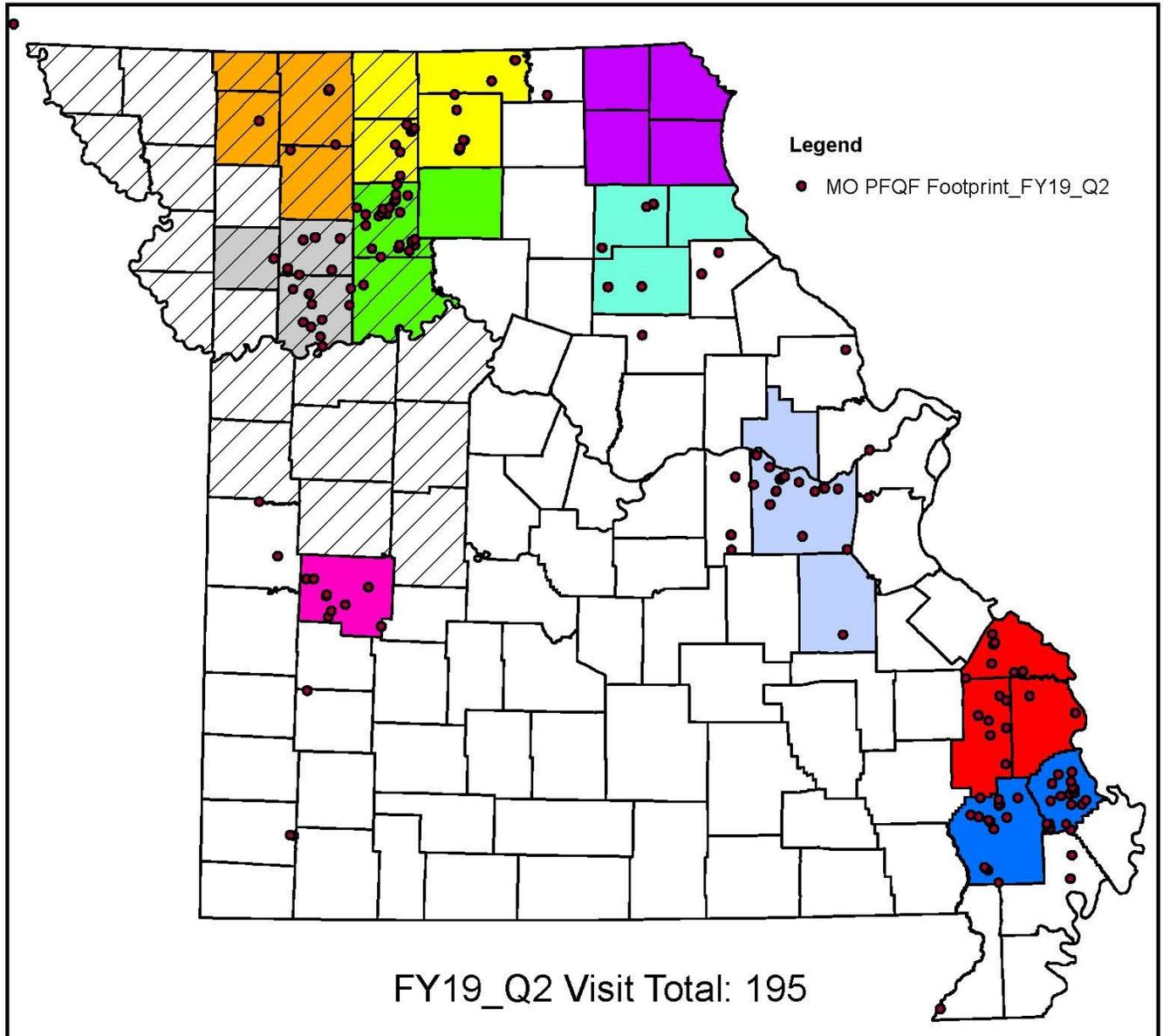
**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP October 2018 - December 2018



Updated: 1/14/2019



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

October – December 2018

Position Update

I have continued to gain valuable experience and knowledge while serving the farmers and landowners of Ray, Caldwell, and Clinton county as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. After a busy summer of CSP planning and CRP reenrollments, I encountered many new challenges and opportunities as my focus shifted to EQIP signups and the varied conservation objectives landowners have wanted to pursue.

Extending Our Reach

As farm bill biologists, we work exclusively with *voluntary* conservation programs. In doing such, we are essentially in the business of conservation sales, and are often competing with other, more lucrative land use options. Thus, we cannot simply rely on educating landowners and managers about wildlife trends and habitat needs, but need to generate interest and enthusiasm for conservation as well. This quarter, I witnessed the power of visual media to do just that.



Documenting the fall covey counts we conducted to assist MDC with their quail monitoring efforts

In October, I was able to assist MDC with their annual fall covey counts in support of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative. I was assigned to a location within the 2C Quail Focus Area, and after receiving a brief training on the data collection protocol, set my calendar so I could be out listening when the weather was prime for calling. Despite being at a control point, I was still able to hear a few coveys. When I returned to the office, my coworkers, some of whom have been life-long quail hunters, were shocked to

Continued on next page

<u>Conservation Planning</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 Landowner Contacts • 21 Site Visits • 11 Seed Mix Reviews • 7 Eligibility / Ranking Assessments • 9 Status Review / Checkouts 	Program Involvement	Acres Impacted
	Conservation Stewardship Program	70.4
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	2.2
	Total	72.6



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

October – December 2018

Outreach *continued*

hear about the predawn fall ritual. Having never heard the “koi-lee” calling before, they promptly went online to track down some audio recordings of this mysterious sound. After seeing this reaction, I thought it would be fun to capture some audio of my own during the next survey. Rather than return to my control site, Andrew White, a fellow QF Farm Bill Biologist up in Livingston County, invited me out to his survey point within the focus area to capture the action. He had been hearing quite a few coveys within the CP38 Quail S.A.F.E. area he was assigned to, and that morning did not disappoint. The calling started early and lasted for nearly 20 minutes, with upwards of 15 coveys pinpointed on the map!

After looking through the videos, we picked our favorite and uploaded it to our Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri Facebook page thinking that people might be interested in hearing this lesser-known Bobwhite call. As it turns out, they were. Within the first week the video received over 4,000 views, a veritable “viral video” for our budding social media presence. Moreover, the video *reached* over 14,000 people, and generated additional page visits for our organization and our partners alike. This video not only helped educate people about quail biology, it got them talking about it, and demonstrated the importance of multimedia outreach to engage more people.

Team Building on the Prairie

The November quail opener found much of our team trekking through the sprawling prairies of Southwest Missouri. This was the first time some of us were visiting this part of the state, and we couldn't have asked for a better guide than Len Gilmore, a fellow QF biologist and former manager of the Wah-Kon-Tah MDC area we were hunting. He answered all of our questions concerning area history and management, told us all of the unfamiliar plant names, pointed out the benefits of the ongoing conservation grazing, and even got us backstage passes to visit the TNC seed processing facility on the area. Bagging my first ever quail and limit of woodcock was just the cherry on top!



Touring Wah-Kon-Tah behind a team of English and German Shorthaired Pointers

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

October – December 2018

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NBCI Fall Covey Count Training	Attended a National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative fall covey count training hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation. This training equipped me with the knowledge to partake in this year's counts within the 2C quail focus area.
MDC Fire Management Level II	Attended the three day wildfire and prescribed burn training hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation Southwest Region in October. This training is integral for acquiring the knowledge and credentials to write prescribed burn plans to help landowners in my area manage plant succession and improve their wildlife habitat.
University of Missouri Agroforestry Training	Attended the University of Missouri's agroforestry workshop in Richmond in early November. Among other topics, this training covered silvopastures, riparian forest buffers, alley cropping, and other ways to incorporate trees into farm planning to improve environmental quality and bolster profitability.
NRCS Area 1 EQIP Planners Meeting	Attended the Natural Resource Conservation Service Area 1 planners meeting to learn more about timelines, screening, and ranking strategies for this year's EQIP signup.

Looking Forward

- Now that the EQIP signup has come and gone, the real work of screening, ranking, and planning will begin. For me this will include venturing into new arenas as I help guide landowners in planning and implementing their various wildlife habitat projects.
- Myself and other recent Missouri PFQF hires will be heading north to Minnesota for a new employee orientation at Pheasants Forever national headquarters. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet regional and national staff, fellow biologists, and help teach us how to best perform our jobs and maximize our conservation impacts.
- In March we will be hosting our 6th annual State Habitat Convention in Columbia, MO. This will provide an awesome opportunity to meet with chapters, partners, and other QF staff to celebrate our past achievements and plan out our future goals.
- I am eager to continue efforts to update our Missouri Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever website to better disseminate habitat knowledge, drive landowner contacts, and increase participation in upland wildlife habitat restoration.
- The next several months will also offer several professional development and education opportunities. Chief among these will be an MDC Fire Management Level III course in January.
- Lastly, I am excited to assist with the annual banquets being hosted by my area PFQF chapters in the coming months, helping to grow landowner interest and participation in my work area.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

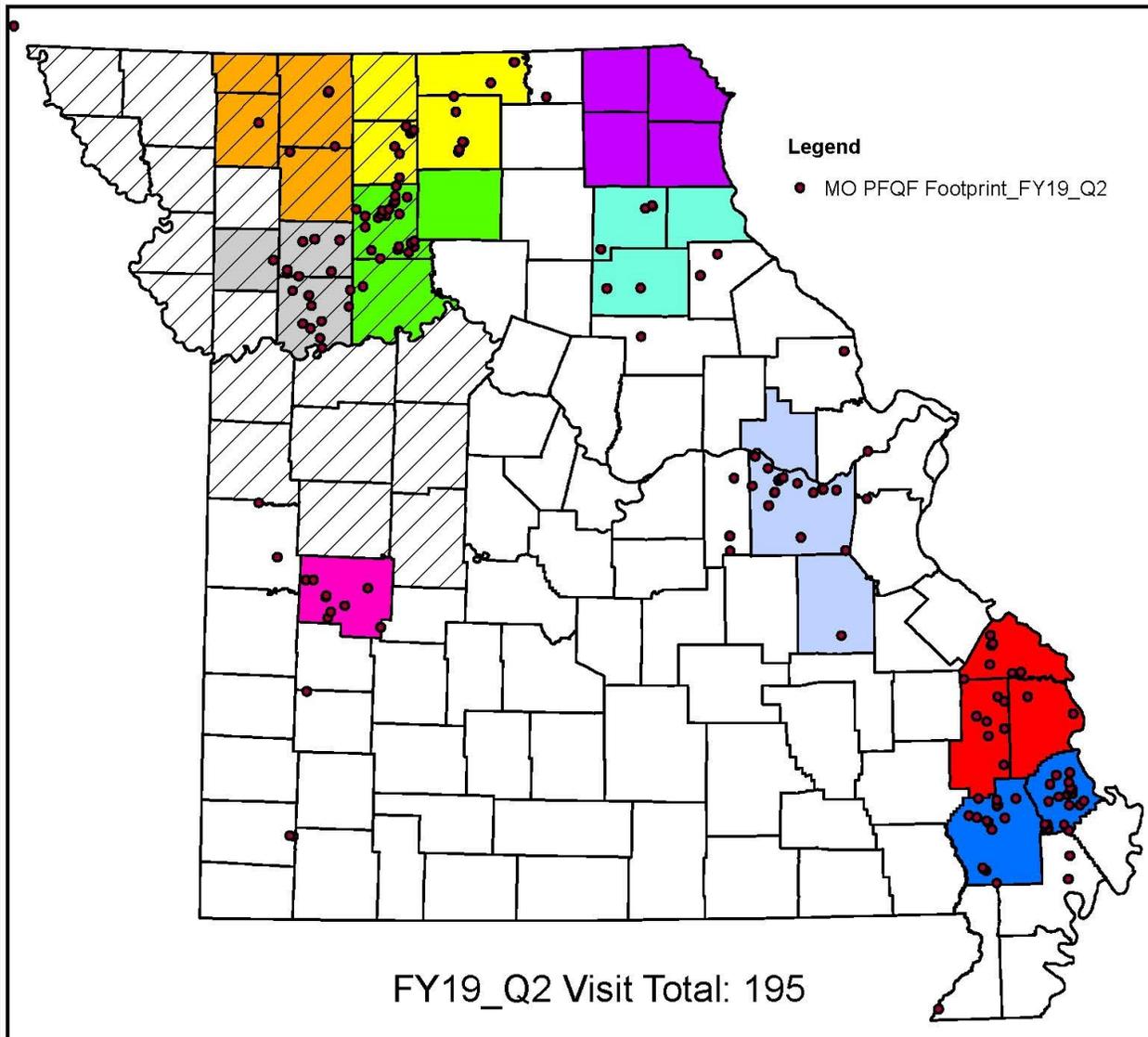
Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Ray, Caldwell, & Clinton County

October – December 2018

FY19 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP October 2018 - December 2018



Updated: 1/14/2019



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

OCT – DEC 2018

Quarterly Overview

This quarter provided me an opportunity to grow in several different way. First, I started working from all four of my of county offices to increase my availability to landowners. I had the goal of working from each office at least twice a month. Through this rotation, I was able to meet new landowner as they came to the USDA Office seeking information about conservation assistance and available programs
Second, I was presented with the opportunity to assist landowners in an EQIP sign up. With this sign up I have been able to assist landowners with the beginning stages of selecting the right conservation plan to reach their conservation goals. I look forward to continue working with the landowners as they implement these practices on their property.

Habitat On the Ground

During the EQIP sign up several landowners expressed interest in the Monarch Program. This sign up provided an opportunity for me to help landowners understand the benefits that monarchs and pollinator habitat provide to wildlife. Landowners were intrigued to discover that a Monarch planting provides quality brood habitat for quail, pheasant and turkeys along with benefits to native song birds. As I assisted the landowners with planning their monarch plots, they invited me to tour their farm. During these site visits, I answered questions and provided suggestions on how they could improve their land for wildlife. Some of the advice I offered allowed the landowners to begin working on improvements right away while such as edge feathering. Other projects that we discussed were planned for the future.

Through the EQIP sign-up I also met landowners who came in with questions about EQIP but decided it wasn't for them or it was not quite the right time. Through these contacts I was able to provide technical assistance and begin planning other ways that these landowners can reach their objectives. I will share the story of one such contact below in my landowner spotlight.

Monarch Fund Pool EQIP

- 13 Landowners Contacted
- 42.6 Acres Planned
- 5 Counties reached

Working with Partners

I was afforded the opportunity to work with several partners this quarter to increase our impact across Missouri. In October, I participated in a Fall Covey Count Training with the Missouri Department of Conservation. The following day I was able to assist the Poosey Conservation Area staff by filling in at one of their listening points. It was a beautiful morning and I heard several coveys at my location.

Throughout October I was able to assist the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative with their annual survey. I was assigned a control point and listened there a couple times. Both times I was able to hear at least two coveys calling.

Roeslein Alternative Energy requested assistance in setting up listening post on their property. I designed the listening post and went out with their Wildlife and Ecological Services Manager to help them with their survey. The habitat work being conducted on Roeslein is really paying off. We all heard several coveys that morning.

I was able to work with a new partner, Pure Air Wildlife Management Coop. This is a Coop of dedicated landowners who work together to create habitat through a variety of conservation practices. They invited me to come participate in one of their evening meetings where we discussed woodland management and the benefits of controlled burns in a woodland. I was able to discuss with them the benefit that TSI and burning can have on restoring native landscapes and improving the timber for upland birds and turkeys. I look forward to the work we will do together in the upcoming year.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

OCT – DEC 2018

Landowner Spotlight

During the EQIP sign-up I met a couple interested in learning more about the Monarch Program. I drove out to a 45 acre farm in northern Putnam county that Jim and Barb Mothershead had recently purchased. They were excited to discuss their goals and objectives for this property. Together we drove and walked around their property and discussed timelines and projects for each section. When we first started the tour Jim said something to me that really stood out. He told me their goal was to make this farm a better place than when they bought it. As we continued our visit, Jim and Barb displayed genuine excitement toward making their farm a better place for wildlife. As we drove across the property Jim and Barb showed me where a trash dump once sat. Now the area was clean and the old dump was undetectable and I would have never known it was there. They also showed me their food plot they had just planted and I was able to share with them tiny new clover plant just beginning to grow. Throughout the visit they showed me some of the unique and beautiful treasure on their property. We beheld a beautiful old white oak tree in the middle of their food plot which they had appropriately named the magic tree. This proud old giant catches the attention of anyone who enters that field. They were also excited to show me a tree that splits at the bottom and grows into one tree at the top. I have never seen anything like it before (see picture). I wanted to share the story of Jim and Barb because they possess an attitude of enthusiasm and motivation to do work for conservation. As we talked they decided that this sign up was not the right time for them to apply for EQIP. However, that is not going to stop them from working to make their farm a better place. Together we are putting together a management plan to transform their old brome grass fields into native forbs and grasses. With the help of the Missouri Department of Conservation area Forester we are creating a forest stewardship plan to fight invasive and undesirable species in their timber. Jim told me they are ready to work and from what Jim and Barb have already accomplished I know they will be a great partner in conservation and I look forward to putting habitat on the ground with them for many years.



One of the many treasures on the Motherhead's Property



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

OCT – DEC 2018

Training/Meeting Type	Summary
Level 2 Burn Training	Completed the Missouri Department of Conservation Level 2 Burn Training.
Fall Covey Count Training	Participated in training from the Missouri Department of Conservation in order to conduct Fall Covey Count Surveys.
NRCS Conservation Report	Recorded a radio spot for the local radio NRCS Conservation Report highlighting EQIP, Pollinators and the Monarch Fund Pool.
S190 Burn Training	Completed the computer portion of the S190 Burn Training
Social Media Contest	Assisted with the creation of a contest that supported the Casey's General Store QF/PF Promotion.
NRCS Apprentice Planner Training	Began the NRCS Apprentice Planner Training online.

Looking Forward

- Attended Pheasants and Quail Forever New Employee Orientation in Minnesota.
- Working with PBA members to complete spring burn plans.
- Complete MDC Level 3 Burn Training.
- Complete the Computer Portion of S130 Training.
- Complete the in person class for federal S130/190 Training.
- Assist MDC with a Landowner Burn Workshop.
- Attend the Missouri State Habitat Meeting.

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



Position Update

As summer turned to fall I was busy with continuing setting up the Upper Osage Prescribed Burn Association. Final paperwork was sent in applying for non-profit status through the IRS. The UOPBA is waiting to get approval for that status, but in the meantime a list of burn equipment needed for the PBA has been put together. Application for funding has been submitted to the NWTF. The hope is for the UOPBA to get enough burn equipment and begin conducting prescribed burns beginning in the spring of 2019.

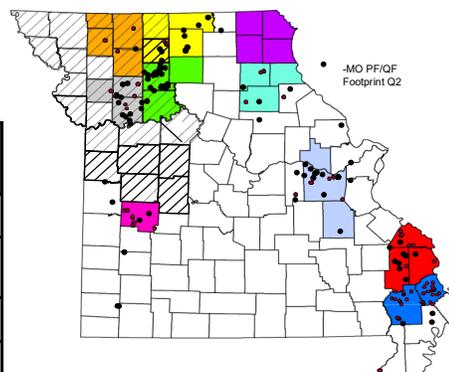
Private Lands Partners Day comes to Southwest Missouri

The national group, Partners for Conservation, held their annual meeting in southwest Missouri to showcase landowners from across the nation how rural life is lived where the Great Plains meet the Ozarks. Quail Forever joined several partners in Missouri to organize the conference and field tour. The conference was hosted by Bass Pro Shop at the White River Conference Center where talks were given about how rural owners operate their properties in a sustainable manner. On the second day of the conference participants enjoyed visiting several farms and other properties to see how country folks in southwestern part of Missouri diversify their land management to benefit the ecosystem while making a living on their property. One of the talks was given to groups of participants about the importance of fire in managing native grasslands and how landowners such as Dave Haubein use prescribed fire to manage cattle grazing in his patch-burn grazed pastures. This type of grazing system was emphasized as important for all types of grassland birds such as Bobwhite quail.



Dave Haubein speaks with a group of PLPD participants about Conservation Ranching on his farm in Dade County. Photo by Larry Dean/USFWS

Missouri PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map
October 2018 - December 2018



FY19 Q2 Visit Total: 195

Conservation Planning

- 33 Landowner Contacts
- 18 Site Visits

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP	30
FWS Partners	13
CTA	30
Total	73



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist **USDA**



Quarterly Partners' Report

Len Gilmore—St.Clair Co.

Oct. – December 2018

Outreach & Education

- Attended Private Lands Partner Day conference held in Springfield, Missouri. Helped man QF booth during the conference.
- Presented the importance of fire in grassland ecosystem on private land in southwest Missouri to 204 participants for the Private Lands Partner Day field tour at Dave Haubein's farm.
- Assisted MDC PLCs in conducting a Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop in the Upper Osage Grassland geography. There were 28 landowners that attended from the three counties.
- Participated in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count in St. Clair County. Recorded 43 species totaling a little over 500 birds. This is the 33rd year running this route. With the lack of habitat along the county roads explains not recording Northern Bobwhites on the route.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Adaptive Grazing Workshop	Attended an Adaptive Grazing Workshop hosted by Greene County SWCD. Alan Williams spoke with producers from southwest Missouri about pasture management and using high density grazing.
Soil Monitoring	Met with Patrick Davis, Regional Livestock Specialist, to collect soil samples from prairie pastures for the monitoring project the University of Missouri Extension is doing under the NRCS + MU Grassland Project.
Upper Osage Grassland Geography	Met with MDC PLCs to identify priority communities within the Upper Osage Grassland geography to for landowners that have prairie on their property and also do grazing.

Looking Forward

- Work with Wesley at the Livestock, Crop & Wildlife Winter Forum in Montgomery County. We will discuss the Pollinator Program in Missouri and how native flowering plants work in a grazing system.
- Continue preparing Prescribed Burn Plans for landowners.
- Continue drafting landowner pamphlet for grazing native forages.
- Continue working with Jake Swafford to hold a landowner burn workshop at the Hundley-Whaley Research Center in Gentry County.
- Collaborate with PLCs to make landowner contacts within the Upper Osage Grassland.



Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



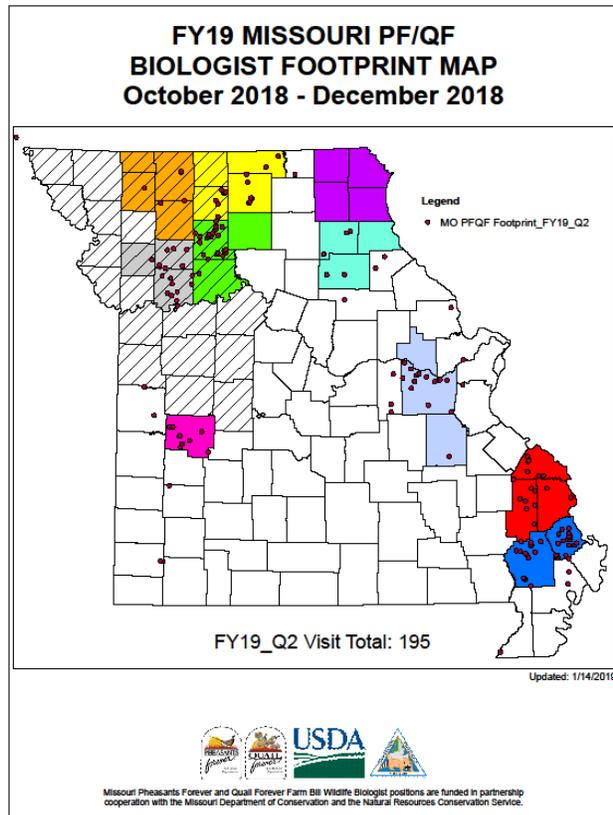
Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

October-December 2018

This Past Quarter...

It was a great fall to get out and enjoy the outdoors. I was able to spend some time on successful deer, duck, and upland hunts—even harvesting my first quail on our MO Quail Forever Team hunt!

When not afield, it was an active time assisting landowners and producers in site preparation for monarch and pollinator plantings to be established this winter through a variety of programs (EQIP, CSP, CRP, MDC Landowner Assistance Program, and QF Habitat Challenge Grant. I worked with several landowners to create EQIP applications that can help reach their habitat goals with practices including: monarch plantings, prescribed burning, brush management, herbaceous weed control (sericea control), and woodland thinning. Check out the map to the right to see where myself and the rest of the MO QF Team had been the last quarter—assisting landowners and producers on the farm with Farm Bill and habitat related topics.



Map of Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist landowner site visits Oct-Dec 2018.

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning

- 93 Landowner Contacts
- 21 Site Visits
- 3 Conservation Plans Written
- 5 Pollinator/monarch seeding plans written
- 10 EQIP applications completed & ranked
- 1 Prescribed Burn Plan



Some of the MO QF staff on the Team Hunt in SW MO

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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

October-December 2018

“The Habitat Organization”

I hear it quite a bit: “You work for Quail Forever? Well I’m more interested in managing for deer and turkey”. I understand the hat I wear has two quail on the logo and the word “quail” is half of the organization’s name. What the quail represents is so much more.

Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever is the nation’s largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation and is recognized as “The Habitat Organization”. With the unique partnership between Quail Forever, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Missouri Department of Conservation, biologists such as myself are able to assist landowners with all things wildlife.

Tyler Abernathy is a Bollinger County landowner who bought his farm for he and his family’s enjoyment, mostly deer, and dabbling with the excitement of turkey hunting. Tyler contacted me with

questions about wildlife habitat, wanting to know what opportunities there were to improve the farm to meet his objectives. We met on the farm and walked the property, discussing various practices that would work towards his goals. We formulated a management plan to create a few woodland and grassland prescribed burn units to significantly increase the amount and quality of deer browse and brood rearing habitat for turkey and even quail. We also identified two areas to create small green browse food plots to concentrate hunting opportunities. Tyler was quick to implement the management plan. He installed the food plots with proper lime and fertilizer amounts, according to soil test recommendations, and successfully conducted a woodland/grassland prescribed burn.

Tyler was also quick to validate his hard work to improve the wildlife habitat when he took a healthy doe during archery season. The best part was his son was able to experience the enjoyment of the outdoors at his dad’s side—another mission of “The Habitat Organization”.



A big smile from Tyler’s son after a successful day outdoors.



Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

October-December 2018

Outreach & Education

- Assisted NRCS and MDC staff with the FFA Grassland Contest.
- Presented on quail management and assisted with the habitat tour at the Mayfield Holler Wildlife Coop annual meeting in Bollinger County.
- Attended interview for an MFA Today's Farmer article with Steve Jackson of Dunklin County showcasing producers converting unproductive acres to habitat and an overview of the QF Farm Bill Biologist Program.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NRCS Workload Cycle Study	Participated in the study to capture the work Quail Forever biologists perform as it relates to NRCS goals.
National Wildfire Coordinating Group	Completed classroom portions of S-130 (wildland firefighter) and S-190 (wildland fire behavior) training, field portion to be completed. Obtaining these nationally recognized certifications to work with USFWS and USFS on prescribed burns.
Bollinger County SWCD Meetings	Provided overview/update of landowner projects and other position happenings.
NRCS UTV Safety Training	Certified to operate NRCS UTV for use on landowner visits.

MO Quail Forever Prescribed Fire Committee

I have been assisting the MO QF Team as the lead for the prescribed fire committee. We provide support to the Team and Prescribed Burn Associations related to training, burn plan writing, program policies, and technical guidance.

Accomplishments include:

- Created and shared Burn Plan Writing Best Management Practices with the Team.
- Shared the burn plan ArcMap symbology layer package with the Team to make the process of creating burn plan maps more efficient.
- Coordinated the attendance to MDC Level 2&3 Fire Training for Team.
- Worked with NRCS ITS to certify S-130 & S-190 training software and BehavePlus fire behavior modeling software for installation to USDA computers for the Team.
- Coordinating S-130 field portion training for prescribed fire committee and Shortgrass QF Chapter volunteers.



Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

October-December 2018

Looking Forward

- Complete AgLearn courses to work towards obtaining NRCS Apprentice Conservation Planner certification.
- Complete NWCG S-130 field portion of training and pack test.
- Help coordinate prescribed fire trainings for QF team and landowner Prescribed Burn Association members.
- Instruct the Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop at MDC Cape Regional Office February 12.
- Bootheel Bobs QF Chapter Youth Pollinator Event at Fox Haven Country Club in Sikeston March 9.
- MO QF State Habitat Meeting in Columbia March 16.
 - Presenting:
 - “Using Prescribed Fire on Your Property”
 - “Prescribed Fire in Missouri”
- Assist and support southern MO QF biologists in newly created partnership positions.
 - Rachel Settle - Ste Genevieve
 - Colby Sharp - Houston
 - Erin Forsythe - Carthage
- Continue to assist landowners with site visits to identify landowner objectives and habitat opportunities.
- Spend time on the family farm completing habitat projects.



**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



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

Oct-Dec 2018

Important Partnerships

Every year, the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosts local elementary school students at their annual farm tours. This past October, the SWCD hosted their 18th annual farm tour at the Puetz Farm north of Warrenton, MO. This event regularly welcomes more than 250 local 4th-grade students. During the farm tour, the students learn about farm safety, soil conservation, water quality, rocks and minerals, forestry, and wildlife. During the water quality station, the children get the opportunity to wet a fishing line in the landowner's pond. For this to be a safe and fun activity it takes many SWCD, partner employees, and volunteers to help bait hooks, untangle fishing lines, and ensure everyone's safety. While this may not seem like the normal duties of a Quail Forever (QF) wildlife biologist, helping our partners is vitally important because we are all accomplishing great things for conservation. Partners like the SWCD give QF biologist the opportunity to reach landowners they might otherwise not be able to reach through different workshops and other events. Although our different organizations focus on different aspects of conservation, whether that be soil health and conservation, water quality, or improving wildlife habitat, we are all working towards the same common goal: bettering our natural resources.



Future pollinator planting in Ameren right of way.

Conservation Planning

- 90 Landowner Contacts
- 26 Site Visits
- 1 Prescribed Burn Plan Written

NRCS Programs

Reviewed seed mixes for CSP and EQIP covering 34.9 ac

Assisted landowners to submit 6 EQIP applications.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
2 NRCS FOSA Staff Meetings	Updated NRCS staff on what I have been working on and received updates NRCS programs.
NRCS UTV Training	Learned how to safely operate UTVs
FY19 EQIP Rollout Training	Learned about policy changes regarding EQIP for NRCS fiscal year 2019.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

Oct-Dec 2018

Important Partnerships (Cont.)

In eastern Missouri, a partnership between the Habitat Organization and Ameren has been expanding. Ameren has recently committed to sponsoring the upcoming Missouri Quail Forever State Habitat Meeting and is committing more resources to improve pollinator habitat in their transmission line right of ways. Ameren is identifying landowners with transmission lines going through their properties and may be interested in establishing habitat to benefit pollinators in those right of ways. Quail Forever biologists will provide technical assistance as needed. There may be potential in the future for local QF Chapters to partner with Ameren to establish these plots. There is currently a project underway in Franklin County where local Quail Forever biologist, Wesley Hanks, is helping with site preparation and providing technical assistance.

Partnerships are becoming more important and being a good partner involves supporting and helping each others out to ensure that the goals of each partner are achieved.

Outreach & Education

- Presented on Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, habitat management, and upland bird hunting to high schoolers at Oakville High School in St. Louis.
- Set up and informational booth and spoke about quail and pollinator habitat conservation at Hillerman Nursery in Washington, MO.
- Along with local landowners and MDC staff, Fall covey counts were completed inside and outside of the Boeuf-Bourbeuse Valley Quail Focus Area in Franklin County.



Pollinator event at Hillerman Nursery

Looking Forward

- On January 17th, I will be presenting on the importance of pollinators at the Winter Forum hosted by the Warren county SWCD
- I will be helping out with and visiting with QF members at the upcoming MO River Valley banquet
- The Missouri Quail Forever team will be hosting their annual State Habitat Meeting on March 16.
- I will continue to help landowners achieve their habitat management goals utilizing both state and federal cost-share programs.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess Counties

October – December 2018

Position Update

This past quarter a lot of my time has been spent coordinating monarch butterfly conservation efforts with our partners and promoting opportunities for landowner participation. Working with NRCS, I developed a news release that was shared statewide in Missouri, encouraging landowners to establish monarch/pollinator habitat through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)-Monarch Initiative. A similar format was used to reach landowners in Indiana, sharing information on the state's first Monarch-Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) signup. Of course, successful program signups mean I've been spending lots of time providing guidance to interested landowners as well as NRCS planners tasked with developing the plans. I've also been working to build relationships with new partners, including meeting with MU's Hundley-Whaley Research Center about habitat demonstration plots and possible research projects as well as helping to host a Monarch-RCP Partners Meeting bringing all 8 states and partners agencies together to discuss the project. With the holidays behind us, things are picking back up with lots to accomplish in 2019.

Monarch Conservation Partners Meeting

In November Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) hosted a joint meeting focusing on monarch butterfly conservation efforts. I was lucky enough to attend with along with several PF/QF colleagues from across the monarch range. The meeting was terrific opportunity to learn about strategies and unique partnerships that are benefiting monarchs as well as some of the challenges the conservation community is facing while trying to save this iconic species.



Attendees at the Monarch Conservation Partners Meeting pose for a group photo. Over 160 individuals attended, representing 100 organizations and 30 states.

In a jam-packed two days, partners learned from 60 presentations on the latest in monarch conservation science, projects and case studies within priority land-based conservation sectors,

Continued on next page.

Conservation Planning

- 67 Landowner Contacts
- 6 Projects with Acres
- 9 Eligibility/ Ranking Assessments
- 4 Site Visits

Programs	Acres Impacted
CSP	145.9
CP42 Pollinator	180
CP38 Quail SAFE	134.9
Total	460.8



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Harrison, Gentry, Worth, Daviess Counties

July – September 2018

on-the-ground conservation briefings by stakeholders across disciplines, and updates on regional, national and international species conservation status processes. The meeting was also a great opportunity for networking with the diverse group of stakeholders involved; over 160 participants from 100 organizations attended the event representing 30 states.

The Quail Forever Monarch-RCPP team took advantage of the conference and hosted a Monarch RCPP Partners Meeting prior to the larger gathering. This meeting brought the 8 states involved in the project and all its partners, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and Quail Forever (QF), to the table to discuss the status of the program and begin planning future efforts. Another meeting is planned for April to ensure that program signups are going smoothly.

Both these meeting are great examples of why partnerships and coordination are critical to monarch conservation and I'm glad I was able to be involved.

Outreach & Education

- Attended Level 2 Burn Training hosted by Missouri Department of Conservation to advance my knowledge of prescribed fire and work toward being able to develop burn plans for landowners.
- Wrote a vignette focusing on the success of the Monarch -RCPP program in Missouri. It was shared nationally by NRCS.
- Developed new releases for Missouri's Monarch-EQIP signup as well as Indiana's Monarch– RCPP signup, encouraging landowners to establish monarch/pollinator habitat on their operations.
- Met with Hundley-Whaley Research Center to discuss development of habitat demonstration plots and possible research projects .

Additional Work

- Began planning a burn workshop in cooperation with Hundley-Whaley Research Center.
- Completed semi-annual report to NFWF for the Monarch-RCPP.

Looking Forward

- I will continue to work on FY19's Monarch-EQIP applications which should begin the planning process shortly.
- I will attend Level 3 Burn Training in January.
- Begin to coordinate and plan a RCPP Partners Meeting follow up in April to discuss signup results for FY19.
- Work with Indiana NRCS staff to plan and develop Monarch-RCPP contracts
- I will attend the Conservation Federation of Missouri's annual convention in March.
- I plan to host a burn workshop at the Hundley -Whaley Research Center in Albany sometime in February.
- Working with Monarch Coordinators from Oklahoma and Iowa, we will continue to deliver RCPP efforts across its range.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in Harrison, Gentry, Worth, and Daviess counties who are interested in establishing habitat for Monarchs, quail, and other upland wildlife.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Daniel Bollinger - Scott and Stoddard Counties

October–December 2018

Position Update

As a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, I continue to provide advice about habitat management practices to landowners in Scott, Stoddard, and other counties who share an interest in improving wildlife habitat and conserving natural resources. Much of my work this time of year involves working with landowners who will soon be seeding native forbs and grasses. Whether landowners are enrolled in a federal, state, or local cost share programs; or doing habitat work on their own, it is my pleasure to provide technical guidance.

Nature Connects Us All

As 2018 came to an end, I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. For many, that involved gathering around the table to share a meal, or engaging in traditions such as venturing into the forest to find the perfect Christmas tree. Others may have been fortunate enough to enjoy peaceful therapy in a tree stand, or an open field with your four legged friend. One thing is for sure, nature connects us all.

Folks often share reports about seeing an abundance of deer tracks, or hearing an increase in the amount of quail coveys calling during the fall on their properties. In most instances, increased wildlife populations are a result of implementing habitat improvements such as prescribed fire, disking, or edge feathering. Successful stories expressed by landowners who achieve their objectives are like a ray of sunshine and prove that everyone can make a difference on the landscape. Habitat improvements correlate with healthy ecosystems to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality for a healthier way of life for all.

Now is the perfect time of the year to begin preparing prescribed fire units for spring burns. Edge feathering and timber stand improvement practices can be completed while temperatures are low and ticks should not be present. Catch a day while the ground is frozen with a blanket of snow to plant native forb seed mixes. Be sure to order trees or shrubs as the perfect time to plant them is just around the corner beginning in February. As 2019 begins, I hope you will consider contacting a local conservationist or biologist if you are interested in learning more about habitat improvements to increase wildlife in your area. Have a blessed and happy new year while enjoying nature!



- Conservation Planning**
- 119 Landowner Contacts
 - 44 Site Visits
 - 18 Status Review/ Check outs
 - 2 Conservation Plans Completed
 - 2 Burn Plans Written

CRP Practices	Acres Impacted
CP1 Introduced Grass and Legume Establishment	89.1
CP2 Native Grass, Legume, and Forb Establishment	26.1
CP23 Wetland Restoration	48.1
CP38 Early Successional Quail Habitat	190.7
CP42 Pollinator	59.3
Other CRP	68.7
Total	482

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Daniel Bollinger - Scott and Stoddard Counties

October– December 2018

Outreach & Education

- Assembled presentation for upcoming CRP and Habitat Management Workshop
- Met with MDC and Corteva to begin planning pollinator plot for youth education event

Additional Work

- Attended NRCS and University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry Training
- Participated in NRCS UTV Training
- Attended MDC Level 2 Fire Training
- Conducted 5 Fall Covey Count Surveys & Recorded survey area data in MDC database
- Attended FOSA meetings in my area to engage with partner agency employees
- Attended and assisted with Soil Health Clinic
- Began Ag Learn courses for becoming an Apprentice Conservation Planner
- Communicated with contractors and seed vendors about upcoming native forb and grass seedings.

Looking Forward

- I will continue to engage with State, Federal, and NGO partners to improve wildlife habitat and create new habitat opportunities.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in Scott, Stoddard, and surrounding counties, who are interested in improving or managing habitat for monarchs, quail, and other wildlife.
- I will continue training to complete S130/ S190 fire courses.
- I will attend QF New Employee Orientation.
- I will participate in MDC Level 3 Fire Training.
- I will conduct a CRP and Habitat Management Workshop for Landowners during January 2019.
- I am promoting and will assist with the upcoming MDC/QF Prescribed Fire Workshops in February.
- I will assist the Bootheel Bobwhite Quail Forever Chapter with planning and conducting youth pollinator events.
- I will assist with preparation for, and attend, the upcoming QF State Habitat Meeting with volunteers, state, federal, and NGO partners.



Down tree structure project

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