



# PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FOREVER

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever hire Kelsey DeZalia and Colby Mohler as Wetland Specialists**

DeZalia and Mohler will be the first Wetland Specialist Farm Bill Biologists to serve in Missouri

**COLUMBIA, Mo. – February 14, 2022** – Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri is excited to announce the hiring of Kelsey DeZalia and Colby Mohler as Wetland Specialists on the Missouri team. DeZalia and Mohler will be serving in the first ever Wetland Specialist Farm Bill Biologist positions in our state. Both start their brand-new roles on February 14. DeZalia will be stationed in the Jackson, Mo. USDA Service Center and cover the counties in southeast Mo. Mohler will be stationed in the Fulton, Mo. USDA Service Center and will cover counties in central Mo.

The Wetland Specialist positions on the Missouri team are supported through our partnerships with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and the Missouri Dept. of Conservation (MDC). DeZalia and Mohler will work as members of the USDA-NRCS Wetland Emphasis Team and Farm Bill Biologist Team to provide wetland restoration assistance in their service area, as well as with the MDC Wetland Services Biologists to help with delivery of wetland-related Farm Bill programs. This will include enrollment, design, protection, enhancement, management, and restoration of wetlands and associated upland habitats that are important to migrating waterfowl, upland wildlife, and other species.



“Colby and Kelsey bring to our team a wealth of knowledge in managing not only wetlands, but all natural resources, and have worked extensively with private landowners,” said Missouri State Coordinator Andrew White. “I am excited to see what they accomplish in these new roles!”



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DeZalia received her B.T. in Wildlife Management from SUNY Cobleskill, graduating in 2014. Since then, she has worked in five states in various wildlife positions giving her a heterogeneous perspective on habitat management. She resides in Miner, Mo. with her fiancé, Dylan, and sassy dog, Luna. They enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, float trips, and scouting the MDC conservation areas in southeast Mo. DeZalia joined the Quail Forever Team in 2019 and served as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II before taking on her new role as a Wetland Specialist.

“I couldn't be more thrilled about the uniqueness of this role, and to assist landowners in reaching their habitat goals,” said DeZalia. “This position offers me the opportunity to stay with this incredible organization, along with fueling my passion for wetland conservation.”

Mohler was brought up with a background in agriculture and passion for conservation. He earned B.S. degrees in Fisheries & Wildlife and Forestry from the University of Missouri and M.S. in Forest Resources from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Mohler has worked as a Research Scientist in New Mexico where he monitored threatened and endangered species through the New Mexico Conservation Information System. Most recently he worked in Columbia, Mo. for Midwest Forest and Wildlife Services implementing invasive plant removal, timber stand improvements, and prescribed fires. He's also begun to grow his goat herd to offer landowners a biological option for invasive species control in the area.

“I am very excited to work with the Missouri team, our partner agencies, and local landowners to create wetland habitat,” said Mohler. “These partnerships are critical to conservation efforts and getting to help our organization and partners is going to be a lot of fun!”

If you are interested in learning more about how our Wetland Specialists can assist with wetland restoration or wetland-related Farm Bill programs, contact DeZalia at [kdezalia@quailforever.org](mailto:kdezalia@quailforever.org) or 518-637-9611, or Mohler at [cmohler@quailforever.org](mailto:cmohler@quailforever.org) or 301-997-3279.

### **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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