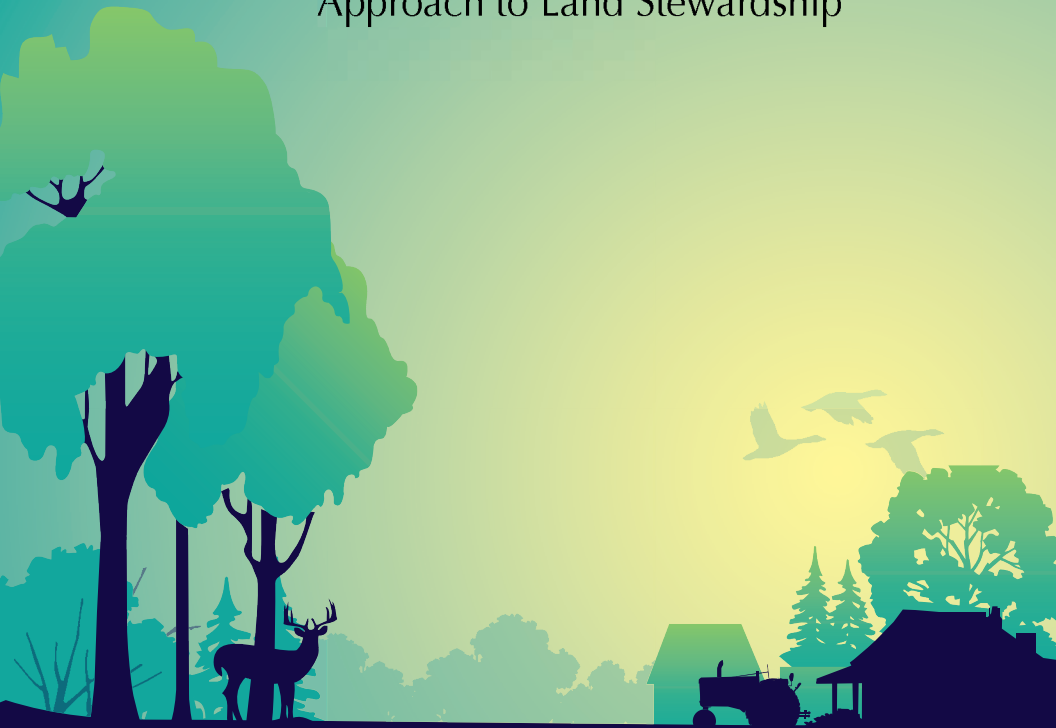


# 2<sup>nd</sup> Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Private Lands Conference

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



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

**Notes:**



# 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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## **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

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**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**

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**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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