



Conservation Office
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Winter 2010

Quarterly, Southwest Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Update:

Greetings Chapters,

This is the 2010 winter update, updates will be sent out 4 times a year to keep all of you in the loop on the great things we are achieving in the area. Many of these things would not be possible without your support (both financial and technical), so thank you from the field. The last few months have been a very busy time for me and for Ohio PF/QF. Attending meetings and conferences seem to be a big part of the winter months, but typically are very informative and motivational. I have also been busy getting out in the cold meeting with interested landowners. Winter is also a time of increased office work of putting together proposals and developing conservation plans. There has also been increased interest in the CP33 program and a big push for WRP acres, so this coming year could be a good year for getting acres on the ground.

Key accomplishments and achievements for the past few months:

- Attended the Annual PF State meeting – GREAT EVENT!
Guest Speakers:
 - Dave Nomsen – PF VP Government Affairs
 - Dave Graham – Chief, Ohio Div. of Wildlife
 - Terry Cosby – State Conservationist, NRCS
 - Jeff Mitchell – FSA
- Attended Partners meeting (PF, DOW, NRCS, FSA, USFWS, others)
Topics:
 - Mid Contract Management
 - Invasives
 - Programs
- Attended the 2010 Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Association Conference
- Attended the Dayton Hunting and Fishing Show – worked PF booth
- Assisting USDA with conservation programs:
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP – CP33, CP9)
 - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
 - Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



- Projects for spring 2010:
 - 6 USFWS projects - approx 100 ac - Greene, Miami, Preble
 - New CP33 projects – Butler, Greene, Miami, Mont., Preble, Warren
 - WHIP (projects – Approx 175 ac. – Miami, Butler, Greene, Mont.
 - WRP projects – Miami, Greene, Preble
 - ** Acreages for many projects are still to be determined or approved
- Worked in portions of 7 counties to provide technical assistance to landowners (Butler, Hamilton, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Warren)
- Assisted to complete the Mid Contract Management landowner meetings and develop management plans
- Completed computer upgrades and security programs for USDA – Dec 2010
- Working with 4 county park districts on habitat development and management (Miami Co., Preble Co., Greene Co., and 5 Rivers)
- Working Little Miami River, Inc (LMI) in Greene and Warren counties on WHIP and WRP projects; 140 acres. More projects to come with LMI
- Helping to develop Wildlife Management Plans and possible spring planting for Miller Brewing Co. – possible new 20 acre WSG planting – 35 acres already established
- Visited many field sites throughout the region to assess functionality of various habitat components related to Federal Conservation Programs
- Butler County Pheasants Forever 2009 Youth Hunt
- Miami County USDA Program Workshop – Jan 2010
- Articles (2): monthly newsletters in Butler, Greene, Mont., Miami, Preble, Warren
 - CP33 – quail habitat
 - WRP – wetland program

CP33 Updates:

- CP33 – 4,972 acres available state wide out of 20,000
 - Butler Co – 244 ac; Greene – 168 ac; Miami – 664ac; Mont – 240; Preble – 944ac

If you know of someone that needs personal assistance, to put some acres on the ground or enhance some existing habitat, please direct them to me.

Upcoming months:

- Participate in more educational / outreach programs or events
- Plan new habitat projects and prep for spring 2010 plantings
- Continue promoting wildlife and conservation programs in our area
- Ohio Invasive Plant Research Conference – Feb 2010
- ODNR – Diversity Conference – March 2010
- Butler County PF/QF annual banquet – Feb 2010
- Butler County USDA Program Workshop – Feb 2010
- Prescribed Burns

Chapter members, thank you for all you have done to help make the last few months a success. I especially appreciate the sponsorship of events, my position, the Grassroots Plan, and all the hard work that comes from the very dedicated people we have in our chapters. We continue to set the bar nationwide. It makes me wonder, without the type of dedication and passion we see from the membership, where we would be today as an organization. That type of dedication and passion has gotten us where we are. Once again, thank you!

Thank you!

Cheers,

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