

FY 2021 Terrestrial Wildlife: Bobwhite Quail, Pollinator, General Wildlife

Georgia Guidance

Technical Contact:

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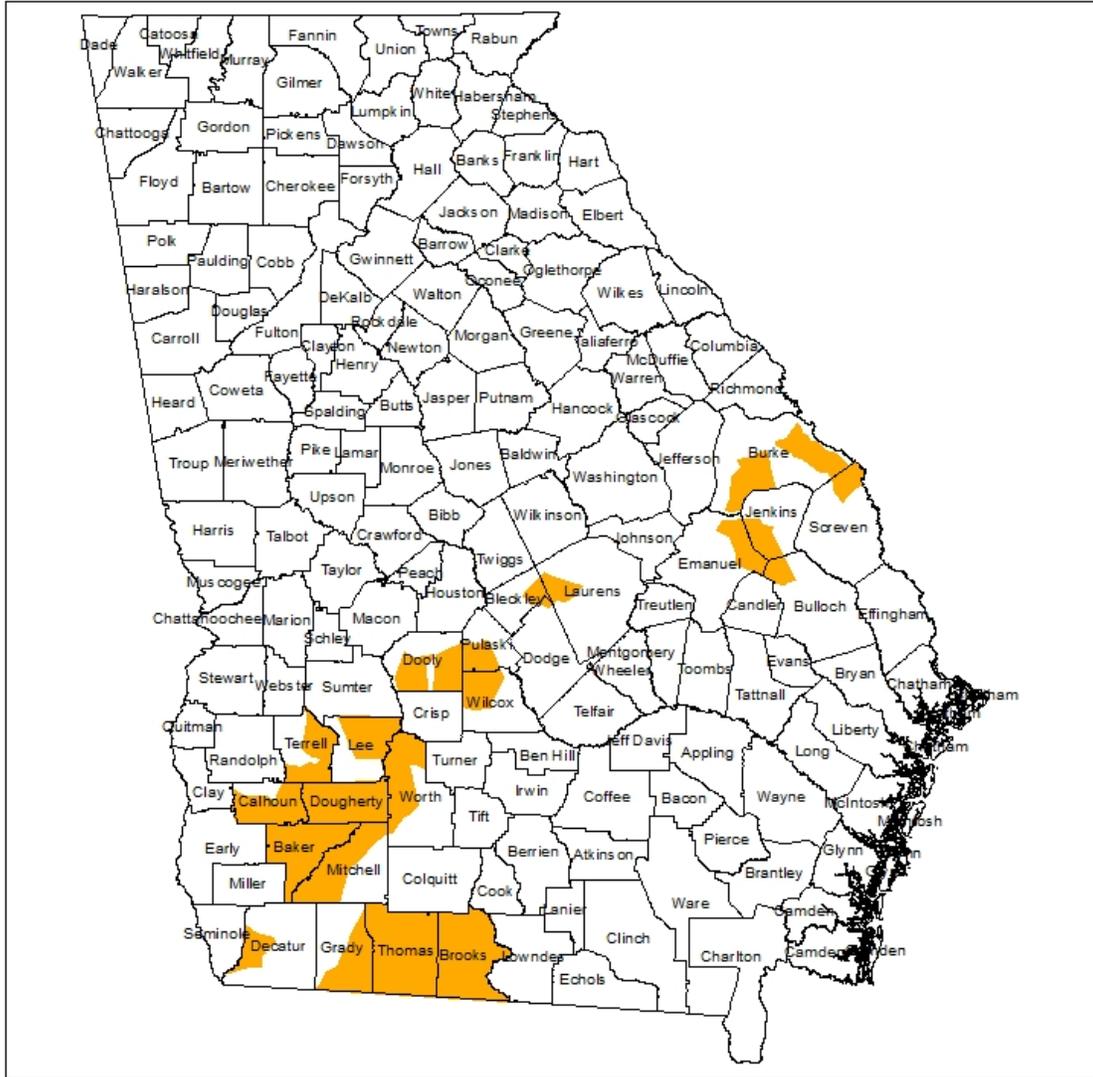
## Terrestrial Wildlife: Bobwhite Quail, Pollinator, General Wildlife

Georgia has many landscapes throughout the states providing habitat for many species of wildlife. These species of wildlife provide many ecosystem services including seed distribution, pollination, recycling of nutrients, and provide recreational opportunities.

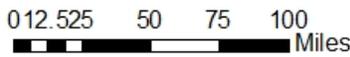
Georgia's Bobwhite Quail populations have declined by more than 85 percent since the 1960's. The southeastern United States used to be considered premiere quail hunting habitat and quail were common. This drastic decline is due primarily to the loss of quality early successional habitat (i.e. native grasses, legumes, weeds, briars, bugs and shrubs). Changes in agricultural practices, lack of management, and other land-use change, have led to dramatic fragmentation of high quality habitats.

Research shows that closed canopy or unburned pine stands provide poor quality habitat for bobwhites, and other grassland species, and may also serve as ecological sinks (i.e. high predation rates) thereby reducing bobwhite survival, even on adjacent high-quality habitats. When appropriately applied, forest thinning and frequent prescribed fire mimic the ecosystem processes that once occurred naturally across landscapes to create and maintain savanna habitats. Without thinning, tree canopies close and shade-out ground cover. Without frequent prescribed fire, grasses and forbs are replaced by woody plants and forest litter. Appropriately timed thinning and burns reduce hazardous fuels and potential economic loss while improving stand quality and overall forest health.

# Northern Bobwhite Quail Priority Areas



-  Counties
-  Bobwhite Quail Priority Areas



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Georgia pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, ants, and hummingbirds. Pollinators are an integral part of our environment and agricultural systems with animal pollinators important in 35-percent of global crop production and play significant role in producing the fibers we use, medicines that keep us healthy and more than half of the fats and oils in our diet. Long term population trends for several wild bee species, some butterflies, and hummingbirds are demonstrably downward. Many agricultural landscapes lack sufficient habitat to support native pollinators.

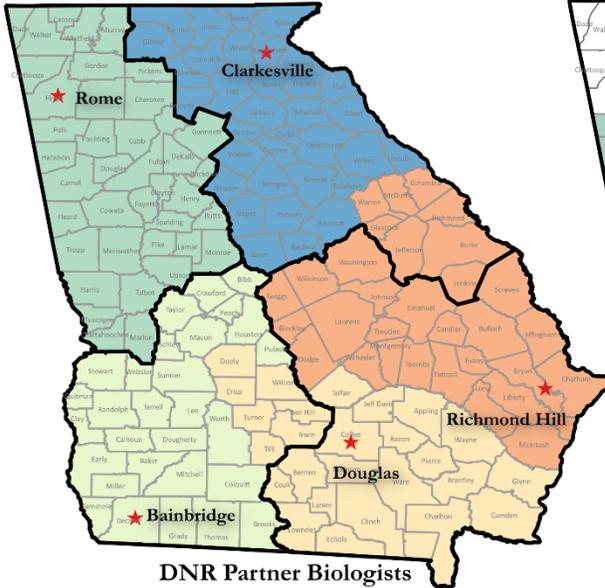
Pollinator plantings can be planned as whole fields, along field borders, or interspersed between crops for beneficial insect plantings. Habitat areas must be between 0.1 to 3 acres per field to allow for feasible site preparation, state biologist approval is REQUIRED for acreage exceptions.

In addition to quail and pollinator habitats, enhancing other habitat types benefits numerous game and nongame species such as songbirds, rabbits, wild turkey, deer, and many others while improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, and can enhance local economies by stimulating hunting and wildlife viewing.

The FY 2021 Terrestrial Wildlife funding pool includes Northern Bobwhite Quail projects, pollinator habitat, and general wildlife management. Land uses for the Terrestrial Wildlife include Forestland, Cropland, Farmstead, Associated Agland, and Pasture.

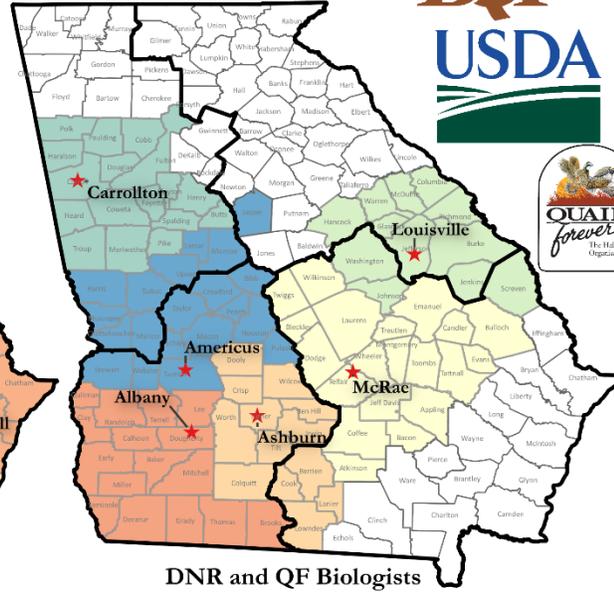
All applications for Terrestrial Wildlife require a WHEG for Bobwhite Quail OR Pollinator OR General Wildlife (formerly HSI). WHEGs are located on eFOTG section IV-Ecological Science Tools. For assistance in completing these required documents contact the partner biologist for your area.

Biologist should be consulted on all applications for any wildlife funding pools. The biologist will provide the technical assistance for these application as well as assist with conservation planning, assessments and ranking.



**DNR Partner Biologists**

City	Name	Phone Number	Title
Douglas	Tony Kroeger	(912) 381-2278	DNR Partner Biologist
Rome	Vacant	(229) 420-1183	DNR Partner Biologist
Bainbridge	Mary Nieminen	(404) 273-9305	DNR Partner Biologist
Richmond Hill	Erin Cork	(470) 230-7769	DNR Partner Biologist
Clarkesville	Buck Marchinton	(404) 387-7499	DNR Partner Biologist



**DNR and QF Biologists**

City	Title	Name	Phone Number
Americus	DNR BQI Biologist	Allison Colter	(470) 352-5138
McRae	DNR BQI Biologist	Diana McGrath	(478) 258-0380
Louisville	DNR BQI Biologist	Vacant	(229) 420-1183
Albany	QF Biologist	Vacant	(229) 420-1183
Ashburn	QF Biologist	Jennifer Ward	(770) 686-9046
Carrollton	QF Biologist	Miranda Gulsby	(678) 859-0055
Statewide	QF Precision Ag Specialist	Chaz Holt	(406) 425-3039

**Unsure of who to call? Contact the Private Lands Program office at 229-420-1183!**

Practices will be directed at establishing and maintaining habitat for bobwhite quail, pollinators and at-risk species and providing food and cover with native groundcover and reducing habitat fragmentation.

## Terrestrial Wildlife Fund Pool Ranking Questions (Bobwhite Quail, Pollinator, General)

### Program Questions 200 pts

1. Is this application located in a wildlife priority area (Bobwhite Quail)? (geospatial) 80pts
2. Does this application contain practices to enhance pollinator habitat? 70pts
3. Will a threatened, endangered, or at-risk species be managed for within this application? 50
  - Considers other high priority species such as Bobwhite Quail
  - Species does not have to be onsite

### Resource Questions 200 Pts

1. Is the applicant improving field edges/borders for wildlife habitat? 50
2. Is the applicant interspersing pollinator/wildlife habitat into their crop field? 40
3. Is the applicant using prescribed burning to improve wildlife habitat? 60
4. Will the practices in this application reduce fragmentation by connecting existing habitats or natural areas? 20
5. Will this application improve the quality and/or quantity of available habitat for threatened, endangered, or at-risk species? 30
  - Must be onsite or identified on T&E geospatial layer