



The Habitat Organization

NEWS RELEASE

New Golden Grasslands Habitat Crew launched by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri.

The Habitat Specialist Crews will conduct habitat management work emphasizing prescribed fire on cooperating lands.

La Russel, Mo. – March 6th, 2026 – Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are excited to announce the creation of the Golden Grasslands Habitat crew. The crew consists of one Habitat Crew Leader, Aden Basgall (on the left), and four members (left to right: Zach Garrett, Cameron Preister, Tyler Seabold, and Kyle Hiller).



The new Golden Grasslands is a unique collaboration between the Missouri Department of Conservation, Quail Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Drake University, and the Missouri Prairie Foundation. The team will focus on public and private land within the Golden Grasslands Priority Geography. The habitat specialist team will collaborate with partners to plan and implement wildlife habitat management practices, with a focus on remnant prairies.

“The Golden Grasslands Crew will advance grassland restoration in Southwest Missouri, focusing on stewarding the numerous remnant prairies in the region. They have already done significant work at Robert E. Talbot Conservation Area and will be venturing into private land work this spring,” said Habitat Restoration Manager Dylan Jacobs.



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The new habitat crew is a dynamic team of five, blending local knowledge with regional expertise. One member hails from the immediate area, bringing a deep understanding of the local landscape and its natural resources, while the others join from surrounding states, each offering unique perspectives and specialized skills gained from their diverse backgrounds. Together, their collective experience in habitat management, ecology, fisheries, and conservation creates a well-rounded, adaptable group. This mix of experience and locale ensures the crew can learn from each other and adapt to changes, making them well-equipped to achieve their conservation goals. So far, this crew has shown great teamwork among themselves and with the partners and crew in the area.

"We are incredibly excited for this first season of our new habitat management crew. With the collaboration of MDC and other partner agencies, we look forward to supporting the ongoing conservation efforts on public lands and assisting private landowners here in SW MO. The passion and effort this crew provides is sure to leave a positive impact on this area's future!" said Aden Basgall, Habitat Crew Leader.

If you have questions or want to learn more about the Golden Grasslands Habitat Crew, contact Aden Basgall at abasgall@pheasantsforever.org

About Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

[Pheasants Forever](#) and [Quail Forever](#) make up the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. This community of more than 500,000 members, supporters and partners is dedicated to the protection of our uplands through habitat improvement, public access, education and advocacy. A network of 760 local chapters spread across North America determine how 100 percent of their locally raised funds are spent — the only national conservation organization that operates through this grassroots structure. Since its creation in 1982, the organization has dedicated more than \$1 billion to 585,000 habitat projects benefiting 31 million acres.