



2023 Annual Program Report



Jan. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2023



Build A Wildlife Area®

Build a Wildlife Area® is Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's permanent habitat protection program delivering fee-title habitat and access, endeavoring to create a landscape of quality upland habitat supporting wild, sustainable populations of upland birds and other wildlife.

In 2023, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever completed 29 Build A Wildlife Area® projects totaling 4,067 acres. Working with willing sellers, many of whom had a legacy vision for their property to become a public wildlife area, along with our partners, chapters, donors, and supporters, we conserved \$17.7M in critical upland habitat now perpetually benefiting wildlife and public access. Since 1982, PF and QF has worked to protect 229,000-acres of habitat open to access, providing an estimated 27,480 hunter days during this past hunting season.

The Build a Wildlife Area® program currently has 22,636 acres of strategic habitat acquisition projects in active development across 13 states. All donations to Build a Wildlife Area® leverage partner funds, enhancing our collective effort to get more high-quality projects completed in bird country.

If you are interested in protecting critical wildlife habitat through Build A Wildlife Area®, please scan the QR code to see our program website at

www.pheasantsforever.org/habitat/build-a-wildlife-area

Keep an eye out for opportunities to engage with our program throughout the year as we build momentum towards Build a Wildlife Area Week – September 23-27, 2024!



To discuss making a donation, please contact a member of Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever's Permanent Habitat Protection Team.

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Build A Wildlife Area® 2023 Completed Projects

Acres	Property Name	County / State
70	Christopherson Slough WPA Addition	Dickinson, IA
160	Veteran's Wildlife Area Addition	Sherman, KS
27	Beyer WPA Addition	Lac qui Parle, MN
152	Bigelow WMA Addition	Nobles, MN
320	Carlton County Land Department	Carlton, MN
76	Chippewa Wildlife Area	Chippewa, MN
162	Clear Lake WPA Addition	Meeker, MN
147	Five Mile Corner WPA Addition	Murray, MN
25	Larson WPA Addition	Lac qui Parle, MN
21	Lisbon WMA Addition	Yellow Medicine, MN
52	Lubenow WPA Addition	Swift, MN
146	Phasianus WPA Addition	McLeod, MN
130	Prairie -Big Woods WMA Addition	Meeker, MN
21	Prairie Woods ELC	Kandiyohi, MN
40	Prairie Marshes WMA Addition	Lyon, MN
181	Rau Prairie Pothole WMA Addition	Kandiyohi, MN
40	Red Clover WMA Addition	Carlton, MN
305	Rogelstad-Swanson WMA Addition	Wilkin, MN
38	Rosenau-Lambrecht WMA Addition	Brown, MN
80	Shaokatan WPA Addition	Lincoln, MN
39	Spencer Brook WMA Addition	Isanti, MN
250	Stearns County Park	Stearns, MN
150	Svor WPA Addition	Swift, MN
85	Tiger Lake WPA Addition	Carver, MN
56	Wolf Lake WPA Addition	Cottonwood, MN
38	Woodbury WMA Addition	Goodhue, MN
511	Linscomb Wildlife Area Addition	St. Clair, MO
560	Frozen Man Creek GPA - John Stengle Tract	Stanley, SD
185	McCann Creek Conservation Area	St. Croix, WI

4,067 total acres permanently protected.

**WMA = Wildlife Management Area, WPA = Waterfowl Production Area
and GPA = Game Production Area*

Major Donors (\$100,000 or more)

Mark and Linda Brakke
John Bornhoft
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Kendall Trust
Landmark Conservancy
Don Livingood

McCleod Wildlife Habitat Society
MeatEater
Montana Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Trust
The John L Neisen Trust
onX

Ann and Dick Posey
Mary E. Sellner
Spirit Lake Protective Association
Karen and Nicole Stengle
(in loving memory of John Stengle)

Major Partners:

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Minnesota Department
of Natural Resources
Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund
Minnesota Pheasants Inc.
Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society
Missouri Department of Conservation

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
North American Wetlands
Conservation Act
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Pheasants Forever and
Quail Forever Chapters
Prairie Pothole Joint Venture
Re-invest In Minnesota –
Critical Habitat Match

South Carolina Conservation Bank
South Carolina Department
of Natural Resources
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Wisconsin Department
of Natural Resources



Top Contributing Chapters:

Black Hawk County (IA) - 0058
Chippewa County (MN) - 0034
Dakota Ringnecks (MN) - 0562
East Medicine (MN) – 0215
Hardin County (IA) – 0114
Iowa Great Lakes (IA) - 0020
Indian Valley (CA) - 0920
Isanti County (MN) - 0334
Jasper County (IA) - 0092
Kandiyohi County (MN) - 0002
Lee County (IA) – 0171
Marshall-Tama County (IA) - 0054

Martin County (MN) -0049
McCleod County (MN) - 0007
Metro Area (MN) - 0011
MS Longtails (MN) – 0385
Nobles County (MN) - 0014
Northern Polk (IA) - 0282
Pelican River (MN) - 0690
Pierre/Fort Pierre (SD) - 0218
Pikes Peak (CO) - 0247
Plymouth County (IA) - 0037
Red Hills (FL) – 3173
Redwood County (MN)- 0035

Rice County (MN) - 0821
Rum River (MN) - 0019
Sagamore (IN) – 0405
Sibley County (MN) - 0272
St. Louis / Carlton County (MN) - 0633
Stearns County (MN) - 0009
Swift County (MN) – 0015
Winnebago/Hancock (IA) - 0021
Wyandot County (OH) – 049



Howard K. Vincent Waterfowl Production Area (Minnesota)

A strategic, 197.7-acre permanent habitat protection project recognizing the contributions of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's second-ever president and CEO, Howard K. Vincent.

This project builds upon prior investments in wildlife habitat and is home to pheasants, waterfowl, and white-tailed deer. This multi-state effort delivers outcomes for numerous plans including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Minnesota Pheasant Action Plan, and the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Management Plan.

This project directly impacts wildlife with the restoration of an ±80-acre drained wetland and 110 acres of restored prairie. Significant water quality benefits will be realized for Big Spirit Lake through habitat restoration reducing an estimated 85% of phosphorus and nitrogen annually and preventing 30 tons of sediment per 2" rainfall from reaching the lake.

This property has been transferred to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to be managed for habitat and public access.

Funding support for this project was secured from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (USFWS), Wildlife Habitat Society of McLeod County, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Spirit Lake Protective Association, the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission (IA), and a large coalition of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapters and committed donors.



← **Voices From a
Dedication Video**



← **On the Wing
Podcast**





McCann Creek Conservation Area (Wisconsin)

The 186-acre McCann Creek Conservation Area in Chippewa County, Wisconsin is the latest completed land acquisition in the badger state. This property includes 80 acres of restored prairie, 66 acres of restored wet meadow, emergent wetland and hemi-marsh, and 35 acres of riparian forest and shrubland.

McCann Creek, a Class 1 trout stream, flows through the property which provides public access and habitat for pheasants, turkey, waterfowl, deer, and many other non-game wildlife species while also expanding opportunities for trout fishing. The stream and its associated habitat are safeguarded by a network of protected properties, including WI DNR's McCann Creek Fishery Area and a Landmark Conservancy Conservation Easement. These concentrated conservation efforts amount to 860 acres along McCann Creek being preserved.

Funding support for this project came from Wisconsin's Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program, North American Wetland Conservation Act, Chippewa County Stewardship Fund, Cabela's Outdoor Fund and the National Wild Turkey Federation and local support from the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever, the Township of Bloomer, the Bloomer Rod and Gun Club, and the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited.

This property has been transferred to Landmark Conservancy, an accredited land trust and long-time partner organization to be owned and managed in perpetuity for wildlife habitat and public access.

The collaboration between Pheasants Forever and Landmark Conservancy is deeply rooted in the community conservation values of public access and habitat improvement. McCann Creek Conservation Area exemplifies both organization's values by providing public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and birding.



← **Project Overview
Video**





Frozen Man Creek Game Production Area John Stengle Tract (South Dakota)

The 560-acre John Stengle Tract is the newest addition to the Frozen Man Creek Game Production Area complex in Stanley County, South Dakota. Located half an hour west of Pierre, it is comprised entirely of grassland habitat and is home to pheasants, prairie grouse, mule deer, pronghorn, pollinators, and other wildlife.

This project is named after the late John Stengle, an avid upland hunter, outdoor enthusiast and champion of public lands and public access. A generous donation was made by John's family to honor John, protect habitat, wildlife, and ensure public access opportunities for generations of families to enjoy in the future.

The Frozen Man Creek addition was completed with the help of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, as well as numerous other partners including Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, High Plains Wildlife, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation. This project was strongly supported by the Black Hills Chapter, Bon Homme Chapter, Grand River Chapter, Lincoln County Chapter, Okobojo Creek Chapter, Northern South Dakota Chapter, Pierre / Ft. Pierre Chapter, and Yankton Chapter of Pheasants Forever and a large coalition of private donors.



← **Stengle Family
Interview**



← **Project Overview
Video**



What our supporters and partners are saying

“Supporting Build a Wildlife Area allows my family to maintain a legacy that aligns with our values and traditions. We delight in seeing precious habitat preserved and fostering memories to span generations.”

— Nicole Stengle

“Protecting wildlife habitat and improving access for public recreation are very important to us and supporting the Build A Wildlife Area program has allowed us to see that we’re making a difference! We appreciate that Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever work with partners, chapters, and other donors to leverage our support to conserve and protect as much habitat as possible. We hope that others join us in supporting this critical program.”

— Ann and Dick Posey

“Thanks for all the great work on Wildcat North. Incredible organizing and fund raising! I am very grateful for your efforts and professionalism. Truly a model for the way things should be done. Thank you for your involvement, it was a pleasure working on this acquisition with you.”

— Brian Burky, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

onX believes publicly accessible land plays a critical role in equalizing everyone’s access to outdoor recreation, and that’s why they have made a commitment to help protect public access to the outdoor recreation that exists, and advocate for more access, for everyone. onX Hunt is pleased to work hand-in-hand with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in support of access programs and projects across the country, specifically “Build a Wildlife Area” projects in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. onX Hunt will continue to work on additional partnership collaborations now and into the future.

“The Spirit Lake Protective Association’s motto is “Quality of Water - Quality of Life”. Partnerships between similar minded groups and passionate individuals are the only route to achieve large scale improvements to the quality of water, and the quality of life for the Big Spirit Lake (Iowa Great Lakes) region. Such effort serves a huge role in the success of projects like the Howard K. Vincent WPA project that SLPA recently engaged in through the Build a Wildlife Area Program. The passion of our board, volunteers, and dedicated partners like Pheasants Forever allows us to truly make a difference for water quality, public access, and wildlife habitat.”

— John Smeltzer, Spirit Lake Protective Association

“Landmark Conservancy is pleased to play a role in the management and stewardship of the McCann Creek Conservation Area. This new Build a Wildlife Area created by the Pheasants Forever Chippewa Valley Chapter and its many partners is a real gem. Landmark and Pheasants Forever share similar values in protecting and restoring habitat, and engaging the public in nature-based outdoor recreation. Acquiring and sorting out the ownership is just the beginning, and our partnership is just warming up.”

— Rick Remington, Executive Director

