



***Small Game Committee Meeting Summary  
October 29, 2014, 10:00 – 11:00 am  
NCWRC, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Commission Room***

**Meeting Attendees**

• **Committee Members:**

Garry Spence, Chair  
Joe Budd

David Hoyle, Jr.  
Richard Edwards

• **Commissioners:**

Brian White  
Wes Seegars  
Ray Clifton  
Tom Berry

Joe Barker  
Jim Cogdell  
Mark Craig

• **Staff:**

Mallory Martin  
Betsy Haywood  
Brent Spivey  
Bob Curry  
Maria Palamar  
Kate Pipkin  
Brad Gunn  
Isaac Harrold  
David Sawyer  
Todd Kennedy  
Jodie Owen

Gordon Myers  
Robert Sharpe  
Chad Martin  
Chris Kreh  
Daron Barnes  
Geoff Cantrell  
Erik Christofferson  
David Cobb  
Brad Howard  
Brandon Sherrill  
Kerry Linehan

• **Guest:**

Joe McClees – McClees Consulting

Garry Spence, *Small Game Committee Chair*, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **REVIEW OF COMMISSION SMALL GAME ACTIVITIES**

David Cobb and Brad Howard provided an overview of the CURE Program that was developed to enhance small game early successional habitats and species, especially bobwhite quail. The CURE program began on private lands of at least 5000 acres. Next, four game lands were developed across the state under the CURE program. Corporate CURE programs have been successful in Bladen County. The program benefits early successional habitat, long leaf pine forests and implements the farm bill program. Other benefits and successes include conversion to native warm season grasses which are beneficial during droughts, use of prescribed fires to improve habitats, introduction of best wildlife practices, and enhancement of habitats for quail, red cockaded woodpeckers and songbirds in parts of the state.

## **EARLY SUCCESSIONAL HABITAT EFFORTS ON GAME LANDS**

Isaac Harrold gave a report on the agency's evaluation of what has been done and what more can be done to enhance early successional habitats on game lands. The WRC continues to work on longleaf pine restoration, prescribed burns of 30,000 acres, thinning of 5000 acre parcels, and has established partnerships with State Parks, the Nature Conservancy, and the Forest Service. Discussions are underway with the Marine Corps Camp Lejeune about longleaf restoration at Holly Shelter Game Land for the benefit of red-cockaded woodpeckers. Harrold stated that the biggest habitat enhancement successes have been on game land in Bladen County, where 3,000 acres have been treated, timber thinned, native grasses planted, and longleaf pine forests planted. Large lands are better for quail populations. Sandhills Game Land and Caswell Game Land have seen some success. South Mountain Game Land is the biggest challenge.

## **USE OF SURROGATORS IN QUAIL MANAGEMENT**

The Committee received a report from Chris Kreh about the use of surrogators in quail management. Surrogators are outdoor brooder boxes used to raise quail chicks. Mortality rate among quail is 75 percent. The surrogators are used to provide more game birds for hunting. They are not a restoration tool. More research was requested to determine if surrogators really work.

## **SMALL-GAME RELATED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

David Cobb reported that deer hunter observations about small game are being obtained in a survey. The fox squirrel season has been extended to the entire state. Research is being conducted about the distribution of Appalachian cottontail. Dr. Cobb will provide information to the committee about the importation of quail at a later meeting.

## **ADJOURN**

Chairman Spence adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.