



NEWS RELEASE

Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever Launch New Viburnum Trend Habitat Crew in Southeast Missouri

The crew will restore and manage habitat on former mining lands within the Viburnum Trend mining district.

Farmington, Mo. – June 29th, 2026 – Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are excited to announce the creation of the Viburnum Trend Habitat crew. The crew consists of one Habitat Crew Leader, Elijah Trudell, and four members: Brandon Crews, Tyler Johnson, Kyle Lauber, and Eric Boyer.



Pictured: (L to R) Elijah Trudell, Kyle Lauber, Eric Boyer, Tyler Johnson, Brandon Crews

The Viburnum Trend is the 5th crew hired in the state and will implement habitat restoration practices on both public and private land in Iron, Reynolds, and surrounding counties, where historic mining has degraded the landscape. Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration funds are being utilized to fund this crew in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, and US Forest Service.



NEWS RELEASE

The crew is composed of dedicated conservation professionals who share a passion for improving wildlife habitat and supporting healthy ecosystems. Bringing a variety of experiences and perspectives, they are committed to working alongside partners and landowners to implement meaningful conservation practices across the landscape.

“The loss of quail in the Ozarks is not only a major ecological loss, but also a massive cultural one. Since the crew started on June 1st, we have been stopped by many enthusiastic residents who could not be more supportive of the work we are doing in the region,” said Crew Leader Elijah Trudell. “I am excited to work with the team we have selected to bring fire back to the landscape and restore lands disturbed by historic mining activity in the hope of bolstering habitat for the remaining population to give them a good foothold in the area. We are lucky to be partnering with state and federal agencies, as well as passionate landowners, to accomplish this goal, no matter how long and difficult the road may be. I am also thankful for the varied experience and backgrounds of the individuals that make up the Viburnum Trend Crew and could not be more excited for the opportunity to continue furthering Quail Forever's mission in Missouri.”

If you have questions or want to learn more about the Viburnum Trend Habitat Crew, contact Elijah Trudell at etrudell@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.