

## **Natural Resources University: A collaborative podcast network with international reach**

In-person workshops, seminars, field days, and publications are staples of content delivery for extension professionals. But increasingly, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, extension professionals are seeking alternative methods to disseminate science-based information to stakeholders. One such method is podcasting. We will explore the creation of a podcast network, Natural Resources University (NRU), as a method to disseminate natural resources information to landowners and land managers. We launched the NRU podcast network, a collection of four podcasts hosted by Extension Specialists at various land-grant universities, with a unifying theme of providing natural resource information to stakeholders. The four podcasts include Deer University, Fire University, Habitat University, and Pond University. Since its launch in December 2020, 62 episodes within NRU have received more than 124,000 downloads across all 50 states and 62 countries. A survey of Habitat University listeners (n=32 respondents) indicated the podcast reached a broad audience (hunters, private landowners, land managers, biologists, and other professionals). The survey also indicated 100% of listeners learned at least a moderate amount about habitat management from the podcast. Respondents owned or managed 30,990 acres and planned to apply the information they learned from the podcast to 80% of that land. By creating a podcast network, as opposed to four unconnected podcasts, we were able to extend the reach of each podcast and broaden the scope of information provided to listeners. Podcasting can effectively disseminate science-based natural resources information to various stakeholders and should be considered more broadly by extension professionals.



### **Jarred M. Brooke**

Jarred Brooke is an Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Forestry and Natural Resources Department at Purdue University. He earned his B.S. in Wildlife Science from Purdue University in 2012 and his M.S. in Wildlife Management from the University of Tennessee in 2015. Jarred's background includes extension and research activities related to applied habitat management for game species, including northern bobwhite, eastern wild turkey, and white-tailed deer, and work with private landowners interested in habitat management opportunities through USDA Farm Bill programs (CRP, EQIP, and WRE). His extension programming and research activities at Purdue focus on habitat management for game species, including the use of herbicide and prescribed fire to manage early successional vegetation communities and hardwood savannas, woodlands, and forests.

### *Additional Presenters*

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