



PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FOREVER

www.pheasantsforever.org | www.quailforever.org



NEWS RELEASE

Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever Promote Wesley Hanks to Prescribed Fire Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Hanks will take on expanded responsibilities in new leadership role.

Milan, Mo. – January 24, 2024 – Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are excited to announce the team’s own Wesley Hanks was promoted to Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist. He will be starting his new role January 29th.

The Prescribed Fire Coordinating Wildlife Biologist is a partnership position made possible with funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. Hanks will be responsible for prescribed fire planning, outreach, training, and coordination in Missouri and will work closely with the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council, Missouri PBAs, and a wide range of individuals and resource professionals promoting the development and implementation of prescribed fire in Missouri.



“Wesley has been a valuable member of our biologist team for many years now and has tremendous experience working with prescribed fire in the state,” said Missouri Senior Coordinating Biologist Jake Swafford. “I’m confident he will boost prescribed fire implementation in northern Missouri and prove a valuable resource for landowners and fire practitioners alike!”

Wesley is a Missouri native who grew up enjoying the outdoors. He graduated from Mizzou in 2013 with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management and with a master’s degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from the University of Illinois in 2018. After completing his undergraduate, he began his career with MDC working out of Whetstone Creek Conservation Area. As a Crew Leader, Wesley helped manage grassland, glade, woodland, and forest communities on public lands in Callaway and Montgomery counties. In this role he gained valuable hands-on experience with planning, preparing for, and implementing prescribed fire in a variety of habitat types. Since September of 2017 Wesley has been the Quail Forever Farm Bill



PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FOREVER

www.pheasantsforever.org | www.quailforever.org



NEWS RELEASE

Biologist for Franklin, Warren, and Washington counties working with private landowners interested in managing their property for wildlife, which regularly involved using prescribed fire. When not working, Wesley enjoys spending time outdoors with his two kids, reading, and following his English Setter through the weeds.

"Prescribed fire is a beneficial and cost-effective management tool to maintain and improve upland wildlife habitats," said Hanks. "I'm excited for the opportunity to move the needle when it comes to safely putting more prescribed fire on the ground in northern Missouri."

If you are interested in learning more about our Prescribed Fire Coordinating Wildlife Biologist position or using prescribed fire on your property, contact Wesley Hanks at whanks@pheasantsforever.org or 636.649.3108 or visit www.moprescribedfire

About Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

[Pheasants Forever](#), including its quail conservation division — [Quail Forever](#) — make up the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. This community of more than 400,000 members, supporters and partners is dedicated to the protection of our uplands through habitat improvement, public access, education and advocacy. A network of 754 local chapters spread across North America determine how 100 percent of their locally raised funds are spent — the only national conservation organization that operates through this grassroots structure. Since creation in 1982, Pheasants Forever has donated more than \$1 billion to 575,000 habitat projects benefiting 25 million acres. Visit the [Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).