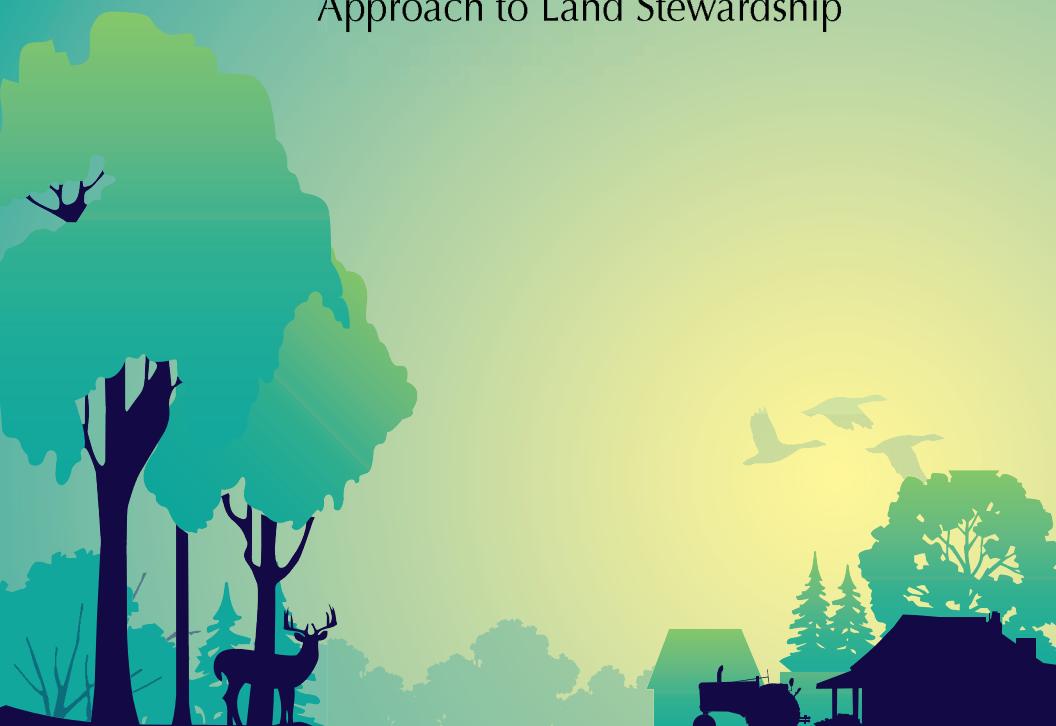


2nd Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Private Lands Conference

No Resource Left Behind: A Holistic
Approach to Land Stewardship



Faulkner County Natural Resources Center
Conway, Arkansas • May 8–10, 2012

Notes:



2nd Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Private Lands Conference

**No Resource Left Behind: A Holistic
Approach to Land Stewardship**

Faulkner County Natural Resources Center, Conway

Tuesday, May 8 (morning session)

Holistic Planning and Land Stewardship

9:00 am Registration

Debbie Moreland, Program Administrator,
The Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

Opening Session

Moderator: James Baker, State Wildlife Biologist,
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

9:30 am Welcome

Jim Boggs, Field Supervisor,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



9:45 am Natural Resources Conservation in Arkansas

Mike Sullivan, Arkansas State Conservationist,
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



10:15 am A Holistic Approach to Natural Resource Management
Bill White, Private Land Field Chief,
Missouri Department of Conservation
Those conservationists who came before us — Leopold, Pinchot, Roosevelt and Bennett — all espoused an integrated approach to conservation. They recognized that plants, fish and wildlife are interconnected with the health of the soil and water resources. This presentation will explore some examples of working together to achieve a common conservation objective on the landscape.

10:55 am Natural Resource Planning & Environmental Compliance
Matthew Judy, Ecologist,
Central National Technology Support Center,
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
This presentation will define the federal compliance requirements and how they can be pragmatically addressed within the framework of the NRCS conservation planning process. The results (when properly applied) provide an understanding of resource conditions, actions to address resource concerns, and regulatory certainty to private landowners.

11:40 am Arkansas Conservation Center & the Private Landowner Network
K. Gregg Elliott, Conservation Communications
Consultant, Private Landowner Network
This live demonstration will show how to make best use of the new Arkansas Conservation Center, a one-stop-shop stewardship, estate, land, and ecotourism website for landowners, managers, and service providers.

12:00 pm Lunch (provided)
Introduction of Guest Speaker
Mike Sullivan, Arkansas State Conservationist,
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Private Landowners & Farm Bill Programs: Approaches Used, Lessons Learned, and Future Opportunities

Special Guest Speaker:

Tom Christensen, Regional Conservationist,
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

With roughly 70 percent of the contiguous U.S. in private ownership, these lands provide critical habitat for innumerable wildlife species, some of which are at risk. Through the last few Farm Bills, NRCS has been afforded a suite of conservation programs that have and continue to play a significant role in assisting private landowners to restore and enhance critical wildlife habitat. In recent years, NRCS and its many partners have taken cooperative action to better focus these programs, tools, and technical assistance for improved results. The presentation will concentrate on approaches used, lessons learned, and opportunities forthcoming.

Landowner & Professional Private Lands

Award Recognition

David Long, Private Lands Coordinator,
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Tuesday, May 8 (afternoon session)

Components of Comprehensive Conservation

Plans Soil, Water & Air

Moderator: Ted Zawislak, Private Lands Biologist,
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

**1:00 pm What Private Lands Professionals Need to Know
about Wetland Regulations**

Vincent Gregory, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Little Rock District

1:30 pm **Riparian and Stream Restoration on Private Lands**
Josh Duzan, Consultant, Natural State Streams, LLC.
Stream and river restoration projects are often complex and technically challenging. No two streams are exactly alike — each has its own history and geographical context. Working with private landowners can add another layer of difficulty to the ultimate goal of developing successful outcomes. Although a balance often must be struck between meeting the landowner's expectations and maximizing ecological benefits, we should as environmental stewards continue to approach riverine restoration from a systematic and scientific standpoint.

2:00 pm **Air Quality Concerns & Prescribed Burning**
Jason Milks, The Nature Conservancy,
Arkansas Prescribed Fire Network Committee
This presentation will report the current state of affairs regarding prescribed burning on private lands in Arkansas, and how the Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council has addressed maintaining air quality standards.

2:30 pm **Web Soil Survey & It's Use in the Field**
Nelson Rolong, Assistant State Soil Scientist,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey is an application that provides customer electronic access to updated soil survey information including thematic maps and tabular soil data and the ability to print/download the selected map or report. This presentation will provide an overview of the web soil survey for those writing plans for private landowners.

3:00pm **Break/Poster Session/Exhibits**
Plant Diversity
Moderator: Bill Holimon, Chief of Research,
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

3:30 pm Incorporating Historical Plant Communities & Restoration in Conservation Plans

Theo Witsell, Botanist,
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

This presentation will focus on tools and techniques available for determining the historical (pre-settlement) plant communities present on a site and on strategies for incorporating restoration of these communities into conservation plans. Tools discussed will include GLO notes, historical descriptions, dendrochronology and fire history studies, and the use of physical site data such as soils, geology, and geomorphology to find appropriate undisturbed reference sites.

4:00 pm Recognizing and Controlling Invasive Plant Species

Jon Barry, Assistant Professor - Extension Forester,
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

This presentation will introduce some of the worst invasive forest pest plants, how they spread, and how to control them.

Priority Wildlife & Forest Plan Considerations

Moderator: Christina Hacker, Farm Bill Biologist,
Partners for Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

4:30 pm Incorporating Wildlife Species of Concern into Conservation Plans

Joe Krystofik, State Coordinator, Partners for Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Wildlife species of concern have been identified by state wildlife action plans, agency strategic plans, and conservation organization resource assessments. Habitat restoration or enhancement to benefit these species that is incorporated into conservation plans can help landowners become more competitive on ranking for Farm Bill and other private lands conservation programs. Information on species and their habitat requirements are easily accessed on agency websites.

4:45 pm Incorporating the Forest Action Plan into Conservation Plans
Doug Akin, Assistant State Forester – Management, Arkansas Forestry Commission
This presentation will provide a quick overview of applying Forest Action Plan priorities to conservation programs.

5:00 pm Adjourn
Dinner on your own

7:30 pm Social networking after- hours (optional)
Mike's Place Restaurant

Wednesday, May 9
Field Tour of Private Lands

8:00 am Load buses for all-day field tour

Field Tour Moderators:

- James Baker, State Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Jason Honey, Statewide Turkey Program Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Wildlife Openings & Water Development
Andy Miller, Landowner
- Recreation & Forest Stand Management
Gus Blass Boy Scout Reservation, Damascus

11:30 am Lunch
(prepared by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)
Gus Blass Boy Scout Reservation Dining Hall, Damascus

Bobwhite Restoration on Forestlands

Brad McKee, Private Land Regional Supervisor,
Missouri Department of Conservation

Brad will discuss the Missouri Bobwhite Restoration Program using success stories. Working with all resource partners and utilizing Farm Bill programs is key to their success.

12:45 pm Load buses

- Pastureland Management
Dan Dipert, Landowner
- Native Warm-season Grass Establishment
James Goodson, Landowner
- Integrating Wildlife Habitat into a Small Farm Operation
Levonna & Tony Uekman, Landowners

5:00 pm Return to Natural Resources Center -
dinner on your own

Thursday, May 10

Integrating Wildlife Practices

Moderator: Becky McPeake, Professor – Wildlife Extension, Univ. of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

8:00 am Wildlife Conservation & Private Landowners: Blending Concepts & Limitations with Reality & Opportunities
Craig Harper, Professor, Wildlife Management, University of Tennessee

Landowner objectives do not always align with state wildlife conservation priorities, nor are landowner objectives always realistic. Strategies to identify limitations, address perspectives, and identify realistic opportunities will be provided.

10:00 am Break

Stewardship through Partnerships

Moderator: David Long, Private Lands Coordinator,
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

10:15 am Conservation Delivery Network Initiative

Deputy Director Ricky Chastain,
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

The concept of the Conservation Delivery Network is to formalize the connection between the biological planning and conservation design of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture and the on-the-ground conservation delivery experts in the Arkansas Delta. This presentation is a brief overview of the organization and activities of the network.

10:45 am Partnerships for the Cache River Initiative

Roger Mangham, Director of Conservation Programs,
The Nature Conservancy

The restoration of the Lower 7-miles of the Cache River is the culmination of a larger restoration effort that has been unfolding in the greater watershed for 30 years. Unique partnerships have been formed that are moving the conservation needle forward in terms of improving wildlife habitat, water quality, and geomorphic stability in this dynamic river system.

11:15 am Panel Discussion & Wrap Up

Moderator: Becky McPeake, Professor – Wildlife Extension, Univ. of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

11:55 am Gift Certificate Drawings - must be present to win!

Debbie Moreland, Program Administrator,
Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

12:00 pm Adjourn

Lunch on your own

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