t's hard to overstate the importance of Pheasants Forever in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative's effort to conserve prairie habitat. The seeds for this relationship were planted in 2003, when Pheasants Forever began working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide technical assistance to landowners for improving wildlife habitat in South Dakota. Since then, the collaboration has grown into support for 130 field biologist positions in 26 states across the country—all working one-on-one with private landowners to improve habitat for wildlife.

In 2012, Pheasants Forever (PF) began partnering with LPCI, overseeing the Strategic Watershed Action Team (SWAT). “Pheasants Forever provides a three-legged stool of support to LPCI through SWAT—coordinating funding for designated field staff, research, and communications,” says PF Public Finance Director Ron Leathers. “Our organization is really good at leveraging resources and bringing people to the table.”

“What’s good for prairie-chickens is good for quail. Through its work with LPCI, Pheasants Forever fulfills its commitment to its membership to improve habitat for upland game birds, like this scaled quail. Photo: Andy Lawrence, NMSU.

Pheasants Forever enlisted a suite of partners to fund SWAT wildlife biologists and range conservationists who work one-on-one with landowners in the LPCI action area to develop conservation plans, monitor habitat, and more. PF also contracts with research institutions to carry out field studies that measure the impacts of LPCI conservation practices. “PF is extremely nimble and we have the ability to get things done quickly,” says Leathers.

About Pheasants Forever

Pheasants Forever is the nation’s largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. Since 1982, Pheasants Forever has spent more than $600 million on 500,000+ habitat projects improving 14 million acres nationwide.

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Learn More

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative is a partnership-based, science-driven effort that uses voluntary incentives to proactively conserve America’s western rangelands, wildlife, and rural way of life. This initiative is part of Working Lands For Wildlife, which is led by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.