



THE HABITAT GUIDE

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

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Notes from the Dashboard

QUWF reaches a corporate milestone for wildlife

There will be much more news on this subject but a quick update on the QUWF efforts to restock the ruffed grouse in Missouri. The restocking plan was approved by the Missouri Department of Conservation Director and the staff, then it was recently supported by the Conservation Commission. That means we are on our way to restock a native, wild specie after nearly a decade of hard habitat restoration. Hard because it required intensive timber stand improvement, untold meetings, many discussions, more than a million dollars spent in habitat work by combined efforts of our QUWF chapter who raised nearly \$500,000 in banquet proceeds, many grants and a full participation by the MDC matching the financial efforts of QUWF.

When we founded QUWF, we did not have lofty goals, we just wanted our chapters to have the most ability in local dollars to achieve local goals for whatever wildlife species or youth outreach they wished. With a few changes and modifications QUWF has



emerged as the single most beneficial habitat organization for local efforts and national programs to “turn-the-dirt” for all upland game.

The restocking effort is a huge and significant milestone for QUWF, any restocking effort by any organization is and we are proud to join the ranks because of hard work, dedicated staff and the best chapter members who are totally focused on a goal and fought for it over years of hard work, chain saws in hand. The Missouri Grouse Chapter of QUWF is a story unto itself, worthy of a book detailing its long track to this point.

More, it speaks to true conservation, not a chase for dollars in memberships, large corporate offices with huge salaries and relationships based on quid pro quo deals, not conservation.

So many people worked tirelessly to this end. The MDC biologists, staff, researchers, Forestry and Wildlife Division, the Grouse chapter team and a battle-ready biologist named Nick Prough, our Chief Wildlife Biologist. Nick is a driving force, he bases decisions on science, common sense and observation. He is a copious note taker, and monitors trends across the country. He takes no credit for any work but his

own, and produces results across the country from Oregon and California to Virginia and Missouri. There is no one in conservation that works harder, but more important, produces as much high-quality results.

My input came at a point at one of the earlier meetings when the Deputy Director basically was going to shelf the entire project. Strong professionals exchanged ideas. My point, were we willing as professional biologists to let the wild ruff grouse expire forever in Missouri due to declining habitat work or do what our state constitution and private support indicated and get the

habitat back in shape. All worked together to get the job done, the direction changes and the process began to today's decisions.

Besides the story of the grouse restocking QUWF has led the drive for active acres in bobwhite quail recovery for the past several years. Comparatively, far beyond any other conservation organization in the U.S. on private or public lands as reported by the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI), the think tank of quail restoration.

Thank you to our members, sponsors and partners, you provided the support to make this now part of QUWF's history.



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Notes from the Road

Quail task forces, quail working groups and quail committees all working to improve quail habitat and quail numbers

Just this week I returned from a multi-day Missouri Quail and Small Game Task Force Meeting where both state, federal and NGO biologists from all over MO gathered together for a couple days to continue to work together to improve quail habitat and quail numbers all over MO. These groups are not specific to MO but many of the states within the bobwhite quail range have these task forces, quail working groups or quail committees working on improving quail habitat while working with private landowners in their areas they work in to meet the landowners quail management goals and objectives. These are agenda packed meetings with many biologists sharing the information they have been learning or researching in their respective areas of the state to share with others in order to compare their findings and results as we all continue to try to improve quail habitat across the state. Several new results will be forthcoming out of these meetings and current research study's in the coming weeks and months so I will continue to update in my articles the readers of the Habitat Guide in future issues on the major information and new results that are being seen. Some newer types of management techniques such as patch burn grazing on native grasses and pastures are continuing to show better results after these new types of habitat management are being conducted over traditional quail habitat management that have been done for many years in some of these areas so everyone is anxiously awaiting the further detailed infor-

mation and data coming from these studies and projects that are occurring out in the field.

However even with many of these task forces and working groups working constantly all over in many states across the bobwhite quails range and the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) that I have mentioned in multiple previous articles being an overlapping umbrella to many of these efforts, there is still always a lot more work to do by each and every one of us from landowners to state agencies/ NGO's to the upland game hunter wanting to see more birds on his next trip out. Quail numbers in many areas of their historic range continue to decline at a fast rate and that isn't what anyone wants to see for the future of bobwhite quail. We have discussed many of those hurdles and obstacles to improved quail numbers and habitat degradation many times as well in previous articles but one that we constantly must remember is one that I had a HUGE reminder of this am as I typed this article and that is the weather extremes we have been having. As seen in the associated picture as I went out this morning to let out the dogs the rain gauge had over 4" of rain in it from just the previous 24 hours. We all know that extreme weather events such as large intense spring/summer rainfalls especially during the later nesting season can be very detrimental to all ground nesting birds and quail is no different. Locally we had come thru May in many areas of MO ok and without to many extreme rain events, and additionally for the majority of



June we continued that trend as well, however on June 30th we got another 4" rainfall event right during nesting season. We all can remember that has been the trend for many of the past several years. This is just another reminder that we must all do all we can to improve nesting conditions and habitat conditions for quail and all upland wildlife as they need all the help they can get!

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 everyday, as you are Definitely..... "Making a Difference for Wildlife One Acre at a Time"!!

Nick Prough

Chief Wildlife Biologist/Wildlife Partnership Coordinator

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MDC expands deer feeding ban to 41 counties in response to CWD

Placing food or minerals for deer is now prohibited in 12 more counties starting July 1 to help limit the spread of chronic wasting disease.

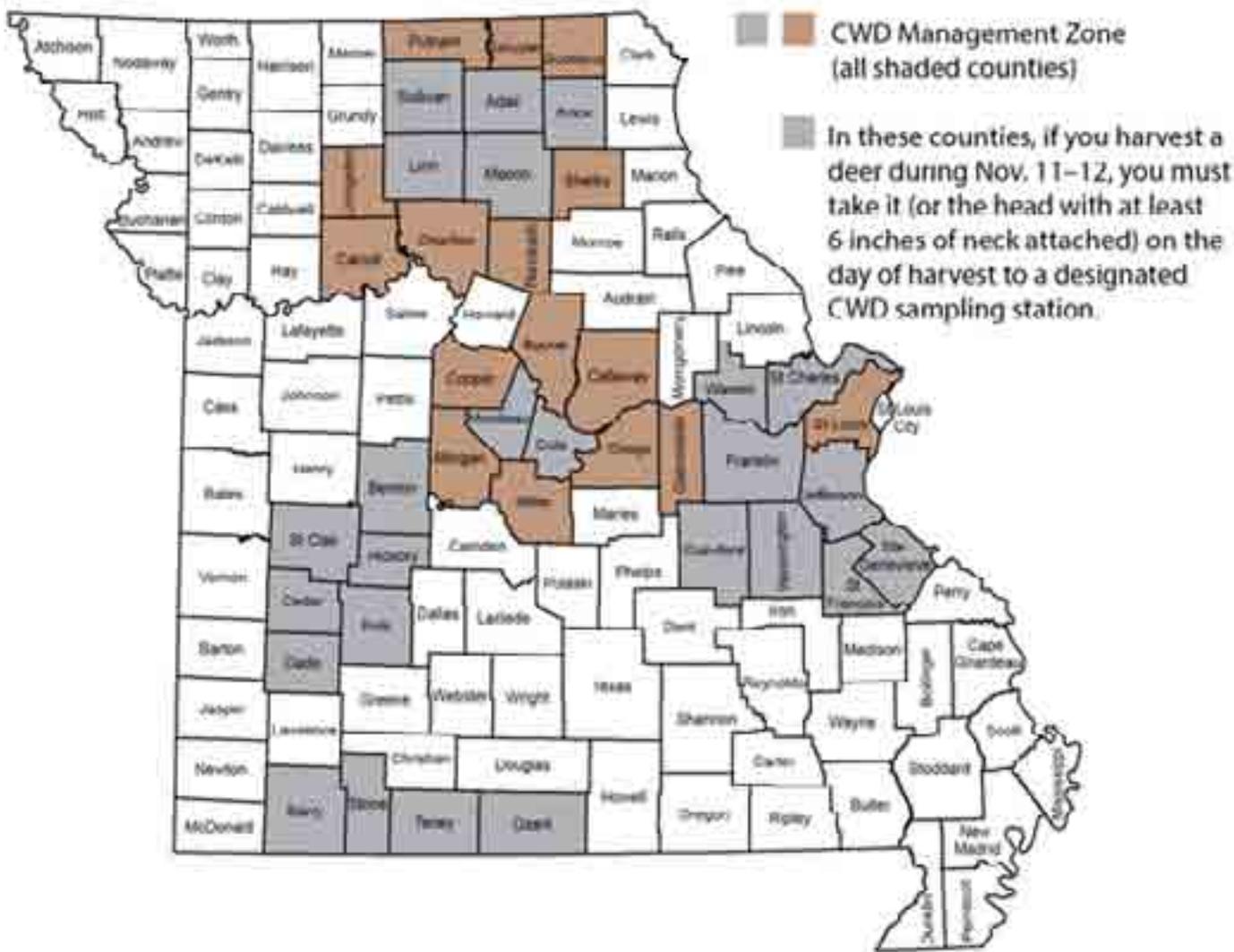
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has expanded restrictions on feeding deer and placing minerals for deer from 29 to 41 counties throughout the state, effective July 1. The goal of the expanded feeding ban is to help limit the spread of chronic wasting disease

(CWD). The 41 counties comprise MDC’s CWD Management Zone. MDC designates counties in and around where CWD has been found as part of its CWD Management Zone.

The 12 new counties are: Barry, Benton, Cedar, Dade, Hickory, Ozark, Polk, St. Clair, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, and Taney.

They were added in response to finding CWD in Jefferson and St Clair counties during MDC’s sampling efforts last season, and the finding of CWD last year in hundreds of deer in northwest Arkansas near the Missouri border.

According to the Wildlife Code



of Missouri, the placement of grain, salt products, minerals, and other consumable natural and manufactured products used to attract deer is prohibited year-round within counties of the CWD Management Zone. Exceptions are feed placed within 100 feet of any residence or occupied building, feed placed in such a manner to reasonably exclude access by deer, and feed and minerals present solely as a result of normal agricultural or forest management, or crop and wildlife food production practices.

The 12 new counties join these 29 existing counties of the Department's CWD Management Zone: Adair, Boone, Callaway, Carroll, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Osage, Putnam, Randolph, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby, St. Charles,

St. Louis, Sullivan, Warren, and Washington.

"CWD is spread from deer to deer and the potential for transmission increases when deer gather in larger, concentrated numbers," said MDC Wildlife Disease Coordinator Jasmine Batten. "Feeding deer or placing minerals for deer unnaturally concentrates the animals and can help spread the deadly disease."

Fall Mandatory Sampling in 25 Counties

As part of its efforts to find and limit the spread of CWD, MDC will again require hunters who harvest deer in any of 25 select counties of the CWD Management Zone during the opening weekend of the November portion of the firearms deer season (Nov. 11 and 12) to present their harvested deer at one of 56 MDC sampling stations so tissue samples can be taken to test the animals for CWD.

The 25 mandatory CWD sampling counties include new counties added to the CWD Management Zone, counties with previous CWD positives, and counties very near previous positives. They are: Adair, Barry, Benton, Cedar, Cole, Crawford, Dade, Franklin, Hickory, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Macon, Moniteau, Ozark, Polk, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Warren, and Washington.

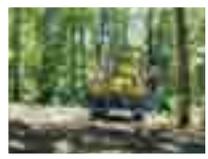
MDC will also continue to offer voluntary CWD sampling opportunities throughout the 2017-2018 deer hunting season at more than 55 participating taxidermists and designated MDC offices around the state.

Additional information is available in MDC's 2017 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet, available starting in July where permits are sold and online at mdc.mo.gov.

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QUWF endorses and co-signs NC public lands protection effort

RALEIGH, NC -- More than 35 North Carolina hunting, fishing and outdoor groups have sent a letter to the Congressional members of the state delegation calling for a strong defense of America's public lands and efforts to oppose any legislative attempts to sell or transfer lands out of the public domain.

There is an undercurrent, especially by western states, of attacks on federal public lands that is unprecedented in American history. Public lands include America's national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and land management areas. The letter points out that our public lands and waters are an American birthright, landscapes where citizens connect with America's history, hunt and fish with our friends, camp with our families and enjoy the solitude and natural beauty of our country.

Public lands are the foundation of the growing outdoor economy, and are a critical underpinning for the travel and tourism industry that keeps North Carolina's economy strong.

"It seems unpatriotic to even think about taking away public lands from Americans," said Tim Gestwicki, CEO of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. "What we need

our congressional members to do is stand up for keeping public lands in public hands."

The Antiquities Act is celebrating its 111th anniversary tomorrow. This Act affords Presidential authority to protect lands that provide significant natural, cultural or scientific features. However, attempts are underway to remove National Monument status for dozens of iconic landscapes across the United States.

North Carolina's public lands are among the most visited and enjoyed in the country. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited in the nation, with visitor numbers greater than Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Parks combined. The Pisgah and Nantahala national forest unit in western North Carolina comprises more than 1 million acres of land, and is the second busiest in the country, with an estimated 6 million visitors a year.

The letter underscores that this is not just a North Carolina issue. North Carolinians travel and value public lands across America. We are gravely concerned with efforts by Western states and lawmakers to demand the turnover of federal lands in some Western states. Western

public lands are public trust lands owned by all Americans and should remain accessible to all Americans. Access to public lands across America is one of the things that makes America great.

John Kies, North Carolina Trout Unlimited State Council Chair, points out that these lands belong to all of us regardless of where they are in the country. "Our members love to fish in North Carolina streams and headwaters of our protected national forests, but we also travel to places out west to enjoy our angling pursuits."

Richard Plattenberger, Chapter President of NC National Wild Turkey Federation, noted that hunting and fishing contributes \$64.6 billion annually to the economy. "As our group and many others are focusing on hunter retention rates and introducing youth to the outdoors, foregoing additional access to public lands would make our efforts all the more difficult," he said.

The letter concludes by specifically asking legislators to oppose every effort to sell our nation's public lands or transfer them to states, and work with us to improve how these lands are managed for conservation and recreational benefits.

How human interaction has affected wildlife through the years

To read, visit <http://marinebio.org/oceans/conservation/moyle/ch2/>

QUWF opens NEW chapter in the great state of Idaho

Buffalo MO: “Expansion of the passion and lifestyle of wild-life conservation, especially at the local level, is a great announcement” states Craig Alderman of QUWF. “Our New chapter, the Elmore Sportsman’s Alliance of QUWF, is totally focused in its mission from the beginning. They are a group of outdoor instructors who are taking the chapter solidly towards helping the youth and young at heart of the Idaho communities around them to the outdoors. Their focus on the shooting sports, archery, general outdoor training, responsibility, conservation, outdoor ethics will lead a new charge to get more people involved the right way with great instruction. Idaho’s great traditions of hunting and the outdoors will be served well by these dedicated instructors and QUWF leaders” Craig emphasized.

“We have an exciting common goal with QUWF” stated Willy Heckathorn, the QUWF chapter chairman. “Its flexibility and support will serve us well moving towards a local organization dedicated to training all interested about the outdoors through multiple venues and with our

professionally trained instructor members and general members. It is important for us to keep our raised revenues locally and manage those to maximize our efforts in Idaho. QUWF’s business model gave us that option like none other” Wily concluded.

“Professional training about the outdoors whether it be with firearms, archery, crossbow, black-powder or just wildlife watching, definitely helps many more people enjoy the outdoors and understand the importance of conservation and wildlife habitat work” states Nick Prough, Chief Wildlife Biologist for QUWF. “To have an entire chapter of dedicated instructors with that mission is something very special and we thank the QUWF Elmore Sportsman’s Alliance for their dedication to the future of the Idaho outdoors” concludes Prough.

As of January 2016, QUWF and its local chapters and members have impacted 3.2 million acres of wildlife habitat and its chapters spent over \$152 Million Dollars in their local communities. That is “Turnin-the-Dirt™”.

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Inc.™ is the only

Disabled American Veteran Founded, tax exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organization in the U.S., serving its members and chapters nationwide. QUWF provides a strong local source of habitat focus on all upland wildlife with population recovery. Millions of dollars of habitat work have been completed by its members over the years on millions of acres of both private and public lands. That work continues with a renewed vitality. Our chapters from coast to coast, provide the grass roots, local habitat work that is making a difference each and every day. For more information or to join QUWF please visit our website at www.quwf.net.

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Inc.

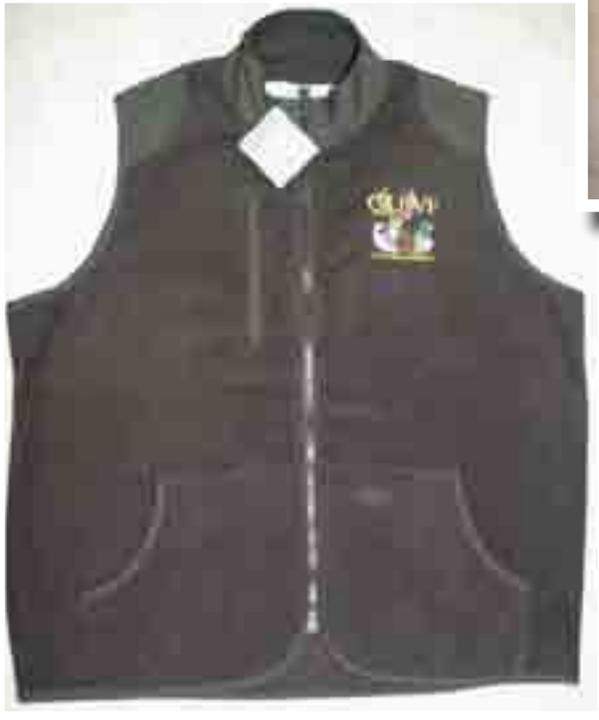
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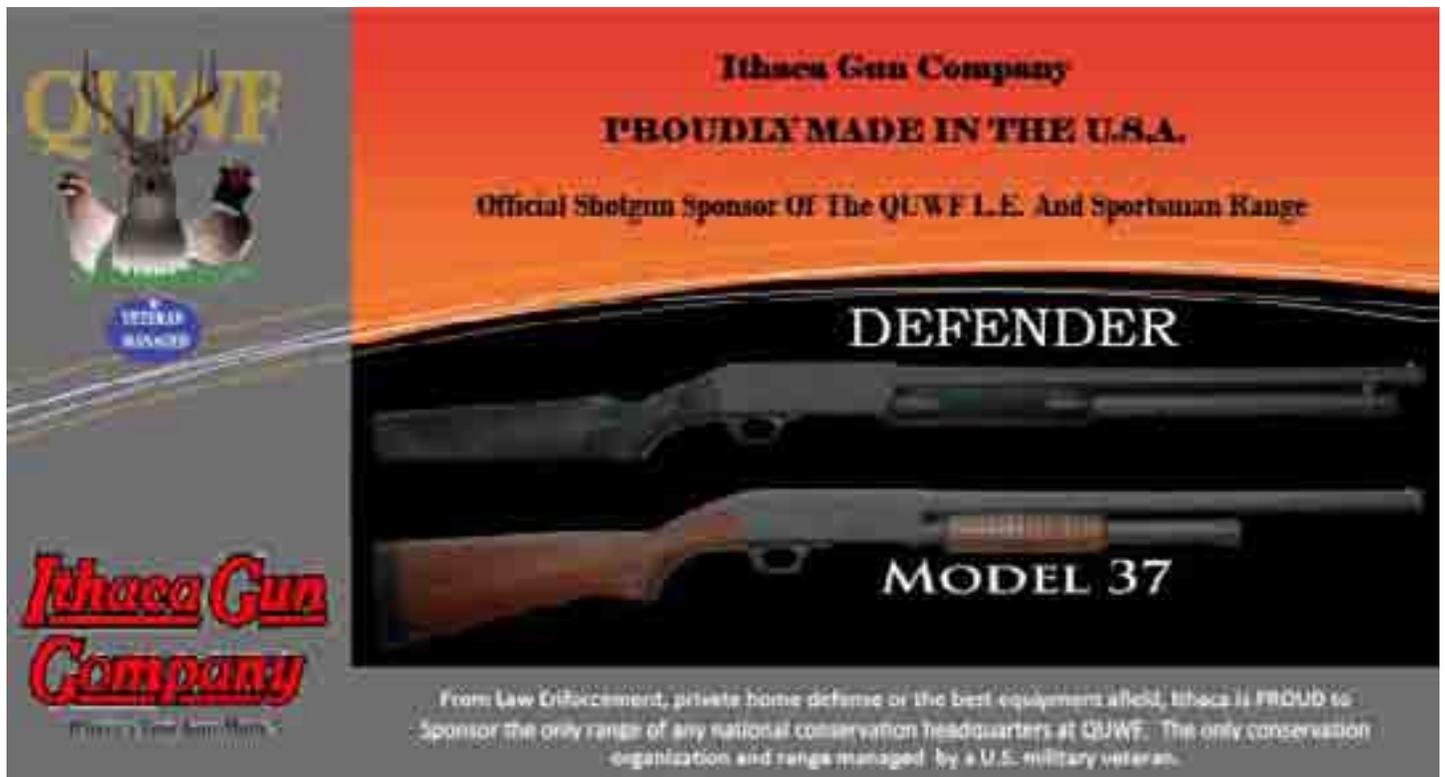


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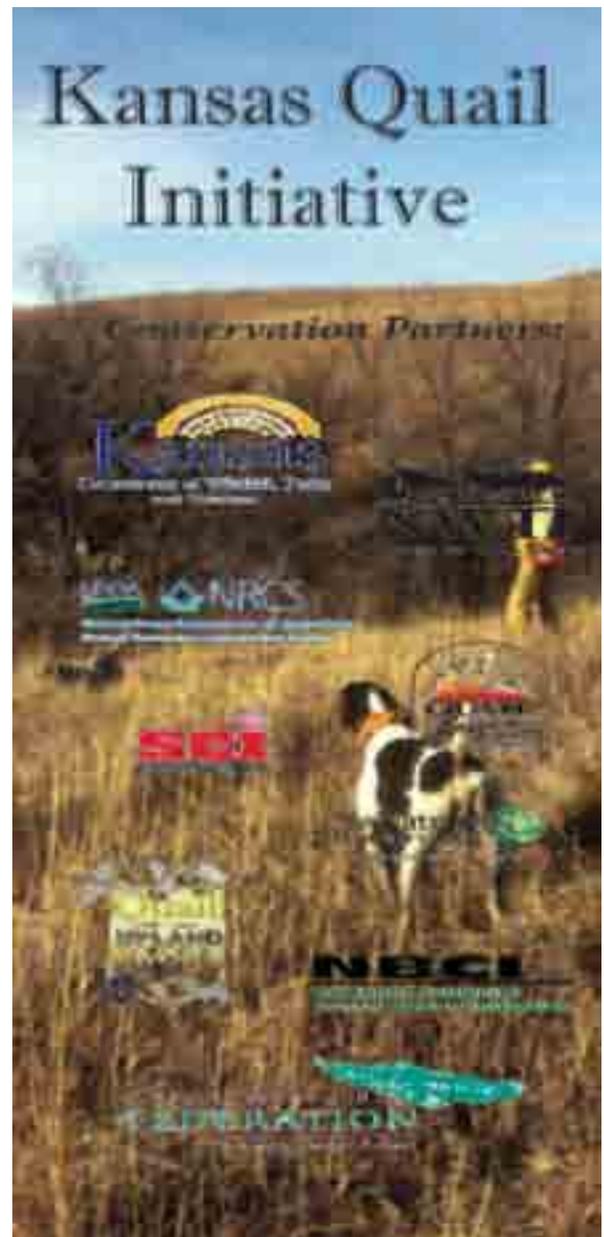
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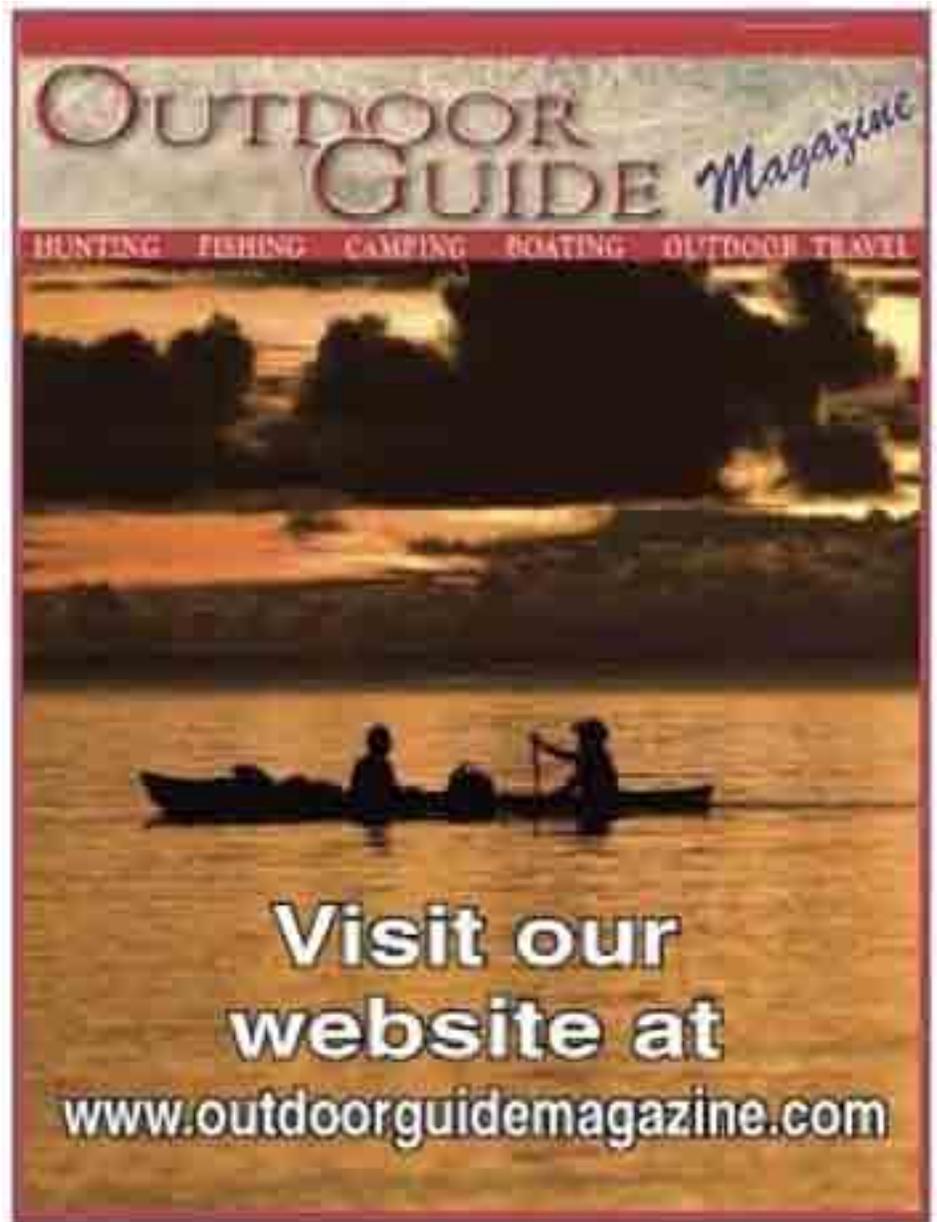
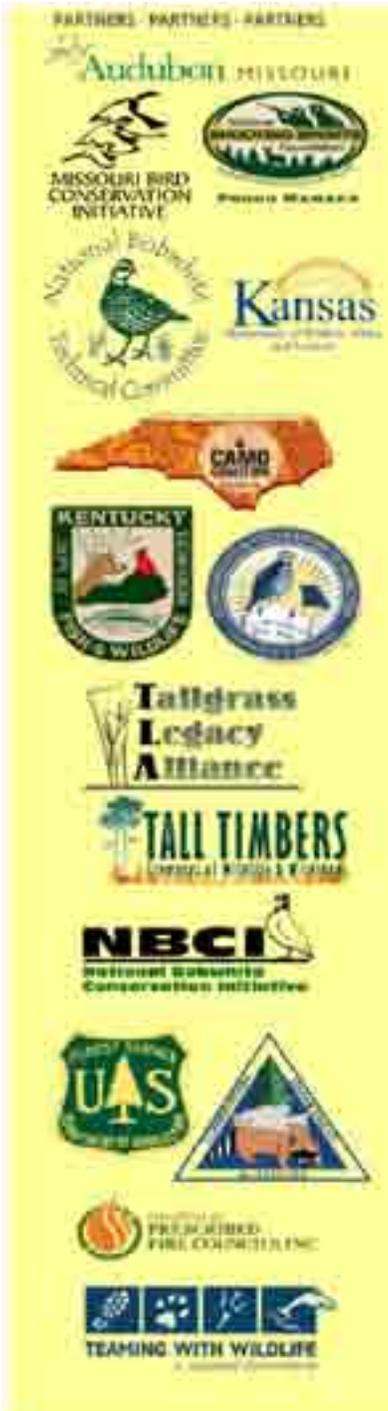
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For all your chapter insurance needs, please call [Leslie Casanova](mailto:Leslie.Casanova@sportsmanagency.com) direct at [Sportsman Insurance Agency](http://SportsmanInsuranceAgency.com) at **1-800-925-7767.**

**In most cases, Leslie can have your insurance the same day!
Also, any questions concerning banquets and/or our vendor programs, please call the [QUWF National Office](http://QUWFNationalOffice.com) at **417-345-5960**.
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2. Upland Bird Habitat Mix \$76.65 • 1-acre coverage • 5.5 lbs • Plant December 1--May 15

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3. Super Sorghum Food Plot Mix \$34.00 • 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 \$60.65 • 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.*

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5. Eastern/High Rainfall Mix \$62.50 • 1-acre coverage • 4.5 lbs • Plant December - June

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 \$60.70 • 1-acre coverage • 4 lbs • Plant December - May

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.

7. Super Sunflower Dove Food Plot \$35.75 • 1-acre coverage • 10 lbs • Plant April -- July

This monoculture planting of Peredovic Sunflower seed is sometimes called the black oil seed. It attracts a variety of wild-life.

U.S. Forest Service to hold open houses on forest plan revision

ASHEVILLE, N.C., June 6, 2017 - The U.S. Forest Service will hold open houses across the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests from late June to early August to provide the public with opportunities to talk with Forest Service staff about local issues, district projects, and the Nantahala and Pisgah Forest Plan revision.

"Public attendance at meetings like these helps us to understand your needs, concerns, and values and helps you understand Forest Service programs and activities," explains Allen Nicholas, Forest Supervisor for National Forests in North Carolina.

The open houses allow the public to talk directly with Forest Service staff one-on-one. Each District Open House will highlight the areas within that district. District rangers and members of the Forest Plan revision team will be available to discuss the materials on each of the following days and locations:

June 29, 6-8 p.m.: Grandfather Ranger District at Foothills Conference Center, 2128 S. Sterling St., Morganton

July 11, 6-8 p.m.: Nantahala Ranger District at Tartan Hall, 26 Church St., Franklin

July 13, 6-8 p.m.: Pisgah Ranger District Office, 1600 Pisgah Hwy, Brevard

July 25, 3-6 p.m.: Appalachian Ranger District at Appalachian District Office, 632 Manor Road, Mars Hill

July 25, 3-6 p.m.: Cheoah Ranger District at Cheoah District Office, 1070 Massey Branch Road, Robbinsville

August 8, 3-6 p.m., Tusquitee Ranger District, Brasstown Community Center, 255 Settawig Rd, Brasstown

The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests have been revising their Forest Plan, a required document that provides a general framework to guide management of the Forests. As part of the process, 30 public meetings have been held in communities throughout western North Carolina.

Over the past year, the Forest

Service has been releasing pre-draft plan materials on the National Forests in North Carolina website - www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nfsnc/ncprevision. Additional materials are posted to the site's Plan Revision Under Construction page as they become available.

"This material is not a preferred alternative or even a draft plan. It represents our latest thinking which has been shaped by public input," said Michelle Aldridge, planning team lead. "In particular, we heard a lot from the public about how places matter to them, so we created a new chapter on Geographic Areas to reflect that."

By separating the Forests into 12 distinct landscapes, Geographic Areas highlight opportunities for restoration and sustainable recreation; connections to nearby communities; and partnerships with the public, other organizations, and governments in different parts of the Forests. Each geographic area also has goals identified that will serve as emphases for management during plan implementation.

Management Area plan components outline how the general forest areas of Interface, Matrix, and Back-

country will be managed. A set of pre-draft maps shows these places on the forest landscape, and adjacent lands not managed by the U.S. Forest Service are included for context. Results from the required Wild and Scenic River Evaluation and information on possible Special Interest Areas are also currently posted on the website.

By fall 2017, the public will have had an opportunity for early review and input on nearly all aspects of the developing plan. When the Forest Plan draft is finalized, the public will again have an opportunity to review the plan during the formal comment period after the complete draft plan and alternative analyses are released in spring 2018.

While there is no formal NEPA or legal comment period at this time, the Forest Service is accepting input at NCplanrevision@fs.fed.us with the subject line "Spring 2017 material Plan Building Blocks" or by mail at this address: Attn: Plan Revision, National Forests in North Carolina, 160A Zillicoa St, Asheville, NC 28801. Comments will be most useful when received by August 31.



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HOT NEW EVENT 2017 Incentives for all Chapters

At the recent Board meeting four new chapter incentive packages were approved, once again supporting and improving the chapter's ability to retain MORE dollars as a reward for good financial management and event results.

NOTE: Chapter chairman will receive the complete incentive outlines when they notify the national office directly of their banquet dates for 2017. It must come into national from the chapter.



GOLD and Platinum Chapter Rewards: These award levels must be earned yearly.

This entire dual level reward effort is to further enhance those chapters who have consistently supported QUWF and its mission and managed their chapters with good results. Criteria includes an on-time event report, working net goals, and overall contributions to national.

Benefits include, increased chapter retention of dollars in several categories; a membership incentive with the chapter retaining some of the membership dues; and a bonus system for local sponsors.

This program alone can put thousands of dollars into the individual chapter's account.

FREE Gun Incentive:

NOTE: Chapter chairman will receive the complete incentive outlines when they notify the national office directly of their

banquet dates for 2017. It must come into national from the chapter.



Based on basic performance criteria of the chapter, just for getting the information in on time, a NEW Ruger 10/22 or Ruger .380 pistol will be awarded to the chapter through its FFL supporting dealer.

This is above and beyond the Gold and Platinum so the chapter can earn BOTH.

NEW MEMBERSHIP Incentives:

NOTE: Chapter chairman will receive the complete incentive outlines when they notify the national office directly of their banquet dates for 2017. It must come into national from the chapter.

There is a new adult membership incentive based on the number of new and renewed members signed up at the banquet or just prior (combined).

Chapters can earn up to one Benelli high grade or two Ruger or Tri-Star firearms on the VDP lists for efforts placed on memberships.

For all questions or inquiries, please call your national office.


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camera of



Cuddeback Long-Range IR and Black Flash

Cuddebacks are meticulously designed in the USA for fast trigger speed - up to 2.5 to 4 times faster than all competitive cameras.

Benefits of IR

- IR cameras use infrared LEDs for night illumination. Night images are black and white and day images are color.
- No visible light is seen unless looking directly at the IR LEDs
- Night illumination range over 100 feet
- Best performing IR technology
- Benefits of Black Flash
- No-glow IR cameras use infrared LEDs for night illumination. Night images are black and white and day images are color.
- Virtually no visible red glow even when looking at the IR LEDs
- Night illumination range up to 50 feet



**Cuddeback
Long-
Range IR
Model E2**

The Cuddeback Long Range IR model E2 trail camera is the best Cuddeback 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.

Long Range IR technology gives you over 2 watts of IR illumination power and up to 100-foot infrared flash range with no visible light output on the subject. You'll get superior IR image quality and images that are correctly exposed and stunningly clear with minimal motion blur.



**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 inferred 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.



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THE HABITAT GUIDE

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National Staff

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