



Over 95% of Texas is privately owned or operated

Landowner Assistance Programs

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TPWD Private Lands Program Landowner Services

- **Provide information and guidance to landowners managing wildlife populations and habitats.**
- **Provide information on various cost-share incentive programs offered by TPWD and other resource agencies and organizations.**
- **Assist USDA in implementing Farm Bill Programs that benefit soil, water and wildlife.**

TPWD Private Lands Program Landowner Services

- **Provide on-site assistance to landowners in developing and implementing wildlife management plans that help achieve their land management goals.**
- **Services are free and confidential under Chapter 12.025 of Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.**
- **Currently assisting over 8,000 landowners in implementing wildlife management plans on over 29 million acres.**

Open Space Tax Valuation for Wildlife Management

Assist landowners wishing to designate their primary agricultural use as wildlife management under Section 1-d-1 of the Texas Tax Code.

Guidelines and forms on TPWD web site
www.tpwd.texas.gov/taxvaluation



Wildlife Management and Prescribed Burning Associations

- Groups of private landowners who cooperate in managing their lands to achieve common natural resource management goals.
- Most common in the eastern half of Texas where smaller acreage properties are more prevalent.
- Growing in number, participation, and diversity of interest throughout the state.
- Important in addressing landscape level conservation.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/wildlifeassn

Lone Star Land Steward Awards

- Annual awards program that honors private landowners throughout the state – 6 ecoregion and special category awards.
- An overall statewide winner recognized as the Leopold Conservation Award recipient for Texas.
- Anyone can nominate landowners for these awards.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/lsls



Landowner Incentive Program



Provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in managing their property for the benefit of plant and animal species of conservation concern.

Grassland restoration

Rare or declining species

Watershed restoration

Targeted regions and watersheds





Landowner Incentive Program

www.tpwd.texas.gov/lip



2 Funding Opportunities

Statewide LIP Funding Series – 5 year agreement totaling 1 million dollars

- For 2014, priority given to projects that show direct benefit to listed or candidate species within the Trans Pecos or Edwards Plateau ecoregions.
- Cooperative agreement with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

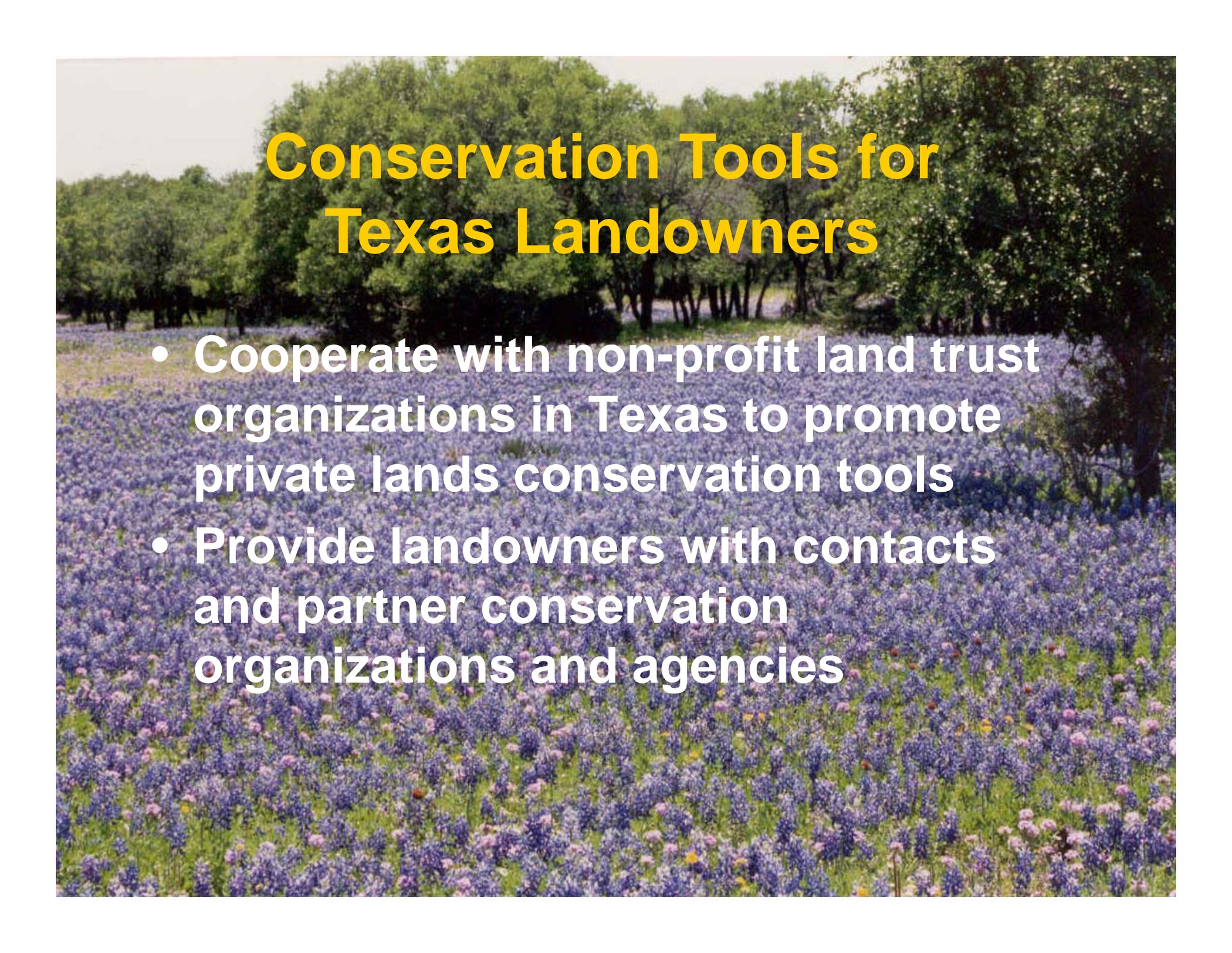
Watershed Funding Series - Current funding at ~\$500,000

- Partnership between the TPWD Wildlife and Inland Fisheries Divisions, focusing on watershed enhancement in targeted watersheds.
- Grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) & others.
- Types of projects include juniper removal, fencing livestock and feral hogs out of sensitive riparian areas, invasive species control, and erosion control.

Pastures for Upland Birds

<http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/pub>

- The Pastures for Upland Birds Program (PUB) provides cost-share incentives and technical guidance to private landowners to restore native grass and forb vegetation on pastures and hayfields dominated by introduced grasses such as Bermuda grass, bahiagrass, and Old World bluestems.
- Funding through a cooperative agreement with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program - \$30,000
- Focal area is east-central Texas - portions of Blackland Prairie and Post Oak Savannah.



Conservation Tools for Texas Landowners

- Cooperate with non-profit land trust organizations in Texas to promote private lands conservation tools
- Provide landowners with contacts and partner conservation organizations and agencies

USDA Farm Bill Programs

Farm Bill programs offer the opportunity to promote total resource management on millions of acres currently under TPWD or NRCS management plans

TPWD Farm Bill Coordinator works with landowners and NRCS Conservationists to assist in the implementation of Farm Bill programs that promote and enhance wildlife and wildlife habitat on private lands





Texas Prairie Wetlands Project

Partners in Conservation Since 1991

- Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service

TEXAS PRAIRIE WETLANDS PROJECT
 MANAGED BY THE LANDOWNER








Texas Prairie Wetlands Project

Completed Project Acreage by County 66,193 acres 04/01/14

Top 5 Counties

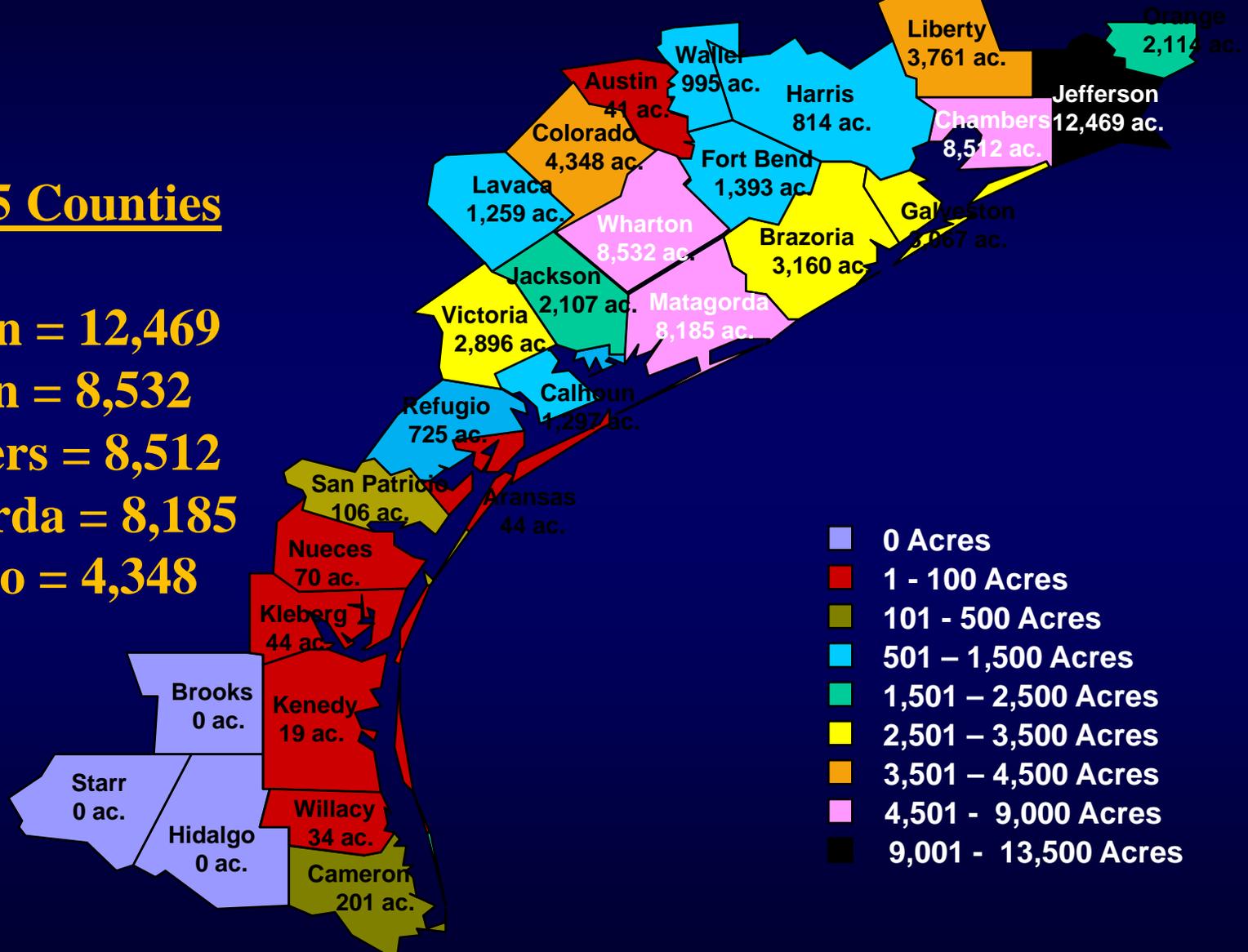
Jefferson = 12,469

Wharton = 8,532

Chambers = 8,512

Matagorda = 8,185

Colorado = 4,348



Texas Prairie Wetland Project

- TPWP works to meet the winter habitat needs of migrating waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife on the Texas Coast
- Serve as an example for partnering on upcoming coastal focused conservation initiatives
 - The new Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative
 - Oil spill related habitat dollars
 - Mottled Duck Decision Support Tool- help to guide strategic conservation for Mottled Duck habitat on public and private lands (Fall 2014)

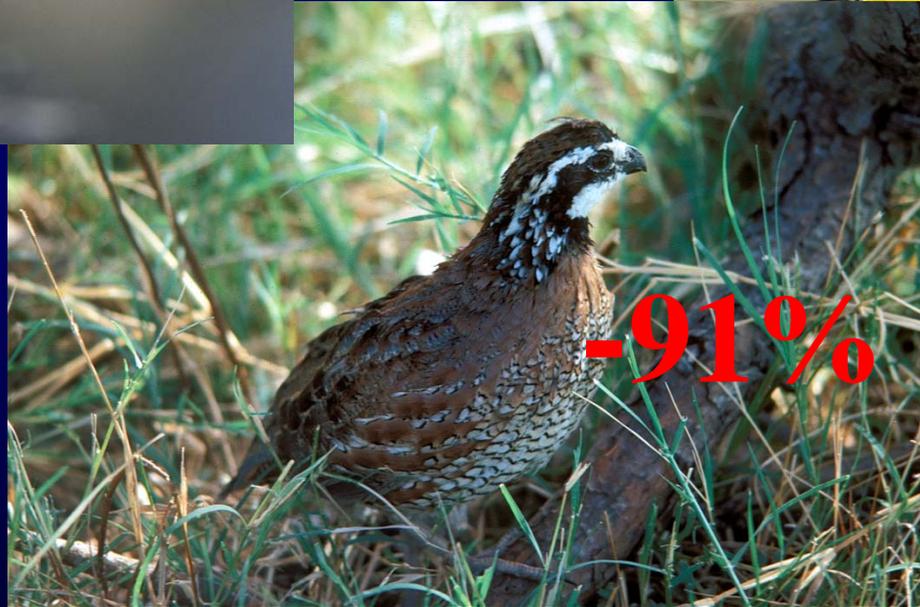
Lesser Prairie Chicken Efforts

- Worked with NRCS to develop LPC EQIP Resource Area in 2003
 - By FY12 area had 513 contracts worth \$14 million on ½ million acres
- Established Candidate Conservation Agreement w/Assurances
 - CCAA enrollment deadline is April 18, not available after listing
- TPWD assisting with WAFWA's Rangewide LPC Plan
 - By mid-March industry had enrolled 2.5 million acres needing mitigation
 - 3 year industry enrollment fees greater than \$21 million expected
 - TPWD staff currently evaluating habitat on 82,264 acres offered by private landowners interested in receiving payments in return for improving habitat during first signup
 - Next landowner signup expected this Fall – TPWD will hold outreach meetings
 - WAFWA Plan consists of 5 & 10 year contracts and permanent easements
- Outreach to landowners on available options

Grassland Restoration Incentive Program

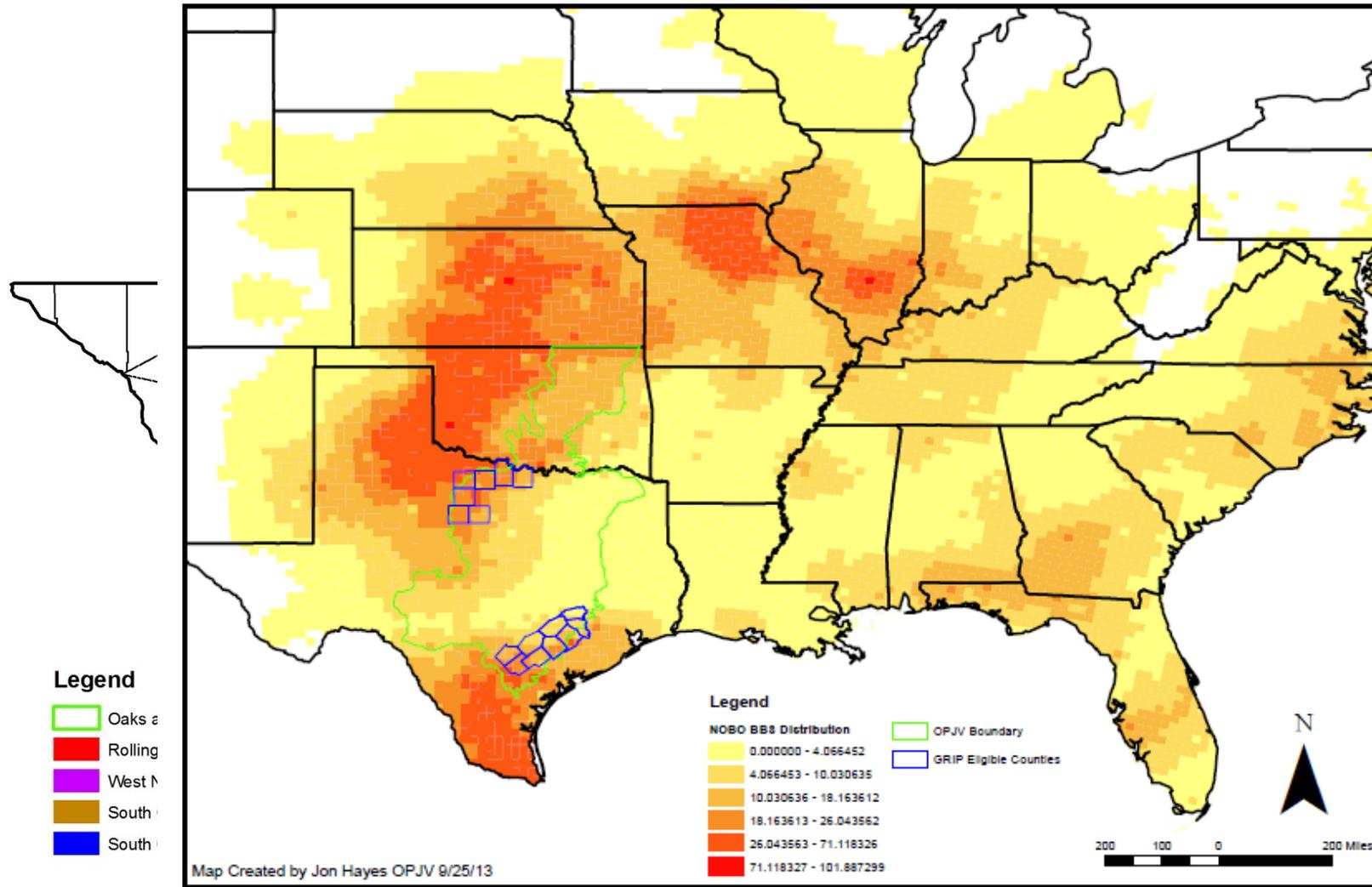
Update Spring 2014







Northern Bobwhite Distribution



Map Created by Jon Hayes OPJV 9/25/13

	Focus Area of JV objective
0%	203,527
6%	176,163
4%	95,849
7%	385,011



Grassland Restoration Incentive Program

\$532,500.00 made available for FY 14-15

To date:

50 Project Proposals Received

\$517,346.00 allocated to projects totaling **34,294** acres

Average cost per acre = **\$15.08**

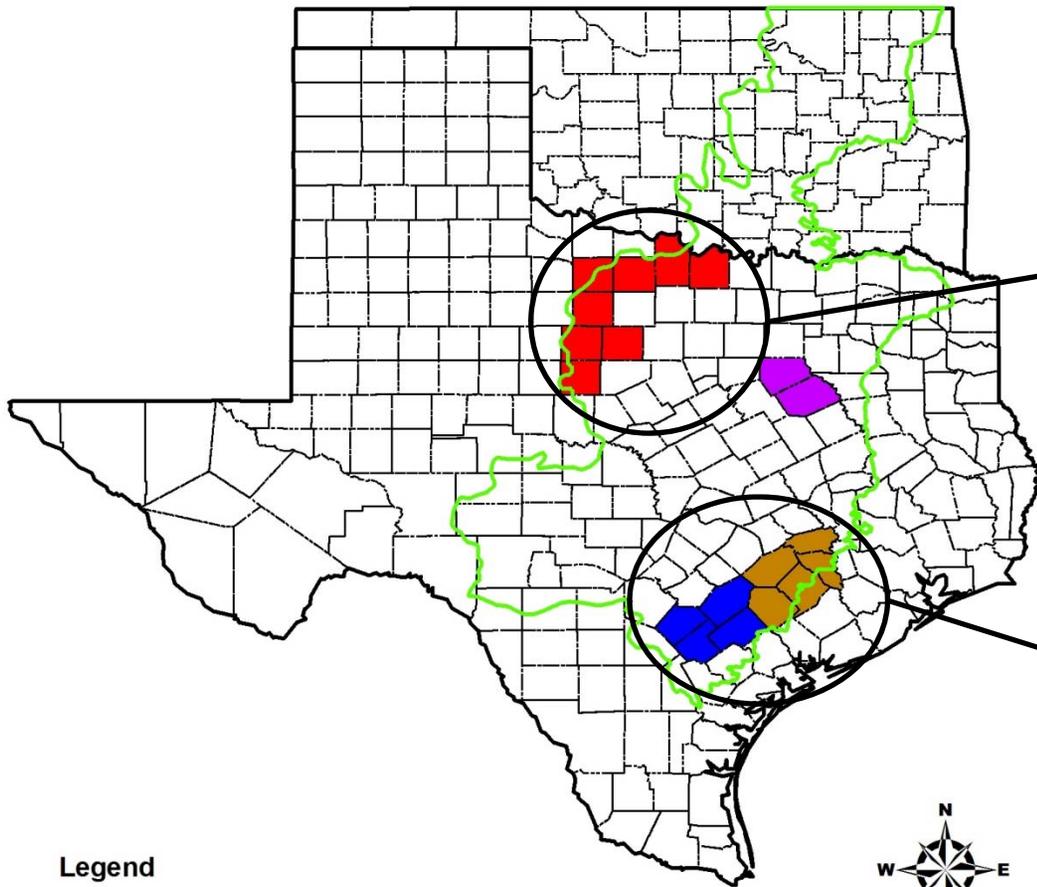
Largest Treatment Area: 14,065 acre prescribed grazing plan (Shackelford County)

Smallest Treatment Area: 5.5 acre NWSG reseeding (Fayette County)

Largest Agreement Amount: \$41,805.00

Smallest Agreement Amount: \$742.50





Legend

-  Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Boundary
-  Rolling Plains
-  West Navarro Bobwhite Restoration Initiative
-  South OPJV East
-  South OPJV West



DRAFT
Produced by Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture
Map Date: 4/22/13

Northern Focus Counties

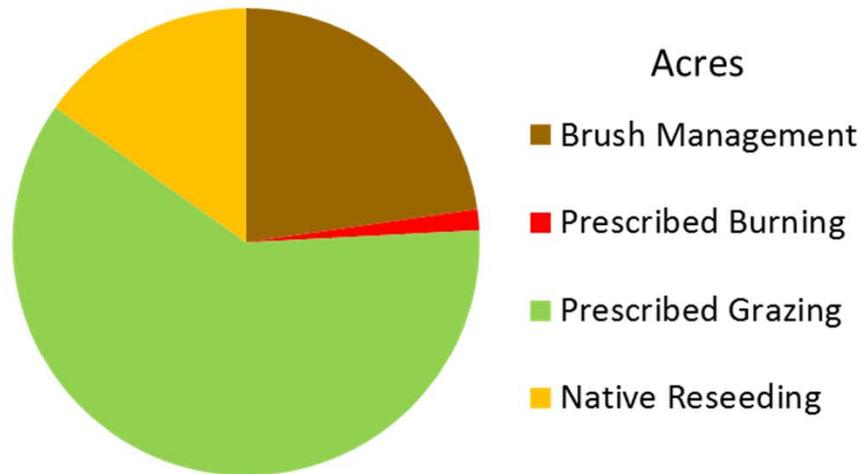
24 projects
\$240,783.89 Requested
31088.8 Acres
Cost per acre = \$7.75

Southern Focus Counties

23 projects
\$227,304.41 Requested
3205.7 Acres
Cost per acre = \$70.91



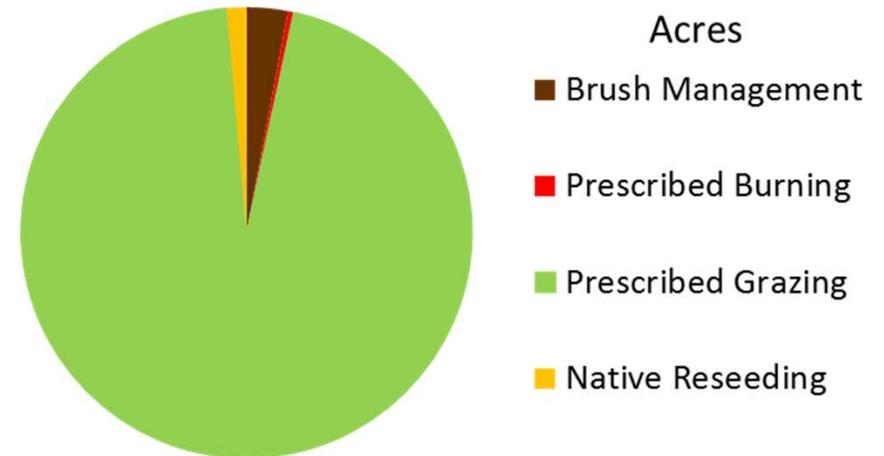
Southern Focus Area

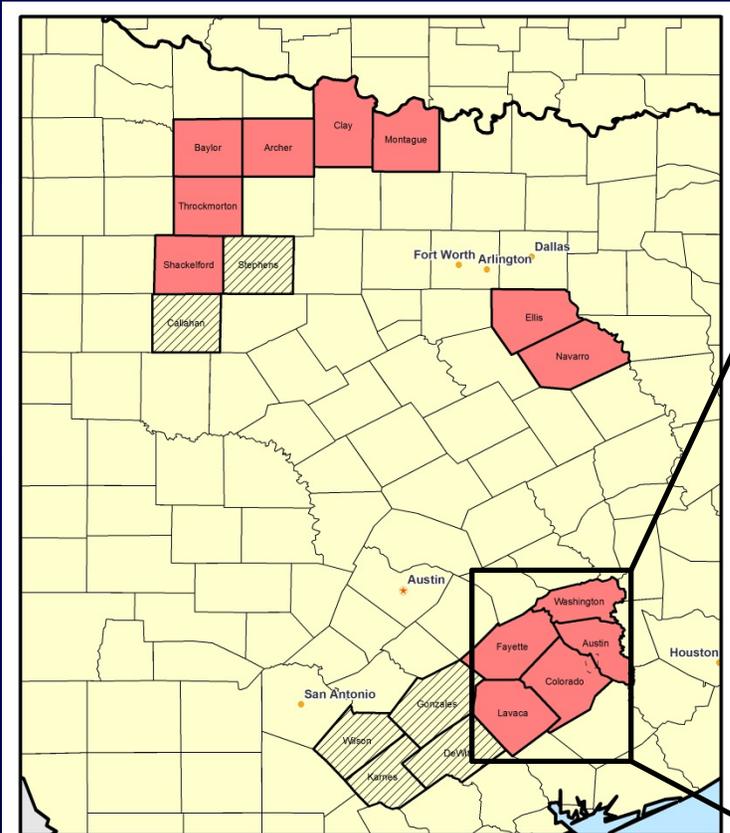


	Brush Management	Prescribed Burning	Prescribed Grazing	Fencing (ft)	Native Reseeding
Units	985.0	62.0	2626.0	25940.0	659.7
Funds	\$109,669.61	\$6,917.10	\$16,123.64	\$27,070.68	\$83,617.87

Northern Focus Area

	Brush Management	Prescribed Burning	Prescribed Grazing	Fencing (ft)	Native Reseeding
Units	783.1	103.8	25283.6	42527.0	375.8
Funds	\$87,019.33	\$2,879.25	\$155,241.30	\$49,130.51	\$29,959.35



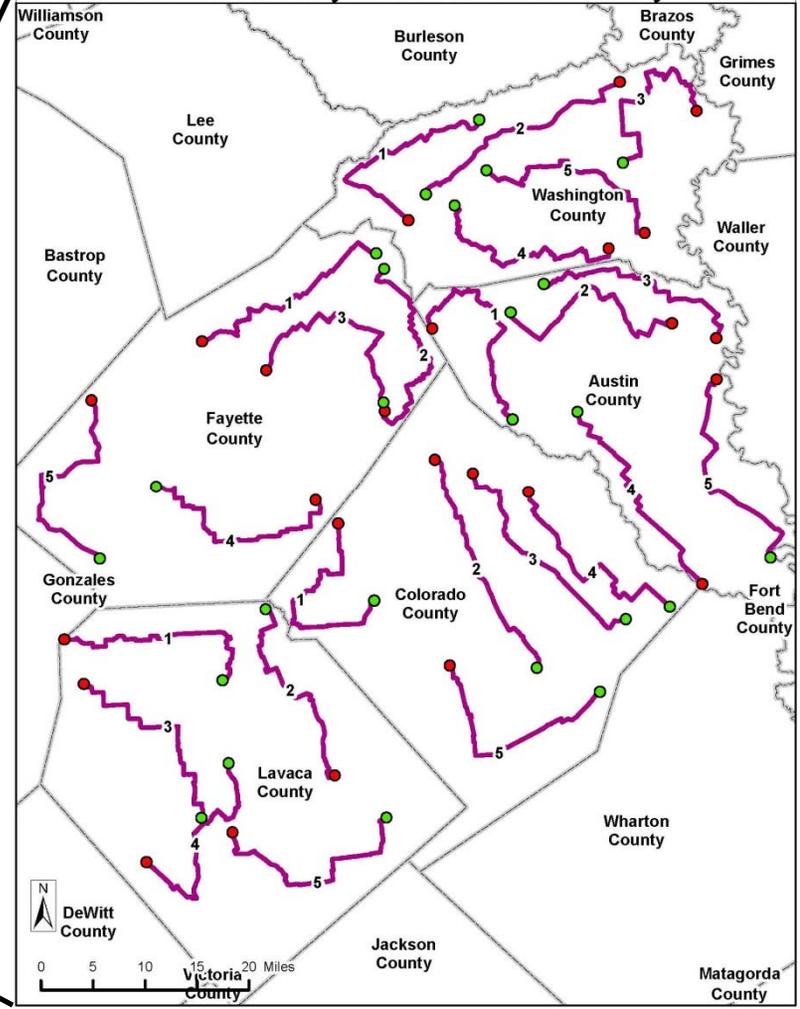


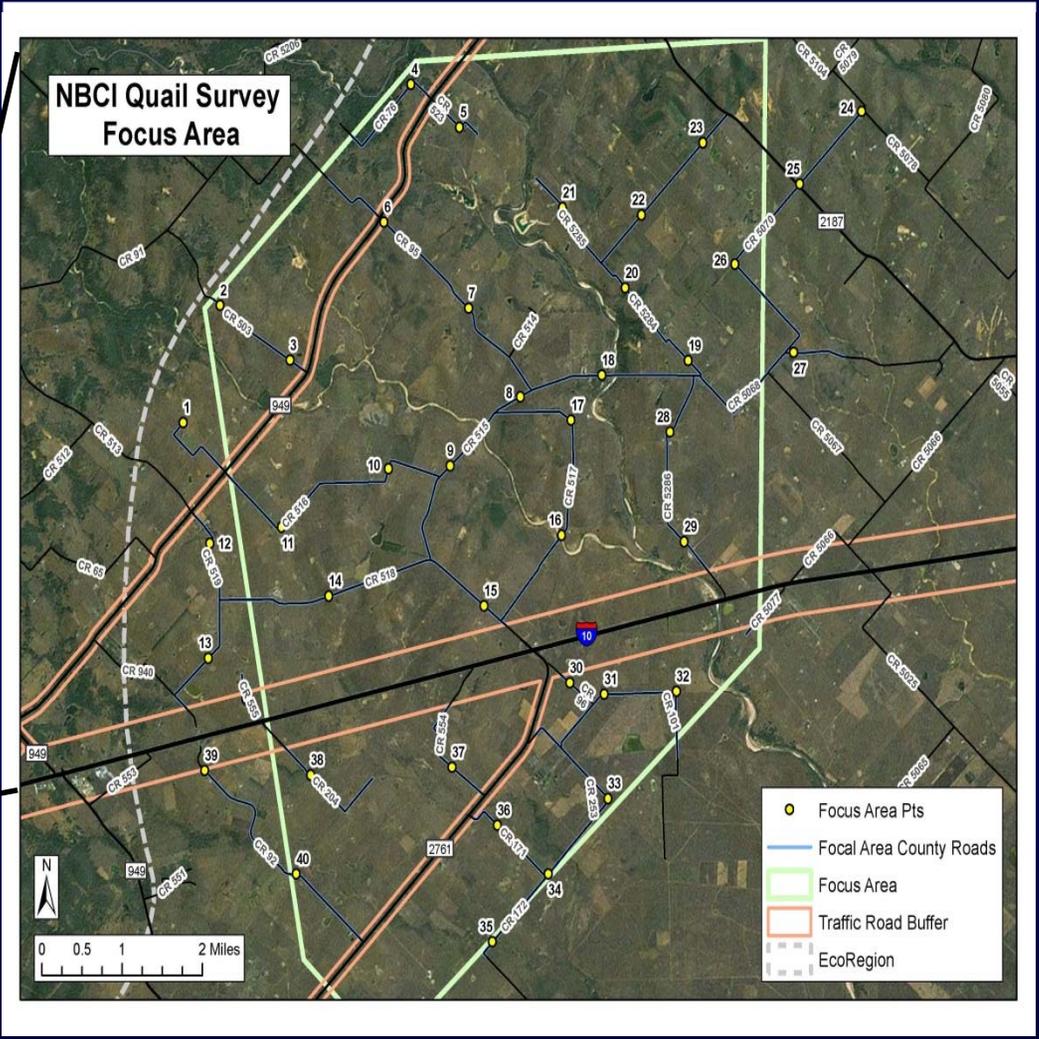
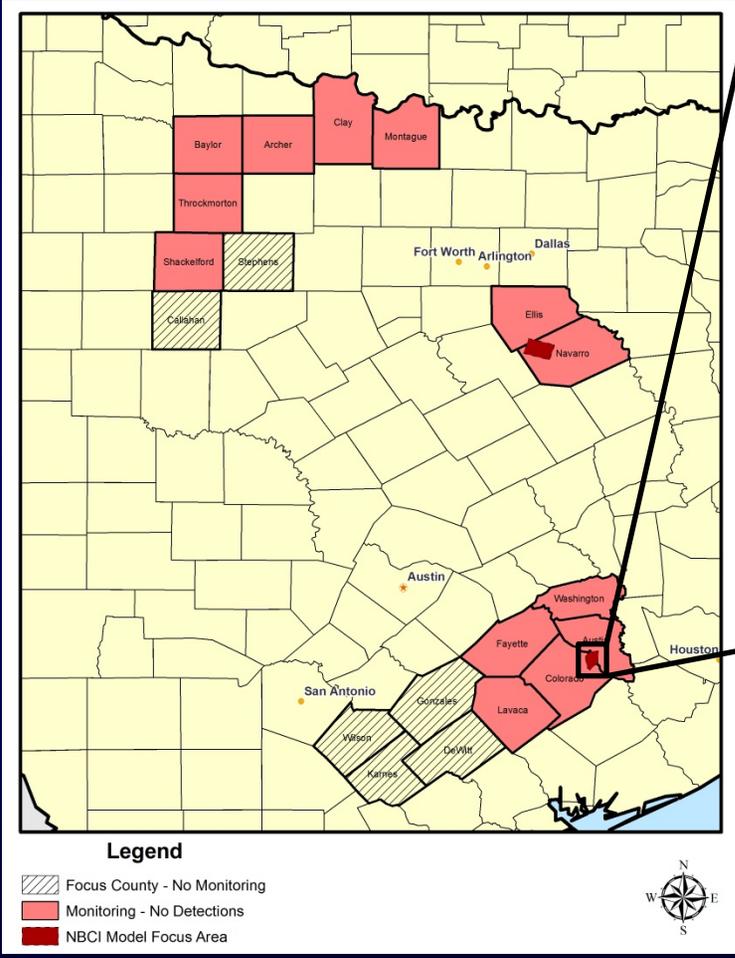
Legend

-  Focus County - No Monitoring
-  Monitoring - No Detections
-  NBCI Model Focus Area



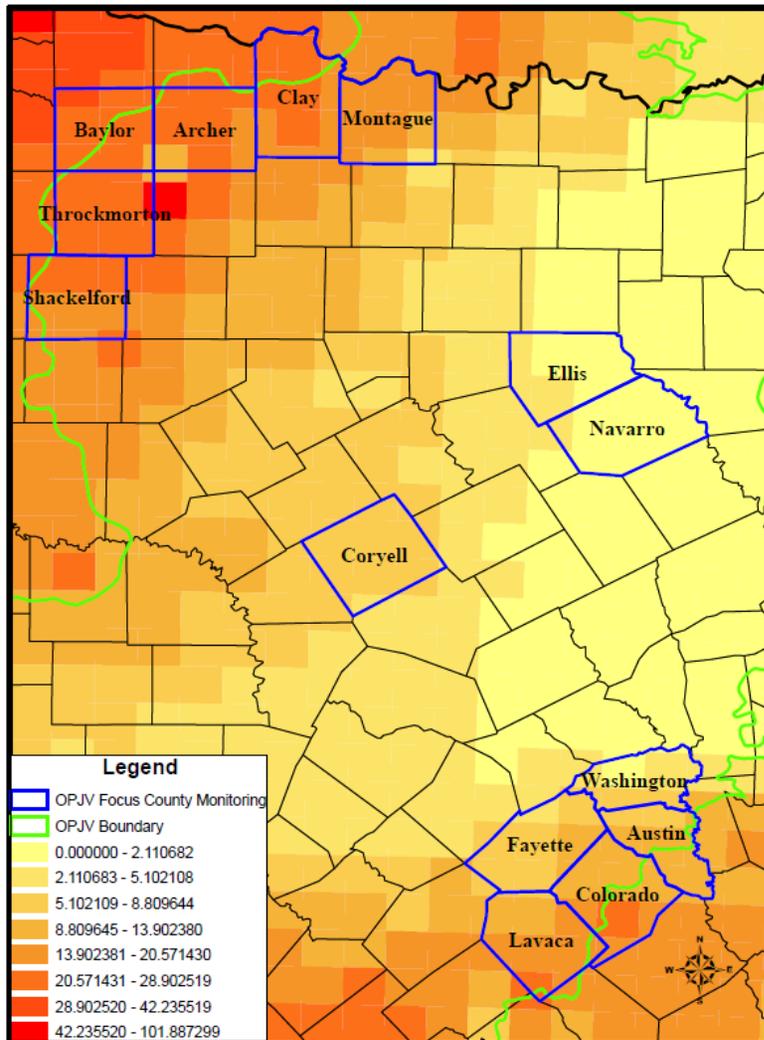
Grassland Bird Survey South East OPJV County Routes







Northern Bobwhite: BBS vs. County Level Monitoring



Species	NOBO
Montague	0.45
Clay	1.20
Archer	0.58
Baylor	0.28
Throckmorton	0.17
Shackelford	0.27
Ellis	0.00
Navarro	0.16
Coryell	0.05
Fayette	0.04
Colorado	0.34
Washington	0.00
Lavaca	0.07
Austin	0.44