


MODELS OF SUCCESS

TPWD Working With Partners to Demonstrate Successful Quail Restoration

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PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Robert Perez
Upland Game Bird Program Leader



What is a Focus Area?

- The focus area concept for bobwhites was developed by the 25 member states of the national quail conservation group.
- The National Bobwhite Quail Conservation Initiative (NBCI) is the umbrella organization providing guidance to states embracing the focus area approach.


What is a Focus Area?

- A focus area is generally 5 to 25 thousand acres with a boundary determined by opportunity, habitat potential and landowner and partner interest and participation.
- There are excellent examples of ongoing habitat restoration projects in Texas but due to time and budget restraints, monitoring has been lacking.

MONITORING BOBWHITE AND GRASSLAND BIRD RESPONSE TO HABITAT MANIPULATION WITHIN FOCUS AREAS IN TEXAS

- TPWD and the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture (OPJV) received a 200K federal grant (PR) in 2013 to complete grassland bird monitoring within focus areas and comparative reference areas through 2016.
- Objective: Determine population responses of bobwhite quail and select grassland birds to habitat improvements within pre-determined "focus" areas in Texas.


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MONITORING BOBWHITE AND GRASSLAND BIRD RESPONSE TO HABITAT MANIPULATION WITHIN FOCUS AREAS IN TEXAS

- We chose places where quail are gone, but they haven't been gone long, kind of the front line in the battle to restore bobwhites. It's a first out, first back in concept.
- Focus areas were also selected based on the presence of established quail restoration efforts.


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MONITORING BOBWHITE AND GRASSLAND BIRD RESPONSE TO HABITAT MANIPULATION WITHIN FOCUS AREAS IN TEXAS

- Goals
 - Demonstrate successful quail restoration in multiple areas of the state
 - Build models of success that can be reproduced in other areas of the state
 - Provide hope and inspiration to Texas land stewards

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The Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act taxes what items?

- a. Firearms
- b. Firearms and ammo
- c. Firearms, ammo and binoculars
- d. Firearms, ammo and hunting accessories



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\$4 Million in Quail Grants

- Texas Legislature authorized 4M of Upland Game Bird Stamp funds to be used to further develop Quail Focus areas through conservation partners in Texas. In FY14, and FY15 the funds were awarded through 15 Habitat Enhancement Grants to 13 partners.



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• **BIG NEWS!**



Habitat Enhancement Grants

- Universities
 - ACU, UNT, TAMUK, TTU
- Non-governmental Organizations
 - ABC, GLCI, NWTf, OPJV, TNC, WWF, WNBRI, WHF
- Federal Agency
 - USFWS

How many species of quail can be found in Texas?

- a. 2
- b. 3
- c. 4
- d. 5



How many species of quail can be found in Texas?

- a. 2
- b. 3
- c. 4
- d. 5



Can you name all four quail species?

- 1. Bobwhite
- 2. ?
- 3. ?
- 4. ?

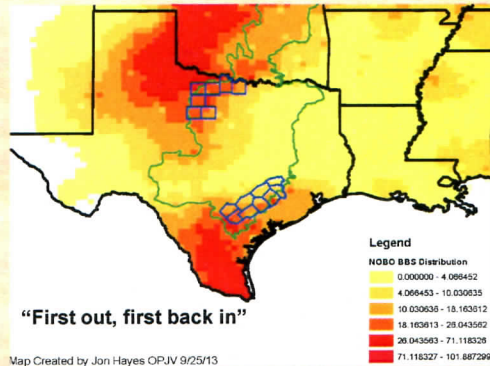
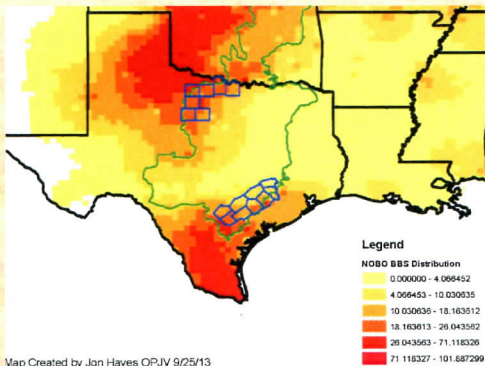
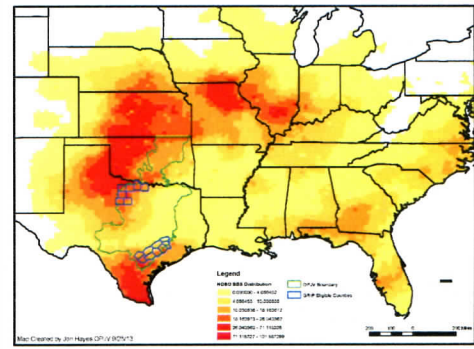


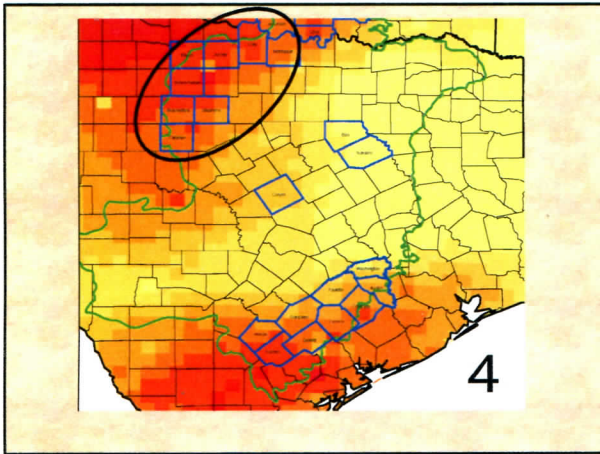
Can you name all four quail species?

- 1. Bobwhite
- 2. Scaled
- 3. Gambel's
- 4. Montezuma






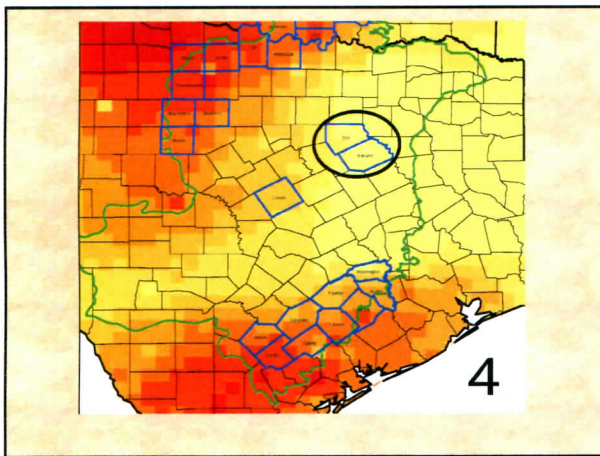
Northern Bobwhite Distribution








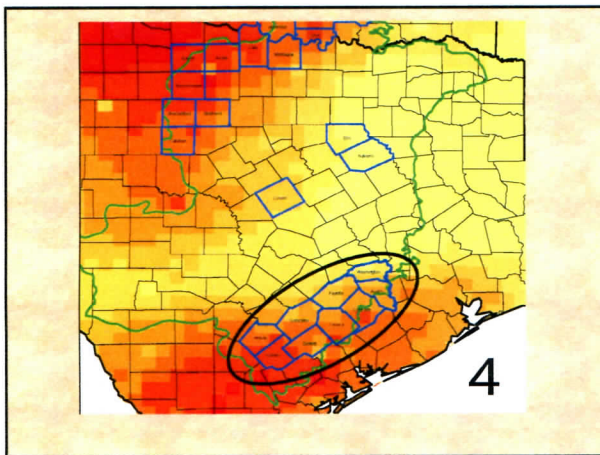
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 UNT Quail
 UNT Clay County Quail Corridor

 The Quail-Tech Alliance
 A Report of Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University
 TTU Anchor Ranch Program

 Oaks and Prairies
 Joint Venture
 Grassland Restoration Incentive Program





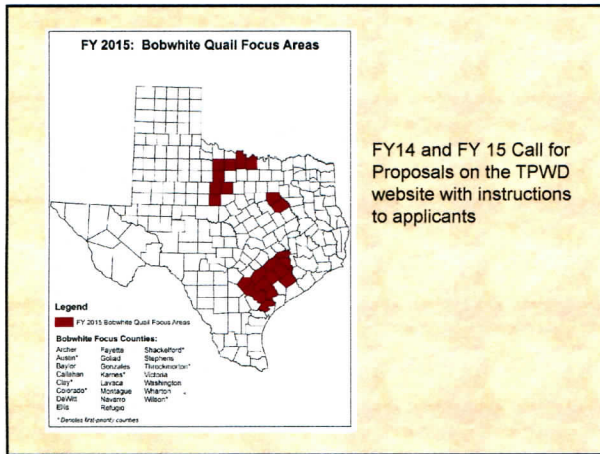
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 Western Navarre Bobwhite Recovery Initiative
 WNBRI
<http://www.navarroquail.org/>

 UNT Quail
 Research Projects

 Oaks and Prairies
 Joint Venture
 Grassland Restoration Incentive Program



4


 WHITETAIL QUAIL
<http://www.whf-texas.org/>

 Oaks and Prairies
 Joint Venture
 Grassland Restoration Incentive Program

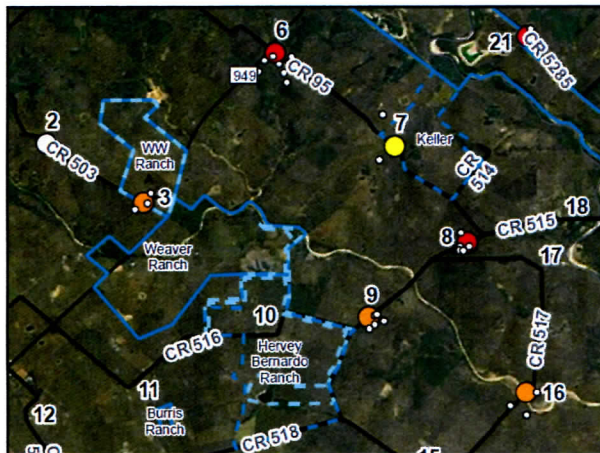
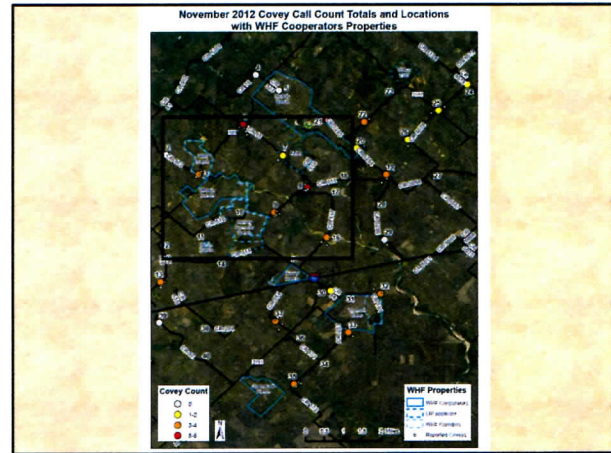


HABITAT WORK

- Mechanical and chemical brush and exotic vegetation management
- Strip disking
- Firebreak establishment
- Prescribed burning
- Prescribed grazing
- Native seeding

MONITORING

- Fall bobwhite covey-call point counts
- Spring Breeding Bird Survey style routes with thousands of points
 - Up to 12 species of grassland birds recorded
 - Observers hired and trained through OPJV



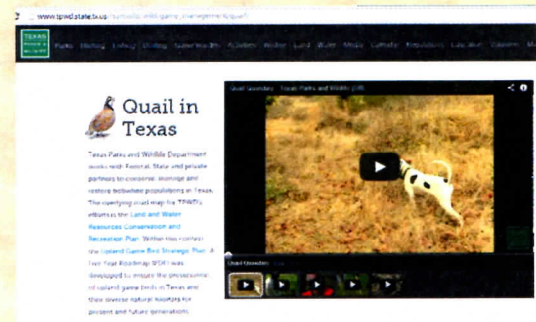
NEEDS

- Seek additional funding sources for habitat work in the focus areas. Potential sources include:
 - Landowner Incentive Program
 - NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife
 - NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - USFWS Partners For Wildlife program
 - Pittman Robertson Program

UP NEXT

- Fall volunteer crew being assembled for covey counts in the Southeast Focus Area.
- Surveys conducted during the first 2 weeks of November.
- Conduct habitat assessments in each focus area

TPWD WEBPAGE



http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/game_management/quail/

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At Issue by Carter Smith: Quail Populations Declining



As seen in
TPW Magazine

For most of us, quail season started and ended with more of a whimper than a bang this year. Save and except for a few pockets of sandy country in deep South Texas, much of the state's bobwhite quail range was bereft of the very thing hunters and their dogs dearest – quail. For all who cherish the sound of a rooster's penetrating "bob-white" cry on a crisp winter morning and the sight of an exploding covey rise over a good point, that's a real shame.

[Read More »](#)

News Releases

- Outlook Improved for Quail Season
- \$4 Million Awarded for Texas Quail Restoration in Focus Areas
- Hunting, Fishing Licenses on sale Aug. 15

[More Quail-Related News »](#)

Where Have all the Quail Gone?

Do you remember "the good old days"? Do you remember when quail were a common sight? Do you remember when we had quail... where now we have concrete?



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Audio

- Wildlife: Quail on the Prairie from the Passport to Texas Radio Segment

Quail Management Tips



The structure of habitat needed to sustain quail is well documented. Although the types of plants used by quail change across the different regions of Texas, the structure of the habitat, whether nesting, overhead screening, loafing, and roosting cover, remains the same.

[Read More »](#)

Publications


- Where Have All the Quail Gone? | PDF
- Bobwhite Facts and Famauses | PDF
- Bobwhite Quail in Texas | PDF
- Bobwhite Quail Management in South Texas | PDF
- Effects of Quail Management on Non-game Species | PDF
- Guidelines for Bobwhite Habitat Management in the Cross Timbers and Prairies | PDF
- The Upland Game Bird Management Handbook for Texas Landowners | PDF
- Upland Urgency: The Fifth Against Bobwhite Quail Decline | PDF

GET INVOLVED!



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- <http://bringbackbobwhites.org>
- <http://wildlife.tamu.edu/quail/>
- <http://www.quailresearch.org/>
- <http://www.quail-tech.org/>
- <http://biology.unt.edu/unt-quail/>
- <http://ckwri.tamuk.edu/research-programs/richard-m-kleberg-jr-center-for-quail-research/about-us/>
- <http://bri.sulross.edu/>
- <http://www.opjv.org/>
- <http://quailcoalition.org/>



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...the unified strategy to restore wild quail

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How You Can Help Bobwhite ...

The bobwhite quail and the suite of other species in peril won't survive as part of America's landscape without a larger community working toward the goal. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- First, spread the word about the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative by sharing this website with friends and acquaintances who care about bobwhite quail and/or the suite of other wildlife species being wiped out by destruction of their habitat.
- Keep current with efforts to save the bobwhite by subscribing to NBCI news releases and the NBCI blog, and encourage others to do the same. Keep passing that information along to others.
- NBCI is an organized effort by the states for the states, so contact your state department of conservation or fish & wildlife commission (check the web links under About Us), tell them you support their efforts to restore quail to America's landscape and ask them how you can help.
- If your state has a specialty vehicle license plate that supports quail management, buy it.
- Join one of the non-governmental grassroots organizations, like Quail Forever, Quail Unlimited, Quail and Upland Wildlife Foundation, Quail Coalition or the National Wild Turkey Federation (yes, they have a effort on the quail's behalf) and put your boots on the ground to help restore habitat. (Again, check the web links under About Us.)
- See if any members of your Congressional delegation is a member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus; if so, contact him/her about the bobwhite's plight and the NBCI.
- Contact your local county extension office and ask them what they are doing to promote improved quail habitat with agricultural interests in the county. Share the NBCI story with them.
- Ask your state forestry commission how they are working with the state's wildlife biologists to manage state forests in a way that will help recover wild quail populations. Share the NBCI story with them.
- Donate dollars to the cause. NBCI, working with its headquarters institution the University of Tennessee, is establishing an avenue to allow financial contributions, including establishment of an endowment to help support what is sure to be a long-term effort.

