



"Thank you for being part of the solution to a bad situation that was decades in the making and will require a long-term fix. Thanks for believing in our mission." — Howard K. Vincent President & CEO

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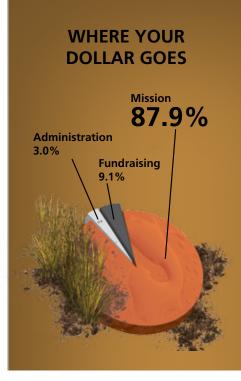
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QUAIL FOREVER MISSION STATEMENT

Quail Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.



# Thank You QF Volunteers, Members and Partners

By Howard K. Vincent, President & CEO

At its heart, Quail Forever is a grassroots habitat conservation organization. So, numbers matter, both in terms of boots on the ground raising funds and doing habitat and in the halls of state and federal capitols where we need numbers to successfully advocate for effective, voluntary conservation programs.

To that end, I'm pleased to announce Quail Forever reached another membership record in 2015, with 15,899 members, up from 13,567 in 2014. QF boasts 154 chapters in 28 states which, since 2005, have improved more than 600,000 acres of quail habitat nationwide.

Thanks to our field staff and volunteers for this important achievement. I'd like to call out our top 10 QF states by membership in order to challenge other states to make the list next year!

- 1. Missouri 2,640
- 2. Illinois 1,718
- 3. Kansas 1,371
- 4. Kentucky 1,017
- 5. Georgia 927
- 6. Tennessee 910
- 7. Texas 774
- 8. Oklahoma 645
- 9. California 564
- 10. North Carolina 558

When QF was hatched by Pheasants Forever in 2005, there was just one reason why: Something had to be done for our declining quail and our valued quail hunting heritage. As usual, when it comes to wildlife, it was up to hunters to get the job done.

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The scaled quail.

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# 2015 QF Habitat Stats (Fiscal Year 2015)

# Farm Bill Biologist Projects 2015

# Nesting cover, controlled burns, wetlands, woody cover and food plots

Chapter Projects	2015	SINCE 2005	Chapter Projects	2015	SINCE 2005
FOOD PLOTS Number Acres Covered Dollars Spent	7,536	5,341 38,111 453,393	Acres Covered		
NESTING COVER Number Acres Covered Dollars Spent		23,449	Acres Covered	1 0	
WOODY COVER Number Acres Covered Dollars Spent			MAINTENANCE (Sind Number Acres Covered		1,745 2573,433

Just as PF sprang up over three decades ago in response to concerns over pheasants, QF set out to be additive in the service of another great gamebird and all the other wild things that depend on quail habitat. It wasn't a flashy beginning. It was considered scientific and methodical, and still is. Nose to the grindstone, QF has quietly built its chapter and membership base, and by forging public and private partnerships and friendships, added value to the habitat equation. That will continue.

Reflecting now, a decade in, Quail Forever hasn't really turned a corner so much as achieved the rewards of that single-minded habitat focus. We are here, and we are additive, which was the plan. With slow and steady progress, QF no longer stands in the shadow of its elder sibling — the organization from which it sprang. This hasn't been a sprint, but more a marathon, as it goes forward as a team effort among partners.

The inexorable decline of bobwhites and other quail over the last half century will not be

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stopped in short order. However, the past year has brought a stream of milestones for which, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you!

Thanks for caring enough about quail country to become a member. Thanks for attending a local banquet, supporting your chapter and their efforts for both habitat and quail. Thanks for boosting QF youth shooting and outdoors events. Thanks for being part of the solution to a bad situation that was decades in the making and will require a long-term fix. Thanks for believing in our mission.

As you browse through QF's 2015 record of achievement below, take pride in the positive energy being directed at quail and their habitat by QF volunteers, agency partners and individual landowners inspired to action.

# East Region Alabama:

 12 projects/155 acres. Chapter Accomplishments — Conecuh Forest Chapter # 3070 received a Regional Forester Award from the US Forest Service acknowledging 10 years of work on the Conecuh National Forest, of seed and fertilizer and approximately \$100,000 in volunteer labor and equipment time. Also recognized the chapter's work to help other species and for serving as quail hunting ambassadors at Conecuh.

# Florida/Georgia:

- The Florida/Georgia Quail Coalition completed its first full year as a partnership.
- Chapters in both states raised funds to support habitat projects on public Quail Focus Areas (QFA), quail research, as well as youth shooting sports.
- 14 active chapters, raised \$56,300 for QFA Habitat Projects and \$10,000 donated to quail research with 1,363 total QF members.



• \$17,800 spent on youth hunts, education and shooting team support for 2,232 youth participants.

# Illinois:

- Chapters completed 282 projects covering 3,254 acres.
- Farm Bill biologists initiated 895 landowner contacts to impact 14,110 acres.
- 1633 acres of nesting cover created or improved for quail in partnership with the Illinois Habitat Fund.

# Indiana:

• Established four new Farm Bill biologist positions in cooperation with NRCS and Indiana DNR. Two of these positions are in the primary quail range. These biologists

# **TOP 10 QF FOOD PLOT ACRES CHAPTERS**

Heart of the Ozarks (MO)	2,904	\
2 C Quail Forever (MO)	657	۱
St. Louis (MO)	600	(
Tri-County (IL)	500	9
Mark Twain (MO)	360	ł

Volunteer (TN)	265
Whistling Bobs (MO)	250
Gateway (MO)	201
Silver Creek (IL)	200
Kentucky Lake (TN)	156

# **TOP 10 QF MAINTENANCE ACRES CHAPTERS**

High Desert (CA)	77,273
Los Padres (CA)	22,078
San Diego (CA)	11,039
Keeper of the Plains (KS)	4,000
Southeast North Carolina (NC)	1,604

Little Bluestem (IL)	691
Shortgrass (MO)	534
Southern Middle TN Dove & Quail (TN)	518
Central Nebraska (NE)	510
West Central Missouri (MO)	345

# 2015 TOP 10 QF NESTING COVER ACRES CHAPTERS

Central Nebraska (NE)	488
West Central Missouri (MO)	309
Otter Creek (IL)	280
Little Bluestem (IL)	264
2 C Quail Forever (MO)	153

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White County (IL)1	110
Missouri River Valley (MO)	65
Tri-County (IL)	64
Prairie Rockets (IL)	60
Corner Covey (MO)	57

will be assisting landowners with conservation planning and implementation on their lands.

# Kentucky:

- The Northern Kentucky Chapter received one of our shooting sports trailers and conducted several outreach events, with a main event hosting over 300 youth for a field day with various shooting sports, hunting techniques and conservation practices.
- The Commonwealth Chapter participated in three competitive shooting events with their youth. This along with other events, brought their total to over 220 youth participants for the year.

# Ohio:

- Chapters completed 10 projects covering 30 acres; Farm Bill biologists initiated 810 landowner contacts, impacting 5,442 acres.
- Volunteers started the Adams County Chapter.
- Established the Fallsville Quail Heritage Area anchored by the Fallsville Wildlife Area near Hillsboro.
- 400 acres of quail habitat improvement through the Habitat Share Partnership between Ohio Division of Wildlife and Quail Forever (optimized nesting and brood rearing cover by removing exotic invasives and woody encroachment).

# South Carolina:

- Quail Forever staff is working with South Carolina DNR and the U.S. Forest Service to establish full time staff in SC, specifically someone to help with coordination of the Indian Creek Area of the Enoree National Forest.
- Started new chapters, including Little Pee Dee River #3238 in South

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Carolina, the Sandhills #3239 in North Carolina and Central Mississippi #3229.

#### Tennessee:

- Chapters completed 64 projects covering 1,213 acres; Upper Cumberland #3227 started.
- Farm Bill biologists initiated 605 landowner contacts, impacting 24,893 acres.
- Mark Gudlin, chief of wildlife, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), was awarded the 2015 Quail Forever Partner Award for leadership placing three Farm Bill biologists, one of which was the Cumberland Plateau position to increase shortleaf pine habitat. Partners include National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, TWRA matching funds and chapter contributions.
- Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever named

"Conservation Organization of the Year" by Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame.

• Partnered with TWRA on Quail Focus Area initiative, committing to foster chapter involvement with TWRA and their work on improving habitat in the four state Quail Focus Areas.

## South Region

#### Arkansas:

• The state is now home to three Quail Forever chapters, the newest being the Big Rock Chapter in central Arkansas. The Arkansas River Valley and Northeast Arkansas chapters hosted successful youth shooting events, as well as a youth quail hunt near Russellville.

#### Kansas:

• QF partnered with the USFWS on a shrub planting project at the Flint Hills National

Wildlife Refuge, where over 9,500 American plums were planted.

- Received over \$40,000 in private donations for support of our Youth Pollinator
  Program and other youth-focused programming.
- Chapters hosted over 200 youth events that attracted more than 2,300 participants.
- Started a new chapter in LaCrosse.

# Louisiana:

 The Atchafalaya Region Chapter hosted a successful chapter banquet in September and has already begun to make its mark on local habitat and wildlife. It hosted a well-attended habitat workshop with landowners and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in an effort to bring the bobwhite back to prominence in the state.

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## Missouri:

- Signed a new partnership agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to continue partnering for QF's six cooperative Farm Bill wildlife biologist positions another three years.
- QF and partners added a grazing lands biologist to promote grazing native warm season grasses to benefit quail.
- Provided leadership to the Monarch/ Pollinator Steering Committee to restore habitat for declining pollinators and monarch butterflies. Chapters have hosted 10 pollinator habitat projects.
- Piloting the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) monitoring protocol in conjunction with the 2C QF chapter. Conducting quail and grassland bird monitoring on focus and control areas.
- Was awarded the 2015 Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt award from National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF).
- Helped develop two active prescribed burn associations and working on a third.
- Helping develop two Regional Conservation Partnership Program projects: glades and woodlands for quail and native grazing programs for quail.
- Six chapters partnered with the NWTF on new hunter initiatives. They include Clark County, Heart of the Ozarks, Mark Twain, Missouri River Valley,

Shortgrass and Ten Rivers (PF/QF).

- Chapters contributed \$66,500 to MDC Habitat Challenge Grant fund and completed 1,028 habitat projects that impacted 9,409 acres.
- Farm Bill wildlife biologists made a host of landowner contacts that resulted in 20,405 acres improved.
- NRCS/MDC/QF are working together to modify seeding recommendations for quail and pollinators. Also hosted 50 landowner workshops/tours, mostly for quail.

#### Nebraska:

- The Southwest Prairie QF chapter was added in 2015 to cover two counties (Hitchcock and Dundy) in the southwest part of the state.
- According to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission whistle counts and rural mail carrier surveys, quail numbers are up around the state. Whistle counts show a 21% increase for a statewide average and rural mail carrier surveys show an 81% increase from last year.
- We now have four QF chapters in the state

# **TOP 25 QF BANQUETS FOR 2015 (FISCAL)**

Flint River (GA) 2	57
Missouri River Valley (MO) 2	37
Route 36 (KS) 1	83
Golden Triangle (IL) 1	80
White County (IL) 1	71
Great River (IA) 1	67
Northern Kentucky (KY) 1	65
Otter Creek (IL) 1	50
Marion County (KS) 1	46
Commonwealth (KY) 1	44
2 C Quail Forever (MO) 1	38
Southwest Georgia (GA) 1	38
Keeper of the Plains (KS) 1	31

Little Bluestem (IL)	126
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Silver Creek (IL)	125
Wachtel fur Immer (NE)	108
Central Nebraska (NE)	103
Broad River (NC)	103
Brown County (KS)	99
SE Minnesota Bobwhite (MN)	98
K-16 Quail Forever (KS)	98
Lincolnland (IL)	95
Shortgrass (MO)	94
Tri-County (IL)	92
Mark Twain (MO)	91



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that provided 1,133 acres of habitat and spent \$43,308 on habitat projects.

- 18 biologists are spread throughout the state to work with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapters to provide habitat for both pheasants and quail.
- The Meridian Quail Initiative is going strong in south central Nebraska. The initiative is a partnership with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. In 2015, there were over 1,000 acres enhanced as part of this program in the two county focus area.
- Quail Forever received a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to provide prescribed fire equipment to landowners through Prescribed Burn Associations that work together to safely and effectively conduct prescribed burns. The grant also helps pay for education outreach opportunities that include prescribed fire training and habitat tours. In 2015, 27 training events were held with 923 participants.

#### Oklahoma:

- Added three chapters for a total of 10.
- The Oklahoma City Chapter celebrated its 10th anniversary banquet with guest PF/ QF CEO and President Howard Vincent.
- Chapters hosted four landowner workshops in conjunction with Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Noble Foundation and two Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) CRP workshops and one landowner seminar on wildlife management plans.
- Chapters hosted nine youth events, six of which were shooting events with conservation activities, one was a youth hunt and two were pollinator projects.
- Chapters funded a total of \$16,236 for habitat projects (\$36,859 were matching

funds) and \$12,524 in youth projects.

#### Texas:

- Added four chapters for a total of 10.
- Farm Bill Wildlife biologists, who work largely on the Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative, made 402 landowner contacts resulting in 118,549 acres conserved.
- Funded \$65,250 for habitat and \$8,620 in youth projects, which includes the first ever successfully coordinated/multiple chapter funding for two habitat projects along with a veteran's license program.

# West Region

#### Arizona:

- Members (and their dogs) from all three Arizona Quail Forever chapters (Copper State, Valley of the Sun and Southern Arizona) as well as the Arizona Pointing Dog Club met for the 1st Annual Scaled Quail Flush Count Survey hosted by the Arizona Game & Fish Department. All the grassland restoration work happening in the Sulphur Springs Valley prompted the count. Thirteen volunteers with 19 gun dogs donated 3,717 miles and 171 hours to survey 27 miles.
- The Copper State Chapter, Phoenix, onducted a 30-minute quail hunting demonstration at an annual summer hunter education camp. Over two days, a

sold out class of 125 youth, ages 10 - 14.

# California:

- Ten chapters worked on 70 habitat projects totaling over 110,427 acres with an estimated 560 donated hours of time. Chapters held youth activities for over 1,500 youths.
- Secured a \$42,350 grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a survey protocol for Gambel's quail and mourning doves. The U.S. Geological Survey is providing critical assistance.

# Colorado :

- The NRCS, PF/QF and Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) have worked with landowners to enhance existing acres of CRP with desirable forb, grass, and shrub cover to improve habitat for quail and other upland bird species.
- The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have provided \$33,700 for southeast Colorado to purchase forb, grass and shrub seed that, when combined with CPW and Farm Service Agency programs and funding, will directly improve habitat for both bobwhite and scaled quail in addition to lesser prairie chickens and ring-necked pheasants.



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- CPW coordinated with local landowners and the NRCS to enhance rangeland and CRP acreage with cholla, skunkbrush sumac and four-wing saltbush plantings in critical areas of quail habitat. Local chapters also provided tree plantings to local landowners in order to improve quail habitat within 14 projects on 567 acres, specifically 3,000 skunkbrush sumac were planted, 1,000 cholla and innumerable four-wing saltbush seeds.
- Two QF/PF Farm Bill biologists continue to work planning, funding and providing technical support to quail habitat projects in cooperation with the NRCS and CPW.

#### Idaho:

• The newly re-chartered Snake River Chapter in southwest Idaho continues to provide habitat enhancement on public access lands in Idaho. Specifically, it contributed \$15,000 toward new water supply systems on the 700-acre Gold Island public access area. The new pump and distribution lines will help provide new cover for quail and other wildlife by adding hundreds of shrubs and new food plots to the area.

#### New Mexico:

• Formed the Blackwater Draw Chapter, the state's first. A chapter gun raffle at the Roosevelt County Fair in August raised over \$900.

#### Nevada:

• Two new chapters will be concentrating on habitat improvement for California valley quail and chukar partridge.

#### Fantastic Youth Efforts

Building the next generation of hunters and

conservation leaders remains a top priority for Quail Forever volunteers at the grassroots level. With this in mind, Quail Forever has become a leader in youth initiatives among national conservation groups. We also have a 22-member National Youth Leadership Council with members from quail country on the Council.

Youth programming reached new records in 2015 through our No Child Left Indoors<sup>®</sup> initiative. The effort quite simply works to get youth unplugged from electronics and engaged in hunting, shooting and other recreation.

The past 12 months topped even a banner 2014 for the sheer number of youth events and participants. From shooting team sponsorships, to youth habitat days, to mentored hunts, chapter leaders and other volunteers hosted an incredible 1,450 events in 2015. Nearly 22,000 adult volunteers provided opportunities for a record 75,439 youth to build positive memories afield and develop an affinity for habitat work. Chapters

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By giving annually to Quail Forever, you are providing vital support in our fight to preserve and protect wildlife habitat. Help us move FOREVER FORWARD. To learn more, contact David R. Bue, QF Vice President of Development, at 218-340-5519 or dbue@pheasantsforever.org.

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spent over \$1 million on youth programs.

Two chapters were honored in February for their exceptional work in the No Child Left Indoors<sup>®</sup> initiative: the Red River Valley PF Chapter serving both North Dakota and Minnesota and the Shortgrass QF Chapter in Missouri.

In addition, chapters have adopted 531 youth shooting teams in 41 states. Those chapters have helped raise \$4.5 million for team endowments. With continued financial support from Larry and Brenda Potterfield and the MidwayUSA Foundation, the Forever Shooting Sports program has continued to grow and introduce almost 200,000 youth to the fun of shooting while also learning the importance of conservation. Many chapters sponsoring shooting teams and doing youth pollinator projects have been re-energized by increasing their volunteers, banquet attendance and community support.



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# 2015 Quail Forever ANNUAL REPORT



Quail Forever Donors & Leaders

sincere thank you to those who generously supported Quail Forever in 2015, as well as to all those who have joined the Habitat Legacy Society. Your support, passion and leadership provide Quail Forever with the valuable resources needed to ensure the upland hunting tradition remains forever. The challenges facing wildlife habitat are mounting, but we know we can overcome them with your continued support.

On behalf of Quail Forever, the wildlife that benefit from our work, and those future generations who will enjoy upland hunting because of your support, thank you for making a lasting impact!

— Howard K. Vincent, President & CEO

# A Legacy That Lasts Forever

Most of us know that hunting isn't just about harvesting animals or spending time in the outdoors. It's something you hold deep in your heart. It's part of what shaped you. Hunting is about memories — short moments in time that are forever burned into the fiber of your being.

As a Quail Forever supporter, you recognize that future generations may not be able to create similar memories. Loss of grassland acres, vanishing covey headquarters, challenges facing CRP and other unprecedented threats to wildlife habitat are mounting in severity. To offset these challenges, Quail Forever formed the Habitat Legacy Society to help individuals make a meaningful difference by leaving a conservation legacy that lasts beyond their lifetime.

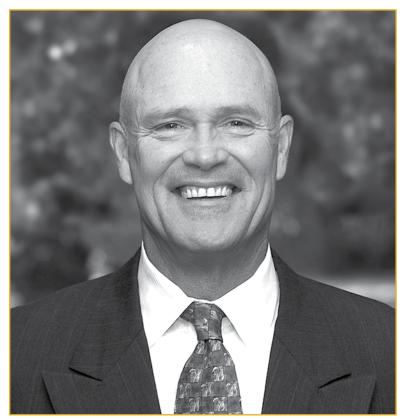


The Habitat Legacy Society is reserved for those special leaders who have made a planned gift to Quail Forever as part of their will. The greatest gift that someone can make is to leave a legacy by remembering QF's mission as part of their estate plans. On behalf of Quail Forever, thank you to all of our Habitat Legacy Society members for leaving a conservation legacy!

# HABITAT LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

"I have fond memories of hunting quail with my son Kevin near our home in Kansas. There was a time when quail were plentiful in the area, and we would take to the field during the holidays. This became a tradition and still is to this day. The only thing that has changed is the abundance of quail our dogs point and the number of birds we harvest. Unfortunately, loss of habitat has drastically decreased the number of coveys near our home. I hope my support of Quail Forever will increase quail populations so I can hunt with my son and his kids. For this reason, I chose to leave a legacy by making Quail Forever a beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy."

— Ed Holland (Pheasants Forever Life Member, Quail Forever Life Member and Habitat Legacy Society Member.)



Ed Holland

For more information on the many ways to support Quail Forever, contact David R. Bue, Vice President of Development, at 218-340-5519 or email at dbue@quailforever.org



# **CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP MATTERS**

Nothing compares to the smile on a child's face following the flush of their first covey, the pride you experience while watching your bird dog point a single or the joy of seeing wildlife thrive in habitat you

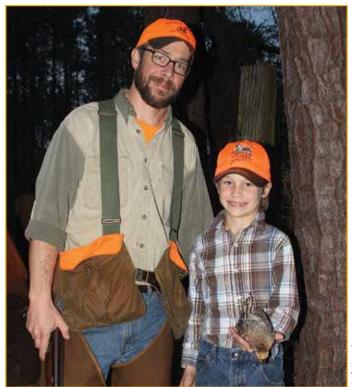
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provided for their benefit. Thank you to Quail Forever's Gold Patron, Patron and Life Members for taking your membership to the next level. Your support helps Quail Forever make a greater difference by creating, restoring and permanently protecting wildlife habitat.



Mark Herwi

Thank you to those who made a financial contribution, planned gift or grant to Quail Forever, as well to those who donated land or permanently protected their property through a donated conservation easement in 2015. Please know that Quail Forever greatly appreciates your financial support, as well as the support of our donors who choose to remain anonymous. On behalf of Quail Forever, thank you for your ongoing commitment during these challenging times for wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage! The financial support of donors is a crucial part of Quail Forever's ability to expand our wildlife conservation efforts. You are making an important difference!

Perhaps you or someone you know is interested in supporting Quail Forever at a higher level. For more information on the many ways you may leave a conservation legacy or to discuss making a gift to Quail Forever, please contact QF's Vice President of Development, David R. Bue, at 218-340-5519 or by email at dbue@quailforever.org.