Natives First

A Native Vegetation Standard for the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill

Presented by:
Jef Hodges, Grassland Coordinator
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
I interrupt this presentation to bring you a public service announcement. WEAR YOUR SAFETY GEAR!
The States Have United for Bobwhites

25 States + Partners

1 Unified Technical Committee

1 Unified Initiative

Midwest

Southeast

Northeast

Many Partners

...the unified strategy to restore wild quail
Natives First
A native vegetation standard for the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill

• Place no regulatory restrictions on private landowners;
• Eliminate financial assistance for aggressive introduced plants;
• Promote adoption and use of native plants for most purposes; and
• Allow flexibility for non-aggressive introduced plants.

http://bringbackbobwhites.org/conservation/natives-first/
USDA Conservation Title of the Farm Bill
Landscape Impact (25 NBCI States)

• Excluding fish and wildlife habitat, EQIP enrolls nearly 1.9 million acres annually (2009-2014)

• In 2014 EQIP enrolled an estimated 1.25 million acres in introduced grasses
  • Need to shift focus from “wildlife” exclusivity to multi-use applications with wider environmental and taxpayer benefits.
By signing on as a Natives First Coalition your group, along with all the other Coalition member groups will have a unified message to USDA about the importance of a native vegetation standard for Farm Bill programs; and it is right, you will be asked to sign-on to a letter of support which will be submitted under the name of the National Bobwhite Coalition. We also ask that you promote Natives First throughout your network and share any information or material, with other Coalition members.

Natives First 2016 v1.1 Download
Natives First Frequently Asked Questions Download

NOTE: When offering comment on the Natives First Draft Proposal please reference the number(s) of the specific language you are commenting on. Please submit comments to jhodge34@utk.edu.

1 Natives First – Consider Native Vegetation First.

2

3 INTRODUCTION

4 Strategic conservation initiatives have been developed by Partners in Flight (PIF), the North American Grassland Coalition, and the National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) to conserve the following suite of eastern grassland birds across the United States:

5 are experiencing serious long-term declines and have been determined to be high priority:
Natives First Draft Proposal Language

• Original language and guidance provided by a Working Group made up of a broad base of stakeholders.
  • Retired NRCS, eastern pasture and rangeland representation
  • ARS
  • Producers
  • Seed Trade
  • U.S. Geological Survey
  • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  • State Agency
Natives First Strategy
(developing/evolving)

• Primary objective
  • Develop a Natives First Coalition of organizations, agencies and businesses supporting the concept of favoring/emphasizing native vegetation for ALL conservation uses under the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill.
  • Emphasize Natives First - not Natives Only.
Natives First Strategy - Visionary longer term

• Natives First Coalition take eventual leadership in promoting, developing and marketing multiple benefits of using native vegetation.

• Natives First Coalition serve as a clearing house of information and dissemination of native vegetation information.

• Natives First Coalition members, through coordination and collaboration develop and share materials.
Natives First Coalition - Visionary longer term

• Natives First Coalition lead marketing and public relations campaign promoting positive values of native vegetation.
  • Current examples:
    • Monarch Initiative efforts
    • Honey Bee Initiative efforts
    • Soil Health promotion
Fact Sheets Available:
- Overview
- Wildlife
- Forage and Biomass
- Water, Soil and Air

Examples of current NBCI promotional efforts for open use

The Native Vegetation Advantage

Native warm-season grasses and forage provide increased returns.

Increased forage production - Native warm-season grasses grow during the warmest months of the year when cool-season grasses are less abundant, providing excellent forage when cool-season grasses are at their lowest quality and quantity.

Improved animal weight gain - Research in a series of the Rocky Mountains shows average 2x weight gain on warm-season grasses during the same growing period.

Different Causes of Livestock differences in growing rate are:
- Temperature: 1.5 to 7.5% 1-way to 2.5% 2-way to 3.5% 3-way to 4.5% 4-way to 5.5% 5-way to 6.5% 6-way to 7.5% 7-way to 8.5% 8-way to 9.5% 9-way to 10.5% 10-way to 11.5% 11-way to 12.5% 12-way to 13.5% 13-way to 14.5% 14-way to 15.5% 15-way to 16.5% 16-way to 17.5% 17-way to 18.5% 18-way to 19.5% 19-way to 20.5% 20-way to 21.5% 21-way to 22.5% 22-way to 23.5% 23-way to 24.5% 24-way to 25.5% 25-way to 26.5% 26-way to 27.5% 27-way to 28.5% 28-way to 29.5% 29-way to 30.5% 30-way to 31.5% 31-way to 32.5% 32-way to 33.5% 33-way to 34.5% 34-way to 35.5% 35-way to 36.5% 36-way to 37.5% 37-way to 38.5% 38-way to 39.5% 39-way to 40.5% 40-way to 41.5% 41-way to 42.5% 42-way to 43.5% 43-way to 44.5% 44-way to 45.5% 45-way to 46.5% 46-way to 47.5% 47-way to 48.5% 48-way to 49.5% 49-way to 50.5% 50-way to 51.5% 51-way to 52.5% 52-way to 53.5% 53-way to 54.5% 54-way to 55.5% 55-way to 56.5% 56-way to 57.5% 57-way to 58.5% 58-way to 59.5% 59-way to 60.5% 60-way to 61.5% 61-way to 62.5% 62-way to 63.5% 63-way to 64.5% 64-way to 65.5% 65-way to 66.5% 66-way to 67.5% 67-way to 68.5% 68-way to 69.5% 69-way to 70.5% 70-way to 71.5% 71-way to 72.5% 72-way to 73.5% 73-way to 74.5% 74-way to 75.5% 75-way to 76.5% 76-way to 77.5% 77-way to 78.5% 78-way to 79.5% 79-way to 80.5% 80-way to 81.5% 81-way to 82.5% 82-way to 83.5% 83-way to 84.5% 84-way to 85.5% 85-way to 86.5% 86-way to 87.5% 87-way to 88.5% 88-way to 89.5% 89-way to 90.5% 90-way to 91.5% 91-way to 92.5% 92-way to 93.5% 93-way to 94.5% 94-way to 95.5% 95-way to 96.5% 96-way to 97.5% 97-way to 98.5% 98-way to 99.5% 99-way to 100.5%

References:
Questions?

Jef Hodges
jhodge34@utk.edu
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This and additional presentations available at  http://nativeseed.info