



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

July–September 2021

Activity Highlights

Conservation Planning

Landowner Contacts	78
Site Visits	15
Projects with Acres	54

Partner Meetings

NBTC
 Furbearer Stakeholder Partner Meeting
 MoBCI Steering Committee Meetings

Outreach

Events	3
Articles	1
Attended Webinars	6

Chapter Activities

Monthly Meetings	6
Events/Banquets	2

Total Acres Impacted: 1710.94 acres

An incredible quarter of OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT, and PARTNER SUPPORT

Northern Missouri QF Prairie Day

To begin, the Missouri Quail forever team held a field day for our staff in northern Missouri to reconnect, brush up on plant identification, and discussed ways to better engage with one another and strengthen communication. It was a breath of fresh air to spend time dissecting the prairie and visiting some incredible conservation projects in the Chillicothe area.



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NBTC Meeting

A few of our seasoned Quail Forever staff headed to Bentonville, AR for the Northern Bobwhite Technical Committee Meeting the first week of August. We engaged with partners as we discussed grassland management, upland management, policy, and more. It was great to share ideas with professionals and discuss new direction for great conservation.



Chapter District Meeting

On August 9th, NE Missouri Chapter leaders met in Edina, MO to discuss new opportunities for chapters to engage with their communities and talk with their QF Regional Representative, Trevor Day, and Outreach Coordinator, Kim Cole. Farm Bill Biologists Haley Lockard, Will Robinson, and myself were there to engage with our associated chapters.



Crops & Conservation Field Day

Quail Forever was asked to participate in the Crops and Conservation Field Day at the Bradford Research Facility in Columbia, MO. An exciting opportunity for QF to share our mission and learn about new technologies within the Ag industry. Discussions moved from oleic soybeans and establishing buffers on marginal field acres to new technologies such as drone herbicide application and weed suppression by electrocution. A great day to soak up new information and experience advanced equipment in action.



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Women Focused Outreach

Women Owning Woodlands– Kirksville, MO



On Friday Aug 27th, QF partnered with others to host a Women Owning Woodlands workshop. In class, we discussed forest health, forest management, prescribed fire, and touched on conservation programs. We then explored the Mark Twain PBA trailer and conducted a match stick demonstration outside before serving lunch. After lunch we headed to the field where we visited examples of clear cutting, thinning, prescribed fire and more. The ladies that joined us for this event were great and very enthusiastic about taking their woodland management to the next level.

Women In Agriculture– Kansas City, MO

Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologist Haley Lockard and I, attended the annual Women in Ag conference this year. Offering several presentations and an outreach booth, we were able to discuss conservation with nearly 100 women landowners and/or conservation professionals. In addition to great presentations there was an additional day for field tours. The group visited many properties. A small property, consisting of a high tunnel and several acres of recently establish pollinator plots, an established orchard growing apples, berries, and more.





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Quail Forever Partners with MDC to Promote MRAP

Quail Forever in Missouri has once again launched an MRAP Challenge. We aim to encourage hunters to use MRAP properties and encourage them to mentor new and youth hunters on these public use areas. Entering each hunt on our website offers each participant a chance to win a \$200 gift certificate. Make sure to visit our website and participate now through the end of December!

MRAP CHALLENGE!
Hunting/Fishing

Win PRIZES

\$200 Gift Card (Individual)
\$400 Gift Card (Mentor/Mentee)

How to ENTER

3 EASY STEPS!

1. Hunt or fish on an MRAP property (Individual) OR take a new angler or hunter to an MRAP property (Mentor/Mentee pair).
2. When hunting or fishing the property, take a photo of yourself (Individual entry) or of the Mentor/Mentee pair (Mentor/Mentee entry) in front of the MRAP sign.
3. Complete and submit an entry form for each MRAP visit (one entry per day).

Visit MissouriPFOF.org for complete rules and entry form!

Become a **Quail Forever** or **Pheasants Forever** member and TRIPLE your chances!

Rules & Entry Form

Another Giveaway!

ENTER TO WIN a chance at a guided hunting trip and an upland gear giveaway!
Scan QR Code or visit: pheasantsforever.org/mentortrip

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Back in Action

Congratulations Mid-Mo Uplanders for hosting a great banquet in August of 2021! The night was packed with games, raffles, and a silent auction. A delicious meal was served and there was no short of fun to be had. A big thanks to all the volunteers and dedicated members that made this event a success.



**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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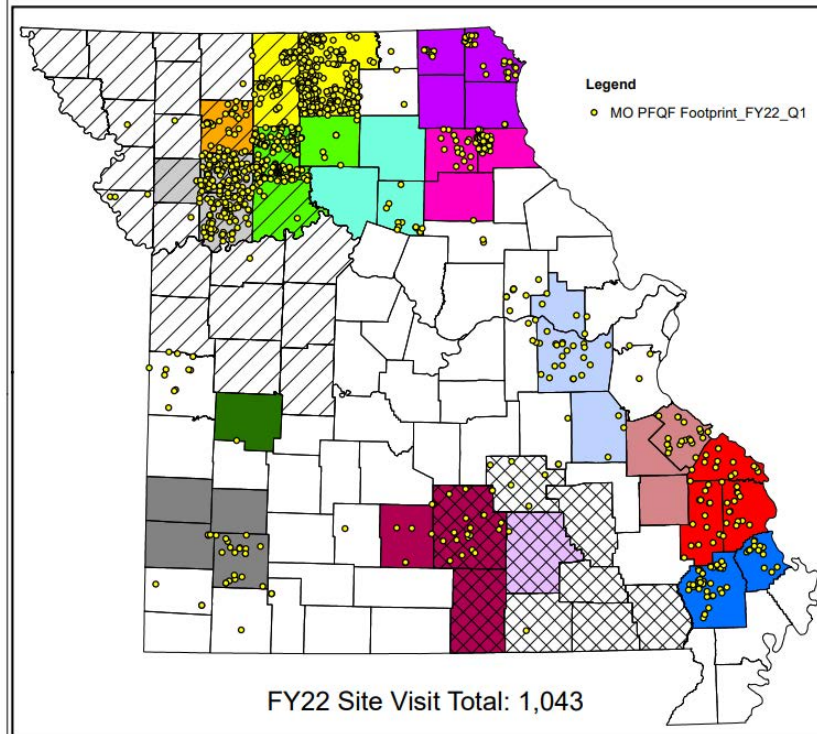
Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

July–September 2021

NEXT...

- Attend the PF/QF Team Meeting, Rockbridge, MO
- Assist the Mark Twain QF Chapter host their annual banquet and new hunter event
- Attend Partner Trainings: Prairie Strips, Partner Round Table, NRCS Cultural Resources, etc.
- Assist with EQIP conservation planning to meet the November deadline
- Complete field reviews for expiring CRP acres
- Visit with landowners to write wildlife management plans

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2021 - September 2021



CONNECT WITH US!




 @MissouriQF Missouri Quail Forever 




 MissouriPFQF.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

July—September 2021

Moving the Wildland-Urban Interface in a New Direction

If a resident of Crane, MO glanced upward on the afternoon of September 18th, a column of smoke could be seen rising from the Southeast edge of town and drifting East above the adjacent farms and fields. Emerging from within the city limits, smoke like this certainly raises suspicion, and perhaps a little alarm. But a call to the fire department that day would not have dispatched any trucks—they were already there, helping Steve Steury send his industrial park lawn up in flames. The plan had come together, and Steve and his crew looked on with pride and satisfaction at the blackened earth surrounding his shop. If the brown sod had somehow gone unnoticed over the last two months, the smoke now issuing from atop the hill was certainly signaling a coming change to the park's appearance.

I first met with Steve at his Five Star Manufacturing facility in the Crane Industrial Park this past April. Citing a disdain for endless mowing and a desire to enact a positive change for local people and wildlife, he inquired about support for restoring pollinator habitat on his 6-acre lot, which at the time consisted primarily of tall fescue and bermudagrass—tidy, but utterly boring. Nestled within the city limits, adjacent to the town's recycling center, and little over a mile upstream from the revered trout waters of Crane Creek, Steve thought his land could be more than just a chore to "maintain"; it could serve to beautify and educate the community, provide sanctuary for local wildlife, and slow and filter the runoff streaming off the hillside. Given his desire to promptly begin, I suggested the Missouri Department of Conservation's Habitat Challenge Grant, in which Quail Forever participates, as the ideal avenue to help fund his project. Matched 1:1 by MDC, these dollars pledged by QF chapters from across the state provide great assistance for smaller-scale habitat projects, while relying on federal Farm Bill programs to deliver funds on larger, costlier projects. After signing on the dotted line, we quickly embarked on turning his biological desert into an urban oasis of native grasses and wildflowers.

Continued —>

Conservation at a Glance

- 75 Landowner Contacts
- 43 Site Visits
- 1 Workshop/Tour
- 1 Outreach & Education Event

Program Involvement	Acres Impacted
CRP	812
Habitat Challenge Grant	12
CFM Funded Project	40
Total	864

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Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

July—September 2021

Wildland-Urban Interface

For the initial treatment, Steve hired a local contractor to apply a broad-spectrum herbicide in early July. Had this been a true fescue monoculture, we likely would have scheduled the spraying for a month or two prior, but because our “cool-season” growing conditions persisted as long as they did, we were able to treat the fescue later in the year when we had the opportunity to better treat the crabgrass, bermudagrass, and other “warm-season” grasses and broadleaves present in the stand. The plants began wilting a few days later, and within a couple of weeks we had achieved what appeared to be a complete kill.



A view of the Crane Industrial Park lawn in front of 5-Star Manufacturing—April 16, 2021.

At this stage of a conversion, many people fall into the trap of thinking their site prep is complete—a one-and-done piece of cake. However, missed plants, rhizomes, and dormant seed are almost always lurking just below the thatch, and often don't reveal themselves until the following spring after the landowner had already planted their high-dollar seed mix. In those circumstances, our options for removing the undesirable vegetation without significant collateral damage to the native seedlings are greatly diminished—we just don't have that level of herbicide selectivity available, and hand-pulling is entirely infeasible in most instances. Thus, the goal is to stimulate germination and regrowth of as many remaining seeds and plants as possible prior to seeding our wildflower mixes. This “flush” can then be followed by subsequent treatment to remove these future competitors.



“Dead” sod two months after an herbicide treatment in early July—September 9th

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Continued —>



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July—September 2021

Wildland-Urban Interface

Ideally, a conversion from nonnative grass to native wildflowers would happen gradually over two or more growing seasons, allowing the seed-bank to fully express itself, for better or worse. A strong showing of early-successional weeds is inevitable, with foxtails, ragweed, and plantain commonly presenting the fiercest competition the first growing season of a new pollinator plot. Worse yet are the highly invasives like sericea lespedeza, Johnsongrass, and various thistles that may have been waiting to germinate for many years. Even red and white clover can become nightmarish in a new planting, as desirable as they may be in a pasture, hayfield, or wildlife foodplot, so allowing time for their removal is also critical. That said, many of our local, state, and federal programs carry deadlines that don't allow for this "ideal", peaceable transition of vegetation, making an integrated approach a must for the condensed timelines. When used in conjunction with herbicide, practices like haying, grazing, and prescribed burning help expedite the aforementioned "flush" and can create ideal seed-bed conditions prior to planting.

For Steve's Five Star pollinator plot, we elected to use prescribed fire to clear the residue left from the initial spraying and to stimulate plant regrowth for a subsequent herbicide treatment. Steve, being the enterprising person he is, was able to staff a capable crew for the job, complete with the local fire department and their pump trucks to pre-douse his close-mowed green firebreaks. The stars aligned, they got the rare Northeasterly September wind they



Charred thatch, two days post burn—September 20th

needed to keep smoke off the town, and the fire completely scoured the fine, dead material and nothing more. Just what we needed.

Rain came four days later, and within a week, Steve reported the foretold greening. Now we're patiently waiting for the year's remaining growing days to push up as many plants as they can before our November herbicide application and subsequent dormant seeding.

Continued —>



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Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

July—September 2021

Wildland-Urban Interface

Next spring we'll be welcoming more little specks of green as our early-successional natives begin germinating and sending down roots. And in due time, and with diligent management, Steve, and any industrial park visitor or highway passerby will be treated to a spectacular show of color, chirps, and whirring wings, right within the Crane city limits.



Fescue seedlings, biennials, and winter annuals greening up ~3 weeks post burn —October 13th

While urban habitats like these might never hold a covey or quail like some rural back-forty, they still hold tremendous value for local wildlife and community members, and represent a changing tide for the wildland-urban interface. Urban and suburban sprawl is often credited as one of the chief culprits in wildlife population declines; radiating out from its city center and leaving habitat only for the most generalist of species. With our global human population steadily marching toward 10 billion, we need to commit to conserving wildlife not just in some decreasingly far-off “wildland”, but amongst ourselves as well. And I’m really pleased to see the effort Missouri is putting into inviting these habitats back into our cities and towns.

NGOs like Missourians for Monarchs, Deep Roots KC, and Missouri Prairie Foundation’s “Grow Native!” are providing tremendous support for municipalities and urban landowners for “in-town” habitat projects. Similarly, the Missouri Department of Conservation’s recent addition of “Community” to their Landowner [and Community] Assistance Program shows their commitment to do the same.

Not only do these projects provide the space for wildlife to live among us, they ultimately turn our cities and towns into far healthier habitat for ourselves as well.



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July—September 2021

Outreach & Education

NWSG Tour

We can wax on endlessly about the production and environmental benefit of native warm season grasses for cattle operations, but providing landowners with the opportunity to witness these systems in action is perhaps our best approach for convincing them to enact these changes on their own farms. In August, I joined MU Extension Agronomist, Tim Schnakenberg, to host a native warm season grass tour in Barry County. Both of the ranches we visited were still in their first few years of growth, so the respective landowners had chosen to only hay their fields until now. Thus, much of the discussion centered around demystifying the establishment process, hay management, and the myriad cost-share opportunities available to them. Forage analysis values always seem to be of particular importance to hay producers, so we took extra time to explain how observed protein levels routinely belie animal performance on natives. Despite the wet growing season we've had this year, drought is ever present in the minds of SW MO landowners, so the sight of chest-high green grass in August basically sells itself!



Landowners learning about NWSG establishment techniques at Aug. Native Forage Tour in Barry County

Forage analysis values always seem to be of particular importance to hay producers, so we took extra time to explain how observed protein levels routinely belie animal performance on natives. Despite the wet growing season we've had this year, drought is ever present in the minds of SW MO landowners, so the sight of chest-high green grass in August basically sells itself!

Career Exploration Day

I enjoy every opportunity I get to speak with high-school and college-aged students about the work we and our partners do on private lands in Missouri. Most are familiar with their local conservation areas, state parks, and the Mark Twain National Forest, but all seem to underestimate the share of privately owned farms, ranches, and forestland in the state, and the immense need for wildlife professionals to help restore and manage those acres. In September, I was able to speak to over 700 high-school students from across Missouri at MU Extension's Bradford Research Center Career Exploration Day. With over 20 presenters, students had the opportunity to learn about crop genetics, plant pathology, soil health, grazing systems, wildlife management, and more. Given the agronomy context, weeds and brush mostly enter the conversation in terms of their control or eradication, so I was glad at least one person was there to vouch for their critical role for quail and other wildlife!

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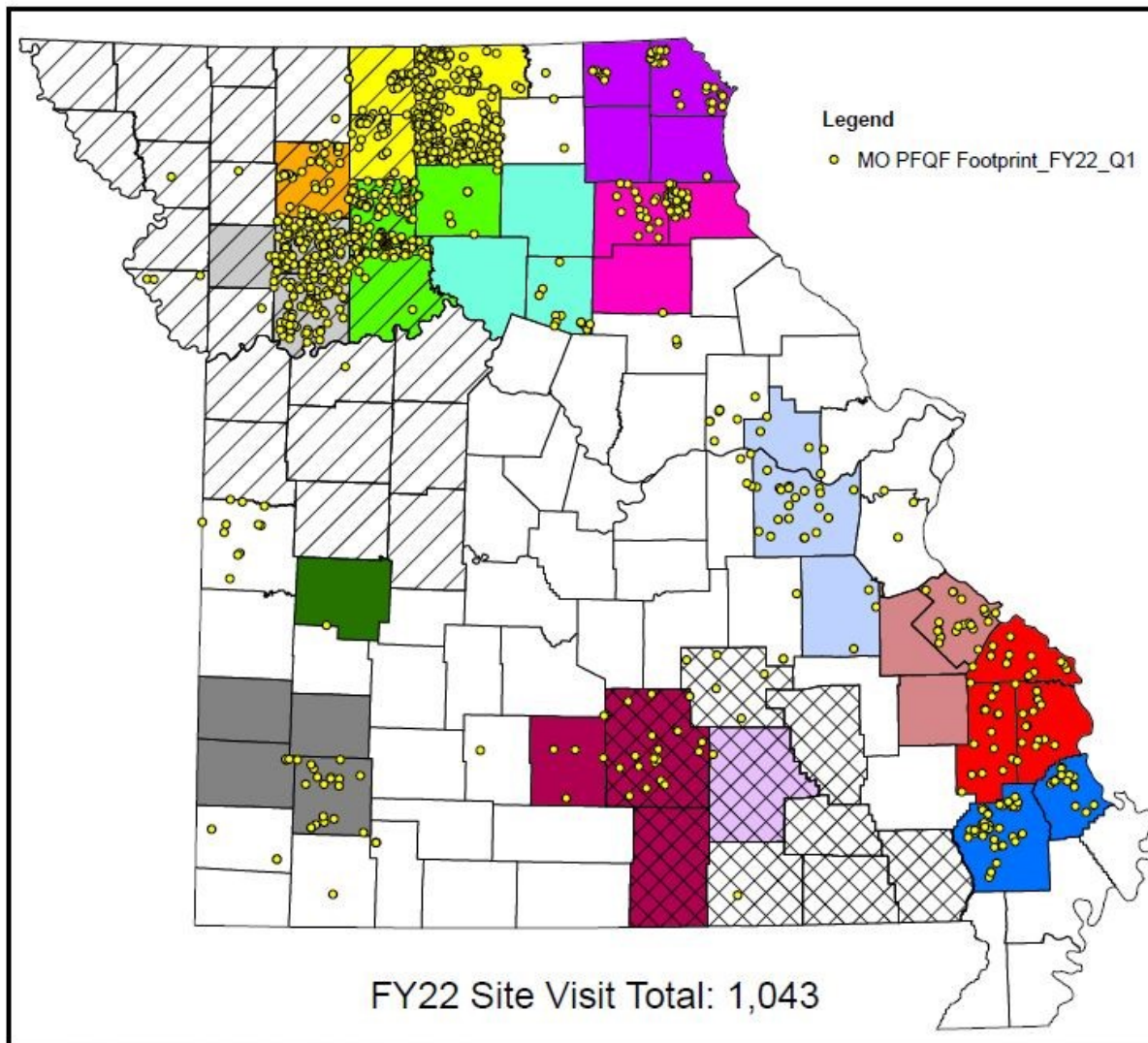
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Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

July—September 2021

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2021 - September 2021



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/13/2021

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July - Sept 2021

Whirlwind

Between long days writing CRP plans and lots of outreach events, it has been a busy and rewarding past three months. At the end of August, I was honored to co-host a Women Owning Woodlands Forest Management workshop in Kirksville along with Kim Cole, MO QF Outreach Coordinator; Sarah Havens, MU Ext. Natural Resource Field Specialist and Courtney Nicks, QF FBBII. We had 7 women join us for a morning of discussion and presentations on forest management. In the afternoon MDC Resource Forester Yvette Amerman gave us a tour of some TSI and timber sale sites on the Sugar Creek Conservation Area.

The busy CRP sign-ups 55 and 56 wrapped up in September. Most of the CRP offers were accepted in our counties. For the area, we were once again near the top in regards to workload. It was truly a team effort between myself and all NRCS staff to get the conservation plans written and signed before the deadline. To assist with getting landowner signatures and maintain consistent messaging, we worked with FSA to schedule 3 landowner meeting/signing events. During the meetings, FSA outlined the expectations and requirements of the contract. I then discussed the needs for establishing and maintaining their grass stands. I also discussed invasive species management, particularly for sericea lespedeza. Sericea lespedeza is a growing problem on CRP and needs to be addressed quickly and aggressively.

I then wrapped up the month with two women-focused outreach events. Kim Cole worked with wildHERness to host a Go Wyld weekend at the Bartle Scouts Camp in Iconium. The weekend featured a Women and Wild Game happy hour, gear fashion show, guest speakers, and 20 different skills classes. 55 women attended and had a great time immersing in the outdoors. We then co/hosted 4 workshops and a booth at the Missouri State Women in Agriculture conference. I discussed conservation programs during Adam Jones', MFA Inc., presentation on Maintaining Farm Profitability. I additionally hosted 2 Wildlife on Your Working Lands workshops. I spoke with landowners about the great work QF/PF does in Missouri, habitat basics and management practices as well as 3 project examples to tie in all together. It was a busy and productive quarter, I'm looking forward to the fall weather and hunting seasons to open up so that we can enjoy the wild spaces we work so hard to conserve.



Quarter Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 37 Landowner Contacts
- 31 Site Visits
- 163 Projects With Acres
- 6 seed mix reviews
- 135 Habitat Plans

Total Acres Impacted: 5,153

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July - Sept 2021

Outreach...

- **Aug 9** Presented at Northeast Missouri District Meeting
- **Aug 12** Attended and hosted a booth at the Missouri Soybean and Missouri Corn Conservation Field Day in Columbia, MO
- **Aug 20** Assisted with registration/check-out at the Mid-Mo Uplanders annual banquet
- **Sept 24-26** Assisted Kim Cole, MO Outreach Coordinator, with Women and Wild Game event during Go Wyld Weekend cohosted by QF/PF in Missouri and wildHERness in Iconium, MO.

Landowner Workshops/ Tours ...

- **Aug 27** Presented at Women Owning Woodlands/Women Caring for the Land Forest Management Workshop in Kirksville, MO co-hosted by QF/PF in Missouri and MU Extension
- **Sept 7** CRP HELI Landowner conservation plan expectations meeting in Clark County
- **Sept 8** CRP HELI Landowner conservation plan expectations meeting #1 in Scotland County
- **Sept 9** CRP HELI Landowner conservation plan expectations meeting #2 in Scotland County
- **Sept 27-29** During the Missouri State Women in Agriculture conference, I collaborated with Adam Jones, MFA Inc., on two Maintaining Profitability workshops and hosted 2 Wildlife on Your Working Lands workshops.



Trainings & Meetings...

- **Aug 1-5** National Bobwhite Technical Committee annual meeting in Bentonville, AR
- **Aug 25** NRCS R1 training phase I
- **Aug 30** NRCS R1 training phase II
- **Sept 1** NRCS R1 training phase III

Quarter Highlights

Outreach & Education

- *8 Landowner Tours/ Workshops*
- *4 Outreach Events*

Total Participants Reached: 47

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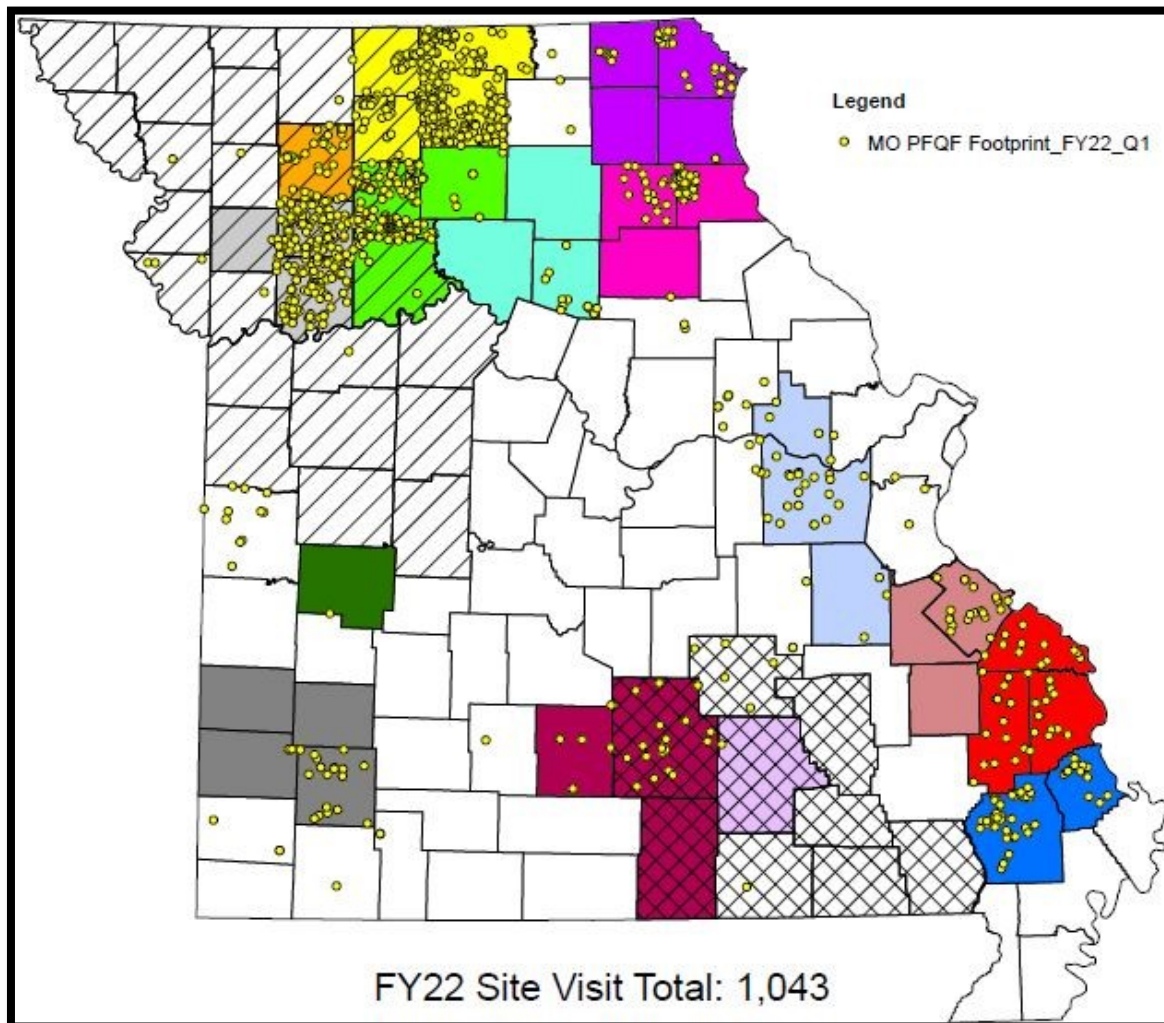
Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland

July - Sept 2021

Looking Forward...

- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- NRCS Prairie Strips Technical Training Oct 12
- Present during Projecting You Investment Webinar Oct 19
- NRCS Cultural resources Training Oct 26-27
- Present during Women Owning Woodlands Lunch and Learn Webinar Oct 27
- NRCS Soil Health & Sustainability Training Nov 16- Dec 3

Missouri PF/QF Biologist Footprint Map



**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Northwest Missouri

July – September 2021

Position Update

The last three months have been a busy end to summer, and the fall workload shows no signs of slowing down. I've been busy assisting with site visits and planning for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), providing guidance on pollinator habitat projects, and reconnecting with chapters and partners through trainings, meetings, and workshops. I continue to work on the upcoming Monarch Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) which will maintain, enhance, and protect habitat for monarch butterflies across Northwest Missouri. I'm looking forward to spending some more time in the field before winter arrives and to talking with landowners about current signups for conservation programs that can benefit their wildlife habitat.

FFA Field Day at MU's Hundley-Whaley Research Center

I was excited for the opportunity to talk about pollinators and their habitat with High School students last month during the FFA Field Day at University of Missouri's Hundley-Whaley Research Center in Albany, MO. Students attending the field day stop at stations while touring the farm, where they learn about different types of agriculture, natural resource conservation, and opportunities for careers and higher education in related fields. This event is typically held annually but couldn't be held in person last year due to COVID safety protocol. Andrew White, our Farm Bill Biologist in Chillicothe, came up to assist with engaging students in conversations about the importance of pollinators, how to create wildlife habitat, and what Pheasants and Quail Forever does. Students got a chance to ask questions and take a stroll through a pollinator plot on site to see the benefits for themselves.



A group of students from a local High school learning about the benefits of pollinators and their habitat at the Hundley-Whaley FFA Day.

The weather cooperated for this fully outdoors event which was lucky enough to host 16 High schools which brought over 500 students to participate. A big thank you to the folks at Hundley-Whaley Research Center and the University of Missouri for hosting this event.

Conservation Planning

- 20 NRCS Cons. Planner Contacts
- 17 Conservation Plans
- 38 Status Reviews
- 8 Quality Assessment Reviews

Programs	Acres Impacted
CSP	178.74
CRP	2,210.38
Total	2,388.74

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Northwest Missouri

July – September 2021

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NRCS Wildlife Field Day	Hosted a wildlife field day for NRCS planners and staff in Area 1 to introduce them to commonly used wildlife habitat practices.
PF/QF District Meeting	Attended PF/QF district meeting in Independence, MO to meet and talk with chapters about updates, changes, and plans for the upcoming year.
CFM Affiliate Summit	Participated in the Conservation Federation of Missouri's (CFM) Affiliate Summit. Learned about current conservation issues withing the state as well as opportunities to engage with partners.
CLC Fall Workshop	Assisted with the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) fall workshop acting as a resource for students working to address conservation issues within Missouri.

Outreach & Education

- Presented at the University of Missouri's Hundley-Whaley Research Center FFA field day talking with over 500 students about wildlife habitat and the importance of pollinators.
- Assisted with the Conservation Leadership Corps summer meeting. Students met with current directors from state agencies and conducted a river clean up with Missouri River Relief.

Looking Forward

- I will lead the development and delivery of the new Monarch PRIME- RCPP later this year.
- I will work with local and Area Office staff to follow up on Quality Assurance Reviews.
- Create a NW Missouri County Equipment list to identify seeding equipment and availability.
- Renew my conservation planner certification with NRCS
- Assist planners with seed mix certifications.
- Pursue certification as a drone pilot.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in NW Missouri who are interested in establishing habitat for Monarchs, quail, and other upland wildlife.
- Work with partners to clearly define my role and responsibilities as they relate to Monarch PRIME– RCPP.



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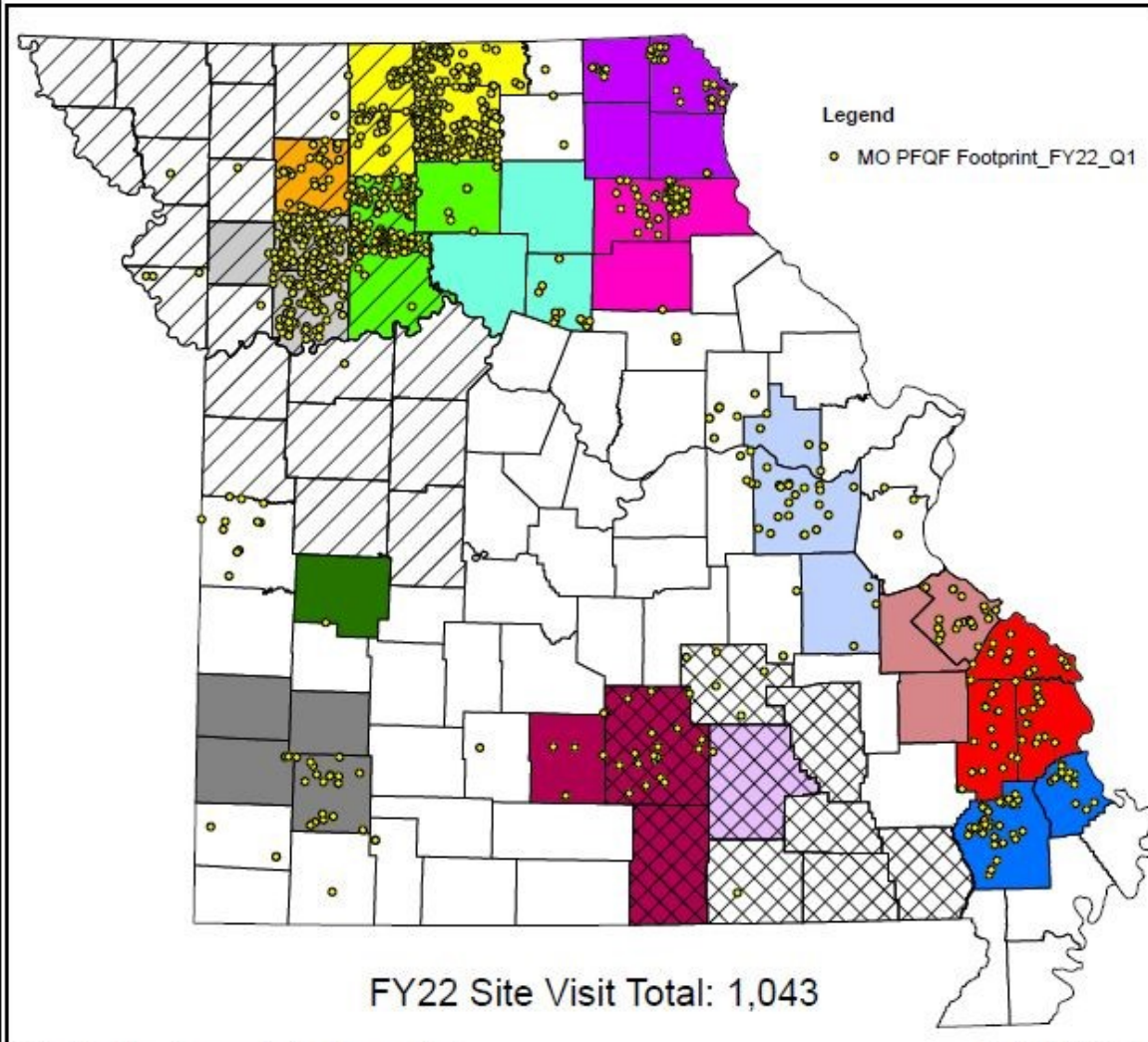
Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Northwest Missouri

July – September 2021

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2021 - September 2021



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Updated: 10/13/2021



Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

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Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

JUL – SEP 2021

Quarterly Overview

This quarter brought with it a lot of time in the field and several opportunities to conduct outreach events at landowner and general outreach workshops. Some of these workshops were events that I assist with every year. Others were new opportunities to reach new audiences with the message of native habitat restoration and the benefits it brings to wildlife and people alike. The significant amount of time that I spent in the field was focused on checking CRP contracts. Most of August and September were utilized to conduct these checks before the end of the fiscal year. It was a busy and productive quarter. I look forward to how the rest of the year will unfold.

Prairie Strips

As mentioned in my overview, I had the opportunity to present or assist with many outreach opportunities. One new opportunity that I enjoyed presenting at and being a part of, was the Prairie Strips & Soil Health Field Tour that was presented by Roeslein Alternative Energy (RAE), Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF), and Iowa State University. Local conservation professionals, outdoor enthusiast, and educators were invited to come to RAEs research and development farm in Putnam County to tour the property and learn about the benefits of prairie strips. Presentations were given and discussions were held on the soil health benefits of prairie strips, how to implement them, the best method for overcoming obstacles when establishing prairie strips, and the wildlife benefits of the strips. I was asked to present on the wildlife benefits of prairie strips. I focused my talk on how prairie strips provide high quality food to deer, turkeys, and quail, as well as excellent cover during all seasons. While there, we toured a corn field that had been planted to



John Murphy, RAE Wildlife Manager.



60" Corn Rows With Cover Crops.

60 inch rows and cover crops were planted between them. It seemed in doing this, it took the deer pressure off the corn and onto the cover crops. Even with deer damage, the cover crops provide quality ground cover. John Murphy, Wildlife Manager for RAE, ended the field day with tours of native plantings they had been working on. We all saw the difference between first year plantings, second year plantings, and established plantings. From this event, we hope to continue to spread the word about the benefits of prairie strips and look at placing them on the landscape to better soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Learn To Hunt Webinars

Another opportunity I had, was to work with the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) and present in their online Hunting Basics webinar series. For the month of September, once a week, CFM featured speakers who talked about different hunting topics. These professionals gave tips and tricks about how to start hunting a variety of game. This included bowhunting, duck hunting, dove hunting, and even wild game food preparation. I was provided the opportunity to present on how to hunt upland game and fall turkeys. I enjoyed being able to share generations of knowledge that had been passed down to me by my father and grandfather who were and are upland game hunters. I enjoyed preparing for the presentation because it brought up some great childhood memories of hunting with them both. I also enjoyed presenting because it gave me a chance to learn more about fall turkey hunting. I usually spend my time in the fall chasing deer, so I was not well versed on fall turkey hunting. With some help from a fellow biologist, I was able to learn about fall turkey hunting myself and pass it along to the audience. I am grateful to CFM for putting these webinars together and providing another opportunity to reach interested individuals with helpful information about how they can start their outdoor adventure. The outdoors don't belong to just the farmer, conservationists, or hunters. It belongs to all people and events like this help everyone find a place in it.

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Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

JUL – SEP 2021

State Parks Outreach

One benefit of being part of a team is the ability to utilize what teammates have learned or talked about and use it to help educate others. Last year, the Crowder State Park staff asked if I would like to present at their summer outdoor series. I enjoyed presenting at their outdoor amphitheater to the campers who were using the park. I was excited that they asked me to speak again this year. As the time of my presentation grew closer, I wasn't sure what to speak on. I began scrolling through our list of past presentations from other teammates and found a presentation on song birds. It was the perfect topic. Campers could come listen and learn, as I spoke about local songbirds. Then, they could go out the next day and look for some while walking around the park trails. I worked through the presentation, made it my own, and soon, I had a great talk to give to the campers of Crowder. The teammate that had put this presentation together before me had given me a great foundation to build upon and helped me come up with a new idea and presentation to share with others. The presentation went well and I was able to share with my audience the importance of native songbirds, how they can find and listen for some, and why habitat is important for native birds and wildlife. There is no way I could operate day to day without the support and assistance from my teammates. I appreciate that we have a quality group of



Presentation At Crowder State Park.

individuals that are open to sharing ideas for the benefit of others.

The Impact of CRP

August and September were dominated by field checks for CRP. We, as an organization, put a lot of emphasis on CRP. It is the most cost effective way to help a landowner put large scale quality habitat on the ground. Through CRP, a landowner can enroll a whole field or part of a field in a variety of native grasses and forbs. It is customizable, to an extent, to fit the landowners needs and goals. It also keeps that land enrolled in quality habitat for a minimum of ten years with chances to reenroll when the initial contract expires. It's for these reasons that we emphasize CRP. It provides a host of benefits to soil, water, wildlife, and the landowner. Sometimes the workload that accompanies CRP can seem overbearing, but it serves a great purpose and provides an excellent tool in the conservationist's tool box for adding more wildlife habitat to the landscape. One other benefit of CRP is that it gives the field staff a chance to get out and look at awesome native plants and plantings!



Native flora and fauna found during CRP Checks.

The Importance of Partners

I wanted to finish this report with highlighting the importance of partners. Without partners we would not be able to accomplish a tenth of what we do each quarter. I hope it was noticed in this report that every event or project I worked on was part of a collaborative of partners. When groups or individuals come together and pool their knowledge, resources, and facilities, great things are accomplished. The Prairie Strips Field Day wouldn't have been successful without all the partners that came together to make it happen and all the individuals who came to learn and contribute to the conversation. I assisted with a Women Caring For the Land/ Women Owning Woodlands outreach event and it was only possible through the partnership of MU Extension, MDC, and PFQF Missouri. MDC invited me to help with their booth at the North Central Missouri Fair. Without their booth, I wouldn't have been able to talk to 20 individuals about conservation. If Crowder State Park didn't have a place for me to present, I wouldn't be able to help campers discover the native birds that share the campgrounds with them. Without the cost share programs from NRCS and FSA, the large scale conservation that we place on the ground would be non-existent. It is truly through partnerships that we can go farther for conservation. I am grateful for the large list of partners, individuals, and teammates who help me accomplish the mission of Quail Forever in Missouri.

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Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

JUL – SEP 2021

Trainings and Outreach	Summary
Women Caring For the Land	A workshop designed to help women landowners in Adair and surrounding counties.
Plant ID Training	Led a plant identification training for NRCS, SWCD, & MDC Staff.
MDC Booth at North Central Missouri Fair	Sat in the MDC conservation booth at the fair to answered wildlife questions and provided information to the public.
Prairie Strips Field Tour	Assisted RAE, MPF, and IA State University with their Prairie Strips field tour.
Learn to Hunt Webinar	Gave a presentation on how to start hunting upland game and fall turkeys.
QF Chapter District Meeting	Met in Carrolton with two QF Chapters to recap the year and talk about the upcoming year.
Song Birds Presentation	Gave a presentation at Crowder State Park to talk about song birds and their habitat needs.
North Missouri Prairie Day	Visited a remnant prairie at Helton Conservation area and talked about the past year with the North Missouri QF Team.

Looking Forward

- **Oct 5th-8th** QF Missouri Team Meeting
- **Oct 6th** All Employee NRCS Meeting
- **Oct 22** Daughters of the American Revolution Presentation

Quarterly Numbers

- 188 Landowners Contacted
- 298 Site Visits

Program	Impacted Ac.
CRP Programs	21,076.04
NRCS/Other Programs	401.49
Total	21,477.53

We have a lot of great content on our YouTube and social media pages and we are updating them daily. Subscribe to our pages for the latest information on conservation programs and happenings in Missouri.



If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.

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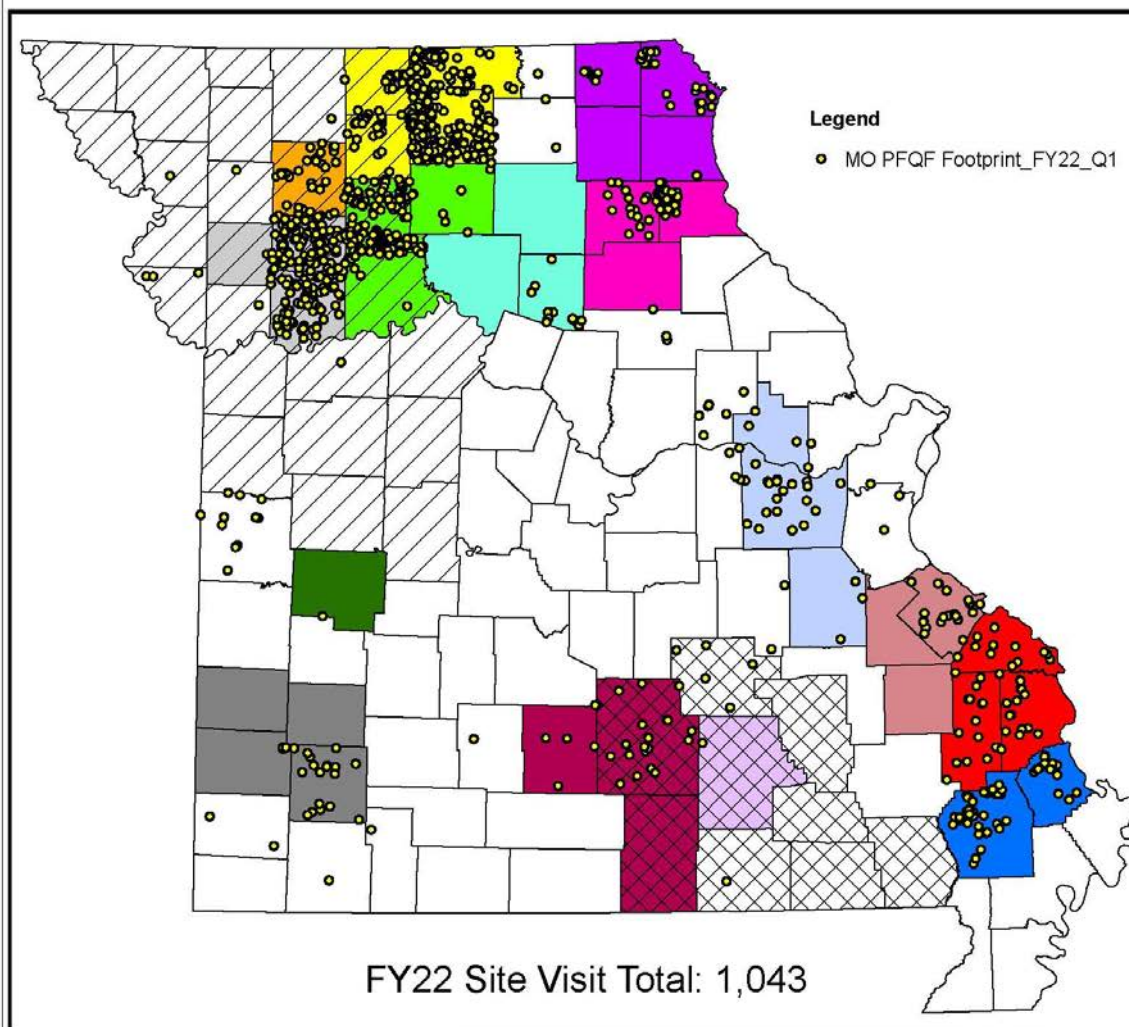
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

JUL – SEP 2021

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2021 - September 2021



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/13/2021



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Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia—Scott and Stoddard Counties

July-September 2021

Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting

The MPFC annual meeting was held Sept. 11 in Perryville and ran from 1000-1600. It began with the business portion of the day, followed by the workshop component which included a presentation by Ryan Gauger of The Nature Conservancy, concluding with updates from PBAs around the state. After a lunch break, the crew headed out to the private property of a Quail Forever, Inc. member, PBA member, and prescribed fire activist for the field tour. Here, the landowner informed and discussed the past, current, and future management that has and might be applied to the property.

Conservationists from MDC, TNC, NWTF, PF/QF, and private landowners attended and/or assisted throughout the day. This meeting brought us together, all with one goal in mind: to increase safe and practical usage of fire to manage property to benefit wildlife.



Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

• 95 landowner contacts	• 97 total site visits
• Completed CRP conservation plans for Scott and Stoddard counties	• Attended Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Meeting/field tour
• Impacted over 2,300 acres	• Assisted landowners in 3 counties

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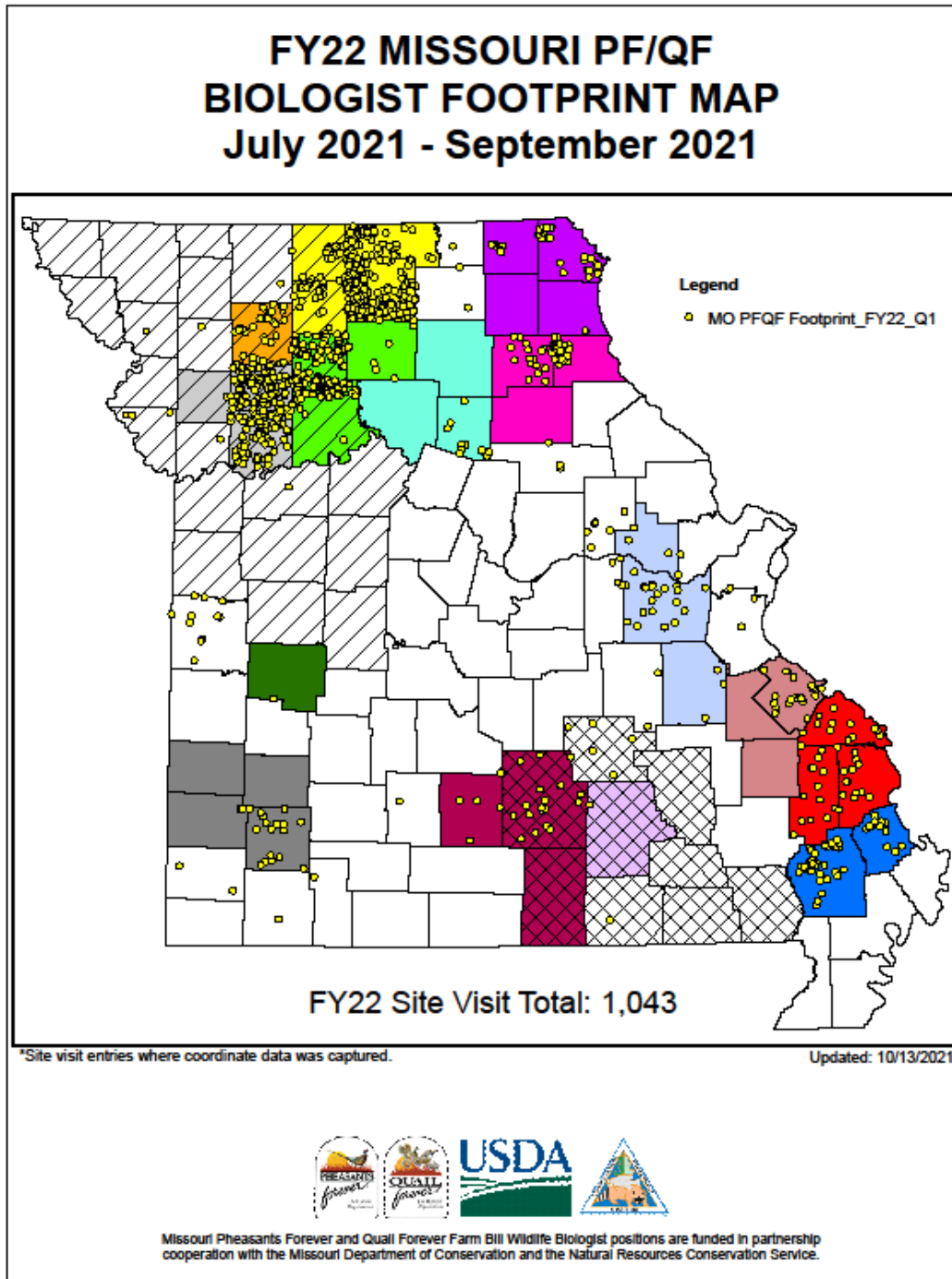
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia—Scott and Stoddard Counties

July-September 2021

Your MOFBB's Reach



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Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia—Scott and Stoddard Counties

July-September 2021

'Tis the Season to be Burning

Late Fall/Winter burns encourage and stimulate the wildflowers that might be hanging out in the seed bank, waiting for the right conditions to germinate. Burning during the winter will yield different results and favor different plant types than burning in the summer months.

If you're interested in using this tool on your property or simply learning more to work towards the goals you have for your property, contact your local MDC PLC or QF FBB.



Pictured: Common Rose Pink (*Sabatia angularis*)

“Food for thought”

Humans tend to think within our life-span; and why wouldn't we? Consideration of personal legacies is not something everyone examines.

However, Mother Nature doesn't work along those parameters. She sets a slow and steady pace; in which we should all consider adopting. There's no argument against her attention to detail, which takes a whole lot of time (approx. 4.5 billion years).

As conservationists, we are passion about leaving the world better than how we found it. Sometimes that means installing a more mindful, nature-centric lifestyle. It can be as simple as recycling; or as complex as managing a smaller ecosystem on your property. Whatever we can do, we should. So I ask, what will be your legacy?

“We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children.”



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Lizzy Swindell - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

July – September 2021

The Past Quarter...

This quarter I more than doubled my site visits and landowner contacts. I was able to visit many beautiful properties in the Ozarks. I completed several checkouts on EQIP practices such as firebreaks, wildlife ponds, forest trails and landings, glade restorations, edge feathering, and pest management. These practices are all very beneficial to all wildlife and improving habitat for the bobwhite quail. Not only are they beneficial to wildlife but they increase plant diversity and improve soil health.

Other than being in the field, I have been working on completing training to become an NRCS certified Conservation Planner, learning more about EQIP and LCAP contracting, and assisting landowners with wildlife related questions.



This photo was taken in July '21 of a landowner's glade restoration in Wright county.

Conservation Planning

- 37 Landowner Contacts
- 37 Site Visits
- 8 Status Review/Checkout
- 1 LCAP Contract

Looking Forward

- Completing the Missouri Leadership Investing in Planner Success course.
- Increasing EQIP and LCAP contracts regarding forestry and wildlife practices.
- Increasing landowner contacts and promoting wildlife practices.
- Continuing to complete training to achieve NRCS Conservation Planner Level 1.

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Quarterly Partners' Report



Lizzy Swindell - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

July – September 2021

Mentored Dove Hunt

I attended my first mentored dove hunt with the Piney River Covey QF chapter in September of this year. The event was a combination of a Women on the Wings event and a mentored youth hunt. Two women attended and there were 13 youth hunters. The event was very successful and a ton of fun! A big thanks to MDC and the chapter for planning the event and to the Decker family for hosting. Here are a few snapshots from the day.



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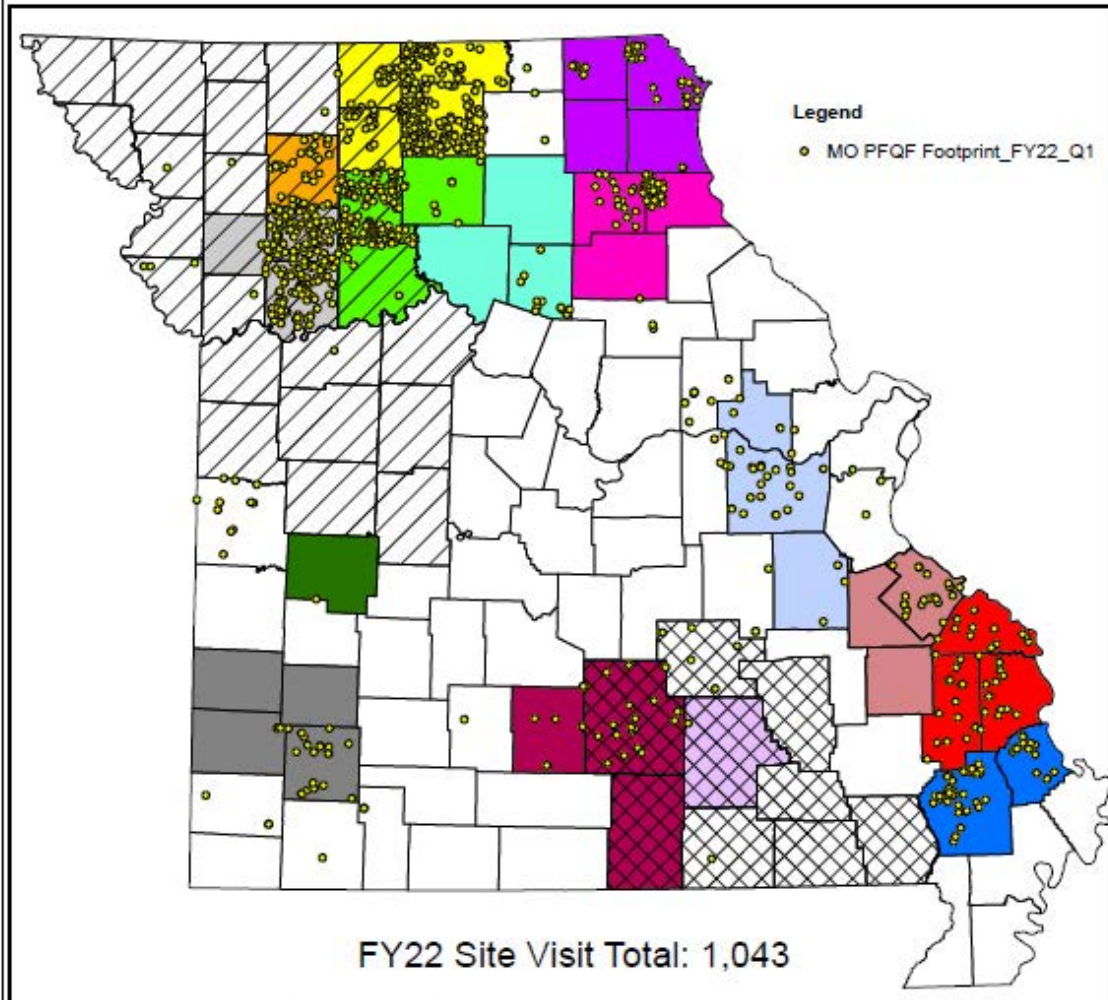


Quarterly Partners' Report

Lizzy Swindell - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

July – September 2021

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP July 2021 - September 2021



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated: 10/13/2021



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Quarterly Partners' Report

Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

July—September 2021

FY 2022—First Quarter

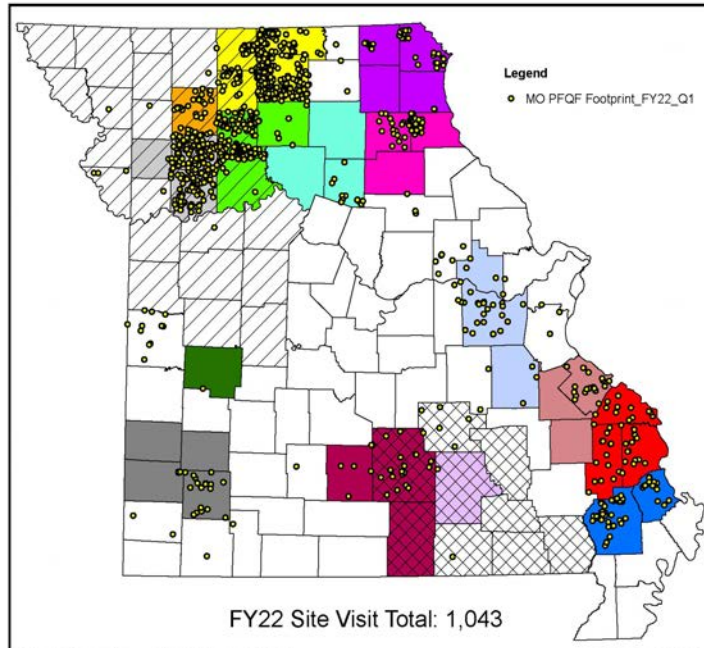
From July through September, our Missouri team conducted 1,043 site visits and logged over 1,300 landowner contacts while working in 75 counties. This was nearly triple the amount of site visits compared to the previous quarter! We impacted an astounding 54,424 acres of habitat statewide and reached out to 2,678 individuals at landowner workshops and outreach events. Nearly all of the acres impacted were for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

During the first quarter, my site visits and landowner contacts increased for a total of 22 site visits and 74 landowner contacts. Through habitat planning and technical assistance, I impacted over 245 acres. The majority of these impacted acres were for writing CRP conservation plans and conducting annual status reviews.

In September, I partnered with the Ozark Regional Library and hosted an outreach event targeting those interested in native plants and pollinators. Twenty individuals attended the event.

Looking ahead, I plan complete the NRCS Missouri Leadership Investing in Planner Success fall course and continue working with landowners interested in creating habitat through conservation programs.

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT MAP
July 2021 - September 2021



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Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning	Program	Acres Impacted	CRP Practice	Acres Impacted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74 Landowner Contacts 22 Site Visits 11 Conservation Plans Completed 13 Status Reviews/Checkouts 1 Eligibility/Ranking Assessment 1 Conservation Outreach Event 1 Landowner Presentation 	EQIP	-	CP1
	CSP	0.1	CP2	53.93
	MDC LCAP	-	CP12	2.71
	QF Chapter	-	CP21	79.86
	Non-Program	15	CP29	2.5
	Total	15.1	CP42	34.35
			Total	230.85

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Quarterly Partners' Report

Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

July—September 2021

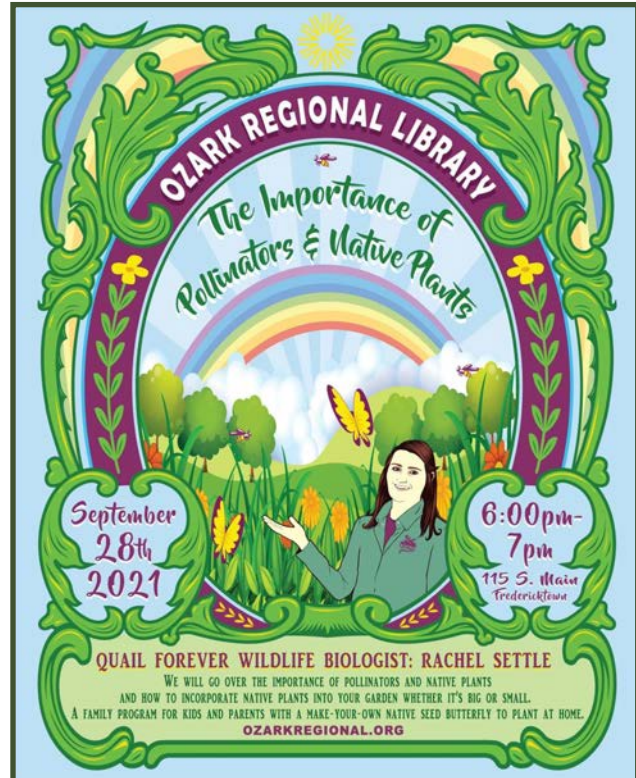
Big or Small, Plant Natives for All!

It's no secret that pollinator populations are struggling worldwide—but just how important are they to us? Economically speaking, pollinators help contribute several billions of dollars to our farm income in the United States. Because 75% of the world's flowering plants require insect pollination, it's easy to picture just how much they help with agricultural production. Pollinators are also a food source for many birds and other wildlife. With pollinator and insect declines, it's no wonder why bird populations, especially grassland birds such as the northern bobwhite, are also suffering.

What's the solution to combat these declines? We must provide them with quality habitat which means a diverse mix of native plants. This is something everyone can do—whether they live on a hundred acres or inside city limits. That was my goal when I hosted a native plant and pollinator outreach event at the Ozark Regional Library in Fredericktown. I wanted to show that anyone can make a difference and there are several resources available to get started.

Those who attended the event learned about our native pollinators, native plants, and resources to get started on planting their own native garden. They also learned that patience is important for successful establishment, especially if planting by seed. Many native plants need time to grow their underground root systems before popping up above ground. At the end of the program, we made native seed butterflies to take home and plant.

If you want to start planting natives in your own garden, www.GrowNative.org is a great resource for landscaping plans, native plant information, and Missouri vendors who sell native seeds and plants. Additionally, Missourians for Monarchs is a great source for all things monarchs and milkweed.



Victoria Kemper, Democrat News

Left: Using the native plant root board, we were able to visualize just how long some native plant roots were. Both kids and parents were equally as surprised!

Right: Each person made their own native seed butterfly.



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Quarterly Partners' Report



Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

April—June 2021

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Plant Identification Training	Attended a plant identification training with partners in Benton. Refreshed my plant ID skills and learned about plants endemic to the sand prairies.
Native Pasture Tour	Assisted Wes Buchheit with the Native Pasture Tour in Patton. Connected with producers and toured a native pasture grazing system.
Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting	Attended the MPFC Annual Meeting. Learned about the prescribed fire legislation, received updates on what PBAs are doing across the state, and learned about the benefits of growing season burns.
Southeast Missouri Regional Grazing School	Presented, "The benefits of grazing natives" to attendees at grazing school. Connected with producers interested in introducing native forages into their grazing systems.

Looking Forward

- Complete the NRCS Missouri Leadership Investing in Planner Success training course
- Obtain NRCS Conservation Planner Level 3 certification
- Continue developing and hosting fun outreach programs to get more quality on the ground

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Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

July - September 2021

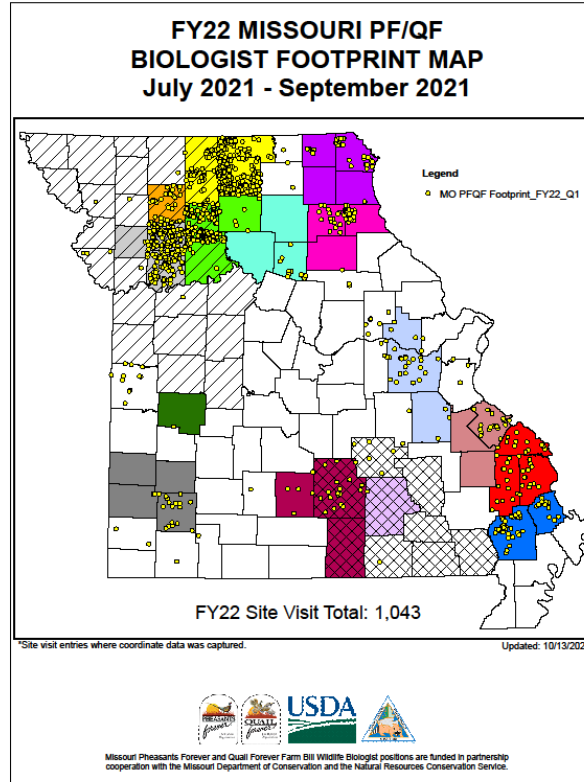
First Quarter of FY22

From July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 the Missouri Quail Forever Team recorded 1,306 Landowner Contacts and conducted 1,043 Site Visits while working in 75 Missouri Counties. The team presented to 2,678 workshop/meeting participants. Through technical assistance and habitat planning work, they impacted **54,424.09** acres. To no surprise, CRP acres accounted for 97.41% of the total acres for Q1!

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning

- 153 Landowner Contacts
- 46 Site Visits
- 17 Conservation Plans Written
- 23 Status Reviews/Checkouts Completed
- 2 Prescribed Burn Plans Completed
- 2 Prescribed Burn Plans Reviewed



CRP Practices	Acres Impacted
CP1—Introduced Grasses	959.62
CP2—Native Grasses	97.5
CP3A—Hardwood Tree Planting	6.7
CP4D—Wildlife Habitat	7.9
CP12—Wildlife Food Plot	1.1
CP21—Filter Strip	8.6
CP33—Upland Bird Habitat Buffer	9.9
CP31—State Acres for Wildlife (Bobwhite Quail)	170.28
CP42—Pollinator Habitat	4.02
Total CRP	1,265.62

Conservation Program	Acres Impacted
EQIP	58.3
CRP	1,265.62
MDC LCAP	8
QF Habitat Challenge Grant	6
CSP	82.5
Conservation Technical Assistance	4.8
Total	1,425.22

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Meeting in the name of "good fire"

The Missouri Prescribed Fire Council (MPFC) hosts an annual meeting in the summer for council members, resource professionals, landowners, prescribed burn association (PBA) members, students, and any citizen interested in prescribed fire. For the past 4 years, this annual meeting has also incorporated a workshop and field tour as a learning opportunity in addition to the business meeting. The tradition continued on September 11, this time in the southeast part of the state.



Above: Ryan Gauger presents on growing season burning. Photo credit: Lisa McBrayer

The business meeting kicked off the event in Perryville, MO with discussion of the passage of the Missouri Prescribed Burning Act, the MDC's soon to be released Prescribed Burning for Missouri Land Managers training that will be the recognized training of the new state statute, the progress of the MO Fire Needs Assessment, and more. The adjourned meeting was followed by updates from PBA members across the state sharing their accomplishments from collaborative landowner efforts in their respective landscapes.

After everyone got their fill of the lunch sponsored by the National Wild Turkey

Federation, Ryan Gauger, Fire and Stewardship Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy in Missouri, gave an informative presentation with great discussion with the audience of 32 attendees on "Growing Season Burning: When you should, when you shouldn't, and why".

Continued —>



Left: Drip torch in front of wilting, top-killed sericea lespedeza plant.



Right: Field tour stop of a grassland 2 weeks post-fire. Photo credit: Lisa McBrayer



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III



Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

July - September 2021

Good Fire, Cont.

Primed with knowledge of growing season burning, everyone loaded into their vehicles and formed a convoy to the Breitenstein's property to see it first hand. The group was able to tour 2 mixed native grasses/forbs and early shortleaf pine and smooth sumac encroachment units—one 2 weeks post-fire and the other 6 weeks post fire—to see the plant community response. The tree and shrub encroachment showed signs of stress with top-kill and resprouting, as well as the native warm season grasses that had become dense competition for the native forbs which the landowner wanted to promote. Suppressing seed production and plant vigor of sericea lespedeza was also a goal of these burns and was observed. The last stop of the tour presented the opportunity to see growing season fire behavior first-hand. The Foothills PBA conducted a safe and effective burn of a small 0.1ac mixed grassland showing how the green fuels put off quite a bit of smoke but the fire moved at a slower rate as it worked to dry the live fuel moisture before consuming the fine fuels at the ground level.



Above: FPBA members prepping for the demonstration burn. Photo credit: Lisa McBrayer

The burn unit cooled, smoldering hot spots were put out, and the attendees moved to the shade to enjoy the grilled food and beverages sponsored by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri for a social. The smell of smoke, the sign of a bit of soot on pant legs, supper, and smiles were shared by all in the name of good fire.



A big thank you is in order for the recently formed Foothills PBA and the Breitensteins for hosting and helping prepare for the successful event!

[Subscribe](#) with the MPFC to stay informed on prescribed fire happenings in Missouri

Left: Smothering out the fire along the firebreak with a swatter. Photo credit: Lisa McBrayer

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Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Bollinger, Cape, and Perry Counties

July - September 2021

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Foraging for Soil Health	Attended workshop to learn more about proper grazing practices and native forage to share with local partners and producers.
Plant ID Training	Attended training in Scott County organized by QF, MDC, and TNC for partner staff.
Northeast Region Prescribed Fire Council Networking Forum	Attended meeting to discuss Certified Prescribed Burn Manager (CPBM) programs in the northeast/Midwest region to help aid the development of Missouri's CPBM program.
Native Forage Pasture Tour	Coordinated the 3rd annual field tour on the benefits of incorporating native forage into grazing systems. Attended by 38 producers and resource professionals.
MPFC Annual Meeting and Field Tour	Coordinated the annual event open for all Missouri citizens interested in the latest information on prescribed fire happenings in the state.



Above: The response of broomsedge in the foreground and shortleaf pine in the background 10 days post-fire.



Right: Butterfly milkweed about to bloom 5 weeks post-fire.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

July-September 2021

Burning with East Central College

If you were in or around Union, MO the afternoon of September 24th, you would have noticed lots of smoke coming from the campus of East Central College (ECC). That afternoon staff and students from ECC teamed up with the East Central Prescribed Burn Association (ECPBA) to burn 4.5 ac of native grasses and forbs. In February of 2021, ECC professor Kevin Dixon reached out to the ECPBA to see if they would be able to help burn an area that was seeded to native grasses and forbs in the early 2000s. The field had become dominated by tall, aggressive warm-season grasses such as big bluestem and Indian grass and, according to Mr. Dixon, forb diversity has waned over the years.



Impacts of a late-growing season burn. Top: Field immediately after the burn. Bottom: Field 3 days after the burn.

CRP Plans Completed	Acres
CP 1—Cool Season Grasses	462.45
CP 2—Warm-Season Grasses	47.74
CP 12—Wildlife Food Plots	13.29
CP 22—Riparian Forest Buffer	3.90
CP 23—Wetland Restoration	10.00
CP 33—Habitat Buffer for Upland Birds	41.44
CP 38—Bobwhite Quail SAFE	183.17
CP 42—Pollinator Habitat	35.27
Total	797.26
These acres come from 27 CRP plans in DeKalb, Franklin, Montgomery, and Warren counties.	

Trainings/Meetings	Outcome
Community and Private Lands Conservation Staff Meeting	Reconnected with MDC staff and received updates from local MDC staff.
CRP Technical Committee Meeting	Provided input to NRCS leadership on the CRP planning process in an effort to streamline program delivery.
Southeast MO Grazing Tour	Learned about the benefits of native forages for soil health and got to see the successful usage of native forages.
Southeast MO Plant ID	Refreshed my knowledge on basic plant ID terminology and learned how to ID plants endemic to SE MO.
Area 3 Civil Rights Training	Received updates from NRCS Area staff and reviewed Federal Civil Rights Policy
MO Prescribed Fire Council Meeting	Connected with other PBAs from across the State, received updates on recent prescribed burn legislation, and discussed the benefits of growing season burns.
QF Right-of-Ways Meeting	Talked with QF staff from the SE U.S. on my experience in working with rights-of-ways and learned from others.

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Quarterly Partners' Report

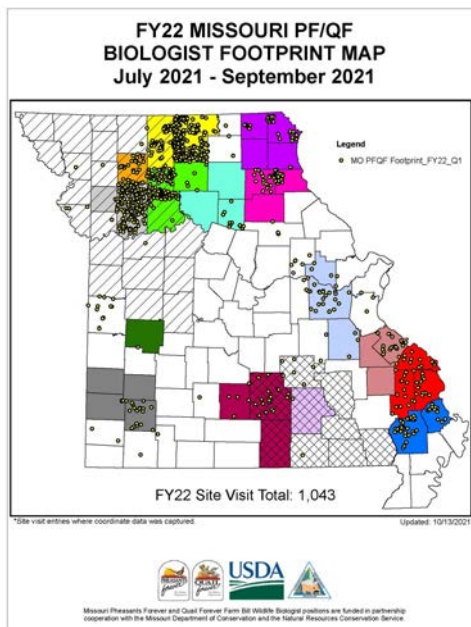


Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

July-September 2021

Burning with East Central College Cont.

Instead of burning in the late-winter or early-spring as they have done in the past, the decision was made to burn late in the growing season of 2021 in an effort to set back warm-season grasses and promote forbs in the following growing season. When planning this burn, there were a couple of extra factors that had to be considered compared to planning burns in rural parts of Franklin county. First, the ECC campus is located within Union city limits along highway 50, which is the main highway that runs east to west through town. The second factor was the college's class and events schedules. Class and events schedules held even greater weight since burns during this time of year produce greater amounts of smoke due to vegetation still being green. Weather conditions that allowed for excellent smoke lift had to match up perfectly with the campus not having any events scheduled to reduce any negative impacts the smoke might cause. Fortunately, after watching the weather forecast closely and monitoring it the day of, ECC and ECPBA were able to conduct a safe and successful burn. With excellent lift, smoke rose high above the busy highway and dispersed rapidly. Currently, Mr. Dixon is working with ECC's public relations department to put out a press release in the local newspapers in an effort to share the story of both the local PBA and Quail Forever Chapter. Through the press release they hope to reach new audiences and raise awareness on the great things that Quail Forever and PBAs are doing for habitat in Franklin county.



Conservation Planning

- 113 Landowner Contacts
- 46 Site Visits

CRP Field Reviews	Acres
CP 1—Cool-Season Grass	147.6
CP 2—Warm Season Grass	37.1
CP 38-4D—Quail SAFE	6.1
CP 22—Riparian Forest Buffer	4.6
Total	195.4

One year prior to expiring, existing CRP is reviewed to ensure the approved cover is being maintained, invasive species are being controlled, and woody encroachment is being controlled.

Looking Forward

- Write burn plans for landowners who are planning to burn this Fall/Winter.
- Continue to serve on the CRP State Technical Committee and help ensure MO QF can provide input on CRP implementation
- Continue allocating cost-share funds for HCG/LCAP
- Assist landowners who apply for EQIP and CSP
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

July – September 2021

Position Update

And just like that, the first quarter of FY22 is over. The last three months have been full of conservation planning, site visits to evaluate expiring CRP, workshops, and meeting with producers to help implement these conservation practices. Through the first quarter, I had ample opportunities to see some neat things in the field and establish new relationships with producers. Hopefully these relationships will result in more quality habitat on the ground!

Q1 FY22 Activity Highlights

- ◆ 56 Landowner Contacts
- ◆ 54 Site Visits
- ◆ 87 Projects with Acres

2393.38 Acres Impacted

CRP SIGN-UP 55+56

Wow. That is the first thing that comes to mind when I think about the latest CRP sign-up. Like most sign-ups this one was a whirlwind of activity. I was able to assist Shelby County with plan writing, job sheets, and seeding plans. I assisted Marion County with some technical assistance on a few tree plantings, which was new to me. I had the opportunity to meet with producers in Ralls and Shelby Counties to help go over their conservation plans. As always, it was a pleasure to be able to “plug in” and assist with getting conservation on the ground in northeast Missouri. CRP is a huge workload and I’m thankful to be able to work with great partners to get it done! It is always amazing to see how much can get done when partners come together!



Thank you so much for your support! Without this partnership, I wouldn't be able to provide assistance to private landowners and positively impact conservation in Missouri!



Bethel Outdoor Convention

On September 4th, I had to opportunity to participate in the Bethel Outdoor Convention. I manned a booth where I had the pleasure of sharing knowledge about cost-share programs, prescribed fire, conservation practices that benefit wildlife in Missouri, as well as basic technical advice in relation to habitat projects that landowners are already working on.



In addition to having a booth, I had the opportunity to speak about the basics of bobwhite habitat. I covered the importance of native plant diversity, edge feathering, covey headquarters, and programs that we help administer to assist putting these practices on the ground. In addition to habitat talks, there were several vendors, an archery range for kids, and a 3D shoot. It was encouraging to see a small community rally around conservation. Overall, it was a productive day. There was a good turn out and I was able to make several contacts. I hope that I can attend next year as well!





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

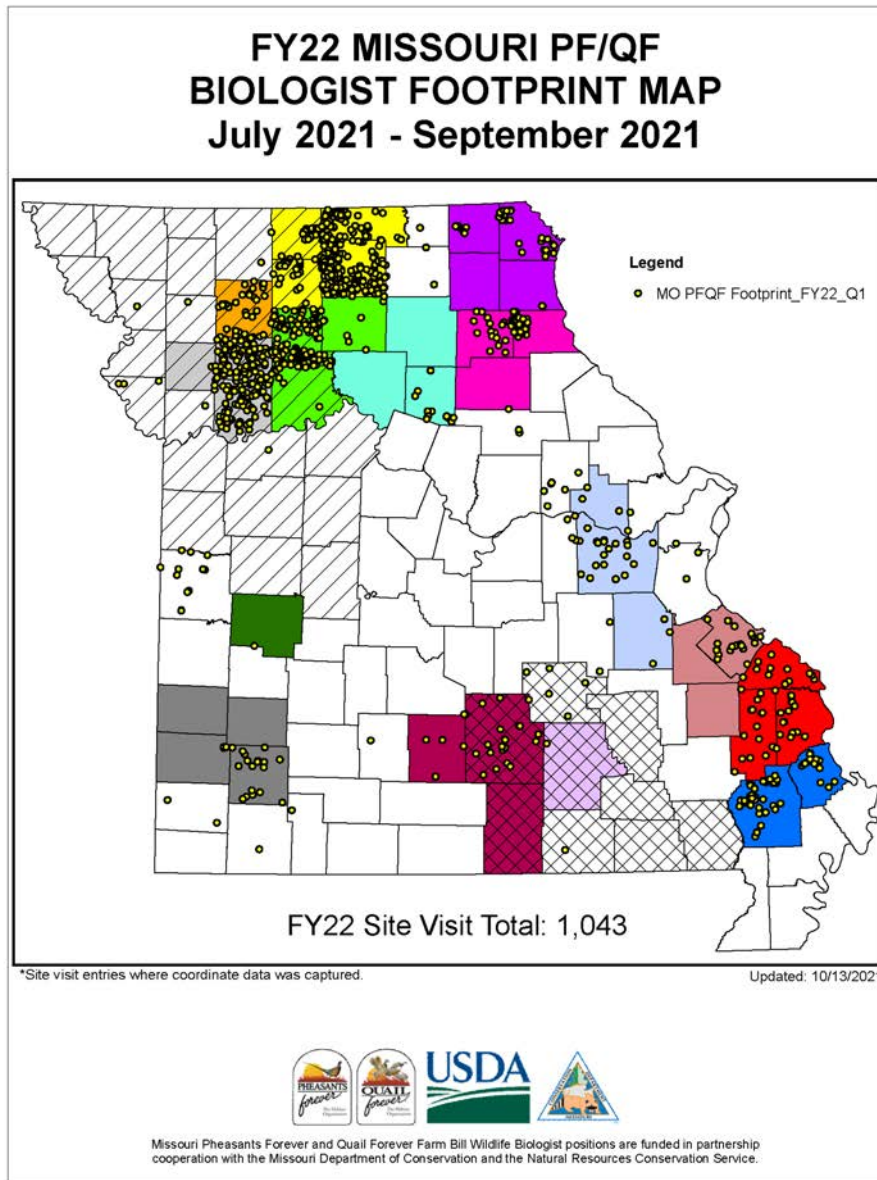
Quarterly Partners' Report



William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

July – September 2021

Q1 FY22 Site Visit Map



Looking Forward

- Attend Missouri Leadership Investing in Planner Success (MOLIPS)

- Attend Soil Health and Sustainability training
- Continue to assist producers and partners

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

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