



# PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FORVER THE HABITAT ORGANIZATION



**Arizona Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Partnership:**  
Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, NRCS, and Arizona Game & Fish Department

Quarterly Progress Report  
July through September 2020

## Quantitative Report

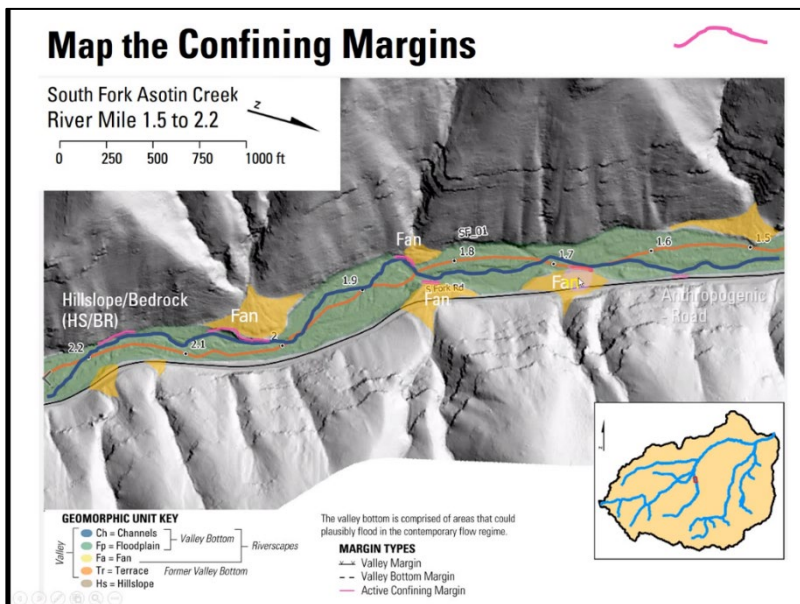
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### Landowner Contacts

#### Signed Agreements

- ❖ 4 Agreements that Megan lined out prior to her departure.

## In the Field



In August 2020 Karlee Cork attended a workshop hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The 2020 NRCS WLFW Low-Tech Riverscape Restoration Workshop was scheduled to be an in-person event, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic was moved to an online format, this allowed over 200 people to attend! Karlee was given in depth information on how to use low tech and process-based tools to achieve river restoration goals. Karlee especially

enjoyed the virtual field trips and information on how to map valley bottoms, this will help her plan riparian restoration in Arizona.



While collecting data for a grassland restoration project QF Biologist, Sarah Gandaria, and other partners were treated to their own private airshow – courtesy of local airmen and women from the Davis-Monthan Airforce base. A-10 Warthogs and Blackhawk helicopters flew directly over the

biologists' heads, and conducted impressive maneuvers. An airman in one of the Blackhawks even waved as they flew by. Sarah, a military spouse, enthusiastically waved back in support.

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Earlier this quarter, during a time of intense fire on the Arizona Strip, wildlife ecologist for QF Kaitlyn Yoder had the opportunity to provide GIS support for an ES&R (emergency stabilization and rehabilitation) plan. She modeled a normalized burn severity index for the Pine hollow fire which was used by fuels specialists to evaluate next steps for recovery in the burned area.

Kaitlyn was also invited to witness the release of four California Condors at the Vermillion Cliffs release sight. They were released by the Peregrine Fund in cooperation with the BLM. Although the released condors were too far away for good pictures, the release can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3SpC3qZM3M>, and there is more information at <https://peregrinefund.org/event/public-california-condor-virtual-release-sep26>.

Karlee Cork – Statewide – NRCS

**Met 1 New Landowners and Worked with 2 Previous Cooperators:**

- Met (phone call) with Ben Brophy to discuss Babacomari Ranch Riparian Restoration Plan
- Talked with current customers about seed mixes
- Talked with current customers about perch heights

**Conducted 2 Site Visits:**

- Babacomari Ranch Inventory Site visit
- Emergency Watershed Protection program biological site assessment

**Attended Several Training Programs:**

- NRCS statewide trainings- Several: CSP, partnerships, and Microsoft teams
- Provided training about biology and conservation planning to NRCS pathways interns
- Wet Meadow Restoration Webinar
- NRCS Low Tech Restoration and Processed Based Restoration 5-day workshop
- River Restoration on private lands Webinar by River's Edge West
- American Society for Wetland Managers Beaver Restoration workshop

- Society for Ecological Restoration Generational Restoration workshop
- Wildlife Integration into CART NRCS training
- Several NRCS Aquatic Biology Training
- CART Resource concerns webinar

**Represented PF/QF at Several Public and Organization Meetings or Events:**

- Arizona Monarch Collaborative
- Arizona Interagency Desert Tortoise Team
- Friends of the Verde Connectivity Working Group

**Biology Activities Conducted with NRCS or AGFD Terrestrial Wildlife Branch:**

- Working Lands for Wildlife Strategy Meeting
- Attended Arizona Interagency Desert Tortoise Team meeting on behalf of NRCS
- Emergency Watershed Protection Biological Assistance
- “SWFL Reboot” Group
- Western Regional Biologist Consortium member
- Robbin’s Butte Quail Survey Coordination
- SVAP 2 Revamp NRCS group
- LRP Arizona Game and Fish Meeting

Sarah Gandaría – Tucson – AGFD Region 5

**Met 1 New Landowners and Worked with 8 Previous Cooperators:**

- Discussed a funded juniper thinning project on Vera Earl with Ian Tomlinson
- Discussed renewing AGFD access agreement with Borderlands Restoration
- Discussed Santa Margarita Ranch project with AVCA
- Discussed unfunded LRP projects with the Elkhorn, Keith, 10X, and Kramme Ranches
- Discussed financial assistance after the Bighorn Fire with Andy Smallhouse
- Submitted HPC proposals for Santa Margarita Ranch and Davis Ranch

**Conducted 2 Site Visits:**

- Vera Earl Lower Prentice Site Visit with AZDFFM Staff
- Post-treatment Vegetation Transects at Santa Margarita Ranch

**Attended Several Training Programs:**

- Emotional Intelligence 101: 4-week online course
- Black Mammologists Week: Hunting While Black Panel Webinar
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Outdoors with Teresa Baker Webinar

**Represented PF/QF at Several Public and Organization Meetings or Events:**

- AGFD Regional Gould’s Turkey Coordination Meeting
- Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership Meeting
- Altar Valley Conservation Alliance Watershed Working Group Meeting
- Willcox San-Simon NRCD Meeting
- Winkleman NRCD Meeting
- PF Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group

**Field Activities Conducted with AGFD Terrestrial Wildlife Branch or Other Partners:**

- Assisted with AGFD Sonoita Valley Pronghorn Surveys
- Assisted with Regional Box Turtle Surveys
- Assisted with Mount Graham Red Squirrel Surveys

- Assisted with Chiricahua Leopard Frog Surveys on Pena Blanca Lake

Megan McWard\* – Yuma – AGFD Region 4

\*Megan left her position with PF in mid-August. Zaara Kidwai started in early October as her replacement.

**Met 1 New Landowners and Worked with 8 Previous Cooperators:**

- Call from Topper to discuss final details before project submitted for ranking/review.
- Call to David Landford to discuss Landowner Relations Program and potential projects.
- Coordinated with landowners about manipulation of dove forage plots in preparation for upcoming dove hunt season.
- Call from Brad informing that dirt tank is dry and ready for project. Restarting agreement process.

**Represented PF/QF at Several Public and Organization Meetings or Events:**

- Dove Partnership Committee to discuss details of 2020 Dove Season
- Quarterly webinar to discuss monarch conservation efforts in the west
- Monthly Yuma/Laguna NRCO meeting
- Coordinated landowner details for the upcoming citizen science "Bio Blitz" to gather information regarding construction of new highway corridor.

Kaitlyn Yoder – Arizona Strip – BLM

**Proposals:**

- 1 proposal for a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) monitoring program and budget for the BLM.

**Field Visits:**

- **8 field visits:** learning about the AZ Strip district lands, wildlife, ecosystem management, and history.
  - 5 with the AZ Strip field office wildlife biologist, including a California Condor release.
  - 1 with the AZ Strip range specialists
  - 1 with the Cattleman's association Range and Livestock tour
  - 1 with the fire and fuels specialists

**Attended Several Training Programs:**

- 3 seminars on adaptive management techniques and methods.
- 2 seminars on NEPA analysis and concepts
- 1 seminar on social concepts and methods (pertaining to the NEPA process)
- 1 2-day class on Imagery Analysis in Arc Pro

**Created Presentations and Visualization Aids:**

- 1 presentation, comparing processes for watershed assessment from 3 other field offices (Dillon, MT FO, Ely NV FO, and Salmon, ID FO)