



Private Lands Leadership Academy 2025

MODULE 4 PRESENTER INFORMATION

Bubba Groves, Farm Bill Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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Bubba graduated with a Wildlife and fisheries degree from Mississippi State University in 1999. He ran the largest earthen pond hybrid stripe bass fish farm in the world until 2009. Then, he moved to Monticello AR in 2009 and served as a Private Land Biologist for 13 years. Since 2022 he has served as the Farm Bill Coordinator for the Private Land Habitat Division.

Don White, Professor of Wildlife Ecology, University of Arkansas Monticello

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Don White, Jr. is a wildlife ecologist at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, and the James M. White Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology in the College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources at the Monticello campus of the University of Arkansas. Dr. White is broadly interested in the biology, ecology, conservation, and management of vertebrates, especially large carnivores and ungulates. Since 2004, Dr. White and his graduate students have conducted deer, elk, black bear, and wild pig research in Arkansas. The overarching theme behind Dr. White's research program is developing scientific tools and knowledge to support sound natural resource management. Dr. White teaches Wildlife Population Ecology to senior undergraduate students, and 2 graduate-level courses: Research Methods and the Ecological Consequences of Climate Change.

Jeremy Brown, Deer Management Assistance Program Coordinator

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Sim Barrow, Director of Community Conservation, Arkansas Wildlife Federation

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Sim joined the Arkansas Wildlife Federation (AWF) with 10 years of experience in community outreach and environmental education. Sim has a background in wildlife biology and entomology. He is a lifelong Arkansan, having spent his childhood in the Boston Mountains and River Valley before moving to Northwest Arkansas in 2012. Prior to joining AWF, he worked at Fayetteville (AR) Public Schools as the environmental science



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coordinator. He also previously worked as the outreach and development coordinator for the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust.

Leslie Cooper, Arkansas Monarch and Pollinator Coordinator, Quail Forever

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Ryan Parker, Arkansas State Coordinator, Quail Forever

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Ryan Parker started his work with Quail Forever in Arkansas as a Grasslands Coordinating Wildlife Biologist in July 2020 and now as the Arkansas State Coordinator since May 2023, both in collaboration with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Prior to his roles in Arkansas, Ryan worked as a Private Lands Wildlife Biologist at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in Colorado from October 2018 to June 2020, also in partnership with the USDA. Ryan has also worked as a Wildlife Technician with the U.S. Forest Service on the Thunder Basin National Grassland in Wyoming from May 2014 to June 2018. Educational qualifications include a Masters degree in Biology with a focus on Short-grass prairie wildlife ecology from the University of Colorado Denver, earned in 2019, and a dual Bachelor's degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Biology & Management and Environment & Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming, completed in 2015. Ryan has dedicated his early career to helping private landowners improve ecological function on their property for plants and wildlife while promoting a 'working lands' landscape, and helping fellow early-career biologists to achieve private lands success.

Clint Johnson, Quail Program Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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David Moscicki, Turkey Program Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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Douglas C. Osborne, Professor of Wildlife Management, University of Arkansas at Monticello

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Dr. Dr. Douglas Osborne is a professor of wildlife management within the University of Arkansas system including research with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and a teaching appointment with the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Research in his lab centers around factors influencing continental and regional shifts in waterfowl distributions, including declining habitat quality, forest restoration, population dynamics, and more. He is the former director and current Graduate Coordinator for the Waterfowl Habitat and Recreation Management graduate certificate program as part of the University's public-private partnership with the Five Oaks Ag Research and Education Center in Humphrey, AR. After graduating, his students work in the field of conservation and management for state, federal, and non-profit organizations.

Ryan Askren, Research Center Director, Five Oaks Ag Research & Education Center

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Ryan Askren, PhD is the director of the Five Oaks Ag Research and Education Center and has a range of experiences in avian and wetland ecology. In his current role, he is engaged in wetland conservation/management efforts, graduate education, and outreach for land managers and resource professionals. His broad background in avian ecology and connection with regional land owners make him an excellent addition to the project team.