



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Brad Pobst - Scott and Stoddard Counties

January – March 2023

Fire on the Landscape

Prescribe Burns – These last three months have been busy with writing burn plans and working with landowners to get fire on the ground. I was able to get 21 burn plans written on 857 acres. Several of the landowners I work with were able to get burns completed on glades, woodlands, remnant sand prairies, and CRP fields in several counties here in



Glade / Woodland Burn



Sand Prairie Burn

Southeast Missouri. I was also involved in Level 2 Fire Training with MDC as an instructor during the field portion of the course.

Conservation Planning

Landowner Contacts	153
Site Visits	85
CRP Conservation Plans	8
CRP Plan Modifications	17
Native Forage Initiative	3
Prescribe Burn Plans	21
Status Review/Check Out	42
Acres Impacted	3,248

Outreach/Meetings/Trainings/Surveys

- MDC/DU Easement Meeting
- MU SE Crop Conference
- RCPD Sand Prairie Meetings
- CRP Presentation

Looking Forward

- Farm Days—Scott Co. April 15
- Farm Days—Cape Girardeau/Perry Co. April 26
- CRP Assessments and Eligibility
- Summer Intern

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report

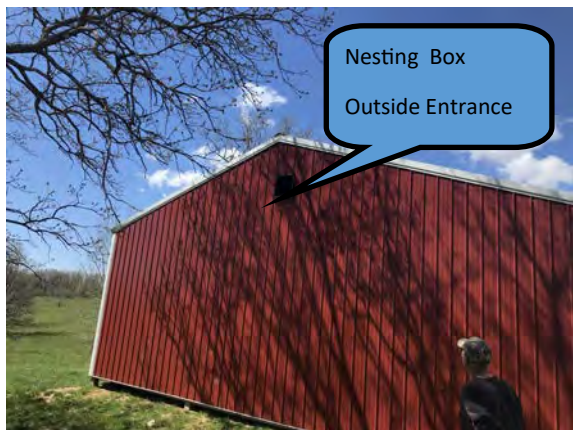


Brad Pobst - Scott and Stoddard

January – March 2023

Providing a Little Help For a Unique Bird

Barn Owl Nesting Boxes – In Missouri barn owls' nest throughout appropriate grassland habitats



and are common in Southeast Missouri in the Bootheel. With the enrollment of hundreds of acres of CRP grasslands on the sandy soils of Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid, and Stoddard Counties we are seeing a come back of the population of the barn owl. To help them along and provide nesting opportunities I have worked with several landowners over the years with installing barn owl nesting boxes. It is encouraging to see that barn owls are using these boxes and that these established grasslands are providing the excellent habitat for these owls to thrive. Even in Wayne County,



which is not know to have many barn owls, I have been working with a landowner that has a managed grazing system that is starting to see barn owls show up and use his nesting boxes.





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January – March 2023

2023 Southeast MU Crop Conference

Worked a booth with MDC at this years MU SE Crop Conference that ~200 farmers attended. This conference focused on corn and soybean program and policy updates, diseases and herbicide and weed resistance updates. Between breaks and after the conference our booth was busy answering questions on CRP, farm program updates, EQIP, CSP and state cost share programs available for landowners. Good conference to be involved in.



RCPP Sand Prairie Restoration Partnership Program

This program focuses on the restoration and protection of sand prairie communities on private land through voluntary perpetual easements. This RCPP program has enough funding to enroll ~200 acres of sand prairies in easements with the signup period ending on January 13, 2023. There were two landowners who submitted applications for a total of 340 acres. Ranking and WHAGs have been completed now we are in the process of accessing the acres and working with the landowners on filling out additional paperwork and determining what acres can be funded. It is hoped that with the number of acres offered that additional funding would become available so all acres can be enrolled.

Fish Stocking

Spring is the time of year that people stock fish in their ponds. Commercial fish trucks typically visit farm stores during March and April selling fish to stock in ponds. During this time, I usually receive several calls on what type of fish to stock, number of fish, and sizes. This year was no different than past years. These calls are usually for newly constructed ponds that have no fish in them but some deal with other stocking recommendations like grass carp to control aquatic vegetation. With newly constructed ponds I usually make a site visit to determine pond size and water depth, discuss watershed issues, and ways to clear up a pond if the water is muddy.



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

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CRP Presentation

On the spur of the moment I was able to get 8 landowners together to discuss the General and Continuous CRP signups, eligibility requirements, soil rental rates, eligible practices and establishment and management of CRP fields. Good discussion and a number of these landowners have signed up for 2023.

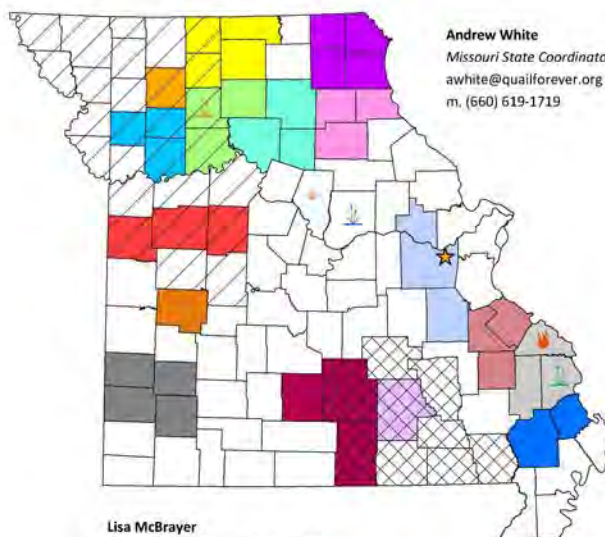


Spring Emergence of Milkweed Plants

PF/QF in Missouri Staff

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Scott, Stoddard
-  **Chad Doolen**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
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Northeast MO
-  **Courtney Nicks**
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Randolph, Macon, Chariton
-  **Emaily Lear**
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-  **Ethan Kleekamp**
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Linn, Livingston, Carroll

-  **Josh Marshall**
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-  **Logan Baum**
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-  **Wes Buchheit**
Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist
Statewide
-  **Wesley Hanks**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Warren, Franklin, Washington
-  **Will Robinson**
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Shelby, Marion, Monroe
-  **VACANT**
Coordinating Grazing Lands Biologist
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-  **Habitat Specialists– Shaw Nature Reserve**
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Josiah Sutton, Crew
Ty Price, Crew
Phoebe Ellis, Crew



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- Trevor Day**
Regional Representative - North MO
- Ayden Carey**
Regional Representative - South MO



For contact information and to learn more about us visit missouripfqt.org

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



3/1/23

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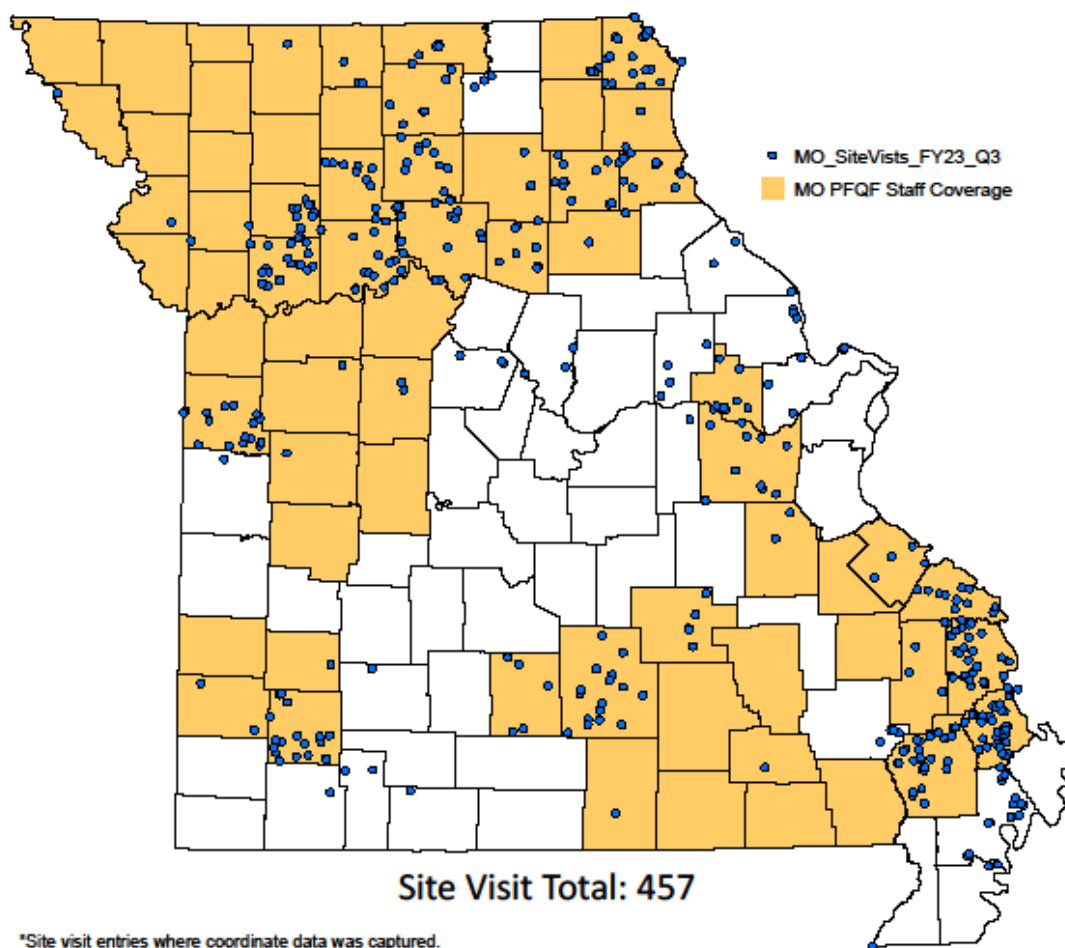
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Brad Pobst - Scott and Stoddard Counties

January – March 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/11/2023



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Position Update

I officially hit my one year mark with The Habitat Organization and celebrated with tons of field work, topographic surveys, conferences, and networking with partners! This quarter, I was fortunate to learn new scientific findings at the MO Natural Resources conference and the MO Wetlands Summit. In addition, I had the pleasure of finally meeting the entire MO Wetland Emphasis Team members in person, where we discussed new ideas and plans for the future. Another great milestone from this quarter was getting to participate in one of Mid-MO Prescribed Burn Association's first burns since its establishment. When I wasn't out and about for all of that, we were hitting it hard in the field meeting with landowners eager to get equipment on their wetlands now that spring temperatures are quickly approaching! We've gotten a lot of interest from landowners for burn plans, reeds canary grass eradication, varmint control and general infrastructure upkeep this spring, which is exciting to hear!

Site visit in Cooper County



Topo survey in Warren Co



Rx fire in Boone Co with local PBA





Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning

- 36 Landowner Contacts
- 31 Site Visits
- 4 Topographic Surveys Completed
- 8 Onsite Monitorings
- 2 Topography Models



MO 2023 Wetland Emphasis Team Meeting

Trainings/Meeting Type	Outcome
Missouri Wetland Emphasis Team Meeting	Reflected on the past year's progress and discussed future trajectories for the WETs in an in-person setting
Missouri Wetland Summit	Gained knowledge on current and historical constraints and accomplishments regarding MO's wetlands
Missouri Natural Resources Conference	Networked with conservationists from around the state and learned from many great scientific lectures





Moving Forward

- PFQF will be hosting a webinar on the WRE program that will be recorded and uploaded to youtube. Don't forget to check it out!
- We've gotten a great start on our Annual Monitoring, but have just a few more to complete
- Finalize plans and designs on wetland projects in order to build this summer
- Bobwhite Bootcamp dates have been announced and are approaching quickly!
- Assist Landowners in getting their burn plans and fire on the ground
- Continue to expand on my surveying methodology experience/knowledge, including modeling software

St. Charles County Wetland



PBA burn in Boone County



Garter Snake using a St. Charles Co wetland



Randolph County Wetland

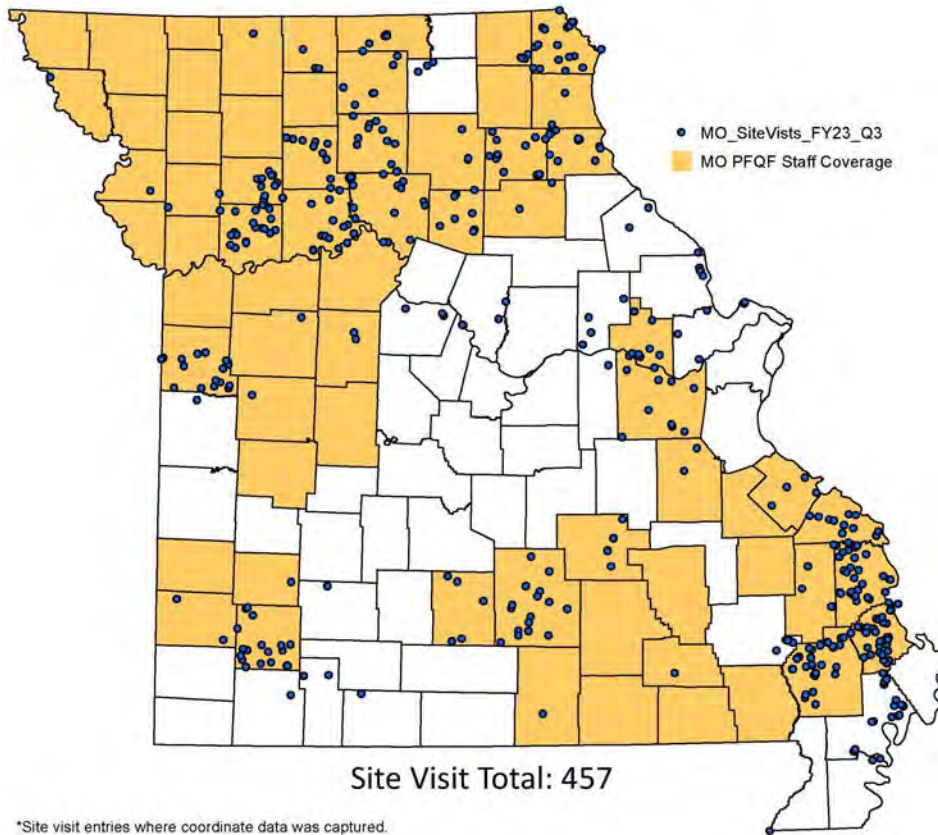




Third Quarter of FY23

From January 1 through March 31, our team recorded 1104 landowner contacts and 457 site visits. The team impacted 18,678 acres. Outreach efforts reached 2023 participants through workshops, meetings, and trainings.

MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



Site Visit Total: 457

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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

January–March 2023

Position Update

Over the last few months, this quarter provided many opportunities not only in the field, but also through youth events and outreach. With the introduction of warmer weather, field visits and outreach events have increased. I was able to complete 32 site visits, which included seeding certifications for EQIP projects and assisting our local FSA offices with status reviews and flagging newly enrolled CRP fields. With prescribed fire becoming an increasingly popular management technique, I focused on gaining firsthand training on the fire line as well as attending MDC led courses on fire management and techniques. This will allow me to help with the increasing demand for written burn plans for CRP management.



Above is a prescribed burn conducted in Livingston county by the local QF chapter.



Pictured here is a youth shooting event hosted by the local QF chapter and 4-H program.

With springtime weather approaching, youth and outreach events are a great way to get people engaged in the outdoors. I was lucky enough help out with a youth shooting event hosted by the Shortgrass Chapter and local 4-H Club. In this event, kids of all ages were able to shoot for the first time and test their skill against clay pigeons and targets. It was amazing to see kids, who have never held a shotgun before, fall in love with the sport like many before them.

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Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

January–March 2023

Missouri Natural Resources Conference

This year I had the opportunity to attend the Missouri Natural Resources Conference at Osage Beach, MO. This conference included a collaboration between Federal, State, and Partner organizations to discuss current issues in Conservation today and potential solutions for the years to come. A few of the highlights included discussions on wildlife related scientific papers as well as landowner workshops.

Two of my favorite discussions included our very own QF staff. Josh Marshall presented during the Native Forage Initiative Landowner Workshop. This workshop discussed the process for establishing Native Warm Season Grasses as well as the funding opportunities landowners have available to them through federal and state programs. The second was a wonderful workshop on invasive species presented by Valerie Repp.

I have to say my overall favorite aspect of the conference had to be the Career Expo and Student Luncheon. Considering I was in the student's shoes recently, I tried to pass on as much knowledge as I could. The Student Luncheon was set up to have multiple conservation professionals and students per table. The students then had the opportunity to ask questions and receive professional insight to help prime them for future success.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
MDC Fire Management I	Missouri Department of Conservation created this course to teach the basics of Fire Management in different landscapes
MDC Fire Management II	MDC created this course to expand on the introductory information presented in the initial course and to cover more complex fire management techniques.
CRP Webinar	I assisted the main presenters as a panelist to answer any questions participants may have had throughout the presentation.
MNRC Conference	This conference was a combination of State, Federal, and Partner organizations discussing a few of the current issues in the world of Conservation as well as highlighting success stories throughout the



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January–March 2023

Shortgrass Chapter Annual Banquet

Since the start of this quarter, The one event I looked forward to the most was the QF Shortgrass Chapter annual banquet. This event took months of organizing and planning by the amazing chapter members and volunteers. Due to their hard work and dedication, an estimated 240 people from the local community and surrounding counties attended and participated in the fun games, auction, amazing food and much more. I spent most of the evening running one of the many game stations throughout the facility. It was amazing to see just how many landowners and children looked forward to the event and are dedicated to conservation. Later in the evening, I was given the chance to present Pat Thorne, one of our local producers, with the Polaris Habitat Stewardship Award for conservation efforts on his properties. Overall, the banquet was a huge success and I am already looking forward to next year.



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

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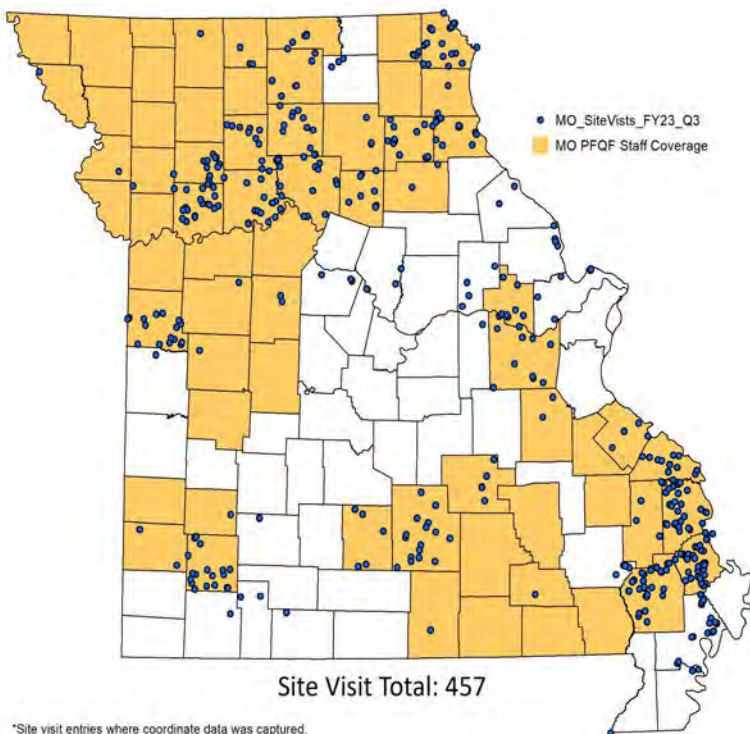
Farm Bill Biologist II Quarterly Partners' Report



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January–March 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



Leaving Our Mark On Missouri

- The Farm Bill Biologist across the State recorded 1115 Landowner Contacts and 457 Site Visits.
- Total Acres Impacted is 18,678.
- Outreach efforts reached 2023 participants through workshops, meetings, and trainings.

Conservation Planning

Site Visits - 32
 Landowner Contacts - 46
 Total Acres assessed - 1832
 Chapter Meetings - 3
 Events/Trainings - 4



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Logan Baum - Ray, Clinton, and Caldwell Counties

January - March 2023

Second Quarter of FY23

From January through March of 2023, our team had a total of 1104 landowner contacts and 457 site visits. 18,678 acres were impacted by the Quail Forever team through planning and assessment efforts!

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

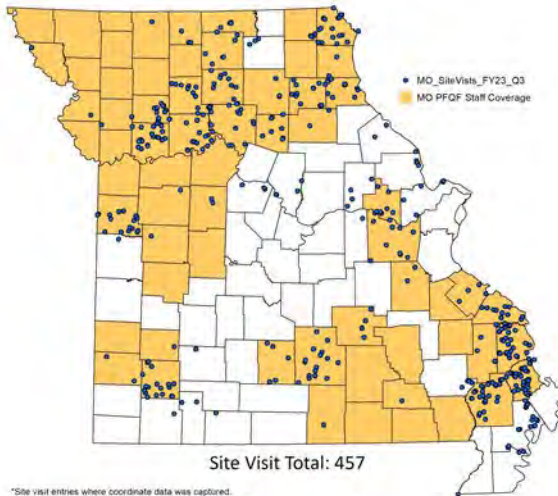
Team Outreach

- Outreach/Events: 41
- Outreach/Event Participants: 2023

Activity Highlights

Landowner Contacts	49
Site Visits	28
Status Reviews/ Checkouts	17
Trainings Attended	2
Total Acres Impacted	501.21

MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

January - March 2023

Position Updates

This quarter I have hit the ground running with prescribed .burn training. In order to write prescribed burn plans for landowners I must obtain a certification through the Missouri Department of Conservation by attending three levels of training. To date, I have attended and passed level one and two. I have plans of attending level three this summer.

This quarter, I am scheduled to attend a multitude of additional trainings May through June. Those trainings will entail: Grazing school, held here in Ray county at the beginning of May, Quail Bootcamp, which will be held in Carroll County in June, and finally Soil Health and Sustainability down in Columbia the fourth week of May. I am looking forward to all of these opportunities to further my knowledge.

In the fall of last year, I was approached by the Master Gardeners club president in Plattsburg to provide some information on farm bill programs in relation to pollinator plots. Talking with the president, I offered to host a presentation for the club and the public of Plattsburg. The presentation was a huge success. I had 31 attendees and had a lot of great discussions with them afterwards. I had multiple attendees request and schedule followup field visits, where I visited their farms and discussed program options that could help boost habitat for pollinators. This was an exciting moment for me, as it was the first presentation I have created and given on my own. I had a blast organizing the material and sharing it with an eager audience and I look forward to hosting more of these in the future.



This quarter ended as a busy one for my day to day activities. EQIP applications were due to be entered and first round of accepted applications was sent out. I had multiple pollinator plots through EQIP funded. I also had two different applications for Edge feathering funded, one native grass planting funded, multiple forest management plans, and one herbaceous weed treatment funded. Throughout the EQIP process of this quarter I was able to go out on the land with the applicants to do a complete walkthrough. This lead to finding where they wanted to implement each practice, and further discussions of future projects to apply for with EQIP. Currently, conservation plans are being signed and with each plan I get to sit down with the landowner and go over their contract and conservation plan.

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Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

January - March 2023

General CRP Sign-up

This quarter the 2023 General CRP enrollment opened and the demands in the field were greater than I had imagined. Between woody encroachment evaluations and new boundaries needing to be set, I spent a substantial amount of time working with FSA to facilitate the needs of these offers by the deadline.

After a significant time evaluating these contracts and identifying a need of better communication with the local landowners I discussed facilitating a landowner workshop with the Ray County FSA. Currently we are creating the foundation of this workshop with the intent to landowners with expiring CRP acres in 2024. We will address the needs associated with re-offering expiring fields and what the expectations of the program will be.

Ultimately, we aim to provide landowners with the knowledge they need to prepare their fields for re-enrollment, avoiding confusion and frustration that can be caused by last minute field restorations.

The beginning of this March marked my 1 year mark as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with Quail Forever. It has been an amazing year! It has been a rollercoaster of field work, talking with landowners, attending trainings, and getting to know partner staff within my counties. Let me tell you, I am loving every second of it! Throughout this year I have expanded my knowledge through trainings and am excited to apply it directly to my field work and to better help landowners enhance their habitat.

. I have been excited to be able to turn around and apply what I have learned in different trainings directly into my field work to better help the landowners and provide great habitat. I have made many contacts and acquaintances with landowners this passed year. To have a landowner give me a tour of their land, is truly the highlight of my day. I have had the pleasure to tour property that has only a handful of people in the last 50-100 years step foot on it or be able to put eyes on the beauty it has to offer. I consider it a privilege to be allowed and invited to be one of only a handful.



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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Chad Doolen - Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, & Perry

Jan—March 2023

Springtime! Friendly reminder to take some time to enjoy it!

These are the elegant flowers of Variegated Milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*), a species fewer folks are likely familiar with. In Missouri, this species is most common in the River Hills along the Mississippi River and scattered throughout the rest of the Ozarks.

I'm lucky enough to have a couple wild plants on our farm. Every year, I look forward to watching these plants grow, flower, and hopefully produce fruits. All growing season, I frequently walk across our property to check on them - to see how tall they are, if they've been munched on by deer, how many flowers are developing, and eventually counting pods.



The presence of these on our farm is a small detail. However, it adds a lot of enjoyment to my Spring, Summer, and even Fall!

Summary of Quarterly Activities

Conservation Reserve Program	Acres Impacted
CP1 - Introduced Cool Season Grasses	54.3
CP2 - Native Warm Season Grasses	154
CP3A - Hardwood Tree Planting	3.6
CP21 - Grass Filter Strip	1
CP22 - Riparian Buffer	13.3
CP38E - SAFE Northern Bobwhite	99.4
CP42 - Pollinator Habitat	4.7
Total CRP	330.3
Other Programs	Acres Impacted
Native Forage Initiative	404.4
General EQIP	10.8
Total	415.2

Conservation Planning

- 48 Landowner Contacts
- 26 Site Visits
- 14 Plans Written
- 2 Practices Certified

Outreach

- 1 Prescribed Burn Association Meeting



Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Chad Doolen - Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, & Perry

Jan—March 2023

Small Victories!

Every day can bring new challenges. As we rush to solve those challenges and meet program deadlines, we can easily find ourselves stressed and missing out on the resources around us. For example, this year's CRP signup had been a whirlwind of site visits and management discussions with landowners. With the quickly approaching April 7th deadline and priorities from other programs, there has been a need to keep moving. In these times, small, simple finds can go a long way towards taking the edge off and maintaining motivation.

For me this was finding an owl pellet on a recent CRP site visit. Owls eat their prey whole – fur, bones, and all. They digest what they can, but they cannot pass the bones through their digestive track. Instead, they regurgitate “hair balls” that contain the bones and much of their prey's fur or feathers.

Finding such a thing probably isn't on everyone's bucket list, however, it made my trip to this CRP site top of the line! On a visit where I was otherwise moving quickly to measure the boundaries of the CRP site, I was able to take a short moment and appreciate that an owl had shared this space and managed to have a nice meal. For me, this was a small victory that made the week worth it!



Native Forage Initiative Update

The state's Native Forage Initiative continues to be popular among livestock and hay producers. While some have canceled, Cape Girardeau County has accepted 19 applications to date. Of those, 3 have been pre-approved or fully contracted (total of 75.29 NFI acres) with well over 300 more acres hoping to be funded. Perry County has received its first NFI application; if funded, the site will be converting row crop to NWSG hay. Bollinger County has also funded a few NFI applicants, including approximately 75 acres owned by a landowner whom QF staff have worked closely with on establishing native forage in past years.

Trainings Completed	Outcome
NWCG S-130/190	The National Wildfire Coordinating Group's certifications are the national standard for inter-agency response to wildfires. S-190 Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior provides one a solid understanding of fire behavior that can also be applied to prescribed burning. I completed S-190 in February.
MDC Level 2 Fire Management	MDC's Fire Management courses are required for planners writing burn plans for landowners that will conduct a burn as part of their contracted management activities. At the end of February, I completed a Level 2 course.

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Jan—March 2023

Balancing Incentive Programs

Environmental Quality Incentive Program. Wetland Reserve Easement Program. Landowner and Community Conservation Assistance Program. Conservation Reserve Program. Habitat Challenge Grants. All of these are either federal, state, or non-government incentive/assistance programs to help land managers cover the costs of natural resource management activities. Each of these programs (the preceding list is not exhaustive) address funding and management via different requirements and policies. Deciding where to start can be overwhelming.

Where to start depends heavily on the owner/manager's goals and objectives. Interests range from maintaining annual income to improving wildlife habitat, and these are not always well defined when we begin working together. An owner may only be interested in one or two small activities (for example a wildlife watering or small pollinator plot) while others, sooner or later, will have complex, long-term projects. Regardless, we are here to help them find the right incentive program or programs for both the short-term and long-term.

With the recent CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) signup, I have found myself talking to a variety of landowners with varying management goals. One property in particular has me thinking about working with the landowners for the long-term. They initially approached FSA about enrolling ground in CRP. However, given their other desires to maintain some row crops and improve habitat for deer and turkeys with the amount of land they have to work with, CRP is not the only program that fits their operation. For example, utilizing MDC's LCAP (Landowner and Community Conservation Program) or EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) would be more conducive to woodland and glade restoration, which would help increase the appeal of the property to both deer and turkey. With careful planning, the Conservation Stewardship Program could also be used to great effectiveness for both ecological and financial considerations.

With one site visit, this property clearly has potential to utilize multiple incentive programs and address several resource concerns at a larger scale in the process. While they have goals beyond what CRP can provide, they do not yet have a familiarity with the requirements of these programs. Their goals are also broad (for example, "we'd like to have more turkeys on the property"). These folks need a starting place, one that will more likely be a successful introduction to incentive programs and achieving goals. If that goes well, then we can approach more complex plans/activities and the programs to support them.

Successful natural resource management rarely if ever happens on a whim, especially the most impactful ones. For those of us that act as guides and technical support for private land managers, we need to consider more than just the natural resources a landowner has to work with. The landowner's capacity for implementing practices and how familiar they are with incentive programs and policies should also be considered. We want our efforts and the landowners' to be successful, and finding balance is key. For this particular property, CRP is a good starting point given the owners' highest priority goals and other available resources. If their enrollment in CRP goes well, it wouldn't be surprising to see them pursuing other incentive programs to more broadly address improving wildlife habitat.



Missouri Quail Forever

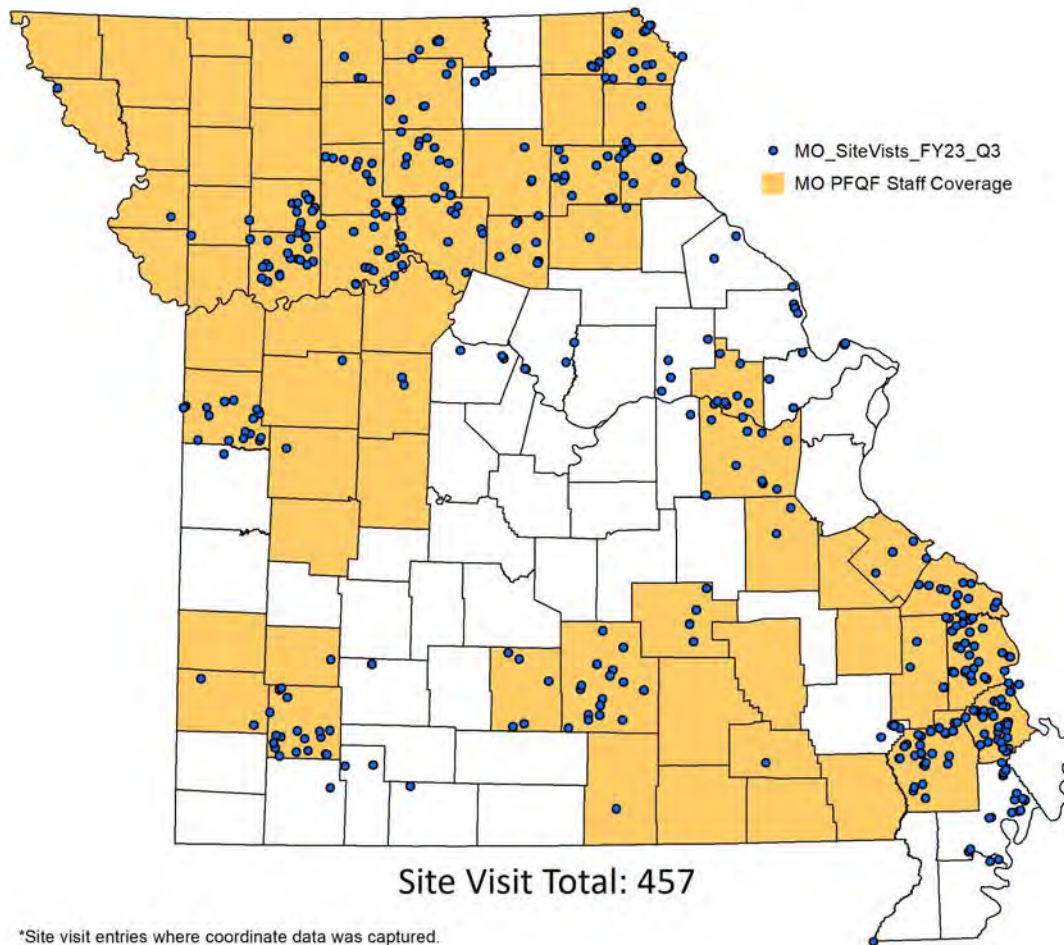
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Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

January–March 2023

Courtney's Activity Highlights

Conservation Planning

<i>Landowner Contacts</i>	94
<i>Site Visits</i>	27
<i>Projects with Acres</i>	24

Outreach

<i>Quarterly Partner Report</i>
<i>CRP Webinar</i>

Partner Meetings/Trainings

<i>QF FBB Intern Program Planning (4)</i>
<i>Prescribed Fire SOP Review & Refresher</i>
<i>QF Staff Meetings (9)</i>
<i>MoBCI Steering Committee (2)</i>

Chapter / PBA Activities

<i>QF Chapter Meetings</i>	2
<i>MTPBA Meeting</i>	1
<i>MTPBA Burns</i>	12 acres

Total Acres Impacted: 320.14 acres

Position Update

As we entered the 3rd quarter, landowners and producers began to take advantage of the warmer days and evaluated their land for improvements they would like to see this coming year. It was nice to dust off my boots and cover some ground with these eager conservationists. Although we had to wade through the mud and the muck at times, we identified areas to plan seedings for quality brood rearing potential, and on a few occasions, I provided recommendations to improve eroded areas resulting from our recent rainfall. One of the things I love most about this position, is problem solving with landowners. Thinking outside of the box to help provide solutions and promote quality conservation is extremely rewarding. I anticipate an influx of field visit requests in the upcoming months, as landowners begin their turkey season and find themselves enjoying the great outdoors and their cherished acres.



Pollinator seed broadcasted over bare ground this March. The 4 acre planting was broadcast seeded using mini pine flakes as a carrier (upper right). Photo courtesy of Mary Wood, Randolph County Landowner



Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

January–March 2023

Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association Kick Off the 2023 Prescribed Fire Season



Mark Twain PBA Members @ the Fister Property

The local PBA in Monroe County held their first meeting of the year in February. Nearly 15 members attended, which offered a great opportunity to chat with folks I hadn't seen for a while. We reviewed a recent burn conducted February 7th on the Fister Property and had great discussions about upcoming burn requests. At the meeting, three proposed burn

plans were reviewed and approved by the committee. Everyone was in high spirits and excited for the fire line.



Fister Property Prescribed Burn, CP42 Field



Prescribed Fire, Cole County
Photo curtesy of Mid MO PBA

Mid MO PBA

What a great time to begin a PBA! The Mid MO PBA entered their first fire season and managing acres with prescribed fire is the name of the game. The group's first fire was on February 21st, in Cole County, where a 16 acre woodland burn was completed. Since then, they have pushed over 100 acres with the group and have many more to come in April. These landowner helping landowner organizations are so valuable and so much fun! Definitely consider getting involved with one, if you aren't already. Hope to see you on the fire line. Check out Missouri PBA information at <https://moprescribedfire.org> and don't forget to log your burns!!



Fister Property Post Burn, CP42 Field



Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

January–March 2023

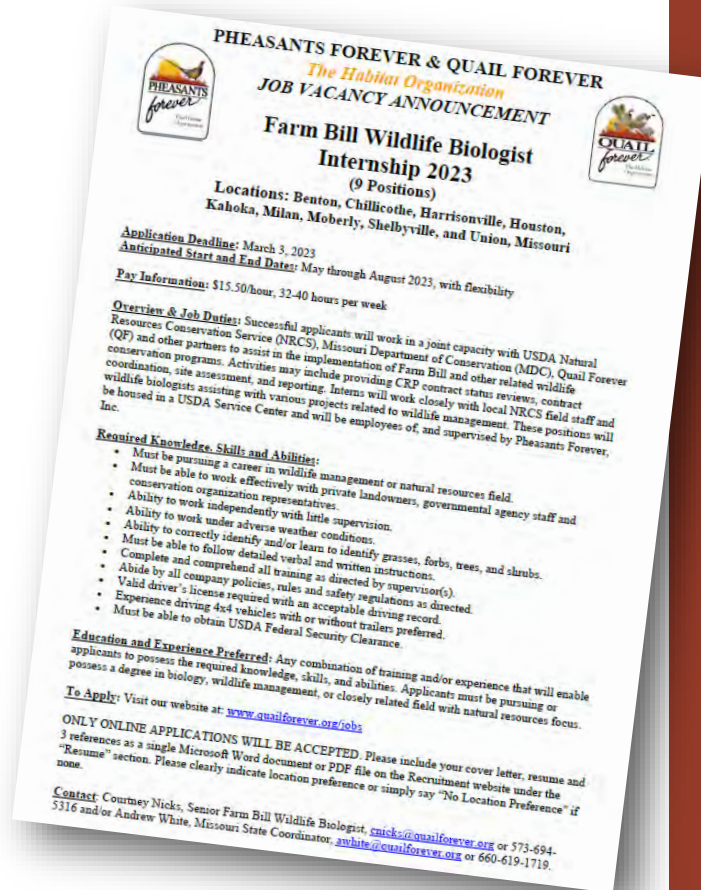
Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologist Intern Program

In January, Quail Forever began planning the summer Intern program with our NRCS partners. Funding was allocated to provide 9 intern positions across the state of Missouri. These positions were open to primarily college students pursuing a career in wildlife biology or a similar field, looking to gain hands-on field experience.

I am coordinating the Intern program this year and will supervise these positions, however, each Intern will be stationed with a seasoned Quail Forever Biologist who will serve as a mentor and point of contact at the local level. Missouri USDA Service Center locations selected to receive an intern include Benton, Chillicothe, Harrisonville, Houston, Kahoka, Milan, Moberly, Shelbyville, and Union.

Interns will begin their positions May 22nd and will end in August, many departing to head back to campus for the fall semester.

In addition to the assistance we are gaining in these field offices, we are excited to offer these opportunities to young professionals and hope to provide an invaluable learning experience that enhances their abilities and qualifications as they pursue their careers.



2022 field training with our QF Biologists and summer FBB Interns—Chillicothe, MO

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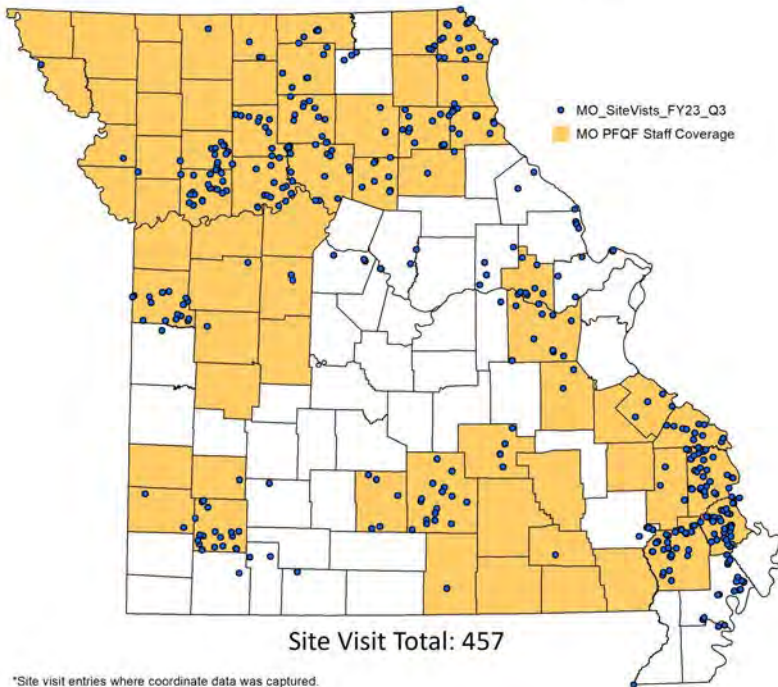
Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

January–March 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/11/2023



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.

NEXT QUARTER

- Make FBB Intern Position Offers
- MTPBA and MMPBA Prescribed Fire
- Turkey Season starts Apr 17
- MO Team Leads Meeting May 9-11
- FBB Intern Positions Begin May 22
- FBB Intern Training May 23-25
- Bobwhite Bootcamp Jun 12-15
- MTQF Event Planning
- Habitat Workshop Jul 2023
- PBA Field Tour Planning
- Additional Staff Trainings

CONNECT WITH US!

@MissouriQF

Missouri Quail Forever

MissouriPFQF.org

**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 II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

January – March 2023

FY23—Q3 Summary

The beginning of the year is always a busy time for planning and meeting deadlines, and with the addition of the Native Forage Initiative using ACT NOW it has made it an even busier time. This initiative was brought on to combat the recent droughts and forage shortages by planting native grasses. Native forages provide livestock with more high quality forage during the hot dry months of the year. With the total amount of rainfall being extremely low during the summers, non-native introduced pasture plantings do not provide quality forage during this time. With the addition of native warm season grasses to grazing systems, livestock will have the forage they need when fescue isn't growing. Other than the advantage of native grasses being able to grow during the hot part of the year and being highly nutritious for livestock, they also provide habitat to wildlife such as quail, turkey and deer. Quail and turkey use native warm season grasses for nesting and winter thermal cover. For deer, they provide bedding and cover. There is also an option for landowners to add a mixture of native forbs in with the native grasses which provide even more benefit to wildlife such as attracting insects which are very important for quail and turkey diets. We have had a lot of interest in the NFI and have had several applicants. I have assessed a total of 334.11 acres of fescue and other non-native fields that will be converted to Native Warm Season Grass within the next two years. I hope to see even more interest in the future for switching from non-native forages to native forages.

Other EQIP planning that I have been working on includes forest management plans, woodland restoration, prescribed burning, TSI and forest trails and landings.

Conservation Planning

- 74 Landowner Contacts
- 9 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plans
- 14 Site Visits
- 2562.91 Acres Assessed



This quail crossed the road in front of me. It's the first one I've seen since I started with QF almost 2 years ago.

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
LCAP Monarch Planting	.33
EQIP Wildlife Habitat Planting, Prescribed Burning	82.06
Total	85.0



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

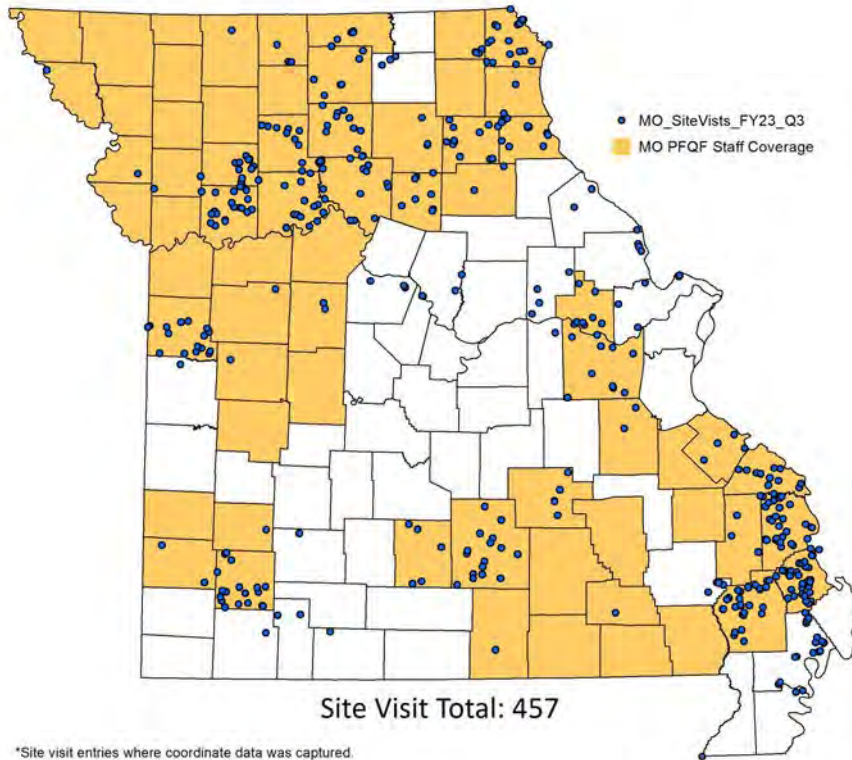
Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

January – March 2023

Education and Outreach

In February I attended the Missouri Southwest Forage Conference. Another coworker and I worked a table for landowners to visit between sessions. We spoke with landowners about what our role is in the conservation sector and what we do for habitat.

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/11/2023.



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.

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

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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Emaily Lear - Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Madison

Jan – March 2023

Position Update

In March 2023, I filled the vacant position in the Ste. Genevieve Field Office, so for my first report I'd like to give some background on myself. I am a Missouri native who grew up in the Ozarks and formed a deep love of the outdoors. I graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelors Degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management with a Certificate in Environmental Education. I joined the Pheasants Forever team in 2021 in Northwest Kansas and quickly became enamored with prairies, native plants and working with landowners. I am very passionate about education and outreach. In my downtime I love reading and spending time with my husband and son outside. The past month being in my home state and getting to do what I love has been a dream, and I am so excited for what the future holds!

A Full First Month!

The first month on the job can sometimes feel like its full of monotonous trainings, endless piles of new employee paperwork, and never knowing what to do next. I lucked out that this was quite the opposite for me! Since I was previously with PF/QF I had a great baseline for understanding programs, how to work with producers, and creating relationships with local partners, which allowed me to really hit the ground running this first month. With some help from local NRCS, MDC, SWCD, and FSA staff I was able to get all our CRP contracts addressed and completed before the deadline. I met with some landowners who had questions about their contracts and even conducted a few site visits. I got to participate in an Outreach Event with one of the local libraries, assist in the CRP Webinar we held and attended a training on Fire Mitigation and Suppression. This first month has been filled with learning new things, building long lasting partnerships, and continuing to put good conservation efforts on the ground. I look forward to sharing my next report, as I already know I've got some busy months ahead!



The Ozark Regional Library located in Fredricktown hosted a local Seed Swap for Madison County and asked me to set up a booth. I provided landowners with informational guides on native wildflowers, handed out Missouri native seed packets, and had fun showing off our interactive root board!

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

Conservation Planning

- 3 Landowner Contacts
- 1 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plans
- 2 Site Visits
- 1 Seed Plans

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Cass, Johnson, Pettis

Jan - Mar 2023

Not-so Dormant Season

This past quarter has been busy with seedings and check-outs of many native grass and pollinator/Monarch wildlife plantings. Contrary to the name, the dormant season is a great time to get habitat on the ground. Especially for native seedings, the freeze and thaw action of the winter helps stratify the seeds as well as pull them into the soil. Timber stand improvement and prescribed burning are also popular “dormant season” habitat management practices. Prescribed burns can set back cool season grasses and help out our pollinator plantings. On our family farm, we were able to squeeze in burns on our 7-year old native grass plantings. This is the second burn on these fields. Since the last burn, the blackberries have gotten out of control and are out competing the other desired native vegetation. We used the burn to help setback encroaching fescue and clean-up for follow-up control of blackberry and sericea lespedeza. The burn should have helped germinate sericea seeds, so that our herbicide applications this summer get more bang for our buck. When I re-visited the field 2-weeks later, it was already greening-up and I saw lots of evidence of use by turkey and deer.

Quarter Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 95 Landowner Contacts
- 23 Site Visits
- 25 Projects With Acres
- 8 Seed mix review
- 8 Habitat Plans

Total Acres Impacted: 1,165.76



Prescribed fire through thick patch of blackberries



Prescribed burn on NWSG



3-weeks post-burn. Field already greening up

Haley Lockard
Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard

Jan– Mar 2023

Workshops/ Tours ...

- **Feb. 24** Presented on Upland bird Habitat and Biology at Women's Learn to Hunt Pheasant Camp with *Kim Cole* and *wildHERness*. We discussed basic biology for quail and pheasant as well as habitat needs. Afterwards we went to the field to learn and discuss in habitat!

Trainings & Meetings...

- **Feb 6** hosted internal staff training on CRM reporting system
- **Feb 15-17** Attended MDC Level 2 Fire Training in Columbia, MO



Presentation at Pheasant Camp.
Photo credit Kim Cole, MOQF

18 people reached at 1 Outreach Event

1 article for MO QF Newsletter – viewed by 2622 people

New hunters asking questions about pheasant and quail habitat in the field.
Photo credit: Kim Cole, MOQF



Great site prep and seeding of native wildlife habitat planting in Cass County.



Connect with Us!



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Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



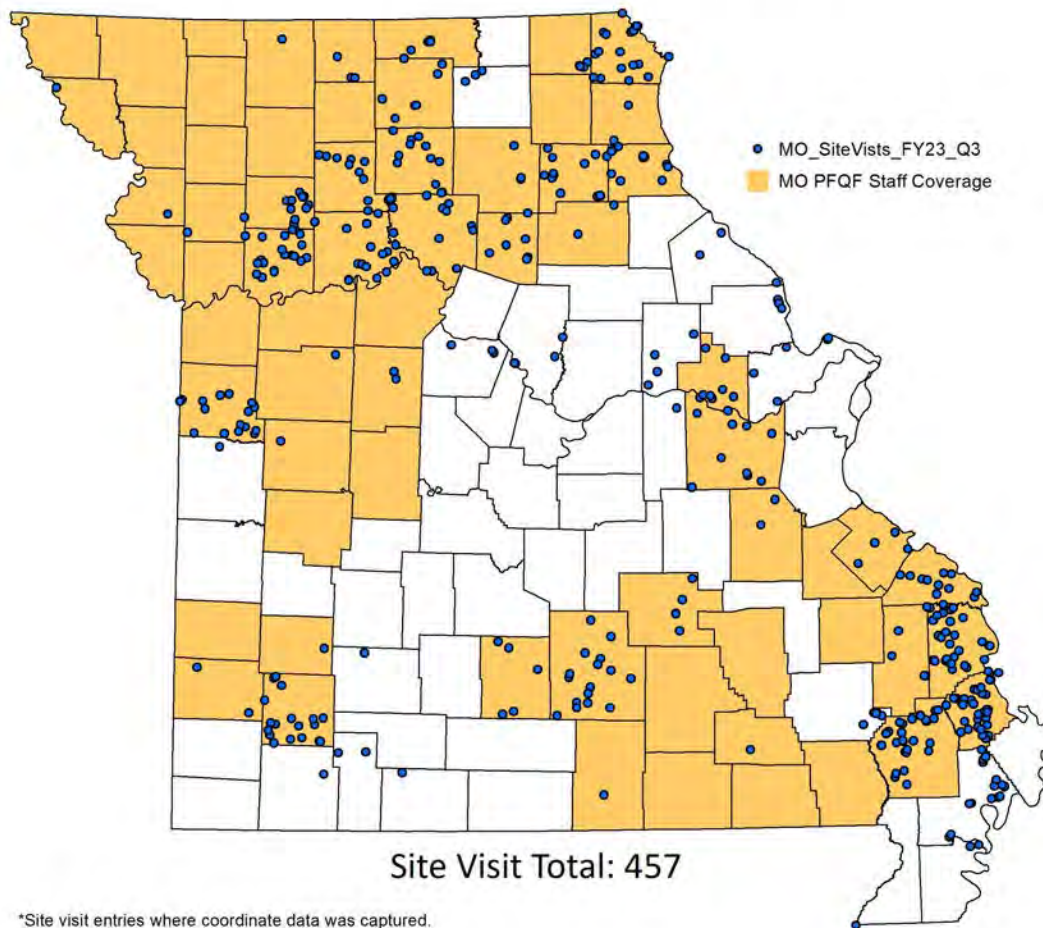
Haley Lockard

Jan– Mar 2023

Looking Forward...

- Team Leadership meeting
- Mentor QF Intern over the summer
- Instruct at Bobwhite Bootcamp
- Conduct WLFW quail study with Acoustic Recording Units on EQIP/CSP contracts
- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- Assist NRCS with applications and conservation planning

BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023





Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Heather Jones - Clark, Scotland, Knox, Lewis Counties

January – March 2023

Focus on Prescribed Burning

This quarter I have focused my attention on learning everything I can about prescribed burning. As biologists, we often recommend the use of prescribed burns as a management tool on private property enrolled in CRP, CSP, and EQIP. My hope is to be able to pass this knowledge and understanding of prescribed burns to landowners seeking assistance on their own property.

In the past few months, I have completed Missouri Department of Conservation's Level 1 and 2 Fire Management Trainings and the Wildland Fire online courses S-130 and S-190.

In addition to the in-class training, I have had multiple opportunities to take part in field exercises to gain hands-on experience with fire on the ground. I participated in field exercise trainings with MDC, NRCS, and Army Corps of Engineering.



PF/QF Mitigation and Suppression Fire Training at Shaw Nature Reserve.



NRCS training, woodland burn.

I also participated in a PF/QF Mitigating and Suppressing Fire training at Shaw Nature Reserve. This was a great training offered to both conservation professionals and Prescribed Burn Association members to help prepare for the "what if's" of prescribed burning.

In order to address growing landowner interest in prescribed burns, I plan to hold a Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) Virtual Interest Meeting for Northeast Missouri on April 19th from 4:00pm-5:00pm. PBA's have a neighbor helping neighbor approach to prescribed burn that help to ensure landowners have the people power and tools to safely and efficiently conduct prescribed burns on their property. Please reach out to me if you are interested in attending the virtual PBA interest meeting.

Burn training at Mark Twain Lake with the Army Corps of Engineers.



Conservation Practice—Edge Feather

Certifying practices is a great way to get out in the field and see projects that have made it to the finish line. It's an awesome feeling to see landowners establishing quality wildlife habitat on their property. Edge feathering is a practice that creates a gradual transition between two habitat zones, often vital to birds and small mammals. Edge feathering is created by felling trees/shrubs in blocks, typically 30ft by 50ft, along field edges. Trees should be loosely stacked to avoid densely packed piles that tend to attract predators such as racoons. It's also important to treat stumps after felling to reduce any resprout from occurring.



Habitat Challenge Grant edge feathering completed in Lewis county.

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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Heather Jones - Clark, Scotland, Knox, Lewis Counties

January – March 2023

Outreach & Education

• Missouri Natural Resources Conference Feb 7-9

Along with a few other team members, I attended MNRC in early February. It was a three days full of learning and networking with partner agencies. I assisted at the PF/QF Booth and the PF/QF Career Fair Booth.

• Ten Rivers Chapter Banquet February 11

I was excited to be able to help in this year's 10 Rivers Banquet. At the banquet I worked the Habitat Booth and talked with Lewis county landowners. A highlight of the evening was when this hard working chapter was recognized for their education and outreach efforts, receiving the 2023 National Quail Forever Education and Outreach award. To see the write up on the 10 Rivers Chapter visit quailforever.org/chapterawards

• MDC Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop March 4

In early March I assisted with Missouri Department of Conservation Prescribed Burning. Landowners and land managers acquired MDC Prescribed Burn Certifications which is required to obtain a burn plan written by a MDC private land conservationist. The training focused on the basics to safely conduct a prescribed burn.

• Clark County Farm/City Night March 11

The Clark County Extension Council hosts an annual Farm/City Night to celebrate and acknowledge student organizations and landowners in agriculture. Several area businesses and agencies provide informational booths and give aways. The Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever booth provided information on pollinators and native foraging. The biggest hit of the night was the root board that gives a visual representation of the depth of native root systems.

• Statewide CRP Webinar March 21

Kim Cole, Will Robinson, and I presented the Statewide CRP Webinar where we provided a general overview of the Conservation Reserve Program. We also discussed new MDC incentives that have rolled out with the 2023 General CRP sign-up.



10 Rivers PF/QF Chapter Banquet and Members.



MDC Land Managers Burn Workshop in Kirksville, MO.



PF/QF Booth at the Clark County Farm/City Night.

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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Heather Jones - Clark, Scotland, Knox, Lewis Counties

January – March 2023

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Soil Health Workshop	In January, I attended two workshops focused on soil health in Monroe City. The soil health presentations were valuable to understanding the practices that increase water and soil health.
Prescribed Burn Training (Elsberry & Shaw Nature Reserve)	In February and March, I attended prescribed burn field training. These trainings provided technical experience with the help of experienced professionals. These burns also help to maintain my level 1 and 2 fire management certification.
Level 1 & 2 Fire Management Training	MDC level 1 and 2 Fire Management Training to understand fire ecology and behavior. These courses are a necessary prerequisite to level 3 fire management training that I will be attending this summer.
Missouri Natural Resource Conference	In February, I was able to attend the MNRC with a several other PF/QF staff. It was a great opportunity to network with other conservation professionals as well as learn more about a variety of current conservation topics and programs.
Warm Season Grass Establishment Workshop	I attended the Warm Season Grass Establishment Workshop to kick off MNRC. Presenters from MDC, NRCS, MFA Inc., and PF/QF presented on the logistics of establishing NWSG. The discussion provided good information that can be used when discussing options for landowners interested in native forage for their operation.

Activities at a glance

CONSERVATION PLANNING	OUTREACH/EDUCATION	PARTNER MEETING/TRAINING
Landowner Contacts ----- 63 Site Visits ----- 38 Conservation Plans ----- 10 Status Review/Check-Out - 25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #333; color: white; text-align: center;"> TOTAL ACRES IMPACTED 1180.13 </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNRC PF/QF Booth & Career Fair Booth • Clark County Farm/City Night • Ten Rivers Habitat Booth • Land Managers Prescribed Burn Workshop • CRP Webinar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Health Workshop & Town Hall • MDC Level 1 & 2 Fire Management Certification • Prescribed Burn Field Excercises • Wildland Fire Online Course 130 & 190 • Prescribed Burn Refresher

Looking Forward I Will Be...

- Presenting on Quail Habitat Management and Quail Restoration Landscapes at Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Meeting
- Assisting with CEAP Native Bumblebee Monitoring Project
- Knox County Fishing Day
- WLFW Bobwhite Monitoring
- CRP Expiring Checks
- Mentoring a summer PF/QF intern

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Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

January – March 2023

Position Update

The beginning of 2023 got off to a busy start with lots of opportunities to network and brainstorm with conservation partners from across the state and country. I attended a lot of conferences and meetings this quarter and really enjoyed getting the chance to participate in all of them. I was especially excited to be able to attend my first Pheasant Fest this year. A common theme of the meetings seems to be planning for the next several years, as funding scales up, we want to be ready and prepared to make the biggest impact possible. I'm looking forward to continuing the great discussions and working together to grow our conservation footprint here in Missouri.

Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic 2023 and the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

After 11 years of working for "The Habitat Organization" I was finally able to attend my first Pheasant Fest as an employee. This year it was hosted in Minneapolis, Minnesota and touted record-breaking attendance with over 33,000 supporters joining in the event.



For the most part I was there to help support our staff efforts on the show floor, assisting at both our Pollinator Information booths and Youth Village area for kids. I was able to talk about pollinators, wildlife habitat, and conservation partnerships with hundreds

of enthusiastic folks looking to make a difference. I really enjoyed my time at the pollinator booth, helping kids and adults alike, walk through our native plant root board activity,



showcasing the benefits of native plant root systems when it comes to reaching water and holding soil. Missouri was well represented with presentations from our QF Outreach Coordinator, Kim Cole, and involvement from NRCS leadership in Farm Bill and partners meetings. All-in-all, I had an amazing time discussing habitat with landowners and building relationship with partners.

Not even a full month later, and I was fortunate enough to attend a small portion of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

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Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

January – March 2023

held in St. Louis this year. The Private Lands meeting only lasted for an afternoon but was packed with great highlights and discussions of conservation initiatives happening all over the country. I came away from the meeting with a better understanding of several initiatives, renewed excitement for RCPP and IRA conservation programs, and a few new ideas for ways to partner here in Missouri.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
SRISP Annual Meeting	Attended the Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership (SRISP) Annual Meeting to present on Habitat Strike Teams and learn about accomplishments of the SRISP over the past year.
M4M Steering Committee Meeting	Attended Missourians for Monarchs Steering Committee Meeting with contributing partners to discuss current activities of the group and next steps to accomplish strategic goals.
Native Forages & Grasslands Workshop	Participated in Native Forages workshop hosted at MNRC which discussed many aspects of native forages and the current conservation programs available to assist landowners establish native warm season grasses for haying and grazing.
PF/QF Prescribed Fire SOP Training & Annual Refresher	Attended webinar to overview the new PF/QF Standard Operating Procedure for Prescribed Fire. Completed the course and annual refresher required to upkeep RxFire credentials.
Ecological Sciences Staff Meetings	Participated in the NRCS Ecological Sciences Teams monthly staff meetings discussing current conservation issues, NRCS technical assistance policy, business tools, and special initiatives delivery.

Looking Forward

- I will continue to lead the delivery of the Monarch PRIME- RCPP during it's second signup.
- Finish certification as a drone pilot.
- Onboard Missouri Grassland CWB position.
- Work with State Coordinator and partners to identify conservation priorities and assist with special initiatives to address them.
- Continue providing leadership to Quail Forever's Coordinating Biologist Team across the state.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in Missouri who are interested in establishing habitat for Monarchs, quail, and other upland wildlife.
- Work with partners to engage as a Sr. Coordinating Biologist to strategically provide lift to shared initiatives and priorities.



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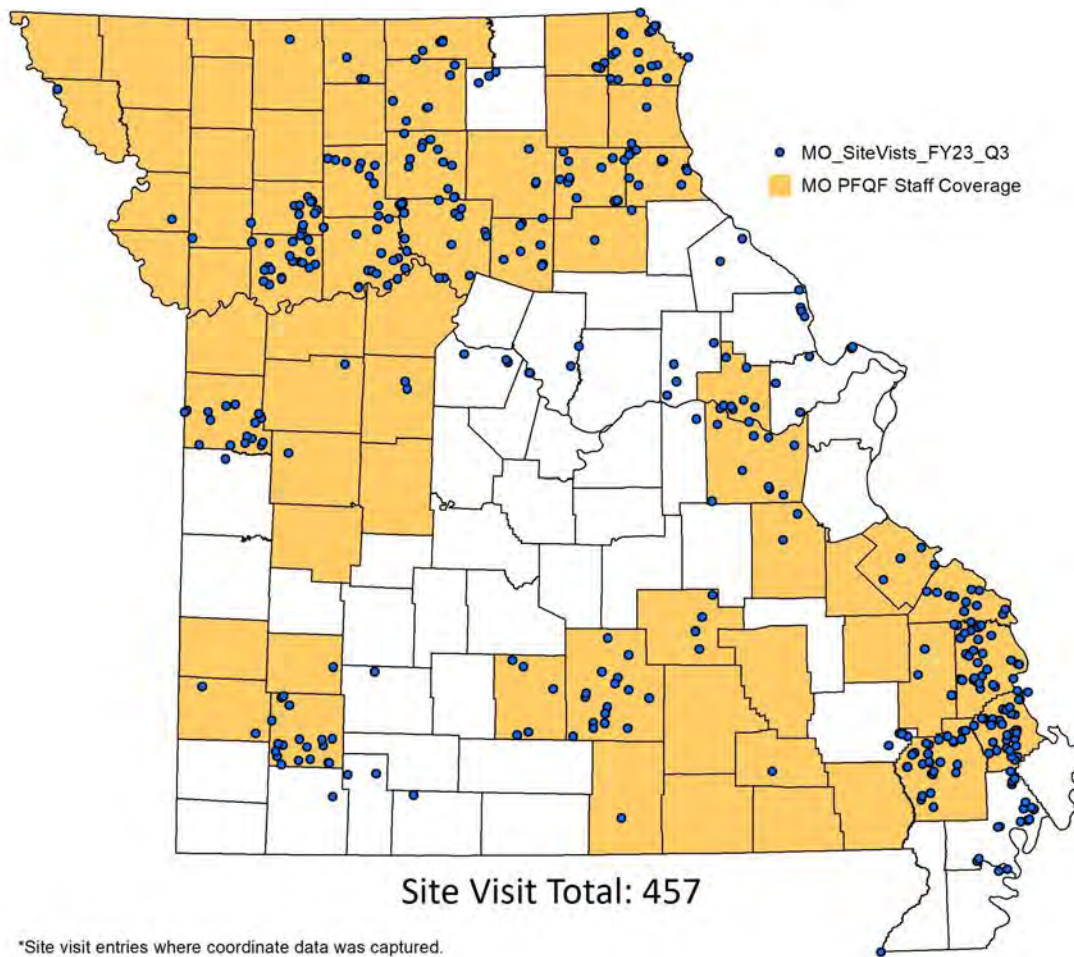
Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

January – March 2023

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Updated 4/11/2023



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jeffrey Folkerts, NW Missouri WET Area 1

January — March 2023

Position Update

Under New Leadership

As I joined the team after the retirement of former WETs West Team Leader Dave Ritchhart, I have really appreciated the arrival of Clint Roby as the head of the WETs West Team. Working daily with Clint has been really beneficial in becoming more familiar with our program and the structure of NRCS programs as a whole.

Clint has a great deal of experience in working within the both NRCS programs and wetland systems,. Field visits and discussions with him are helping me to develop a better understanding of the potential of easement stewardship and quality public service efforts. While our team reorients to a round of retirements and staff changes, Clint is making sure to allow partner biologists to lend our specific points of view and skillsets to new and ongoing projects and to take on more roles within the team.

One area that we have talked a good deal about is the role that upland areas on our easements play in providing wildlife habitat can be highlighted. Utilizing the local PFQF Farm Bill Biologists as a source of knowledge and skills for this goal will be a great way to leverage all available resources and personnel.

A lot of my past work has focused primarily on reptiles, amphibians and other small vertebrates and I can strongly support the idea that focusing on improvements outside of the pool area is important to our core goal of providing habitat to wildlife of all kinds. Many creatures that we think of as being strongly tied to water utilize upland habitat during different parts of the year or their lifecycles.

As we've been looking at restoring easements in NW Missouri we have been considering how small alterations to our designs can be optimized to provide better habitat on upland areas to deer, turkey, small game, migratory birds and non-game species as well!



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jeffrey Folkerts, NW Missouri WET Area 1

January — March 2023

Wetlands at Their Best

In my opinion one of the finest times of year on our wetlands in Missouri takes place in the first three months of year. While January through March is extremely variable, particularly in northern Missouri, the frigid cold of winter does always give way to more pleasant weather. With the coming of warmer weather we also see our wetlands begin to explode with life.

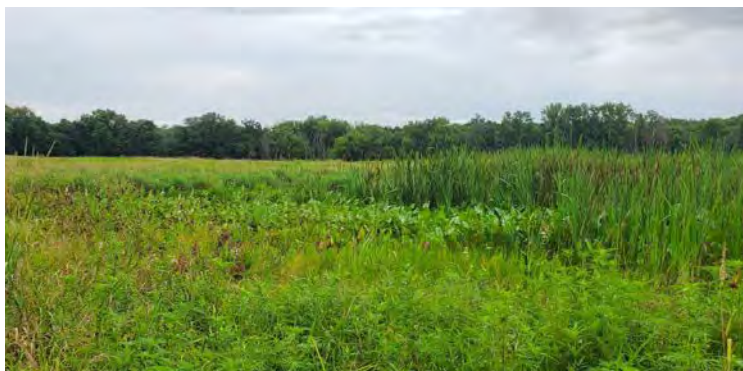
Fluctuating temperatures and weather conditions drive waterfowl migrations across the Midwest, and wetlands are alive with honking of geese and cackling of ducks. While few of these species breed in Missouri, that season is on the horizon and habitat management decisions made on our easements play a role in helping maintain a healthy waterfowl body condition.

One of the benefits of moist soil managed wetlands is the creation of large quantities of vegetative biomass, that when flooded, produce a diverse community of macroinvertebrates. Worms, crustaceans, insects and molluscs feed on decomposing flooded vegetation turning this waste material into a valuable source of protein. In the early spring and summer they are available to waterfowl and waterbirds that feed in shallow wetlands, and later in the summer some of these species will emerge as adults serving as food for warblers, swallows, nightjars and bats.

Three management and design strategies that will assist in providing this important resource include:

1. Maintain a variety of water depths across a wetland that will offer shelter to a diverse community of macroinvertebrates.
2. Perform disturbance activities like mowing and discing that helps keep a mix of plant species, and lays down vegetation to decompose in the following spring.
3. Draw water down slowly in the spring to expose the rotting vegetation and allow for a mixed community of wetland plants to develop along a hydrological gradient.

This low moist soil pool in a Livingston Co easement ,shows a mixed plant community that provides habitat, food for pollinators and will provide a rich variety of foods to waterfowl and waterbirds in the next fall and winter.





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jeffrey Folkerts, NW Missouri WET Area 1

January — March 2023

In the Next Quarter

- Attend NRCS Soil Health and Sustainability training in Columbia, MO May 1-5th.
- Aid in an MDC/NRCS training burn on a WRP easement to gain more practical experience with prescribed fire.
- Participate in Bobwhite Bootcamp in Carroll Co, Missouri, a quail management training for wildlife biologists.
- Assist local PFQF chapters with upcoming events.
- Complete onsite easement monitoring for WET Area 1 in 2023
- Attend MDC Fire Training Level 3 and become certified to write prescribed burn plans.

Conservation Planning

- 53 Landowner Contacts
- 23 Site Visits
- 2885 Assessed Acres
- 114.62 Habitat Recommendation Acres

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Wetlands Summit	Wetland owners, managers, biologists, researchers and students gathered from across the country to discuss current challenges and opportunities in wetland and wildlife conservation.
Missouri WET Team Meeting	Our state team gathered together to discuss current objectives, conservation strategies and easement monitoring and management, as well as highlight special projects being developed by team members across the state.
MDC Fire Training Level II	Attended a 3 day training put on by the Missouri Department of Conservation to learn core prescribed fire concepts and to progress on towards Fire Training Level III



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

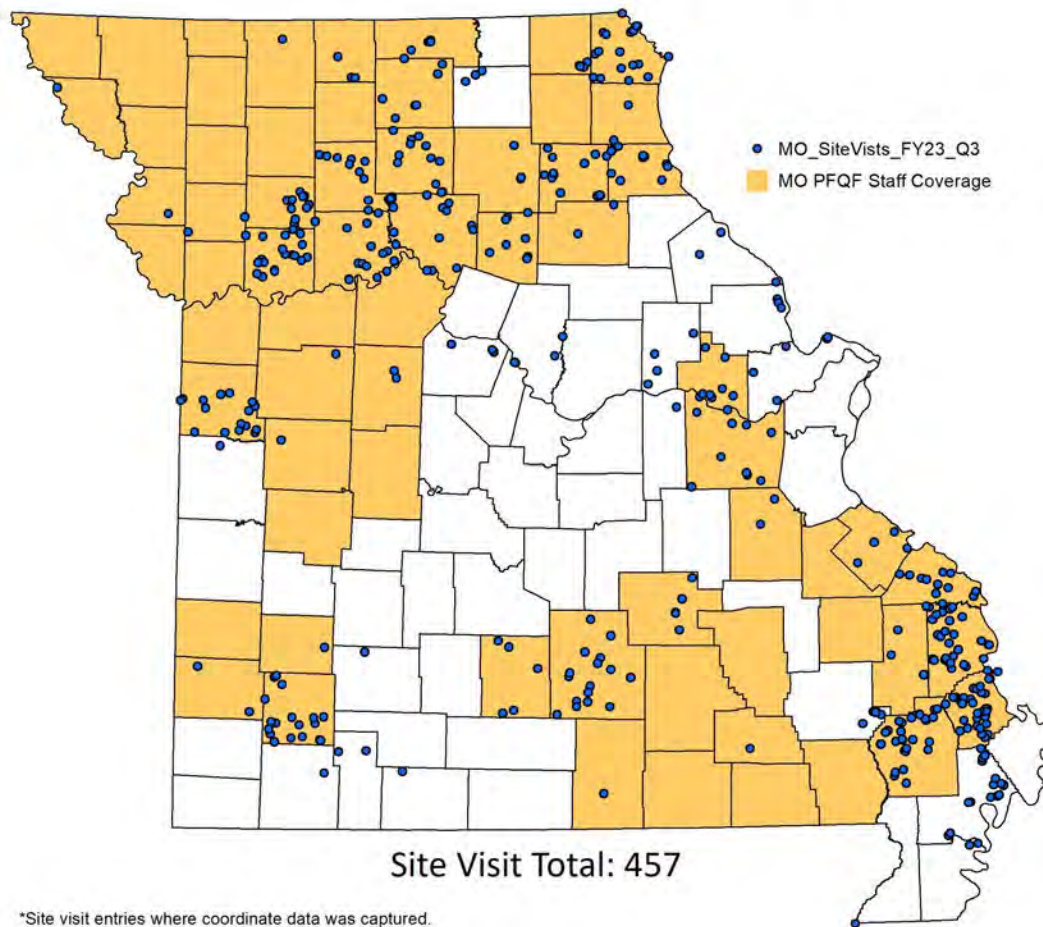
Quarterly Partners' Report



Jeffrey Folkerts, NW Missouri WET Area 1

January — March 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/11/2023



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 II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN – MAR 2023

Quarterly Overview

It seems that in the winter months of January through February everyone tries to have their annual conferences and conventions. It makes sense, because usually the weather is cold and inhospitable for field work and everyone is cooped-up starting to catch a case of cabin fever. This quarter, I was able to attend several conventions and meetings where I learned about new projects and research happening across Missouri. I had the opportunity to share information with partners and coworkers, and networked with new colleagues and fellow professionals to further our mission of conservation. March offered a break from the cold and allowed me the opportunity to venture into the field and watch spring begin to awaken. March is a great time for prescribed fire, planting natives, and preparing for the coming busy spring. I look forward to taking the connections made this quarter and partnering together to implement more native habitat on the landscape.

Conferences for Conservation

Through most of February I had the opportunity to attend several conferences. The first one I attended was the Missouri Natural Resource Conference. To kick off the conference, there was a conservation professionals meeting where we shared resources and information related to NRCS' Native Grazing Initiative. I was afforded the opportunity to present at this meeting and shared with my fellow professionals available cost share resources that landowners can use to help establish native grass for forage and hay. During the rest of the conference, I assisted with our booth at the student career fair where we were able to visit with students from all across Missouri and share our mission and how they can be involved with Quail Forever. I also listened to and read about great research being conducted in Missouri. One project that stood out to me is research being conducted in the Mark Twain National Forest. Here, they are studying dead snags and tree stumps for fire history in Missouri. These stumps are hundreds of years old and bare scars and marks of when historic fires came through the forest. This helps us understand how fires shaped our landscape long before settlers came to Missouri. There is a lot of incredible research being conducted in Missouri and I look forward to the results and management implications these will bring forward.

I also attended the Conservation Federation of Missouri's annual conference this year. During the convention, I chaired the Upland Wildlife Committee where the Missouri Department of Conservation provided an update on quail and grouse populations, and we proposed and passed a resolution encouraging the creation of a small game hunting challenge. I carried and supported this resolution throughout the entire convention until it was passed by the general assembly. The goal of this challenge is to provide incentive and encouragement to small game hunters who are seeking new opportunities to pursue Missouri's abundant small game. We hope that it will also encourages the use of Missouri Outdoor Recreational Access Program lands which provide public access hunting on private lands. There were several other great resolutions presented and I hope they can carry some beneficial change for conservation in Missouri.



Dormant Monarch plots provides important winter food and cover to wildlife

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- Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties -



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN – MAR 2023

Projects, Meetings, and Activities

I was able to make it to the field on some of the warmer days during the quarter. While in the field, I was able to complete a few site visits to help landowner prepare for the upcoming CRP sign-up, assist our partner, MDC, conduct a prescribed burn and visited with landowners interested in completing habitat projects using local cost share dollars. I was able to present at a few workshops and help educate landowners and the general public about conservation.



Conservation Agent Jake Myers presenting to the DAR

The Putnam County Conservation Agent, Jake Myers, and I partnered together to share information about native wild flowers with the Daughters of American Revolution, John Sullivan Chapter. I also assisted MDC with a Landowner Burn Workshop in Grundy county. The final meeting I went to was our National Conference, Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic. I attended this meeting off the clock and was



Working in the field provides unique nature finds like this Yellow Sandshell mussel

able to take advantage of several opportunities while I was there. During a morning membership breakfast, I was able to listen to our outgoing CEO and new CEO. I am thankful for the leadership Howard has provided over the many years and I look forward to the new leadership and perspective of Marilyn. While at Pheasant Fest, I met new coworkers from our national office and was able to visit with NRCS staff from Missouri. I even had the opportunity to share with folks about the work we are doing in Missouri and talk to parents and kids about the importance of pollinators. Pheasant Fest is a great conference as it gathers thousands of like minded professionals and citizens who all desire to see our wildlife restored on the landscape. I hope to attend more in the future and continue sharing the great work that is being done in our state.



Prescribed Burn with the Missouri Department of Conservation at Poosey Conservation Area

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JAN – MAR 2023

Trainings and Outreach	Summary
MNRC	Attended MNRC for the full conference to listen and discuss research. Also worked the QF Booth talking with attendees about our organization.
Native Forage and Grassland Workshop	Presented and listened to speakers on helping landowners establish native grasses for forage and hay.
CFM Conference and Upland Committee	Led and provided QF State updates to CFM's Upland Committee and attended the CFM Annual Conference.
Seed Calculator and Mixes Training	Led a team training on NRCS seed calculators, seeding IR's, and how to check seed mixes.

Looking Forward

- **April 1** Green Hills Chapter Annual Banquet
- **April 11** MDC's Prescribed Fire For Missouri Landowner's

Quarterly Numbers

- 96 Landowners Contacted
- 16 Site Visits

Program	Impacted Ac.
Assessed Acres	302.88
Planned Acres	278.80
Implemented Acres	304.57
Total	886.25

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.

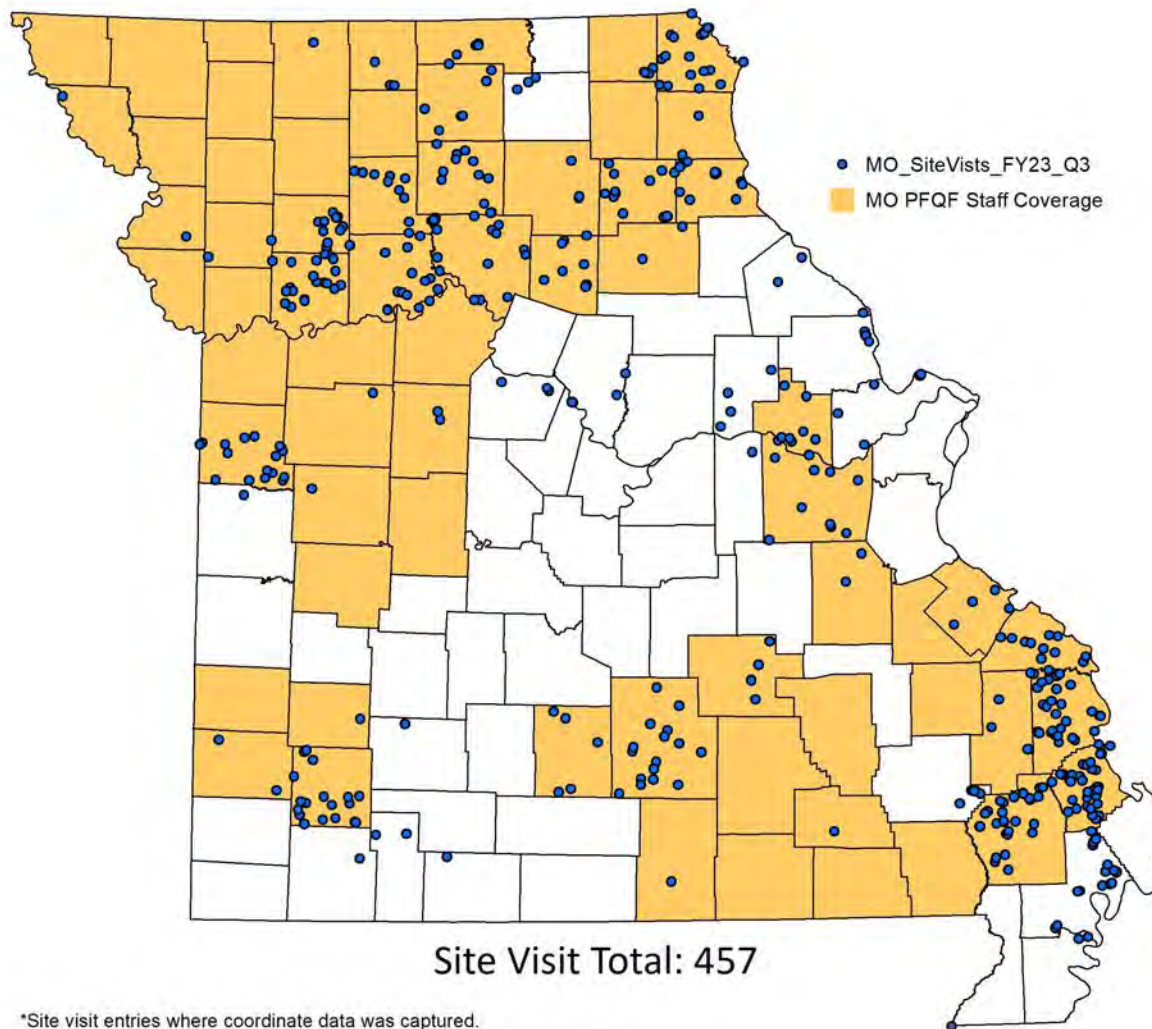
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MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/11/2023



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia - Southeast Missouri

January 2023-March 2023

2023 Missouri Wetlands *Summit*

For the first time ever, the Missouri Wetlands and Waterbirds Summit was hosted by The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at Lake of the Ozarks. Representing eleven states, hundreds of professionals gathered symbiotically to listen and discuss the past, present, and future of wetlands and the wildlife that demand it for continued existence.

These couple of days proved to be a powerful experience for me to see so many individuals gathering to learn about what Missouri is doing. As they peak over our “fence” to get a glimpse on what Missouri Wetland Emphasis Teams (WETs), and associated partners, are doing for wetland conservation, we welcomed them with open arms and eager for discussion. Specifically, the conglomerate of Missourian professionals and biologists that stood up in front of the ambitious crowd to tell the story of the wetlands, are some that I have had the absolute pleasure to know and learn from. An overwhelming sense of pride flooded me as I looked around the rooms, walked down the halls, collecting snips of conversations as I passed; I am a small part of something big, and it continues to grow.

Fueled by seemingly endless inertia, we are witnessing a shift towards a green, wild, natural world that is gaining momentum every year. Perhaps this hits closer to my bias heart, as wetlands are my niche. However, looking around the room, full of individuals ranging from college to well-beyond retirement, I cannot help but think, “there might be hope for this planet, after all.”



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

January 2023-March 2023

In Missouri, there are nearly 400 species of wildlife that depend directly on wetlands. The goal of administering the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program is to restore the historic hydrology, topography, and vegetation to enhance floodplains while restoring protected wetland functions and values. No, that does not only benefit duck hunters. Although duck species and geese numbers are on the rise, we are still losing ,essentially, every other bird species at an alarming rate.

Gradual tapering of wetland pools is a critical engineered design which falls within the wide-range of habitats these easements can provide! The recession of water and decrease in depth, through active management, natural processes, or both, exposes mudflats that are a crucial habitat component for various species of shorebirds and migrants. Missouri WRE landowners should consider additional species habitat requirements , other than that which they are pursuing , when applying management methods.



Water-tolerant trees are planted on the higher elevations of borrows or meanders to serve various roles throughout it's life for wildlife.

Black-necked Stilts (middle right) & American Golden Plovers (bottom) on WRE mud flats



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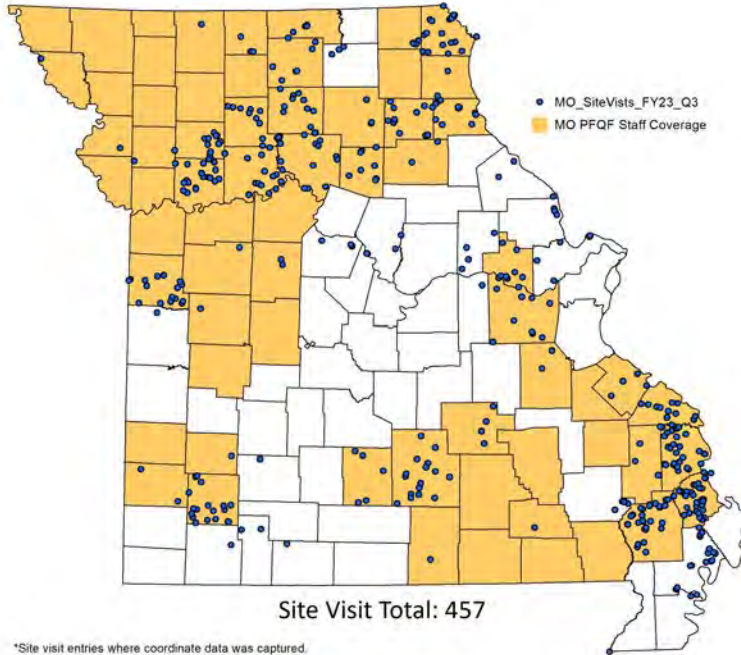
Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

January 2023-March 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



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Updated 4/11/2023



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Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

- 26 landowner contacts
- 19 on-site annual monitoring events
- Assisted MDC to apply Rx fire to Scott county sand prairies
- Authored Conservation Plans to enhance WRE upland acres through NWSG, pollinator, and shrubby cover establishment
- CUA's & Burn plans—effected over 500ac.
- Collaborated with NRCS, DU, and MDC to present an effective and efficient way to relay information to WRE landowners after a new CUA process was implemented

Training/Meeting Type

Outcome

MDC Native Forage Establishment and Management	Jan 25, 2023— MDC Area Biologist hosted a training for all interested in expanding their knowledge regarding native forages
Level 1—Fire Management	Jan 31, 2023— Completed the “crew member” portion to fulfill my requirements to assist landowners in writing Rx burn plans
Missouri Wetland & Waterbird Summit	Feb 1-3, 2023—Gathering of professionals and individuals to speak and testify on the behalf of wetland conservation
Wetland Emphasis Team/NRCS Water Resources Meeting	Feb 28-Mar 2, 2023— WETs & NRCS professionals gathered for the first time since pre-COVID to discuss the future of the teams in Missouri

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Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



**Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties
January—March 2023**



The SRISP Goes to MNRC

The Missouri Natural Resources Conference was February 7-9, and the SRISP had the opportunity to participate in this year's conference multiple ways. Firstly, the SRISP hosted an information booth that was available for participants to visit all three days of the conference. I was able to share information on invasive plant ID and treatment, as well as share the SRISP's story



and achievements with the many organizations that were present. I was also invited to give a presentation on the SRISP during the Missouri Invasive Plant Council's Invasive Species Workshop that took place on the last day of the conference. There, I got to go into further detail of how and why the partnership was formed and discussed a few of the projects that the SRISP is actively engaged in, including roadside treatments with MDC and Mark Twain National Forest. There was a great turnout for the presentation; roughly 75 people attended and I had several great follow up questions and conversations with people afterwards. There was one clear consensus: what the SRISP is doing is monumental, and there is a need for more CISMAs and partnerships like this around the state.

Top: The SRISP's information booth at MNRC, featuring invasive plant ID and treatment fact sheets, information on our partnerships, and we got to showcase and talk about our partnership with MODOT completing roadside treatments.
Bottom: SRISP Coordinator Valarie Kurre gives a presentation on the SRISP during MNRC.



Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties
January—March 2023



Join the Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership and Monarch Joint Venture for a podcast featuring:
Invasives and Pollinators
Learn the importance of planting native in your own yard and why commonly sold invasives are harmful to pollinators



Join the Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership and Quail Forever on Facebook to learn more about invasive plant ID, treatment, and cost share options!

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

This year, the goal of the SRISP was to have a bigger reach for National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW). Other than featuring Facebook posts throughout the week, the SRISP also produced an informational webinar and podcast. The SRISP partnered with Missouri Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologists and Wetland Biologists to discuss commonly found invasive plants and treatment methods. Cost-share options were also shared with viewers and participants were able to ask questions live over Facebook. The video was viewed over 50 times and shared widely. Monarch Joint Venture joined the SRISP to discuss how invasive plants can impact pollinators and the importance of planting native plants, no matter where someone is located. The post with our podcast reached over 1,000 people on Facebook! Overall, the SRISP made a big impact during NISAW and spread awareness of the SRISP across the state.

@MissouriQF



MissouriPFQF.org



Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



**Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties
January—March 2023**



Big Changes!

I am pleased to share with everyone that this March my husband and I got married! It was a lovely spring day that was filled with fun and love. We are so happy and excited to start this next chapter in our lives.

Event Name	Sum of Total Attendees (#) (Event)
Couch High School Native Plant Talk	5
Invasives 101 Webinar	50
MNRC Presentation	100
MNRC SRISP Booth	75
Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership (SRISP) Partner Meeting	30
Grand Total	260



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

January - March 2023

PBA Updates

Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) have taken advantage of the weather windows to put good fire on the ground and improve habitat. The PBAs in development have used this time to further organize the associations so that they may hit the ground "burning" this fall. In large thanks to the PBAs' board members, the White River PBA and Niangua Basin PBA have brought the number of Missouri PBAs up to eight! On their heels is the board organizing the PBA for Douglas, Howell, and Ozark counties, name to be voted upon. [Meetings](#) are scheduled for May in Steelville, MO and Albany, MO pursuing PBA startups in those areas

Conservation Planning

- 55 Landowner Contacts
- 6 Site Visits
- 575.7 Acres Impacted
- 11 Burn Plans Developed/Reviewed
- 11 Workshops/Webinars/Meetings Hosted
- 299 Meeting Attendees

as well as a virtual exploratory meeting hosted in April to begin the planning process for meetings in northeast MO. (See page 2 for a map of PBA developments.)



Above: Local citizens/landowners gather to steer the PBA startup during the West Plains PBA formation meeting.



Right: Foothills PBA members assisting a member on a woodland burn. Photo credit - David Stonner



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

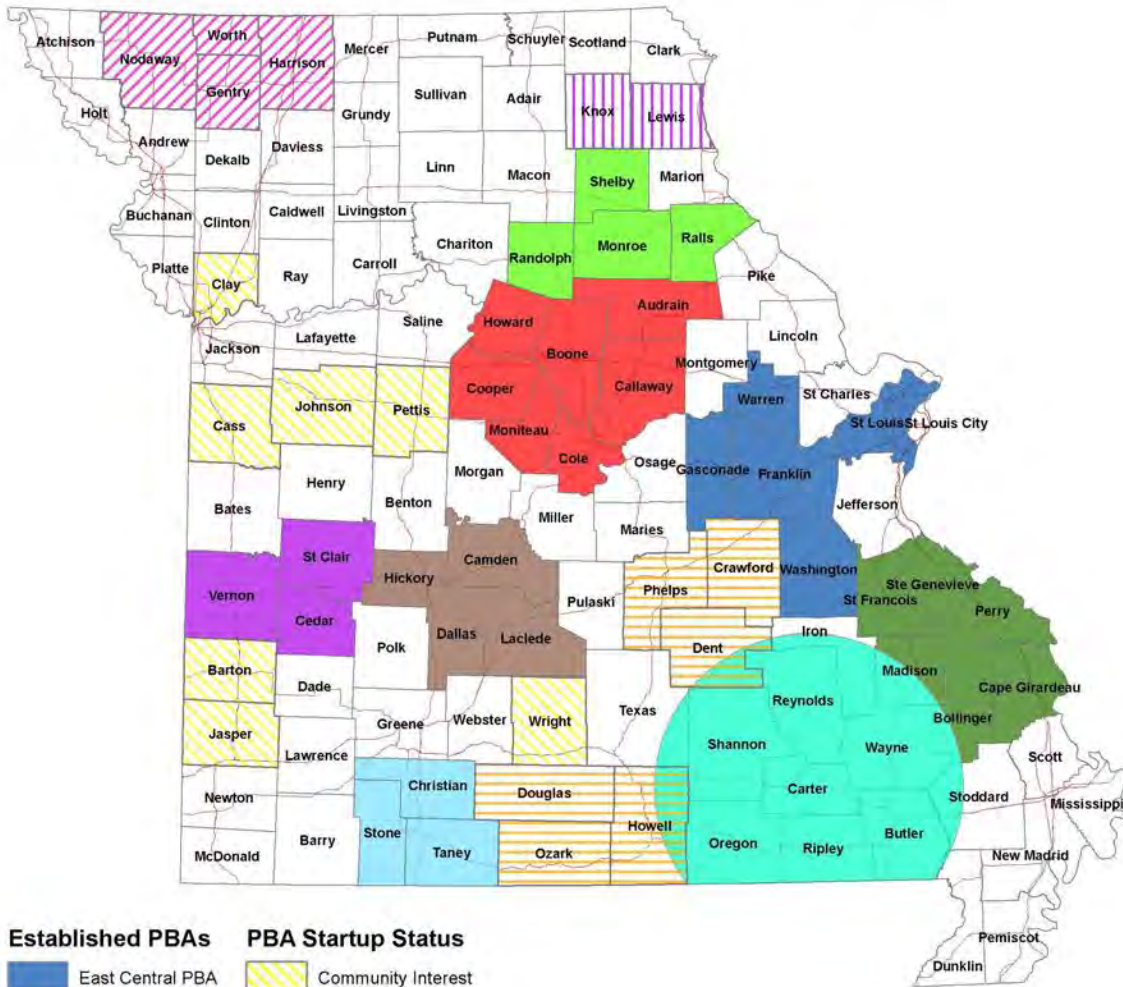
Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

January - March 2023

Missouri Prescribed Burn Associations



Most PBAs work within a geography identified by how far members are willing to drive to help on burns. If you are not located within the shading of a PBA we encourage you to still reach out to the nearest PBA(s) to see how you can engage and explore the opportunity to receive assistance. Contact info for each PBA can be found at: moprescribedfire.org/locations

4/17/2023

Above: Map of the existing PBAs in Missouri and PBA development opportunities.



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

January - March 2023

Mitigating and Suppressing Escaped Fire

When prescribed fire is planned and conducted responsibly, the chance of fire getting outside the designated burn unit is very low, however, the chance is still present. Pheasants Forever in Missouri partnered with the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council and our host Shaw Nature Reserve to hold two 1-day trainings on this topic—planning and prepping burn units to reduce these occurrences and then how to safely respond to these scenarios.



This was the second iteration of this training and we expanded the opportunity to resource professionals on Friday and Missouri PBA members on Saturday. Each day started out with the classroom discussion and we then took to the field in a prepared and safe environment. For each exercise, a crew of 4-8 people were selected and fire was set inside the grassland and allowed to grow before the crew leader gave a size-up of the spot fire and then assigned tasks to the crew members. The crews then began anchoring the suppression efforts and pinching off the fire until extinguished. An after action review followed each

Above: Friday's participants working as a crew to extinguish the mock spot fire.

exercise to continue the learning process.

We had participants from Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in MO and IL, National Wild Turkey Federation, National Deer Association, MU Student Association for Fire Ecology, and PBA members representing 8 PBAs. After everyone cycled through an exercise while braving the temps in the upper 20's, they still wanted to take advantage of the opportunity and continue the exercises to gain more experience in these rare but stressful situations.



Above: PBA members and instructors gather in the field after the successful training.

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Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist



Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Missouri

January - March 2023

Training/Meeting	Outcome
Branson Area PBA Formation Meeting	Nominations were held for the board positions for which the board continued coordination for the White River PBA establishment.
Macks Creek Area PBA Formation Meeting	Nominations were held for the board positions for which the board continued coordination for the Niangua Basin PBA establishment.
West Plains Area PBA Formation Meeting	Coordinated calls for the planning committee of the public Interest Meeting that was cancelled due to weather but continued on and hosted the Formation Meeting with board nominations.
Crawford County Exploratory PBA Meeting	Hosted a virtual meeting to begin the planning process for the Steelville PBA Formation Meeting. A core group of landowners have stepped up leading to the planned public meeting to accomplish the goal of nominating board members.
NRCS Staff Prescribed Fire Training	Assisted NRCS staff with PPE coordination and hands-on demonstration burns at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center to advance their Prescribed Burning Job Approval Authority.
Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Winter Meeting @ MNRC	Discussed the potential for the Council to establish as an entity to be an umbrella for Missouri PBAs or to form a Missouri State PBA as a more structured support for PBA development. The Council is further looking into those options.
Missouri Consulting Foresters Association Winter Meeting	Presented an overview of Missouri PBAs and discussed the ways consulting foresters can promote awareness of and support PBAs.
Albany PBA Interest Meeting preparation	Assisted Andi Rittel, PLC and meeting organizer, by sharing PBA development and meeting resources.

Missouri Prescribed Fire Council

Promoting and protecting the responsible use of prescribed fire - moprescribedfire.org

- Prescribed Burn Associations
- Law & Liability
- Calendar of Events
- Log Your Burn
- Contractor List
- Grant Applications
- Log Your Burn Data Summaries
- Weather Resources
- Contact Us

Outreach Effort	Outcome
Assisted press releases for the West Plains PBA Interest Meeting	Reached local newspaper and Oak Woodlands Fire Science Exchange subscribers to increase attendance to the meeting.
MPFC Facebook page	Shared partner posts and individual PBA posts. Respond to Facebook messenger inquiries.
MPFC email	Respond to inquiries and connect them to appropriate resources.



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

January-March 2023

2023 Polaris Habitat Award

Each year, at their annual fundraising banquet, the Missouri River Valley Chapter of Quail Forever (MORV QF) presents a local landowner with the Polaris Habitat Stewardship Award. This award is to recognize private landowners who dedicate their time and property to help improve habitat for quail and native pollinators. MORV QF ask local Private Land Conservationist, Lia Heppermann, and QF Biologist Wesley Hanks, to select a landowner they work with who is deserving of this award. At this year's banquet, held on March 12th, the Chapter recognized David Brunworth and his family.

David and his family own 85-acres east of Washington in Franklin County. Before they began actively managing for wildlife the property was used for livestock grazing and hay production. In 2016 the Brunworths began working with Ryan Diener, former QF Biologist, to restore two wetland areas on their property. With help from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and the MORV QF they installed levees and water control structures to provide semi-permanent wetlands. The areas surrounding the wetland pools were then seeded with a diverse mix of native grasses and wildflowers. Today, the roughly 5-acre wetlands provide high quality habitat for a variety of wildlife.

In 2017 their focus shifted to upland habitat management. Between Spring 2018 and 2020, again with help from the USFWS, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and the local QF chapter, they converted 35 acres of tall fescue to a diverse mix of native grasses and wildflowers. These seedings have become high quality habitat for quail, turkey, native pollinators, and the Brunworth's honeybees. Each year they also establish wildlife food plots to provide a little extra food in winter and increase hunting opportunities.



David (left) and Marty (right) Brunworth accepting the 2023 Polaris Habitat Stewardship Award

Photo Credit: Kim Cole, QF

Trainings/Meetings/Outreach	Outcome
MO Natural Resource Conference	Hosted a booth at the MNRC career fair to inform current college students about QF's mission and job opportunities. Connected with other natural resource professionals.
Native Forages Workshop	Attend training to learn more about the use of native forages in grazing systems
Native Forages Landowner Workshop	Helped plan and attended a workshop to teach landowners about native forage benefits for livestock operations.
NRCS Burn Training	Assisted State NRCS staff in training newer NRCS staff on the safe and effective use of prescribed fire.
MDC Landowner Workshop	Presented on small game management to private landowners at Powder Valley Nature Center
Spot Fire Training	Assisted with training to help teach both staff within the natural resources fields and private landowners how to better handle and deal with escaped prescribed fires.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

January-March 2023

2023 Polaris Habitat Award Cont.

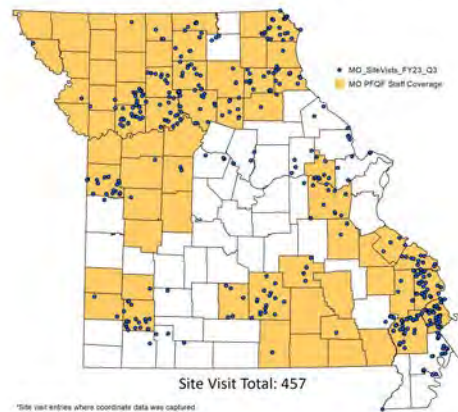
The Brunwoths continue to diligently manage these restored plant communities to ensure all their hard work thus far has not been wasted. They are members of East Central Prescribed Burn Association and regularly burn their restored prairies and the areas around the wetlands. During the summer months they can be found treating invasive species sericea lespedeza, tree of heaven, and bush honeysuckle.

It is evident, that David and his family care about their land and want to manage it in a way that promotes a wide range of wildlife species. Their hard work and dedication are paying off and this is why they were the recipient of this year's Polaris Habitat Stewardship award.



Restored wetland on David Brunworth's property in Franklin County.

**MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023**



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.
Updated 4/11/2023



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.

Conservation Planning

- 50 landowner contacts
- 25 Site Visits
- 5 practice checkouts certifying practices that impacted 125 ac

Looking Forward

- Complete checkouts on projects completed through HCG and LCAP
- Assist NRCS staff with planning for approved EQIP applications.
- Work with local vendors to spend NWTF Superfund grant to have a broadcast seeder built to be used by local landowners.
- Attend PBA start meeting on May 12th in Steelville MO to promote PBA formation
- Present on the basics of prescribed fire to the local Master Gardeners Club.
- Assist local SWCD staff with upcoming Farm Tour to teach elementary students about pollinators.
- Present on the benefits of pollinators to the local Rotary club.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

January-March 2023

Position Update

Spring has sprung! Here is a peek into what I've been up to in the third quarter of FY23. I look forward to a productive fourth quarter. Thank you for your partnership and support!



Native plants are beginning to bloom around the state. This is a beautiful rattlesnake master plant right before it bloomed last summer.

Q3 FY23 Activity Highlights

- 34 Landowner Contacts
- 23 Site visits
- 5 CRP Plans written
- 1 Burn Plan written
- 3 Workshop Presentations

Webinars

Invasives 101 Webinar

In February, I had the opportunity to be a part of the Invasives 101 Webinar hosted by Quail Forever. Invasive species pose a threat to Native ecosystems across the state. The webinar covered the definition of invasive species, why they're bad, common invasive species found in Missouri, and a variety of treatment methods for each species. The webinar was hosted on Facebook live on the Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership (SRISP) Facebook page. The recording currently has 158 views.

CRP Webinar

In March, Missouri Quail Forever hosted a virtual CRP webinar. Heather Jones (Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologist in Kahoka) and I presented on the basics of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). We covered continuous, and general practices that are wildlife friendly. At the end, there was a Q&A section where participants could ask questions specific to their farms and we provided answers. There were 47 participants that attended the event live. The recording can be found on the Missouri Quail Forever Youtube page, and currently has 172 views. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xwe9WMAVbRg>



Invasive Species Workshop

On March 25th I hosted an invasive species workshop in Shelby County. The workshop was held at the Morice property Northeast of Shelbyville. Grow Native sponsored the event. They provided some educational materials, as well as coffee and donuts for the participants (and the presenter!). We started the morning in the garage to get out of the rain. There we talked about some of the most common invasive species and general methods for controlling them, as well as the problems they cause for the native ecosystems in Missouri. When the rain cleared, I led a nature walk around part of the property, where we looked at multiflora rose, autumn olive, cut-leaf teasel and *Serecia Lespedeza*. I covered identification, how these species spread, why they're a problem, and how to get rid of them. I also had the opportunity to talk about the benefit of having a diverse group of native plants, as well as good management techniques for native ecosystems. It was a small group, but they asked a lot of good questions and were interested in the content. I was able to speak individually with each participant about their specific situations and any concerns they may have about invasive species on their own property.

A HUGE Thank You to the Morice family for letting us use their property for the workshop. And Thank You to Grow Native for sponsoring the event!

<https://gownative.org/>



Participants gather around to study the Autumn Olive on the edge of a CRP field

At this stop we discussed multi-flora rose management, as well as timber stand improvement and prescribed fire in woodlands.





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

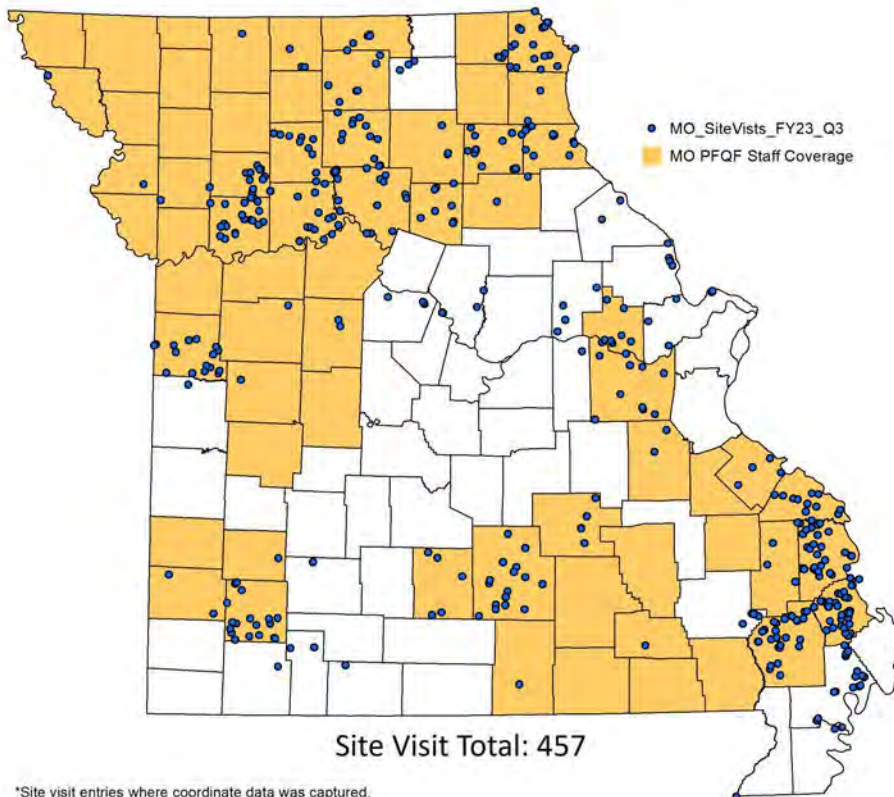


Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

January-March 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/11/2023



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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