

The National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan & Partnerships

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18 State Wildlife Agencies, PF/QF, & MAFWA



*“Our **mission** is to foster science-based, socially-supported policies and programs that enhance wild pheasant populations, provide recreational opportunities to pheasant hunters, and support the economics and social values of communities.”*

National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan

Second Edition
2021



Decision Support Tools in Development:

- Habitat planning tools quantifying predicted return-on-investment (ROI) per acre or dollar
- Summer brood survey analysis tools to improve fall hunting forecasts
- Tools predicting pheasant production outcomes of different emergency haying and grazing policy options for CRP

Optimizing CRP Acre/Dollar Investments to Improve Pheasant Abundance

https://nationalpheasantplan.shinyapps.io/Public_map_tools/

User Inputs:

Budget: Current CRP acres for Iowa (1.56M ac)

Objective: Maximize pheasant abundance per acre invested

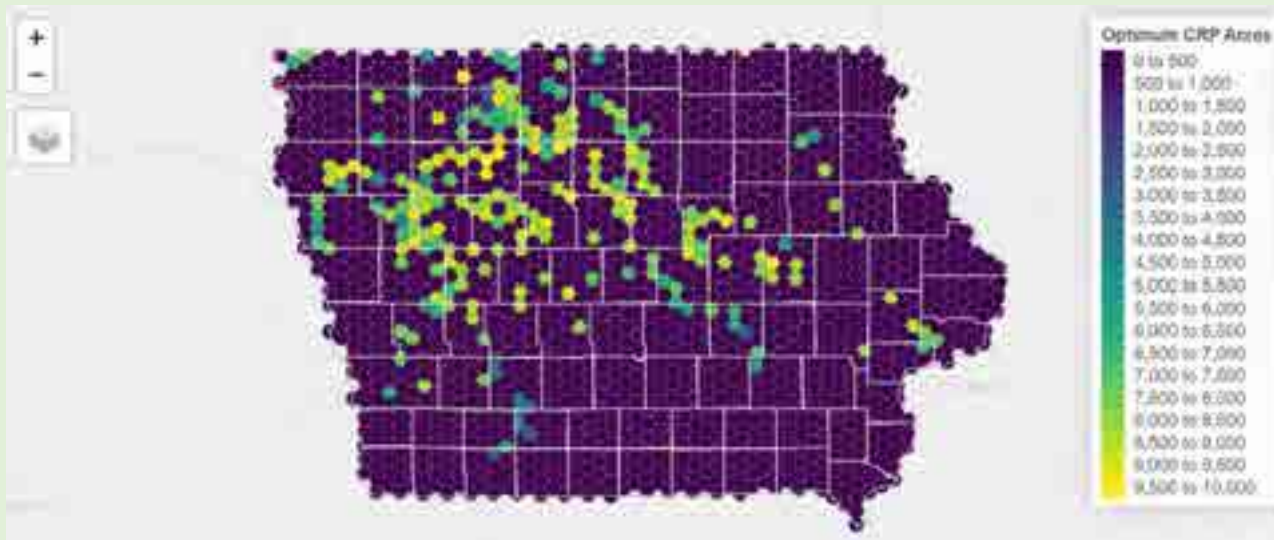
Model: Modified from Jorgensen et al. (2014)

Optimization Results:

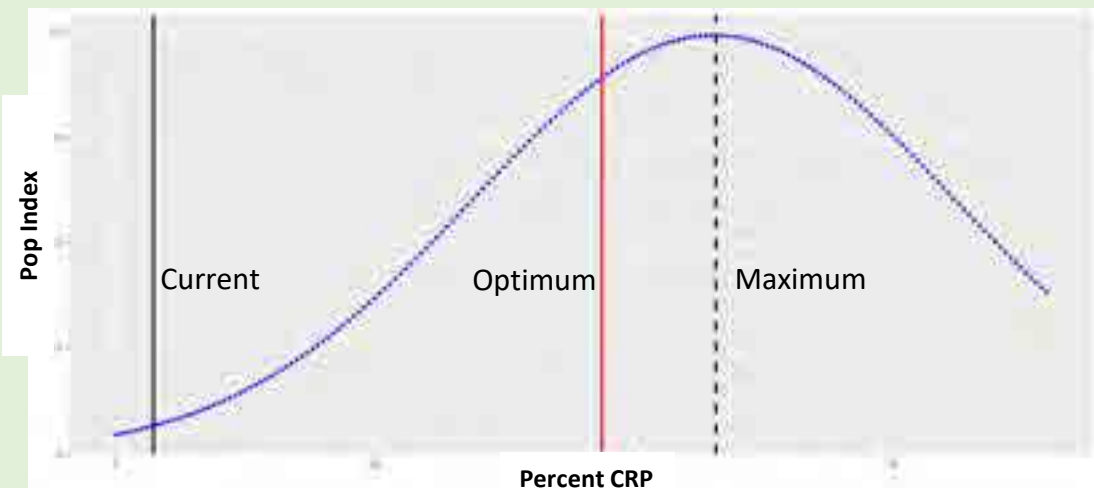
Change in statewide pheasant abundance index: +49%

Change in total CRP cost: +11%

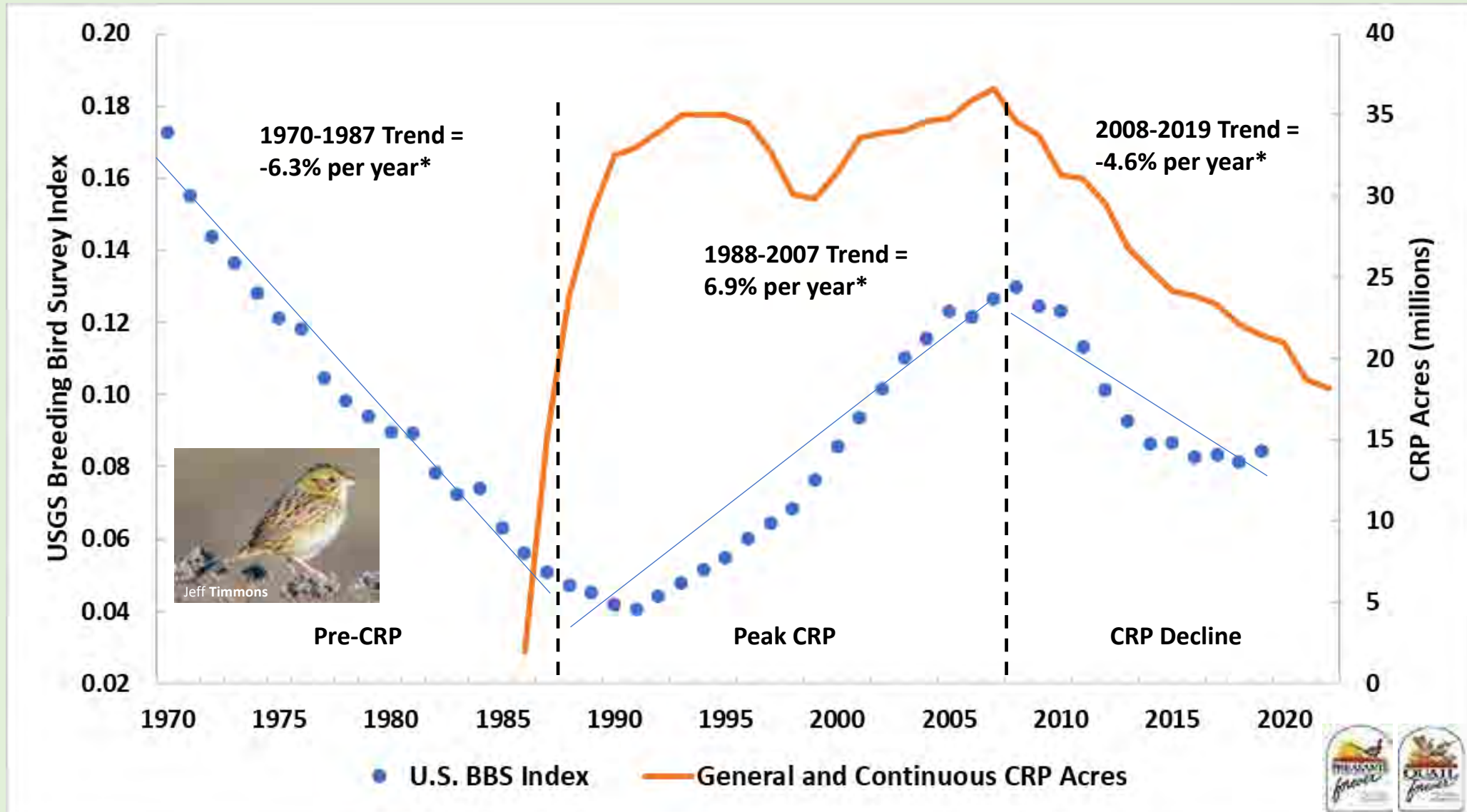
Change in annual CRP carbon sequestered: 0%



Local point analysis for CRP response:



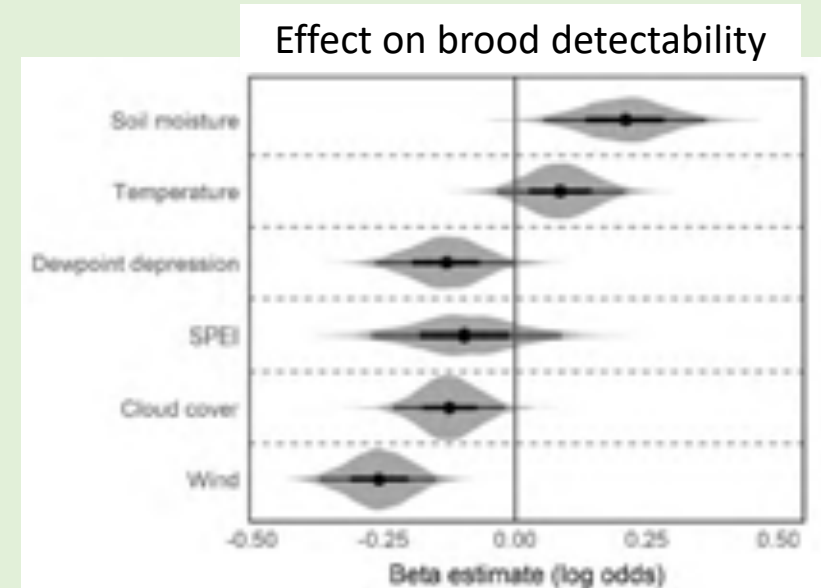
Trends in U.S. Henslow's sparrow abundance associated with CRP enrollments, 1970-2019. The abundance index is from the USGS North American Breeding Bird Survey, trends (* = $P < 0.05$) are for log-transformed index values, and CRP acreage excludes CRP Grasslands signups.



Improving Summer Brood Counts and Fall Hunting Forecasts



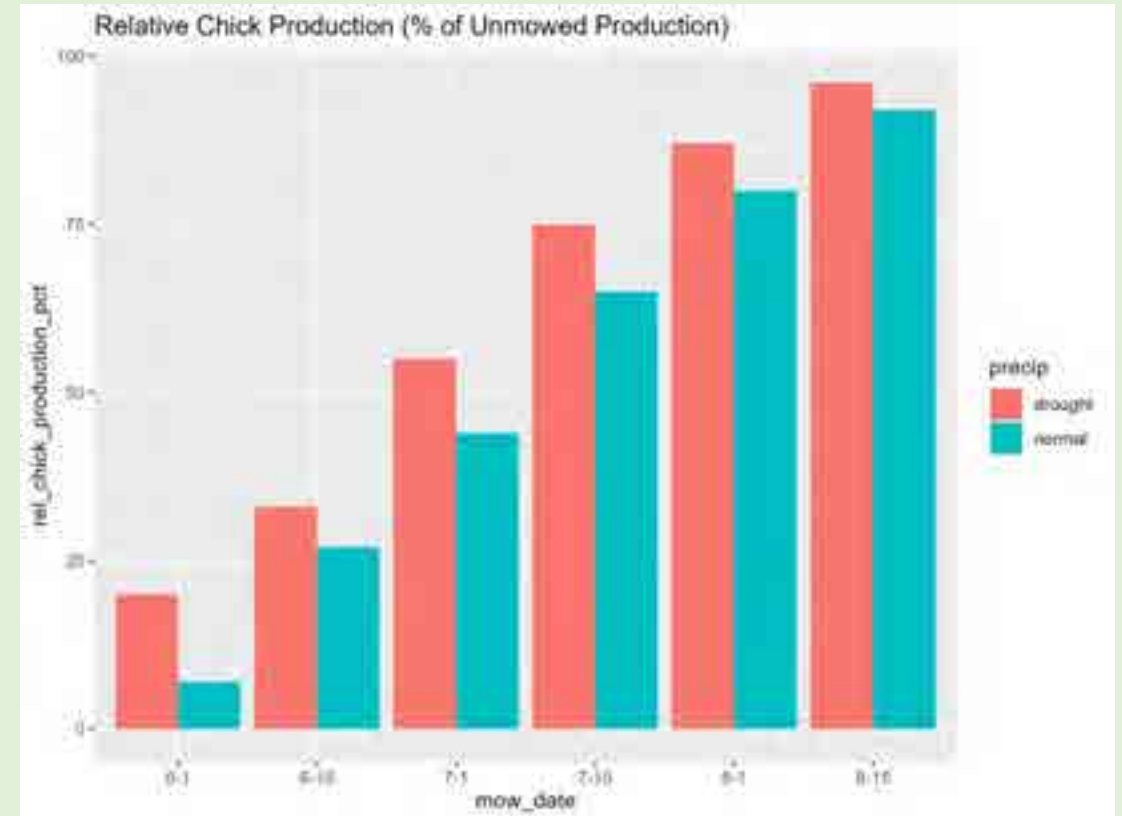
Recent multi-state cooperative study allows the building of interactive detection prediction tools



Quantifying Trade-offs Between Percentage and Timing of CRP Haying During Normal vs. Emergency Drought Conditions



- Drought shortens the effective breeding season, potentially making earlier mowing less damaging to chick production
- Should we trade protection of a portion of the field for an earlier allowable mow date?



New Partnership Positions to Meet Private Lands Biologist Training Needs?



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