



THE WHISTLE CALL

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

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Everyone and everything is competing on the landscape for limited resources and available space

East and West, what is the MAJOR difference in wildlife habitat work?

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Many ask what the difference in habitat work is heading from East of Old Muddy, or west to the Pacific Ocean. The big gorilla in the room is land ownership.

Always fertilize newly planted trees - Page 8

One of the most common questions about seedlings is "Do I or don't I fertilize my seedlings" the first year?

Another year begins with QUWF and our annual trek to the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade show, also called SHOT. Our Santa Clarita chapter from California is our host chapter getting the booth there and set up and scouring the show for deals, items of interest, and photo ops wherever possible. They worked very hard, all kidding aside.

Our Chief biologist and myself were there to look at new VDP vendors, meet with current vendors and sponsors and see what opportunities might be there. We came away with many including a new mapping "App".

We had to delay set up until they removed the flat bed tractor trailers from our booth space on level one. Derek Fong, our CA state chairman and CA Hollis Dyer scrambled to get it done as the show opened. As you can see it is a great looking booth. Avo and Makar, also members of the chapter were a great help, special thanks to both.

Some 60,000 attendees and about 10,000 industry types walked the floors of this year's SHOT along with supporters of the industry. I never did get to the Law Enforcement section and had to double check my bearings more than once to make sure I was not temporarily without direction (lost).

Being on the main floor this year we had much more traffic and were



able to tell the QUWF story and of the model that does provide the most revenue for a chapter of any national organization.

We are the only national conservation organization Veteran founded and managed and we are very proud of that. QUWF is a full members of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the true voice of our industry across the country.

Derek, Hollis and Nick Prough, our Chief Biologist met me at Harrah's Hotel at Toby Keith's Bar and Grill for dinner and a libation of course. Toby Keith and the hotel are a partner with QUWF helping support our mission of conservation. Not to mention the food is outstanding and the staff very supportive of our mission. They are remodeling the entire hotel. April will be the shut-

down month for the final upgrades to the lobby and Toby's restaurant. If you are planning a trip to Vegas, contact Harrah's, see their ad in our Whistle Call.

We stopped by Ithaca and saw this special version of the M-37. Our QUWF program continues for custom made, exclusive serial numbered guns for our chapters with no price increases for 2016. A new flyer will be made very shortly. Get yours in today!

If you are looking for a deadly accurate home defense gun, ask them to put rifle sights with luminous bars on a basic home defense model like the Defender. They are unreal to shoot and can ballantine slugs at 100 yards, I have done it. The gel pad stocks take most if not all of the recoil out of the slug and buck shot use. You can also put a tactical light on the barrel for night-time use in your home. The new LED lights can really light up your home when home defense becomes a need.

We had some great representatives of the industry stop by the booth, one such champion was Julie Golob. Julie is a fellow U.S. Veteran, we thank her for her service and for being a Champion with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Team. This lady represents the best and allowed this old conservationist to get a picture with her.

To list her Championships would take the rest of this article and she is an avid and accurate hunter, loving the outdoors and the hunting heritage we all fight to preserve.

The guys at the booth wanted a group shot with her and she graciously agreed to our bunch of wildlife habitat workers and QUWF members. Thank you Julie, your group of supporters and friends has dramatically expanded.

Julie is sponsored by Benelli, one



of our VDP vendors and QUWF supporters. We will have the new Benelli flyer ready for the chapters shortly and there are some exciting new additions. We ask all chapters to use our VDP programs to support our vendors who invest in us. Guns are a great draw if used correctly and our Benelli program in 2016 will make you more habitat money. Turnin-the-dirt is what we do, raising dollars with great products like Benelli, makes it happen.

Just walking around the SHOT show was a challenge, most isles were full, booths had hundreds of people looking at all the new items and favorite old ones. This show is for dealers and industry retailers only from around the world and not open to the general public. Manufacturers from around the world came to show their products from optics to ammo and clothing or tactical vehicles it was at SHOT.

We had an Olympic Gold Medalist stop by, a good friend of our Santa Clarita chapter, Kim Rhodes. Another super individual who loves the shooting sports and represents our country around the world competing in trap. When asked how much she practices, Kim said "I shoot 500 to 700 targets every day". WOW, that is some very serious shooting with a 12 gauge. Kim is practicing again for the next Olympic team and so far, leads the pack by 5 targets. Best of luck Kim, we are all supporting you.



Another group picture made the QUWF archives, a rose among the thorns.

Whatever your choice in equipment for the hunting and shooting industry, you can see it at SHOT, and that too is the problem. With so much to see it is impossible to just "look around". Just to walk one section of the floor can take hours with no stops, just walking isles and getting a quick look.

Then when you get there, like the GLOCK booth, there are hundreds of dealers and distributors already in the booth. I did take a quick look for new toys but moved on quickly as the crowd had every station and display occupied.

We attend for one purpose, to support our chapters and members

with new VDP products, new vendors and an eye for things we think will excite attendees at banquets and local events and allow high revenue production.

As always, it is good to get home. That much commotion drains everyone's energy – NOW to get all the follow-up done.

Catch ya across the field,

Craig



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Notes from the Road

Everyone and everything is competing on the landscape for limited resources and available space

As we begin another year this January I am constantly reminded at various meetings, in news articles, at landowner workshops and other outside sources of information that Everyone and Everything is Competing on the Same Landscape for the Same Limited Resources and the Same Available Space. This is very true for available acres on the landscape from newly expanding farming operations, to increasing rangeland areas, to urban development expansion, constantly changing landscapes due to natural succession, Invasive Species rapid expansion and yes even creating wildlife habitat on whatever possible space is left not already utilized or maximized to its fullest potential. Yes as has been the case for many years in wildlife management across the country wildlife management has many times been conducted on that “rough 2 acres out back” or in turn rows where larger farm machinery can’t access, or along an old wooded hedgerow to overgrown to get expensive equipment near it. While this approach can be somewhat helpful to wildlife on a limited scale/scope and their associated populations to try to use any available space they can find, many times it takes a larger landscape scale effort to maintain and grow wildlife populations to their highest potential and to maximize their populations for many years to come. In this column I have discussed maximizing available or usable space several times and that continues to be a very hot topic around the country going into 2016. At a recent meeting last week in Central MO hosted

by the USFWS about 25 Conservation Leaders from various Federal, State, NGO’s, conservation contractors met with several very large key national business leaders including an alternative energy company and a large corporate farm leadership team discussing a topic very closely related to many of these type of conservation efforts mentioned above. The meeting was on Alternative Energy Production Utilizing Native Warm Season Grasses while producing High Quality Wildlife Habitat on a Landscape Scale Level. I will cover much more in coming months about the outcomes of multiple follow up meetings and the further development of the effort in several ongoing pilot studies that are beginning this spring. With these pilot studies the first steps have been taken in this new landscape direction which could have an enormous potential to put Millions of Acres of Wildlife Habitat across the landscape and not just on the “back 2 rough acres clear out back” but on many higher production level landscapes on many existing working farms and ranches. Now as with any new conservation program/practice potential the “Devil is in the Details” and many future discussions need to lead to the implementation of these efforts on the ground, and to prove that the test pilot studies can work both for the alternative energy industry but also for the landowner as well as for the wildlife populations needing the crucial habitat and newly created usable space. However as of this past week this effort is moving forward with rapid speed in further

development in the next few coming weeks and months. After participating in the meetings for an entire afternoon almost the entire group of participants from the conservation leaders to business leadership teams agreed on the huge amount of potential this type of large scale effort could have on the landscape and to positively effect many acres of wildlife habitat on a large scale to the equivalent that the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) once did in its hay day years prior to the lack of continuous management. With this approach land and habitat management will be ongoing and constantly changing so it will remove the many continuous years of lack of habitat management factor from the equation that many early succession species such as quail and rabbits need to thrive. Be looking for further information regarding this new type of approach to landscape scale conservation in the coming months as the next steps in the process are further developed.

Keep up all the great work out there that each of you, your landowners, your chapters and conservation partners are doing on crucial wildlife habitat projects, landowner and youth field day events, as well as all your other conservation outreach efforts that you are working on in your local communities each and every day, as you are Definitely..... “Making a Difference for Wildlife One Acre at a Time”!!

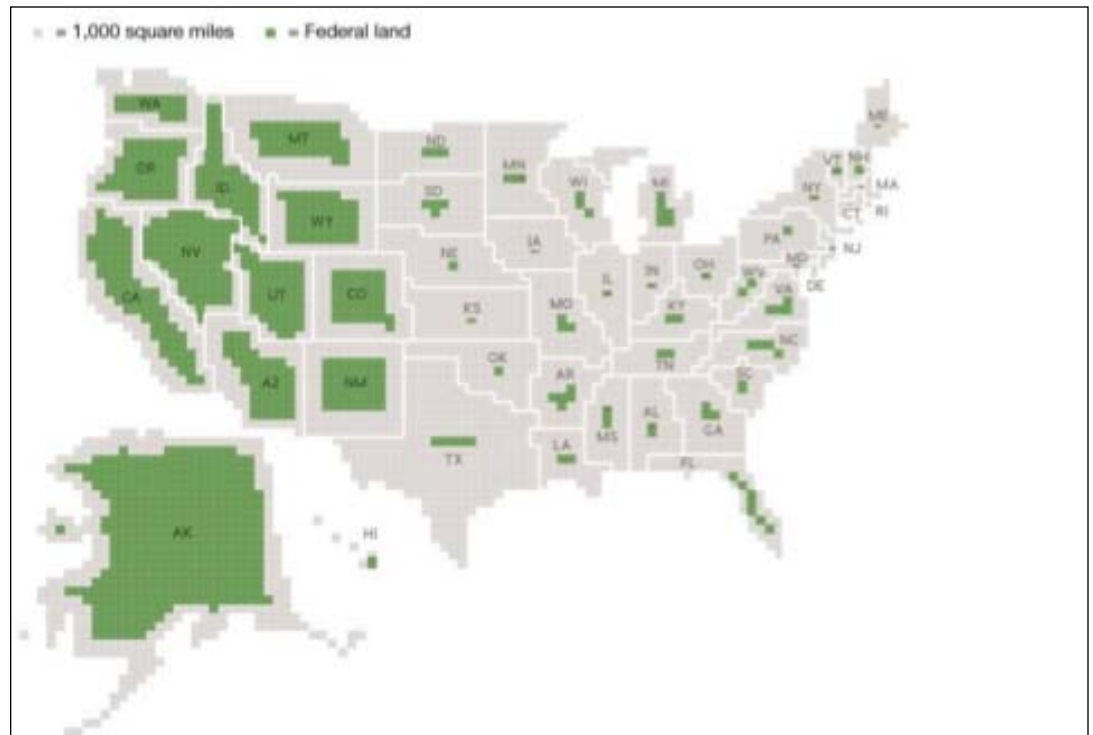
Nick Prough
Chief Wildlife Biologist
Wildlife Partnership Coordinator

East and West, what is the MAJOR difference in wildlife habitat work?

Many ask what the difference in habitat work is heading from East of Old Muddy, or west to the Pacific Ocean. The big gorilla in the room is land ownership. East side is primarily private lands, west side is federal lands. Take a look at the latest map.

We are seeing a lot more unrest in the western states that want the Federal Government out of land ownership except for national parks and monuments. As I understand it, the land was to be deeded back to the states but the Feds never followed up. Big surprise there huh?

Those who live in the western states with large blocks owned by the feds must constantly work around the directives and requirements if they want to perform any type of habitat work or wildlife population influences. In two words, it can be “a bite”. Those who lease lands for grassing know the archaic rules the feds follow, not intended to help anything.



Let our VDP programs make your chapter banquet or event a step above the rest. We have worked hard to have products available to QUWF members from exceptional companies. So if you are looking for auction items or gifts, be sure to check out the VDP Vendors section under the “Tool Shed” on our Web site www.quwf.net.

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Always fertilize newly planted trees — here's why

We get tons of phone calls and emails daily, and one of the most common questions about seedlings is “do I or don’t I fertilize my seedlings” the first year? The correct answer is: Yes, you do. Many nurseries will recommend not fertilizing the first year, and that just makes zero sense to me. What does make sense is that those nurseries don’t trust their customers with fertilizer. They’re scared the seedling will be over fertilized, perish, and the customer will call or email with complaints and wanting replacements.

Would you not feed a newborn baby for fear it will over eat? No, you feed a newborn properly, to provide adequate nutrients for optimal growth and a lifetime of health.

Much like animals, plants need optimal nutrition at the beginning stages of life to thrive for the remainder. A newly planted seedling needs proper fertility to quickly develop a large root system, which in turn translates into to “drought insurance” for making through the first summer. What does a healthy root system enable? It enables the plant to process

more moisture and nutrients, which enables the plant to grow more above ground. This healthy growth increases exponentially because the plant has all the resources it needs, both above and below ground, to thrive.

The key to not overfertilizing seedlings is to place the proper amount fertilizer in the root zone (underground), but don’t place the fertilizer in direct contact with the roots. For more information about proper technique, check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rY-2dzIummk>.

For all your chapter insurance needs please call:

**Leslie Casanova direct at Sportsman Insurance Agency at:
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Also any questions concerning banquets and or our vendor programs, please call the **QUWF National Office at: 417-345-5960**
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1. Habitat Escape Cover Mix \$55.00 • 1-acre coverage • 3.5 lbs • Plant December 1--May 15

Transform your acreage into a wildlife refuge. *Mix includes: Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Yellow Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Alfalfa, Illinois Bundleflower, and Maximilian Sunflower.*

2. Upland Bird Habitat Mix \$112.00 • 1-acre coverage • 5.5 lbs • Plant December 1--May 15

Hunters and bird watchers will love this mix great for nesting cover. *Mix includes: Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Alfalfa, Illinois Bundleflower, and Maximilian Sunflower.*

3. Super Sorghum Food Plot Mix \$67.00 • 1-acre coverage • 15 lbs • Plant in June

Creates a dependable food source that will attract various types of wildlife. *Mix includes: Forage Sorghum, Grain Sorghum, and Millet.*

4. Green Browse Mix \$70.00 • 1-acre coverage • 15 lbs • Plant August 1--September 15

Premium blend of perennials and annuals, designed to provide food AND cover throughout the year. This is excellent for deer, turkey, and upland game. *Mix includes: Alfalfa, Ladino White Clover, Medium Red Clover, Buckwheat, and Turnips.*

THE NATIVE GRASS AND FORB MIXES listed below are designed to provide a short, bunch grass growth form that is preferred by bobwhite quail and other wildlife. In addition to the grasses, varieties of preferred forbs are included to provide overhead structure and attract insects for ideal bugging sites for quail chicks. These mixes can be planted along field borders, non-farmed odd areas, forest openings and abandoned crop fields, or to replace non-native species that provide poor quality habitat such as Fescue and Bermuda grass.

5. Eastern/High Rainfall Mix \$83.00 • 1-acre coverage • 4.5 lbs

This mix is designed for areas receiving more than 35 inches of rainfall per year. This mix contains grass varieties that will remain at preferred quail height even in higher rainfall areas. *Mix includes: Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Canadian Wildrye, Sand Dropseed, Illinois Bundleflower, Showy Partridge Pea, Plains Coreopsis, and Alfalfa.*

6. Western/Low Rainfall Mix \$78.00 • 1-acre coverage • 4.2 lbs

This mix has a small amount of taller grass varieties added and is adapted to sites receiving less than 35 inches of rainfall per year. *Mix includes: Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Canadian Wildrye, Sand Dropseed, Big Bluestem, Blue Grama, Illinois Bundleflower, Showy Partridge Pea, Plains Coreopsis, and Alfalfa.*

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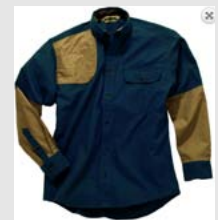
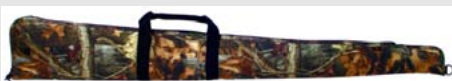
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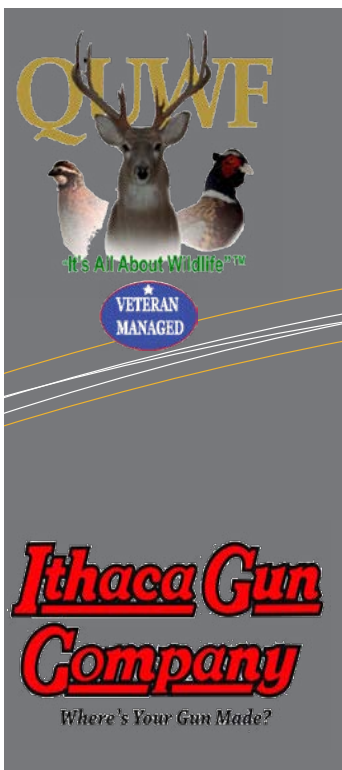
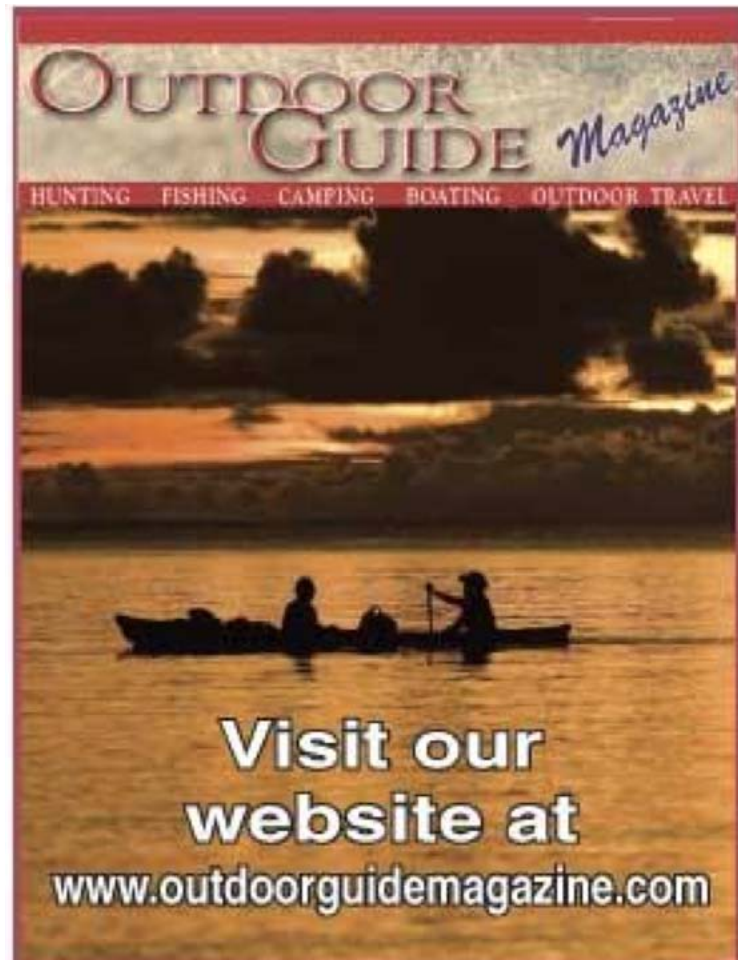
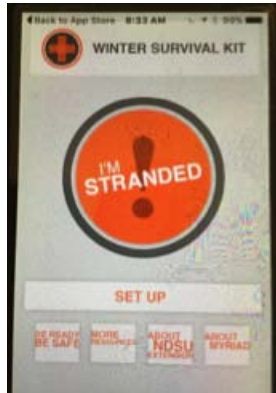
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A new app for winter survival

We rarely recommend apps for your Iphone, Ipad or other devices but this one deserves a look. Called Winter Survival, it walks you through how to best prepare and survive in conditions that may trap you in your vehicle this winter and you never can have too much safety information.

If nothing else, it reminds those of us that travel in winter conditions to be best prepared when we do and what to think about if a situation develops where you need the information literally to survive. A white out condition with heavy snow across Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri or anywhere can scare the wits out of you. Check out the Winter Survival APP, we have it loaded on our phones now.



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No-glow IR cameras use infrared LEDs for night illumination. Night images are black and white and day images are color.

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Cuddeback Black Flash

Model E3

Cuddeback Black Flash® model E3 trail camera is the best Cuddeback no-glow IR camera ever! It features Cuddeback's world's fastest 1/4 second trigger speed which means you'll get more images with animals and fewer blanks. A new compact "micro" housing is ergonomic and handy.

Black Flash technology means no visible infrared flash for animals (or humans) to see and over 2 watts of IR illumination power for a flash range of over 50 ft. Correctly exposed IR images offer stunning clarity and minimal motion blur whether animals are close or distant.

Follow your nose to healthy soils

Do you want to know where some of the healthiest soils in Missouri are located? Some rural residents and motorists are learning that all you have to do is follow your nose.

“Cover crops are a key management tool that farmers use to maintain and improve soil health. Some of the cover crops die out during the winter, which can produce a bit of an odor,” said Jodie Reisner, agronomist with the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The odor, sometimes confused with the smell of natural gas, has resulted in calls to authorities in several Missouri farming communities from citizens who suspected a gas leak. However, Reisner says there is no danger associated with the smell of decaying cover crops.

Cover crops are an integral part of a cropping system that sustains soil health because they develop an environment that sustains and nourishes plants, soil microbes and beneficial insects. Cover crops help increase organic matter in the soil, improve water infiltration, and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Along with crop residue above ground, cover crops protect the soil against the erosive impact of raindrops and strong winds. They trap excess nitrogen, keeping it from leaching into water supplies and preserving it for later use by crops. Cover crops can provide grazing opportunities, and they provide winter food and cover for birds and other wildlife.

Cover crops are typically planted in late summer or fall around harvest and before spring planting of the following year’s cash crops. Examples of cover crops include cereal rye, oats, turnips, oilseed radishes, triti-



cale, and legumes such as clover.

The main culprits for producing odor, oilseed radishes, are also among the most beneficial cover crops, Reisner said.

Oilseed radishes develop a unique tap root that reaches depths up to 20 inches and has smaller roots that can reach down into the soil 4-5 feet, Reisner said. She said those roots can penetrate compacted soil layers and access nutrients for the following crop. She added that radishes and other cover crops suppress weeds, and as the plants die they provide an excellent seedbed for the following crop. Like other plants in the mustard family, oilseed radishes exude chemicals that help suppress soil pests like nematodes or soil borne diseases.

“After the radishes have disintegrated over the winter, the plant leaves macro pores which are excellent for water infiltration and capturing spring rains,” Reisner said.

“Rainwater getting into the soil and reducing soil erosion is an important benefit in our region.

“Oilseed radishes also make an excellent forage for cattle. Many farmers utilize them to provide forage for their cattle after their pasture grasses have gone dormant.”

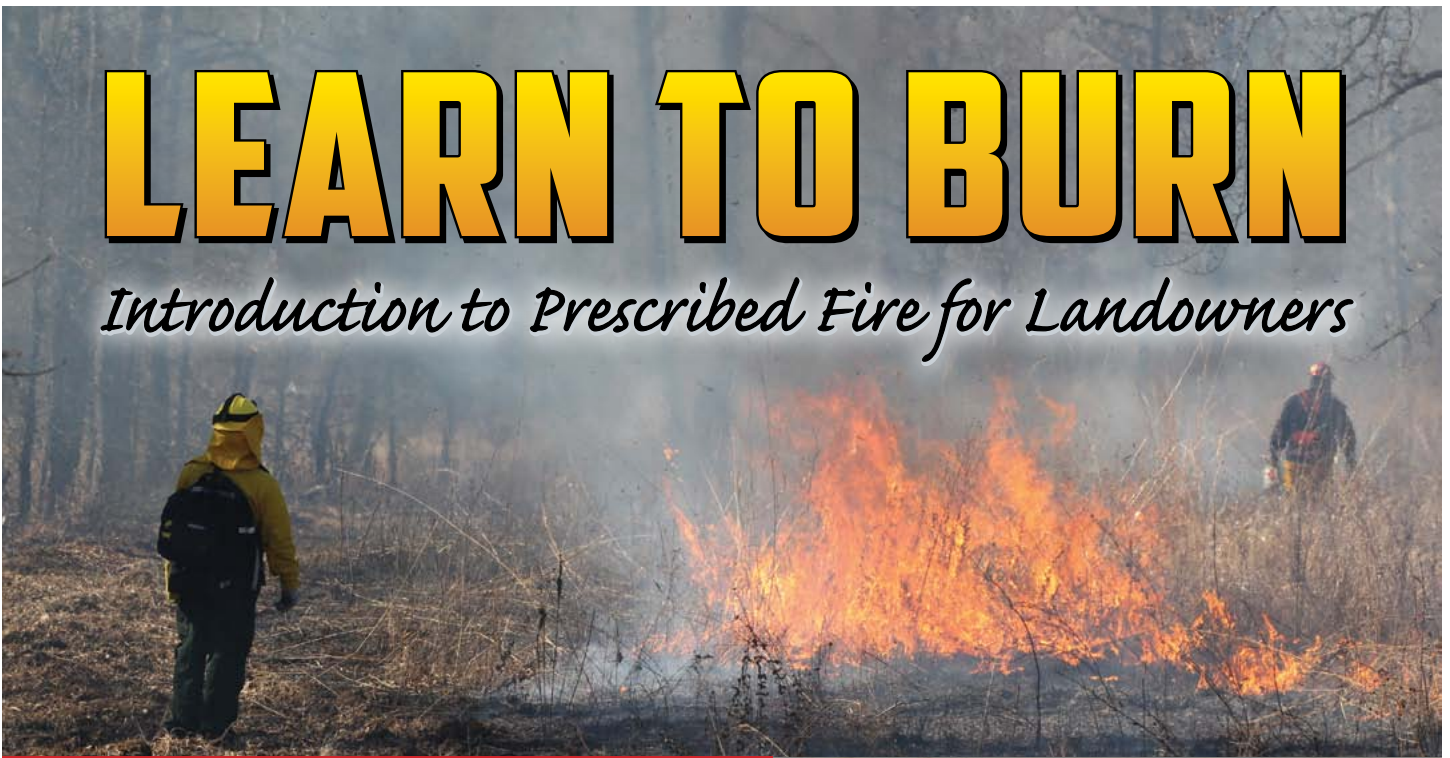
There are four basic principles to improve soil health and sustainability. They are: 1) Use plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil; 2) Do not disturb the soil by tilling it; 3) Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil organisms; 4) Keep the soil covered as much as possible.

Healthy soils are alive. In fact, one teaspoon of healthy soil contains more living organisms than there are people on Earth.

“Just like people, the earthworms and organisms that are prevalent in healthy soil need to eat,” Reisner said. “Plant roots are their buffet. Unfortunately, sometimes their buffet doesn’t smell so good to us.”

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Feb. 27 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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March 12 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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March 19 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fred Berry Conservation Education Center

at Crooked Creek

851 Conservation Lane | Yellville

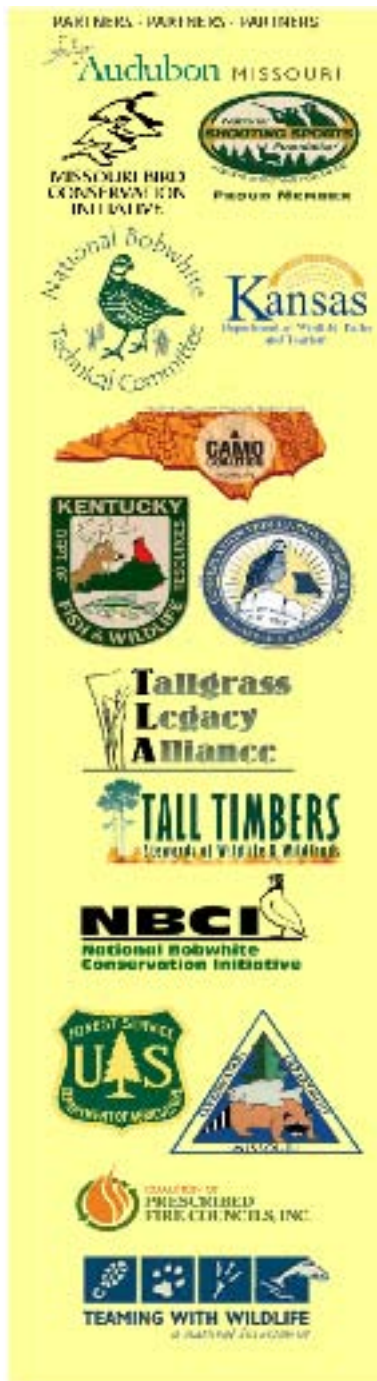
To register, visit www.learntoburn-yellville.eventbrite.com

This workshop will teach private landowners to conduct prescribed burns on their property. Topics include burn weather, equipment, ignition techniques and burn plans.

Free workshop. Space is limited to 30 participants. Lunch will be provided. Registration is required up to one week before the workshop. More specific meeting location and directions will be provided when you register.

For more information,
call **Clint Johnson, 877-470-3650,**
or email **Clint.Johnson@agfc.ar.gov**.





Craig A. Alderman,
executive director
Nick Prough, chief wildlife
biologist and wildlife
partnership coordinator
Advertising and circulation,
admin@quwf.net
Membership,
membership@quwf.net
Website, SMG Solutions
Group, Jim Robbins
Contributors: Craig Alderman,
Nick Prough

The Whistle Call

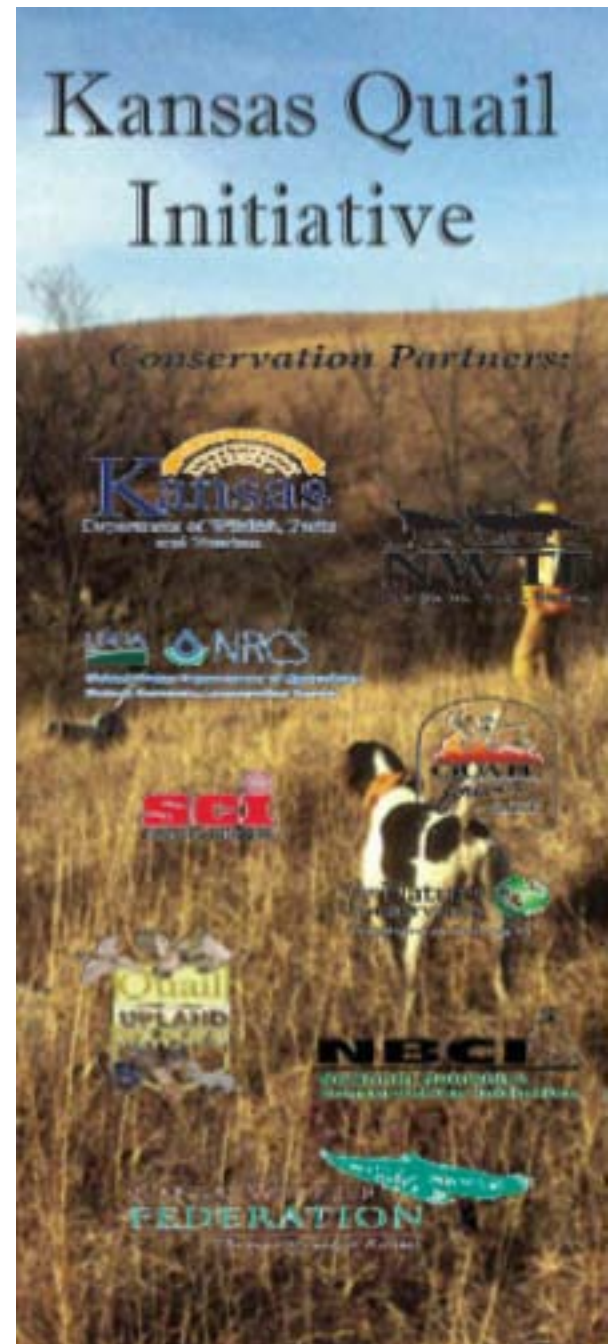
Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 947 • Buffalo, MO 64622

417-345-5960

www.quwf.net

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