

AVIAN BEHAVIOR AND DEMOGRAPHY IN MANAGED ECOSYSTEMS



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Warnell School of Forestry
& Natural Resources

A McIntire-Stennis supported project aiming to understand population dynamics of an important game bird

Northern Bobwhite are important components of forest and rangelands in the U.S. They provide direct (e.g., license sales) and indirect (e.g., excise taxes on hunting related equipment) sources of income at state and national levels, and have recreational value to both consumptive and non-consumptive users of natural resources. In the face of long-term population declines and continuing urban and agricultural expansion, it is critical to understand how to manage bobwhite populations sustainably.

The National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) has established the Coordinated Implementation Program (CIP), a scientifically rigorous program where participating states are required to implement intensive monitoring of bird populations and habitat conditions on both managed and unmanaged landscapes. We have built an analytical framework so that state and federal agencies can learn how these habitat management activities impact bobwhite populations. Initial analyses indicate that focusing management resources on particular areas can have substantial benefits for bobwhite populations, but this varies regionally.



About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



COLLABORATION

We have administered interactive workshops with practitioners from participating states in order to elicit expert opinion on bobwhite habitat, develop population goals and monitoring protocols, and present initial results of our analyses.



17

There are 17 states ranging across the eastern U.S. participating in the Coordinated Implementation Program.

IMPACT

Our analyses are helping states learn how habitat management influences bobwhite at population levels. Several states have established population targets because of our analyses.



We have estimated up to 6 years of population densities across participating states.



The CIP has laid important infrastructure for sharing management techniques and outcomes among resource management agencies



Understanding how habitat management affects bobwhite differently across their range will help managers facilitate population growth.