



Quail Forever in Tennessee

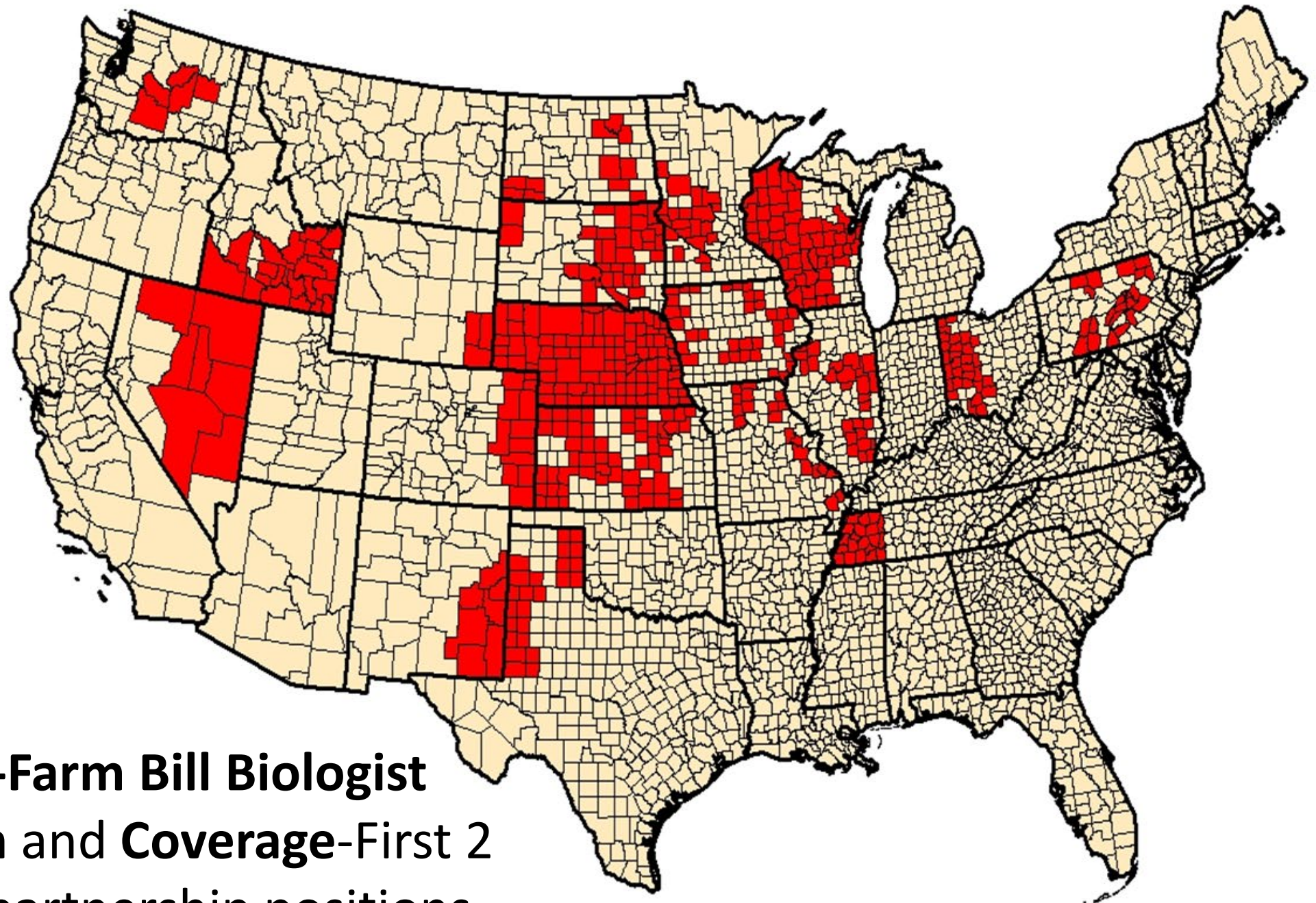
10 Years of Partnerships & How Far We've Come

Brittney Viers; TN State Coordinator
for QF, NRCS, TWRA



Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever Farm Bill Partner Field Staff

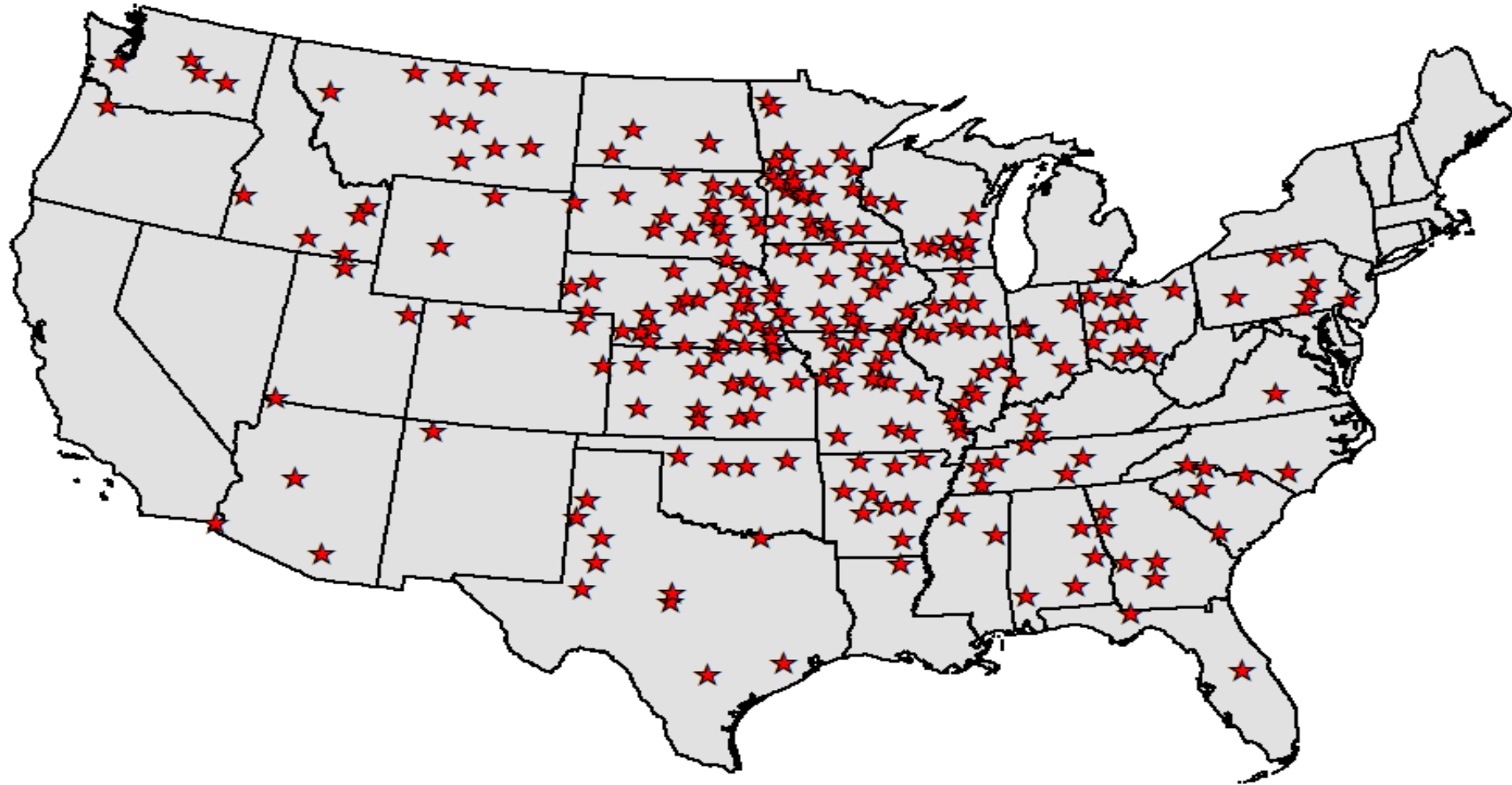
- First started with FBB's in South Dakota in **2003** with **4 positions**
 - Currently **450+ positions** within **40 states**
 - **285** partner FBB's & Coordinating biologists nationwide.
- FBB's have worked on over **300,000 projects** with landowners impacting **3.56 million acres**
- **Funding sources-diverse**
 - State fish and wildlife agencies
 - USDA-NRCS
 - National Fish and Wildlife Fund (NFWF)
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Local PF/QF chapters



**2013-Farm Bill Biologist
Program and Coverage-First 2
TN QF partnership positions**

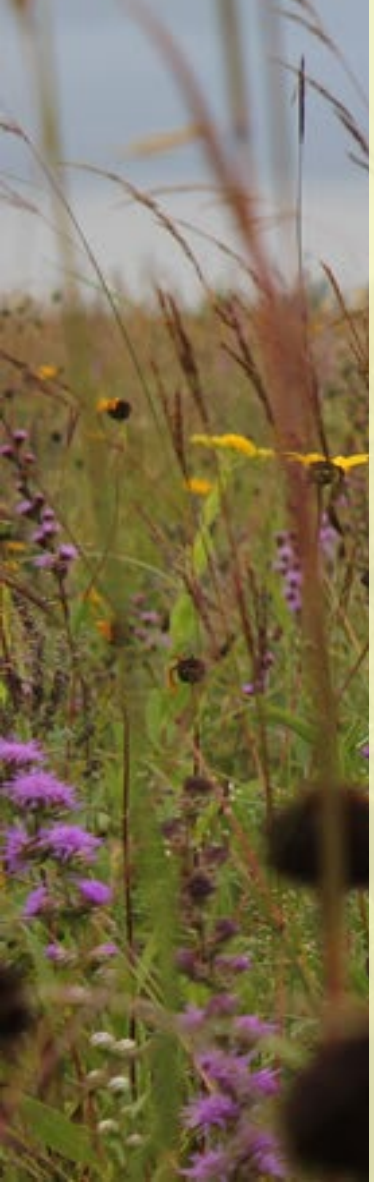


Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Footprint



Quail Forever in the Southeast

- **2013**
 - ~**150** Farm Bill Biologists nationwide.
 - **First 2** partnership positions stationed in **West TN**.
 - Also, first 2 positions in the **Southeast**.
 - Partners included NFWF, TWRA, & NRCS.
- **2023**
 - **PF/QF National and Regional Highlights**
 - **285** partner FBB's & Coordinating biologists nationwide.
 - **Largest** national private lands staff.
 - **66** Habitat Specialists nationwide.
 - **South Region QF Team**
 - **70** partner biologists and conservation field staff.
 - **14** Habitat Specialists-AR, GA, TN

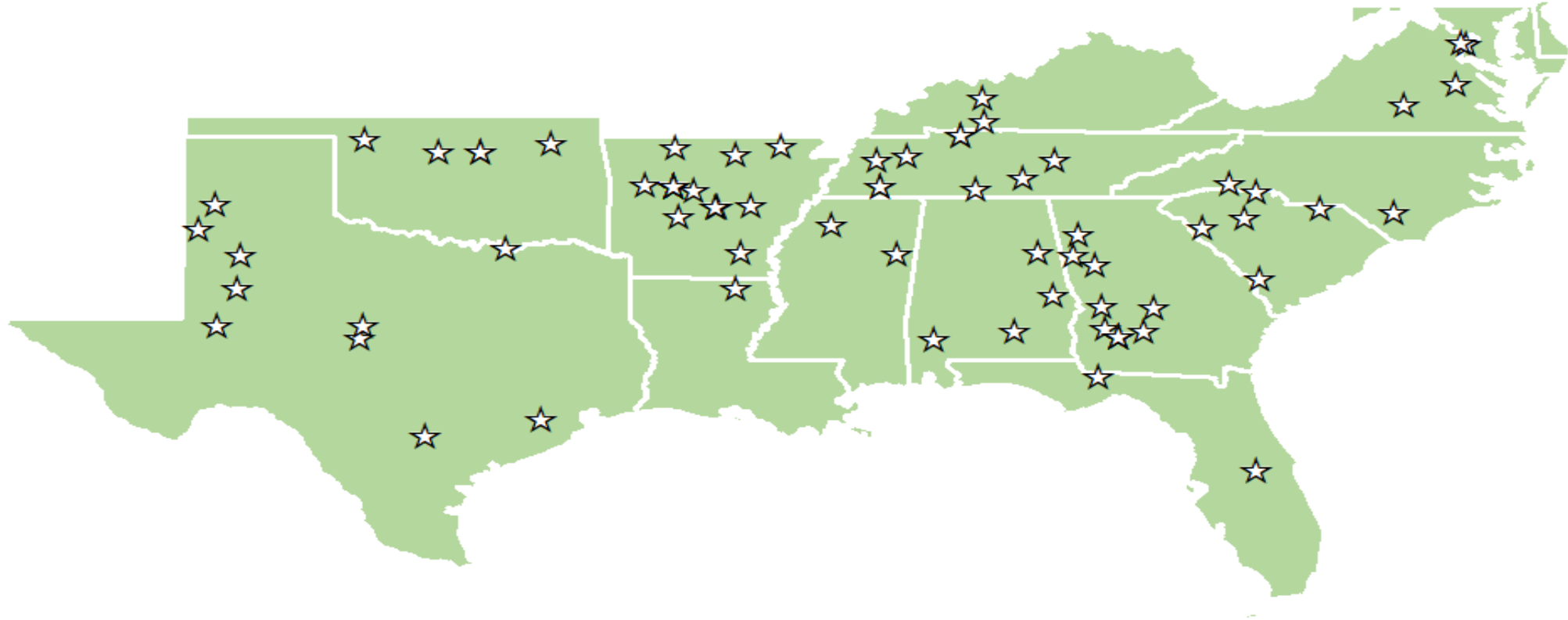




Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Footprint



South Region





Tennessee Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever



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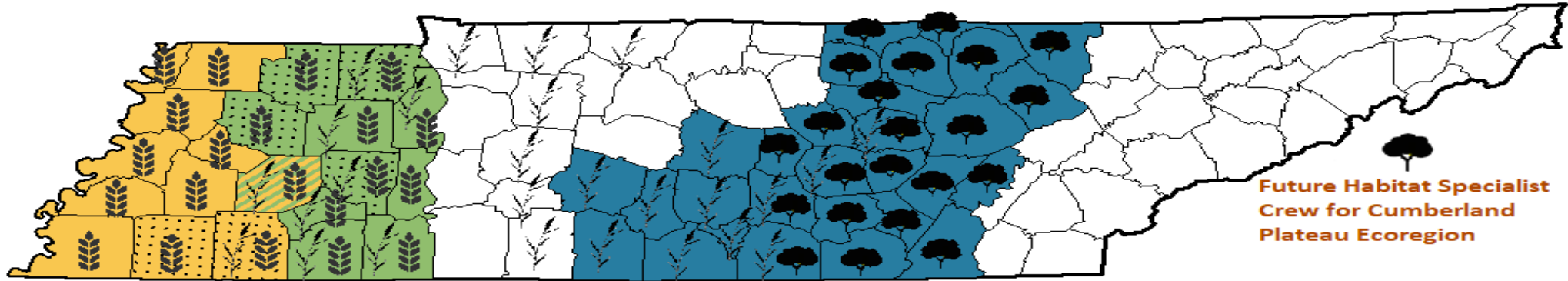
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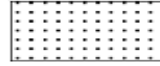
**Future Habitat Specialist
Crew for Cumberland
Plateau Ecoregion**



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**Future Grasslands
Outreach Coordinator
for TN & AL**



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Tennessee Quail Forever Partner Field Staff
Partners include: TN NRCS, TWRA, SGI (Southeastern Grasslands Initiative), NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

QF Partner Staff Program-What We Provide

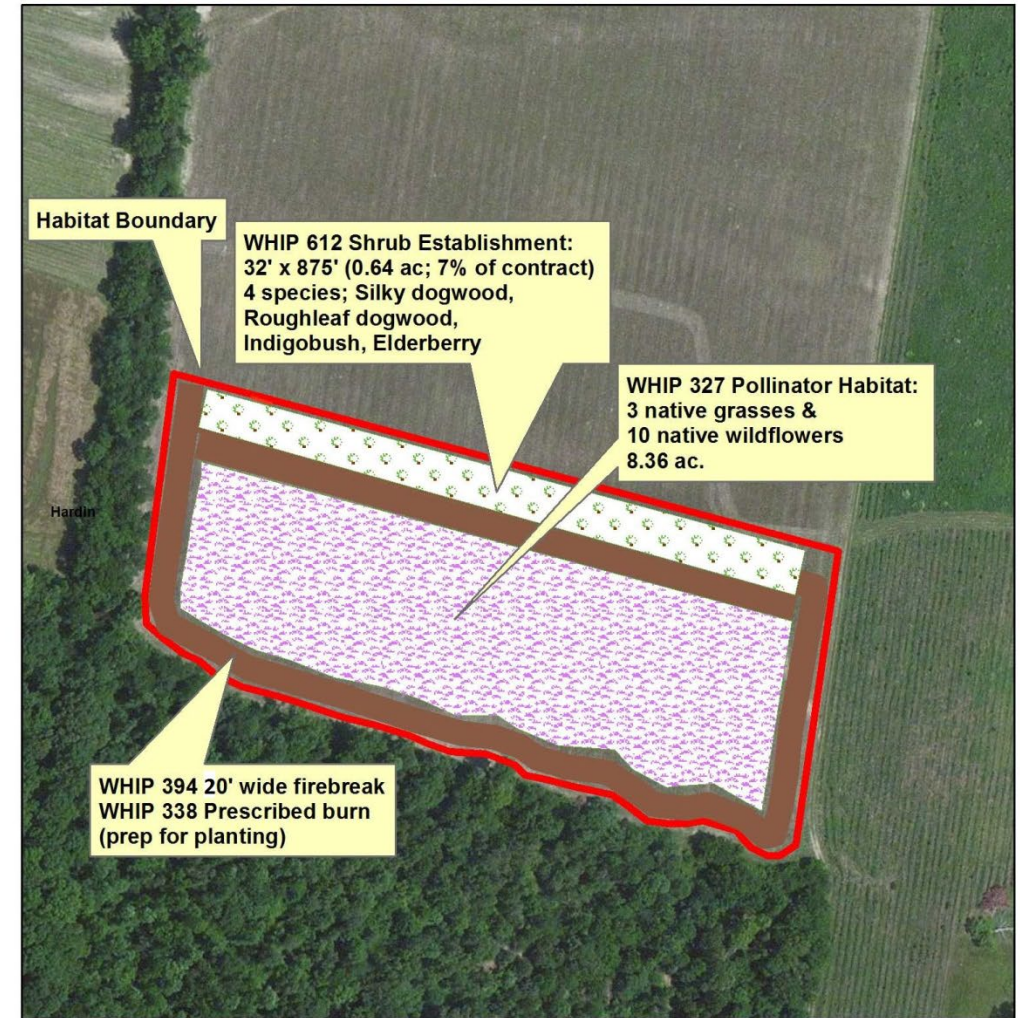
- **4 Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists**
 - Address resource concerns in mostly open landscapes-focusing on early successional plant communities.
- **1 Coordinating Forester**
 - Forest management plan writing & reviews.
 - Woodland and Savanna ecosystem restoration.
- **1 Grasslands Coordinating Biologist**
 - Grasslands RCPP & SGI
 - Private and public lands native grassland assistance-recreation, restoration, stabilization.
- **1 Precision Ag Conservation Specialist**
 - Data analysis of nonproductive crop and pastureland.
 - Farm Bill enrollment assistance for continued farm income.
- **1 State Coordinator**
 - Statewide QF team lead.
 - Statewide CRP technical assistance.
 - Assistance to state NRCS biologist and State NRCS Resource Conservationist.

Focus

- **Management Plans & Documentation**
 - Conservation Technical Assistance
 - Trip Reports
 - Farm Bill contract documents (IR Sheets, Enhancements, WHEG's, CPA-52 assistance)
- **Farm Bill program ranking assistance**
- **Drill & sprayer calibrations**
- **Conservation on nonproductive ag lands**
- **Practices**
 - Timber Stand Improvement
 - Prescribed Fire
 - Firebreaks
 - Tree/shrub Establishment
 - Conservation Cover
 - Native Habitat Planting
 - Herbaceous Weed Control



Farm Bill Biologist Duties - Planning



USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

██████████ WHIP Pollinator &
Shrub Habitat
Hardin County, TN

0 0.0275 0.055 0.11 Miles



Drill Calibrations



Prescribed Burn Planning



OUTREACH-Landowner Workshops



What's next for Team TN?

- **Currently 8** positions statewide.
- **Partners** include: TWRA, NRCS, SGI, NFWF.
- Will be adding **4 Habitat Specialists** (NFWF, TWRA, SGI).
- Future **Grasslands Outreach Coordinator** (NFWF, SGI).
- **Area 4 Farm Bill Biologist II** (NRCS-WLFW).
- **Area 2 Grazing Specialist** (NRCS-WLFW).
- Soon to be team of **15!**





10 Years of Hard Work & Dedication

- Impacted **124,043** acres!
 - Farm Bill program enrollment/assistance & conservation technical assistance.
- Engaged/Assisted **3939** private **landowner contacts**.
- **496** restoration and management plans developed (FB program & CTA).
- **1,089** conservation practice certifications.
- **581** CRP program eligibility requests completed.
- **331** Vegetation Plan Reviews (NRCS staff assistance requests completed).
- **42** Outreach and Education events completed (includes landowner workshops, joint participation in conservation outreach events, educational brochures & bulletins).
- ***None of these accomplishments would be possible without our partners!**

Our Volunteer QF Chapter Model

- 6 active Quail Forever chapters in TN
- Grassroots system of fundraising and project development.
 - allows members to see the direct result of their contributions.
- We empower local chapters with the responsibility to determine how **100%** of their locally raised conservation funds will be spent.
- As a result, chapter volunteers are able to see the fruits of their efforts locally, while belonging to a larger national organization with a voice in federal and state conservation policy.
- Field staff support QF chapters but work independently
- Mutually beneficial relationship





Acoustic Recording Unit (ARU)



How does an ARU Work

1 hour (45 minutes before sunrise until 15
minutes after sunrise)

Goals of the ARUs

Better understand what Quail need

Monitoring multiple fields at once

What EQIP practice

Allows landowner to witness wildlife
management first hand

Personal Goals

Education

More quail on the landscape

More EQIP contracts

A close-up photograph of two yellow and black butterflies, likely Gulf fritillaries, perched on a cluster of small, bright orange flowers. The background is a soft-focus blue sky with some green foliage. The butterflies have distinct black stripes on their yellow wings. One butterfly is in the foreground, facing right, while another is slightly behind and to the left, also facing right.

Questions?

Contact me!

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or

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