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NEWS RELEASE

New Staff Join MO PFQF Habitat Specialist Crew

The crew works with partners to conduct habitat management with an emphasis on prescribed fire on cooperating lands in east-central MO

GRAY SUMMIT, Mo. – September 6, 2022 – Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are excited to announce the hiring of three new staff members to our habitat specialist crew in Missouri: Ty Price, Josiah Sutton, and Keith Janikula. The Habitat Specialist Crew is part of a unique partnership between the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Shaw Nature Reserve and Quail Forever, and is supported by generous donations from Nestlé Purina, Steve and Jeanne Maritz and Roeslein Alternative Energy.



In their new role, Price, Sutton and Janikula will be members of the habitat specialist crew and work with partners to conduct wildlife habitat management practices on cooperating lands, with an emphasis on prescribed fire. Price and Sutton started on August 29; Janikula starts on September 12. Our three new teammates are eager to work on the crew to enhance habitat and sustain a healthy environment on priority geographies in Gray Summit and the surrounding area.

“Ty, Josiah, and Keith bring to our team a diverse background in wildlife and habitat management,” said Dylan Jacobs, the Missouri habitat specialist crew lead for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. “Bringing on these three new crew members couldn’t come at a better time as we enter our fall prescribed fire season. I am excited to see what we can accomplish in the coming year and am looking forward seeing just how high we can raise the bar when it comes to improving habitat on private lands in Missouri.”

Price was born and raised in DeRidder, Louisiana. He is a recent graduate of Louisiana State University with a B.S. in Natural Resource Ecology and Management - Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management. In 2021, he spent his summer working as an intern with the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands in Louisiana. His duties included surveying historic and landmark trees and banding birds. While at LSU he carried out multiple prescribed burns and discovered his passion for hands on habitat management. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, kayaking and just about any outdoor activity.



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“I am looking forward to joining a crew so dedicated to improving habitats for not only game species, but also for other wildlife dependent on native habitats,” Price said. “I hope to make an impact on these habitats to ensure future generations can enjoy the Earth's natural beauty for years to come.”

Sutton was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. He grew up exploring the outdoors on various camping trips in northeastern Missouri, which began to instill a passion in him for conserving the nature around him. Sutton continued to develop his passion by serving with AmeriCorps St. Louis where he helped with various prescribed burns, invasive species control, and tree felling projects. Sutton enjoys spending time outdoors seeing all that nature has to offer through camping and walks with family and friends.

“I am excited to be joining the habitat specialist crew with Pheasant Forever and Quail Forever,” said Sutton. “There are great things ahead for the ecological restoration of Missouri land, and I am looking forward to be a part of those efforts.”

Janikula grew up on the family farm helping raise corn and soybeans. He earned his A.S. in Wildlife Management from Vermilion Community College and his B.S. in Wildlife Management from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. A trip to Yellowstone National Park inspired him to focus on wildlife management in college and he'd like to someday work with wolves in Yellowstone or Minnesota. He also spent time on his mother's family's dairy farm, showed dairy for 11 years, earned his FFA American Degree in 2017 and now owns 5 cows. He has gained great experience working at both family farms, at least part-time, for the past 8 years or more.

“Wildlife has been part of my life for several years in the upper Midwest, I look forward to what Missouri has to show me,” Janikula said. “I am glad I can show my skills in the field I learned in school and on the farm, and also learn new things that can't be taught in the classroom.”

If you have questions about the habitat specialist crew in Missouri, contact crew leader Dylan Jacobs at djacobs@quailforever.org or 419-346-3139.

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 135,000 members and 750+ local chapters across the United States and Canada. Chapters are empowered to determine how 100 percent of their locally raised conservation funds are spent; the only national conservation organization that operates through this truly grassroots structure. Since creation in 1982, Pheasants Forever has dedicated more than \$1 billion to 567,500 habitat projects benefiting 22 million acres nationwide. Visit the [Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever in Missouri website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).