



# PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FOREVER

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## NEWS RELEASE



## New Prescribed Burn Association in central Missouri gaining momentum and improving habitat

Mid MO PBA to work in Boone and surrounding counties



**COLUMBIA, Mo. – December 20, 2022** – The Mid MO Prescribed Burn Association was formed in October with a mission to help central Missouri landowners overcome hurdles that limit the use of prescribed burning: lack of experience, training, equipment and, most of all, peoplepower to help conduct the burn.

Prescribed fire is an affordable and effective tool for accomplishing land-management goals. It can reduce fuel loads to lessen the intensity and chance of wildfire, help restore native plant communities, enhance wildlife habitat, improve livestock forage production, regenerate merchantable trees, and control invasive species.

The responsible use of fire can benefit both people and land resources, especially when community members join forces through a Prescribed Burn Association (PBA). A PBA is a group of landowners and other community members who come together to conduct prescribed burns more effectively and safely. Operating with a neighbor-helping-neighbor approach to prescribed burning, members pool their knowledge, experience, equipment, and peoplepower to help others in their association conduct safe prescribed burns. The Mid MO PBA is currently working in parts of Boone and surrounding counties as interest dictates.

The Mid MO PBA is led by a board of directors and those leaders have been successful in helping the PBA hit the ground running. They worked quickly to build partnerships with the Missouri Dept. of Conservation (MDC) and Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri, and one of their first accomplishments was to match funds from the Mid Mo Uplanders Chapter of Quail Forever in an awarded Superfund Grant from the National Wild Turkey Federation that allowed them to begin acquiring the proper equipment for safe burning and an enclosed trailer to house those tools.



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Equipment in the prescribed burn trailer includes drip torches, hand tools, blowers, hard hats, an ATV sprayer, a Kestrel weather station, and more. There were also donations of pagers and radios from the Cooper County Fire Protection District, Fire Chief David Gehm, and Cooper County Emergency Management Agency.

“We wanted to form the Prescribed Burn Association because of the growing interest from landowners in central Missouri to use prescribed fire on their properties to create wildlife-friendly habitat,” stated Ryan Lueckenhoff, MDC Community and Private Land Conservationist. “I’m excited to help this PBA conduct more prescribed fire in our area.”

“We had a good turnout at our first all member meeting on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>,” Lueckenhoff continued. “We discussed membership requirements, PBA by-laws, showcased available equipment and went over protocols for conducting prescribed burns through the PBA.” The Mid MO PBA is looking to expand membership to 50 members and will begin coordinating burns this winter and spring as landowners get prescribed burn units ready. “The next all member meeting will be in summer 2023 to recap our first year, discuss future training opportunities and equipment needs, accept new member applications and to start planning for future prescribed burns within the group.”

“This group of passionate conservationists and prescribed fire enthusiasts have accomplished much in a little bit of time,” said Wes Buchheit, Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist. “Their momentum continues to build for improving habitat on the landscape in a safe and effective manner.”

Current membership consists of 35 landowners and community members and is growing as word of the Mid MO PBA continues to spread. Members can receive assistance with burns on their property after paying \$25 annual dues, having once attended a recognized prescribed burn training, having a written burn plan for the project, and participating in 2 PBA burns. If you are interested in learning more about or becoming a member of the Mid MO PBA, please email [midmoprescribedfire@gmail.com](mailto:midmoprescribedfire@gmail.com) and a chapter officer or executive board member will contact you. You may also like and follow them on Facebook @MidMOPBA. Learn more about Prescribed Burn Associations and find more general information about prescribed fire in Missouri at the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council website: [moprescribedfire.org](http://moprescribedfire.org).

### About Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

[Pheasants Forever](#), including its quail conservation division — [Quail Forever](#) — is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever have more than 138,000 members and 750 local chapters across the United States and Canada. Since creation in 1982, Pheasants Forever has spent over \$1 billion on 567,500 habitat projects benefiting 22 million acres nationwide. Visit the [Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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