



Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Emaily Lear - Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Madison

April - June 2023

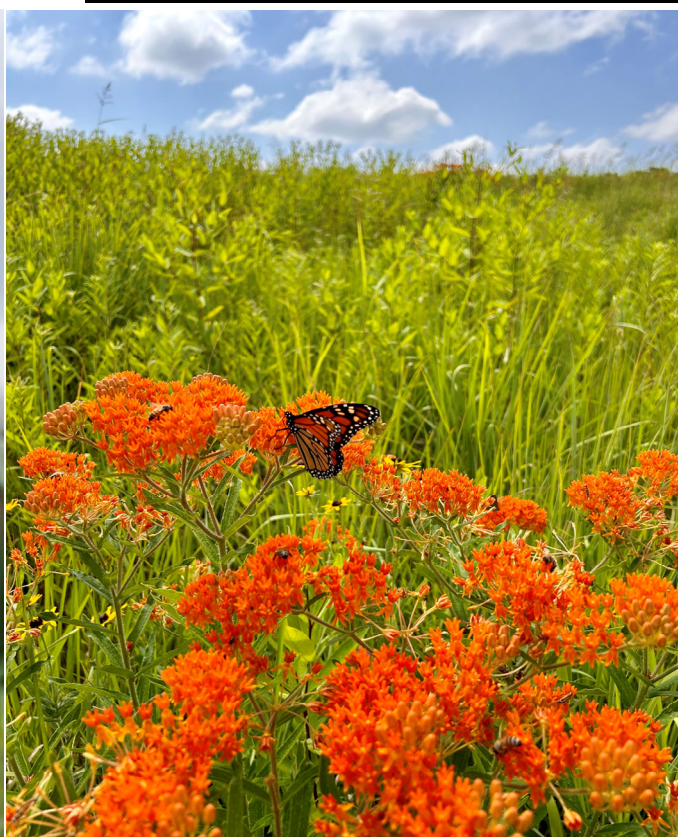
What I've been up to...

The past few months have flown by in a blur, with multiple trainings, working on CRP and meeting new landowners, I have had a blast. I've been still working a lot with partner agencies, getting a feel for the people and the land in this area; which has been a great learning opportunity and is really helping me feel more confident when meeting with landowners by myself. The trainings that I have attended have been a mixture of NRCS, QF, and MDC led, with topics including Plant ID, Conservation planning, how to utilize planning tools and so much more! I have met with quite a few landowners for both program purposes, such as CRP, and also for just habitat management with potential program interests.

Conservation Planning

- 18 Landowner Contacts
- 6 Site Visits

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	2
Newsletter Articles Written	1
Trainings/Workshops attended	10
Total	13



Both of these photos come from trainings I've attended during this Quarter. The picture on the left shows a root covered in rhizosheaths that was dug up in a Cool Season grass field that was planted last year. This photo was taken during a field exercise at the EQIP training put on by MDC, QF and NRCS near Everton, MO. The photo on the right is a monarch butterfly on butterfly milkweed found during a CRP check conducted in Perry County as part of a training put on by our Area Biologist.

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Emaily Lear - Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Madison

April – June 2023

Outreach & Education

- On May 25th I assisted Chad Doolen in presenting for Perry County's SWCD Women in Ag day. We visited two separate pollinator plots to give a more accurate idea of what to expect when planting pollinators, talked about the importance of pollinator plantings, and gave examples and ways they can utilize pollinators in small ways that still have big impacts. Many of the ladies were excited about integrating pollinators into their existing landscaping to add benefits to pollinators and aesthetics to their homes!
- I wrote an article for our Missouri QF monthly newsletter during our Conservation Blitz week. I highlighted our partnership with MDC and how our focal areas line up with the QRL's, Priority Landscapes and COA's designated by MDC throughout the state. These partnerships allow us to promote positive conservation impacts on many different natural communities throughout the state.
- The south-east region of the state often holds two grazing schools every year, I was able to both attend and present during the Grazing School put on in May at the Mineral Area College. I presented on the Benefits of Grazing Native Warm Season Grasses, as well as participated in the field and classroom portions of the school.



Above is a photo of Chad Doolen and I presenting at the Women in Ag event put on by the Perry County SWCD. Our talk on pollinators covered things like what to expect when planting them, how you can start small by integrating them into your landscaping and why pollinators are important. In June I attended a Plant ID Training in the Ozarks, during that trip I learned about identifying both native and non-native species, and finding indicator species for ecosystems such as glades and woodlands. Below to the left is a photo of Glade Coneflower and to the right is an Eastern Collared Lizard, both found on glades located in Shannon County.



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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Emaily Lear - Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Madison

Jan – March 2023

Something New I Learned!

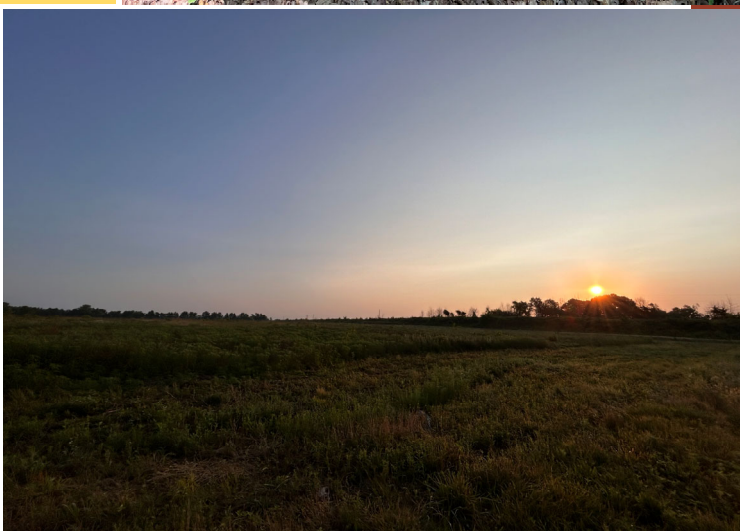


Something I think is important to highlight is the fact that in this field we are always learning and experiencing something new. So I decided to create a small section of my reporting dedicated to highlighting things I've learned each quarter, starting with some forestry! Rachel Settle, the MDC PLC of St. Francois, Madison and Iron County, brought me out to check out a few stands in Iron County to make some management recommendations to the landowner. While we were out, we utilized an angle gauge, in order to determine which trees to measure when using a variable radius plot design in forest inventory. Using this tool a forester can quickly measure the trees that are in or out of the plot. We also measured DBH and practiced a bit of tree ID as well!



Looking Forward

- As we've already entered the next Quarter I have been focusing heavily on getting CRP wrapped up in Ste. Genevieve County. Writing plans for General, HELI and a few Continuous is my main focus. I also have a few expiring contracts and planting reviews I need to get finished before the end of the growing season as well.
- I plan to work on reaching out to some partners that I have previously worked with, such as the Ozark Regional Library, to put on some events for pollinator education. I also would like to look into holding a booth at our local Farmers Market. And I will be helping with some presentations for Ste. Genevieve's Women in Ag event coming up in September.



Sunrise from Bobwhite Bootcamp during an early morning whistle count, located in Carrol County.



Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Cass, Johnson, Pettis

April - June 2023

Music to my ears

There are few sounds of nature sweeter than the classic “Bob –White” of a quail. The big project this quarter was the WLFW Bobwhite Framework Outcomes Assessment. From May 15– July 15 we deployed Acoustic Recording Units (ARUs) at 13 sites in Cass, Johnson, and Bates counties. Each site had an ARU deployed for 5 days, with a point count conducted one of those mornings to mark locations of birds heard or seen. While Northern Bobwhite is of primary interest, we are also identifying 8 other grasslands bird with populations in decline. Drew Summers joined me in May as the QF FBB summer intern and has been a tremendous asset with moving around the ARUs and conducting point counts. On several sites, we’ve heard numerous quail, while it was silence on others. The data from the ARUs will be analyzed by the University of Georgia. The three-year study will evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practices we implement to benefit quail.

This quarter I was also honored to spend time on remnant prairies in SW MO and one hidden gem in Johnson county. It’s rare to find prairie untouched by the plow and to frolic on several in SW MO with FBBII Ethan Kleekamp was a true gift to the soul. We were able to brush up on our plant ID and find species we don’t often get to see. We stumbled upon my absolute favorite wildflower, shooting star, which I have not seen in over a decade. Days on remnant prairie provide a breathe of fresh air (literally) and I leave with a renewed passion and vision for what we’re working toward.

<u>Conservation Planning</u>
• 142 Landowner Contacts
• 74 Site Visits
• 8 Conservation Plans
• 8 Eligibility & Ranking Assessments
• 8 Status Reviews/check-outs
• 15 Practice Certifications
• 23 Surveys & Data

<u>Outcomes Assessment Activity</u>
• 10 ARU units in use
• 9 Landowners participating in 10 EQIP contracts
• 37 ARU deployments
• 0 Vegetation surveys

Delivery Activities	Acres
Assessment Acres	754.73
Eligibility & Ranking Assessments	668.38
Status Review/Check Out	86.35
Conservation Planning	219.12
Brush Management - 314	10
Forest Stand Improvement - 666	122
Prescribed Grazing - 528	20
Tree/Shrub Establishment - 612	2.91
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management - 645	6.2
Wildlife Habitat Planting - 420	58.01
Practice Certification	125.87
Conservation Cover Standard - 327	13.79
Restoration and Management of Rare/ Tree/Shrub Establishment - 612	16.16 0.5
Wildlife Habitat Planting - 420	95.42
Grand Total	1,099.72



Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard

April – June 2023

Workshops/ Tours ...

- **April 1** Presented to a Boy Scout troop on Fish & Wildlife Conservation and careers in wildlife. The troop then completed a tree/ shrub planting for wildlife.

Trainings & Meetings...

- **April 25** attended Native Plant and Forage ID training at Bois D'Arc
- **May 9-11** Missouri Quail Forever Leadership Meeting
- **May 12** Attended WLFW point count and vegetation survey training in Chillicothe
- **May 23-25** Presented at Missouri Intern Training in Columbia, MO. The training set expectations for interns and mentors as well as providing valuable plant identification training.
- **June 12-15** Presented at 3rd annual Bobwhite Bootcamp in Chillicothe. The training highlighted work in the 2C *Quail Restoration Landscape*

ARU Unit in a native hay field in Bates County



Thriving remnant prairie during a D3 Drought



77 people reached at 3 Outreach Events and Trainings



Shooting star on remnant prairie in SW MO



Connect with Us!



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Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



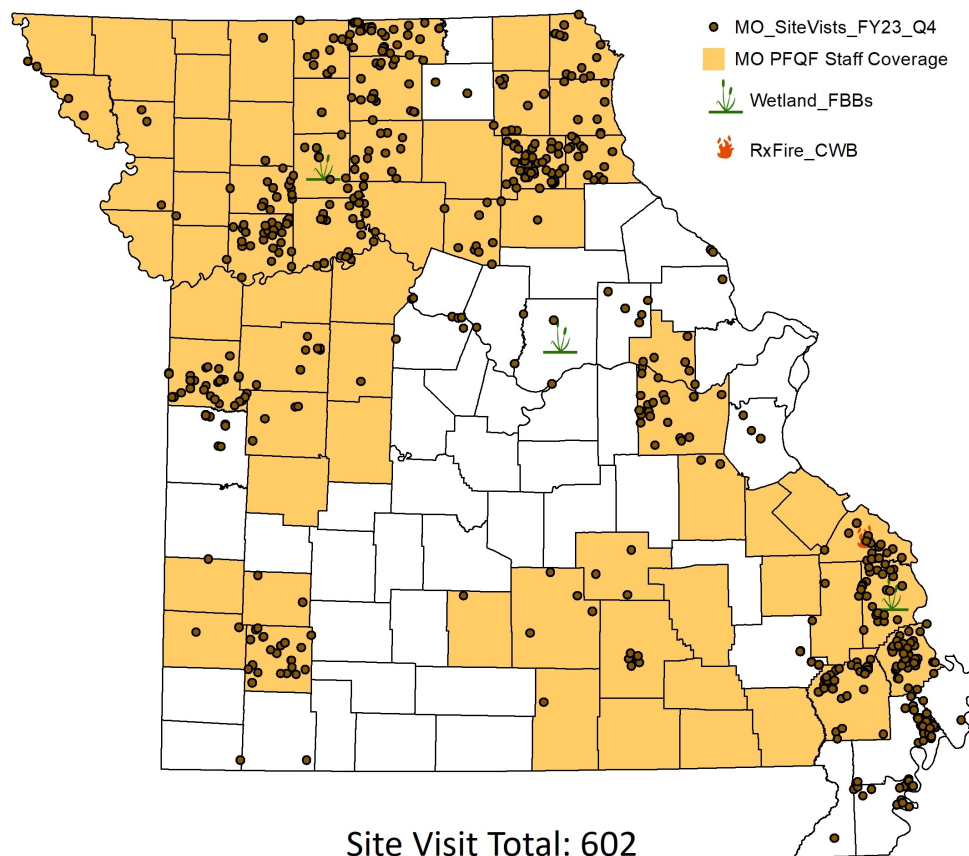
Haley Lockard

April – June 2023

Looking Forward...

- Instruct at NRCS ESJAA wildlife Training
- Continue mentoring QF FBB Intern
- Conduct vegetation survey portion of WLFW Outcomes Assessment on EQIP/CSP contracts
- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- Assist NRCS with applications and conservation planning

BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT April 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Haley Lockard
Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

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Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

April – June 2023

Position Update

This quarter has been a fun one, with lots of opportunities to work on a variety of tasks and projects. To start things off, we welcomed our newest member of the CWB team, Tanner Patton, as our QF Grazing Coordinating Biologist. I was also fortunate enough to participate in several outreach events throughout the quarter, with several focusing on pollinators and working lands! I also assisted NRCS planners with final planning efforts for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program QF is leading focusing on monarch butterfly habitat. All in all, we were able to fund 9 contracts and restore or enhance habitat on 185 acres through RCPP-PRIME. Looking forward I'm excited to build on several new initiatives and continue building momentum for upland habitat here in Missouri!

Columbia Water Festival Doesn't Forget Pollinators

Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever was invited back to Columbia's Annual Water Festival this June. The event, held at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, had hundreds of children in attendance along with their parents to learn about water conservation for Missouri's lakes, streams, and rivers.



This is the second year that Quail Forever has been invited to participate along with several other conservation groups with diverse missions and focus. The "Habitat Organization" might not be

the first one you think of when it comes to water quality, but wildlife relies on water just like us, and native habitats can play a key role in protecting it.

Attendees were excited to learn about pollinators and the resources they provide the world while children colored pictures of coneflowers and tried their hand at Monarch origami. From there its easy to talk about how native plant species are well adapted to climate conditions and provide many benefits when it comes to water conservation, including drought resistance, improved infiltration, erosion control, and more. The favorite activity at the booth is the native plant root board that helps demonstrate just how deep native roots can go. For those interested

Conservation Planning

- 27 NRCS Cons. Planner Contacts
- 9 Quality Assurance Reviews

Programs	Acres Impacted
RCPP- PRIME	185.54
Total	185.54

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Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

April – June 2023

in getting some of their own native wildlife habitat, resources and seed packets were provided to get them started.

This event seems to grow each year and I'm eager to continue connecting the dots between wildlife, habitat, and water conservation for many more in the area!

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
CFM Conservation Day at the Capitol	Attended Conservation Federation of Missouri's annual Conservation Day at the Capitol to talk with the public about wildlife conservation and Quail Forever's mission.
Turkey Habitat Initiative	Met with Missouri Turkey Biologist and National Wild Turkey Federation to discuss and build support for a turkey focused habitat initiative.
Columbia Annual Water Festival	Participated in the Columbia Annual Water Festival where I talked with the public about pollinators, native plant species, and water conservation. Over 450 people attended.
MO Soybean Pollinator Field Day	Hosted a booth and participated in Missouri Soybean Association's Pollinator Field day where conservation groups talked with the public and resource professionals about pollinator habitat on working lands.
Ecological Sciences Staff Meetings	Participated in the NRCS Ecological Sciences Teams monthly staff meetings discussing current conservation issues, NRCS technical assistance policy, business tools, and special initiatives delivery.

Looking Forward

- I will continue to lead the delivery of the Monarch PRIME- RCPP during it's third signup.
- Develop funding proposals for PF/QF initiatives as well as M4M, SRISP, and RxFire partnerships.
- Work with State Coordinator and partners to identify conservation priorities and assist with special initiatives to address them.
- Continue providing leadership to Quail Forever's Coordinating Biologist Team across the state.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners in Missouri who are interested in establishing habitat for Monarchs, quail, and other upland wildlife.
- Work with partners to engage as a Sr. Coordinating Biologist to strategically provide lift to shared initiatives and priorities.



@MissouriQF



Missouri Quail Forever



MissouriPFQF.org

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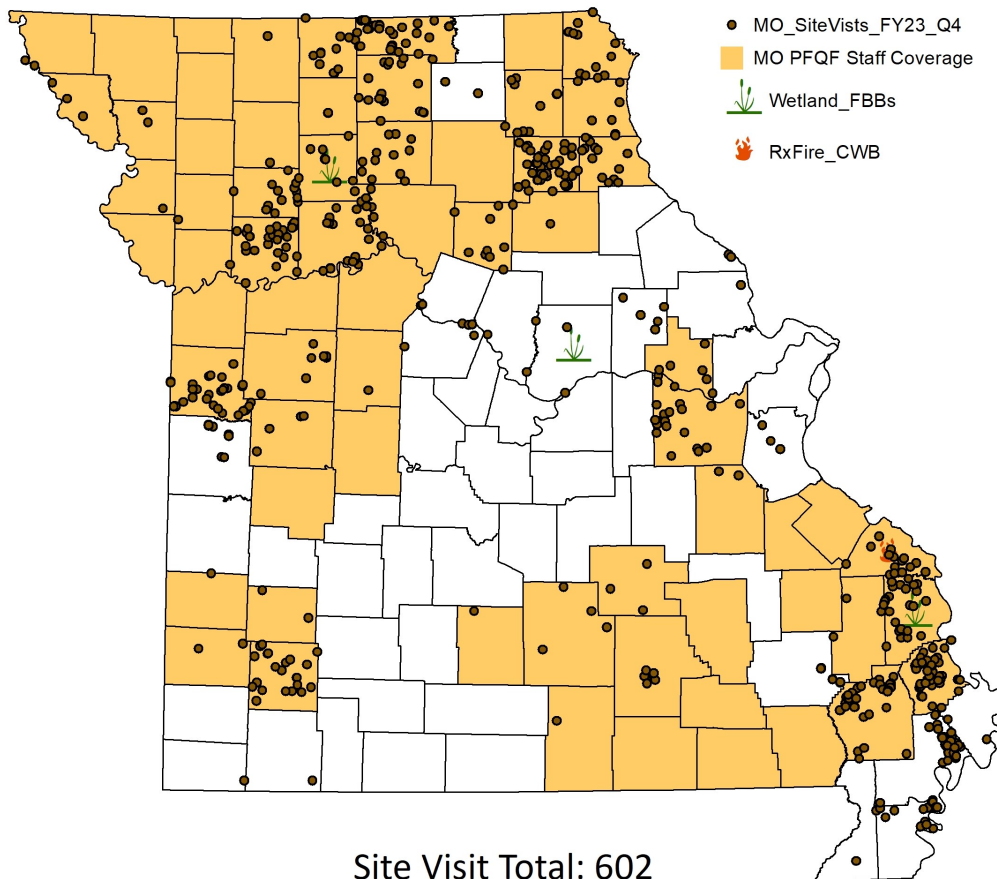
Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

April – June 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT April 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 7/13/2023



Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Logan Baum - Ray, Clinton, and Caldwell Counties

April– June 2023

Fourth Quarter of FY23

From April through June of 2023, our team had a total of 1,130 landowner contacts and 602 site visits. 16,947.15 acres were impacted by the Quail Forever team through planning and assessment efforts!

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

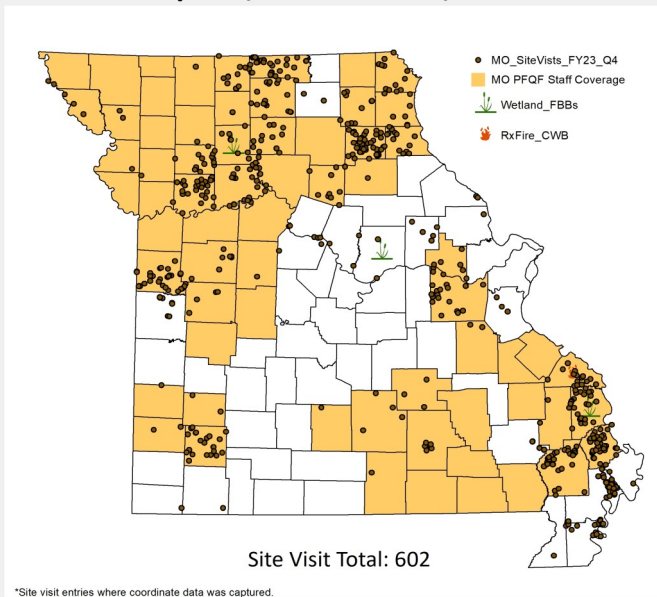
Team Outreach

- Outreach/Events: 44
- Outreach/Event Participants: 3576

Individual Stats

Landowner Contacts	35
Site Visits	35
Status Reviews/ Checkouts	37
Conservation Plans worked	23
Practice Certifications	1
Total Acres Impacted	887.98
Trainings Attended	2

**MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
April 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2023**



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Updated 7/13/2023



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

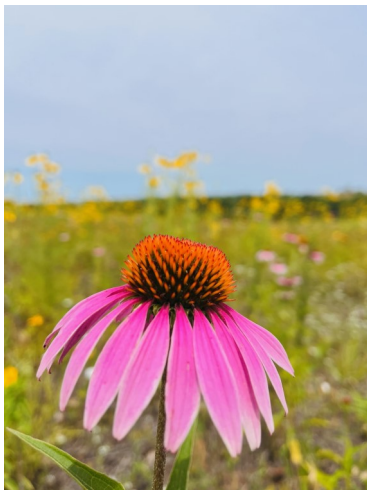
Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

April - June 2023

CRP In Full Swing

April saw the closing of the CRP general signup and the beginning of planning preparation. In Ray County, sign-up 60 had 25 offers accepted, and 29 offers for sign-up 59. Caldwell County had 33 offers accepted for sign-up 60 and another 35 offers for sign-up 59. CRP planning has been underway. To date, I have had involvement with planning of 23 CRP offers by preparing job sheets, seed sheets, and mid contract maintenance practice information. There will be more planning to come in the following Quarter.

This is also the time of year that we perform our status reviews and checkouts for CRP. We check CRP fields that are expiring in September of 2024 and also check on the status of new plantings to ensure what was planted is the same as what is currently growing. This quarter, I have completed 37 of these status reviews/checkouts. Expiring checks that need to be done this year are all continuous offers from 10 years ago. A high majority of them have HELI contracts with some other practices such as filter strips, SAFE contracts, and waterway contracts in the mix. I have been impressed with the higher forb density with this years' checks as compared to last year. There seems to be a lot more forbs expressing themselves this year than last.



Photos of pollinator plot within Ray County. From left to right: Purple Cone flower, the overall view of pollinator plot, Wild Bergamot



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

April - June 2023

Training and Outreach

This Quarter I attended two trainings. The first was for Soil Health and Sustainability. This training was geared towards crop land and grasslands for hay/pasture. It provided me another tool to keep in my back pocket when talking with landowners. Completion of this training put me one step closer to completing my Level 3 Planner Certification. The second training I attended was Bobwhite Bootcamp. This was held in Carrolton, MO this year and was a great experience for continuing education on and increasing knowledge on quail habitat. It was also a great chance to meet biologists from other states and pick their brain on quail habitat in their states.

On April 29th, I went to Arrow Rock, MO to give a presentation on habitat with Farm Bill Biologist Jonathan Dew, as well as to help other Quail Forever staff in hosting a booth. There were 34 participants in our presentation. Five minutes from the start of the presentation as a couple of the last individuals came in, We noticed that half of those present were children under the age of 12. This lead to me successfully pivoting my part of the presentation to cater to a younger audience. After the presentation while working the booth, we received several compliments from attendees in regards to the overall presentation and its ability to resonate with both an adult and young audience.



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Grazing Lands Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

April– June 2023

Position Update

In May 2023, I filled the vacant role of the Coordinating Grazing Lands Biologist position. I work out of the Ozark NRCS Field Office and for my first report I would like to give some background on myself. I was raised on my family's dairy farm in Dade county Missouri and developed a passion for the stewardship of the land and the animals on it. My time on the dairy farm gave me a knowledge of rotational grazing and pasture management. I graduated from College of the Ozarks with a Bachelors of Science in Ecology and Field Biology. In college, I worked with the USDA Wildlife Services and my passion for the outdoors and managing wildlife continued to grow.

Starting Something New!

Starting a new job can be intimidating and exciting all at the same time. Thankfully, I have been surrounded by a good team of people from QF/PF, NRCS, and MDC that have made taking this position a very enjoyable transition. I have been able to attend some great trainings including a Native Warm Season Grasses Management training in Dade County, Missouri and an Invasives Species training in Columbia, Missouri. This first couple of months, I have worked with landowners in establishment and preparation practices of NWSG and managing the grass through the application of rotational grazing. I have been fortunate to find landowners eager to discuss NWSG management practices which not only benefit the land and their cattle, but also benefit their local quail populations. This has been unexpected but welcomed. I have enjoyed getting to use my agricultural background to assist producers and am grateful for the opportunity to learn new things as well as build lasting partnerships with those around me. I look forward to continuing to expand my knowledge and grow my passion for the outdoors! If you have any questions about managing native warm season grasses please feel free to reach out to me at the contact information listed below.



This photo was taken July 13, 2023 of same Native Warm Season Grass that has been resting.

Conservation Planning

- 4 Landowner Contacts
- 6 Site Visits
- 3 Grazing Plans

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Grazing Lands Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

April – June 2023

Native Warm Season Grass in Dade County



This photo was taken in July 2023 of a stand of native warm season grasses that had been recently grazed. You can clearly see how native warm season grasses form clumps in this image and the bare ground present which is crucial for brood rearing habitat for ground nesting birds including quail and turkey.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Invasive Species Training	This training was held in Columbia, Missouri and was a mix of classroom time and field time. We learned to identify multiple invasive species in Missouri including bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and autumn olive.
Common Forb ID Training	This specific workshop provided an opportunity for us to practice our identification of both native and non-native forbs that are present in Missouri. We spent a lot of time in the field discussing the identifying features of the forbs we came across.
Forage Plant ID Training	Bill White led this training where he taught us techniques used to identify both native and non-native warm and cool season grasses.
Native Warm Season Grasses Management Field Day	In July, I attended a field day at Drexel Atkisson's farm in Dade County Missouri. Drexel has multiple pastures in native warm season grasses and has grazed them for many years now. We learned about the stocking rates, grazing duration and rotations, and establishment techniques that have been successful on Drexel's farm.

@MissouriQF

Missouri Quail Forever

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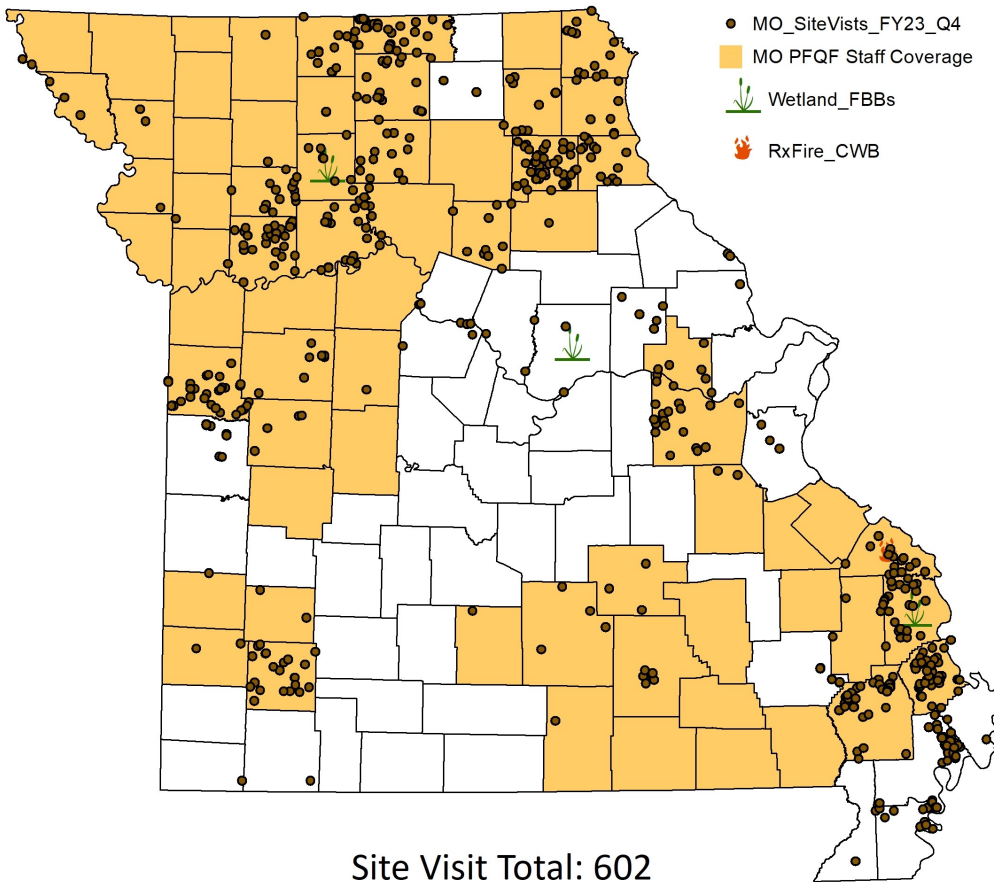
Coordinating Grazing Biologist
Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

April – June 2023

**MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
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Updated 7/13/2023



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Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties
April—June 2023



Spreading the Word About Invasive Species

This quarter I got to attend several outreach events to talk about invasive plants and the importance of planting native. At the Echo Bluff Bird Festival, I got to emphasize the important part native plants play in providing habitat and resources for Missouri's birds versus how their invasive counterparts can be detrimental to their health and safety. The Pollinator Festival at Maramec Spring Park featuring many organizations showcasing Missouri's pollinators. I shared the message of how invasives can throw a wrench in pollination cycles as well as prevent valuable host plants from declining from invasive plant encroachment. I got to visit with over 150 people on the importance of planting native, which was amazing! Kids also got to make a fun craft and take home a packet of native seeds to

plant to provide more habitat and food for our pollinators.



WE ARE MOBILE!

The SRISP now has its own work truck! We want to thank our partner Quail Forever for assisting us in procuring the truck so we can continue to do great work!

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Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



**Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell
April—June 2023 Counties**



Continuing Invasive Treatments on Roadways

The photo above was taken at Chalk Bluff, one of the iconic scenes along the Jack’s Fork River in the Missouri Scenic Riverways. This is just one the of the great views I get to see when I’m traveling the remote county roads in Shannon county. Last year, the SRISP completed roughly 25 miles of invasive plant treatments along county roads in the Scenic Riverways area. This year, 26 miles have already been completed, almost all of those miles being second-year treatments following last year’s. The invasive plants found on these roadsides have already greatly diminished since last year. New roads have also been slated for treatment this year, bringing the total goal to 60 miles of right-of-ways treated within the SRISP area. Forest Service roads are also on the docket this year to be treated, making the connected network of roads being treated for invasive species span more than three counties. With the help of MoDOT, the Department of Conservation, and the US Forest Service, hundreds of miles of roads will be treated for invasive species this year, making a huge impact on how invasive species can spread within the Scenic Rivers Region.



Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report

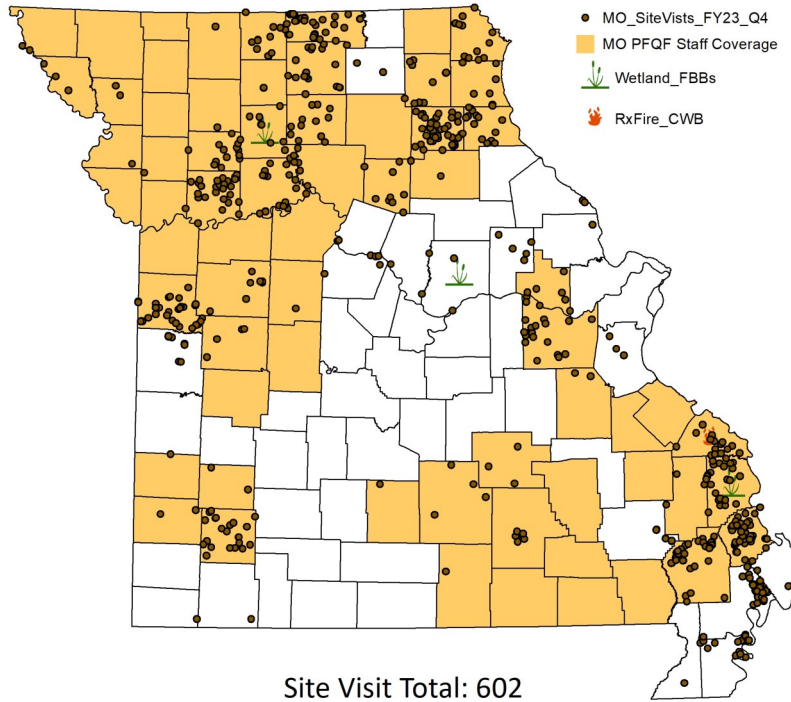


**Valarie Kurre- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell
April—June 2023 Counties**

Outreach Event	Sum of Total Attendees (#) (Event) (Event)
Bird Festival at Echo Bluff State Park	26
Pollinator Festival at Maramec Spring Park	200
Grand Total	226

Habitat Management Completed 63.8 aces

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT April 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 7/13/2023



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Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



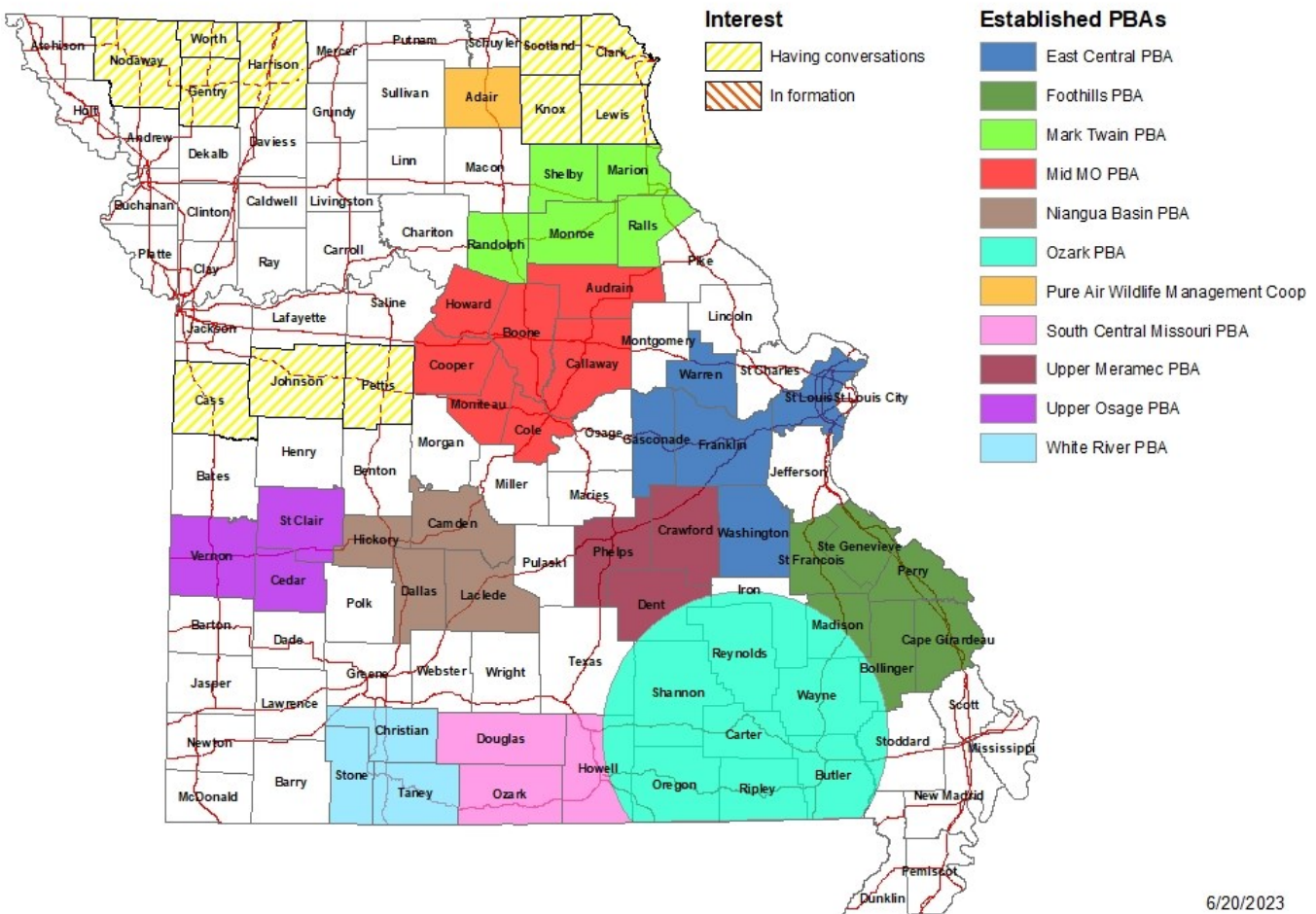
Wes Buchheit - Missouri

April - June 2023

Upper Meramec PBA Formed

The Upper Meramec PBA formed to work within Crawford, Dent, and Phelps counties and into adjacent counties. This group started out with a few neighbors helping each other with prescribed burns but wanted to reach out a bit further. Joe Heller, Crawford County landowner and now Upper Meramec PBA President, reached out to the MPFC with an ask to connect with others in the area. As website visitors from the surrounding area emailed the MPFC, we shared Joe's contact info with them in case they had an interest in helping or receiving help on burns. They began collaborative burning during the winter and into early spring as we planned the May PBA Formation Meeting in Steelville, MO. The 49 meeting attendees learned about the PBA benefits and formation process and the PBA took form. Nine of those volunteered to work as a board to get the PBA up and burning with projects already lined up!

Missouri Prescribed Burn Associations





Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

April - June 2023

Expanding the burn season

When someone mentions the “burn season”, most think of February, March, and squeezing into April. That is a time of year when most plants are dormant, fuels are receptive, and Missouri generally experiences the increasing trend of sunny days and lower relative humidities. It is a time when we anticipate windows of weather we know we can conduct prescribed fire. There is a lot of burning that occurs during this time, and as a result, it can be a hectic time trying to capitalize on each burn window. Invariably, time runs out and some burns get pushed until the next burn season.

We're now in the middle of summer when some may not be actively thinking about prescribed burning and their next burns on the to-do list, but their next burn window may be sooner than the conventional thought. You may have, like many across the state, a field overrun with sericea lespedeza with little native plant composition. Late August and early September can be a favorable time to burn to negatively impact the sericea plant, limit seed production, and set the stage for follow-up herbicide application either the current growing season or the following.



Above: A late-September fire carried through this sumac colony.

Conservation Planning

- 35 Landowner Contacts
- 4 Site Visits
- 434.9 Acres Impacted
- 8 Burn Plans Developed/Reviewed
- 6 Workshops/Webinars/Meetings Hosted
- 122 Meeting Attendees

Fall is another window to look at prescribed burning. Missouri's pre-European settlement fire history saw more fires occurring in the fall of the year than our current “burn season” mindset. Research from Kansas and Oklahoma found that fall burning (September-November) of the prairie limited the expansion of woody cover including smooth sumac.

Continued ->



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

April - June 2023

Expanding the burn season, continued

The timing, or seasonality, of the burn should always be factoring in the question, what are my goals and objectives of the burn? This includes, will I have a positive outcome for the species I want to promote while keeping the detrimental impacts to those species or non-target species below an acceptable threshold. These are vague questions, as most answers in prescribed burning are "it depends", but these are questions to always keep in the



Above: Grasses growing and providing wildlife cover into the winter following an October burn.

forefront when planning. Burning during the growing season (spring, summer, and fall) poses harm to animals and actively growing plants. Some of which may not be able to escape the heat or smoke of the burn. In these cases, the burner must answer the questions above. To potentially mitigate the negative impacts from outweighing the positive, maybe the size of the burn is reduced to reduce the impact. The 400 acre burn may be reduced to 200 acres to leave intact habitat as refuge or a source of that same community type. The dynamic nature of prescribed burning and it's impacts to the resources lead to the recommendation of talking with other land managers and fire practitioners. Share knowledge, experiences, and data to further learn and adapt practices.

The long and short of this piece is to forget the term "burn season". Consider prescribed burning year round, if and only if, you can safely conduct the burn and meet the land management goals. If you can meet your goals with a fall burn, plan and prepare for that



timing. If the stars don't align and the burn is not completed, then be ready for the winter and so on. Have your plans and preparations completed so that you can burn at the next opportunity so that we don't miss windows and therefore keep kicking those habitat improvements down the calendar for another day.

Right: This top-killed sapling is depleting root reserves following an October burn.

Wes Buchheit
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Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

April - June 2023

Training/Meeting	Outcome
Steelville PBA Formation Meeting	Attendees learned about PBA benefits and functions resulting in the formation of the Upper Meramec PBA.
Niangua Basin PBA Board Meeting and Membership Meeting	Assisted the PBA in pursuing equipment grants and providing resources to build the PBA membership.
South Central Missouri PBA Operations Committee Meeting	Provided recommendations to the PBA in training standards and prescribed burn guidelines to result in safe and efficient prescribed burns.
South Central Missouri PBA Membership Meeting	Attended the meeting to support this PBA in building membership and lining up projects and training opportunities for this fall.
Northeast Missouri PBA Exploratory Meeting	Assisted QF staff in introducing the PBA concept and opportunity with partners and landowners in Knox, Lewis, Clark, and Scotland counties.

Northeast-Midwest Prescribed Fire Science and Management Workshop

AUG. 29-31, 2023 MADISON, WI



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

We are pleased to share the program schedule (subject to change, only slightly)

Pre-Workshop Training: LSFSC Smoke TOOLS Workshop

DAY 1: THEME: Welcome to Wisconsin! Tribal Session, Fire Liability Insurance, Prescribed Fire Councils and Prescribed Burn Associations

DAY 2: THEME: Tools & Technology, Ecosystems & Ecology, Applied Research and Management Practices

DAY 3: THEME: Collaborative Planning, Resource Sharing, Communication Strategies, Contingency Planning, Fire Training, CPBM Programs

Missouri Prescribed Fire Council

Promoting and protecting the responsible use of prescribed fire - moprescribedfire.org

- Prescribed Burn Associations
- Log Your Burn
- Log Your Burn Data Summaries
- Law & Liability
- Contractor List
- Weather Resources
- Calendar of Events
- Grant Applications
- Contact Us



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

April-June 2023

Summer Interns

During the summer of 2022 Missouri Quail Forever (QF) hired three interns to help with the large number of status reviews that needed to be completed on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This was accomplished by partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who were so impressed by the interns' accomplishments they partnered to hire nine interns for the summer of 2023. The nine interns that were hired were paired with Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (FBWB) scattered across the state and began working with the team in late May.

The interns began their summer by attending a two day training in Columbia, MO. During this training, the FBWB team, with help from NRCS staff, taught the group of interns about how to identify common grasses and forbs. The focus of this plant ID training was to show them common plant species they would encounter during CRP field reviews.



Landowners learning about pollinator habitat in Franklin county.

Photo Credit: Elizabeth Egan

Trainings/Meetings/Outreach	Outcome
Master Gardeners Club—Basics of Prescribed Fire	Presented to the local Master Gardeners Club on the basics of prescribed fire ecology and implementation.
Warren County SWCD Farm Tour	Presented on the benefits of pollinators and pollinator habitat to 4th grade students from Warren county schools.
Rotary Club International Pollinator Talk	Presented on the benefits of pollinators and pollinator habitat to members of Rotary Club International during their district conference in New Haven, MO
MDC Private Lands Team Meeting	Connected with MDC's PLC's and received updates from private lands leadership.
4-H Conservation Group Talk	Talked with 4-H members on the benefits of pollinators and their habitat along with general wildlife habitat management practices
Crawford County PBA Start Meeting	Attend as a resource to discuss the benefits of a PBA based on experience with the ECPBA.
Intern Training—Columbia, MO	Helped with onboarding and training of the summer interns recently hired by the MO QF team
Habitat Management on Small Acreages	Assisted MDC with a workshop that focused on the management of small acre properties for wildlife.
Quail Habitat Management Field Tour	Assisted with a field tour highlighting quail management practices in the Boeuf-Bourbeuse QRL
Pollinator Habitat Tour	Presented information to landowners on pollinator habitat and looked at established pollinator plots on a Franklin county landowner's property



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

April-June 2023

Summer Interns Cont.

This summer's CRP workload is much lower than it was during the summer of 2022. This has given the interns a better opportunity to spend time with partner staff from NRCS and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). While it would be great to inspire them to become the next FBWBs with QF, it's important, as young conservation professionals, they see what other options might be out there for someone in this field. So far this summer they have looked at a lot of CRP and will get even more work done before the internship program wraps up in mid-August.



FBWBs leading plant ID training for the group of summer interns.

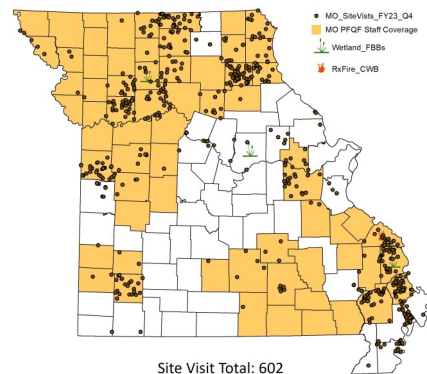
Photo credit: Kelsey DeZalia-Jenkins

Conservation Planning

- 61 landowner contacts
- 48 Site Visits
- 9 CRP Status Reviews

Practice Checkouts	Acres
Woodland Prescribed Burns	452.2
Grassland Prescribed Burns	119.6
Pollinator/Monarch Seedings	71.2
Timber Stand Improvement	72.9
Edge Feathering	1
Woody Invasive Species Removal	12.7
Old Field Restoration	4.2
Total	733.8

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT April 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.
Updated 7/13/2023



Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the National Resources Conservation Service.

Looking Forward

- Assist NRCS in completing Continuous and General CRP Conservation Plans
- Develop project plans and cost-share agreements for FY24 LCAP and HCG projects
- Work with local vendors to spend NWTFF Superfund grant to have a broadcast seeder built to be used by local landowners.
- Complete site visits on expiring and new established CRP contracts.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.

Wesley Hanks
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