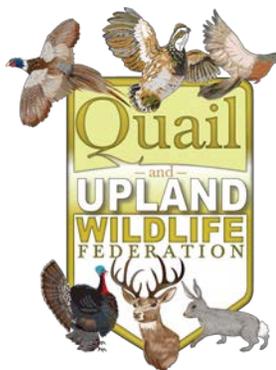


# QUWF National Focal Conservation Land Tier



## Designations:

The following upland wildlife habitat tier designations are hereby adopted for all QUWF chapters and all habitat activity conducted by QUWF Chapters, landowner members or members who own or lease lands or for work on public lands. This designation tier system allows the historical tracking of all habitat work at the very local level, beginning on smaller acreages starting at 50 acres, by the chapters. It then builds to larger cooperative tracks (smaller acreages brought together for larger focal areas) allowing a more targeted approach for areas whose habitat is prime for our habitat work, dollars invested and tracked results.

Because of the fragmentation of wildlife habitat today, this approach identifies areas that can produce the greatest results in any chapter's area, a "chapter priority area" and is what QUWF was formed to do. Focused dollars and locally identifiable habitat projects for upland wildlife are what we do.

Further, many organizations, like the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) including state and federal wildlife agencies are going to this approach so it provides a consistency in terminology and implementation of various wildlife initiatives for all upland species. Rather than a shotgun approach it better applies the available limited and manpower resources to save habitat in high priority, local areas and allows historical tracking of results.

## The Following Tier Designations and Procedures Are Adopted:

1. QUWF Anchor Farm: the core building block, any landowner doing approved upland wildlife habitat management on a tract of land of at least 50 acres in size or larger. Each chapter's Habitat Chairman will designate a unique unit number using the chapter's number plus a 3 digit identifier, example GC102-100, to identify each individual tract of land (see example excel spreadsheet) Wildlife population monitoring is suggested and *may be required* for some state's cost share. Unit habitat project monitoring and reporting with the QUWF EZ

Habitat report is required (see example spreadsheet). Each chapter will be responsible for tracking the unit information and activities as shown in the example excel spreadsheet.

2. QUWF Core Coop Areas: 3 or more contiguous landowners or this can be public lands managed by state agency with assistance from the QUWF chapter(s) with greater than or equal to 1500 acres in total size doing approved upland wildlife habitat management. Having additional managed private land tracts/landowners adjacent to or adjoining a core public land tract, if one is available, is very desirable for QUWF Core Coop Areas. Each Chapter Habitat Chairman will designate Coop Areas comprised of the nested individual tract numbers, example GC102COOP-001. A Core Focal area does not need to be nested within a Focal Landscape and/or Region. Wildlife population monitoring is suggested and *may be required* for some states cost share. Landscape habitat project monitoring and reporting with the QUWF EZ Habitat report is required, and maybe a combination of all individual Anchor Farm reports. Each chapter will be responsible for tracking the Core Coop Areas information and activities.
3. QUWF Focal Landscape: A spatially defined landscape of greater than or equal to 6,400 acres of public and or private lands comprised predominately of high priority habitat ranking for upland wildlife restoration. This Focal landscape need not be entirely contiguous but needs to have good quality connectivity amongst Core Coops and other QUWF Anchor Farm project areas. Population monitoring may be required for some state's cost share. Landscape habitat project monitoring and reporting with the QUWF EZ Habitat report is required, and maybe a combination of all individual Anchor Farm reports or Coop Reports. Each chapter will be responsible for tracking the QUWF Focal Landscape information and activities.
4. QUWF Focal Region: A spatially defined geographic region (e.g. soil and water district, cluster of counties, or a state designated Focal Region with QUWF chapter partnering comprised predominately of high and medium priority habitat ranking for upland wildlife restoration and containing one or more QUWF Focal Landscapes.

For QUWF and its chapters, the tiered structure provides the following ranking for chapter and landowner focus at the local level;

1. QUWF Anchor Farms
2. QUWF Core Coop Areas with nested Anchor Farms.

QUWF will work with chapters who feel they have QUWF Focal Landscape or Focal Region areas;

3. QUWF Focal Landscapes
4. QUWF Focal Regions

Three tools are critical for this to work, the chapter must have a responsible individual, the Habitat Chair, who will work to establish and maintain the record keeping, literally, the

chapter's success card. Second, this data must be kept in an electronic format so whomever accepts the challenge for each chapter must have computer skills using Microsoft Excel and word. Third, the Habitat Chair must be responsible for all in the chapter to use the EZ habitat reporting form. This is inherently critical to any timely reporting on all projects of the chapter, these are the chapter score sheets, literally. Getting the reports in to national builds the credibility of the chapter and helps track progress for grants and local / national sponsors and builds further partnering in your respective states for our chapters.

Adopted to the QUWF National By-Laws this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2013