



Commissioners of the Land Office

A Discussion on Invasive Woody Species

Presenting Today

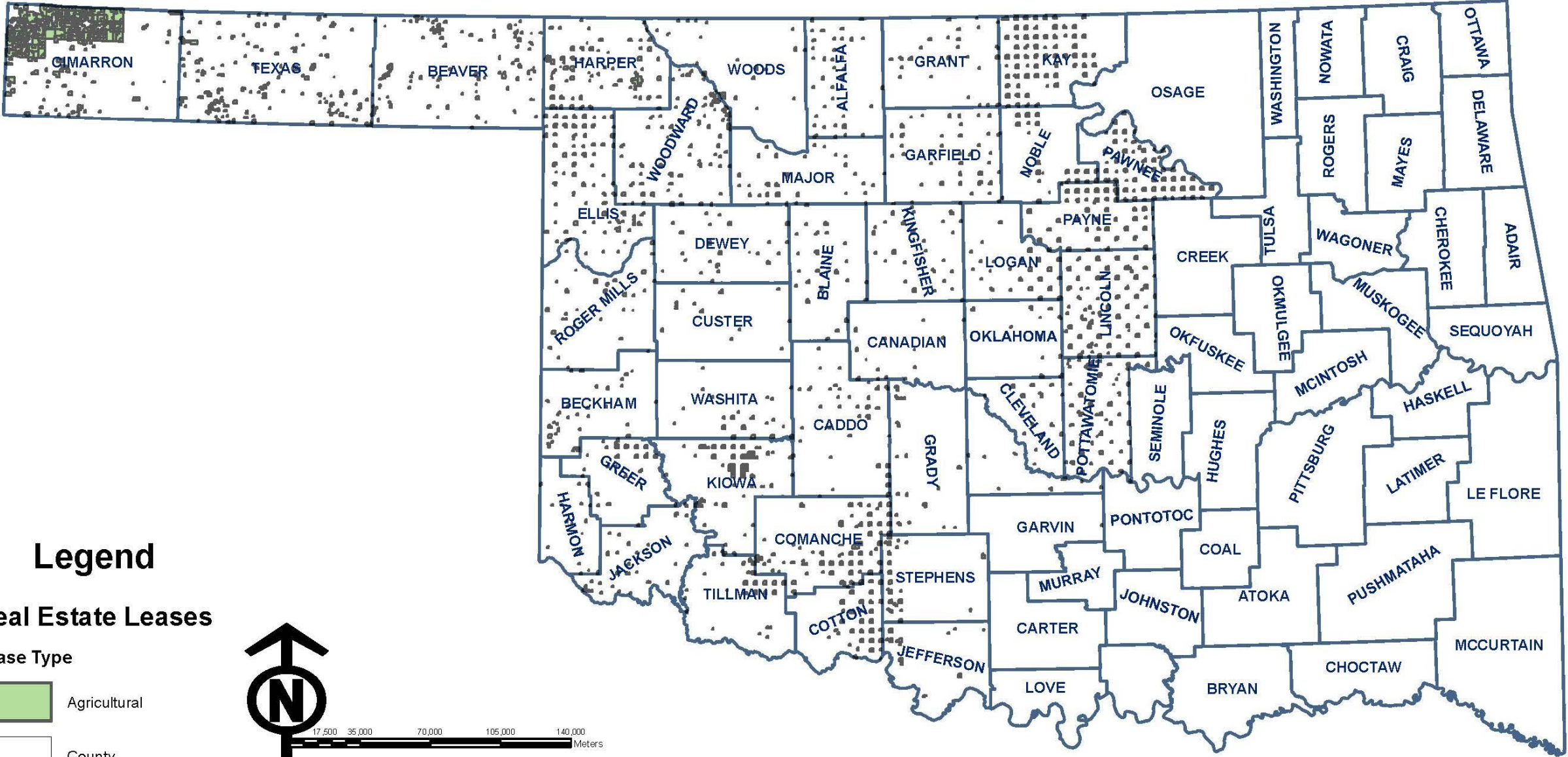
- Secretary Dan Whitmarsh
- Real Estate Management Division
 - Mike Sawatzky, Director of Real Estate Management
 - Anthony Ruiz, Assistant Director of Real Estate Management
 - Jacquelyn Mount, CPO, Real Estate Management Business Manager

CLO Lands

- Over 725,000 acres
- 42 Counties
- Predominately in Western Oklahoma
- About 65% of these lands are Rangeland, which are susceptible to

Invasive Woody Species

CLO Agriculture Land



Legend

Real Estate Leases

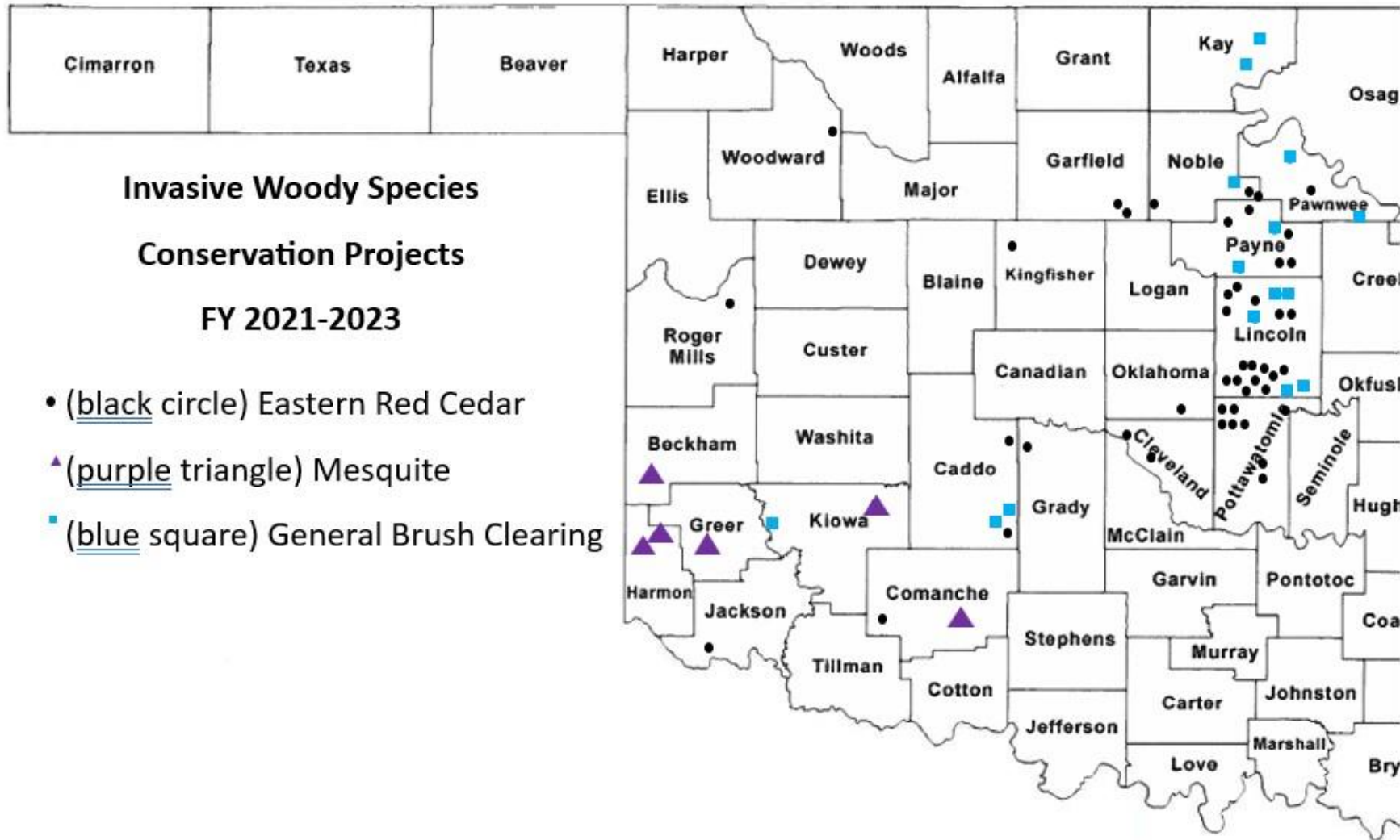
- Lease Type
- Agricultural
 - County



17,500 35,000 70,000 105,000 140,000 Meters

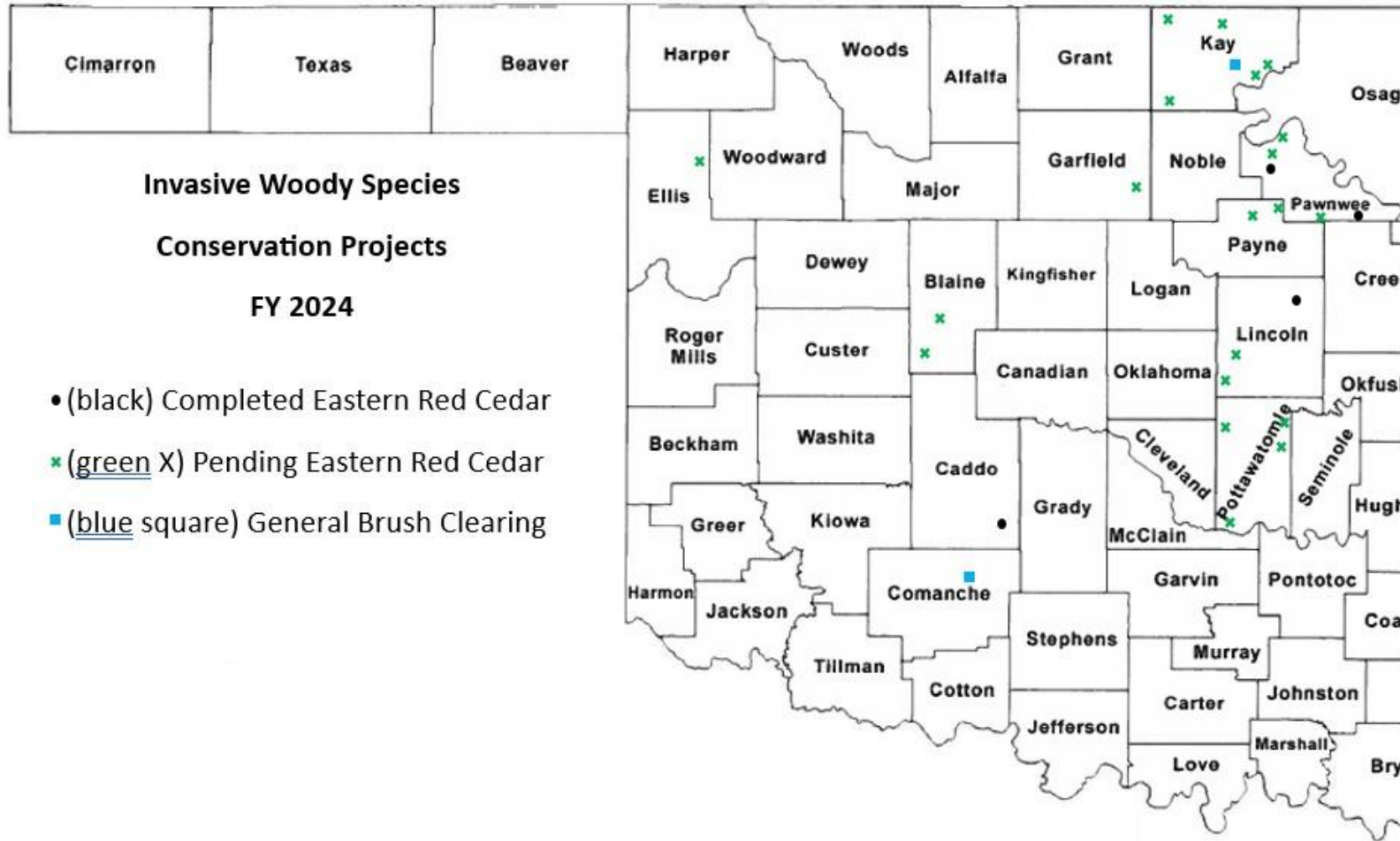
Recent Accomplishments

- In the past three years, the CLO has invested over **\$725,000** fighting Invasive Woody Species
- This represents over 40% of available conservation project funds
- Over 11,500 acres impacted
- More than 70 individual conservation projects in 21 counties



Fiscal Year 2024 Plans

- Invest Over \$200,000 Fighting Invasive Woody Species
- This Represents Over 30% of the Annual Conservation Project Budget
- Over 1,700 Acres
 - 25+ projects
 - 10 counties



Public / Private Conservation Partnerships

- Special Conservation Requirements
 - Conservation Projects to be Completed by Winning Bidders (Lessees) at Their Cost during the Tenure of the Lease
 - Projects Often Initiated in Conjunction with CLO-Funded Conservation Projects
 - Crucial to Maintaining Integrity of the Land when Dealing with Large Tracts
 - May impact the lease rate obtained at auction
- Local and Federal Cost-Share Programs
 - Lessees Encouraged to Participate in Cost-Share Programs
 - Completed at No Cost to the CLO

Prescribed Burns

- The CLO Allows Lessees to Conduct Prescribed Burns on Trust Lands after Written Approval of Plans
- 11 Approved Prescribed Burns on Over 2,500 Acres Since FY 2021
- 43 Prescribed Burn Associations Across the State Help with Burn Planning and Implementation



Pawnee County 2022



Long-Term Challenges

- Invasive Woody Species have been Growing Worse Since the 1950s
- Developing a Survey for all CLO Lands Cost Prohibitive
- CLO has Fewer Field Staff Due to Tight Labor Market Combined with Budget Challenges
- Ongoing Drought Requires Water Wells and Pond Maintenance to be a Greater Portion of Conservation Project Budget
- Limited Availability of Contractors Willing to Bid On and Complete Projects in a Timely, Cost-Effective Manner

Discussion and Questions