

National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan and Partnerships

Transcript of Oral Testimony Provided to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture
2018 Farm Bill Listening Session
Morgan, Minnesota
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(Testimony was limited to two minutes per presenter at this event)

(Moderator): *Our next presenter is Scott Taylor with (the) National Pheasant Conservation Plan.*

(Scott Taylor, National Plan Coordinator): *Thank you and good morning. The National Pheasant Conservation Plan represents a partnership of 23 state wildlife agencies and Pheasants Forever; we have member states from Washington and Oregon to Texas, to Pennsylvania and points north. Our mission is to foster science-based policies and programs that promote pheasant conservation, pheasant hunting, and the communities they depend on. We polled our members earlier this year with regard to what the states felt (were) the most important items, their needs, with regard to the Farm Bill in 2018, and number one with a bullet was increasing the CRP acreage cap. We've seen over last, well, over the life of CRP that as CRP goes, so goes pheasants and, to a large extent, grassland wildlife over the northern half of the country. As the acreage cap has come down in the last two decades we've seen pheasant hunting decline, pheasant populations decline, and just the loss of an important tool in the toolbox for grassland wildlife conservation. Since 2000, we've lost about 40% of our pheasant hunters, from 1.25 million of them to less than 700,000; that's not a good trend. The spending that they generate, we've lost about 35% of that as well, and that spending supports not only state wildlife agencies but rural communities, as well. We appreciate your consideration and thank you for your time.*

Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgRG7FHaUzQ&feature=youtu.be>; testimony begins at 2:10:00.