



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Brad Pobst - Scott and Stoddard Counties

July – September 2022

Position Update

In June I started as the new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist in Scott and Stoddard Counties. I come into this position from the Missouri Department of Conservation where I retired after working for the Department for 36 years. Starting this job, I had a pretty good understanding what the job duties entailed, since I worked in Scott Co. for the last 36 years, so I was able to hit the road running. CRP is a big workload in these two counties and there were over 60 new or re-enroll contracts that needed conservation and seeding plans and corresponding job sheets completed by September 10. With the help of NRCS and FSA we were able to get these contracts completed and signed.

Status reviews were started, and most completed on 98 CRP contracts that will expire in 2023. I still need to get to 17 that I will hopefully be completing in October. Once the write ups are completed I will be meeting with FSA to discuss the best approach on working with the landowners on issues that were found during the status reviews. Most issues that I am seeing are tree encroachment and sericea lespedeza infestations.



Sericea Lespedeza as far as the eye can see in this photo of a CRP field.



Tree encroachment in CRP field.

Conservation Planning

Landowner Contacts	81
Site Visits	72
Conservation Plans	34
Prescribe Burn Plans	2

Total Acres 5237

Looking Forward

- MO Team Meeting
- New Employee Orientation
- Fall Covey Surveys
- Coordinate Idle Land Program

Partner Meetings/Trainings

MDC Regional Private Land Meeting
FOSA Meetings 2
QF Monthly Meetings 6

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Outreach & Education

- On September 28, I presented a program on **Habitat Improvement—Attracting More Wildlife to Your Land**. This program discussed habitat needs and how to manage property for wildlife. Information was provided on federal, state, and local programs that provide financial and technical assistance to improve and enhance wildlife, forest, and aquatic resources on private land. This program was held at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center in Cape Girardeau.



- I attended a **Native Pasture Tour** that was organized by Rachel Settle (Quail Forever) and was attended by several landowners interested in establishing and growing native grasses in their grazing systems. Good information was presented and most of the discussion was led by cattle producers utilizing native forages in their grazing systems

- I attended and helped work the Ducks Unlimited and Missouri Department of Conservation tables at the **61st annual University of Missouri Fisher Delta Research, Extension and Education Center Field Day** on August 26. More than 350 people were in attendance including Missouri Governor Mike Parson, Missouri U.S. Senator Roy Blunt and Missouri U.S. Congressman Jason Smith. I had several discussions with farmers and elected officials on conservation programs available in Missouri and how these programs can benefit farming operations and wildlife.



Aquatic Habitat

With a hot dry summer, I received several calls and completed several site visits on ponds and wetlands that had issues with aquatic vegetation and fish kills. Most of the fish kills were caused by landowners spraying their vegetation

which in turn created a low dissolved oxygen problem that caused a fish kill. Most of the aquatic vegetation issues were emergent plants (American Lotus, Water Primrose, and Arrowheads) or floating leaf plants (Duckweed, Water Meal, and Filamentous Algae) and some Planktonic Algae.



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Landowner Commitment

I have been working with a landowner in Wayne County that has over 400 acres of woodland and forested acres with a couple of small glades that he has been trying to manage over the years. He has completed FSI and Brush Management on the woodlands and glades and wanted to get a burn in on one of his small glades and some surrounding woodlands but it would never work out with the small window of burning in late winter early spring. So it was decided to try to burn when there

was a opportunity that may arise between September and March and that opportunity occurred on September 23. It was good to finally see this burn get completed.

PF/QF in Missouri Staff

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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.



9/2/22

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

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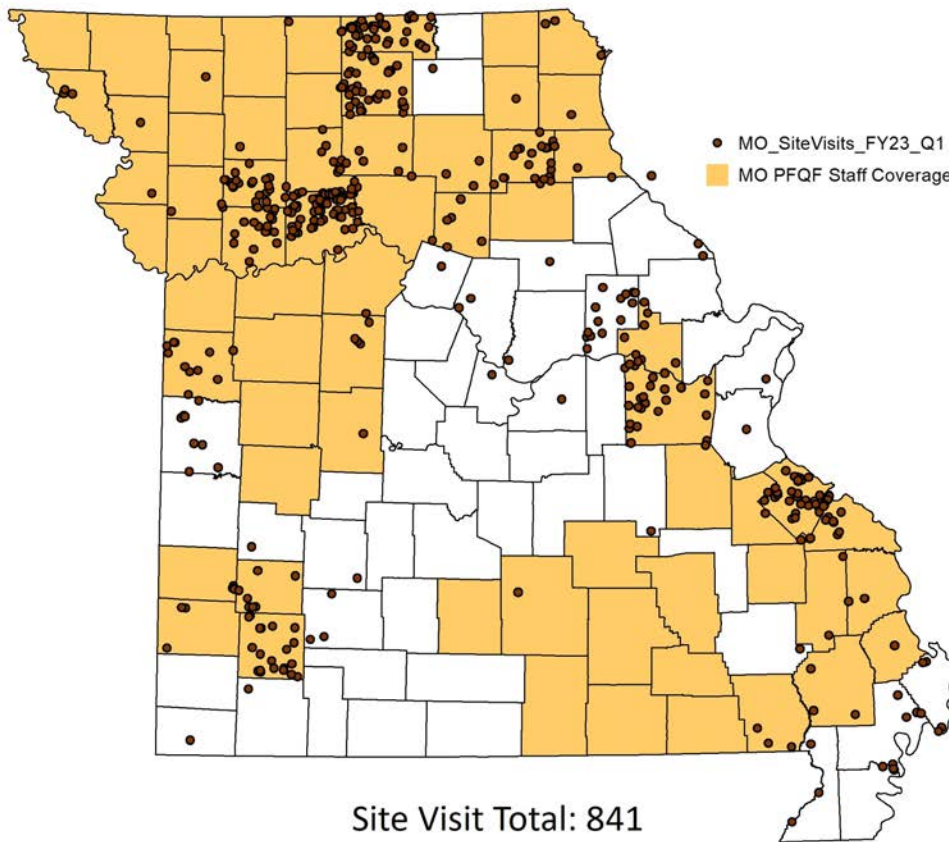
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FY23 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT July 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

New accomplishment reporting system was not able to put my site visits on map.

Updated 10/24/2022



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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Chad Doolen - Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, and Perry

July – September 2022

Quarterly Summary

In June, I joined the QF Missouri Team as the Farm Bill Biologist in Jackson, MO. I followed a very accomplished FBB when stepping into this position, and the ball didn't really stop rolling as I joined the team. My first four months have been anything but slow. I have attended several meetings and trainings, met several landowners and operators, met the local PBA, and even found some time to visit several CRP sites.

Conservation Reserve Program in Full Swing

As contracts near their expiration dates, landowners will have the option to re-enroll their lands. In order to re-enroll, each eligible site requires a status inspection. This summer and early Autumn, I have worked with NRCS and MDC staff to visit nearly 80 sites between Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties. Of my 60 sites visits this quarter, most were for CRP re-enrollment.

These sites have been in under CRP contracts for at least 10 years, and many have been enrolled much longer. Condition varies from site to site, but many are still nice stands of Native Warm Season Grasses and bird and pollinator habitat.

For those that re-enroll, our status reviews will help landowners manage invasive species, improve wildlife and pollinator habitat, and conserve ecological function of CRP sites for another enrollment period (at least 10 years).



Beardtongue adding a nice pop of color to a CRP site in Perry County during late August.

CRP Practices	Acres Impacted
CP1—Introduced Grasses	507.1
CP2—Native Grasses	328.1
CP3A—Hardwood Tree Planting	51.9
CP4D—Wildlife Habitat	0.4
CP12—Wildlife Food Plot	18.7
CP21—Filter Strip	11.8
CP22—Riparian Buffer	13.7
CP33—Upland Bird Habitat Buffer	8.5
CP38E—State Acres for Wildlife (Bobwhite Quail)	38.5
CP42—Pollinator Habitat	3
Total CRP	981.7

Conservation Planning

- 37 Landowner Contacts
- 60 Site Visits

Outreach

- 1 Presentation
- 1 PBA Meeting



Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Chad Doolen - Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, and Perry

July – September 2022

Outreach & Education

One of NRCS' most anticipated annual workshops is Grazing School. Grazing School is an opportunity for ranchers new and old to learn about implementing Management Intensive Grazing Systems. This year, one was held in Jackson, MO. As with any grazing school, professional resource managers and agricultural practitioners gather to teach others about managing lands with grazing systems. This year, I delivered a presentation on utilizing Native Warm-Season Grass pastures. Such is becoming an increasingly important part of livestock production in SE Missouri. As summer droughts intensify, our native grasses can play an un-matched role in maintaining daily gains throughout the growing season. Because they are adapted to Missouri's poor soils and dry conditions, they continue to grow when our introduced grasses have given up during the hottest parts of summer. When adopted by producers for the benefits to their operations, Bobwhite and other wildlife also benefit!



The Grazing School in Jackson was held August 30th through September 1st. It was well attended with at least 1 attendee traveling from SW Missouri to join the class. In the afternoon on the last day of the school, folks were taken to a farm in Bollinger County that utilized Native Warm Season Grasses that QF helped establish!

Photo Credit to Kelsey DeZalia

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July – September 2022

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NABCI Private Lands Forum	A first of its kind, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative hosted a conference on managing private lands and working with landowners in Kansas City, MO.
Introduction to Soils and Soils Survey Course	Soils are an integral part of our natural systems. Understanding the differences can be critical to conservation planning. This was an NRCS training hosted by NRCS Soil Scientists.
CSP Field Day	The MDC Area Biologist for SE Missouri set up a day to look at, discuss changes to, and evaluate a Conservation Stewardship Program site.
MDC's Farm Bill Training	A full, in-depth look at state and federal incentive and cost-share programs hosted by MDC at their headquarters in Jefferson City.
NRCS' Grazing School	A yearly event for landowners to learn from natural resources practitioners and experienced ranchers on managing grazing systems for sustainable production of livestock. QF often presents on the benefits of utilizing NWSG as part of a highly productive grazing system.
Native Pasture Tour	To further promote NWSG pastures, QF works with producers that have adopted the practice to give others opportunities to see these pastures in an active operation. This one was held in Cape Girardeau County. The attendees were able to see how resilient a grazed NWSG pasture was during a drought. Our own Rachel Settle worked with a local producer to set up this event!
Foothills Prescribed Burn Association Meeting	This was an opportunity to meet and introduce myself to the local members of the PBA.



On September 8th, QF worked with a local producer to host a NWSG Pasture Tour in Cape Girardeau County. A producer panel discussed their experiences with NWSG (LEFT), and the attendees were able to see a grazed NWSG pasture in person (RIGHT).

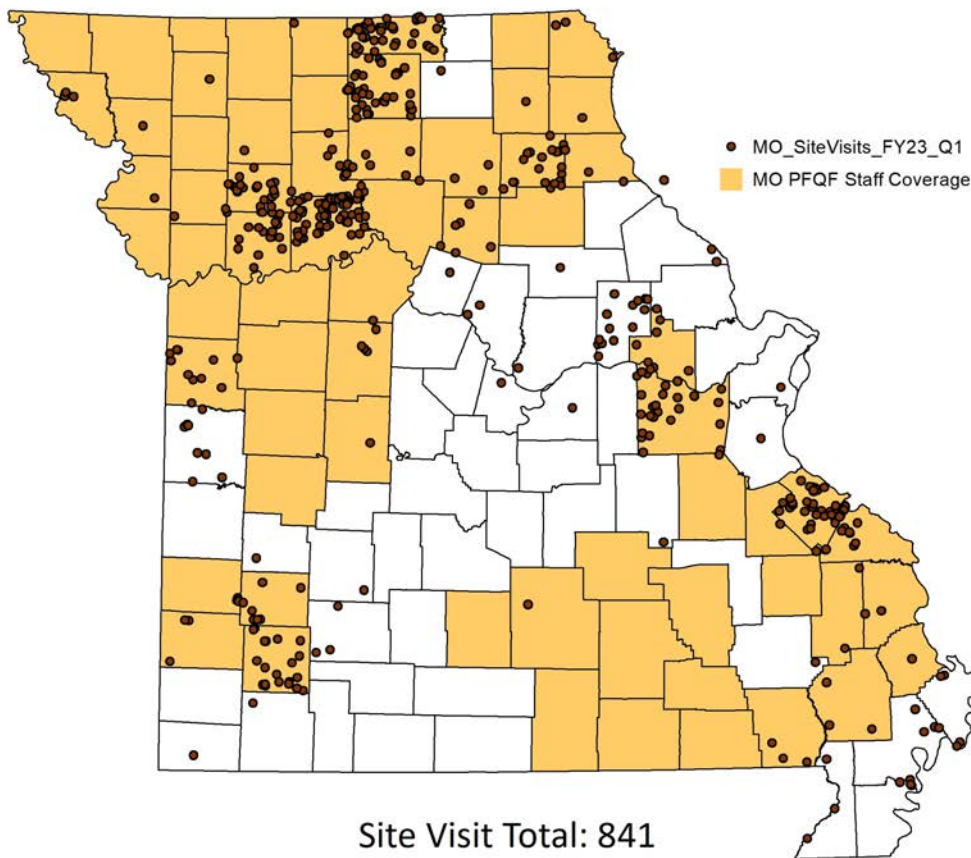
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Updated 10/24/2022



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Position Update

The last three months were spent mostly in the field as the team put wetlands on the ground! I had the pleasure of meeting many more of our proud landowners and contractors, while I helped to install water control structures and staking and checking out wetland construction and miscellaneous repairs. As busy as the field work was this quarter, I participated in many outreach events, including Kids Morning Out at the Osage County Fair and PF/QF district meetings, that reached the general public, our partners, and many chapter volunteers. Back in the office, I was able to complete 2022 and 2023 Compatible Use Authorizations and water level management plans along with more wetland conceptual designs and contract reports. It was a packed first quarter for 2023, but we got a lot done and are ready to keep moving along!



Proud Landowners, Mr. and Mrs. Buffum of Pike County, during the final stages of their wetland construction



Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning

- 24 Landowner Contacts
- 28 Site Visits
- 4 topographic surveys completed
- 2 wetland conceptual design



Trainings/Meeting Type	Outcome
Kids Morning Out at Osage County Fair	Set up an informational booth and educational games for kids of all ages and their parents to learn about PF/QF and our mission
Farm Bill Biologist Training	Learned more about the ins and outs of the Farm Bill and how biologists are put in place to carry out associated goals
PF/QF District Meeting	Met with central MO PF/QF Chapters to discuss progress and future trajectories





Moving Forward

- Finalize wetland construction and repairs
- Receive higher level engineering training
- Obtain Level 1 Conservation Planner Certificate
- Hold my first Landowner workshop focusing on forest management
- Begin 2023 onsite and offsite monitoring
- Continue to stay in touch with our existing landowners and help with any questions



Top Left: Contractor crew building low-profile berms with scrapers and dozer, Pike Co.

Bottom Left: Our PFQF booth at “Kids Morning Out”, Osage Co Fair

Bottom Right: The one, the only Wetland Emphasis Team 2 setting a water control structure, Adair Co

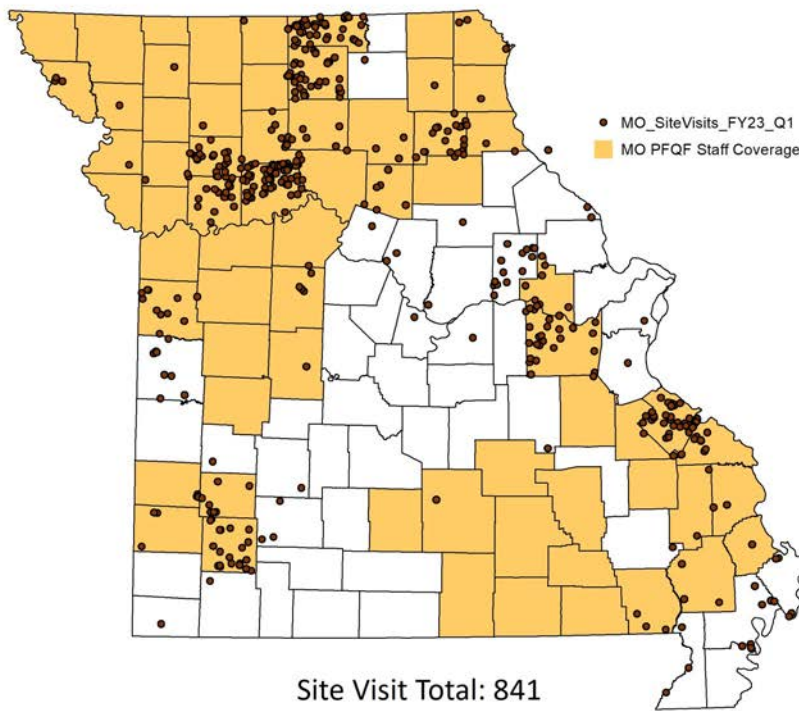




First Quarter of FY23

From July 1, 2022 to September 31, 2022, our team recorded 938 landowner contacts and 841 site visits. The team impacted 43,831.29 acres. Outreach efforts reached 2283 participants through workshops, meetings, and trainings.

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Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Courtney Nicks - Randolph, Chariton, & Macon Counties

July–September 2022

Activity Highlights

Conservation Planning

<i>Landowner Contacts</i>	80
<i>Site Visits</i>	32
<i>Projects with Acres</i>	45

Partner Meetings/Trainings

<i>FBB Intern Field Training</i>	
<i>Farm Bill Training Instructor</i>	
<i>Quail 9</i>	

Outreach

<i>Native Grass Management Workshop</i>	
<i>Customer Appreciation Day</i>	
<i>Women Go WYLD Weekend</i>	
<i>Quarterly Partner Report</i>	

Chapter / PBA Activities

<i>QF Monthly Meetings</i>	5
<i>MTQF Dove Hunt</i>	3
<i>MMU Banquet</i>	1
<i>MMPBA Meeting</i>	2
<i>Chapter District Meeting</i>	1

Total Acres Impacted: 2,589 acres

Promoted to Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

There are currently 16 Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists (FBWB) on the Missouri team. These are partnership positions supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. When I started my career with Quail Forever, January of 2018, we were a team of 7 FBWBs and I was unaware of how much I would value this organization in just a few short years. In 2020, I had an opportunity to make a lateral move from Shelbyville to the Moberly office, where I was closer to my home and family farm. I continued to work with landowners in my new location, covering Randolph, Macon, and Chariton counties. Over the years my love for helping landowners with wildlife management planning expanded to a deep desire to serve our Missouri team in at a greater capacity. That passion, led me to pursue one of the two Senior Biologist roles in the state. I am excited to say that I will still serve my counties in a similar capacity, but will also serve as a lead to our northern Missouri Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist staff. I hope to help push the needle further for habitat and provide the guidance and support for our staff to reach new heights. The growth of our team is exciting and continues to provide us with new opportunities to expand our reach and help enhance habitat across the state.



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Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



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July–September 2022

Mark Twain QF Dove Hunt



Safety meeting before an afternoon mentored dove hunt, Santa Fe, MO

The Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter hosted another successful mentored dove hunt event in September! With 23 participants and 27 mentors, 22 doves were harvested over 3 hunt sessions. As always, there were smiles all around, and a good time had by all. There's never a shortage of good things said about this event and the dedicated volunteers that make it possible. I'm proud to say that I am part of this group and the huge impacts they make on the community.

MoBCI Annual Conference

Columbia, MO



As a steering committee member of the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative representing Quail Forever, I attending their annual conference, packed with guest speakers and instrumental discussions about bird conservation. I met remarkable people striving to make a difference.

Quail 9

Springfield, MO



I attended Quail 9, where multiple organizations from across the country came together and shared their perspective on upland conservation and the issues they are uniquely faced with. This opened my eyes to the multitude of challenges that we are faced with, even today in Conservation.

Mid MO Prescribed Burn Association



Exciting times in Boone County. The Mid MO PBA is finally underway after a very successful Prescribed Burn Association interest meeting, hosted by MDC, Quail Forever, and the Prescribed Fire Council. Members of the Mark Twain Burn Association participated in the meeting to answer questions and provide insight into their success as a PBA. It was an evening of great conversation and discussions about increasing the amount of prescribed fire on the landscape.



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Randolph County Appreciation Day



Here in Moberly, the Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a customer appreciation day at the USDA office. Our MDC Forester, Sam Kosark, and I provided handouts (left) to landowners that participated in the luncheon. Luke Brass, NRCS's Soil Specialist provided a great demonstration of water runoff and soil erosion with the rain simulator (right). Landowners seemed to greatly enjoy their lunch, the demonstration and good conversation that the afternoon offered.



September Women Go WYLD Event

WildHERness is an organization that aims to foster a connection to the outdoors for women of all demographics, creating a diverse community of competency, self reliance, confidence and mentorship in the mutual appreciation of outdoor recreation. This annual event, Women Go WYLD, is an event to accomplish just that! Fortunately for me, QF plays a part. Ladies from our MO Quail Forever team (top right), hosted a Wild Game Dinner, providing charcuterie boards of Elk and Bison to Pheasant salad and venison tacos. In addition, our ladies held several learning sessions and made connections with like minded women (bottom right) from across the state. It was a great experience and very inspiring.



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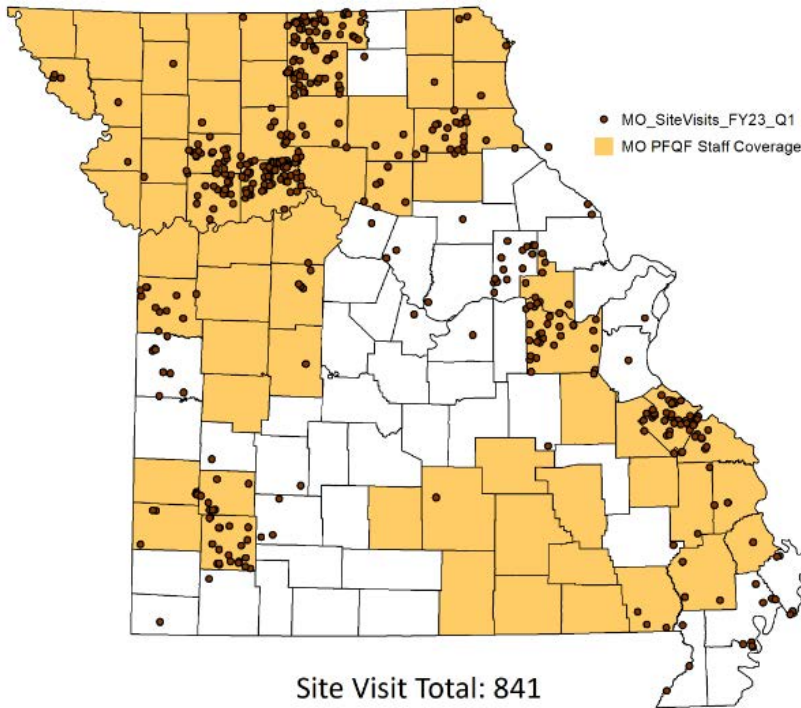
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Grazing Natives Training in Linneus, MO



MMU Chapter Banquet in Columbia, MO

Upcoming...

- Mark Twain Quail Forever Banquet
- MO PF/QF Team Meeting
- Career Development Training
- Internal QRL Committee Meeting
- New Staff Training Opportunities

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Updated 10/24/2022



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CONNECT WITH US!

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Quail Forever



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

July-September 2022

Remnant Prairie Restoration

As a private lands biologist, I get invited to property that much of the public never have the privilege of seeing. While many of these acres exist as “typical” pastures or forestland, I still am treated to features like spring creeks, caves, and sometimes rare or declining natural communities like remnant prairies, glades, and open woodlands. And this past quarter offered the opportunity to visit several such prairies in Lawrence and surrounding counties.



Degraded prairie remnant suffering from encroachment of native eastern redcedar and winged sumac

In most cases, the landowners were aware of what they had, either through extensive knowledge of the site’s history or by managing in a way that retained an obvious prairie appearance. Others, however, simply called asking for help cleaning up a brushy “old-field”. In all scenarios, improvements could be readily made. However, on the more degraded sites, the full recovery of prairie function was a bit more dubious. Had they been removed from a “natural” state beyond restoring?

The answer is on a case-by-case basis, and the source and amount of “disturbance” is the primary predictor.

In the roughly 11,000 years since the last local glaciation event, tallgrass prairie grew to dominate the plains region, covering more than 15 million acres in Missouri; approximately one third of the state. Natural forces like fire, large herbivores, and prolonged climate patterns were constantly acting upon these landscapes, and their timing, intensity, duration, and synergism dictated the prairie’s plant and animal composition at any given period. *Continued* —->

<u>Conservation at a Glance</u>
• 117 Landowner Contacts
• 51 Site Visits
• 7 LCAP/HCG Plans Written
• 18 CRP Field Reviews
• 4 Outreach Events—146 People

Program Involvement	Acres Impacted
CRP	697.4
HCG/LCAP	118.5
CTA	60
Total	875.9

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

July-September 2022

Remnant Prairies *continued*

At times, a prairie might be rank with grasses, thatch, and shrubs and small trees, or might exhibit an abundance of bare ground and annual plants—different structure, but prairie all the same. Today, our human-induced, or anthropogenic, pressures include improper haying and grazing, invasive species introduction, fire suppression, and conversion to row crops and car dealerships. But natural communities haven't evolved an ecological resilience to such disturbances, and are less able to maintain their function under many of our current landuses. As a result, less than one percent of Missouri's expansive pre-European settlement prairie remains today, making remnant protection and rehabilitation urgent and important.



Degraded prairie remnant suffering from year-round livestock grazing and fire suppression

Fortunately, we have many management options and cost-share opportunities to do just that. For overtaxed prairies needing some time out of production, the Missouri Department of Conservation's Landowner and Community Assistance Program (LCAP) offers deferment payments to incentivize landowners to rest over-grazed and over-hayed prairies.



Woody-stem removal through MDC's LCAP Program

For sites gradually becoming forest, both LCAP and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program offer financial assistance to remove woody invaders, particularly eastern redcedar and winged sumac, herbaceous invasives like sericea lespedeza, and to implement prescribed fire to stimulate native grasses and wildflowers. And NRCS' Conservation Stewardship Program offers a patch-burn grazing enhancement to encourage producers to graze prairies in a manner more consistent with natural disturbance regimes, maximizing species and structural diversity.

Continued —>



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Remnant Prairies *Continued*

When sizing up the restoration potential of a degraded prairie, we look for the presence of “conservative” plants, or those with high fidelity to unaltered natural communities, and with low likelihood of growing opportunistically on disturbed sites. When I encounter species like showy goldenrod, pale purple coneflower, prairie clovers, blue wild indigo, leadplant, and rattlesnake master, I am confident we can resuscitate the site. Moreover, if the existing plant community still exhibits the full range of functional groups (e.g. native warm and cool-season grasses, forbs, and legumes), we are in really good shape.



Prairie-indicator plants (Left: Royal Catchfly, Right: Purple Prairie Clover)

I’m excited to have half a dozen such LCAP and EQIP projects currently in the works. Though I do enjoy the 20-species monarch habitat plantings I do on a regular basis, I find these remnant projects much more intriguing—we are simply not certain what we are going to get. If the conservative plants are a true indicator of the site’s potential, our efforts could uncover a lot of rare and declining species that are often difficult to propagate from seed in new plantings. Still, there is the potential that we are ultimately underwhelmed by the diversity and abundance of native plants on the site post-management. If so, we can always pivot to a “reconstruction” by planting a high diversity mix (50-plus forb species) of Missouri native seed specifically tailored to the site.

I can’t wait to see what our efforts bring. Stay tuned for some post-treatment photographs next summer!



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Outreach & Education

Conservation Leadership Corp

- As a member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri's Youth Conservation Action Committee, attended the CFM's Conservation Leadership Corp Fall Workshop where I provided students with a glimpse of private lands conservation career opportunities in Missouri, and helped identify and construct their resolutions for this year's CFM convention.



CFM's CLC students at this year's Fall Workshop at Lake of the Ozarks

Women in Agriculture

- Gave presentations on natural community restoration and native pollinator habitat at this year's WIA conference in Branson, MO. Women landowners from across the state showed up to share successes and failures, and to learn how to improve profitability, aesthetics, and wildlife habitat on their properties.



Presenting to women landowners at this year's WIA conference

Other Outreach & Involvement

- National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative planning committee for the "Quail 9" symposium in Springfield, MO in August.
- Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever virtual district meeting



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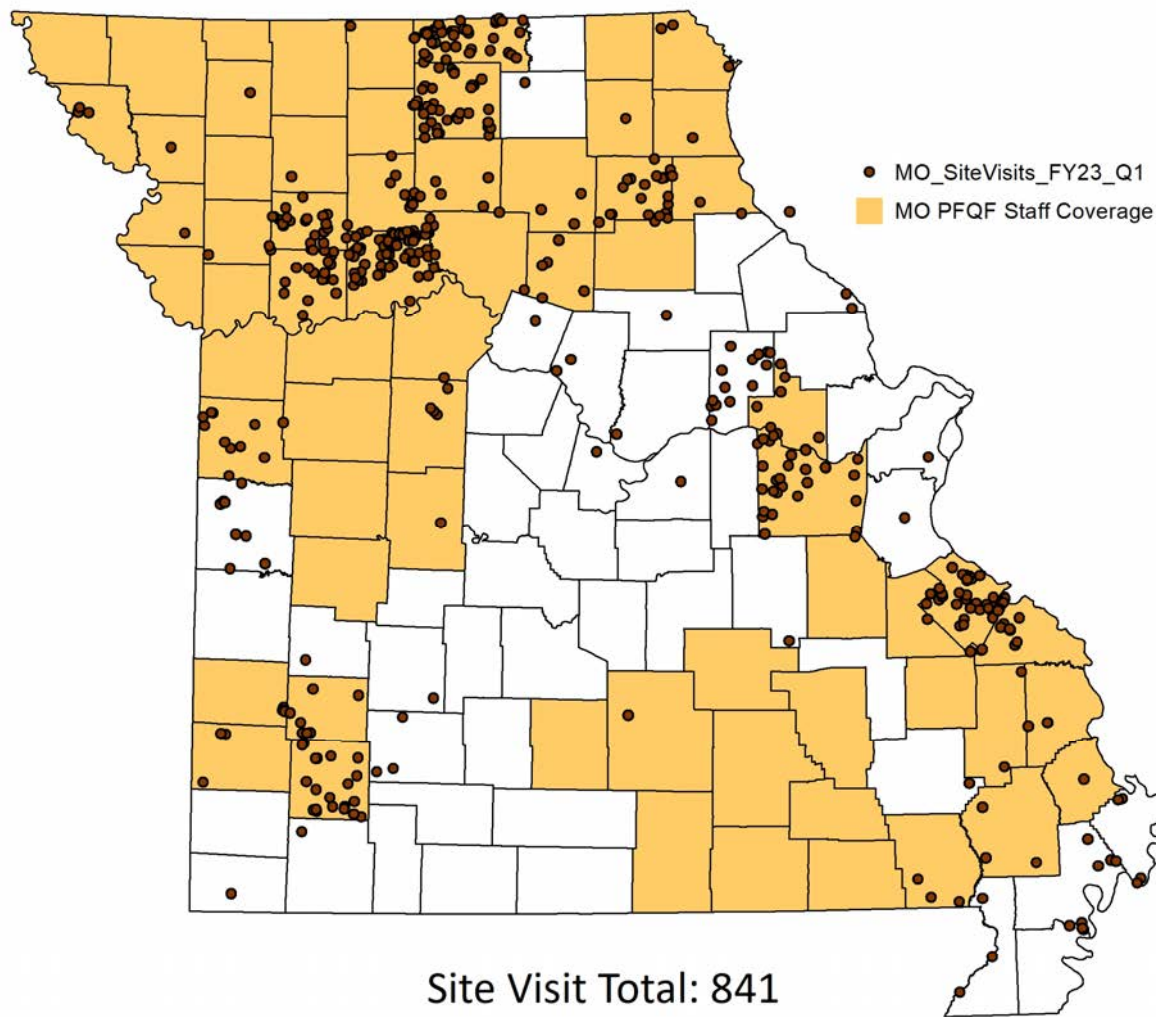
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Haley Lockard - Cass, Johnson, Pettis

July—September 2022

Meeting of the Minds

I was privileged to attend the NABCI Private Lands Forum in Kansas City this July. It was one of the best conferences I have attended with numerous conservation professionals and landowners in the same room. We discussed how to better communicate with landowners about the practices we recommend and available programs. The newest members of the Missouri QF team were also in attendance, which provided a great opportunity to get to know each other and experience valuable training for figuring out their farm bill biologist roles.

The conference was uniquely designed to provide panel presentations the first day then breakouts for further questions and discussion the second day. During the second day, I was able to lead one of the breakouts on Precision Agriculture and how PF/QF is using new technology to increase farm profits, while creating great wildlife habitat. The presentations sparked interest from several local partners and we're looking to continue spreading the message. In addition to professional development and outreach events, I've been able to meet with numerous landowners interested in pollinator and quail habitat. I think these are going to result in very neat EQIP or RCPP applications this fiscal year. I'm looking forward to getting these projects on the ground in the coming year.



Native Passion Flower vine I found at the family farm in Bates County



Jasper checking out our pollinator planting

Quarter Highlights

Conservation Planning

- 70 Landowner Contacts
- 22 Site Visits
- 9 Seed mix review
- 10 Habitat Plans

Total Acres Impacted: 305.19



Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Haley Lockard

July—Sept 2022

Landowner Workshops/ Outreach Events...

- **July 13** Lead one of the three Precision Ag breakouts at the NABCI forum.
- **Sept 19** Hosted habitat booth at the annual Women in Ag conference in Branson, MO.
- **Sept 24** Hosted habitat/informational booth at the Monarch Boxcar Relay at Union Station KCMO
- **Sept 28-Oct 2** Assisted *Kim Cole* with Go WYLD weekend co-hosted by Quail Forever and *wildHERness*.

Trainings & Meetings...

- **July 12-13** Attended the NABCI: Private Lands Forum in Kansas City, MO.
- **Aug 8** Attended NRCS Assessment training in Sedalia
- **Aug 10** PF/QF District Meeting
- **Aug 13** Attended the Annual MO Prescribed Fire Council Meeting
- **Aug 17-18** Attended NRCS CD/CART refresher training.
- **Aug 31** Participated in CRP Field Tour for CRP Technical Working Group

317 people reached through 4 Outreach Events

Looking Forward...

- Oct 8 Central Missouri QF Shells for Support event
- Oct 17-21 Missouri QF Team Meeting in SW MO
- Continue to provide technical assistance to landowners
- Assist NRCS with EQIP, CSP, & RCPP applications and conservation planning



Acres of Prairie Dock discovered while on a Landowner visit.



Whorled milkweed in our native hay planting



Bee on partridge pea in year-1 pollinator planting

Connect with Us!



Missouri Quail Forever



Haley Lockard
Senior WLFW Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Heather Jones - Clark, Scotland, Knox, Lewis Counties

July – September 2022

New Adventures



In late June, I started my position with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. Although my academic background is in wildlife conservation, after college I chose to pursue an advanced degree and a career in secondary science education. A joy in life, for me, is learning and teaching others so it seemed only natural to become a formal classroom teacher. However, as my family was planning for a relocation to Northeast Missouri I decided to explore a career change where I could combine my love for conservation and education. I was aware of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever from attending annual banquets and women workshops, so I was thrilled to find a position with the organization in the my part of the state. I feel

extremely fortunate to be given an opportunity to work with a conservation focused group filled with passionate individuals throughout the state. In my first few months with he organization I have attending valuable trainings, assisted in landowner workshops and met a lot of great people.

Showcasing Habitat

This summer, I worked closely with a partner Missouri Department of Conservation Private Land Conservationist to facilitate two landowner workshops and habitat tours focused on quail management. The evening workshops were held on 126 acres currently enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program, CP38-4D.

During the tours we provided attendees with specific information about quail lifecycle and habitat needs. The landowner was present and able to provide specific information about how he established pollinator planting, created down tree structures and completed edge feathering as we toured the property. The goal of the workshops were to increase landowners' understanding of quail habitat requirements and cost-share programs available to help them achieve their goals. The workshop was a great example of the positive impact our organization can have on habitat when we build positive partnerships with landowners.



Photos taken in July '22 of a CP42 - Pollinator Habitat seeding that was showcased during the Quail



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Farm Bill Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



Heather Jones - Clark, Scotland, Knox, Lewis Counties

July – September 2022

Outreach & Education

- **State Fair on August 12, 2022.** Kim Cole, Valerie Repp, I worked the Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever booths the State Fair Invasive Species Day. We provided information about our habitat organization, importance of native plants and controlling invasive species. We also provided native wildflower coloring sheets and native seed mix packets to the public.



and at

- **Forest and Woodland Workshop on August 27, 2022.** Lincoln County Soil and Water District conducted a forestry focused landowner workshop in Troy, MO this fall. I presented information to landowners about establishing pollinators and the benefits of incorporating native plants and trees to their landscaping plans.



- **Quail Management & Habitat Workshop on July 28 & September 7, 2022.** Partnered with MDC PLC to conduct a quail habitat workshop and tour for landowners in Lewis County. The workshop provided information on quail habitat requirements and cost-share programs to assist in establishing and managing quality wildlife habitat.



- **Brush Management Workshop on September 17, 2022.** Assisted Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Josh Marshall, with Brush Management Workshop for landowners in Unionville, MO. I provided attendees information on Foliar Spray as a brush management strategy.

- **Women's Go Wyld Weekend on September 30—October 2.** Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever partnered with WildHERness to facilitate the second annual Women's Go

Photos from the WildHERness Women's Go Wyld Weekend. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's Wild Game Dinner night

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

CONSERVATION PLANNING		OUTREACH/EDUCATION	PARTNER MEETING/TRAINING
Conservation Planning - Eligibility & Ranking	5.6	• State Fair Booth	• MO QF Monthly Team Call
Assessment - Status Review & Check Out -	52.27 2554.63	• Forest & Woodland Workshop	• Farm Bill 101 Training
		• Quail Habitat Tour	• NABCI Private Lands Forum
		• Brush Management Workshop	• Cover Crop Webinar Series
		• Women's Go Wyld	• Lewis County QRL Committee Meeting
			• QF CRP Overview Webinar
			• QF Habitat Challenge Grant Webinar
TOTAL ACRES IMPACTED 2,612.5			

Wyld Weekend. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever were responsible for the Wild Game Dinner on Friday night. The weekend was filled with lots laughs and outdoor skills learning!

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Quarterly Partners' Report



Heather Jones - Clark, Scotland, Knox, Lewis Counties

July – September 2022



Atlas Bee Survey

This summer, I participated in the Missouri Atlas Bee Survey. The survey is a Xerces Society citizen science project that is focused on better understanding the status of Missouri's bumble bees. To get involved, I completed online training, gathered sampling supplies, printed data sheets and headed into the field! I conducted my two required samples on my family's farm in Lewis County where we have acres enrolled in CRP pollinator planting. Sampling was super simple, fun, and zero stings!

Getting involved is easy. If interested check out the project and instructions on how to be involved in next summer's bee sampling.

[Missouri Bumble Bee Atlas - Missouri Bumble Bee](#)

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
North American Bird Conservation Committee's (NABCI) Private Lands Forum	In July, I attended the NABCI Private Lands Forum in Kansas City, MO. This conference focused on skills needed to effectively connect with landowners making conservation decision about their property. During the conference we were able to hear from several landowners and their experience getting technical assistance from various conservation agencies. The key take-aways for me were to truly listen to landowners and be reliable. This builds trust and lasting relationships which is vital for
Center for Regenerative Agriculture Virtual Cover Crops Webinar Series	This virtual workshop provided an opportunity for me to learn about the various benefits of incorporating cover crops. The virtual webinar format covered topics such as seeding, establishment, termination of cover crops, cover crops and wildlife benefits, and grazing cover crops.
MDC—Farm Bill 101 Training	In August, the newly hired PF/QF members took part in the Farm Bill 101 training presented by Missouri Department of Conservation. Presentations focused on a comprehensive breakdown of federal and state cost-share programs.
Lewis County QRL Planning Committee Meeting	In August, I met with the Lewis County Quail Restoration Landscape Planning Committee to discuss upcoming quail surveys and the recent Quail 9 Conference. Our MDC PLC provided the committee with a summary of a quail study conducted in another QRL area as well as a update from other states' habitat management practices.

Looking Forward I Will Be...

- Attending Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever New Employee Orientation October 4-6, 2022
- Presenting at Master Naturalist Field Day in Lewis County October 8, 2022
- Presenting at Conservation Day for Lewis County Schools October 13, 2022
- Attending Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Team Meeting October 17-20, 2022
- Completing Quail Counts in the Lewis County Quail Restoration Landscape Areas

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Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

July – September 2022

Position Update

A lot has happened in the past quarter! I've relocated to central Missouri for my new role as Sr. Coordinating Biologist and have been busy working with the State Coordinator and CWB team, as well as plugging in with the NRCS State Office staff. There have been several great opportunities to meet and network with partners including MDC Partners Round Table, Conservation Federation of Missouri's Affiliate Summit, and QF Chapter District Meetings. Quail Forever hosted 3 FBB Internship positions over the summer, and the pilot programs seems to have been successful. I've continued to assist with the conservation plan development for RCPP-PRIME and am excited to be gearing up for another signup early this fall. I'm looking forward to a successful PRIME signup and to moving forward with a couple exciting opportunities.

Quail Forever FBB Internship Program a Success

This summer Missouri Quail Forever piloted our first ever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Intern positions. This being the first year, we brought on 3 individuals, students and young professionals, to assist partners in high workload counties/service areas. The interns received training on CRP status reviews and field checks from our team of biologists and hit the ground running. While CRP was their main priority, interns worked on a variety of different programs and spent time in the field, learning from and assisting partner staff. Interns worked with NRCS District Conservationists to prioritize where work was done and received daily guidance from local NRCS staff and Quail Forever FBB's.



Between finalizing the funding agreement and the interns school schedules, we were only able to keep the positions on for around 6 weeks. In that short time, the interns delivered 93 landowner contacts, 229 site visits, and a total of 10,303 acres. Great work intern team! We hope that partners are happy with the pilot year of the FBB Intern program and are interested in continuing and growing the program in future years.

Conservation Planning

- 13 NRCS Cons. Planner Contacts
- 2 Quality Assurance Review
- 11 Landowner Contacts

Programs	Acres Impacted
RCPP	53.14
Total	53.14

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Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

July – September 2022

While the interns racked up some impressive numbers, I know that these positions didn't happen on their own. Thank you to Clint Roby, Corey Walker, Jesse Linscott, Courtney Nicks, Jonathan Dew, Josh Marshall, NRCS leadership, and anyone else involved in making this pilot program a success. I'm excited to see what we can do next year!

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Rockbridge Water Festival	Hosted QF information booth along with Missourians for Moanrchs at the Rockbridge State Park Annual Water Festival in Columbia, MO. We talked with adults and children about the benefits of native plants for wildlife and water quality.
PF/QF Chapter District Meeting	Attended the Central MO district meeting for chapters to provide an update on my position and learn about chapter resources and priorities.
CFM Affiliate Summit	Participated in the Conservation Federation of Missouri's (CFM) Affiliate Summit to network with partners and learn about conservation priorities within the state.
CLC Fall Workshop	Assisted with Conservation Leadership Corps annual Fall Workshop where I served as a conservation resource professional, providing input on potential resource related resolution topics.
MDC Partners Round Table	Attended Missouri Department of Conservation's Partners Round Table to network with partners across the state and learn about conservation priorities and efforts.

Looking Forward

- I will continue to lead the delivery of the Monarch PRIME- RCPPP.
- Coordinate second year of FBB intern program to deliver assistance over the coming summer.
- Work with State Coordinator and partners to identify conservation priorities and assist with special initiatives to address them.
- Pursue certification as a drone pilot.
- 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 clearly define my role and responsibilities as a Sr. Coordinating Biologist.



@MissouriQF



Missouri Quail Forever



MissouriPFQF.org

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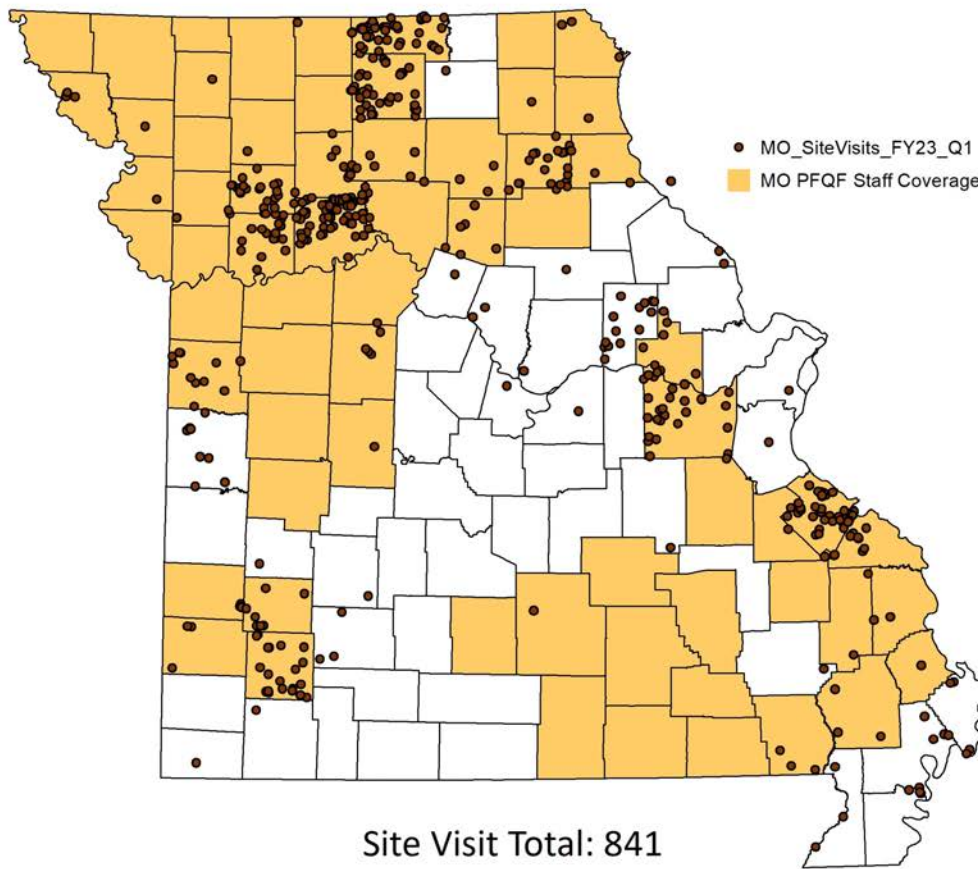
Sr. Coordinating Wildlife Biologist
Quarterly Partners' Report



JAKE SWAFFORD - Missouri

July – September 2022

**FY23 MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
July 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022**



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 10/24/2022



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.

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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

July– September 2022

Introduction

My name is Jonathan Dew. I was hired on by PF/QF in late June of 2022 as the new Farm Bill Biologist over Linn, Livingston, and Carroll Counties. I bring with me a deep passion for wildlife as well as working with private landowners to create and enhance habitat throughout my counties and the state.

I grew up in a small town in central Mississippi about an hour north of Jackson. Seeing there wasn't a lot to do around town, I spent most of my time outdoors on our local hunting club with my father and brother. This is where they taught me the importance of conservation and the beauty of wildlife. I will forever cherish the time spent chasing white-tail, turkeys, and everything else through those woods.

I graduated from Mississippi State University in May of 2021 with a B.S. in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture. During my time at MSU, I was able to learn from some of the best minds about the need for conservation, and supplied the tools for my future career.

After graduation, I was offered an Wetland/Waterfowl Technician internship with the Barker Ranch in Washington State. There I gained hands on knowledge of wetland ecosystems and the best practices to improve the habitat quality. In September of 2021, I accepted a Research Technician position with the University of Arkansas Monticello. During my time there, I was tasked with determining the effect annual flooding has on Red Oak species in Greentree Reservoirs throughout the state.

After my internship came to a close, I applied and was offered the Farm Bill Biologist position with PF/QF. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to helping landowners put quality wildlife habitat on the ground.



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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

July– September 2022

Position Update

Since my start in late June, the office put me straight to work handling the heavy CRP workload. I have been tasked with doing many expiring CRP Inventory checks as well as explaining to producers the details and requirements of their CRP contract. I was even able to help finish up a few CRP checks outside of my core counties in Randolph county. During these field visits, I have been able to experience an abundance of wildlife, and see some of the differences between here and my home state. I have begun to create connections with landowners in my counties, and looking forward to building those relationships in the future. Throughout the first few months, I have had the privilege to meet and work with the MO PF/QF team as well as our partners with NRCS and MDC. They have been an excellent source of information and have helped me transition into my new journey with Quail Forever. I have also been able to attend multiple trainings, including a Farm Bill Training hosted by MDC and a NABCI Private Lands Forum. These trainings were invaluable to my position.

Conservation Planning

- 4 Landowner Contacts
- 106 Site Visits
- 1 Outreach Event– Hundley-Whaley FFA Day– 168 people
- 850.2 Acres Assessed

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
NABCI Private Lands Forum	In early July, I attended the 3 day private lands forum in Kansas City. The primary focus of this forum was to discussed the most effective way to communicate and build relationships with private landowners and to use this information to inevitably get more habitat on the ground.
Farm Bill Training	This specific training focused on the ins and outs of the Farm Bill programs I will be working with everyday. Programs such as CRP, EQIP, CSP, and WRE are just a few of the programs discussed. We also had a lengthy discussion regarding the most effective means to implement these programs on our respective counties.



Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

July– September 2022

Outreach & Education

Hundley-Whaley FFA Field Day

In September, I was blessed with the opportunity to attend the Hundley-Whaley FFA Field Day to help present a pollinator plot to the students from various schools. Throughout the day, we discussed the importance of pollinator plots and described the multitude of benefits they provide. I was pleasantly surprised to see these students actively engaging in the discussion and telling us about their own viewpoints and experiences. I am looking forward to providing more of these opportunities in the future.



**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

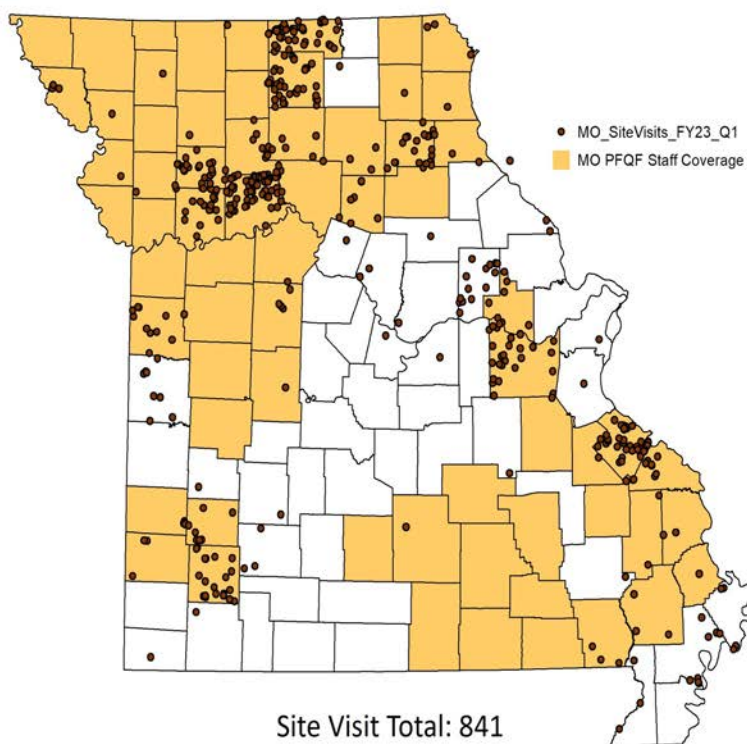
Quarterly Partners' Report



Jonathan Dew - Livingston, Linn, Carroll

July– September 2022

FY23 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT July 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 10/24/2022



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.

Leaving Our Mark On Missouri

- The Farm Bill Biologist across the State recorded 938 Landowner Contacts and 841 Site Visits.
- Total Acres Impacted is 43,831.29
- Outreach efforts reached 2283 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!

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

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2022

Quarterly Overview

I kicked off the first quarter of FY '23 with a bang. It was filled with field visits, workshops, outreach opportunities, and a chance to assist with a prescribed fire. I was also afforded the opportunity to help the Green Hills Chapter host a habitat booth at the Putnam County Fair. There were also ample training opportunities I participated in during the quarter. Several of us were able to help train our first group of Farm Bill Interns where we taught them how to conduct field reviews and CRP checks. I also participated in a soils workshop and field tour. This provided me a chance to work with my NRCS partners brushing up on our soils knowledge. It was a fast paced quarter that has provided several opportunities to impact habitat.

MDC Prescribed Fire

As I was starting out one of my weeks in September, I received a call from a partner with the Missouri Department of Conservation asking if I would assist with a prescribed burn. I missed out on most of the spring burn season, so I quickly checked my schedule and agreed to help. Late summer burns are referred to as growing season burns and can be quite beneficial when managing a variety of situations. For example, burning over abundant, dense native grasses such as Indian grass or big bluestem, sets back those species and provides opportunities for native forbs and legumes to flourish. They can slow the spread of invasives. Burning in August and September reduces the number of seeds that the invasive legume, sericea lespedeza, can produce. It also can be used to manage trees. Hot summer fires set back woody encroachment and allows the opportunity to treat the sprouts with herbicide the following spring. This burn addressed most of those objectives and was completed on a remnant prairie in Harrison county called, Pawnee Prairie. We had good winds which drove the fire exactly as planned. It was a great



Controlled Burn with MDC

burn and provided me an opportunity to meet new partners and help them complete this much needed management practice. I look forward to other opportunities to help our partners with their priorities and mission.

MU Field Day

Another one of our Partners, Missouri University Extension, hosted their annual FFA field day at the Hundley-Whaley Research Center in Albany, MO. This field day is an opportunity for FFA students from across the area schools to come explore various different agriculture, conservation, and outdoor experiences. The presentations range from driving safety with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, to edible native plants and nutrition, hosted by the Extension. Each year, PF/QF Missouri gives a talk about pollinator habitat and the importance of pollinators. This year, myself and two other biologist talked with over 500 students and advisors about how pollinators impact many aspects of our life. We covered how native plants can benefit agriculture producers and livestock operations, the benefits of native plants and pollinator plantings for wildlife species, and how native plants benefit soil health and water quality. We let the kids take a tour of the pollinator and native plant test plots. They were able to ask questions about native plants and see first hand the variety of species that are in these plantings. FFA classes from several schools were conducting insect collections. The students use the plots to add to their collection and it showed them the variety of insects that utilize these plots. The presentations weren't just to the students though. We were able to talk to several Hundley-Whaley staff members and FFA advisors about how these plots can be implemented on their own property. This event is one of my favorite outreach opportunities. I am glad I was able to introduce two of our newer biologist to this presentation and tour.



Presenting at Hundley Whaley

MDC Technician lighting fire.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2022

Brush Management for Working Lands

In the middle of September, I hosted a brush management workshop for landowners in Putnam and the surrounding counties. The goal of this workshop was to explore variety of techniques that can be used to manage and treat woody encroachment on a landowners property. My goal was to provide valuable insight to both agriculture and recreational landowners. In my experience checking CRP, I noticed that brush and woody encroachment is an issue most landowners face. Often times, the go to method of removing it, is to brush hog. I wanted to help educate landowners about more efficient and effective practices that may reduce how often they have to deal with woody encroachment and introduce techniques that are more wildlife friendly. Bruce and Marla Mestad were more than willing to let me use their property for the workshop. With their assistance, I created several stations demonstrating various brush management techniques. On the day of the workshop, we loaded a trailer and used the Mestad's tractor to tour the farm, stopping at the stations to talk about the practices that were utilized. We covered proper use of hack & squirt, girdling, cut stump treatment, foliar application, prescribed fire, and many other methods. It began to rain before we reached our last station, so we moved to the Mestad's shed



Heather presenting on foliar application of herbicide.



Jesse Linscott, NRCS DC, talking about cost share.

and continued our conversation. Other topics came up such as native grazing, pollinator plots, native habitat, and predator control. Lunch arrived and we continued talking while we ate. This was by far one of the most engaged and interactive workshops I have been able to host. There were many conversations between participants and between the biologist and landowners as we toured the property. During the stops and in the shed, no one seemed shy about asking questions or sharing personal experiences. At the end of the workshop, I felt like everyone, myself included, had learned something new about managing native habitat and farm land. I couldn't

have hosted the workshop without the Mestad's generosity who served us snacks while we waited for lunch and provided dessert after lunch. They also opened their whole farm to the tour and told me they would be happy to do it again. The Green Hills Chapter of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever sponsored the lunch and we ate well thanks to their generosity. It was also great to have Will and Heather, fellow biologist with Quail Forever, and Jesse Linscott, NRCS District Conservationist, come out and assist with the workshop. I enjoy working with partners and friends to bring unique perspectives and information to workshops. Overall, it was an incredible day outside enjoying some beautiful weather on a beautiful property. I hope to assist with and host more workshops like this one in the future. Workshops provide a unique opportunity to reach several people at one place about native habitat.



Will talking with Landowners during the tour.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

JUL – SEP 2022

Trainings and Outreach	Summary
Brush Management Workshop	A workshop to discuss the various methods of controlling an managing woody encroachment.
FFA Field Day	We talked to 500 students and sponsors about native pollinator plots and pollinating insects.
Green Hills Habitat Booth at Putnam County Fair	Assisted the Green Hills Chapter with their booth at the Putnam County Fair, talking about habitat & chapter events.
Intern Training	Trained 3 new interns and 2 new staff in native plant ID and completing CRP status reviews.

Looking Forward

- Oct 4th NRCS Area 2 Civil Rights Meeting
- Oct 17th-20th QF Missouri Team Meeting

Quarterly Numbers
• 81 Landowners Contacted
• 88 Site Visits



Monarch Caterpillar on butterfly milkweed at my house in my native plant garden.

Program	Impacted Ac.
CRP Programs	3,161.59
Other NRCS	308.45
Other Practices	28.93
Total	3498.97

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.

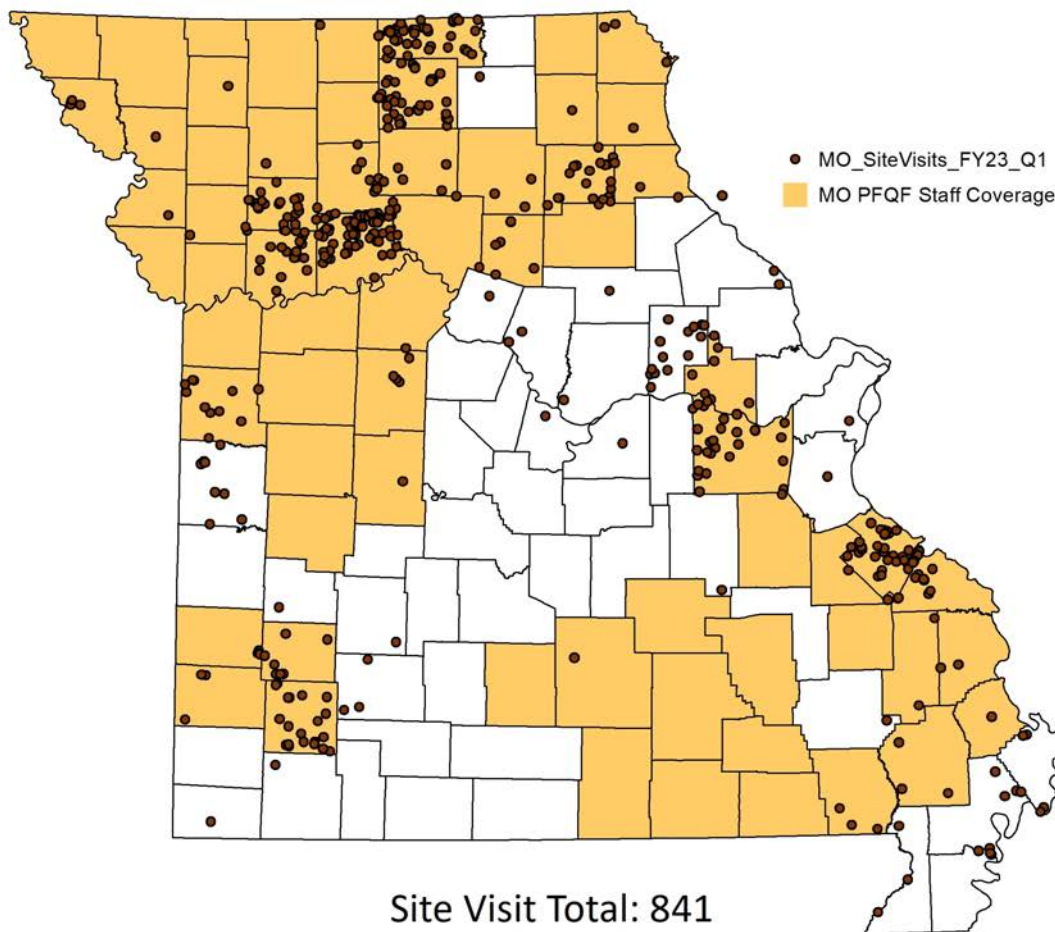
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Updated 10/24/2022



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

July 2022-September 2022

“Your Reputation Proceeds You”

Land Use Rights Returned

The enrollment of land into the Wetland Reserve Easement program is a transaction between the landowner and the federal government. The easement, and all it's future glory, is held by NRCS. Upon closing, the landowner forfeits all land use rights except for six, listed in the “Warranty Easement Deed”.

In order for landowners to make full use of this opportunity, the Compatible Use Agreement is set in place to allow more use of the easement. This includes, but is not limited to, trail and levee maintenance, water level manipulation, herbicide application, hunting structure establishment, and food plots. All of these items are outlined with specifications in the CUA.

I've heard from various mouths that people are weary of enrolling into WRE with it's reputation of it being a strict program. It has its parameters, like any government agreement. The WETs team, however, is more than willing, within reason, to be flexible in allowing the landowner to get the most out of their property.

We are biologists and professionals eager to exemplify the spirit of conservation. We do so, partly, by living vicariously through easement landowners. There are seemingly endless enjoyment opportunities these parcels present. I beg people to remember, this isn't about government control over your land. It's only about doing right by the habitat for generations to come, outlined by the combined efforts of eco-centric minds of biologists, technicians, specialists, etc. in an effort to prioritize wildlife for a time well beyond our own.



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

July 2022-September 2022



Food for Thought

When attempting to figure out where to put your food plots in relation to where you'd like to hunt, I'd ask landowners to consider the benefit of the ecosystem. When enrolled in WRE, landowners can be held responsible for noxious species eradication. But on the other hand, landowners can simply walk away and are not required to conduct maintenance or management. The land, and surrounding habitats, can suffer from this neglect. On some easements, I've found invasive species in various quantities. If you're willing to spend the money to establish a food plot, I ask you consider evaluating your property for the sake of the system. Plant your food plots in an area overrun with *Serecia lespedeza*, Johnson grass, or even spike rush!

These plants are a tough bird to knock back and can easily establish monocultures, which are never encouraged as they negate diversity. "Kill two birds with one stone", if you will. (ba-dum-tss)

Do you see what I see?

One of the most intriguing aspects about wetland management is the ability to press the reset button. These dynamic systems allow for mass trial and error, with the ability to be "reset". To explain: a landowner has the option to experiment with timing. Maybe draw-down a little later or pump water on later in the season to allow the system to dry out. DRY OUT?! I understand this hesitancy. To be a true wetland system and encourage wildlife favorable plant species, the water needs to stay off the unit until cracks appear on the surface. You see the cracks; this little fella sees refuge. Microtopography for the subtle win!





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

July 2022-September 2022

Conservation Technical Assistance & Trainings/Meetings Attended

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

- 37 landowner contacts
- 20 site visits
- 16 compatible use agreements
- Attended 2 multi-day trainings



Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Basic Soils & Web Soil Survey to Interpret Land Capabilities and Limitations SEMO	<i>July 18-19th</i> — A hybrid-type (TEAMS & in-field day) training to meet the requirements of the soils course required to become a certified conservation planner.
Soils Course Field Day SEMO	<i>August 9th</i> — The final requirement for completion. Soil scientists from around the state gather to train newer biologists
Private Lands Partner Meeting SEMO	August 18th— MDC designates meetings to encourage communication between partners
Grazing School SEMO	Aug. 30th-Sept 1st— A cross-training to further my experience and landowner assistance capabilities

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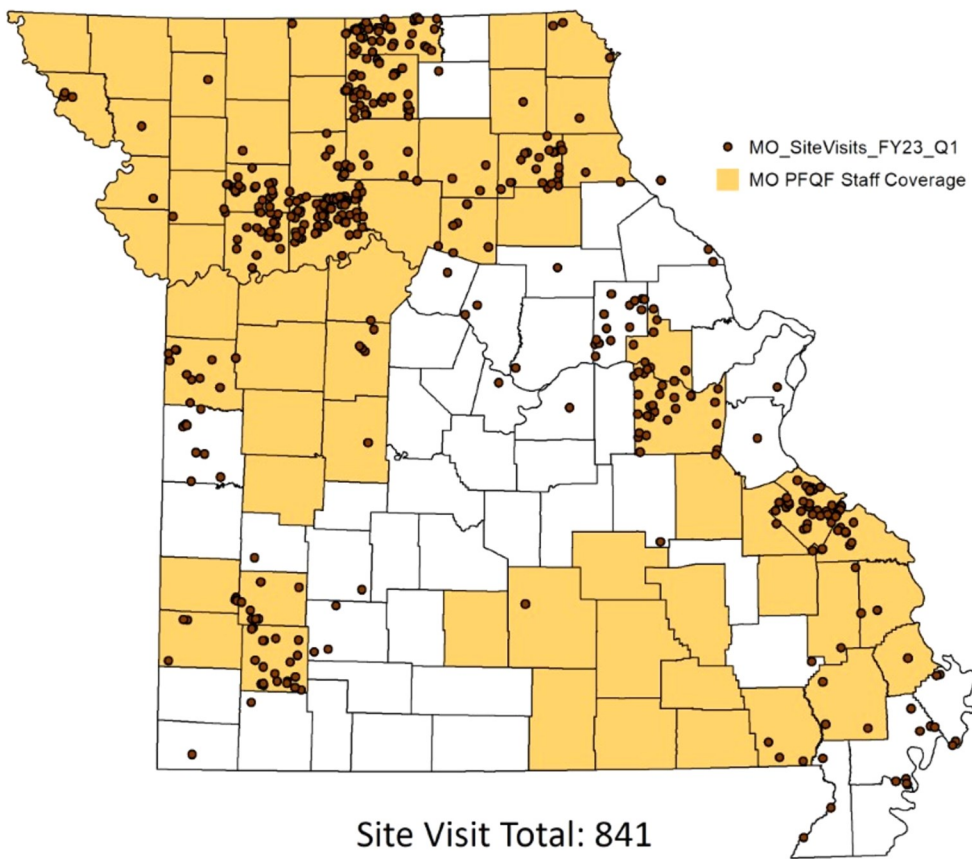
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Kelsey DeZalia— Southeast Missouri

July 2022-September 2022

FY23 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT July 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 10/24/2022



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.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Ray, Clinton, and Caldwell Counties

July– September 2022

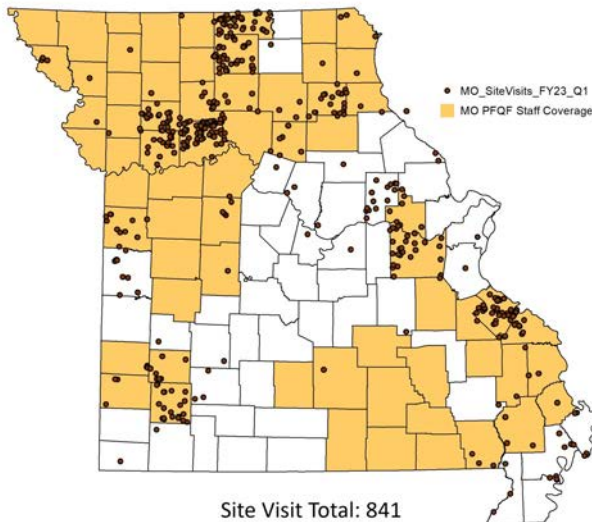
Fourth Quarter of FY22

From July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022, my personal landowner contacts increased by 10 from Q4 of FY 22. Individuals reached through outreach programs increased to 168 this quarter. Other acres impacted are a combination of practices such as brush management, seedings, and edge feathering.

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

- Landowner Contacts: 27
- Site Visits: 45
- Reached through outreach: 168

**FY23 MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
July 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022**



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 10/24/2022



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.

Program	Acres affected
CRP	1518.48
Other	59.18
Total Acres	1577.64



A Great Way to End The Summer!

The last half of this summer has been a busy one. A healthy mixture of completing expiring CRP checks, landowner contacts to discuss future programs to apply for, training opportunities, and outreach events.

Trainings the last half of this summer have ranged from a soils course to further my Conservation Planner certification, to training in Jefferson City at the Missouri Department of Conservation headquarters for Farm Bill 101 training. This included learning how to work with the MDC Private Land Conservationists to incorporate some of the MDC incentive programs with Farm Bill programs. I also attended a refresher course in Warrensburg covering computer programs NRCS uses for contracting purposes.

I attended two outreach events in September where other Farm Bill Biologists and I hosted booths. The first was at the Hundley-Whaley center in Albany. There, the other Biologists and I spoke about native plants and pollinators to over 500 FFA students from the area. This was a great opportunity to reach the younger generation and convey the importance of native plants. The other outreach event was the Monarch Boxcar unveiling in Kansas City. At this event, 125 individuals were taught about native plants, pollinators, and the overall



conservation for the Monarch butterfly.

With the different trainings and outreach events, a person cannot help but have more admiration for the overall effort and success in getting habitat on the ground. The more trainings that become available the better we can help landowners to establish habitat. With more outreach events, we can reach more landowners about the importance of habitat and the significance of native vegetation.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

July - September 2022

CRP checks for contracts expiring in 2023 have been a priority for me this summer and continue to be. As I am wrapping these up, I am seeing multiple instances where a 20 year old stand of a 1-2 species mix of introduced grasses now qualifies for re-enrollment as a 2-3 species mix of native grass. With this conversion to the native grasses from introduced grasses, the wildlife benefits jump. This conversion to a native stand will benefit all wildlife. It is not just a benefit to one species or a small handful of species. The next step to help with the wildlife benefit of these conversions to native grass stands are to ensure that the native forbs are flourishing, bring in some more native species of grasses, and to pair it with other practices such as edge feathering, or some shrubs within the field.

It is often thought that for CRP anything woody such as shrubs and shrub cover is a huge “no-no” unless a person is enrolled in a bit more of a complex CRP program such as the SAFE programs or the CP25. However, for a 5+ species native grass/forbs, the required criteria states there must be a “existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.”



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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

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

July—September 2022

FY 2023—First Quarter

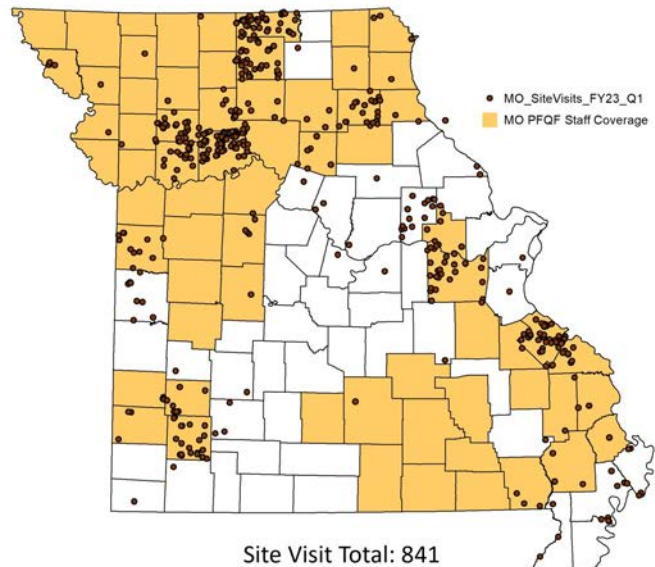
From July through September, our Missouri team conducted 841 site visits and logged over 900 landowner contacts. We impacted over 43,831 acres of habitat statewide and reached out to 1,700 individuals at over 20 landowner workshops and outreach events.

During the first quarter, I recorded 60 landowner contacts and conducted 47 site visits. Through habitat planning and technical assistance, I impacted over 921 acres. Acres impacted were primarily from expiring CRP status reviews. Aside from working on CRP status reviews in Ste. Genevieve county, I also assisted with Perry County expiring CRP contracts.

In July, I hosted two Monarch Migration conservation outreach events in collaboration with the Ozark Regional Library System. These events were at the Ironton and Fredericktown library branches and nearly 50 people attended the events.

In early September, I hosted my first habitat tour of the fiscal year. Nearly 30 participants attended the Native Pasture Tour in Jackson to learn about grazing native warm season grasses.

FY23 MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT July 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.
 Updated 10/24/2022



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

- 60 Landowner Contacts
- 47 Site Visits
- 39 Status Reviews/Checkouts
- 6 Conservation Plans Completed
- 1 Landowner Habitat Tour
- 2 Conservation Outreach Events

Program	Acres Impacted	CRP Practice	Acres Impacted
MDC LCAP	2	CP1	248.00
Total	2	CP2	91.30
		CP4D	0.30
		CP12	6.10
		CP21	12.10
		CP22	11.90
		CP33	28.00
		CP38	524.23
		Total	921.93

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

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

July—September 2022

2022 Pasture Tour — Aufdenberg Farm

Many areas throughout the state experienced drought conditions on their working lands over the summer. For some cattle producers, this meant providing supplemental forage for cattle as cool season grasses “slumped.” For producers like Rick Aufdenberg, utilizing native warm season grasses (NWSG) in their grazing rotation gave them a much needed bump.

Native warm season grasses like big bluestem, Indiangrass, little bluestem, and switchgrass are bunch-growing grasses with long root systems. While cool season grasses like tall fescue slow their growth in the hot summer months, NWSG grasses thrive. With extensive root systems, they are tolerant of drought conditions. They also require minimal, if any, fertilizer or soil amendments making them a cost-effective solution during the hottest and driest months of the year. In Rick’s operation, he had noticed high conception rates and better body conditions of his cattle after they graze NWSG. Aside from providing high-yielding forage, these grasses also provide great nesting habitat for quail and improve soil health.

On September 8, I held a Native Pasture Tour at Rick’s farm with MFA, MDC, and NRCS partners. During the first portion of the workshop, a panel of three producers shared how they use natives within their grazing systems. Each producer discussed their operation (cow/calf, stockers, etc.), their conversion method, the benefits they gained from converting, the costs involved, and which cost-share program they used. Guests had the opportunity to ask the panel questions before heading out for the pasture tour. During the pasture tour, participants were able to see the condition of the field after cattle were removed to allow adequate time for the grasses to store energy before going dormant.

Thank you to our partners at MFA (Landry Jones), NRCS (Drexel Atkisson), and MDC (James Borowiak) for your support in making this year’s pasture tour successful!



Left: Pictured is a warm season grass paddock (right of fence) compared to a cool season paddock (left) in August.
Middle: Rick Aufdenberg provided information about his rotational system and when he removes the cattle from the pasture during the tour.
Right: The producer panel featured Drexel Atkisson, Mandy Thomure, and Rick Aufdenberg who shared their experiences with NWSG.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

July—September 2022

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Conservation Planner Meeting	Attended virtual conservation planners meeting hosted by NRCS in Area 3. Received updates on CART assessments in Conservation Desktop.
Private Lands Partner Meeting	Attended MDC SE CPLC Partner Meeting in Cape. Provided partners with workload updates and habitat projects.
RCPP Outreach Meeting	Met with local NRCS and MDC partners to discuss potential outreach efforts for Glade/Woodland RCPP focus areas.

Looking Forward

- Work on EQIP and LCAP project planning
- Write prescribed burn plans for CRP management (Ste. Genevieve County)
- Attend MO QF Team Meeting in October
- Attend TSI workshop in Perry County on October 27
- Attend FOSA meeting on November 1
- Assist with MDC Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop in November

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Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist
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For contact information and to learn more about us visit missouripf.qf.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.



9/2/22

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Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



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

A Busy Summer Season

This quarter started right in the middle of field season. Treating invasives, surveying, and multiple outreach events filled my calendar. I also attended a few trainings and meetings hosted around the state. In July, I started treating invasive species along right-of-ways in the Mahan's Creek area in Shannon County.

August was filled with the Missouri State Fair, trainings, and for invasive plant treatments. At the state fair, I was able to share a lot of information on invasive plant ID and treatments to many people across the state. Several people took interest in the partnership and were happy to hear about the SRISP's initiatives. I also attended the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council's Annual meeting. They discussed each PBA's fire accomplishments from the past year and what steps they are taking to improve prescribed fire recording throughout the state. MDC also hosted a Farm Bill 101 training that I was able to attend that focused on cost-share programs and what practices can be associated with each program.

September brought a slow end to the spraying season, with treatments in the Mahan's



The SRISP hosted a booth during MDC's Conservation day at the Missouri State Fair.

This county road in Mahan's creek had a heavy sericea infestation along the right-of-way. Hopefully with this year's treatment and follow up treatments in the coming years, the population will reduce.





Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Valarie Repp- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties July—September 2022

Creek area wrapping up. The Oregon County SWCD hosted their annual Grassland ID Competition, which I assisted with. Five high schools from the area attended and competed in soils, wildlife habitat, plant ID, and grassland ID. The students showed off their knowledge and learned some additional skills from the competition.

As we wind down to fall, I'm looking forward to attending the Missouri State QF Team meeting in a few weeks, attending the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, and hosting the SRISP's annual partner meeting.

Reducing the Invasive Plant Superhighway, One Roadside at a Time

When traveling down the road in Missouri, motorists see many interesting things out of their windshield. Missouri roadsides can attract attention, from cattle to century-old barns to prairie dock plants sending up their flowers along. One item that deserves a particular

Here I am spot spraying sericea lespedeza along a county road in Mahan's Creek. Spot spraying helps reduce damage to surrounding native plants and the amount of chemical used on roadsides.



spotlight but isn't the most fun to observe is invasive plants. Unfortunately, invasives from sericea lespedeza to Callery pear are taking up residence more and more along right-of-ways.

Conservation agencies have taken notice and started measurable steps to combat this problem. The Scenic Rivers Invasive Species Partnership (SRISP) was formed in 2018 to bring agencies together found in the Current River watershed in Southern Missouri. The SRISP strives to be a strong, cross-boundary public-private partnership that inventories, monitors, controls, and prevents the spread of invasive species. This organization is the first Cooperative Invasive Management Area formed in Missouri, making the SRISP the pioneer for the state.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is a partnering organization with the SRISP. To take advantage of the new partnership, MDC applied and received funds from the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Grant to treat invasive species found along right-of-ways within the SRISP area. Since June,



Coordinating Invasive Species Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Valarie Repp- Butler, Carter, Dent, Shannon, Reynolds, Ripely, Oregon, Texas, and Howell Counties July—September 2022

SRISP coordinator and coordinating invasive species biologist Valarie Repp has been targeting county roads within the Mahan's Creek area. This area is designated as a top-tier priority area for MDC – it consists of valuable glade and woodland habitat, and its many small creeks and drainages feed into the Jack's Fork and Current Rivers.



This roadside shows a strip of sericea that has been treated. Notice that surrounding grasses and forbs have remained intact to fill in and seed the space that the sericea was present.

Along with the SRISP, the Missouri Department of Transportation conducts invasive plant work along the major numbered highways and smaller lettered highways, making a connected network of treated roads within the area.

What makes this project unique and special is not only the collaboration of many organizations but also the treatment method. The SRISP and the transportation department aren't just blanket spraying the right-of-way; they're carefully spot spraying by hand each invasive plant they find. This method helps reduce chemical use and leaves valuable native plants found on roadsides intact so they may flower and reseed areas left bare after the invasive plants are treated. Right-of-ways can provide valuable habitat for pollinators, including monarchs, bees, and birds, so leaving these small patches as intact as possible is critical. At the end of this spraying season, a total of 24.7 miles of county roads were treated and surveyed for invasive species. Next year, those roads will be treated again while adding more roads. With the grant slotted to last another two years, there will be plenty of opportunities to expand the treatment area to lessen the invasive plant superhighway in Missouri.

@MissouriQF



MissouriPFQF.org



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

July - September 2022

Connecting people with prescribed fire training

Training may not sound fun to some people, but who isn't interested in training when it pertains to prescribed fire and leads to hands-on application? The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) revised the previously known Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshop with the release of the new training, Prescribed Burning for Missouri Land Managers, in the fall of 2021. The new format includes a self-paced online portion (2-3 hours) followed by a mandatory in-person field exercise. This new format provides the foundational knowledge of prescribed fire including why, where, when, and how to plan and apply prescribed fire safely and effectively, and couples that with the opportunity to gain experience on the fireline, observing fire behavior, and using the tools.

The new training is more accessible, but there was a need to summarize the process and share it widely. With the request from MDC staff, I assisted in the updates to the MDC prescribed fire [webpage](#). A sidebar was added to the webpage dedicated to the new training including links to the [online course](#), [scheduled field exercises](#), and a [survey](#) to indicate in which counties participants are willing to attend the field exercises in an effort to help coordinate events where there is abundant interest.



Above: Foothills PBA members conduct a prescribed burn to control *sericea lespedeza*, set back the thick native grasses, and to encourage more forbs next growing season.

With the webpage updated, it was time to promote the resource widely. MDC sent out a statewide press release promoting the benefits of prescribed fire, the new training format, and the updated webpage. This info also reached the more than 1,300 Missouri Prescribed Fire Council (MPFC) email subscribers through the August newsletter and Missouri NRCS shared with staff statewide to further share with producers and landowners. MDC staff have conducted and have scheduled numerous events. Follow the links to complete the training and share with others who have the interest to learn more!

Conservation Planning

- 88 Landowner Contacts
- 4 Site Visits
- 39.1 Acres Impacted
- 3 Burn Plans Developed/Reviewed
- 6 Workshops/Webinars/Meetings Hosted

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Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

July - September 2022

Outreach Effort	Outcome
Assisted the press release summarizing the MDC prescribed fire training update and survey	Reached MDC, MPFC, and PFQF email subscribers and Facebook pages. Information also shared with MO NRCS staff and included in USDA MO State Office Newsletter
Shared the Big Rivers Forest Fire Compact Training Academy for NWCG courses in October	Forwarded to 121 MPFC affiliates, including 36 contractors and 26 PBA leaders
MPFC Facebook post summarizing the Columbia PBA Interest Meeting	Reached 1,299 people and received 127 engagements
MPFC Facebook post summarizing the MPFC Annual Meeting and Field Tour	Reached 2,354 people and received 161 engagements

PBA interest growing on the Missouri landscape

Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) are an organized group of community members and landowners who come together to apply prescribed fire to meet land management goals. PBAs increase the safety and effectiveness of prescribed fire by pooling the collective knowledge, experience, training, equipment, and peoplepower. The PBA model and adaptation is growing across the country which includes growth within Missouri to positively impact private land.

We now have six PBAs in Missouri, yes, a sixth hit the landscape! Since the last quarterly report, the Mid MO PBA has formed for its members to work within Boone County and the surrounding counties. The MDC, MPFC, and Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever (PFQF) hosted a collaborative public PBA Interest Meeting in July in Columbia to discuss the structure and function of a PBA as well as the process to form a PBA. Registration for this meeting reached over 100 with 62 attending. We discussed the role of community leadership that is required for a landowner-led PBA to have longevity which resulted in 11 attendees expressing an interest to serve as board members to help lead the now formed PBA. A special thanks is due for the Mark Twain PBA members who attended to share their story of their PBA and to answer questions from the crowd. We followed up with a formation meeting a month later to identify the board members, decide upon the PBA name, and discuss more closely how the PBA would operate. From there, the 8 members of the board have been meeting to register the nonprofit group with the Secretary of State, adopt by-laws, plan to acquire equipment, and schedule the first general membership meeting that will be open to all those interested in becoming a member.



Above: PBA trailer outfitted with proper prescribed burn equipment

Continued on pg. 3



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



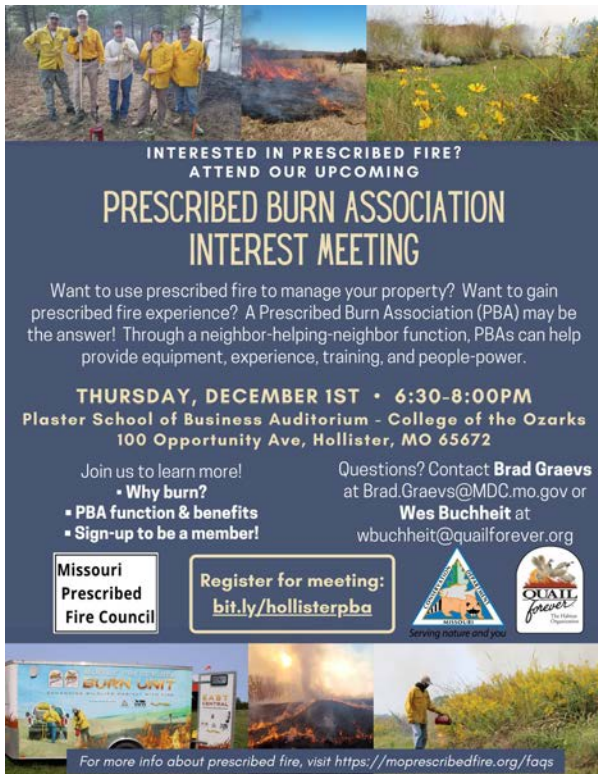
Wes Buchheit - Missouri

July - September 2022

PBA interest growing on the Missouri landscape, continued

The promotion of the Columbia meeting has sparked interest in PBAs across the state. Emails through the MPFC website and phone calls have come in from landowners and community members in Oregon, Howell, Wright, Taney, Laclede, Clay, and Nodaway counties thus far. When a contact is made, I have a conversation with them about how a PBA can function and what it takes to get one started. From there, I organize a call with that originating interest and conservation partners in that local area as they have relations with local community members and landowners. Partners have included MDC, MPFC, National Deer Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, PFQF, The Nature Conservancy, and an invitation to invite other partners who may be interested. I provide an overview of PBAs and then we discuss the direction forward to plan a public PBA Interest Meeting with the effort to follow the model of the Columbia meeting with the same outcome—another PBA in Missouri improving habitat on private land.

Working with community members and partners, we have two PBA Interest Meetings scheduled, December 1st in Hollister, bit.ly/hollisterpba, and December 2nd in Macks Creek, bit.ly/mackscreekpba. Scheduling partner meetings is in the works for a Howell/Oregon counties and a Douglas/Wright counties opportunities. Just as PBAs are a collaborative effort to apply prescribed fire, PBA development is a collaborative effort across agencies, organizations, and community members to connect people and provide them with the resources to be successful. If you have interest or questions about a PBA in your area, please reach out. I would be happy to assist the conversation to pursue the opportunity.



**INTERESTED IN PRESCRIBED FIRE?
ATTEND OUR UPCOMING**

PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION INTEREST MEETING

Want to use prescribed fire to manage your property? Want to gain prescribed fire experience? A Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) may be the answer! Through a neighbor-helping-neighbor function, PBAs can help provide equipment, experience, training, and people-power.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST • 6:30-8:00PM
Plaster School of Business Auditorium - College of the Ozarks
100 Opportunity Ave, Hollister, MO 65672

Join us to learn more!
• Why burn?
• PBA function & benefits
• Sign-up to be a member!




Questions? Contact **Brad Graevs**
at Brad.Graevs@MDC.mo.gov or
Wes Buchheit at
wbuchheit@quailforever.org

Missouri Prescribed Fire Council

Register for meeting:
bit.ly/hollisterpba

Serving nature and you

For more info about prescribed fire, visit <https://moprescribedfire.org/faq>



**INTERESTED IN PRESCRIBED FIRE?
ATTEND OUR UPCOMING**

PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION INTEREST MEETING

Want to use prescribed fire to manage your property? Want to gain prescribed fire experience? A Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) may be the answer! Through a neighbor-helping-neighbor function, PBAs can help provide equipment, experience, training, and people-power.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND • 6:30-8:00PM
AG DEPARTMENT SHOP - MACKS CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT
245 STATE RD N, MACKS CREEK, MO 65786

Join us to learn more!
• Why burn?
• PBA function & benefits
• Sign-up to be a member!

Questions? Contact **Cory Gregg**
at Cory.Gregg@MDC.mo.gov or
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Missouri Prescribed Fire Council

Register for meeting:
bit.ly/mackscreekpba

Serving nature and you

For more info about prescribed fire, visit <https://moprescribedfire.org/faq>

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Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist



Quarterly Partners' Report

Wes Buchheit - Missouri

July - September 2022

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

Training/Meeting	Outcome
Columbia PBA Interest Meeting	Partnered with MDC and MPFC to present on the benefits of PBAs and the formation process for the 62 attendees to create momentum to start a PBA in the Columbia area.
Mid MO PBA Formation Meeting	Follow-up meeting attended by 27 to further discuss the structure, procedures, and geography of the emerging Mid MO PBA.
MPFC Annual Meeting & Field Tour	Collaborated with partners to host the annual business meeting in El Dorado Springs, followed by the MDC presentation for prairie management and field tour of Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie attended by 46.
Taney County PBA Exploratory Meeting	Hosted a virtual meeting with partners discussing the overview of a PBA, local interest, and direction forward to plan a public PBA Interest Meeting.
Laclede County PBA Exploratory Meeting	Hosted a virtual meeting with partners discussing the overview of a PBA, local interest, and direction forward to plan a public PBA Interest Meeting.
Foothills PBA Meeting	Attended the membership meeting to give a recap of the MPFC annual meeting and discuss future training opportunities and burn projects.



Left: Attendees learning about the adaptive management practices used on Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie during the MPFC field tour

@MissouriQF

MissouriPFQF.org

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

July-September 2022

Plant Materials Field Day

On September 28th the Plant Materials Center (PMC) located in Elsberry, MO hosted a field day for Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and partner staff. The PMC has been owned and operated by the NRCS since 1934 with its' primary goal being to support NRCS and partner staff in Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois through various research projects. Research conducted at the PMC has included looking at the impacts of tillage and the use of cover crops on rainwater runoff quality and quantity and erosion rates. They have also evaluated a variety of cover crops on how they handle the region's climate. This type of information helps conservation planners make informed recommendations on what variety of cover crops work well locally and which ones don't. Past and recent research projects have also looked at native grasses and forbs. Much of the research involving native grasses has focused on their forage quality and quantity for livestock. Through their work of collecting seed, selectively growing their collections, and evaluating various grass varieties the PMC has developed several releases and cultivars including cave-in-rock switch grass, OZ-70 and Rountree big bluestem, Rumsey Indian grass, and a variety of little bluestem that is best suited for southern MO and IL. Once they develop a cultivar or release, they provide seed to native seed vendors who can start commercially producing that seed to be sold to landowners. The work conducted at the PMC helps ensure that conservation planners with NRCS, MDC, and Quail Forever have the best possible information to inform the recommendations they provide to the landowners they work with every day.



Presenting on the benefits of native pollinators and their habitat at the Wright Farm Tour in Lincoln County, MO.

Photo Credit: Alex Ruff, NRCS

Trainings/Meetings/Outreach	Outcome
Wright Farm Tour	Presented to field tour participants on the benefits of pollinators and their habitat.
Missouri Prescribed Fire Council Meeting and Field Tour	Attend the MOPFC meeting to learn about how they are working to promote usage of prescribed fire in the state. Field tour focused on MDC's use of fire and other management techniques to control woody encroachment.
East Central Prescribed Burn Association Summer Meeting	Updated ECPBA members on MOPFC activities, discussed PBA business, and conducted a growing season burn.
Virtual District Meeting	Introduced myself to the QF Chapters of southern MO and received updates on chapter operations.
Troy Chapter Start Meeting	Shared information with potential QF/PF Chapter members on the Farm Bill Biologist program and how local QF staff can support their efforts.
Elsberry Plant Materials Center Field Day	Toured and learned about the operation of NRCS's PMC that conducts studies on cover crops, farming practices, and use of native plants.

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July-September 2022

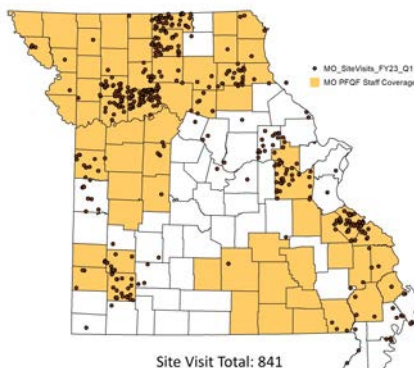
New Equipment for Landowners Coming Soon!

Every year local Private Lands Conservationist (PLC) and Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologist work with landowners to seed diverse mixes of native grasses and forbs. Often, broadcast seeding these mixes is the most feasible option for landowners. The average broadcast seeder is not suited to have the light weight and variable sized seed mixtures flow through them without clogging or "bridging" the seeders opening. The need for a broadcast seeder suited for seeding natives that is user friendly is in the process of being addressed. Recently, the Missouri Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation chose to fund a Superfund grant proposal to purchase and assemble an engine driven pendulum seeder that will be mounted to a trailer. The grant was awarded in mid-September and the assembly of the unit has begun so landowners will have access to this new equipment soon. The grant also involves matching funds from the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Shaw Nature Reserve, and the MO River Valley Chapter of Quail Forever.

Conservation Planning

- 96 landowner contacts in 8 different counties
- 55 Site Visits
- 24 CRP Status Reviews

**FY23 MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
July 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022**



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.
Updated 10/24/2022



Growing season burn conducted by the ECPBA.

Photo Credit: Lia Heppermann, MDC

CRP Status Reviews by Practice	Acres
CP 1—non-native CSG	84.8
CP 2—native WSG	163.42
CP 21—Filter Strip	7.6
CP 42—Pollinator Habitat	23.51
CP 38-4D—Bobwhite Quail SAFE	171.3

Looking Forward

- Work with landowners to develop plans and reserve cost-share for projects through LCAP and HCG.
- Assist MDC PLC's with prescribed burn field days for landowners.
- Work with local vendors to spend NWTF Superfund grant to have a broadcast seeder built to be used by local landowners.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.
- Attend MO PF/QF Team Meeting to reconnect with QF staff in MO and set goals for the upcoming year.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

July-September 2022

Position Update

And we're off! Fiscal year 23 got off to a busy start! CRP Sign-ups 57 and 58 wrapped up. In Shelby county alone, CRP impacted **2540.18** acres. That's a lot of habitat!

Pollinator Habitat

Late summer into the early fall is an excellent time to observe pollinators, plants, and to think about future pollinator habitat. Four hundred fifty species of native bees call Missouri home, not including butterflies or any of the other pollinators found in the Show-Me state. Many pollinators require certain plants to complete their life cycle. The monarch butterfly is the most common example, requiring milkweed to lay their eggs and provide food for their larvae. Diverse stands of native plants, such as milkweed, are essential for pollinator populations to survive and thrive. They are also a great place to observe pollinators at work! Identifying native plants and pollinators around you is a great reason to get outside in the summer. Spending time in Missouri's gorgeous natural landscape, where native plants and pollinators dominate, may fuel your desire to create pollinator habitat of your own. It could be in an old ag field, hay field, or even in your flower bed. Every little bit of habitat has an impact. I am in the process of seeding a half acre of my lawn into a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs. Not only will it benefit many species of pollinators, it will also reduce my mowing! If you or anyone you know are interested in creating pollinator habitat, I can help! Next summer, be sure to keep an eye out for your local pollinators!

Q1 FY23 Activity Highlights

- ◆ 74 Landowner Contacts
- ◆ 23 Site Visits
- ◆ 28 Projects with Acres
- ◆ 2 Workshop Presentations

745.72 Acres Impacted



Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*) in full bloom in a pollinator plot in Shelby County



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Patch of Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) in a CRP field



A clump of Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) in the foreground with Plains Coreopsis in the background



A butterfly visiting some Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)



Green Milkweed (*Asclepias hirtella*) preparing to bloom



Sprayer that was used to kill cool season grasses where my pollinator plot will be planted this winter



Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) preparing to bloom



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Outreach

Youth Dove Hunt

On September 9th and 10th, the Mark Twain Chapter of Quail Forever hosted their annual youth dove hunt. This is one of my favorite events each year. There was a great turn out, and everybody had fun.

Right: Hiding in the mix of milo and sunflowers while mentoring a youth dove hunter waiting for the doves to fly



Workshops

On September 17th I had the pleasure of assisting Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Josh Marshall with a brush management workshop in Putnam county. Workshops are a great way to spread the good word of conservation to interested parties.

Left: At this station we talked about the benefits of basal bark herbicide applications to control unwanted woody vegetation.

**ADD @MISSOURIQF on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
You can find us on YouTube @Missouri Quail Forever**



Outreach Continued

Meeting With Landowners

Meeting with producers is one of my favorite parts of the job. This summer, Jeff Shuck was curious how his native warm-season grass pasture was doing. This pasture is in its second growing season and was planted using funds from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). I had the opportunity to talk to Jeff about warm season grass identification.



Chapter Outreach

Local Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapters are integral to the success of positions like mine. Each year the chapter members have the opportunity to get together at a district meeting to talk about how the year went and what's new for the upcoming year. At this year's district meeting, I had the opportunity to speak about some of Quail Forever's new member recruitment efforts.

Community Outreach

I had the opportunity to speak at the Outdoor Expo in Bethel, MO this fall. It was a fun day, filled with various speakers and educational exhibits. I was able to provide an overview of what quality quail habitat looks like and how to properly manage it. I hope to be able to continue those conversations in the future!





Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

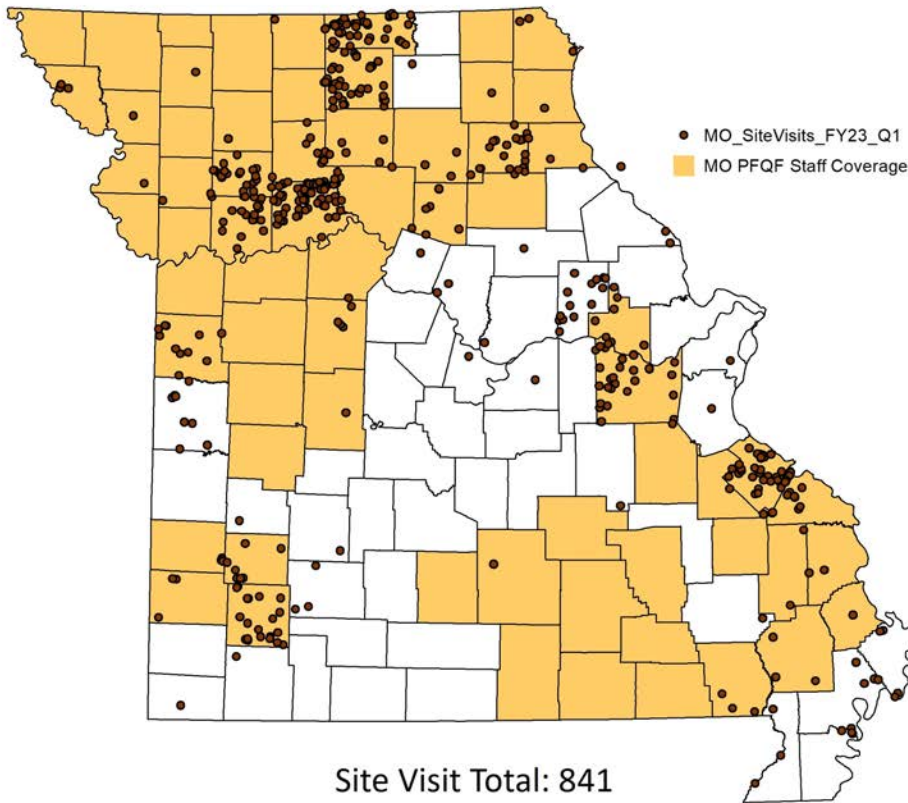


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Updated 10/24/2022



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.

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

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