

# Northern Bobwhite, Grasslands, and Savannas A Framework for Conservation Action

## Outcomes Assessment



### NRCS is evaluating conservation outcomes for Northern Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*)!

The Northern Bobwhite, commonly known as Bobwhite Quail, is an iconic species for grasslands, forests, and farmland across the southeastern US. However, populations have declined dramatically in the last 40 years. Habitat restoration across large areas is needed to restore populations.

In 2016, the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) partnership began funding management activities designed to enhance, restore, and conserve Bobwhite habitat on private lands. Through the WLFW partnership, NRCS is able to assist landowners to voluntarily create and maintain Bobwhite habitat in order to support the range-wide recovery of the species.

In collaboration with the University of Georgia and Quail Forever, NRCS is now looking to monitor some of these managed lands to help identify habitat features that promote excellent Bobwhite habitat. If possible, additional information (e.g., other management actions employed) may also be collected through interviews with landowners and/or conservation partners.

### Your WLFW project has been selected to be part of our study! What does that mean?

Monitoring includes collecting data on habitat and bird response to conservation actions. Visiting sites multiple times will increase the odds of detecting quail on your property. Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) will be deployed to monitor Bobwhite Quail and other songbirds on days human observers are not present.

### What does the monitoring effort consist of?

- Visit twice in the spring (May 15 – July 15) for Breeding Bird Surveys and ARU deployment (for 5 days each)
- Visit once in the late summer (Late July or August) to conduct vegetation survey
- Visit three times in the fall (October 15 – December 1) for Covey Counts and ARU deployment (for 5 days each)

Data collected\*\* will be used to quantify the benefit of NRCS conservation efforts and to estimate the potential impact of future work across the Bobwhite range. The ultimate goal is to help landowners make informed decisions about how to manage land for Bobwhite Quail. With your support, we can help conserve this habitat and an iconic species for years to come.



*\*\* NRCS will adhere to landowner privacy requirements through associated privacy protection agreement with QF and UGA. All landowner information will remain confidential.*

*An example of an ARU to detect Bobwhite Quail.*

### Want More Information?

#### Participation is Free!

Please contact James, Jess, or your local Private Lands Biologist for additional information on this study.

#### Quail Forever Project Contact

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