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NEWS RELEASE

New Prescribed Burn Association in southeast Missouri gaining momentum and improving habitat

Foothills PBA to work in Perry, Bollinger and surrounding counties

PERRYVILLE, Mo. – May 11, 2021

– The Foothills Prescribed Burn Association (FPBA) was officially formed in January with a mission to help landowners overcome hurdles that limit the use of prescribed burning: lack of experience, training, equipment and, most of all, people to help conduct the burn.

Operating with a neighbor-helping-neighbor approach to prescribed burning, landowners work cooperatively through the FPBA to help each other conduct safe prescribed burns. The FPBA is

currently working in parts of Perry, Bollinger and surrounding counties as interest dictates. There is no set geography but, simply, how far members are willing to travel to assist others on burns.



“We wanted to form the Foothills Prescribed Burn Association to help like-minded landowners cooperate and work together to create wildlife-friendly habitat through the use of prescribed fire,” stated Mark Loehnig, FPBA Board Member. “I was experiencing difficulty in getting a knowledgeable, trained crew together and I’m hopeful this PBA will resolve that and allow for us to conduct more prescribed fire in our area.”

The FPBA is led by a board of directors and those leaders have been successful in helping the PBA come out of the gates hot, pun intended. Their first item of business was to secure a collaborative grant with the Missouri Dept. of Conservation and Quail Forever that allowed them to acquire all the proper equipment for safe burning and an enclosed trailer to house those tools. Equipment in the prescribed burn trailer includes drip torches, hand tools, 3 water units, radios, and more.



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In less than three months, they have safely completed 12 prescribed burns improving over 90 acres of habitat! A variety of habitat types have been impacted by FPBA burns, including woodlands, grasslands and even a pasture of native grass for cattle forage.



As the spring green-up advances, the burning window diminishes, but that will not slow their efforts for implementing more prescribed fire. The FPBA is looking to expand membership, plan a summer meeting, and begin lining up growing season burns.

“This group of passionate conservationists and prescribed fire enthusiasts have accomplished much in a little bit of time,” said Wes Buchheit, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III, “and their momentum continues to build for improving habitat on the landscape.”

Current membership consists of 16 landowners and community members and is growing as word of the FPBA continues to spread. Active members can receive assistance with burns on their property after paying \$25 annual dues and participating in 2 FPBA burns or 1 FPBA burn and a prescribed fire training. If you are interested in learning more about or becoming a member of the Foothills PBA, contact foothillspba@gmail.com. You can learn more about Prescribed Burn Associations and find more general information about prescribed fire in Missouri at the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council website: moprescribedfire.org.

About Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

[Pheasants Forever](#), including its quail conservation division — [Quail Forever](#) — is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever have more than 138,000 members and 760 local chapters across the United States and Canada. Since creation in 1982, Pheasants Forever has spent over \$900 million on 550,000 habitat projects benefiting 19 million acres nationwide. Visit the [Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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