

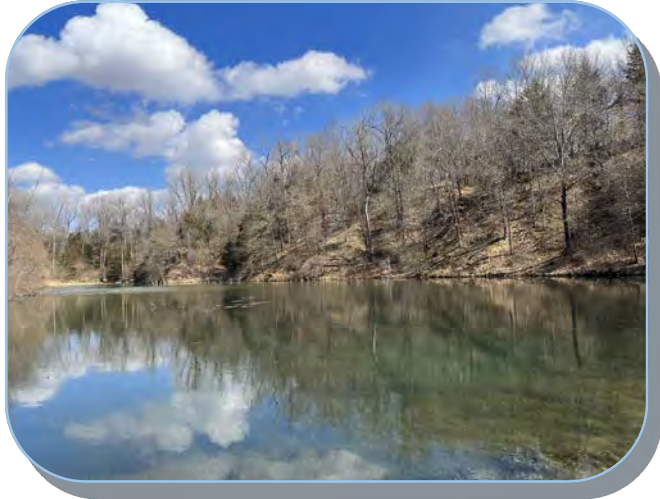


Position Update

I started as a Farm Bill Biologist—Wetland Specialist mid-February, and, since then, we have hit the ground running. This spring, the Wetland Emphasis Team (WET) out of Fulton, MO has been working hard in the field conducting topographic surveys and easement boundary assessments for upcoming repairs and restorations of wetland systems. Working on our easements during this time of year is especially rewarding. We get to see the abundant array of wildlife using the sites. In addition, I have begun building relationships with our current landowners and meeting new landowners. I've also had the privilege these past couple months to meet and learn from a lot of the Pheasant/Quail Forever team, as well as our co-workers and partners within NRCS and MDC. I am very excited to get busy this summer and do some work in the wetlands!



Trumpeter Swans and Canada Geese enjoying a warm, sunny day on one of our Clark county easements while we surveyed berms and water control structures



Lunchtime views in this wood duck hole in Randolph county

Springtime in the WETlands

As temperatures warm up, we've been able to spend more time out in the field answering landowners' requests to meet on-site to assess the condition of their wetland and learn more about how to manage their wetlands for, not only longevity, but also to attract wildlife. We've been emphasizing the importance of mowing and prescribed fire to control unwanted vegetation and to promote desired grasses. In addition, we encourage landowners to control muskrat and beaver activity to reduce structure and berm damage.

We've been documenting damages, and wetland function, via topographic surveys. I've enjoyed getting hands on experience with the survey data, mapping and visualizing the best designs for these wetlands. Back in the office, Compatible Use Agreements (CUAs) are rapidly being renewed. The team and I have been updating these documents and keeping in touch with landowners to encourage them to actively manage their wetland and its flooding regime.



Overlooking a Randolph county easement





Moving Forward

- Finalize the new 2022 easement acquisitions
- Continue to stay in touch with our existing landowners and help with any questions
- Begin implementing wetland restorations and repairs
- Build on my knowledge of these systems and the processes that go into keeping them functioning naturally and productively
- Get involved with my local PFQF chapter, the Mid MO Uplanders, to promote public participation in wildlife and habitat conservation

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning

- 10 Landowner Contacts
- 10 Site Visits
- 4 topographic surveys completed
- 1 wetland conceptual design

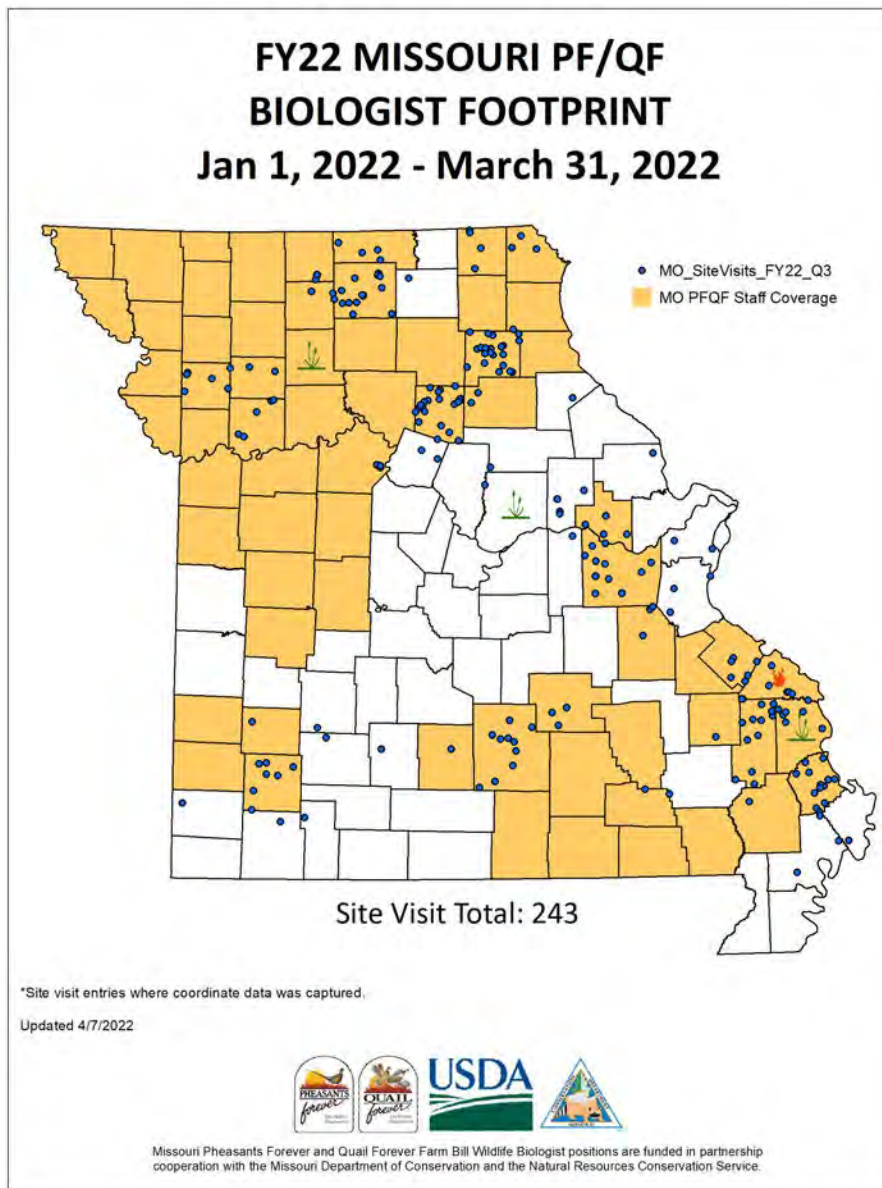
Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Statewide CRP Webinar	Participated in an educational webinar open to landowners interested in how the CRP process works, the different options they have, how to apply and become a strong candidate for acceptance into the program, and the conservation benefits associated
Farmers, Woodlands, and Wildlife workshop	Received a better understanding of natural resource management, particularly for producers owning a mixed landscape of fields and woodlands and provide tools for fielding questions they may have from producers about various aspects of woodland and wildlife management.
Fire Management Training	Built on knowledge of how to use prescribed fire as a land management tool





Third Quarter of FY22

From Jan 1, 2022 to Mar 31, 2022, our team recorded 701 landowner contacts and 243 site visits working in 74 counties. The team impacted 6,158 acres. Outreach efforts reached 1523 participants through workshops, meetings, and trainings.





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

January–March 2022

Activity Highlights

Conservation Planning

Landowner Contacts	107
Site Visits	32
Projects with Acres	36

Partner Meetings/Trainings

- New Employee On-Boarding
- MoBCI Steering Committee Meeting

Outreach Misc.

- Statewide CRP Webinar
- Landowner CRP Meeting
- Prescribed Burn Workshop
- Sugar Creek NWQI Meeting
- Quail Focus Area Professional Meeting
- Missouri Farmers Care Podcast

Chapter / PBA Activities

QF Monthly Meetings	5
MTPBA Burns	2
MTPBA Meeting	1

Total Acres Impacted: 1,738 acres



Making a Difference

What a wonderful way to spend a Wednesday. The Mark Twain Prescribed Burn associated hit the ground running this year. 85 acres were impacted on this particular day. The conditions were just right, the preparations were flawless, and the group of people couldn't have been better.

These landowners helping landowners are excited to put fire on the ground in Missouri again this year. Managing acre by acre, these folks have a mission to create better habitat, conserve the land, and help each other do it! I can't wait to see what all they accomplish the rest of the year.



Tis the Season to Plant Pollinators

As the winds calmed and a fresh blanket of snow covered the county, it was the perfect moment to plant her wildflower and native grass mix. Using a small hand seeder, Debbie mixed mini pine flakes with her seed at a 1:1 ratio to spread the seed uniformly over the half acre plot. This particular field was overgrown in cool season grasses that had encroached after a grain food plot had been left idle. The existing vegetation was sprayed with herbicide in the late fall and a prescribed fire was used to remove most of the residue before planting this February. Many landowners took advantage of the great dormant planting conditions and now patiently await the first growing season.



Debbie expects to see her annual species bloom this year while only observing the basal leaves of her perennial species. Since many of the perennial species exert energy developing roots at this time, they will not bloom until the second growing season. She intends to mow several times this year, giving these perennials an advantage over annual weeds and any other encroachment she finds within the plot. By the third growing season, the plot will be mature and thriving, offering critical habitat for quail, native bees and butterflies, and other wildlife.

Youth Pollinator Day

What a way to make an impact. March 17th, Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever staff, Kim Cole, Lisa McBrayer, and I had an exciting day with a youth group out of Columbia. The **Mid MO Uplander Chapter** and **MDC's Ryan Lueckenhoff** made a memorable day for these youngsters. A wide variety of activities were offered and a pollinator plot was seeded at **AL Gustin Golf Course**. The kids enjoyed a fun outdoor experience that they will remember.



NWQI Meeting

On March 28th the **Randolph County SWCD, NRCS, MDC, and QF/PF** partnered to host an informational meeting about the Sugar Creek National Water Quality Initiative Project targeting the Sugar Creek Watershed. This is an opportunity for landowners to request funding for conservation projects in advance, so that funding may be secured. **Mark Twain Quail Forever**, who consistently supports local conservation efforts, helped to cover the expense of this meeting to further engage with the community about important conservation practices.





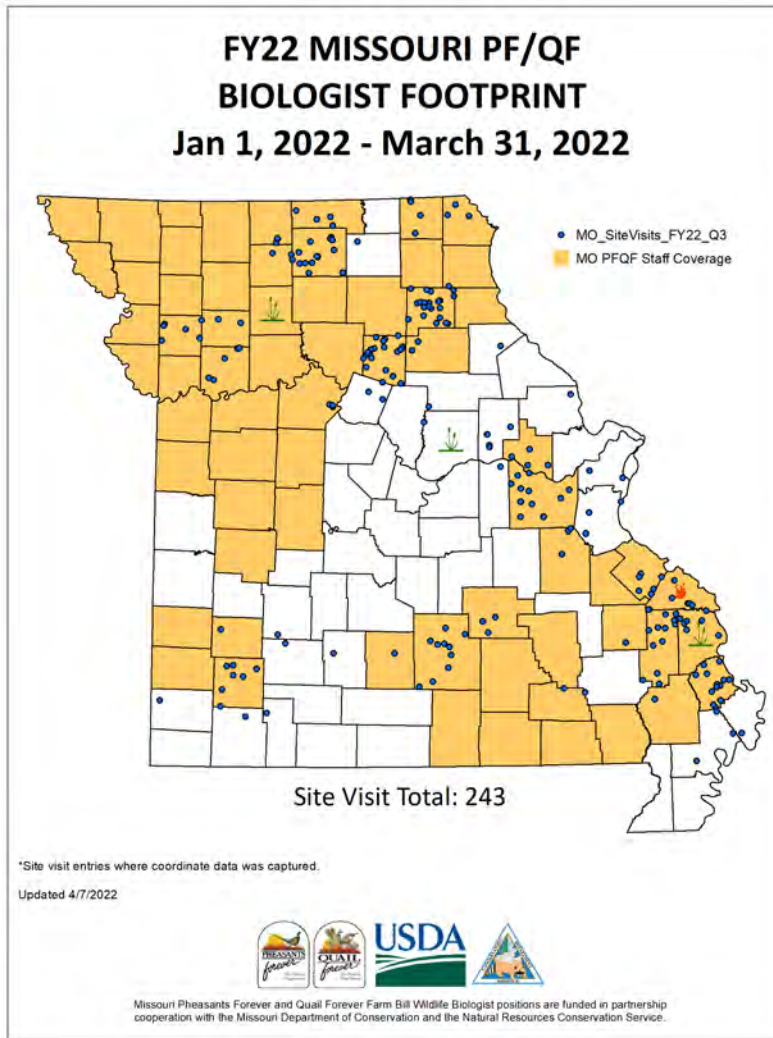
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

January–March 2022



Upcoming...

- Assist with upcoming QF/PF MO State Meeting and attend National Meeting
- Lead MTPBA prescribed fire communications
- Assist hosting a Women Caring for the Land Workshop and Tour
- Write CRP plans for SU57&58 offers
- Coordinate outreach within the QRL to expand habitat improvements.
- Collaborate with local staff to gauge interest in the NWQI Project
- Continue to support local chapters in upcoming events and projects
- Host staff training for field ID and planning operations

CONNECT WITH US!

@MissouriQF Missouri Quail Forever

MissouriPFQF.org

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

Courtney Nicks
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

Moberly USDA Office
2995 County Rd. 1325
Moberly, MO 65270

m. 573-694-5316
P. 573-633-2211 x112
cnicks@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

Jan.—March 2022

Assessing Site Potential for Habitat Restoration

As Farm Bill biologists, we must possess diverse knowledge of natural resources conservation – plant and wildlife ecology, habitat management techniques, cost-share programming, and understanding social and economic drivers of private land use – to name a few. While some of these fluencies can be reached through study, most are earned through observation, trial, and no shortage of error. Learning how to accurately assess a site, including its history, current state, and restoration potential, is a perfect example.

One of my favorite roles in this position is that of the detective. Every acre has a story to tell, and the better we are at discovering and conveying a picture of what it once was, and could again be, the greater our success in convincing landowners to accept the endeavor. Our Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guides are a great tool for assessing current conditions and identifying absent habitat components, but they lack the power to guide the nuanced recovery of said components. For that, we must rely on background research, keen field observations, and our powers of deduction.

Prior to each site visit, we sift through as many map layers as we can find: plat books, topographic maps, ecological site descriptions, soils and geological inventories, historic aerials and current satellite. Each help us to lay a foundation on which to build upon in the field. Then, once on the ground, we are often treated to the landowner's retelling of the known history of their site – another great pleasure of the job. In the absence of such knowledge, it's up to the existing plants to tell the story.

Large, broad-crowned white oaks within a forest, commonly referred to as "wolf trees", hint at an open-grown past where sunlight competition wasn't as fierce. If the understory below them is dominated by gooseberries, buckbrush, and invasives like perilla mint and multiflora rose, a history of intensive livestock grazing is implicated.



Conservative species like this Downy Blue Gentian can give clues to the history and restoration potential of a site.

Conservation at a Glance

- 68 Landowner Contacts
- 15 Site Visits
- 15 EQIP Assessments & Rankings
- 5 Outreach Events, 440 People

Continued —>



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

Jan.—March 2022

Assessing Site Potential for Habitat Restoration

Conversely, scattered sprigs of woodland brome, dittany, hog peanut, and tick-trefoils can inform us that canopy thinning and prescribed fire might be all that is needed to resurrect a full complement of open woodland/prairie plants. And the same tells exist in pastures, hay land, and old fields – thinner, rockier soils might reveal bluestems and sideoats in an otherwise fescue-dominated pasture, or prairie clovers and downy gentian might be hiding in the thatch and briars of an old-field, indicating the site had likely never been cultivated, and might be harboring additional remnants waiting for an opportunity to grow.

But not all sites exhibit these indications that restoration is feasible; some farms are simply worn out. In cases where we believe the native seed bed to be completely exhausted, we need to start from scratch, and again use field observations to devise a strategy for successful “reconstruction”. Recent mowing might obscure the existing vegetation growing in a hay field a landowner wants to convert, but a glance at an adjacent fencerow choked with sericea lespedeza and johnsongrass is a good indication that a year or two of row-cropping might be needed to alleviate the invasive pressure that likely exists in the field. Similarly, a shady

hillside pasture slated for conversion likely has a history of cattle loafing, and might warrant including cover crops in the plan to break some of the soil compaction and remove excess nutrients.



Old Fields like this often harbor remnant prairie plants that can be resurrected through management activities.

This year’s Lawrence County EQIP applications represent this full range of starting conditions, and I’m excited to see what we can accomplish with them. I spent much of this last quarter assessing and ranking numerous reconstruction plantings and management-based remnant restorations. Included among our pre-approvals is roughly 200 acres of remnant prairie restoration utilizing prescribed fire, herbaceous weed control, and brush management, over 40 acres of woodland restoration utilizing forest stand improvement and prescribed fire, and nearly 60 acres of wet-prairie reconstruction utilizing a combination of native shrub plantings and high-diversity native grass and forb seedings. Some adaptive management and plenty of patience will show us what our efforts can yield!



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

Jan.—March 2022

Outreach & Education

Spring River QF Youth Pollinator Day

Of the many ways Quail Forever chapters choose to improve wildlife habitat and serve their local communities, my favorite has to be youth pollinator events. No other activity brings all of our organizational mission into one event quite like it. This March, our local Spring River QF chapter partnered with Liberty Utilities to plant 1.7 acres of diverse native forbs and grasses at a Liberty sub station near a heavily-trafficked intersection in Joplin. The area that was formerly tall fescue and johnsongrass, was sprayed three times last growing season, harrowed to break up the thatch just prior to seeding, and was broadcast with a mix of over 30 native wildflower species. Approximately 100 second graders from a nearby school in Neosho were treated to various educational activities prior to seeding the plot themselves. Passerbys will soon be treated to a bunch of showy blooms in the middle of town, and a sign pointing them toward the Spring River chapter and Liberty's Wires Over Wildlife program if they would like to get involved or learn more.



Members of the Spring River Quail Forever chapter and Liberty Utilities pose with a group of second grade students from George Washington Carver Elementary at a youth pollinator day in Joplin in early March

Other Outreach

- ◆ Presented information on native forages and patch-burn grazing as an exhibitor at the Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference
- ◆ Presented to the Ozark Beekeepers Association on establishing native wildflowers for use by honey bees and native pollinators
- ◆ Guided a habitat tour showcasing elements of good quail and pheasant nesting, brood-rearing, and escape cover for a Women on the Wing event near Stark City

Ethan Kleekamp
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, Dade

10763 State Hwy. 39
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712

(417) 466-7107; ext. 3
ekleekamp@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

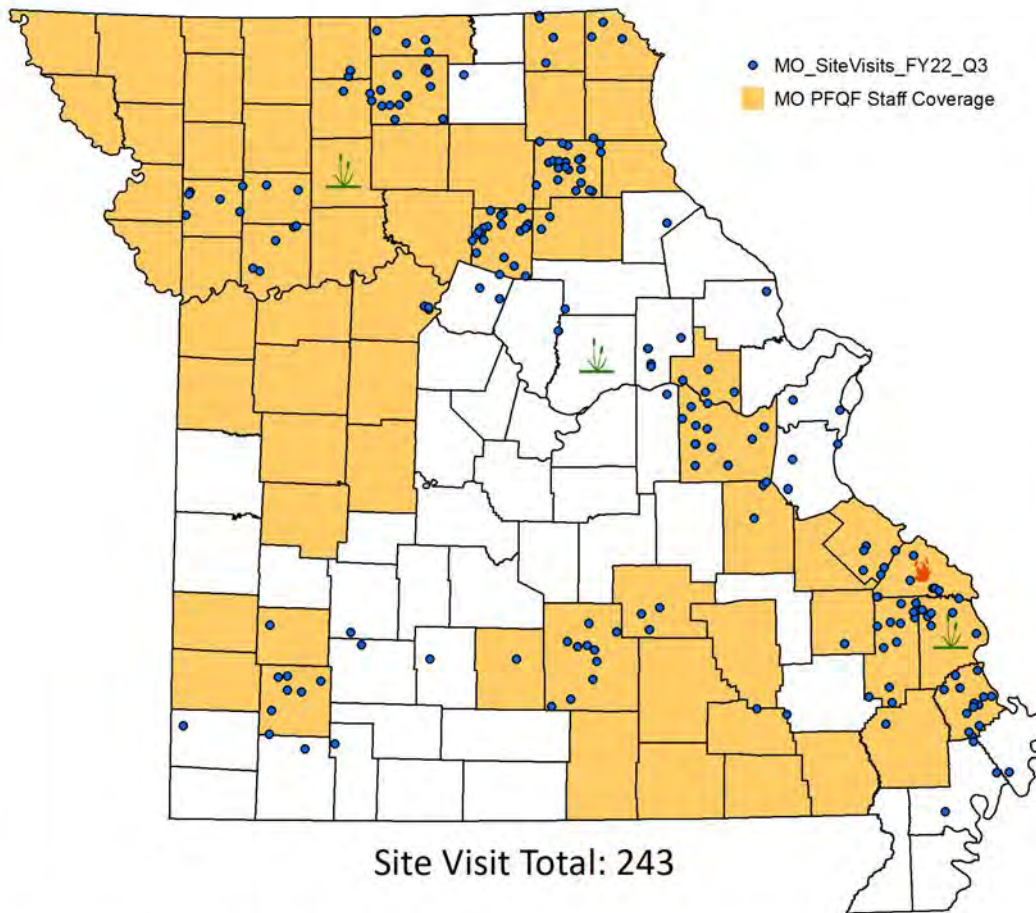
Quarterly Partners' Report



Ethan Kleekamp - Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, & Dade Counties

Jan.—March 2022

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/7/2022



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.

Ethan Kleekamp
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Lawrence, Jasper, Barton, Dade

10763 State Hwy. 39
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712

(417) 466-7107; ext. 3
ekleekamp@quailforever.org



Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard - Clark, Knox, Lewis, Scotland; Cass, Johnson, Pettis

Jan-Mar 2022

The Covey Continues Growing

This quarter brought more changes to the Missouri PF/QF team. In February, we welcomed Colby Mohler to the team. Colby is the FBBII- Wetland Specialist located in Fulton, MO covering Northeast MO. Kelsey DeZalia transferred to the FBBII-Wetland Specialist in Jackson (Southeast MO). In March, we also welcomed Logan Baum, FBBII, to the Richmond position. Wes Buchheit took a new position within the team as the New Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist covering the whole state. On March 14th, I started as the Senior WLFW FBB in West-Central Missouri. This new position will cover Cass, Johnson, and Pettis counties with an emphasis on improving habitat on working lands. I'm excited to be back close to family and impact habitat in the local communities.



Deer checking my work while marking trees for edge feathering.

Taste of My Own Medicine

Last quarter, I shared the pollinator and native hay project I am undertaking on family land. In January, I was able to broadcast seed the pollinator planting before snow. I mixed my seed with mini-pine flakes to act as filler and add weight so that it would move through the seeder better. After a little trial and error— I finally got the ratio correct and was able to get the 2 acres seeded easily. It snowed overnight/the next day blanketing the seed in snow. The freeze-thaw will also help push the seed into the ground. As Spring greens-up, I'm thrilled to see the field we are converting is taking a lot longer to green-up. That means less vigorous fescue! I need a few more inches of growth on the remaining fescue and I plan to spray it again before drilling the native hay this Spring. I'm looking forward to seeing the changes in wildlife habitat in the coming years.



Quarter Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 37 Landowner Contacts
- 12 Site Visits
- 62 Projects With Acres
- 28 Seed mix reviews
- 27 Habitat Plans

Total Acres Impacted: 1,309

Haley Lockard
Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

hlockard@quailforever.org



Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard

Jan– Mar 2022



Photo: Rachel Bush, PF



Photo: USDA

Commodity Classic

In March, I was honored to be part of a team from across the PF/QF organization to attend Commodity Classic in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ten Precision Ag and Conservation Specialists and Farm Bill Biologists hosted a Habitat Help Desk during the 3 day event. We talked with many farmers and industry experts about the PF/QF mission, habitat needs, and how habitat and production agriculture are mutually beneficial. Most people were surprised, but grateful, to see a conservation group in attendance. We had several good conversations with landowners and generated some contacts for local biologists when attendees returned home. The Virtual Reality experience was popular among all visitors. Participants got to explore the world from the viewpoint of pheasant chicks.

Landowner Workshops/ Tours ...

- **February 28** The Missouri PF/QF team hosted a Statewide CRP Webinar. If you missed it, check out the recording on The Missouri Quail Forever [YouTube channel](#). FBB II's [Courtney Nicks](#) and [Wesley Hanks](#) did a great job!

Trainings & Meetings...

- **January 27** Attended the Missouri Ag. Leadership Conference in Concordia, MO.
- **March 10-12** Participated in PF/QF's Habitat Help-Desk at Commodity Classic in New Orleans, LA.



Trees marked for edge feathering. Once cut, this will be instant habitat for wildlife.



Pollinator planting over-winter. See it in full-bloom at the Golf Tournament!

Connect with Us!



Haley Lockard
Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

hlockard@quailforever.org



Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard

Jan– Mar 2022

Looking Forward...

- Women Caring for the Land Conservation Program Workshop April 15 in Moberly, MO
- PF/QF All-Team Meeting May 10-12 in Minnesota
- First-Ever Missouri PFQF Golf Tournament and State Convention June 11th in Columbia. Join us!!
- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- Assist NRCS with EQIP and CSP applications and conservation planning
- Work with partners on Precision Conservation projects

YOU'RE INVITED!



Join us for a Team Scramble during the day & our Awards Ceremony and Reception that evening!

Register NOW!!
bit.ly/MOPFQFgolf

MISSOURI PFQF GOLF TOURNAMENT & STATE CONVENTION

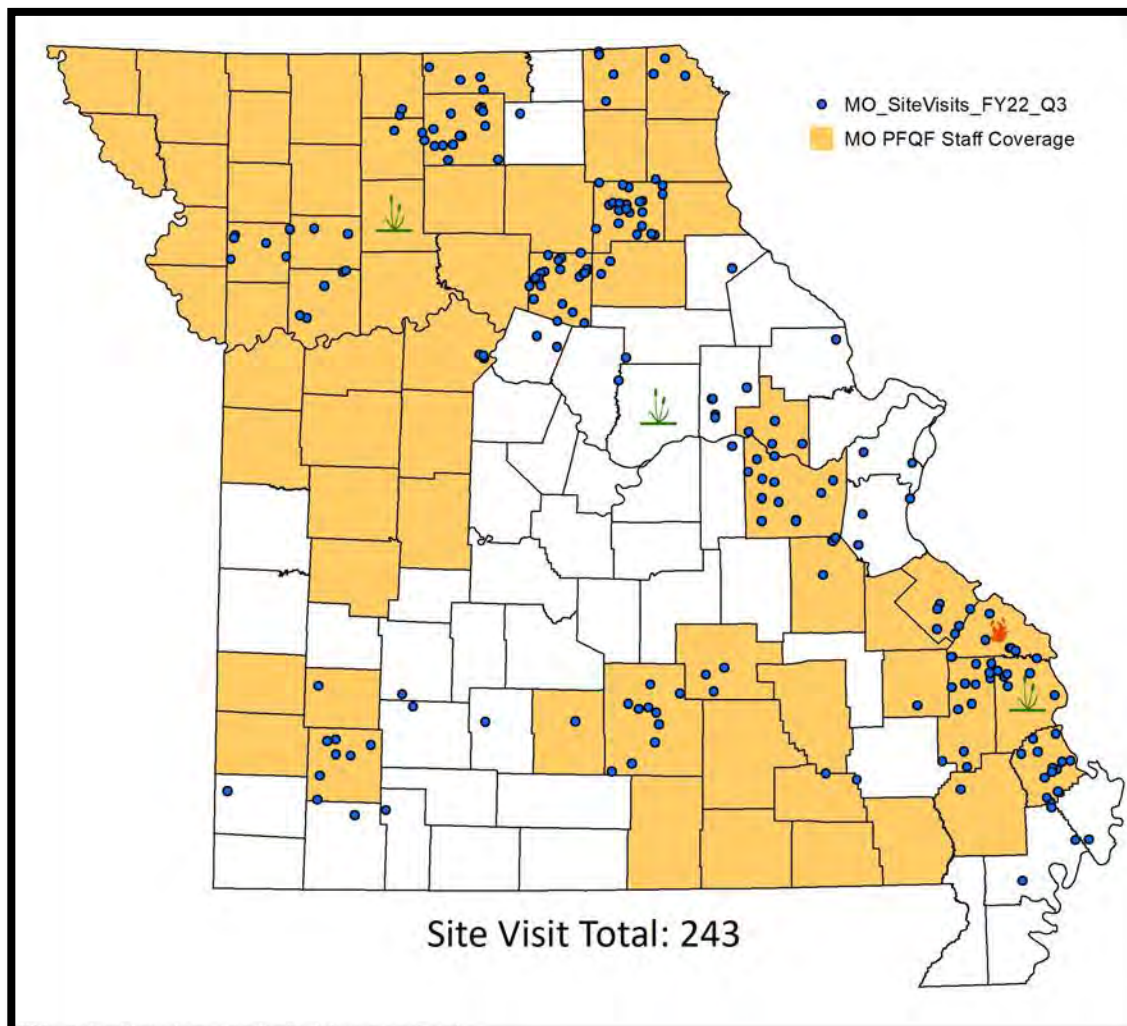
June 11th, 2022
in Columbia, MO

GOLF at Gustin Golf Course
9am Registration/10am Start

RECEPTION at Knights of Columbus
5pm Doors Open

GUSTIN G.C.

Early Bird pricing available until April 24th



Haley Lockard
Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

hlockard@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

JAN – MAR 2022

Quarterly Overview

This quarter provided several opportunities. I assisted landowners, helped the Green Hills chapter in preparation of their banquet, and traveled a little. The Green Hills chapter is having their first banquet on April 2, 2022 and we have been busy talking to sponsors and donors and coordinating the details needed to put on the banquet. The chapter has been hard at work, and I am excited to see how the banquet will go. I was able to assist landowners this quarter by helping seed native buffers and working contracts through the EQIP cost share program. I was also able to travel to Omaha, Nebraska to attend Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic. It was an incredible time seeing our national show, helping landowners from other states with their habitat questions, and listening to speakers talk about their passion for native habitat and conservation. As the weather warms up and things begin to grow, I look forward to more time in the field helping checking and implementing conservation practices.

Buffers for Wildlife.

I have a landowner in Mercer county who is an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. Several times throughout the year, he will call or email me with project ideas or asking about what else he can do on his property to benefit wildlife. Last year, we met with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist and we developed a multi-stage plan to implement conservation practices on several of the crop fields. A few of the odd fields that were hard to get to or small, he enrolled in CRP. On the edges of the other fields, where there is some significant road frontage, we planned native buffers to help save the edge for wildlife and act as a screen to discourage road hunting. We put together a cost-share plan for these buffers utilizing the EQIP program and USFWS Partners for Conservation funds. I like to leverage multiple programs on large projects like this to give the landowner some flexibility and different

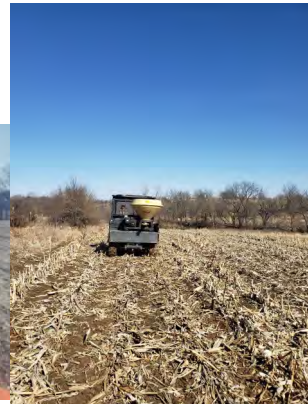


Highly Diverse, Showy, Native Seed Mix

sources/timelines of funding and project completion. Towards the end of February, Byron Mitchell, a USFWS Biologist, brought up a UTV and Vicon seeder to broadcast



USFWS UTV & Vicon Seeder



the buffers. We seeded a little over 18 acres of buffers on this property with a high diversity showy custom forb-mix that USFWS put together. Later on, the landowner will come in and seed native grasses to add another component to the buffer. While seeding, I looked at the fence row and field edges looking for areas to edge feather per the landowners request. I noticed several groups of native shrubs already established and multiple trees that would benefit the wildlife more as woody escape cover rather than a full grown tree. Later on in March, I walked the buffers with the landowners son. I pointed out trees to edge feather and shrubs that they should leave for wildlife use. Towards the end of our tour, we were both surprised to jump a covey of quail, at least 8 birds strong. They were resting in the fence row among some blackberry brambles right next to the future buffers. With all the improvements and work that the landowner and his son are doing on the property, this place will become a wildlife haven with large amounts of beneficial native habitat.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

JAN – MAR 2022

Pheasant Fest 2022

I was able to attend our premier upland convention and trade show, Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic. This event is a major outreach and fundraising event for our organization. It is a chance to connect with thousands of our members and partners. I traveled with our Missouri State Coordinator and our Missourians For Monarchs Communications Coordinator to help work the event. As a biologist, my primary job during the event was to work the Habitat Help Desk. The Help Desk is staffed with biologists from the hosting state, this year Nebraska, and the surrounding states to help answer questions and provide wildlife advice to the attendees of Pheasant Fest. Through the help desk, I helped landowners from Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and even Missouri. I answered questions, looked at management plans, and provided contact information for biologist in their state. It was a fun challenge working with and talking to folks about states that have different habitat components or wildlife species than Missouri. I believe I learned just as much and I taught.



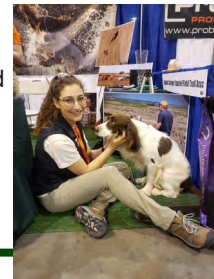
Frank Loncarich, MDC, on the Habitat Stage



Habitat Panel with CEO Howard Vincent

The Help Desk was also right next to the Habitat Stage where partners would come and talk about research or projects being conducted on the landscape. In my down time, I enjoyed listening to the talks given on the stage and learned a lot from the various speakers.

Pheasant Fest wasn't all work. I was able to tour the trade show and browse an amazing number of vendors and sponsors. There were hundreds of bird dogs & pups, multiple firearms vendors with their latest merchandise releases, and outdoor gear vendors. There were also several stages from public lands to wild game cooking that had an impressive line up of presenters. I also had a chance to connect with employees from other states that I had not seen in several years. If you have a passion for the outdoors, I highly encourage you to check out Pheasant Fest. You will certainly enjoy your time among like minded, avid, hunters and conservationist.



Our Communications Coordinator with a bird dog

Answering the Call

While at Pheasant Fest, I decided to take the leap and become a Life Member of Quail Forever. I mention this because I wanted to explain why I chose to be a life member. I did not choose to become a life member because I work for the organization. I did not decide to become a life member because of the gift that was associated with the membership. I chose to be a life member because I truly believe in this organization and what it does for conservation, wildlife, hunting, and native habitat. Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever truly does what they say they are going to do. They put their money where their mouth is and work every day to create more native habitat on the landscape. Through legislative work, donating public lands, educating future generations, and putting boot on the ground through biologists, Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever actively work to conserve our wildlife for a brighter future. For me, it's more than just the organization, it's the people. Everyone you meet at Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are passionate about what they do. From the administration support staff at the National Office in Minnesota to the chapter volunteers, every employee and member I have encountered believes in their work. If you have never attended a Quail Forever or Pheasant Forever gathering, I highly encourage you to find one and attend. The atmosphere at a gathering is that of family. Both at the state and national level I feel like I belong and I am a member of a very large diverse family. It's this atmosphere and the belief in what we are doing, that inspired me to answer the call and join Quail Forever as a life member. I have been at with the organization for 4 years. If I became a life member simply because I was an employee I would have done it when I started. But rather I waited, watched, listened, and participated with this organization until I knew for a fact that this investment would be used well. I can say, without a shadow of a doubt, that Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever will make a good return on this investment by investing in conservation that will provide a brighter future for both my family and anyone who enjoys the great outdoors.



Joshua Marshall
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

23487 Eclipse Drive
Milan, MO 63556

- Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties -

660-425-2770
Jmarshall@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

JAN – MAR 2022

Trainings and Outreach	Summary
MU Ext./SWCD Wildlife Night	Gave a talk about pollinators & how they benefit quail.
Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic	Worked the Habitat Help Desk assisting landowners
Staff Onboarding	Worked with one of our new biologist to assist him with field checks.

Looking Forward

- **April 2nd** Green Hills Chapter Banquet
- **April 28th** Trenton Rotary Outreach
- **May 10-12th** PF/QF National All-Team Meeting
- **June 11th** Missouri State Convention & Golf Tournament

Program	Impacted Ac.
CRP Programs	893.2
NRCS Programs	5
Other Acres	18.6
Total	916.8

Quarterly Numbers

- 79 Landowners Contacted
- 29 Site Visits
- 2 Conservation Outreach Events
- 1 Training Event

We have a lot of great content on our YouTube and social media pages and we are updating them daily. Subscribe to our pages for the latest information on conservation programs and happenings in Missouri.



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

Joshua Marshall
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

23487 Eclipse Drive
Milan, MO 63556
- Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties -

660-425-2770
jmarshall@quailforever.org



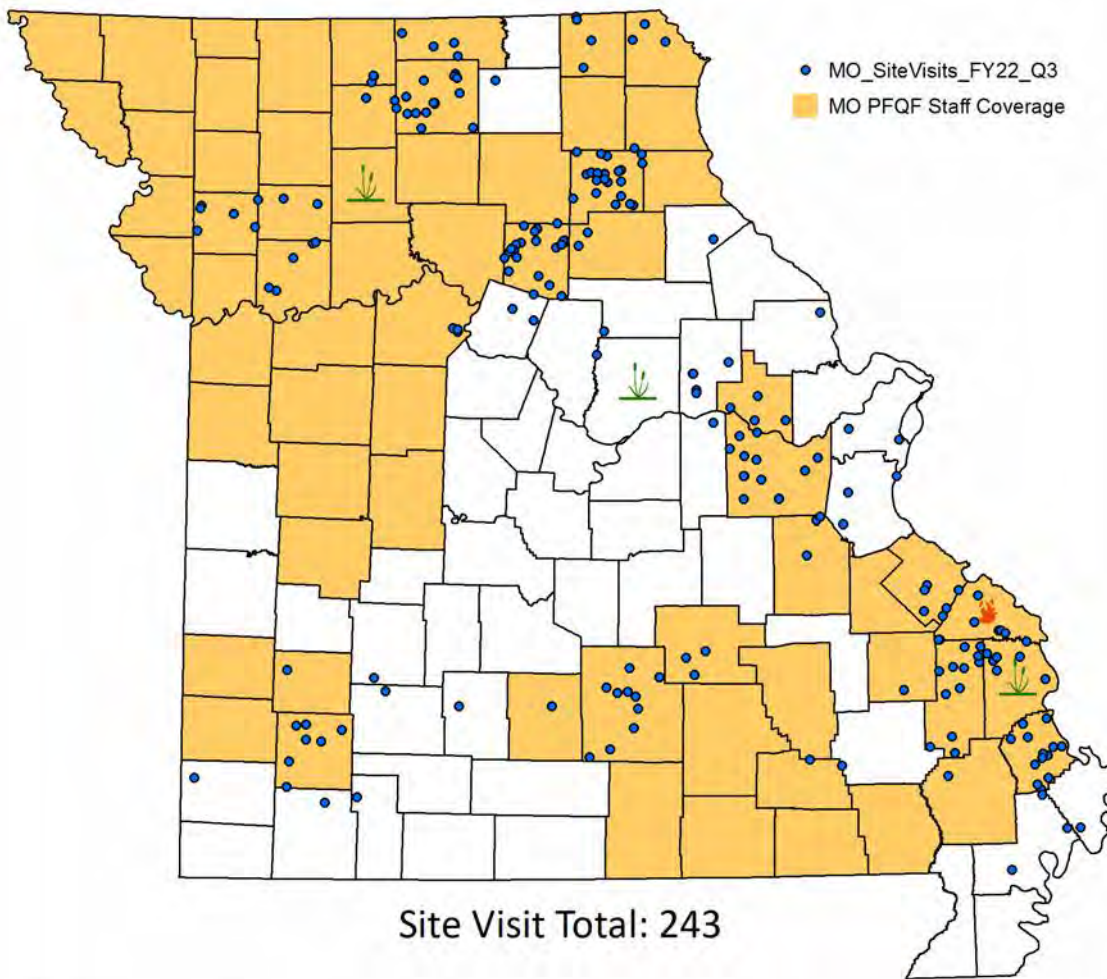
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Joshua Marshall - Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties

JAN – MAR 2022

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/7/2022



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.

Joshua Marshall
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

23487 Eclipse Drive
Milan, MO 63556
- Sullivan, Grundy, Putnam, and Mercer Counties -

660-425-2770
jmarshall@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia - Southeast Missouri

January 2022-March 2022

Quail Forever Gets Their Feet Wet!



PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FOREVER

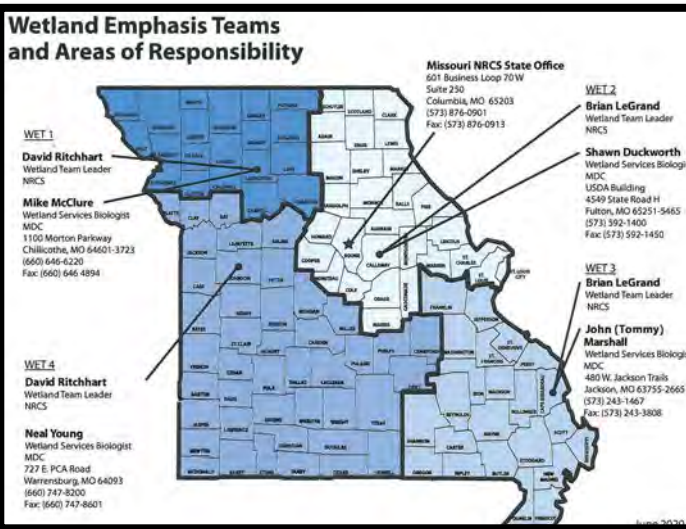
www.pheasantsforever.org | www.quailforever.org

NEWS RELEASE



After years of discussion, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever took a unique step forward into a new class of habitat. On February 14th I was hired as one (out of three) of the first ever Wetland Specialist Farm Bill Biologists in Missouri. Supported by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Missouri Dept. of Conservation (MDC) partners, I now work alongside the members of the Southeast Missouri USDA-NRCS Wetland Emphasis Team whose responsibilities stretch over 22 total counties.

The Wetland Teams are directly responsible for promoting, implementing, and monitoring Wetland Reserve Easements across the state. These are perpetual or 30-year easements and are restoration-oriented. This team is strictly focused on restoring (typically ag-ground that remains inundated with water for extensive periods of time) historical wetlands and hydrology to the eligible acres. The process is extensive and amazing! Combining forces of biologists, technicians, soil conservationists, and engineers we reverse (to the extent possible) human-degraded land into interminable (or 30 years) habitat. #micdrop



As in any state or federal program, there are eligibility requirements as well as parameters landowners must abide by. However, do not let that deter you. We have an experienced and passionate team eager to answer questions and assist landowners with meeting their wildlife and/or habitat goals. These easements provide a great opportunity for those who don't quite yet know what to do with that "wet spot" that's been causing economic loss and headaches.

Kelsey DeZalia
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Southeast Missouri

480 W. Jackson Trail
Jackson, MO 63755

573-243-1467 ext. 6095
kdezalia@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

January 2022-March 2022

As I fully transition into this role, I bring with me the knowledge and experience I've acquired over the past 2+ years (with Pheasants & Quail Forever) while assisting landowners with their upland habitat goals. I find myself in a unique situation to assist WRE owners to expand on their management of the entire easement, not only the pool areas. I look forward to the future of WRE. Along with NRCS, DU, and MDC partners, we aim for more all-encompassing habitat options (adding pollinator plots, addressing invasive/pest species, management for diversity, etc.) for interested landowners. As these teams grow, the goal is to spread the current WETS team workload out among the team and allow for more time in the field addressing management of both the pool and herbaceous acres.



Common musk turtle
AKA "Stinkpot"

QF and MDC apply prescribed fire
to the Sikeston (MO) pollinator
plot located at the city park.

Slough darter

Assisting MDC biologists
with aquatic sampling

Small-mouth salamander



Kelsey DeZalia
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Southeast Missouri

480 W. Jackson Trail
Jackson, MO 63755

573-243-1467 ext. 6095
kdezalia@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

January 2022-March 2022

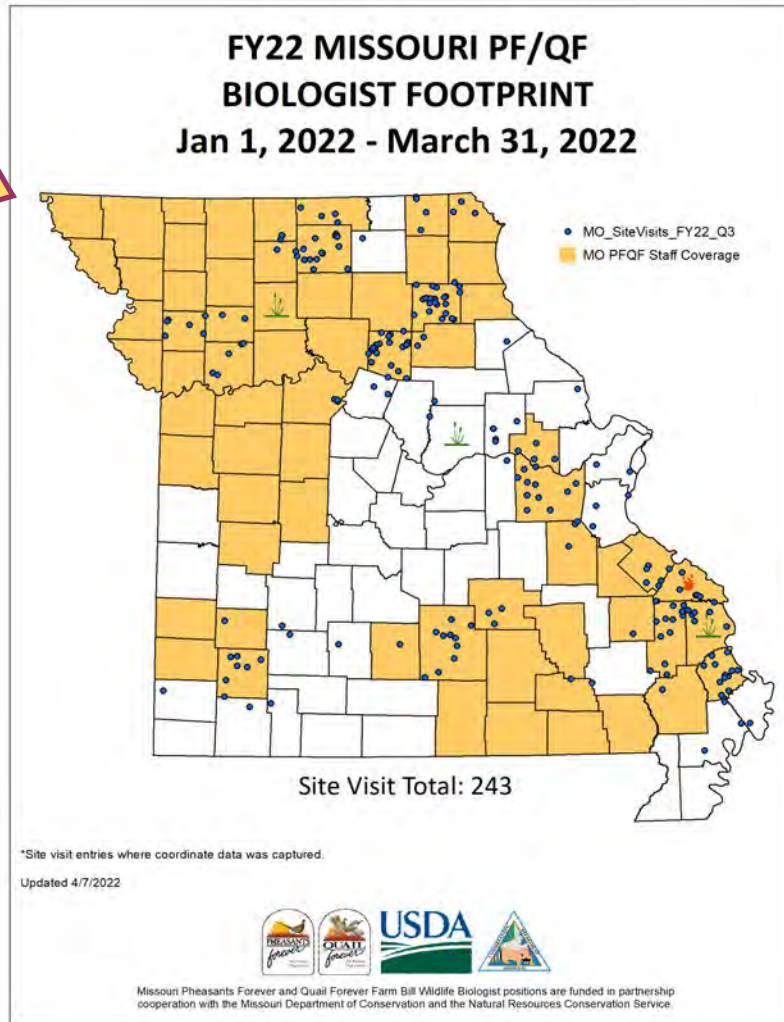
Leaving Our Mark on Missouri

The Farm Bill Biologists across the state recorded 701 landowner contacts and 243 site visits working in 74 counties.

We impacted 6,158 acres!

Outreach efforts reached 1,523 participants through workshops, meetings, and trainings.

If you're wondering about these amazing outreach events, head over to missouripfqf.org and click the "Events" tab at the top!



Conservation Technical Assistance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 landowner contacts, 33 site visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed on-site monitoring of Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) in 4 counties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended multiple webinars and online trainings to continue broadening knowledge-base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted MDC biologists with aquatic sampling on public and private wetlands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted MDC biologists with applying prescribed fire to private and public sand prairies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead and organized a prescribed fire for the Sikeston community park pollinator plot
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified WRE compliance violations and completed necessary paperwork for NRCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed on-site assessment to assist MDC biologist with burn plan for WRE landowner

Kelsey DeZalia
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Southeast Missouri

480 W. Jackson Trail
Jackson, MO 63755

573-243-1467 ext. 6095
kdezalia@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

January 2022-March 2022

...and we're growing!

I know what you're thinking when you read through the list of names and titles, "they've got a lot going on!" We sure do; and it's something we take enormous pride in.

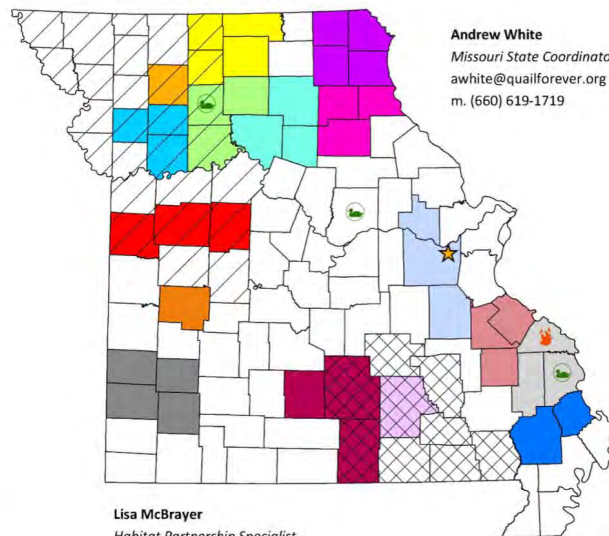
Don't blink! You might just miss us filling all those vacancies as our team continues to expand and fill various niches. Many of these are currently open and taking applications. Interested in joining *The Habitat Organization*?

Visit www.quailforever.org/jobs to apply!

PF/QF in Missouri Staff

- Colby Mohler**
FBBII— Wetland Specialist
Northeast MO
- Courtney Nicks**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Randolph, Macon, Chariton
- Ethan Kleekamp**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Jasper, Barton, Dade, Lawrence
- Haley Lockard**
Senior WFLW Farm Bill Biologist
Cass, Johnson, Pettis
- Jacob Swafford**
Coordinating Monarch RCPP Biologist
Stationed in Daviess County
- Josh Marshall**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Putnam, Mercer, Grundy, Sullivan
- Kelsey DeZalia**
FBBII— Wetland Specialist
Southeast MO
- Lizzy Johnson**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Howell, Texas, Wright
- Logan Baum**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Ray, Caldwell, Clinton
- Rachel Settle**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve
- Valarie Repp**
Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist
Stationed in Shannon County

- Wes Buchheit**
Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist
Statewide
- Wesley Hanks**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Warren, Franklin, Washington
- Will Robinson**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Shelby, Marion, Monroe
- VACANT**
Farm Bill Biologist II
Clark, Lewis, Knox, Scotland
- VACANT**
Farm Bill Biologist II
Perry, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau
- VACANT**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Linn, Livingston, Carroll
- VACANT**
Coordinating Grazing Lands Biologist
Stationed in St. Clair County
- VACANT**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Scott, Stoddard
- VACANT**
FBBII— Wetland Specialist
Northwest MO
- Habitat Specialists— Shaw Nature Reserve**
Dylan Jacobs, Crew Lead
Abbey Ward, Crew
Benjamin Clevenger, Crew



Andrew White
Missouri State Coordinator
awhite@quailforever.org
m. (660) 619-1719

Lisa McBrayer
Habitat Partnership Specialist

Kim Cole
Outreach Coordinator



Donnamarie Duffin
Missouri Monarch & Pollinator Coordinator

Elizabeth Egan
Communications Coordinator

Trevor Day
Regional Representative - North MO

Adam Cooper
Regional Representative - South MO

For contact information and to learn more about us visit missouripfqqf.org

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





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

January – March 2022

Position Update

The past quarter has been a busy one. It has been my first season of EQIP pre-approvals. I spent the beginning of the quarter ranking and assessing EQIP applications and in March I started working on getting the pre-approved applications obligated for contracts. I look forward to continue working with the landowners on their projects and seeing them from start to finish. The one I am most excited about is a large glade restoration. The plan is to open the glades up, get some fire on them and see what plants show up afterwards. It's like getting a surprise on your birthday once you see what species were lying dormant in the seedbank and just needed a little help to get them growing.

Other than working on EQIP pre-approvals, in February I attended the South-West Missouri Spring Forage Conference and worked our booth with Ethan Kleekamp. It was my first time working a conservation outreach event and Ethan and I were able to discuss quail habitat with many landowners.

In March I also attended my first Quail Forever banquet and it was a blast talking with everyone who is involved with the Piney River chapter in Texas county. We enjoyed great food and there were a ton of awesome donations and items that were raffled and auctioned off. They also had a lot of kids in attendance and a whole table dedicated to kids prizes for the youth raffle. It was great to see the youth being involved in the chapter.

Conservation Planning

- 19 Landowner Contacts
- 16 Site Visits
- 7 Status Reviews/ Checkouts
- 3 Conservation Plans Completed
- 11 Forestry/Wildlife applications pre-approved

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP Wildlife Habitat Plantings, Firebreaks, Prescribed Burning	17.38

Looking Forward I Will Be...

- Attending New Employee Orientation and All Team Meeting in Minnesota.
- Attending the Missouri PF QF State Convention in Columbia.
- Continuing to complete LCAP and EQIP practice Checkouts.
- Continuing landowner contacts and site visits.
- Working on pre-approved 2022 EQIP contracts.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

January – March 2022

Pictures From the Last Quarter



Above: Picture from a burn checkout on a landowner's property. Landowner is trying to get a hold on sericea lespedeza and other woody plants.

Below: Pictures from the Piney River Covey chapter's annual banquet.



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

Lizzy Johnson
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
- Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties -

USDA Service Center
6726 State Highway 63
Houston, MO 65483

(417)260-1246
ejohnson@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

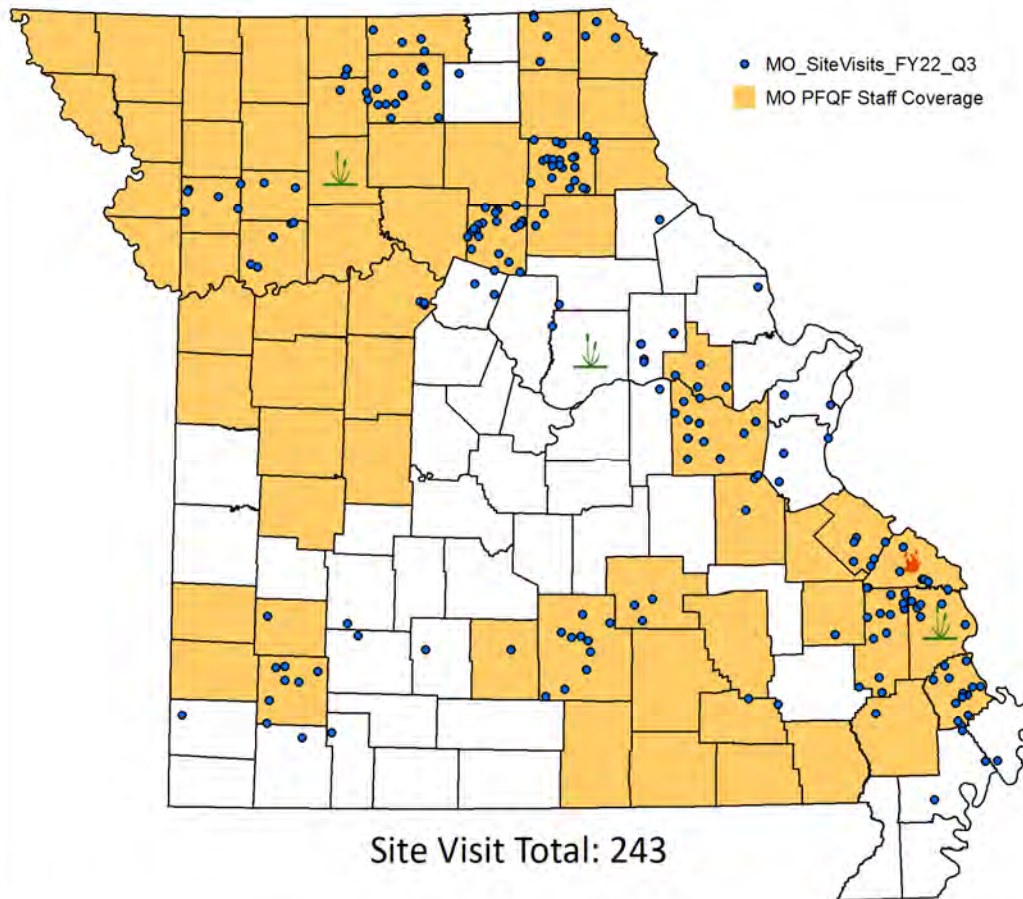


Quarterly Partners' Report

Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

January – March 2022

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/7/2022



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.

Lizzy Johnson
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
- Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties -

USDA Service Center
6726 State Highway 63
Houston, MO 65483

(417) 260-1246
ejohnson@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

January - March 2022

An Introduction

My name is Logan Baum. I was hired on with Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever on March 7th, 2022 as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II. I oversee Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray counties with my home office being in the Ray county office in Richmond. I bring with me knowledge of farming practices as well as wildlife practices and experience working with landowners on private land to enhance both their natural resources and the wildlife within their lands.

I grew up on a cattle ranch in Southeast Nebraska. The cattle ranch was a family operation. I worked on the ranch throughout my childhood and through graduation of high school. I also began hunting as a child. I focused my hunting on Whitetail as well as pheasants and quail when I had the chance. Between working outdoors on the ranch and my time hunting and preparing for the hunting seasons, my love for the outdoors blossomed, and I knew what I wanted to do when I grew up.

I graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. During my time at Northwest, I was able to obtain multiple internship opportunities working in west central Texas on a whitetail game ranch. While down there I cared for and managed a breeding herd of 150+ whitetail deer as well as looked after and managed for the wild herd of deer on the ranch as well as exotic animals on the ranch. I also had the opportunity to guide a couple hunts during my time in Texas.

In 2020 I began work as a District Technician in Buchanan County with Soil and Water Conservation. This began my time working with Farm Bill programs. After seven months with Soil and Water Conservation, an opportunity to apply for a Soil Conservation Technician for NRCS in Buchanan County came about. I applied for the position in May of 2021 and accepted the position, starting in August of 2021. Working with wildlife however, had always been and is my true passion. The opportunity with Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever came about and I knew this was my opportunity to seize my dream of becoming a wildlife biologist.



Logan Baum
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Caldwell, Clinton, Ray Counties

500 Wollard blvd
Richmond, MO 64085

816-776-2267 ext. 3
lbaum@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Logan Baum - Ray, Clinton, and Caldwell Counties

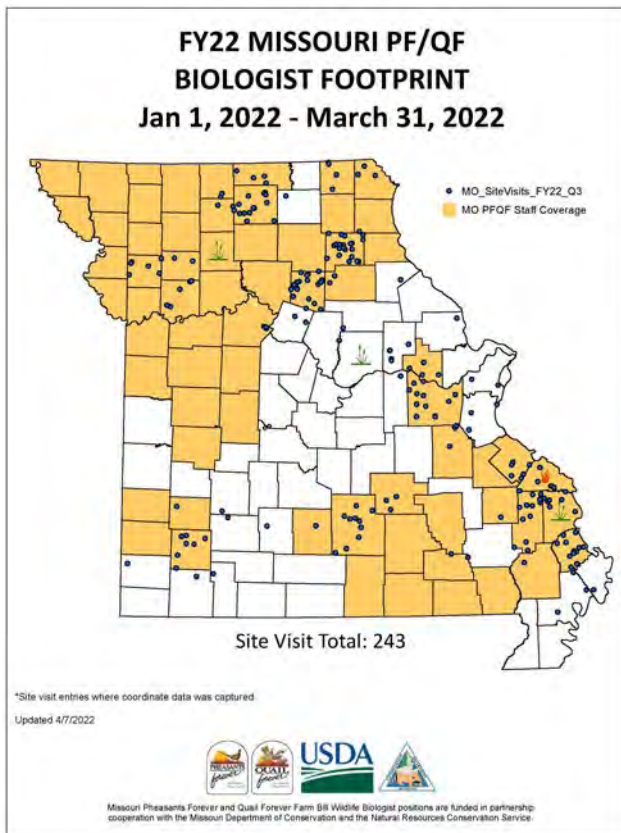
January - March 2022

Third Quarter of FY22

From Jan 1, 2022 to Mar 31, 2022, our team recorded 701 landowner contacts and 243 site visits working in 74 counties. Outreach continues to grow with 1523 people reached through workshops and events.

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

- 11 Landowner Contacts
- 15 Site Visits
- 422.02 acres impacted



Program	Acres affected
CRP	422.02
Total Acres	422.02





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

January - March 2022

Ground Cover is essential to keeping erosion at bay. When bare ground is exposed, erosion is bound to happen, forming ditches.



@MissouriQF

MissouriPFQF.org

Logan Baum
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Caldwell, Clinton, Ray Counties

500 Wollard blvd
Richmond, MO 64085

816-776-2267 ext. 3
lbaum@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

January—March 2022

FY 2022—Third Quarter

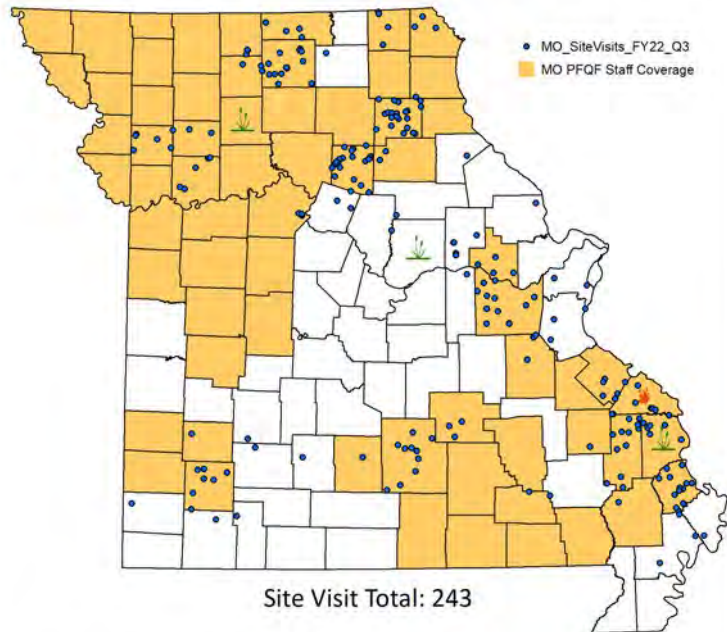
From January through March, our Missouri team conducted 243 site visits and logged over 700 landowner contacts while working in 74 counties. We impacted over 6,100 acres of habitat statewide and reached out to 1,523 individuals at landowner workshops and outreach events.

During the third quarter, I recorded 68 landowner contacts and conducted 8 site visits. Through habitat planning and technical assistance, I impacted over 109 acres. These acres were from MDC LCAP checkouts, EQIP planning, and CRP status reviews.

In February, I assisted the MO QF Team by serving as a Q&A panelist for our statewide CRP webinar. In March, I assisted MDC with the field portion of their Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop in Jefferson County. This 2-part training allows landowners to obtain their Missouri Prescribed Burn Certification upon successful completion.

As a follow up to my recent completion of the NRCS Missouri Leadership Investing in Planner Success training course, I obtained my NRCS Conservation Planner Level 3 Certification.

FY22 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT Jan 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 4/7/2022



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.

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning

- 68 Landowner Contacts
- 8 Site Visits
- 3 Conservation Plans Completed
- 4 Status Reviews/ Practice Checkouts
- 2 Seed Mix Certifications
- 1 Landowner Workshop

Program	Acres Impacted	CRP Practice	Acres Impacted
EQIP	72.7	CP42	24.0
MDC LCAP	6.2	Total	24.0
Non-Program	6.2		
Total	85.1		

Rachel Settle
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

711 Pointe Basse Drive
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

573-883-2703 ext. 8078
rsettle@quailforever.org



Foothills PBA Ignites in Madison County

In March, the Foothills Prescribed Burn Association (FPBA) burned 19 acres of predominantly woodland habitat in Madison County. The successful outcome of the burn was a direct result of proper training, sufficient burn line preparation, and coordination amongst members of the PBA. Landowner, Travis DeGroot diligently watched the weather forecast to ensure that conditions were appropriate to burn according to his prescribed burn plan.

On the morning of the burn, members of the PBA met to go over the burn plans, maps, and fire safety protocols. Prior to burning, members inspected the previously-installed burn lines and any potential hazard areas. The first burn consisted of about an acre of mostly grass cover. The second burn was a woodland unit totaling about 17 acres. The burn crew divided up, including two ignition crews, and maintained good communication via radios for the entirety of the burn. No spot overs or escape fires occurred during either burn which highlights the importance of following a sound burn plan and maintaining adequate communication.

This successful burn is a perfect example of how PBAs are intended to work. Landowners help other landowners achieve their habitat management goals safely and effectively. Aside from burning, the FPBA has also hosted training opportunities for its members. They recently collaborated with MO QF's Prescribed Fire Coordinator, Wes Buchheit, on an escaped fire mitigation techniques training.

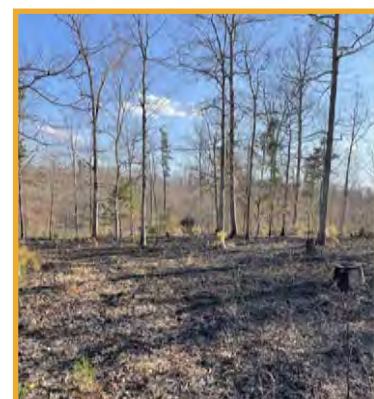
As Missouri's newest PBA, the FPBA consists of landowners and habitat enthusiasts in Bollinger, Perry, and surrounding counties. To find and join a PBA near you, visit the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council's website: <https://moprescribedfire.org/locations>



The woodland unit started with igniting a backing fire. Flame lengths on this portion of the burn were very low (avg. <1').



Backpack blowers are highly effective at creating firebreaks in woodlands, especially when protecting structures such as the deer blind pictured here.



To manage woodland habitats, prescribed burning every 3—5 years is recommended.

**Have you burned recently?
Help the Missouri Prescribed
Fire Council by logging your
burn!**





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Rachel Settle — Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

January—March 2022

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
MPF Glade Ecology & Restoration Webinar	Attended online webinar to learn about glade ecology and restoration methods
Missouri Natural Resources Conference	Attended conference to network with other resource professionals and learned about current research related to natural resources in Missouri
Conservation Federation of Missouri Annual Convention	Attended virtual breakout sessions and participated in resolution discussions and updates

Looking Forward

- Assist with Prairie Habitat Hike in Williamsville on May 21
- Host monarch butterfly outreach events with the Ozark Regional Library System at the Fredericktown and Ironton branches
- Present on the benefits of grazing native warm season grasses at the Southeast Missouri Regional Grazing School in May

Rachel Settle
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve Counties

711 Pointe Basse Drive
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

573-883-2703 ext. 8078
rsettle@quailforever.org



Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



**Valarie Repp- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties
January—March 2022**

A Busy New Year

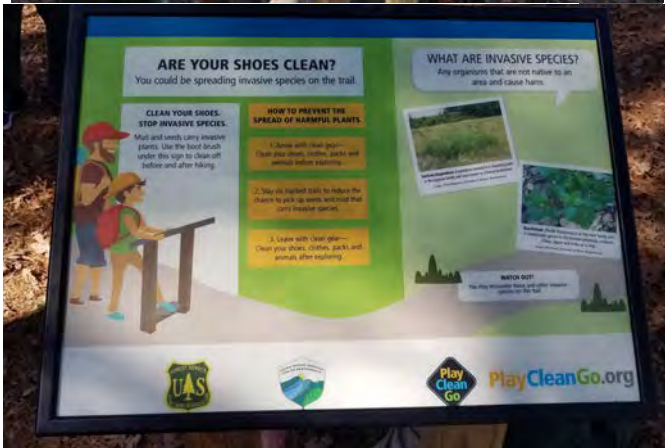
This third quarter proved to be an eventful one, despite it being cold and snowy outside. I found myself busy with planning a training on EDDMaps for partners and attending several meetings with partners to discuss future land management projects and what the SRISP (Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership) could bring to the table. There has been a tremendous amount of interest in involving the SRISP with invasive species prevention and eradication efforts. The SRISP also is now registered as an official 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the state of Missouri! This will allow the partnership to apply for funding opportunities without the need for a partnering agency to handle finances, as well as giving the partnership the opportunity to hire extra technicians or strike teams in the future.



The SRISP celebrates National Invasive Species Awareness Week

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) is an event sponsored by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) that occurs at the beginning of March each year. The SRISP took full advantage of NISAW this year and participated in several outreach events during the week.

At the Camp Five Trail Head on the Irish Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, a boot brush station, donated by NAISMA, was installed at the beginning of the trail. Staff from the Mark Twain National Forest, pictured, along with myself installed the boot brush station that included an infographic on the importance of keeping





Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



**Valarie Repp- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties
January—March 2022**

shoes and gear clean to prevent the spread of invasive plants. The sign also included common invasive plants that can be found along the trail, including sericea lespedeza and beefsteakplant.



The SRISP also hosted an Invasive species workshop in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation in Missouri. This Facebook live event featured how to identify commonly found invasive species in Missouri, as well as best management practices for treatment. Audience members were able to ask questions in real time during the event and have them answered by experts, including myself. The webinar was viewed by over 120 people and several excellent

questions were asked and received answers during the webinar.

Overall, it was a highly successful week filled with outreach and education. Several Facebook posts were created to educate the public on invasive plants and native alternatives. Next year, I hope to make NISAW even bigger!

@MissouriQF



MissouriPFQF.org



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

January - March 2022

Third Quarter of FY22

From Jan 1, 2022 to Mar 31, 2022, our PF/QF in Missouri team recorded 701 landowner contacts and 243 site visits working in 74 counties. The team collectively impacted 6,158 acres. Outreach efforts reached 1523 participants through workshops, meetings, and trainings.

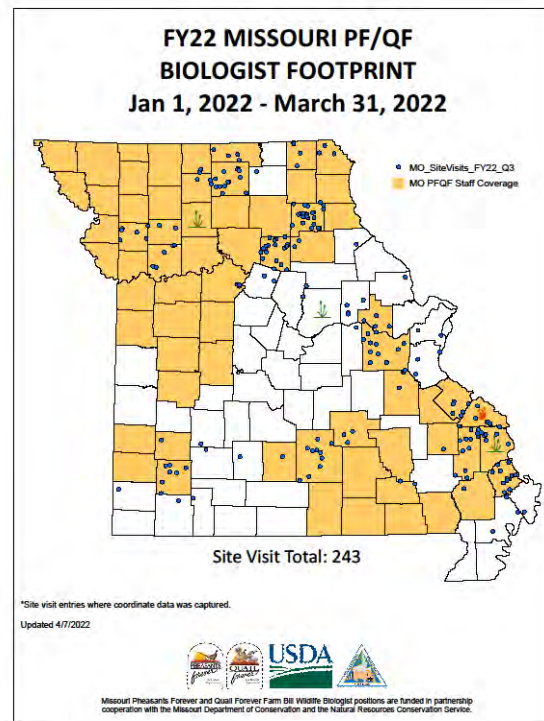


Left: Edge feathering is a practice to create useable woody escape cover for quail and other wildlife with immediate results. It is recommended to complete three of the 30ft x 50ft blocks (pictured) per 40 acres of land. Creating three to six of these blocks every winter across the property helps maintain this critical habitat type within a manageable workload.

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning

- 142 Landowner Contacts
- 26 Site Visits
- 3 Conservation Plans Written
- 16 Status Reviews/Checkouts Completed
- 4 Prescribed Burn Plans Reviewed



Conservation Program	Acres Impacted
EQIP	166.6
CRP	59.9
QF Habitat Challenge Grant	2.2
Conservation Technical	30.0
Total	318.6

Wes Buchheit
Missouri Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist
Perryville, MO

573-517-8860
wbuchheit@quailforever.org



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

January - March 2022

A New Role to Further Fire

It is with great honor that I have been offered and have accepted a new position with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever as the Missouri Prescribed Fire Coordinating Wildlife Biologist. On March 14th I started this new role working from home in Perryville but with statewide coverage. I will be working with the [Missouri Prescribed Fire Council](#), agencies, organizations and other partners, assisting Prescribed Burn Associations, and providing technical assistance to landowners as it relates to prescribed fire. All of these job responsibilities will be working towards increasing the capacity for prescribed fire on private and public land and furthering the prescribed fire culture in Missouri.

Right: Finding shed antlers is icing on the cake after a safe and successful prescribed burn.

Below: Thirty-five participants took their online learning to the field to receive hands-on experience with prescribed fire equipment for the Prescribed Burning for Missouri Land Managers field exercise.



Wes Buchheit
Missouri Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist
Perryville, MO

573-517-8860
wbuchheit@quailforever.org



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

January - March 2022

Supporting Prescribed Fire in Two Minutes

While prescribed burning can be effective in meeting various land management goals in the summer, fall, and winter, now is that time of year when we tend to see the greatest number of smoke columns rising into the air due to wider windows of favorable weather. Smoke columns draw attention from the community and the public, presenting outreach opportunities to demonstrate the safe use of prescribed fire as a land management tool.

After the smoke dissipates, mop-up is finished, and the local non-emergency dispatch has been notified the prescribed burn is complete, there is one more step that can support prescribed fire in just two minutes. Visit the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council (MPFC) website, moprescribedfire.org, and Log Your Burn. This is a voluntary and anonymous entry for prescribed burns completed on private land in Missouri. To avoid multiple submissions for one burn unit, the landowner or the contractor leading the burn should be the one completing the entry. The questions ask the date, county, acres, and habitat type burned, along with identifying if a prescribed burn association or landowner cooperative provided assistance. The last questions ask if any fire occurred outside the burn unit, and if so, to what extent.

From the inception of data collection in March 2019 through September 2021, there were 188 entries covering 8,169 acres. 172 entries responded to a question about spot or escape fires. Spotfires were reported by only 12.8% and escape fires by 1.2%, none were greater than 10 acres and 64% were less than one-tenth of an acre. Only one burn (0.6%) resulted in any legal action. Yearly summaries can also be found on the MPFC website.

This information is useful in charting the use of prescribed fire across the state and is key in demonstrating the safe use of this critical land management tool with insurance providers, legislators, and Missouri citizens. Currently, the MPFC and other conservation partners are seeking opportunities for insurance providers to offer affordable insurance policies for prescribed burning, especially for contractors who have identified this as a major hurdle. Please add this step to your prescribed burning process. Submissions can be made at any time, but soon after the burn is best as not to forget. Log Your Burn. It only takes two minutes, and with your help, we can collectively add supporting information to those smoke columns.



Above: Fire is effective in top-killing tree sprouts when burning every two to three years.

Wes Buchheit
Missouri Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist
Perryville, MO

573-517-8860
wbuchheit@quailforever.org



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

January - March 2022



Before (Left) and after (Right) photos of managing a native forb and grass planting with prescribed fire to set back tree sprouts, remove leaf litter, and increase forb abundance and diversity.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Meeting	Led the MPFC meeting and discussed the Prescribed Burning Act, positive feedback on MDC Prescribed Burning for MO Land Managers course, and initial planning stage of the annual summer meeting.
Missouri Natural Resources Conference	Attended the presentations and poster sessions and networked with resource professionals across the state.
Foothills Prescribed Burn Association Meeting	Attended the annual meeting and discussed the opportunity to host a training pertaining to reducing the risk of and suppressing escaped fires.
Northeast-Midwest Regional Prescribed Fire Council Coordinating Group (NEMW RPFCCG) Meetings	Attended monthly meetings to connect with other state prescribed fire practitioners and represent the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council.
NEMW RPFCCG Networking Forum	Attended presentation by Carissa Wonkka on prescribed fire liability across the region.
Prescribed Burning for MO Land Managers Field Exercise	Co-instructed the field exercise component of MDC's new prescribed fire training for 35 participants.
East Central Prescribed Burn Association Meeting	Provided an update on my new position, the Prescribed Burning Act, liability, and training opportunities for the 27 members.
NWCG RX-301 and RX-341	Completed the virtual, week-long training that focuses on prescribed fire planning and implementation.

@MissouriQF

MissouriPFQF.org

Wes Buchheit
Missouri Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist
Perryville, MO

573-517-8860
wbuchheit@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

January-March 2022

2022 Polaris Habitat Stewardship Award

Each year, at their annual fundraising banquet, the Missouri River Valley Chapter of Quail Forever (MRV QF) presents a local landowner with the Polaris Habitat Stewardship Award. This award is to recognize private landowners who dedicate their time and property to help improve habitat for quail and native pollinators. MRV QF asks local Private Lands Conservationist, Lia Heppermann, and QF Biologist, Wesley Hanks, to select a landowner they work with who is deserving of this award. At this year's banquet MRV QF presented this award to Ken and Cathy Buchmann.

Ken and Cathy have been working with Lia since 2011 and since that time they have been working on converting their non-native cool-season grass hay fields into diverse plantings of native grasses and wildflowers. The end goal for Ken and Cathy has always been to hear the call of the bobwhite return once again to their property. When these native seedings were established Ken and Cathy were eager to start managing with prescribed fire and immediately got involved with the East Central Prescribed Association (ECPBA) when it was formed in 2015.



Ken Buchmann, recipient of the 2022 Polaris Habitat Stewardship Award, watches as the ECPBA conducts a growing season demonstration burn in Sept. 2020.

Photo Credit: Kim Cole

Trainings/Meetings/Outreach	Outcome
Statewide CRP Webinar	Presented information on the most recent general CRP sign-up 58 and the current, ongoing, continuous CRP sign-up 57 in a webinar to landowners and partner staff
ECPBA Meeting	Organized the regularly scheduled meeting for the East Central Prescribed Burn Association where they discussed MO's new prescribed burn manager training and PBA business.
MNRC Career Fair Booth	Talked with current college students about QF's mission and career opportunities within QF.
Jefferson County Prescribed Burn Manager Training	Helped MDC staff with prescribed burn manager training for private landowners.
MO River Valley Chapter's 12th Annual Banquet	Assisted the local QF chapter with their annual fundraising banquet and talked with attendees about quail habitat management.
Prescribed Fire Webinars	Learning about recent studies looking into common challenges and opportunities of prescribed fire and the potential impacts of smoke from prescribed fire.
Native Seeding and Program Training	Helped MDC private lands staff with a training for their new PLCs on native seedings and cost-share programs.
CRP Grasslands Webinar	Learned about the program and policy of the currently ongoing CRP grasslands sign-up.

Wesley Hanks
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
 Franklin, Warren, Washington

1004 Vondera Ave
Union, MO 63084

(636) 649-3108
whanks@quailforever.org



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report

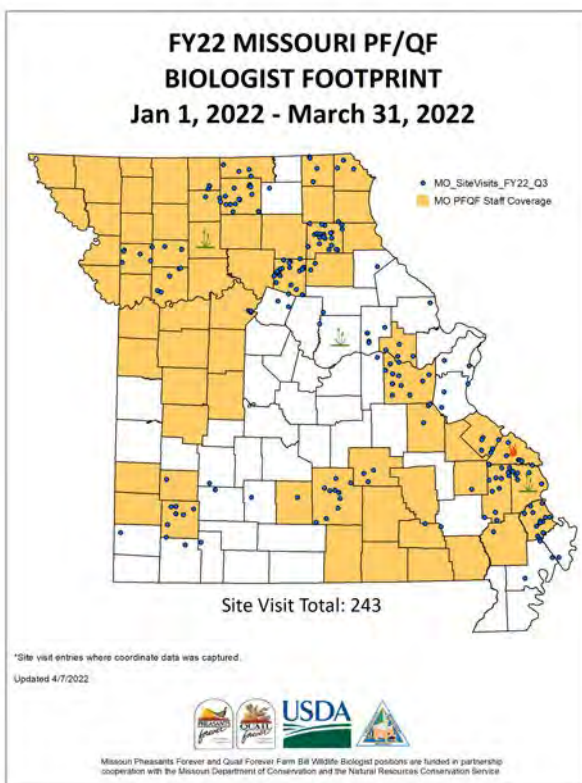


Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

January-March 2022

2022 Habitat Stewardship Award Cont.

Not only have the Buchmann's had the ECPBA help with their burns and helped with other burns, but they have also opened their property to PBA meetings and trainings. In September of 2019 they allowed the PBA to host a federal level wildland fire training for PBA members. Then in September of 2020 they hosted the ECPBA's annual summer meeting along with a growing season demonstration burn and field day. Ken and Cathy understand the value of managing native plant communities as well as the need for out-reach opportunities to educate other landowners. It was for those reason they were deserving of the 2022 Polaris Habitat Stewardship Award.



Conservation Planning

- 73 landowner contacts in 9 different counties
- 33 Site Visits
- 5 burn plans written covering 375.9 ac

Practice Checkouts for LCAP, HCG, EQIP, CSP, and CRP	Amount
Herbaceous Weed Spraying	55.8 ac
Pollinator/Monarch Habitat Planting	80.2 ac
Downed Tree Structures	17 DTSS
Prescribed Burning	228.4 ac
Timber Stand Improvement	128.2 ac
CP 2—Native Warm-Season Grass	9.0 ac
CP 33—Upland Bird Habitat Buffers	17.1 ac

Looking Forward

- Assist with upcoming Prairie Habitat Hike at Prairie Fork CA in Callaway county.
- Assist MDC staff with Prescribed Burn Manager Training Field Days
- Advise landowners completing spring habitat projects through LCAP, HCG, CRP, and EQIP.
- Assist FSA and NRCS with CRP planning and field reviews.
- Assist NRCS staff in planning on EQIP applications that will benefit a wide range of wildlife.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.
- Talk with Union Elementary' s 1st grade class on the importance of pollinators.
- Will be attending PF/QF all team meeting in early-May.
- Help out with the MO PF/QF Golf Tournament and State Convention on June 11th In Columbia, MO.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

January-March 2022

Position Update

The third quarter was a busy one. I had the opportunity to meet with several producers to discuss wildlife habitat, and got to participate in some prescribed burning! Thank you for your continued support!

Q3 FY22 Activity Highlights

- ◆ 49 Landowner Contacts
- ◆ 25 Site Visits
- ◆ 17 Projects with Acres

319.76 Acres Impacted

CRP Update

It's that time of year again! The sun is staying out longer, the invasive bush honeysuckle is starting to leaf out, and CRP planning is in full swing. This is the first year, while I have been here, that producers have been allowed to enter the building. This has led to several good conversations about what would be best for the producer as well as wildlife. I am looking forward to continuing those conversations, and am thankful for the large scale impact that CRP has on the landscape.



Left: Prescribed Fire is an excellent follow up treatment after timber stand improvement is complete. It helps reduce dead material as well as set back any invasive species that may be growing.

Right: Prescribed fire in fence rows is a good way to treat unwanted woody species as well as encourage the growth of native plants that provide nesting habitat for ground nesting birds.





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

January-March 2022

Prescribed Fire

Spring brings with it longer, warmer days, and ideal conditions for prescribed fire. Often times, on nice days, you can drive around Shelby County and see several plumes of smoke. This warms my heart. It is a sign of people taking advantage of an effective land management tool. Spring burns are a great way to set back cool season grasses and encourage the growth of native species.

I was able to participate in a prescribed fire training field day in early March in Macon county put on by the Missouri Department of Conservation as a part of their new prescribed fire certification program. There was a good turn out, and folks had the opportunity to learn more about fire weather, tools used on a prescribed fire, and tour a unit that was being prepared for a burn. They got to see burn lines that had been installed, as well as ask questions about the when, why, and how of prescribed fire.

A common limiting factor with prescribed fire is not having enough people to complete the burn safely. Prescribed Burn Association's (PBA) offer a solution to this problem. PBA's are comprised of landowners that want to help other landowners with prescribed fire. They can be a great way to participate in multiple burns every year, as well as an opportunity to learn more about prescribed fire from those around you.



Members of the Mark Twain Prescribed Burn Association pose in front of the burn trailer after a successful burn

ADD @MISSOURIQF on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

You can find us on YouTube @Missouri Quail Forever

**William Robinson
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties**

**Shelbyville USDA Office
210 E. Main St.
Shelbyville, MO 63469**

**m. 314-825-6574
P. 573-633-2211 ext.112
wrobinson@quailforever.org**



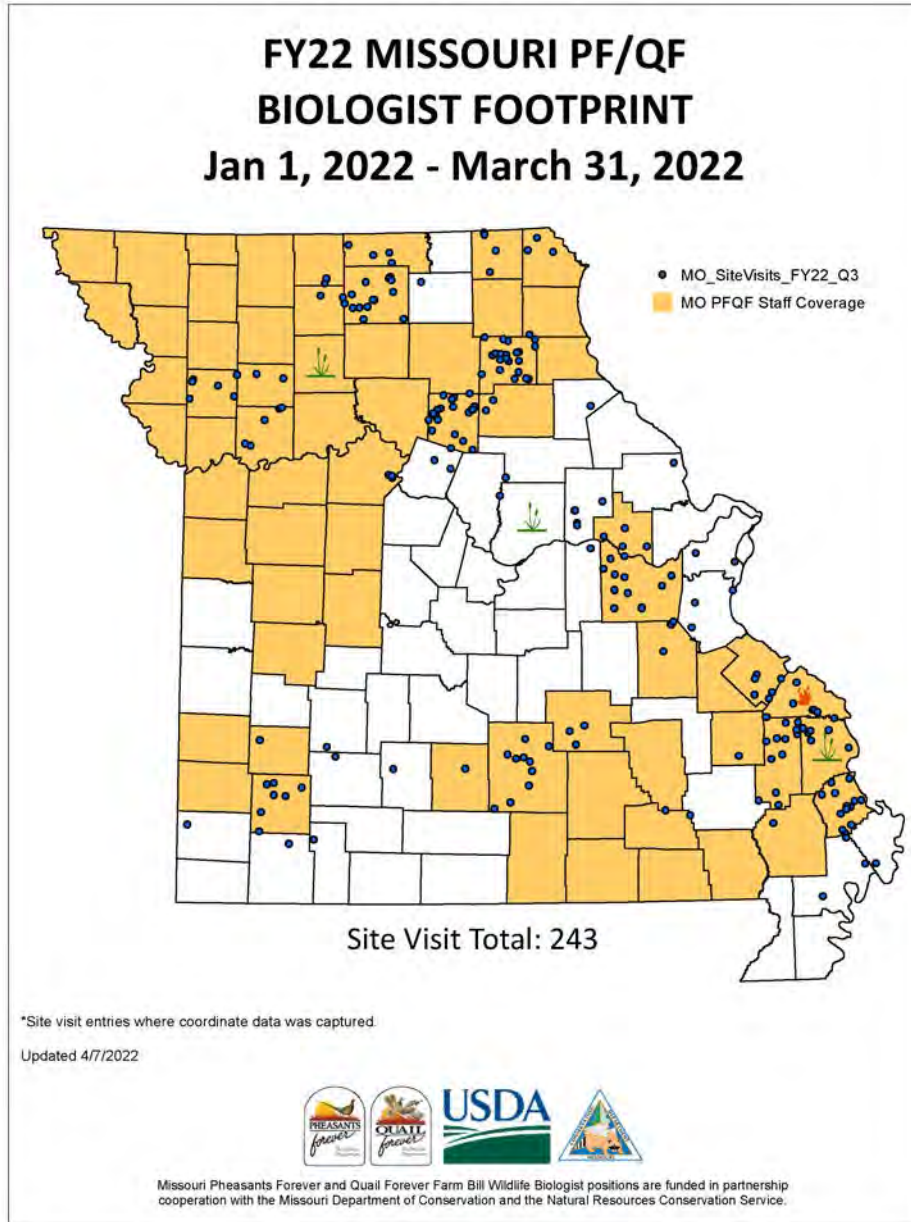
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

January-March 2022



Looking Forward

- New Employee orientation and Quail Forever all team meeting in Minnesota, May 9-12
- Continued CRP planning for sign-up 57 and 58
- Begin expiring CRP field visits

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

William Robinson
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

Shelbyville USDA Office
210 E. Main St.
Shelbyville, MO 63469

m. 314-825-6574
P. 573-633-2211 ext.112
wrobinson@quailforever.org