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NEWS RELEASE

New Habitat Specialist Crew Members hired by Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri

The habitat specialist crew conducts habitat management work, emphasizing prescribed fire on cooperating lands.

Gray Summit, Mo. – January 22, 2025 – Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are excited to announce the hiring of Kyle Petersen and Merik Slingerland as the new Habitat Specialist Crew Members for the Shaw Crew in Missouri.

The Habitat Specialist Crew Member positions are part of a unique partnership between the Missouri Department of Conservation, Shaw Nature Reserve, and Quail Forever. They are supported by generous donations from Nestlé Purina, Steve and Jeanne Maritz, and Roeslein Alternative Energy. Peterson and Slingerland joined the Habitat Organization on November 18th. In their new position, they will work as part of the crew and collaborate with partners to organize and implement practices for managing wildlife habitats on cooperating lands, focusing on using prescribed fire.





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"Kyle is a great addition to our Habitat Team. He has a true passion for habitat management that will contribute greatly to our restoration efforts," said Habitat Restoration Manager Dylan Jacobs.

Kyle Petersen was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He grew up exploring the beautiful natural areas of the state before moving to St. Louis in 2015. In 2017, Kyle bought 40 acres in Rolla, Missouri, for white-tail deer and turkey hunting. Restoring this property over the years, he developed a passion for habitat improvement that led to his current position at Quail Forever. He is honored to work with other private landowners with the same goals of restoring grassland and woodland habitat for Missouri wildlife. Kyle is proud to work for Quail Forever and learn expert techniques and skills to further his ambition of upland habitat restoration. When not working in the woods, he enjoys camping, hunting, fishing, and hiking as much of the country as possible. Nothing is better than getting the canoe out on the rivers of Missouri.

"I am very excited to be on the Quail Forever team. The skills I learn will benefit me greatly both personally and professionally," said Petersen. "I am lucky to be able to learn from the experts!"

"Merik joins our team, bringing with him extensive environmental and ecological knowledge. His attention to detail and eagerness to learn will serve him well in his new role," says Habitat Restoration Manager, Dylan Jacobs.

Merik Slingerland, originally from Nice, France, moved to the United States to be with his partner. He has been passionate about the environment for many years and holds a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering and a master's degree in environmental ethics. Merik decided to focus on fieldwork to directly impact restoration and conservation efforts. Dedicated to contributing to the well-being of natural landscapes, he is grateful to Quail Forever for the opportunity to support their mission of bringing wilderness back to life.

"Being able to work outdoors with a team of great people who share a passion for wildlife habitat restoration is not something I take for granted," said Slingerland.

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

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.



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