

Mississippi Bobwhite Quail Habitat SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks are partners in implementing the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project. The purpose of this program is to enroll agricultural land to increase native grassland habitats in Mississippi for the restoration of northern bobwhite habitat and populations.

Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with landowners and agricultural producers to establish and manage vegetative covers that control soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

SAFE is a unique type of CRP that offers organizations the opportunity to partner with the USDA to establish habitat for high-priority wildlife species on agricultural land. SAFE sponsors work with the USDA to identify the wildlife species, the vegetative cover that provides habitat for the target species, and the location in the state where the habitat is needed. A partnership is formed between the SAFE sponsor and the USDA, and federal funds are made available to allow for CRP enrollment on eligible land within the SAFE project location.

Target Wildlife Species

The goal of the Mississippi Bobwhite Quail Habitat SAFE project is to provide habitat for Northern Bobwhite Quail, LeConte's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, and Eastern Cottontail Rabbit. The Northern Bobwhite Quail, LeConte's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, and Eastern Cottontail Rabbit are important to Mississippi because they are listed as species of greatest conservation concern within Mississippi's State Wildlife Action Plan.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Mississippi Bobwhite Quail Habitat SAFE are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for Northern Bobwhite Quail, LeConte's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, and Eastern Cottontail Rabbit. The habitat being established is native grassland communities, primarily native warm-season grasses and appropriate forbs, established and managed for bobwhite quail and early successional wildlife habitat. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by herbicide application, strip-disking, or prescribe fire. Rotational prescribe fire and/or strip-disking should be limited to no more than one-half of acreage each year or as determined in the conservation plan. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for Northern Bobwhite Quail, LeConte's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, and Eastern Cottontail Rabbit.



Project Location

The Mississippi Bobwhite Quail Habitat SAFE project location is available in the following 29 counties in Mississippi: Alcorn, Benton, Bolivar, Chickasaw, Clay, Coahoma, Desoto, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Lee, Leflore, Lowndes, Madison, Marshall, Monroe, Noxubee, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tunica, Union, and Yazoo counties.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-2, Permanent Native Grass Habitat
- ◆ CP38E-4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat

Haying and Grazing

No haying or grazing allowed.

Eligibility Requirements

Because SAFE is part of CRP, certain land and participant eligibility rules apply. To begin with, land must be in the project area and meet cropping history. CRP participant eligibility rules also apply to SAFE.

Payments and Incentives

In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

For More Information



This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.



Mississippi Bobwhite Quail Habitat SAFE Project Map



Legend

-  FSA County Boundary
-  Mississippi Bobwhite Quail Habitat SAFE Project Area