
My Background

Original life goals:

- **Not work with:**
 - People
 - Politics
 - Money
- **Work outdoors**
- **Hunt & fish all the time**

My Background

- **B.S., Wildlife Mgt., Auburn Univ.** **1984**
- **M.S., Wildlife, Univ. Missouri** **1987**
 - Waterfowl, wetland management
- **Chief Biologist, South Carolina**
Waterfowl Association **3+ YR**
- **Policy Associate, Wildlife Management**
Institute, Washington, DC **6+ YR**
- **Asst. Chief of Wildlife, Arkansas**
Game & Fish Commission **2+ YR**
- **SE Field Representative, WMI, AR** **9+ YR**
 - NBCI Coordinator **4+ YR**

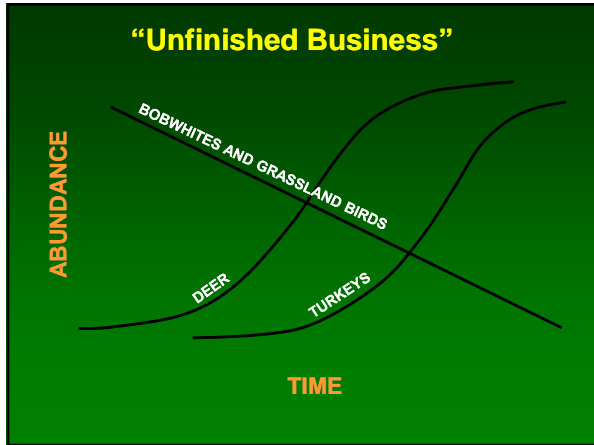
WMI's Niche & Strength

Wildlife Management
Science & Experience



Improved Wildlife
Conservation Policy




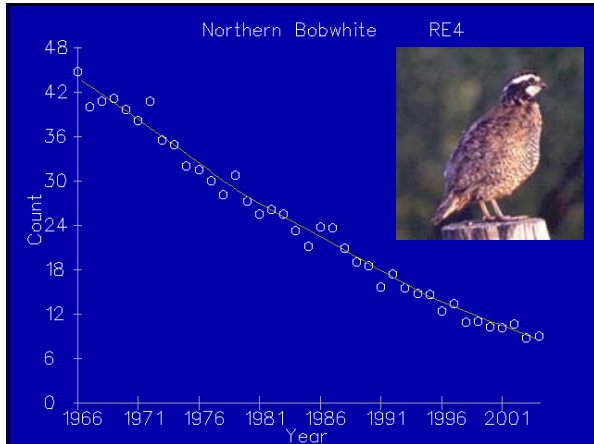


3/4 CENTURY OF BOBWHITE RESEARCH, MANAGEMENT AND PUBLICATIONS

- 1931 – *THE BOBWHITE QUAIL* (STODDARD'S CLASSIC)
- 1969 – *THE BOBWHITE QUAIL: IT'S LIFE AND MANAGEMENT* (ROSENE)
- 1984 – *POPULATION ECOLOGY OF THE BOBWHITE* (ROSEBERRY & KLIMSTRA)
- 1984 – *BOBWHITES IN THE RIO GRANDE PLAIN OF TEXAS* (LEHMANN)
- 2007 – *TEXAS QUAILS: ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT* (BRENNAN)

Half Full





**BOBWHITE HABITAT ASSOCIATES
(% DECLINE EAST OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER)**

Early Successional		Grassland	
-7.6	Bewick's Wren	-8.3	Henslow's Sparrow
-3.1	Field Sparrow	-5.6	Grasshopper Sparrow
-1.8	Prairie Warbler	-5.2	Western Meadowlark
-1.6	Eastern Towhee	-3.2	Eastern Meadowlark
-1.1	Blue-winged Warbler	-3.2	Vesper Sparrow
-0.7	White-throated Sparrow	-2.3	Dickcissel
-0.7	Indigo Bunting	-2.2	Bobolink
-0.6	Chestnut-sided Warbler	-2.1	Ring-necked Pheasant
-0.6	Song Sparrow	-2.0	Savannah Sparrow
-0.5	Common Yellowthroat	-1.6	Horned Lark

**Bobwhites and grassland birds
are much harder to restore
than deer and turkey**

NOT the main problem:

- Vacant habitat
- Overhunting
- Predators

The main problem:

- Long-term, landscape-scale habitat degradation

QUAIL ARE STRATEGICALLY DIFFERENT FROM MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS

ALIKE

- NATIVE SPECIES IN LONG DECLINE
 - PRIMARILY HABITAT PROBLEMS
 - NUMEROUS DECLINING "NEIGHBORS"

DIFFERENT

- RESIDENT
 - YEAR-ROUND LOCAL HABITAT NEEDS
 - NO MASS MOVEMENTS THRU OTHER REGIONS
 - LITTLE PIONEERING ABILITY
- STATES' RESPONSIBILITIES
 - NO CENTRAL GALVANIZING AUTHORITY, E.G. USFWS
 - DOZENS OF INDEPENDENT JURISDICTIONS
- GAME SPECIES
 - DIFFERENT VIABILITY ISSUES APPLY
 - HARVEST DATA AVAILABLE

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- GAME SPECIES
 - DIFFERENT VIABILITY ISSUES APPLY
 - HARVEST DATA AVAILABLE
 - POPULARITY, CULTURAL IDENTITY, PASSION

210 MILLION ACRES GLEAN CROPLAND IN CORE BOBWHITE STATES



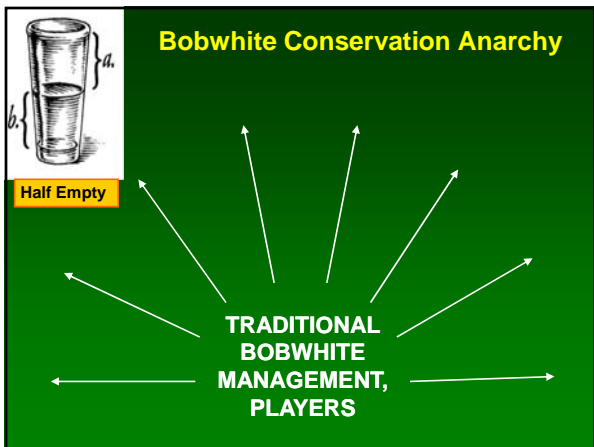


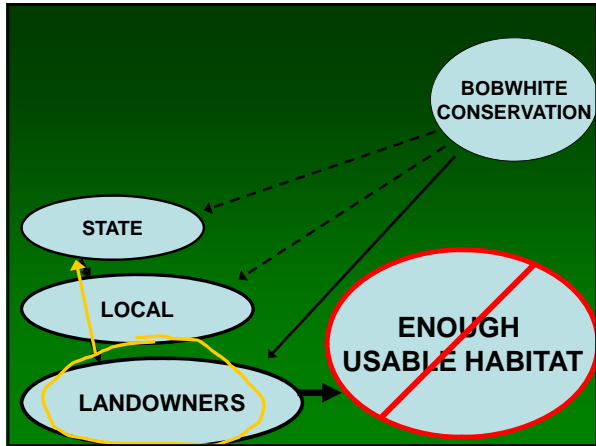















Autumn 1998 SEAFWA charge to SEQSG

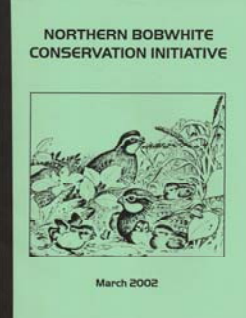
- Develop a Bobwhite recovery plan
 - Regional in scope
 - Population goals
 - Habitat objectives
- Dawning of regional leadership for resident game conservation


➔




NORTHERN BOBWHITE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

- 2002 – 2009
 - Many resource successes
 - Much human progress
 - Many lessons learned



After a regional resident game bird plan is completed.... Then What?

- Who:
 - Leads? Steers?
 - Is in charge?
 - Keeps the flame?
 - Coordinates implementation?
 - Does the implementation?
 - Speaks for it?
 - Markets it?
 - Makes decisions about it?
 - Raises money for it? Spends money?
 - Manages money?
 - Hires staff?
 - Collects & manages data?
 - Evaluates success?





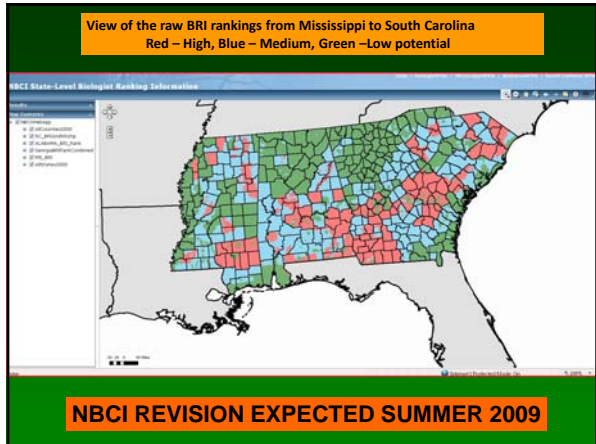
**NBCI SUCCESSES
In first 7 years**

- CP33 BOBWHITE BUFFERS
 - >201,000 acres
 - CONSISTENTLY INCREASES QUAIL
 - SEVERAL SONGBIRDS BENEFIT
- CP36 LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE:
 - > 64,000 acres
- ≥ 20 STATES AIMING OTHER FARM BILL
\$\$ AT BOBWHITE HABITAT



**NBCI SUCCESSES
In first 7 years**

- 2 STATE QUAIL INITIATIVES IN 2002:
GA, NC
- 18 STATE QUAIL INITIATIVES IN 2008:
TX, OK, LA, AR, MO, MS, TN, KY, FL,
GA, SC, NC, VA, IN, KS, IL, NJ, PA
- 2 OFFICIAL NBCI "SUCCESS STORIES":
 - SCOTT COUNTY, MO
 - CASS COUNTY, MO






**BEYOND THE SPLASH
 NEXT 5 YEARS?
 NEXT 30 YEARS?**

- INITIAL SPLASH IS EXCITING
 - SURGE OF ENERGY, SUPPORT
 - LOW-HANGING FRUIT SEIZED
 - UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS QUICKLY
- LONG-TERM CHALLENGE:
 - SUSTAINING MOMENTUM
 - GROWING THE MOVEMENT
 - REACHING HIGH-HANGING FRUIT

**Real-world Case Study:
 the story of CP33**

**A Model for Bobwhite
 Conservation Successes
 of the Future**



1931

“Cultivation should not be brought close up to terraces, hedges or thicket cover where quail are desired in abundance, but should be held back a few rods, for such border cover furnishes one of the most productive and favored feeding grounds of the bobwhites.... Holding cultivation back from thicket cover is an important measure that can be applied on any farm where quail are desired.”

Herbert Stoddard, 1931. *The Bobwhite Quail; Its Habits, Preservation and Increase.*

1932 - 1994

For >60 years, little was done to promote field borders for bobwhites on large scale

“Don’t just stand there taking up space, why don’t you do something?”
- the Eagles, 2007

1995

**“Southeast Quail Study Group”
formed**

- A technical committee of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- To provide leadership among 16 southeast states in the conservation and restoration of Bobwhites



1996

- Field border practice proposed in “Continuous Conservation Reserve Program”
 - By WMI, Southeast Quail Study Group
- 11 partners signed on
- One lobbying meeting held in Washington, DC

1997

- USDA’s Farm Service Agency rejects the field border proposal
 - With little justification
- Back to the drawing board...

Autumn 1998

SEAFWA Directors charge SEQSG to develop quail recovery plan

March 2002

NBCI published

**Also in
March 2002**

- SEQSG gave NBCI briefing to “Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus” in Washington, DC
 - Enthusiastic reception, myriad offers of help
- SEQSG seized opportunity
 - Drafted Farm Bill proposal, on the spot





**May 2002
2002 Farm Bill completed**

Conference Report Language:

“...the Managers further find that many conservation programs of this Farm Bill have large potential to contribute to Bobwhite Quail habitat objectives and encourage the Secretary to support the goal of restoring habitat for this species.”

January 2003

SEAFWA, SEQSG hire 1ST National Coordinator for NBCI:

- Breck Carmichael, SC DNR
 - thru Spring 2004
- Don McKenzie, WMI
 - Autumn 2004 to present



July 2003

- SEQSG re-proposes:
 “Bobwhite Buffers Initiative”
- 24 partners signed on
- Multiple meetings, calls, letters, follow-ups all around Washington, DC
- Numerous levels, branches of government



August 4, 2004

President George W. Bush, himself, announced the new bobwhite buffers initiative



“Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (CP33)”

- Continuous CRP
 - 250,000 acres
 - Cropland field borders
 - Native vegetation
- **\$250,000,000** USDA investment
- Quail are primary purpose
- Best and biggest program ever for Bobwhites
- January 2009: >201,000 acres enrolled



When the history book about the successful Bobwhite restoration movement is written...

... the first big credit will go to an unlikely partner:

Farm Service Agency

When the history book about the successful Bobwhite restoration movement is written...

... the first big life lesson will be:

Bobwhite restoration is all about People, Politics and Money

"The world is run by those who show up"
Ray Evans, Missouri Dept. Conservation, Retired

SPRING FROM THE SCIENCE

- SCIENCE NO LONGER IS THE KEY BARRIER TO BOBWHITE RESTORATION ...
- PEOPLE ARE THE KEY BARRIER—AND THE KEY SOLUTION—FOR BOBWHITES.
- SCIENCE MUST LEAD TO EFFECTIVE ACTION BY PEOPLE.
- LACK OF NATIONAL CAPACITY IMPEDES EFFECTIVE ACTION.



GROWING AND GROUNDING THE NBCI

- I. EXPAND TO RANGEWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE
 - A. CREATE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD
 - B. CREATE RANGEWIDE TECHNICAL GROUP
- II. ESTABLISH PERMANENT HOME
- III. BUILD NATIONAL CAPACITY



I. EXPAND TO RANGEWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE

- ORIGINAL PROJECT OF 16 SEAFWA STATES
- BOBWHITES IN:
 - ~3 DOZEN STATES
 - ALL 4 REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AFFECTED
- NBCI SO FAR:
 - SEAFWA AND INVITED GUESTS
- NEED FULLY RANGEWIDE EFFORT
 - STATE LEADERSHIP AT CORE
 - BOLSTERED BY FULL SPECTRUM OF PARTNERS



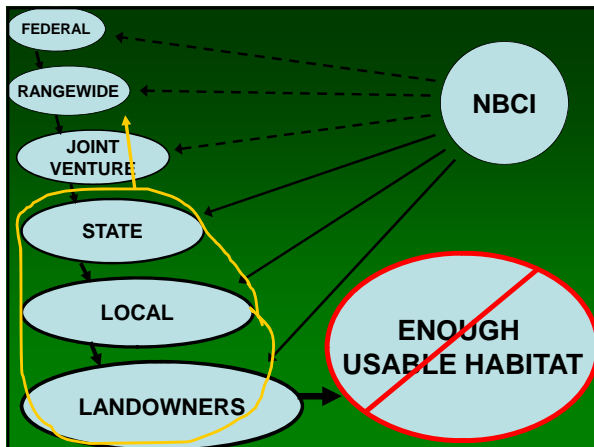
A. CREATE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD


- “SEAFWA DIRECTORS’ NBCI COMMITTEE”
 - ORIGINAL NBCI OVERSIGHT GROUP IN 2005
 - MAFWA, NEAFWA REPS INVITED 2006
- “NBCI TRANSITION BOARD”
 - CREATED AUTUMN 2008
 - EQUITABLY RANGEWIDE
 - NOT UNDER SEAFWA
 - STATE AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS ONLY
 - TO BE EXPANDED FOR MARCH 2009 MEETING
 - TRANSITIONAL TO PERMANENT GROUP
- “NBCI MANAGEMENT BOARD” TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN A YEAR




B. CREATE RANGEWIDE TECHNICAL GROUP

- SOUTHEAST QUAIL STUDY GROUP
 - ESTABLISHED 1995
 - UNDER SEAFWA
 - MAFWA, NEAFWA REPS INVITED TO STEERING COMMITTEE IN 2006
- EXPAND TO BE FULLY RANGEWIDE
 - NAME TO CHANGE SOON
 - OFFICIAL STATUS TO EXPAND SOON AFTER
- RANGEWIDE PARTICIPATION NEEDED
 - MAFWA, NEAFWA, ALL STATES, FEDS, NGOs





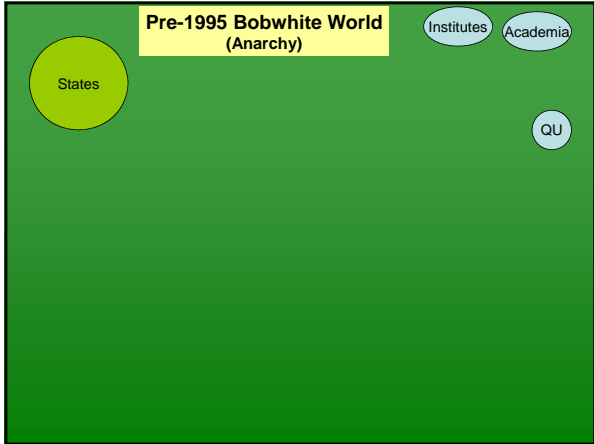
II. ESTABLISH PERMANENT HOME

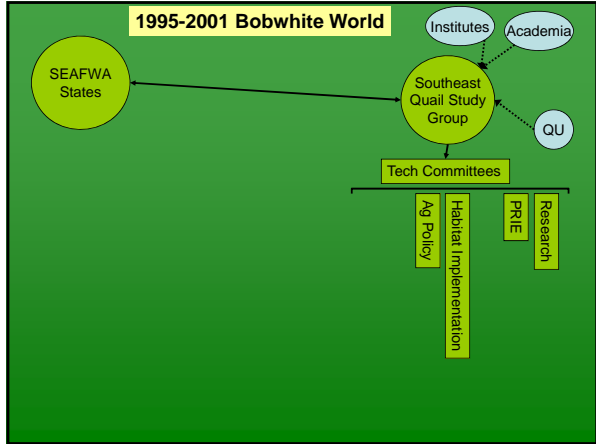
- NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CENTER NEEDED
 - BUT NO IDEAL HOST
- SEAFWA ISSUED PUBLIC RFP
 - IN AUTUMN 2007
 - MAY 2008: UT SELECTED AS BEST-FIT HOME
- DETAILS BEING TENDED NOW
 - FACULTY STATUS FOR NBCI COORDINATOR
 - CONTRACTS
 - BUSINESS PLAN
 - ACCOUNTING PROCESSES
 - MARKETING STRATEGY

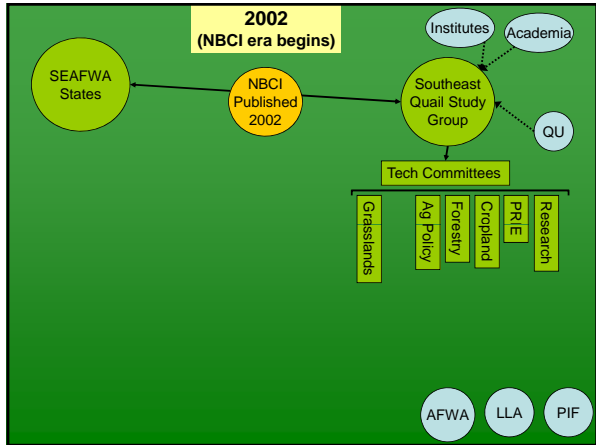


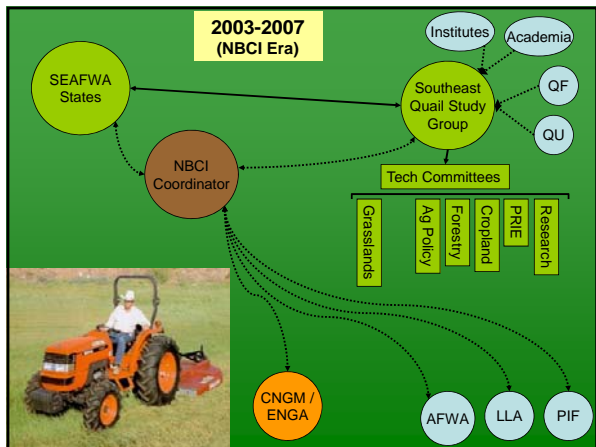
III. BUILD NBCI CAPACITY

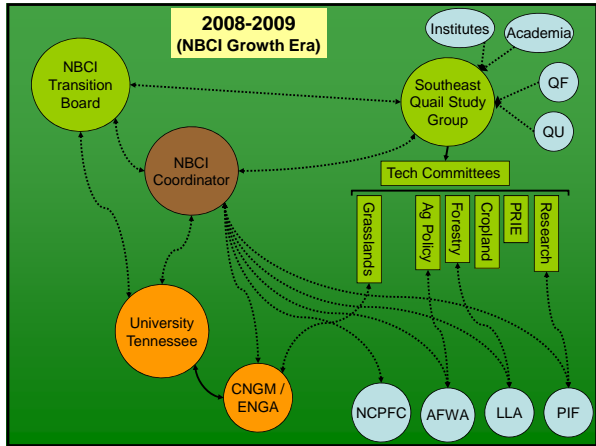
- CAPACITY BUILDING UNDERWAY
 - FUNDRAISING STRATEGY IN WORKS
- STATES ANTE TO FUND NBCI COORDINATOR LONG TERM
- OUTSIDE MONEY TO:
 - HIRE FULL-TIME STAFF EXPERTS FOR EACH OF THE SEQSG COMMITTEES
 - FUND REGIONAL NBCI PROJECTS TO AID STATES

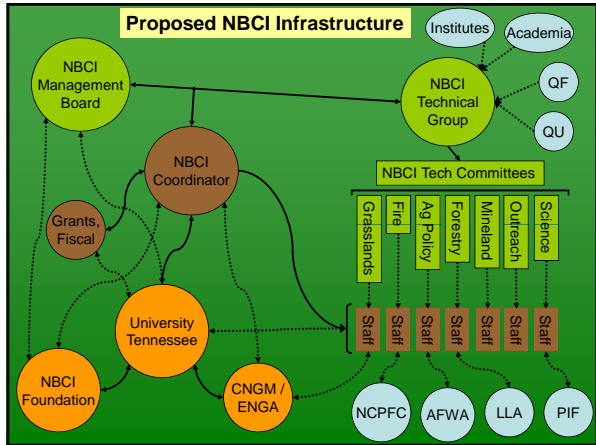




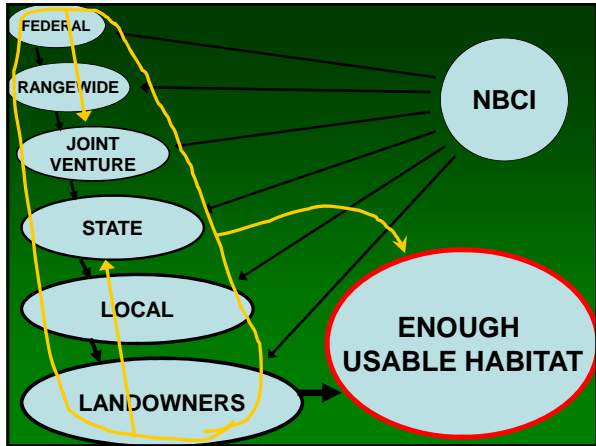


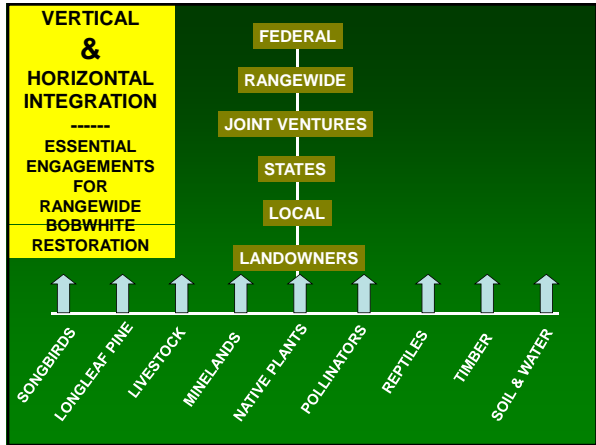























**IT TAKES A MOVEMENT
CHOIR IS NOT ENOUGH**

- BOBWHITE HABITAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:
 - BY THOSE WHO DON'T CARE ABOUT QUAIL
 - NOT JUST BY QUAIL FANS
- BOBWHITE HABITAT NEEDS TO BECOME:
 - ROUTINE, THE DEFAULT OUTCOME
 - NOT JUST THE CELEBRATED EXCEPTION
- MUST SUCCEED AT LEVEL OF AMERICAN CULTURE, INSTITUTIONS:
 - NOT JUST AT PROJECT LEVEL
 - WHY BERMUDA IN MISSOURI??
- POPULAR SOCIETAL MOVEMENT NECESSARY FOR ULTIMATE SUCCESS

QUAIL COMMUNITY MUST GET TO THIS, RANGEWIDE:

UNIFIED VISION,
COORDINATED ACTION,
CRITICAL MASS FOR LONG TERM:



BOBWHITE
MANAGEMENT, PLAYERS



SELECTION PROCESS

- FEB '08: SEQSG STEERING COMMITTEE
 - a. SCORED PROPOSALS
 - b. EVALUATED PROS & CONS
 - c. PASSED TO SEAFWA W/O RECOMMENDATION
- MAY '08: SEAFWA DIRECTORS' NBCI COMMITTEE CHOSE BEST FIT:
 - a. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
 - b. WMI (SILENT PARTNER)
- MAY – JULY '08: NEGOTIATIONS ONGOING W/ UT ON TRANSITION STRATEGY

Needed National Capacity

- Stable rangewide coordination
- Full-time national advocacy
- Public outreach, marketing, publicity
- Fundraising, grantwriting
- Banking, accounting
- Science and technical support
- Centralized data management
- Better joint venture engagement
- SEQSG committee staff:
 - Grasslands
 - Forestry
 - P,R,I & E
 - Agriculture
 - Mining
 - Fire

Asdf

Jkl;




Asdf

Jkl;



LESSONS

- PARTNERSHIPS NOT ALWAYS DOABLE OR ADVISABLE
 - IF TOO DIVERSE, TOO DISPARATE
 - IF MORE ABOUT FEELING GOOD THAN REAL RESULTS
 - IF LACK OF GOOD FAITH, COMMITMENT
- CAN LOSE MORE THAN GAIN
 - IF GET NEUTRALIZED
 - COERCED INTO BAD DEAL FOR SAKE OF “PARTNERSHIP”
- BE PREPARED TO WALK AWAY 2004



1st NBCI
“MISSION ACCOMPLISHED”
Scott County, Missouri

- MDC STEPPED DOWN NBCI TO COUNTIES
 - SCOTT CO. OBJECTIVE: 4,500 ACRES
 - > 7,000 ACRES RESTORED BY 2007
 - MOSTLY CSP, CP-33
- QUAIL POPULATION INCREASED QUICKLY
 - BEST HUNTING IN MANY DECADES
 - HUNTER REPORTS: ≥ 1 COVEY PER HOUR
- CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, LANDOWNERS, HUNTERS AND BIOLOGISTS PLEASED
- NOW WHAT?
 - MOVE ON TO NEXT AREA?
 - KEEP GOING?



NBCI DILEMMA

- REGIONAL AND NATIONAL GAME BIRD PROBLEMS CANNOT BE ADDRESSED WITH TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF STATE ISOLATION.
- FOR RESIDENT GAME BIRDS, STATES AND PARTNERS HAVE TEPID TRACK RECORD OF REGIONAL, NATIONAL COLLABORATION.
- LACK OF NATIONAL CAPACITY IS CONSTRAINING NBCI GROWTH, IMPLEMENTATION.

