



The Habitat Organization

NEWS RELEASE

Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever Promote Alex Ilgenfritz as Habitat Specialist Crew Leader for the Shaw Nature Reserve Habitat Crew

Ilgenfritz's leadership skills and experience will lead the crew out of Shaw Nature Reserve as they continue to improve habitat on cooperating lands.

Gray Summit, Mo – July 23, 2026—Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri are excited to announce that the team's own Alex Ilgenfritz was promoted to Habitat Specialist Crew Leader. His expanded duties will further assist the team by providing guidance and leadership to the Shaw Nature Reserve Habitat Specialist Crew.

The Habitat Specialist Crew positions are part of a unique partnership between the Missouri Department of Conservation, Shaw Nature Reserve, and Quail Forever. They are further supported by generous donations from Nestlé Purina, Steve and Jeanne Maritz, and Roeslein Alternative Energy. In his new position, Ilgenfritz will lead the crew and collaborate with partners to organize and implement practices to manage wildlife habitats on cooperating lands, with a focus on prescribed fire.

“Alex has consistently demonstrated strong leadership skills throughout this past burn season. His temperate demeanor and wide skillset will serve him well in this new role”, said Habitat Restoration Manager, Dylan Jacobs.



Alex grew up in Saint Charles, Missouri, and attended the University of Arkansas, where he earned his bachelor's degree in biology. Before starting this role, he worked with the NRCS and a forestry contractor in northeast Kansas and spent a year as a habitat specialist crew member with the Shaw Nature Reserve crew. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping.

“I look forward to leading the crew to expand our conservation impact on private lands and put more fire on the ground,” said Habitat Crew Leader, Alex Ilgenfritz

If you have questions about the habitat specialist crews in Missouri, contact Habitat Restoration Manager Dylan Jacobs at djacobs@quailforever.org or 419-346-3139.



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About Pheasants Forever & 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 420,000 members, supporters, and partners is dedicated to the protection of our uplands through habitat improvement, public access, education, and advocacy. A network of 754 local chapters spread across North America determine how 100 percent of their locally raised funds are spent — the only national conservation organization that operates through this grassroots structure. Since its creation in 1982, the organization has dedicated more than \$1 billion to 580,000 habitat projects benefiting 26.5 million acres.