

PHEASANTS  FOREVER

QUAIL  FOREVER

Texas  
Partnership  
Report

January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023  
*(FY 2023 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)*



## Team Updates

### Texas PFQF – ‘State of the Union’

Time sure does fly when you’re having fun and staying busy! Our Texas Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever (PFQF) team members have been continually keeping at it when it comes to mission delivery (building partner relations, habitat improvement, increasing public access opportunities, and good ol’ education and outreach events). To start with, our team of PFQF staff here in the Lonestar State are now up to 14 (which includes 10 biologists, 1 regional rep, 1 development officer, 1 staff accountant, and 1 state coordinator). Just 1 year ago, we had 9 team members – that’s a 55% growth! In this last quarter we were saddened to have Ms. Elaina Davis (Lamesa - CWB) leave, but were Blessed to have Ms. Katie Duffy and Mr. Nolan Talkington join our team/family (see individual write-ups on pages 4 and 5).

We continue to work on building partner relations so we can collectively have the most meaningful impact on our conservation efforts. PFQF is Blessed and honored to be working with so many great partners across the state to help create, administer, and deliver grassland conservation through Programs such as the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (GRIP). Earlier this year, the first round of project proposals were accepted, ranked, and awarded for the rollout of the new Southern Great Plains (SGP)–GRIP, which is focused in the Texas Panhandle; this now makes 4 variations of GRIP across our state! We look forward to the opportunities ahead to continue these great Programs and partnerships, and the ability to build upon them.

When it comes to habitat delivery, the last 3 months have been productive to say the least! Our team members conducted >130 site visits (including >60,000 acres of ‘new’ property) and helped plan >40,000 acres of conservation practices. To top it all off, our team was able to be a part 10 Rx burns, totaling 5,511 ac (8 of those burns [accounting for 1,226 ac] would NOT have occurred without our QF involvement)! See page 6 for more great impact metrics.



*TX PFQF biologists at the 2023 TX Ch. of The Wildlife Society meeting in Houston (Feb '23)*



### Wildlife Habitat Federation

This quarter, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever (PFQF) would like to highlight the outstanding collaboration efforts of the Wildlife Habitat Federation (WHF) with our PFQF team members. With the help of the WHF, we have been able to obligate >\$100,000 of non-federal funds in Austin and Colorado counties through the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture's *Grassland Restoration Incentive Program*. The WHF team has also helped assist our PFQF team with the implementation of

multiple prescribed burns across the Gulf Coast Ecoregion.

Additionally, the WHF team has included PFQF staff in the Coastal Prairie Conservancy Habitat Management Board. Through this collaborative involvement, we and

various other partner organizations have had the opportunity to obligate >\$150,000 towards coastal habitat conservation through the Coastal Prairie Conservancy Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Thank you Wildlife Habitat Federation for being such a great partner! We look forward to our continued work together, and are excited about the great opportunities ahead for our conservation community to collectively accomplish together throughout this great state!



*Wildlife Habitat Federation employees left to right: Gretta Sleeper, Will Kearney, Coleman Stilwell, and Garry Stephens*



## Position Spotlight

### Katie Duffy: PFQF – Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Katie grew up in Council Bluffs, Iowa in the house her great grandparents lived in, surrounded by corn and soybean fields. In December 2022, she graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management with a dual major in Environment and Natural Resources, paired with a minor in Soil Science.

Prior to her current job as a PFQF Range and Wildlife Conservationist based out of the Hereford, TX NRCS field office, she had an internship working in the oilfields of Wyoming as a Reclamation Technician. In her current role, Katie works with

landowners and conservation partners to promote healthy grassland management – primarily through various Farm Bill Programs. Katie, like other PFQF team members, has the ability to go where the workload is calling, but her focal coverage area includes Deaf Smith, Randall, Potter, Oldham, Moore, Hartley, Sherman, and Dallam counties. We are excited to welcome Katie to the team and see the amazing work she will be conducting in the Panhandle region of Texas!



*Katie and her bird dog Mocha after a successful pheasant hunt*



## Position Spotlight

### Nolan Talkington: PFQF – Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Nolan was raised in the community of Bushland, in the Texas Panhandle. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management from Angelo State University in 2022. Throughout his life, Nolan has worked on several



*Nolan sporting a smile at the Chaparral WMA*

family/friend operated cattle ranches in the TX Panhandle, as well as a commercial hunting ranch and deer operation in south Texas. More recently, he interned on the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area in Dimmit and LaSalle counties, and on a cattle and sheep “station” in Australia. Nolan’s primary focus as the new Coordinating Wildlife Biologist – based out of the Laredo, TX NRCS field office – will be helping promote and deliver grassland conservation via the

USDA Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative in south Texas as well as other applicable wildlife-related conservation Programs and practices. Nolan’s focal coverage area includes Dimmit, La Salle, McMullen, Webb, Duval, Zapata, and Jim Hogg counties. Welcome aboard Nolan, we are excited to have you representing our PFQF team/family in the southern reaches of the state!



# Team Impact

## Quarterly Tables: January – March 2023

### Planned Habitat Acres

Team Members	EQIP		GRIP		PUB		Non-Program	
	Contracts	(ac)	Contracts	(ac)	Contracts	(ac)	Plans	(ac)
Burkhead, W.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Daily, T.	4	2,883	-	-	-	-	3	4,080
Davis, E.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dotson, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Duffy, K.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Higginbotham, T.	-	-	1	389	-	-	2	3,865
Michna, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2,385
Riggs, M.	9	26,048	-	-	1	66	3	434
Talkington, N.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson, C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	16
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>(28,931)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(389)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(66)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>(10,780)</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>28 Conservation Plans (40,166 ac)</b>							

### Education & Outreach

Team Members	Landowner	*Site Visit Acres	Partner Contacts	Conservation Outreach	Training	Workshops
	Contacts					
Burkhead, W.	44	7	92	11	5	1
Daily, T.	121	17	157	1	3	1
Davis, E.	-	21	-	-	19	1
Dotson, T.	17	15	40	2	18	1
Duffy, K.	1	12	2	3	5	2
Higginbotham, T.	244	12	228	3	2	1
Michna, J.	10	4	-	-	1	2
Riggs, M.	70	27	48	3	1	-
Talkington, N.	6	4	8	1	3	-
Wilson, C.	42	14	98	8	22	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>10</b>

\*Site visit acres are the acres in which a team member provided some form of technical guidance to the landowner/manager following a site visit, OR was part of a review, evaluation, or certification process for a contract. These acres are only counted once per 'footprint' acre. If a signed conservation contract results from the visit(s), those acres will additionally be reflected in the planned habitat acres table.

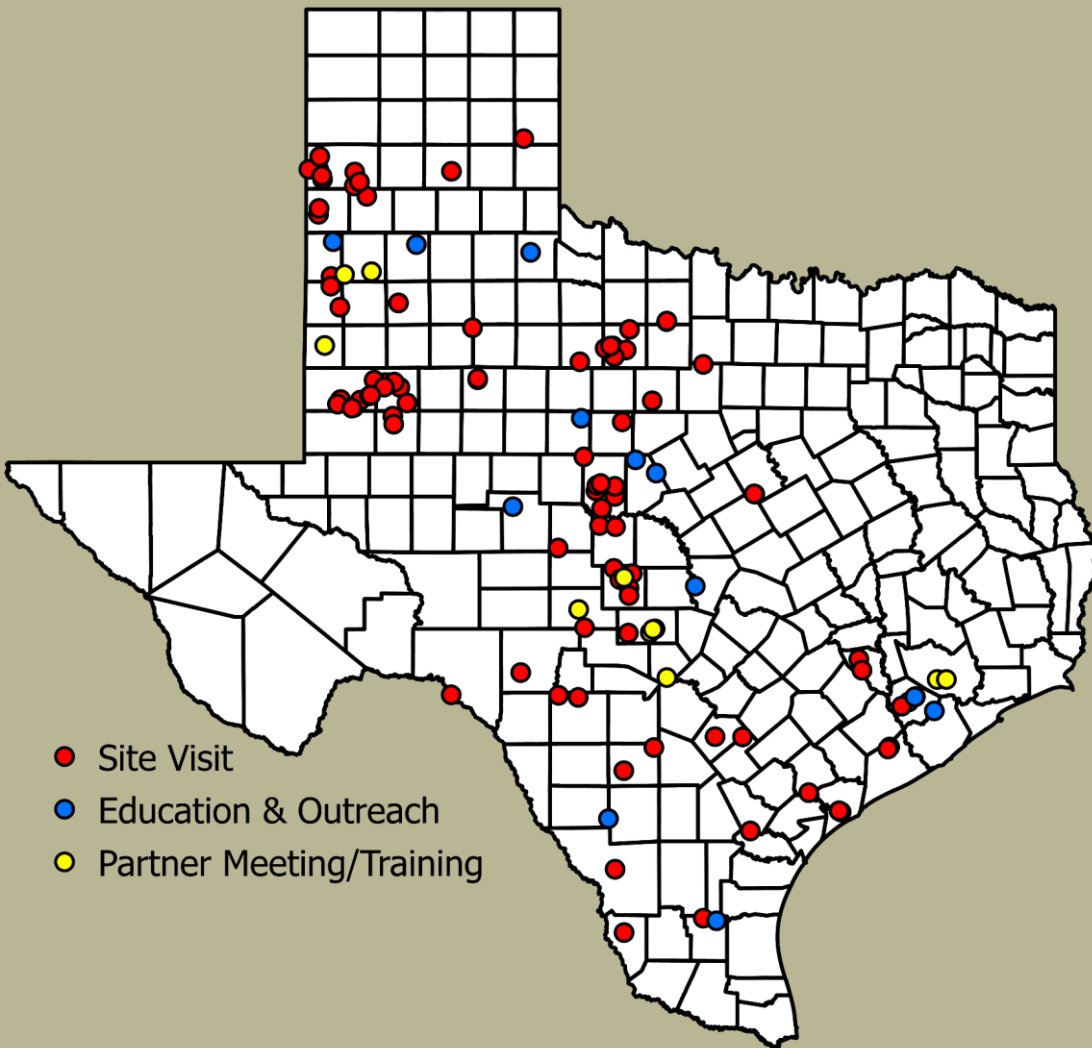


# Team Effort

## Impact Map

### PFQF Biologist Impact Map

January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023





# ALL-STAR Lineup

## Texas PFQF Team

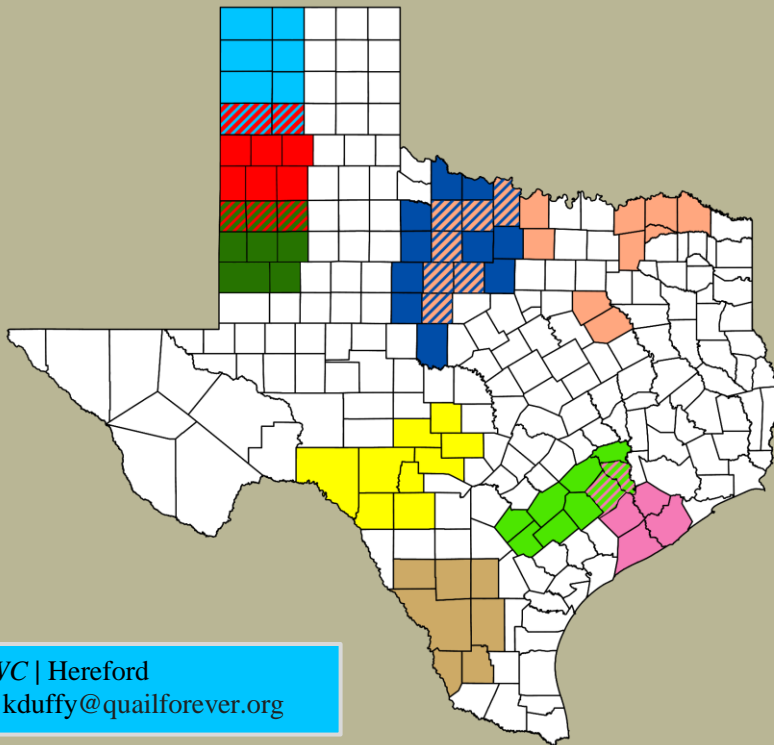
**Thomas S. Janke** | *State Coordinator* | Gouldbusk  
(830) 220-9742 | tjanke@quailforever.org

**Dustin McNabb** | *Regional Rep* | Lubbock  
(806) 781-3724 | dmcnabb@quailforever.org

**Kyle Lusson** | *Development Officer* | Waco  
(512) 289-5921 | klusson@quailforever.org

**William Burkhead** | *CWB - VPA HIP* | Granbury  
(903) 327-4277 | wburkhead@quailforever.org

**Joshua Michna** | *Panhandle Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist* | Lubbock  
(806) 696-9422 | jmichna@quailforever.org



**Katie Duffy** | *RWC* | Hereford  
(402) 995-1858 | kduffy@quailforever.org

**Tavin Dotson** | *CWB* | Muleshoe  
(806) 239-0540 | tdotson@quailforever.org

**Elaina Davis** | *CWB - CRP* | Lamesa  
(573) 872-6067 | edavis@quailforever.org

**Taylor Daily** | *CWB* | Fredericksburg  
(806) 445-6927 | tdaily@quailforever.org

**Mitchell Riggs** | *CWB* | Coleman  
(210) 542-2381 | mriggs@quailforever.org

**Vacant Position** | *CWB* | Henrietta

**Ty Higginbotham** | *CWB* | Floresville  
(936) 827-0555 | thigginbotham@quailforever.org

**Charlotte Wilson** | *RWC* | Rosenberg  
(817) 550-3548 | cwilson@quailforever.org

**Nolan Talkington** | *CWB* | Laredo  
(956) 420-9168 | ntalkington@quailforever.org