

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
24TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL BOBWHITE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ALBANY, GA * AUGUST 5-10, 2018



BOBWHITE QUAIL INITIATIVE





We would like to write a word of appreciation to the staff at Merry Acres Inn and Event Center.

In addition to their generosity, staff went out of their way to help event organizers make the event possible and even problem solved. Merry Acres went above and beyond to make NBTC 2018 a success.



We would also like to thank Chehaw for providing meeting space for the Annual Banquet. The appearance of the educational animals (and staff) was a rare treat.



A **huge** thank-you to Clay Sisson and staff for hosting the NBTC field tour at Pineland Plantation.

Cover Photo Credit: SWGA QF Chapter- Georgia Quail Invitational- Tallawahee Plantation

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2018 NBTC Annual Meeting
August 5 – 10, 2018
Merry Acres
Albany, GA

BOBWHITE QUAIL INITIATIVE



Meeting Agenda

Sunday, August 5, 2018

7:00 Steering Committee Meeting Georgia Room

Monday, August 6, 2018

8:00 – 10:30	Steering Committee	Georgia Room
10:30 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 12:00	Steering Committee	Georgia Room
1:00 - 3:00	State Coordinators	Dougherty Room
3:00 - 3:15	Break	
3:15 - 5:00	State Coordinators	Dougherty Room
6:00 - 11:00	Welcome Reception	Shackelford House

Shuttles will begin @5:30 from Merry Acres.

Sponsors: Quail Forever & International Forest Company & Star Seed Inc.

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

8:30 – 11:45	Plenary Session	Ballroom
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8:30- 8:45 Jess McGuire Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Private Lands Program Manager

8:45- 9:15 Mark Whitney Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Assistant Director
Building and Maintaining a Relevant Quail Program

9:15- 9:45 Don McKenzie National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, Director
Leadership continuity through change and long games

9:45- 10:15 Clay Sisson- The Albany Quail Project
Lessons Learned in 25 Years of Quail Research and Management

10:15- 10:30 Break

10:30- 11:00 Theron Terhune- Tall Timbers Game Bird Program, Director
Bobwhite Research of Today and Tomorrow: delving into questions that Stoddard could not

11:00- 11:30 James Martin- University of GA, Warnell & SREL, Associate Professor
The Intersection of Values and Science in Northern Bobwhite Management

11:30- 11:45 “Shoot From the Hip” Panel

11:45- 1:00	Lunch (provided)	Restaurant
	Sponsors: Quail Forever- UGA Chapter & CNI Ag Independent Retailers	
1:00 - 3:00	Committee meetings	
	Ag Policy	Gazebo
	Forest Management	Ballroom
	Grassland/Grazing	Georgia Room
	Communications	Manor House - Middle
	Science	Dougherty
	Open	Manor House- Couch
	Note: Ag Policy and Forestry will start together in the Ballroom	
3:00 - 3:15	Break	
3:15 - 5:00	Committee Meetings (same rooms as above)	
6:30 - 8:30	Poster Session/Social	Ballroom

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

8:00 - 12:00	Field Tour Plantation: Albany Quail Project- Tall Timbers
12:00 – 1:00	Field Lunch (provided- Potter Community Center)
	Sponsor: Quail Forever- Southwest Georgia Chapter
1:00 - 3:00	Chickasawhatchee Wildlife Management Area: GADNR
3:00 – 5:00	Committee Meetings (same rooms as above)
6:30 - 9:00	Chehaw- Dinner/Banquet

Thursday, August 9, 2018

8:00 – 10:00	Committee Updates	Ballroom
10:00 – 10:15	Break	
10:15 – 11:45	Business Meeting	Ballroom
1:45 – 12:00	Closing Remarks/Adjourn	Ballroom
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (on your own)	
1:00 - 5:00	CIP Workshop (<i>invitation</i>)	Dougherty

Friday, August 10, 2018

8:00 – 12:00	CIP Workshop	Dougherty
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THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 SPONSORS!



BOBWHITE QUAIL INITIATIVE



NBTC Steering Committee Meeting Agenda

6 August 2018

- 8:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 8:10 Meeting minutes and Treasurers Report (Morgan/Perez)
- 8:15 Directors Report (McKenzie)

- 8:45 NBCI Staff Updates
 - Ag Policy
 - Forestry
 - Grasslands
 - Communications
 - Science
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 RFP for Quail IX (Reyna)
- 10:25 PR Pen-reared release for R3 (McKenzie)
- 10:35 Meeting Rotation (Morgan)
- 10:45 Translocation Discussion (McKenzie/Morgan)
- 11:05 Leadership Workshop (McKenzie/Morgan)
- 11:25 IL Meeting (Caughran)
- 11:30 Partnership Review Team (McKenzie/Perez)
- 11:40 Future Awards (Morgan)
- 11:50 Coordinators Meeting (Kreh)
- 12:00 Adjourn

2017 – 2018 NBTC Steering Committee

Chair: John Morgan, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources John.Morgan@ky.gov (800) 858-1549

Member-At-Large: Roger Applegate, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Roger.Applegate@tn.gov (615) 781-6616

Chair-Elect/Treasurer/Secretary: Robert Perez, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Robert.Perez@tpwd.texas.gov (830) 305-2912

NBCI Representative: Don McKenzie, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative Mckenzie_NBCI@utk.edu (501) 259-0170

Past Chair: Chuck Kowaleski, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Chuck.Kowaleski@tpwd.texas.gov (254) 718-7684

University of Tennessee Representative: Dr. Pat Keyser, UT Center for Native Grasslands Management PKeyser@utk.edu (865) 974-0644

Academic Representative: Dr. Kelly Reyna, University of North Texas Kelly.Reyna@tamuc.edu (903) 886-5351

Non-Game NGO Representative: Catherine Rideout, Southeast Partners in Flight Catherine_Rideout@fws.gov (404) 679-7091

Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Representative: Chris Kreh, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Chris.Kreh@ncwildlife.org (336) 386-0892

Quail NGO Representative: Craig Alderman, Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Inc. CAlderman@quwf.net (417)-345-5960

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Representative: Bill White, Missouri Department of Conservation Bill.White@mdc.mo.gov (573) 751-4115, x-3512

Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Representative: Jay Howell, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Jay.Howell@dgif.virginia.gov (804) 641-9694

NBTC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by John Morgan at 8:00am, followed by introductions.

The previous meetings minutes were provided electronically ahead of time and no additions or edits were proposed by the Steering Committee. Nick Prough motioned to accept minutes. Bill White second, motion passes.

Treasurer's report – Perez

Reported a balance of \$25,057.39. There were 2 transactions since the last SC meeting, and one pending invoice. A call was made for volunteers to audit books with Perez after SC meeting – Bill White and Casey Bergthold volunteered.

Directors' report – McKenzie

Referred to Fiscal annual report handout for folks to look at when they have time.

Summary: Internal audit at UT resulted in accounting and reporting concerns. Auditors made recommendations to divide expenses a certain way evenly across 25 accounts. Created a "recharge" system that puts all funds in one or two pots and they draw down from there. Unfortunately, the budgets look much differently than before but most states have accepted it. A couple of states still have issues including Kansas and Texas. Two new federal contracts that have been routed through recharge system with no problem.

New federal funding grants: \$135K 2-year grant from FSA to evaluate CRP, quail, and birds. NRCS to do workshops and trainings for working lands for wildlife programs (grasslands and pines). Got the first grant from park service 20K. A small grant to test the water. OK, VA, SC and AL parks will be working with them. There is another pot of park service funds that will likely be applied for. Parks are in different stages of implementation. There is some interest in CIP but we will see.

Handout on partner contributions: FY18 t to FY19 contributions have dropped by 45K. Park Cities decided to fully fund Tom Franklin's position at 100K.

Rideout – why did Florida's contribution drop so much?

Don – not because of anything perceived bad from NBCI work. They dropped contributions across the board, new director.

Lots of new administrators at UT. All the folks that pushed to get NBCI housed there have moved on. Don and Pat Keyser have been regularly communicating with new Chancellor and interim Dean. No reason for concern at this time just wanted to bring it up.

Planning second Bobwhite Leadership Workshop. The first meeting went very well at Shaker Village. Shooting for every 2yrs. Nebraska is hosting the upcoming workshop that will include a quail hunt. Will be held at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center, Oct 31 – Nov 2. Participation may be affected by conflicting date of National Shooting Sports meeting.

Inviting CEOs of major NGO's and 5 federal agencies (not sure who to invite from Feds). This is in addition to the invites to the 25 state directors.

Jay Howell– how did last meeting go.

Don – funding was big issue, satisfied by the overall direction of NBCI, but did not like the issue raised regarding the need for more support/funding of state staff.

Morgan - will be working on the agenda, NBCI management board will look at it/bless it and then they will take over running the Leadership meeting in Nebraska.

NBCI Staff Updates

Agricultural Policy - Franklin – his role includes working with Congress and agencies in the Executive Branch to advance the NBCI agenda. Big push this past year has been related to Farm Bill. House and Senate versions are very different at this time. Also, have been very focused on Natives First, good progress with Congress, NRCS and FSA. Looking to include language to give favor to native plantings. Language is not recommended to put in statute. Looking to get language incorporated in the Conference Report. Chairman of house committee has agreed to push that language.

Also working with agencies to track/estimate what amount of natives are going in now. Also pushing for a crop fallow program. But there has been resistance to creating a new program. Perhaps follow the SAFE model. Food plots may be a way to get existing practice in CRP acreage to get some kind of disturbance. WLFW program not called a program but a strategy and has been a really great opportunity to get NGOs and NBCI involved and spend EQIP funds.

USFWS – met with acting director to provide a brief about NBCI. Requested a proposal from NBCI to consider funding/grants. Submitted 2-page proposal. Perhaps look at National Refuges and WLFW counties that fall in BRI and WLFW areas. Not all refuges are in the right areas but some are. Potential to gain traction, we will see. They like the idea that they can help a declining game bird in trouble. Cautiously optimistic.

Bill – what potential program are you looking to work through? Have you looked at partners for fish and wildlife program.

Franklin – yes looking at that. Need shape files and see how that program overlays.

Forestry – Chapman

Conecuh National Forest, working with several partners to get that program off the ground. We helped get their spring surveys off the ground. Local folks need to have interest and the initiative to make these types of partnerships work.

Francis Marion national forest near Charleston SC. They may have some interest in bobwhite habitat work there.

Talking with Shawnee and Hoosier national forest to assess interest there.

Working with Tom Franklin to send letters about the importance of thinning and burning practices in Farm Bill.

A 25-minute pine management video was just completed. It will be put on website soon. Have a Google link. Also, a herbicide in southern pines webinar was completed in May. Made a couple of visits with Franklin to DC. Looking to make some trips to visit with a couple of state coordinators this fall.

Got some funding to do some workshops under WLFW. There is one coming up in September.

Grasslands – Jef Hodges continued working on natives first, worked to get up some blog posts, did a webinar this past spring on “Native Vegetation investments pay conservation dividends”. Available for

viewing now. Serecia lespedeza video went out, posted on the NBCI YouTube channel. Working with Central Hardwoods JV on their RCPP and also, with their Birdscape program. Jef works to find ways to integrate grazing. He has been Active with the Prescribed Grazing Council. Completed 2 workshops (KY and Missouri) with the Center for Grazing Management. Feedback reviews are very positive. NRCS end of year money is what funded these. The workshops focused on integrating bobwhites and grazing (in-service workshops). Have been working with partners to help the evolution of WLFW program. Have created templates for state use, to make it easier and to attempt to standardize.

Also working on grazing lands and wildlife publication. Visited with some ranchers and researchers. Need to do more lit review. Western version is further ahead, first draft is out for review. Target audience is ranchers. Hope to get it completed in the next few months. Eastern publication will be more technical, longer and focused on grazing strategies for bobwhites.

Natives first, Franklin covered well, would add that they created and infographic this past year. It is available now on the NBCI website. Upcoming – complete the grazing strategies pubs. and work with NRCS on natives. Have received some data from NRCS on how many acres are being planted in native vegetation. Need to clarify the details in the data. Hope to have something soon to present. Eastern Native Grass symposium coming up. Longleaf Pine Alliance natives webinar request coming up. A grazing and bobwhites workshop has been requested from the Americas Forage and Grassland Council (for next January at annual meeting). Very excited to break into this group! SRM meeting coming up. Still doing WLFW workshops.

Communications – Doty

DJ case has wrapped up interviews and focus groups. They will present to Communications subcommittee and then to SC this week. Looking at places within NBTC subcommittees to assist with products to support like videos, pubs, etc. Started a twitter account targeting state and federal partners. Have continued working with outdoor writers and will be presenting at their annual conference in Florence, South Carolina. Also, there will be a tour at the nearest focus area to their meeting.

Group discussion on timing of SOTB report - Busy in the summer, maybe a better time to time to come out ahead of North American instead of AFWA. But how would this impact how old the data is that is included in the report? Should content change? most disagree. Audience is decision makers. Maybe ask some of the decision makers/directors how they view it, what they would suggest. Maybe make it a topic at the Leadership Workshop.

Science – Dailey

Handout – actions since august 2018. 19 states with CIP, it has grown and continues to grow. Excited about the 2-year FSA grant. Opportunity analysis – look at how the BRI analysis is still being used today. Molly launched the habitat monitoring database this past spring. Data are being entered now. Some states need to enter their own data. Looking for ways to assist with data entry.

RFP for Quail IX – Reyna

Received 2 LOI, one from California Fish and Game, they would like to partner with Quail Forever. California is not an NBTC state. Not sure if bylaws will allow. May combine with Western Quail working group. The other LOI received from Missouri (Missouri Conservation Partners). Lots of detail in this LOI including a list of partners and a map. They propose a Joint conference in Columbia Missouri. Details include: website, program, abstracts, management of expenditures, host on campus, hotels and residence halls. Offer to co-author the proceedings.

Quail IX is scheduled for July or August 2022

NBCI will review LOIs and decide which to request full proposals from. Science committee will make a recommendation to SC regarding whether or not to request a full proposal from one of them or just approve one of them.

Meeting Rotation – Morgan

Handout on proposed rotation. North and East there is a concentration of states that have not hosted. Historically went on an alphabetical rotation but this has not been working. Propose a list of regions categorized into east, south, central, and west. Group discussion. Some regions may not have any states willing to host. So we will still need to lean on potential host states in these regions well in advance of their turn in the rotation. NBTC needs to be reaching out now to the East for the 2021 meeting. Potentially PA? The more lead time the better for planning purposes.

Reyna made a motion to accept the proposed meeting rotation, second from Applegate, motion passes unanimous.

Pen-reared release for R3- McKenzie

This past January there was approval of PR funds to be used for pen raised birds for put and take hunting under the R3 umbrella. Spoke with many people about this issue and compiled into a document. Almost universal feedback that NBCI had legitimate concerns about this issue. Drafted a letter that was supposed to go out to the feds but the letter was not sent out. Sent out a talking points document which was widely viewed. At the North American meeting there were concerns about this issue raised by NBCI. It was not well received by some northeastern states that pushed for the program. During the North American there was a resolution drafted and approved to watch/monitor the issue and a joint task force formed to look at progress/evolution of the PR R3 program's use of these funds. Pheasants and chukar seems to be what is showing up in proposals (not bobwhite).

Translocation Discussion – McKenzie/Morgan

Roger Applegate – What is next step?

Morgan – if there is more debate at the State Coordinators meeting then it may need more tweaking before putting in front of the NBCI Management Board and the Resident Gamebird Working Group at AFWA. Pheasant and Western quail groups also have draft inter-state translocation documents. Will be scheduling a conference call with those groups before AFWA. They may have plans to address the Resident Gamebird Committee at AFWA as well. A unified front would be best.

Leadership Workshop – McKenzie/Morgan

Full steering committee needs to work on the suggested agenda for the leadership meeting. What does the SC think the desired outcome should be? Funding model should be a topic as well as the STOTB report. Intend to encourage future collaboration and increased communication. Getting directors that are more game-centric to go along with the addition of the Park Service and really get behind it. Can present progress with CIP and show how it's working. Highlight FSA grant paying for analysis. Who will present this info? DJ Case product, should this be presented? Group - Yes. CIP roundtable (they would need advance notice)? Will come up with draft agenda and put out for review by the SC.

Kreh - Summary of the State Wildlife Action plans which include other species of concern. May consider presenting this too?

Breakout groups may be a good idea. E.g. a “state director” break out session. Need to ask directors if they have an interest in breakout groups.

Illinois Meeting – Tim Caughran

Southern IL University (SIU) will host the next NBTC meeting. Looking for a facility near the CIP site. Field trip to see work in progress at the CIP site. SIU also has a wild bird research project going on. QF has a strong workforce in IL. The DNR does not have a current upland game position/person. Looking at last week in July.

Morgan – encourages QF to reach out for support from NBCI staff.

Partnership review team – McKenzie/Perez

Official time on agenda for partners (maybe during state coordinators meeting)

Share meetings (SC and or full NBTC) with PIF maybe every other year.

Motion Jay - New seats on SC NGO and Non-game should be charged with forming a new partner type subcommittee or partner meeting as a pilot. If goes well after trial run, then make steps to amend by-laws. Second Morgan all in favor motion passes.

Future awards - Morgan

Handout. Ways to encourage younger professionals. Not just once in career (lifetime achievement). A leadership award could be received more than once by a person in his/her career. Consistent messaging of the intent of awards. Charge communication subcommittee to standardize application and better define the purpose of each award. Lifetime achievement needs to be looked at by the EX committee. To be reviewed at February SC meeting. Change to by-laws to include in 2019.

Coordinators meeting - Kreh

State coordinators meeting will begin after lunch in the Dougherty room. Expect a discussion regarding details of the translocation guidelines document. Primary input is from coordinators although it is an open meeting.

Any additions suggested by the SC? None

Where should NBTC members vote? There is a ballot box set up at registration desk.

Meeting adjourned.

Forestry Subcommittee

Chair: Larry Heggemann, American Bird Conservancy LHeggemann@abcbirds.org

Vice-chair: Greg Hagen, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Greg.Hagan@myfwc.com

Action Items

- Continue to monitor and provide input to the NBCI Ag Policy Coordinator on forestry programs and practices we want included in the 2019 Farm Bill, especially the CRP Pine Thinning and Burning Incentive and the Pine Savanna WLFW program.
- Assist with coordinating the Sept workshop on the Pine Savanna WLFW and any needed follow up.
- Complete a literature review on recent research on managing hardwoods/woodland for quail and develop new guidelines and needed training to update coordinators
- Work with planners to include training and tours on hardwood management during 2019 NBTC meeting in Illinois.
- Forestry Coordinator will work with SE coordinators and USFS staff to address issues and concerns as joint NBCI and USFS continue to increase partnerships on developing habitat on USFS lands.
- Encourage NBCI leadership to develop a white paper on the importance of fire to increase congressional and USDA knowledge of this important tool for quail management

August 7, 2018 1:00 to 3:00pm

Joint meeting with Ag Policy on Farm Bill priorities, Tom Franklin

- Tom provided updates on 2019 Farm Bill and other issues
- 3 priorities for NBCI, Natives First, CRP Pine Thinning and Burning incentive with FSA, and trying to initiate a Crop Fallow CRP
- Status of 2019 Farm Bill debate, probably will not make proposed Sept 30th deadline for passage, potential to increase CRP acreage to 29 million acres, EQIP will remain primary NRCS program, some changes to CSP expected, increase in ACEP funding, RCPP should remain with increase in funding. For further details see Ag Policy minutes.

Follow up discussion on USFS Good Neighbor Authority Program and MOU efforts

- Seems to be increasing use of program across the SE
- Typical new start up hiccups with agreements, who's the decision makers and who has approval authority.
- Need for more engagement both at the top and field levels to address questions and programmatic problems. Meshing state and federal programs are never simple.
- Steve will review needs with coordinators and develop plan to keep efforts moving.

Update on Pine Savanna WLFW Program, Jess McGuire, GA and Steve Chapman

- Five SE states are active in the program and are providing funding (GA, AL, FL, SC, NC)
- Collectively there was \$800,000 dedicated to program with RxBurning and brush management primary practices used.
- A regional workshop on the WLFW will be held in Mansfield, GA on Sept 17-19 to discuss common goals, needed training and additional mechanisms for funding. NBCI has received a

grant to cover lodging and meals for attendees if needed. Video access to meeting is also being planned.

Discussion on hardwood/woodland management for Quail

- Lack of knowledge about managing hardwoods for quail benefits. New studies are suggesting hardwoods need to be thinned to 30 BA for quail occupancy. Group suggested a literature review of new information and provide new guidelines and training reflecting the findings.
- Need to generate more interest in managing hardwoods in Midwest and eastern states by both state quail coordinators and forestry agencies across the region. Both coordinators and state forestry personnel need training to recognize potential hardwood quail habitat and how to manage it successfully.
- Discussed potential for providing training on hardwood management for quail at the NBTC meeting in Illinois. Larry and Steve will work with meeting planners to integrate need training into program in 2019.

CRP Pine Thinning and Burning Incentive

- Incentive is still not being promoted thru FSA offices. Steve and Tom F. have been active at the national level on this but progress is slow. Much of the allocated \$10 million has not been used. Committee encouraged all SE coordinators to work with their state and local FSA offices to promote and utilize program before end of federal fiscal year.
- This program is still important to the NBCI leadership and will continue to be a priority for Tom as the 2019 Farm Bill is constructed.

August 8, 2018

White Paper on RxBurning for Congressional and NRCS HDQ staffers

- Continued discussion on Tom's comments last year about many mid - level congressional and USDA staffers have a lack of knowledge of RxFire use which may hinder acceptance of fire programs and practices. Last year's committee discussion encouraged NBCI to consider developing a white paper or letter to address the issue and encouraged them to look broader than just the NBCI and include other conservation groups that also rely on RxFire to manage habitat.
- We continue to support development of this white paper.

NBCI Forestry Coordinator Report

- Steve provided the group with a condensed list of activities he was involved in during the last year and answered questions posed by the group.
- Steve thank the coordinators for their assistance during the year and stressed that he is available to assist them if needed on forest issues and opportunities related to improving forest for quail.

Update on potential RxFire escape in Florida

- A brief discussion was held on the potential effects a fire escape that destroyed several homes in Florida would have on fire use for habitat management. To date, though considered serious, major push back on the use of fire has not developed within the region. Pending outcome of the investigation Florida Fish and Game has suspended prescribed fire use but no other states have changed fire policies.

We had 23 individuals present at the meeting. Minutes Submitted by Larry Heggemann, NBTC Forestry Sub Committee Chair Central Hardwoods Joint Venture Delivery Coordinator

Agricultural Policy Subcommittee Minutes

Chair: Lisa Potter, Missouri Department of Conservation Lisa.Potter@mdc.mo.gov

Joint Meeting Between Ag Policy and Forestry Subcommittees:

- **Update on 2018 Farm Bill and NBCI priorities – Tom Franklin**
 - Top 3 Farm Bill Priorities for NBCI
 - Natives First
 - Continuing CRP Thinning and Burning Incentive
 - Fallow/idle CRP practice
 - Food plots expanded to other practices
 - There is resistance to put Native First language in statute due to concern in scoring/cost impacts.
 - Anticipate Natives First language will be included in Manager's Report Language
 - FSA is reluctant to create new practices or new SAFE practices
- On behalf of NBCI, Tom has met with NRCS Deputy Chief for Programs, Jimmy Bramblett and other agency leadership. Discussions went well.
 - Gaylon Hall, with NRCS, has been assigned as the direct contact for NBCI discussions.
 - NRCS says they should finally be able to provide us information on how many acres/\$ spent on introduced vs. native grasses in USDA practices.
 - Tom Franklin/Jef Hodges may have list of native/introduced costs/state/practice
 - New 420 – Wildlife Habitat Planting Conservation Practice Standard
 - Will make it easier to track wildlife plantings via NRCS programs
 - Will strongly encourage use of natives
 - Misty Jones, Director of Conservation and Environmental Programs at FSA has been assigned us a direct contact for NBCI discussions
- CRP Tree Thinning and Burning
 - \$10 million. FSA dragging their feet, confusion about the program – low enrollment. Signup opportunity released a couple weeks ago. Resend flyer to states with some enrollment to quail coordinators and farm bill coordinators to help with educating folks about the practice and benefits of enrolling

Ag Policy Subcommittee

- **National Wildlife Refuges – opportunities for cooperative quail habitat/focal areas**
 - Department of Interior, USFWS – reached out to NBTC to discuss possibilities of identifying F&W Refuges appropriate for Quail habitat restoration.
 - Tom met with Greg Sheehan, Acting Director of USFWS, and the head of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife. FWS proposed joint effort to manage for early successional habitat on select wildlife refuges.
 - **Action Item:** Tom Franklin will be sending out the F&W regional maps identifying refuges that are close to our existing Quail Focal Areas – He will send to Quail Coordinators for state input, ground truthing on feasibility of partnership/cooperative efforts for landscape restoration between USFWS and NBTC.

- Park Service – 40 parks interested in managing for early successional habitat
- Idea: Bring in Joint Ventures as potential partners
- **CP33 MCM brochure**
 - Status Update: Some states are using, but most states are not
- **CP33 Webinar and potential follow-up webinars**
 - CP33 Webinar – July 25 presented a webinar on CP33 CCRP practice ~120 listeners. As a follow-up to the good responses we received from the viewers, the Ag Policy Committee will be arranging to present another webinar focused on mid-contract management and the how-to guidance of implementing common practices.
 - Other Webinar Ideas – overarching idea: Incentives for landowner participation:
 - Economics
 - Precision Agriculture
 - Precision Ag Webinar for NBTC – Mark McConnell – MS State University – Developing a free Precision Ag tool. Getting very close to completion. Is willing to present a webinar on the new tool. May have to update economic portions of tool after passage of Farm Bill depending on how CRP policy changes.
- **Status of CP33 enrollment in each state - Survey of state quail biologists**
 - Comments from states on status of CP33
 - CP33 Rental Rates are too low
 - Whole field enrollments opportunities are needed
 - Farmers still have the need to have ‘clean fields’
 - Large backlog in Rx Burning (plans and implementation). NRCS/FSA/states do not have the capacity to meet demand; especially no capacity to implement burns
 - **Action:** CP33 survey – “Where is it working and Why is it working” as well as “Where is it not working and why”. Goal is to better get a handle on why CP33 enrollment has been lagging - develop a survey to send to state contacts as well as CP33 landowners to evaluate decision points and important considerations that encouraged them to enroll in CP33. Survey and/or have landowner focus group sessions for those producers who did not enroll in CP33 to evaluate what factors led to this decision.
 - How can we survey landowners who were interested in CP33, but chose not to enroll?
 - Survey Monkey as possible vehicle for state surveys of state coordinators on status of CP33 enrollment and why/challenges associated with whether it is working or not working
 - Investigate possibility of working with DJ Case to develop landowner focus groups
-
- **Tree Thinning Incentive**
 - Lack of understanding of program
 - FSA was slow to release opportunity and funding
 - Announcements in some states were sent to Forestry Agencies and not wildlife
 - Some states have issues with finding logger/contractor to do the work
 - Action: Resend/Update flier focused on CRP Tree Thinning/Rx Burning program
 - Send to private land biologists and Quail Coordinators

- **RCPP Cross Collaboration – Good and the Bad of what’s working**
 - Steve Riley: We need a RCPP evaluation and summary of what worked and what didn’t work so we’re ready for rule making process to improve program in the next Farm Bill.
 - Steve will lead initiative to survey states and partners on level of success of their RCPP projects as well as if/how Administrative aspects of the program could be improved.
 - **Election of Vice Chair for the Ag Policy Committee**
 - Mark Gudlin, Habitat Program Manager with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency was elected Vice-Chair
 - **Other Agenda Items:**
 - Solar Farms – need to engage industry and develop BMPs on ways to make solar farms wildlife friendly, e.g. pollinator plantings and avoid conversion of wildlife lands into large solar farms.
 - In SC, there are already 17 farms in 1 county that are 2 -400 acres each.
-

Grasslands and Grazing Lands Subcommittee Minutes

Chair: Nick Prough, Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation MidwestRD@quwf.net

Vice-Chair: Jeff Prendergast, Jeff.Prendergast@ks.gov

We had 18 representatives at our Grassland/Grazing Lands subcommittee meetings from 9 states over the past several days who participated in the meetings.

1. We had a Grassland Coordinator Annual Report review given by Jef H. and discussion by the attendees of the subcommittee meeting. We reviewed past projects, ongoing efforts, progress over the past year of activities, webinars given, meetings and workshops hosted and attended, articles written, presentations given and videos created by the Coordinator and the subcommittee over the past year. A record amount was accomplished for the subcommittee which once again shows a shining example of the NBCI Staff person/NBTC subcommittee system working well together.
2. The Why Native Vegetation Info Sheet was reviewed that was produced this spring and is now available at the Bring Back Bobwhites website in PDF format for all to use as they see fit in their states.
3. WLFW Bobwhite in Grasslands 2.0 was discussed by group at length. Grassland Coordinator Jef H. has been working on these efforts a bunch over the past year. A brand new 2 page “sell sheet” is coming out any day now and is awaiting final approval at federal levels. Several in service workshops were held for WLFW in the past year in MO/KY and OH/VA as well with several more to be scheduled in 2019.
4. Serecia Lespedeza control video was created and is now available as a You-tube video and the link will be sent out soon for those who haven’t seen it or one can search for it on You-tube or the Bring Back Bobwhites website as well.
5. Grazing Strategies for Northern Bobwhites publication drafts and outlines have been started and are currently in various stages of edits and revisions this summer. A draft version will be

circulated to subcommittee members in the coming weeks and these 2 drafts one for eastern and western publications are planned to be distributed in final format to the states/groups within this next year's timeline.

6. A Natives First Update was given by Jef H. and discussed by the group at length. A congressional letter was signed by over 50 conservation groups and Natives First Coalition members in support of Natives First. A Natives First Facebook page is now setup and fully running so go check it out as well. The Natives First Coalition continues to grow and build its foundation stronger with now over 20 different member groups signed on as members in support of the efforts. If your organization hasn't yet joined the Coalition please check it out and support this very important effort all that you can. Many are working behind the scenes from NBCI staff to Subcommittee members to get Native First Vegetation language into the conference committee report language currently being worked on of the ongoing Farm Bill Discussions in DC. This would be a very big deal for the effort and everyone working in this arena for many years if we can get it across the finish line. This is where we need everyone's help. An email notice was sent out to NBTC List-serve a few weeks ago showing a map and it is also on the Facebook page of areas where congressional representatives are located that may need some encouragement to help this Natives First Process out. If you live or know of landowners and constituents in those areas and are able to do so please make every effort to assist in any way possible. See Jef H for further information. We need this done as soon as possible as it cannot wait a couple months but the sooner the better. I know personally that several calls were made this week and more are to come in the coming weeks as the congressional sessions go back into full swing so thanks to all who are reaching out to their contacts.
7. Tom F. and Jef H. have both been working very diligently to continue working on Natives First from both ends of the issue and have held numerous meetings in DC with NRCS HQ Staff and leadership regarding the Natives First issue. NRCS now has a Liaison appointed for NBCI to help address mutual resource concerns of NRCS and NBCI. This is a new development that has arisen from past work of this group and that will continue to bear more potential fruit in the future for all subcommittees and states.
8. The Subcommittee goals and objectives for the coming year were reviewed and discussed as well as the charges for the grassland coordinator for both the eastern grasslands and the Western Rangelands. Some future RCPP proposals will be forthcoming as further partners are lined up and the new Farm Bill takes shape so those also will be a part of the upcoming year as well potentially.
9. A NFWF potential granting opportunity was discussed by the group and options were weighed for any possible matching funds available in short order deadlines for the group. It was decided by group to pass on this year's very short deadline for NFWF due to many constraints discussed.
10. Finally, we discussed a piece of information that was being disseminated around thru e-mail groups last few weeks regarding "How Americans Use Their Lands" and the fact shown that 41% of the Lower 48 States are used for pasture or cropland used to produce feed for Livestock and that is more than any other land use by far. More than Forests, More than Agricultural Production, and more than urban and industry as well. There are graphical images going around so be sure to look for that info that was sent out by various groups last few weeks. The grassland/grazing lands subcommittee feels this type of land use continues to be a very important and impactful resource with enormous potential to impact the landscape on a huge scale and this latest information continues to back up those beliefs.
11. The group also decided after discussions held to keep the same roles for Chairman and Vice Chair as the previous year so Nick Prough of MO will remain chairman for 1 more year and Jeff Prendergast of KS will remain vice chair for another year as well.

Communications Subcommittee Minutes

Chair: Chris Kreh, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Chris.Kreh@ncwildlife.org

Vice-Chair: David Bryan, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries David.Bryan@va.usda.gov

DJ Case Project

- Phase 3 report and recommendations presented by Matt Harlow and Phil Send
- Good results overall with communications messages and tools ready for implementation by NBCI and states
- **** Action Item **** After discussion and consideration, Communications Subcommittee decided to recommend (to Steering Committee) that NBCI move forward with and fund two items from the DJ Case project:
 1. Message Development – estimated cost \$8,000 – \$10,000
 2. Basic Set-Up of for Online Advertising – estimated cost \$6,900
- Completing these two steps will make it possible for individual states to efficiently implement many of the communication tools, with relatively little state funding necessary. Furthermore, we ask (and did so in NBTC business meeting and CIP workshop) that states look for opportunities to implement and evaluate the communication products in their states. Ideally this would take place in areas with ongoing CIP or focal areas, with private lands staff available to handle additional calls, and where results can be evaluated.
- ****Action Item**** Chris Kreh will work with DJ Case to get final reports of Phase 1, 2, and 3, distribute them to Communications members and also post to website where available to all NBTC members.
- During the Communications Committee report to the full NBTC in business meeting on Thursday, August 9 – a suggestion was made to do a webinar for DJ Case information to be presented to all state coordinators and I & E folks from all states. The webinar's goal would be to inform them of the process, the "tools" available, and work toward implementing in many places.

Award Discussions

- The committee discussed information related to NBTC's Awards: Leadership Award, Group Achievement Award, and (new) Lifetime Achievement Award. We conclude that there is a need to clearly define what the intent and requirements of the various awards, develop a standardized application for the awards, and compile a list of previous recipients.
- **** Action Item **** Chris Kreh, with assistance from Erin Holmes and all Communications members, will compile drafts of these items and submit them to the Steering Committee in time for consideration at the next Steering Committee meeting in February 2019 and for possible adoption into Bylaws in July/August 2019.

This American Land – Bobwhites on the Brink

- Brief discussion of how much this video is continuing to be used. There is a need to check on website and see how many time it has been viewed. Our Committee recommended to the

Steering Committee (during business meeting) that the video be shown, and copies distributed, during the upcoming Leadership Conference in Nebraska this fall.

State of The Bobwhite

- Discussion of the relevance/importance of SOTB report and timing of its publication.
- No negative comments about SOTB to NBCI staff. May consider critical review in the future. Consensus of group is there is strong need to continue archiving habitat/hunting data in the report in some fashion, additional information is very useful, but timing could be adjusted somewhat to make the publication less taxing on NCI staff when they have other priorities (annual meeting, etc).

Election of New Vice-Chair

- Chris Kreh is taking over as Chair earlier than expected due to previous chair (David Bryan) not being able to continue to attend meetings on regular basis. David will continue to be involved in Communications work remotely, however.
- Erin Holmes, biologist with Pheasants Forever – Quail Forever, was elected as the new Vice-Chair. Thanks Erin!!

Attendees

Chris Kreh, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

chris.kreh@ncwildlife.org

Erin Holmes, Pheasants Forever – Quail Forever,

eholmes@pheasantsforever.org

Tim Kavan, Missouri Dept. Conservation

Tim.Kavan@mdc.mo.gov

Justin Folks, Virginia Dept. Game and Inland Fisheries

Justin.Folks@va.usda.gov

Andrew Burnett, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife

Andrew.burnett@dep.nj.gov

Thomas Keller, Pennsylvania Game Commission

thkeller@pa.gov

John Doty, NBCI

jdoty3@UTK.edu

Mike Peters, West Virginia Dept. Nat. Resources

Michael.L.Peters@wv.gov

Michael Hook, South Carolina Dept. Nat. Resources

hookm@dnr.sc.gov

Catherine Rideout, East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture

Catherine Rideout@fws.gov

Logan Martin, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife

logan.martin@ks.gov

Matt Harlow, DJ Case and Associates (part of meeting)

matt@djcase.com

Phil Seng, DJ Case and Associates (part of meeting)

phil@djcase.com

Don McKenzie, NBCI (part of meeting)

John Morgan, Kentucky Dept of Fish and Wildlife, NBTC President (part of meeting)

Science Subcommittee Minutes

Chair: Beth Emmerich, Missouri Department of Conservation Beth.Emmerich@mdc.mo.gov

Vice-Chair: Kelly Reyna, Texas A&M University - Commerce Kelly.Reyna@unt.edu

1. Welcome and introductions
 - a. Introductions and sign in
2. Call for nominations for vice-chair, voting to take place at the end of the meeting (Kelly Reyna). Each candidate gave verbal bio.
 - a. Frank Loncarich-Missouri Dept. of Conservation
 - b. Will Newman-Quail Forever (TX)/Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture
 - c. John Yeiser-Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Georgia
 - d. Matt Broadway-Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
3. Charge from NBTC steering committee/State coordinators' meeting (Beth Emmerich and Tom Dailey)
 - a. No charges from steering committee
4. Quail 9 letter of intent update from steering committee (Kelly Reyna and Tom Dailey)
 - a. Reyna read results of LOI to Science Subcommittee-LOI submitted from MO and CA
 - b. Applegate: Pro: National meeting could learn more about western species, but con would be budget constraint with agency travel; especially for lake Tahoe. Arizona NBTC meeting was had low attendance.
 - c. Dr. James Martin: motion to recommend MO host meeting, Matt Broadway seconded. vote, approved.
5. NBCI Science update (Tom Dailey): see handout
 - a. CIP workshop on Thursday and Friday
 - b. Quail Symposium proceedings were full of errors, but corrected versions were sent out by Allen Press
 - c. Beginning planning for Quail 9, received 2 LOI, Science Subcommittee recommends MO
 - d. Science Subcommittee maintains joint conference (QuailCount.org). Link to proceedings, link to meeting information, go there to get replacement proceedings if you have not received one and download information for authors, link to CIP data
 - e. Online National Quail Symposium Proceedings heavily used
 - f. Online survey revealed high preference for joint NBTC/National Quail conference
 - g. CIP: Rewarded FSA grant for studying CIG grant to monitor CIP program and will fund analyses of CIP data.
 - h. Design webinar in February
 - i. Helped design and launched 7 new CIPS
 - j. Habitat monitoring database launched in May
 - k. CIP annual update in SOTB
 - l. Molly attended ESRI conference and learned new GIS technology and new ways to analyze CIP data
 - m. Assistant Director of NBCI, Tom Dailey, assisted with NBCI inventory, and report in SOTB
 - n. NBCI inventory helps analyze and forecast where quail habitat and hunting
 - o. Compiled 23 states data for publication in SOTB
 - p. BRI spatial opportunity for NWR, WLFW, and LLP for habitat subcommittees, USDA, and NFWF
6. Action Items (2017)
 - a. NBCI Data Sharing Policy (Jay Howell, Tom Dailey, Beth Emmerich, others)

- a. Who can utilize CIP data?
- b. Ad hoc committee generated a draft document with levels of sharing. When you sign up for CIP, you are given a level.
- c. Ad hoc committee will finalize document, then it will be incorporated into CIP.
- d. Jay offered copies of the document and requested comments on document.
- b. Population goals for CIP areas (Jay)
 - a. Ad hoc committee formed in prior meeting. Charge, determine population goals for CIP.
 - b. Proposed change to CIP: The minimum population objective for a CIP focal area is to achieve a population of sufficient abundance and density to have a 95% probability of population persistence over a 100-year plan.
 For the purposes of providing an initial goal, the recommended target density will be a fall population of 800 birds (Guthery et al. 2000) with a minimum density of 1 bird/ 5 acres. We expect that as regional estimates for demographic parameters become more available and models improve that these numbers can be amended on a per area or project basis.
 With these minimums in mind, the NBTC believe it is important to consider objectives beyond population viability (ex: hunter satisfaction) when determining success for any focal area. Therefore, CIP participants are encouraged to integrate those objective into the goals for their areas where possible?

Discussion opened.

Jay Howell: Motion to accept the proposed changes for CIP population goals and give authority to the ad hoc committee to conduct final wordsmithing before presenting this at the business meeting. Roger Applegate second. Approved.

- c. 2018 Action Item-Work with NBTC Science Subcommittee to develop a standardized instrument for states to collect harvest information (Science Subcommittee to define minimum(s); what is doable in the short-term) on CIP areas.
 - a. We don't have a standardized way to measure satisfaction/harvest info.
 - b. Martin: Need instrument for public land but private land may be more difficult. It's a sampling issue (private hunters are harder to access).
 - c. (Derived: Flush rate) Area: hours spent hunting, # hunts, # birds, # of unique coveys, satisfaction, rate your hunt, size of party
 - d. May be hard to collect on reference areas to CIP
 - e. Could have volunteer check in stations where you fill out form
 - f. 1st step is to determine what data we want and how to process it.
 - g. Need human dimension data to format data
 - h. Will this be a separate card or part of an existing survey?
 - i. How do we implement? How can we get in contact with private landowners/hunters on private lands?
 - j. What data is necessary, or optional data
 - k. Need minimum information (number of birds, number of unique coveys encountered, hours spent hunting quail, satisfaction (poor, fair, good, excellent).
 - l. Ad hoc committee formed: Matt Broadway chair, Cody Rhoden, Nathan Stricker, Beth Emmerich, Todd Bogenschutz., Molly Foley
- 7. Translocation guidance document (James, action as needed) (read draft 4 and table for tomorrow)
 - a. James martin presented document and decisions/concerns from coordinators meeting.
 - b. Members reviewed Dr. Martin's changing of document to position statement

- c. James Martin is taking recommended changes to the ad hoc committee who will review document.
- 8. CIP discussion (Caleb Crawford/Alex Glass IL projects, Matt Broadway IN)
 - a. Southern Illinois University
 - i. Presentation: Bobwhite Research in Southern Illinois (Caleb Crawford)
 - ii. Presentation: Grassland community responses to vegetation structure, patch size, and management actions (Alex Glass)
- 9. Votes tabulated for the incoming Vice Chair of the Science Subcommittee-Frank Loncarich Mo. Dept. of Conservation is the new Vice Chair.

Adjourn

2018 National Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting Science Subcommittee Attendees

Tom Dailey, NBCI tdailey7@utk.edu
 Beth Emmerich, MO Dept. of Conservation beth.emmerich@mdc.mo.gov
 Kelly Reyna, Texas A&M Commerce Kelly.reyna@tamuc.edu
 Jay Howell, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries jay.howell@dgif.virginia.gov
 Jeff Lusk, NE Game & Parks Comm. jeff.lusk@nebraska.gov
 Roger Applegate, TN Wildlife Resources roger.applegate@tn.gov
 Frank Loncarich, MO Dept. of Conservation frank.loncarich@mdc.mo.gov
 Kurtis Cecil, NW AR Community College kcecil@nwacc.edu
 Todd Bogenschutz, Iowa DNR todd.bogenschutz@dnr.iowa.gov
 Molly Foley, NBCI mfoley10@utk.edu
 Kent Fricke, Kansas DWPT kent.fricke@KS.gov
 Will Newman, Quail Forever/Oaks and Prairies JV wnewman@quailforever.org
 LeAnne Bonner, USFWS jerri_bonner@fws.gov
 Craig Rhoads, Delaware Div. of Fish and Wildlife craig.rhoades@state.de.us
 Theron Terhune, Tall Timbers tterhune@talltimbers.org
 Matt Broadway, Indiana DNR mbroadway@dnr.in.gov
 Diana McGrath, Tall Timbers dmcgrath@talltimbers.org
 Cody Rhoden, Kentucky DFWR cody.rhoden@ky.gov
 Michael Small, SC Dept. of Natural Resources smallm@dnr.sc.gov
 Michael Hazelbaker, Tall Timbers Michael.hazelbaker@uga.edu
 Bill Palmer, Tall Timbers bpalmer@talltimbers.org
 Clay Sisson, Tall Timbers clay@pinelandplantation.com
 Marcus Asher, Arkansas Game and Fish Comm. marcus.asher@agfc.ar.gov
 Alan Isler, GA DNR alan.isler@dnr.ga.gov
 James Martin, UGA jmart22@uga.edu
 Alex Glass, Southern IL University alexander.glass@siu.edu
 Bob Gates, Ohio State University gates.77@osu.edu
 Caleb Crawford, Southern IL University calebcrawford30@siu.edu
 Nathan Stricker, Ohio DNR Nathan.stricker@dnr.state.oh.us
 Alex Jackson, Tall Timbers ajackson@talltimbers.org
 John Yeiser, UGA yeisjohn@gmail.com

NBTC Business meeting minutes

August 9, 2018

Albany, Georgia

Chairman Address – Morgan

Outgoing Chairman, John Morgan, gave a brief summary of the meeting. Initiated a discussion regarding funding for NBCI from states and partners. Last year funding was a big issue, at one point greater than 100K short of baseline. Group discussion related to future funding commitments.

A questionnaire was developed and sent to state coordinators last summer. Results were presented. The need for a NBCI fundraiser floated to the top. Group discussion related to this issue.

The Bobwhite Foundation received its initial funding from Parks Cities Texas Quail Coalition and is housed/set up under the University of Tennessee Foundation (UTF). UTF has full time fundraising staff. They are willing to help but NBCI needs to find the leads.

Treasurer report- Robert Perez

Reported a balance of \$25,057.39. There were 2 transactions since the last SC meeting, and one pending invoice.

Motion to pass treasurer's report from Todd B. and a second from K. Reyna. The motion passed unanimously.

Outgoing Member-At-Large Elections Report - Roger Applegate

Chair elect Lisa Potter (MDC)

At-Large Larry Heggemann (CHJV – retired)

Academic rep – James Martin (UGA)

Game Bird NGO – Tim Caughran (Quail Forever)

MAFWA – Jeff Prendergast (KDWPT)

Illinois 2020 NBTC Meeting – Tim Caughran

Quail Forever Looking facility in southern Illinois to host next year's meeting. Good prospect. Available dates in late July. A bonus is that the facility is near a quail focus area that may serve as the field trip.

Morgan – asked membership to complete their expert opinion surveys when they get a chance. A summary will be presented at the CIP meeting. Meeting adjourned.

2019 NBCI National Conservation Firebird Award Winners

NBCI DIRECTOR'S NATIONAL FIRE BIRD CONSERVATION AWARD: Dr. Pat Keyser

NBTC Leadership Award Recipient: Katherine Rideout



Don McKenzie (left) presents the NBCI Director's Fire Bird Award to Dr. Pat Keyser (right)



Robert Perez presents the NBTC Leadership Award to Catherine Rideout at the 2018 NBTC Annual Meeting

National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) Group Achievement Award: Planning committee for the 2017 Joint Quail Conference (JQC), in Knoxville, Tennessee- Roger Applegate, Andy White, Alyssa Merka, Dr. Kelly Reyna, Molly Foley, Penny Barnhart, Dr. Thomas Dailey, Beth Emmerich and Timothy White



Roger Applegate, Andy White, Alyssa Merka, Dr. Kelly Reyna, Molly Foley, Penny Barnhart, Dr. Thomas Dailey, and Beth Emmerich (left to right) receive the NBTC Group Achievement Award at the 2018 NBTC Annual Meeting (not pictured: Timothy White)

NBCI National Fire Bird Conservation State Award Winners



Steven Mitchell (right) and Robert Perez (center) present a Fire Bird Award to ALPFC, accepted by Jeff Thurmond (left)

Alabama: Alabama Prescribed Fire Council

Arkansas: Clint Johnson, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Delaware: Sean O’Conner

Georgia: Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division’s Region 5 Game Management Section

Kansas: Logan Martin, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Kentucky: Madeline Pratt, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources recognized Farm Bill Biologist

Missouri: Max Alleger, Missouri Department of Conservation

Ohio: Tim and Sandy Shoemaker, Millstone Creek Farms

Pennsylvania: LEADS Natural Resources Volunteers- John Greenawalt, Jeff Yeager, Gerald Cline, Michael Bowling, Raymond Etter, Raymond Harbaugh and Harold Kauffman

South Carolina: Jack Vallentine, Orangeburg County landowner

Tennessee : Stephen Thomas, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Texas: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department’s Grassland Restoration Incentive Program project managers- Jess Oetgen, Matt Reidy, Doug Jobes, Josh Turner, Mark Lange, Bobby Eichler, Charlie Newberry, Raymond Sims, Dan Davis, Laura Sherrod, Erin Wied, Dan Davis, Jamie Killian and Jon Hayes.

Virginia: Virginia Working Landscapes (VWL), Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

For full details of the nominations, please visit:

<https://bringbackbobwhites.org/2018/09/19/nbci-national-fire-bird-conservation-award-winners/> and <https://bringbackbobwhites.org/2018/09/21/national-bobwhite-quail-group-honors-rideout-joint-quail-conference-committee-members/>



Lewis Cameron (PGC), Raymond Harbaugh, Harold Kauffman, John Greenawalt, Craig Kindlin (LEAD Natural Resources Manager), Gerald Cline, and Tom Keller (left to right); not pictured: Michael Bowling, Raymond Etter, and Jeff Yeager



2018 NBTC Annual Meeting
August 5 – 10, 2018
Merry Acres
Albany, GA



POSTER ABSTRACTS

Effects of Mid-Rotation Management in Managed Loblolly Pine Stands on Northern Bobwhite Habitat

Allison G. Colter, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

Karl V. Miller, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

Darren A. Miller, Weyerhaeuser Company

Kristina L. Johannsen, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division

Kent A. Keene, Auburn University, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

William D. Gulsby, Auburn University, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

James A. Martin, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

Managed loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) stands primary purpose is to produce income for forest landowners. They also provide habitat for wildlife species, such as Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*; bobwhite). Thinning and prescribed fire throughout the forest rotation can create the diverse herbaceous plant community bobwhites need. However, quantification of the habitat conditions is lacking. We are using a split-plot design in a randomized complete block context to estimate effects of forest thinning intensity (i.e., 40, 60, and 80 ft² acre⁻¹ residual basal area) on bobwhite habitat conditions in five managed loblolly pine stands in the Piedmont of Georgia. Forest thinning operations occurred throughout the 2017 growing season. Horizontal cover and availability of important bobwhite food plants was evaluated along 10 randomly placed 20-m line transects within each plot ($n = 30$). We used cone and disc of vulnerability at each transect's mid-point to estimate bobwhite vulnerability to predation. Pine litter represented most (60%) of the horizontal cover with remaining cover being vegetation (36%) and bare ground (4%). Food plant availability for bobwhite was 52% \pm 1% of the total vegetation cover present among all treatments. The 40 ft² ac⁻¹ treatment had the greatest cone of vulnerability due to lack of pine stems obstructing a raptor's field-of-view. Disc of vulnerability did not differ among treatments. In 2018, late dormant season prescribed fire treatments were applied and vegetation monitoring will continue. This study will inform landowners and decision makers about tradeoffs between timber revenue and habitat conditions for bobwhite.

Identifying Focal Areas for the Coastal Grasslands Restoration Incentive Program (GRIP)

Stephen J. DeMaso, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf Coast Joint Venture

Mark W. Parr, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf Coast Joint Venture

Barry C. Wilson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf Coast Joint Venture

William G. Vermillion, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf Coast Joint Venture

The Coastal GRIP is being initiated by the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV) in its Texas Mid-Coast Initiative Area. GCJV priority species expected to benefit from the GRIP are Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*), and Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*). The GCJV Board selected the Texas Mid-Coast Initiative Area for GRIP initiation because it has an active GCJV habitat delivery team, biologists interested in grassland conservation, synergy with other GRIP programs in adjacent Joint Venture regions, and an existing complimentary habitat delivery program, the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project. Identifying focal areas for habitat work can be based on opportunity, politics, science, or a combination of these. We used the Texas Mid-Coast Initiative Team, with specific local knowledge to identify focal areas. Prior to meeting with the Initiative Team we created a map in GIS that contained information useful in identifying the focal areas, including grassland and prairie land cover, urban areas, county boundaries, highways and interstates, and public lands.

Bobwhite Incubation Timing and Implications for Real-world Management

Kyle Hedges, Wildlife Management Biologist. Missouri Department of Conservation

Frank Loncarich, Wildlife Management Biologist. Missouri Department of Conservation

Wildlife biologists in Missouri have long operated under the assumption that peak hatch for Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) averaged June 15th. Therefore, recommendations for mowing, haying, herbicide application, and prescribed burning in quail habitat were largely based on that date. As a part of a comprehensive study of the breeding ecology of Northern Bobwhite we monitored nest incubation start dates on over 400 nests from 2014-2017 on 5 study sites in southwest Missouri. We attached radio transmitters to Northern Bobwhites in February and tracked birds 3-5 times per week during the nesting season. Nests were located through observation of bird activity and homing. Over the 4-year period, 49.7% of nests had incubation start dates after July 1. During 2014 and 2015, $\geq 50\%$ of nests had incubation start dates after July 1 and in all 4 years, no less than 45% of nests had incubation start dates after July 1. Our results show that Northern Bobwhite nest in much greater rates after July 1 than previously assumed and that June 15th is certainly not the peak of hatch in southwest Missouri. These findings have major implications in terms of most types of disturbance based management in potential quail nesting cover. We recommend that managers focused on maximizing quail production refrain from mowing and haying nesting cover until late August or September if possible. Late summer herbicide application and prescribed burning should focus on the most rank grassland cover as our research indicates birds tend to avoid these areas for nesting.

Effects of Rabbit Hunting Disturbance on Northern Bobwhite Anti-predator Behavior

Jessica L. Mohlman, University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

Rachel R. Gardner, ¹University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

Nathan G. Wilhite, ¹University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

I.B. Parnell, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division

James A. Martin, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Savannah River Ecology

Lab, University of Georgia

Eastern cottontails (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) are an actively hunted species that share a hunting season and habitat with Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), a species of conservation priority. Disturbance caused by rabbit hunting may elicit anti-predator behavior in bobwhite, potentially resulting in altered movement patterns and subsequent negative fitness effects. While the direct effects of hunting disturbance are more studied, the indirect effects on non-target prey species are less known. Through the lens of the risky-space, threat-sensitivity, and risk-allocation hypotheses, we explored bobwhite anti-predator responses to rabbit hunting. We determined these effects by analyzing movement behavior through telemetry across varying rabbit hunting intensities. Telemetry conducted on bobwhite occurred from sunrise to sunset during hunting and non-hunting days of both bobwhite and rabbit species to examine movement. We analyzed bobwhite movements using trajectory models and dynamic Brownian Bridge movement models. Utilization distributions (UD) indicated that there was a difference in the core-use areas of bobwhite, with individuals utilizing more space in the most intensely hunted rabbit treatment (50% UD 0.67 ± 0.17 ha, 95% UD 3.56 ± 0.98 ha) compared to the control (50% UD 0.42 ± 0.08 ha, 95% UD 2.15 ± 0.29 ha). By determining the effects of rabbit hunting on bobwhite, our study will inform policy on public hunting areas where both species occur.

Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (GRIP) for Landscape Conservation in Oklahoma and Texas Through the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Partnership

William L. Newman, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, Quail Forever

James Giocomo, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy

Steven Riley, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Kenneth Gee, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy

Derek S. Wiley, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, Quail Forever

Helen Davis, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy

Leah Lowe, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy

Degradation and conversion of functioning native grassland ecosystems in North America have driven significant declines in obligate wildlife populations across multiple taxa. To address declines in grassland habitats of Oklahoma and Texas, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations have partnered to form the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture (OPJV) to more strategically and collaboratively deliver conservation action. Using northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) as the flagship species, the OPJV has implemented an integrated Strategic Habitat Conservation framework operating at multiple scales to conduct biological planning, landscape conservation design, habitat tracking and population monitoring. The signature conservation delivery program of this effort was the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (GRIP), which has improved habitat for grassland wildlife on over 60,000 acres (24,300 ha) of working-lands in focal areas throughout the OPJV geography since 2013. This initiative is supported by an adaptive Plan, Do, Learn cyclical process that ensures contemporary science and data guide subsequent conservation planning and Best Management Practices implemented for grassland habitat restoration in the region. Combining the efforts of diverse partners unites the range-wide population and habitat objectives with on-the-ground delivery of conservation goals. In support of this grassland bird, butterfly, and pollinator conservation effort, the OPJV partners and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have implemented a grassland habitat focused Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) that provides a federal funding source within the structure of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The Effects of Hunting Pressure Affects Resource Use and Behavior of Northern Bobwhite

Emily Prosser, University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

Theron M. Terhune, Tall Timbers

James A. Martin, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Savannah River Ecology
Lab, University of Georgia

The Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) is an important gamebird, both economically and culturally, in many rural areas across the United States. However, populations have been steadily declining for the last several decades due to habitat loss. Managers and scientists have focused on strategies—such as spatial harvest controls and limiting the duration of hunting coupled with habitat restoration—to increase population numbers while simultaneously maintaining or increasing hunter satisfaction. The most optimal strategy is partially driven by how bobwhite perceive risk and the behaviors that follow as this will dictate the hunter-covey interface. It is understood that bobwhite perceive hunters and their dogs as predators and display threat-dependent responses when exposed to hunting. These responses increase along with an increase in hunting pressure and can affect covey behavior, spatial distribution, and group size. However, it is uncertain how these behaviors affect covey demographics including early season reproductive efforts. We will investigate how bobwhite respond to different levels of hunting pressure on a private ranch located in central Florida by monitoring demographics, movements, and hunting success. We will monitor ~200 bobwhite fitted with VHF radio collars during the hunting season using intensive radio telemetry techniques for two years. Telemetry will be conducted during each hunt while simultaneously monitoring the hunting dog(s) with GPS collars. We will compare bobwhite movements to interactions with hunting parties/dogs across the study area. Results of this study will inform the spatial and temporal controls needed to manage harvest pressure to optimize bobwhite demography and hunter satisfaction.

Evaluating the Efficacy of Autonomous Recording Units for Monitoring Northern Bobwhite Populations in Iowa

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Todd Bogenschutz, Wildlife Research Section, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Fall-monitoring of northern bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) is an important approach for evaluating progress towards restoration of recreationally sustainable populations. However, covey call surveys are labor-intensive, especially for dispersed, low density populations characteristic of agricultural landscapes in the northern fringe of the bobwhite range. Autonomous recording units (ARUs) may offer an alternative approach for monitoring distribution and density of bobwhites during fall by substituting for human observers. We conducted a preliminary analysis to evaluate the feasibility of using ARUs to monitor bobwhites in habitat conservation focal areas in the core of the bobwhite range in south-central Iowa during Fall 2017 by pairing human observers with ARUs at routine monitoring locations and comparing results. We found that ARUs were better than human observers at detecting the presence of calling bobwhite coveys, having detected a covey on 2 more occasions than human observers ($n = 38$ paired surveys) and never failing to detect ≥ 1 covey in correspondence with human observers. Results relating covey counts and distance sampling-derived densities to metrics from ARUs were more equivocal, demonstrating a possible limitation of simply translating ARU detections to a meaningful measure of density. Further analyses and additional paired surveys are planned for 2018 to further evaluate the application of this technology for monitoring bobwhite occupancy and density in Iowa.

Meso-mammal Trapping on Properties Intensively Managed for Northern Bobwhites: The State of the Practice

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Timbers

Clay Sisson, Tall Timbers

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Nest predator management is commonly practiced on properties intensively managed for northern bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) across the Southeast. Specifically, mammalian predators [e.g., Virginia opossums (*Didelphis virginianus*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), bobcats (*Lynx rufus*)] are partially removed under special permit using legal lethal techniques. Recent research supports the efficacy of the practice to increase bobwhite fecundity and subsequently abundance; however, other objectives may preclude the use of trapping such as minimizing costs. We surveyed private properties intensively managed for bobwhites in the Southeast to better understand the range of management practices associated with meso-mammal management, estimate annual per acre cost, and learn the motivating factors for trapping. We received surveys from the manager or owner of 43 properties which represent over 104,453 hectares of managed land ranging from 445 to 11,740 ha ($\bar{x} = 2,429$). One hundred percent of properties reported having a trapping program; typically consisting of live trapping conducted in-house (40%) or both in-house and contractors (51%). Half of the respondents trap year-round while the remaining half only trap during the bobwhite breeding season. Trap density averaged 54 traps/thousand hectares and required 20-24 hrs/week to conduct. On average, 1 animal is caught per 7 hectares. Initial costs were \$9.60/ha and annual costs were \$7.24/ha. Most managers indicated trapping was either a “Very Effective” or “Extremely Effective” (67%) tool for maximizing bobwhite abundance. Our results reveal the cost effectiveness of these programs and will inform decisions regarding the implementation of new trapping programs and the refinement of existing programs.

Acoustic Recording Technology: An Application to Northern Bobwhite Populations

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Paige E. Howell, ¹University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

Jessica L. Mohlman, University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

Rachel R. Gardner ¹University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

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James A. Martin, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Savannah River Ecology

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Censuses, indices, and abundance estimates can provide insight into local wildlife populations. For many avian species, these methods are conducted via auditory surveys which may be more efficient due to the life history, ecology, habitat selection, and behavior of a species. The use of acoustic recording devices (ARDs) is a rapidly growing method used to bolster current auditory surveys; however, ARDs have not been evaluated for monitoring Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). Estimating bobwhite abundances has historically been difficult due to their secretive nature and irregularity in calling rates under various weather conditions. Despite this, robust estimates of abundance are especially important when the population is harvested. Our goal is to evaluate bias, precision, and efficiency of ARDs for bobwhites compared to standard covey call surveys. We used clusters of three Wildlife Acoustics' Song Meter 3's to conduct covey call surveys on Di-Lane Wildlife Management Area in Burke County, Georgia. We deployed 54 clusters of ARDs for 162 total recording hours. Using signal strength and time-of-arrival, we will analyze these recordings by applying acoustic spatial capture-recapture methods to ARD clusters to individually identify vocalizing coveys. We used spatially-explicit capture-mark-recapture for 26 nights across 262 traps as our baseline abundance estimate. Current models from trapping data predict a bobwhite abundance across the property of 1631 individuals ($SE \pm 232$). This study was conducted as a comparison to standard covey call surveys that were performed simultaneously. Results of this study will seek to determine the effectiveness and feasibility of ARDs for bobwhite population estimation.

Opportunity Costs of the Flagship Approach to Farmland Conservation

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John J. Morgan, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

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The Conservation Reserve Program has been a major avenue for managing wildlife on farmlands, especially game birds like Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). Northern Bobwhites are considered a “flagship” species for grassland conservation because they are of great recreational and cultural value, have relatively abundant revenue sources, and have similar habitat needs to other grassland birds. However, agricultural landscapes are complex networks of production, natural, and semi-natural land cover. The functional value of a patch to two similar species may vary because of differing life history requirements. Furthermore, the spatial scale at which land management influences populations (the scale of effect) differs among species. Given these potential conflicting factors, we sought to investigate opportunity costs of managing landscapes for Northern Bobwhite on a suite of similar species. We used an open-population distance-sampling model with an embedded predictor of scale of effect to estimate the relationship between population growth and landscape structure. We used a novel decision support tool to predict spatially explicit densities under competing management scenarios. We found that several species had similar responses to landscape structure as Northern Bobwhite, but the scale of effect of landscape structure on population growth varied. We predicted that managing our study region for Northern Bobwhite would incur opportunity costs of -76.4% for Dickcissels, 0.5% for Eastern Meadowlarks, and -5.7% for Field Sparrows. Although the flagship approach is assumed to benefit a suite of species, we provide evidence that there are opportunity costs that need to be considered when planning and implementing farmland conservation.

**24TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL BOBWHITE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ALBANY, GA AUGUST 5-10, 2018
Meeting Attendees**

A BIG Thank- you to the names in bold!! Names in bold indicate meeting team and field trip leaders.

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Brad	Alexander	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Roger	Applegate	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Marcus	Asher	Arkansas Game and Fish
Bennie	Atkinson	Prairie Wildlife
Kenny	Barker	Quail Forever
Penny	Barnhart	NBCI
Casey	Bergthold	Quail Forever
Todd	Bogenschutz	Iowa DNR
LeAnne	Bonner	WSFR - US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kyle	Brazil	CNGM
Matthew	Broadway	Indiana DFW
Andrew	Burnett	NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife
Breck	Carmichael	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Tim	Caughran	Quail Forever
Kurtis	Cecil	NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Cody	Cedotal	LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
Steve	Chapman	NBCI
Caleb	Crawford	Southern Illinois University
Tom	Dailey	NBCI
Steve	DeMaso	Gulf Coast Joint Venture
Ryan	Diener	Quail Forever
John	Doty	NBCI
Andy	Edwards	Quail Forever
Beth	Emmerich	Missouri Dept. of Conservation
Molly	Foley	NBCI
Justin	Folks	VDGIF/NRCS/VT
Thomas	Franklin	NBCI
Kent	Fricke	Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
Bob	Gates	Ohio State University
Jim	Giocomo	Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture
Alex	Glass	Southern Illinois University
Bob	Glennon	Virginia Tech
Paul	Grimes	Tall Timbers
Bubba	Groves	Arkansas Game and Fish
Greg	Hagan	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Michael	Hazlbaker	Tall Timbers
Larry	Heggemann	Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
Jef	Hodges	NBCI

2018 Attendees Cont.

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Michael	Hook	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
David	Hoover	MO. Dept. of Conservation
Jay	Howell	Virginia DGIF
Brent	Howze	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Dallas	Ingram	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Alan	Isler	Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
Alex	Jackson	Tall Timbers/Dixie Plantation
Douglas	Jobes	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Clint	Johnson	Arkansas Game and Fish
Griff	Johnson	Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
Tim	Kavan	Missouri Dept of Conservation
Tom	Keller	Pennsylvania Game Commission
Pat	Keyser	CNGM
Jon	Kohler	Quail Forever
Lorien	Koontz	VDGIF/NRCS/VTMCI
Chris	Kreh	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Andy	Krieg	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Brad	Kubecka	Tall Timbers
Jeremy	Kunick	Quail Forever
Mark	Lange	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
JOHN	LAUX	NE GAME & PARKS COMMISSION
Frank	Loncarich	Missouri Department of Conservation
Kyle	Lunsford	Quail Forever
Jeffrey	Lusk	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Alex	Lyon	Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
Buck	Marchinton	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
James	Martin	University of Georgia
Logan	Martin	Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks & Tourism
Noah	McCoard	GA DNR
Mark	McConnell	University of Georgia
Diana	McGrath	Tall Timbers Research Station
Jessica	McGuire	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Don	McKenzie	NBCI
John	McLaughlin	Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Chris	McLeland	Quail Forever
Alyssa	Merka	NBCI
Steven	Mitchell	Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
John	Morgan	KDFWR
Will	Newman	Quail Forever/ OPJV
Sean	O'Connor	DE Division of Fish & Wildlife
Bill	Palmer	Tall Timbers
Robert	Perez	Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Mike	Peters	WV Division of Natural Resources
Lisa	Potter	Missouri Department of Conservation
Jeff	Prendergast	Kansas Wildlife Parks and Tourism
Emily	Prosser	University of Georgia

2018 Attendees Cont.

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Nick	Prough	Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation
Marc	Puckett	Virginia Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries
Tracey S	Purser	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Justin	Rectenwald	UGA/Albany Quail Project
Matt	Reidy	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Kelly	Reyna	Texas A&M University - Commerce
Craig	Rhoads	De Division of Fish & Wildlife
Cody M	Rhoden	KDFWR
Johnny	Richwine	CNGM
Catherine	Rideout	East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture
Steven	Riley	Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Andrew	Rosenberger	VDGIF/NRCS
Emily	Rushton	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Willie	Simmons	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Clay	Sisson	Albany Quail Project
Jimmy	Sloan	NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
Michael	Small	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Wes	Smith	CANFOR
Nathaniel J	Stricker	Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife
Susan	Sullivan	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Theron	Terhune	Tall Timbers
Reggie	Thackston	Thackston Wildlife Consulting
Jesse	Thomas	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Stephen	Thomas	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
John	Thrift	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Jeff	Thurmond	USDA-NRCS
Adam	White	Albany Quail Project
Bill	White	Missouri Dept. of Conservation
Mark	Whitney	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Derek	Wiley	Quail Forever
Nathan	Wilhite	University of Georgia
Rob	Willey	Arkansas Game and Fish
John	Yeiser	University of Georgia
Ted	Zawislak	Arkansas Game and Fish
Drew	Zellner	Georgia Wildlife Resources Division