

New Missouri River Hills Habitat Specialist Crew Launched by Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri.

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

Williamsburg, Mo. – January 8th, 2025– Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are excited to announce the creation of the Missouri River Hills Habitat Specialist crew. The crew consists of one Habitat Crew Leader (Kyle McCully) and four members (Left to right: Jared Singer, Turner





Blake, Hunter Hamilton, and Sarah Gnade). The crew started their new positions on December 2^{nd} .

The new Missouri River Hills Crew is the result of a unique collaboration between the Missouri Department of Conservation, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri, and Missouri Botanical Gardens—Shaw Nature Reserve. Based at the Prairie Fork Conservation Area, the team will focus on public and private land within the Missouri River Hills Priority Geography. The habitat specialist team will collaborate with partners to plan and implement wildlife habitat management practices, emphasizing the use of prescribed fire.

"This is our second crew to start up in the state, and they have already hit the ground running, completing multiple habitat projects in their first couple of weeks," said Habitat Restoration Manager, Dylan Jacobs.

The team features individuals with diverse levels of experience in wildlife ecology and conservation. They bring enthusiasm for outdoor recreation and practical conservation experience and have worked with state departments and nonprofit organizations in various capacities. The crews' education and hands-on experience in habitat management combine academic knowledge with real-world application. This blend of fresh perspectives and expertise effectively enhances wildlife conservation efforts.

"I am incredibly excited to join this dynamic new crew. Together, we'll have the unique opportunity to work on both public and private lands, continuing the outstanding conservation efforts already in motion," said Missouri River Hills Crew Leader, Kyle McCully. "The dedication and hard work shown by this team have been remarkable, and I am eager to see the impact we can make for the future."

If you have questions or want to learn more about the Missouri River Hills Habitat Specialist Crew, contact Kyle McCully at <u>kmccully@quailforever.org</u> or (608) 558-2991