

QUWF



Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation

Making a Difference for Wildlife and Clean Streams, One Acre, One Stream, at a Time

THE HABITAT GUIDE

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

Notes from the Dashboard: Lessons in being hacked or scammed

QUWF adds Timber Stand Improvement to website

Under its “Research and Information” category QUWF added “Timber Stand Improvement” to provide habitat technique information and common timber and logging information at www.quwf.net.

“We want not only to provide the technical data but common-sense data like the “Green Log Weight Chart” which provides a way to calculate the weight of a green log at the time of cutting, per foot.

Why is this very important? If you are trying to lift a 20-inch (small end) 12-foot red oak log with your tractor rated at 1,100 pounds of lift, it’s important to know the red oak log has an estimated weight of 137 pounds per foot, or 1,644 pounds for the log. You will either damage the hydraulics or create a dangerous lifting situation. In this case, either plan a shorter log or change equipment.

The chart lists weight by tree species, then by diameter at the small end and provides the weight *per foot* of the log.

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By Craig Alderman — Hackers, scammers and the low life of the world will try and steal from you at any and all levels. Computers, iPhones, home phones all have experienced entirely new ways to try and rip you off, BUT the safeguards of actions remain the same and work! **Remember, it is always about money, as in stealing yours! They need you to give them access.**

On the home phone, get an answering machine, make the message clear that private callers or no ID, are not returned and you can probably stop 90% of the spam calls of “you won, send us money,” or the latest round “If you don’t respond there will be an arrest warrant,” “your social security has been compromised, contact us,” “your credit card has been compromised” none of which are true.

Many use auto dial robots and when you don’t answer and it goes to the machine, they disconnect. The ID can even show up as neighbors, friends and yes, I got a call from myself. Also enter your phone number on the NO-CALL list. Google it as your state might have its own which is a second level of protection.

Know government agencies do not work this way and don’t send emails either.

The iPhone and other brand versions have opened up app hackers who try and attach malware to your apps to gain full access to your phone. They do need your password to get through so be very careful when you enter it and never set your phone down and leave it unattended, EVER. USE facial recognition, or bio recognition, I know it’s a pain but it works. AS a rule, NEVER store any banking information IDs or passwords on your phone’s notes or pads. Lose it and they have it. List your iPhone on the NO-CALL list as well.

Same rule on the iPhone, use the answering voicemail, if you don’t know the number, ALWAYS let it go to voice mail. Most phones have the ability to block callers and ID SPAM calls you do not know, use it.

Now the biggie, your PC or laptop. We stopped an intended hacking weeks ago here at QUWF but thanks to our partner bank, they never gained any access and this one was clever.

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Continued from Page 1 — The hackers had hacked a software Internet security support program called PC Matic. When you called for support or service you were actually calling the hackers who sound legit, but then comes the question, “We need your bank account information to issue a credit.” Answer was NOPE, send a check. But they had information from the PC Matic account they had hacked into so immediately we shut down all access to all bank accounts.

They did manage to place malware on the email associated with the PC Matic account and it caused total upheaval because Microsoft had a weak protection system on the Office365 app which includes Outlook. It shut down access by Microsoft to get in and see where the malware was, and it changed timing on outside access (sharing) so no one could get in to fix it. Of course it collapsed the email system.

Special thanks to both to the Chief Microsoft Engineer of the Office365 system and the team of 3 additional engineers I worked with and the Dell Support and Engineers who changed the software and firmware (BIOS) to monitor and not allow this to happen again. You did get several updates from Microsoft as a result, closing back door access and monitoring attempts at malware on the apps, and if you own a Dell Computer you received several BIOS updates recently also locking down the ability to attach anything. **FYI, Dell support is here in the U.S.**

Result, email working in good form and access very much more controlled from hacking.

Three sources, Microsoft Engineers, Dell Engineers and our IT consultant said dump any use of PC Matic immediately, which we did and use the Defender system built into all new PC's from Microsoft. Then they can track and assist very quickly if need be and they are constantly updating and monitoring the new attacks and changing defenses.

Then there are the emails from just about every source again saying you need to contact them for payment of an order you placed (you did not place an order), your account is locked from Social Security etc, you won just click on the link, you need to pay a fine to not be arrested and so many more. All fake!! **DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS** as a rule, unless it is from a source you have confirmed by phone and know them.

They may also call or email about your children having a problem or saying they are about to be arrested, or in default on something. It's fake, DELETE. DO NOT RESPOND.

Remember their one goal is to **STEAL YOUR MONEY**, and they are clever, and might know public information on you.

RULES: 1. NEVER CLICK on the links, delete the email and block the address.

2. NEVER, EVER give any personal information or banking information.

3. NEVER let them SHARE your computer, period.

4. If you question anything, call your bank or the company, NEVER use the email links.

Last point, if you own a farm or business, separate your use and all your accounts and use a second laptop or tower PC. Try not to use the same computer for business and personal use.

Craig Alderman is the QUWF executive director.

Continued from Page 1 — The second chart features the “DOYLE Log Scale: How to determine Board feet in a log.” If you are selling your timber, it is critically important you know how the logs are graded for the board feet of lumber they contain. You can get a relatively inexpensive Doyle Scale ruler and or print the chart out for field work.

Remember to measure from the small end and to be inside the bark of the log for the measurements. Allow for curves and defects which will decrease the usable amount of board feet in a log. To get dimensional lumber of 8 foot for example, mills normally want at least 9 to 10 feet of log to work with. Always get logger staging measurement reports and mill delivery reports for each load as part of your paper trail.

Special Note: Find out If your logger or mill intends to sell the logs for export, in which case the logs are worth much more, especially black walnut. You should never allow any harvest until you have consulted with a professional forester for a plan and evaluation of your timber stand.

Mill Blade: Find out if the mill is using a round saw blade or a bandsaw type blade. Mills with bandsaw blades have much less waste and get more board footage from each log.

Utah: DWR allocates \$3.4 million to habitat restoration

Editor's Note: This is a great way to apply the funding from the license sales using a council whose job it is to stay in touch with the citizens versus a state whose ideas are based purely on bureaucracy and not what the citizens or landowners are concerned over. Do you know what your state does with the Federal Funding? ASK!

SALT LAKE CITY — Roughly \$3.4 million was allocated to selected habitat restoration projects at the recent annual Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Habitat Council funding meeting on April 19.

The DWR Habitat Council was created in 1995 by the Utah Legislature as a way to provide funds for the enhancement, preservation, management, acquisition and protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and for improving hunting and fishing access. These funds are a portion of the revenue from license, permit, stamp and certificate of registration fees related to hunting and fishing.

The Habitat Council consists of eight individuals who act as an advisory board. They provide recommendations regarding the use of the funds received annually each year from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses. Members include four public representatives and four DWR or Department of Natural Resources employees.

“We are very appreciative of the hunters and anglers who are the backbone of wildlife conservation,” DWR Habitat Conservation Coordinator Daniel Eddington said. “Anyone who buys a hunting and fishing license helps fund many of the crucial habitat restoration projects that help to maintain fish and wildlife populations for future generations to enjoy. Providing the necessary habitat for these species is crucial to their survival and requires ongoing restoration efforts as climate conditions continue to shift.”

This year’s license sales funding available to the Habitat Council totaled a little over \$3.4 million and will help fund 88 projects over the next fiscal year (from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024). Several high-priority fish and wildlife projects will be funded, including:

- Maintenance and improvements on wildlife management areas across the state: There are 194 wildlife and waterfowl management areas in Utah. These state-owned and -managed properties help to conserve critical habitats for wildlife, help minimize and mitigate wildlife depredation on private property and provide anglers and hunters — who provide funding for the WMAs through the purchase of a fishing or hunting license — a place to hunt and fish in Utah. This project received over \$635,000 of the total funding.
- Thousand Lakes habitat improvement: This project is the next phase of an ongoing habitat improvement project on the Thousand Lake mountains in Wayne County, an important winter range habitat for deer and a crucial migratory pathway for elk in the area. This phase of the project will remove 1,220 acres of invasive pinyon and juniper trees, which outcompete more beneficial plants for big game. Roughly \$45,000 was allocated to the project.
- Diamond Fork and Spanish Fork River Watershed Post Fire Restoration: This is the fourth phase of this project aimed at improving the area after it was burned by the Bald Mountain and Pole Creek Fires in 2018, which impacted fish and wildlife and their habitat in the area. The area will be cleared so it can be replanted with shrubs and plant seeds to restore big game habitat. Roughly \$134,000 was allocated to this project.
- Smith Park and Green Farm Ponds fishing docks: This project will provide a new fishing dock at the Smith Family Park community pond in Farr West to make it more accessible. West Haven has plans to develop a new community fishing pond — Green Farm Pond — and this project will help fund a fishing dock to make it accessible, as well. Over \$98,000 was allocated to this project.

“We are extremely grateful for other partners who help fund these projects as well, which are so critical for fish and wildlife,” Eddington said. “We wouldn’t be able to complete as many of these necessary conservation projects without these important partnerships.”

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Ask Alexa to play 101.3 Real Country or AM 560 in the Morning, or go online and download the **free app**.

Continued from Page 3 — Since 2006, the Habitat Council program has:

- Allocated over \$40 million to complete 1,418 wildlife habitat projects across Utah
- Improved over 322,505 acres of terrestrial habitat
- Restored 1,900 miles of streams and rivers
- Acquired 28,358 acres of land and waterways, now managed by the state or placed under permanent conservation easements for fish and wildlife

The recent Habitat Council funds are in addition to the [\\$3.9 million in conservation permit funds](#) that were allocated to wildlife research and additional habitat projects earlier this month. However, both funding programs use [Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative](#), a Utah Department of Natural Resources partnership-based program, which serves as a centralized portal for funding and tracking the completion of these habitat-related projects.

Arkansas duck season to begin before Thanksgiving

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission today unanimously approved a change to the 2023-24 duck season dates to the traditional opener, the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Commission Chairman Bobby Martin spoke about the change back to the traditional opening season dates being a response from public input from many members of the waterfowling community to commissioners and staff during the last year.

“We did get overwhelming (feedback),” Martin said of the proposal to change the dates to include the week of Thanksgiving.

“The thing that I see as encouragingly interesting, one of the big reasons that I think the public, particularly waterfowlers, fought to try to hold it before Thanksgiving was the emphasis and priority around family and young hunters. The fact that so many people hang on to that is a signal that (the traditional opening day) is a legacy of a generation that we do not want to let go of in any way at all.”



Specklebelly, Canada and light goose seasons also will change with this modification, as will the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt and Special Active Duty Military and Veteran Hunt.

The 2023-24 waterfowl season dates are:

- Duck, Coot and Merganser — Nov. 18-26, Dec. 9-23, Dec. 27-Jan. 31
- White-fronted Goose — Oct. 28-Nov. 10, Nov. 18-26, Dec. 9-23, Dec. 27-Jan. 31
- Canada Goose — Sept. 1-Oct. 15, Nov. 18-26, Dec. 9-23, Dec. 27-Jan. 31
- Snow, Blue and Ross's Goose Season — Oct. 28-Nov. 10, Nov. 18-26, Dec. 9-23, Dec. 27-Jan. 31
- Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt — Dec. 2 and Feb. 3
- Veteran and Active Duty Military Waterfowl Hunt — Feb. 3

AGFC Director Austin Booth said today's decision was a prime example of how the new AGFC Advisory Council, announced last month and officially approved today, will be able to help the agency in the future.

The advisory council was a major part of [Booth's report to the Commission](#), as he nominated a list of members, including chairpersons, for the new council's three subpanels.

Henry Repeating Arms reveals first revolvers, more

Rice Lake, Wis. – Henry Repeating Arms, one of America’s leading gunmakers, is pleased to introduce a slew of new products, including the company’s first foray into the world of wheel guns, the first-ever rifles available for the .360 Buckhammer straight wall cartridge, and a highly-anticipated overhaul to its flagship series of brass-framed centerfire lever action rifles.

Further expanding beyond the lever action rifles and shotguns synonymous with the Henry name, the **Henry Big Boy Revolver** is both a historic release that collectors will relish as an exceedingly rare opportunity to own the first bonafide handgun made by the long gun manufacturer and the perfect sidekick for owners of the Henry Big Boy rifle. Chambered in .357 Magnum/.38 Special, the traditional double-action revolver is available in two different grip configurations – the larger, flared Gunfighter style or the more compact, rounded Birdshhead style. The Big Boy Revolver borrows design cues from its rifle counterpart with deep and polished bluing on the medium-sized steel frame, 6-round quick-release cylinder, and 4” barrel, grip panels cut from genuine American walnut, and a polished brass trigger guard that wraps all way around the grip to the top of the backstrap. The fixed notch rear sight and interchangeable front blade sights with different heights provide a traditional revolver sight picture. MSRP is \$928.



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Developed in partnership with Remington Ammunition and optimized for use in lever action rifles, the new .360 Buckhammer straight wall cartridge provides extended range, higher velocity, more energy, and a flatter trajectory than the competition for hunters of whitetail deer and other medium-sized game. With the ammunition rolling out nationwide, Henry is bringing the first rifles chambered for the new caliber to market with the **Henry Steel Lever Action .360 Buckhammer** and the **Henry Lever Action X Model .360 Buckhammer**. Sharing the same matte blued steel receiver and 5-round capacity between them, differences between the two models are most notable with the furniture. The X Model variant sports durable black synthetic stocks with M-Lok and Picatinny accessory slots, while the Steel Lever Action version uses checkered American walnut. Other differences include a 5/8x24 threaded barrel and fiber optics sights on the X Model version. MSRP is \$1,057 for the Steel Lever Action .360 Buckhammer and \$1,091 for the Lever Action X Model .360 Buckhammer.

In 2003, the Big Boy was born after receiving enormous demand to make a pistol-calibered version of the flagship Henry Golden Boy .22. Twenty years later, the Big Boy and Henry’s other brass-framed centerfire lever action rifles are getting an overhaul to include one of the most requested features, a side loading gate, useful for keeping the magazine topped off while on a hunt or at the range. These rifles retain their original removable inner magazine tube as a quicker, safer way to unload the firearm. With the predecessors getting phased out as inventory depletes, the sweeping change affects 21 individual models, including some engraved editions and larger calibers like .30-30 and .45-70, all of which feature a polished hardened brass receiver, buttplate, and barrel band, genuine American walnut stocks, and the iconic blued steel octagon barrel.

“While the past couple of years have been trying in a number of ways, these new releases are a testament to the fact that we have no plans to take our foot off the gas any time soon,” said Henry Repeating Arms CEO and Founder Anthony Imperato. “Whether you plan on picking up the new revolver or you will be among those taking .360 Buckhammer out for its very first deer season, we thank you for choosing to spend your hard-earned money on a Henry.”

State of the Bats in North America report released

Washington D.C. - Today, the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA) published the first ever State of the Bats in North America report, highlighting the importance of bat conservation, not only for their biodiversity value, but for the ecosystem and economic services bats provide in terms of pest control, pollination, seed dispersal, ecotourism, and their contributions to innovation and science. The report also indicates that 47% of the 154 known bat species across North America are at risk of severe population decline in the next 15 years.

“State fish and wildlife agencies are at the forefront of conservation and protecting our nation’s fish, wildlife and natural resources,” said Curt Melcher, Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. “Bats are essential to our ecosystem. We look forward to working with our partners in collaborative conservation efforts that will change the current trajectory for bats.”

State Fish and Wildlife Agencies have designated nearly 100 different kinds of bats as species in greatest conservation need in State Wildlife Action Plans. The bipartisan Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (S1149), which was recently reintroduced by Senators Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Tillis (R-N.C.), would provide states with the resources needed to help reverse the decline of bats.

Highlights from the report include:

- **Bats are threatened.** The forces of global change threaten bats worldwide. In North America, some of the top threats to bats include climate change, habitat loss, and White-Nosed Syndrome (WNS), which has killed millions of hibernating bats in the United States and Canada. **Windmills were also listed but left off this report.**
- **Bats need our help.** There are many ways to support bat conservation. Create and protect bat habitat in your own backyard, explore nature responsibly by avoiding disturbance of bats and spreading of pathogens, make climate-friendly choices to reduce your carbon footprint, and speak up for bats by sharing the importance of bats and bat conservation with others and supporting conservation efforts and policies that protect nature and wildlife.
- **Bats are diverse and beneficial.** Bats provide economic benefits to agriculture by consuming insect pests, improving crop yields, and reducing pesticide use. Bats contribute to forest health, and nectar-feeding bats pollinate plants. Each year, bat research leads to new scientific discoveries and technologies, and watching masses of bats emerge from caves and bridges generate ecotourism dollars in places like Austin, Texas and Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

The 2023 State of the Bats in North America report was produced by the North American Bat Conservation Alliance, representing a consortium of government agencies in Canada, the United States, and Mexico as well as private organizations committed to bat conservation. Major contributors to this report include scientists from Bat Conservation International, the North American Bat Monitoring Program; the White-nose Syndrome Response Team; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment and Climate Change Canada); and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Editor’s Note: One of the great threats to bats and other species is windmills yet it was left off the details of the above report: Preliminary data also shows off shore wind mills are negatively affecting whale and dolphin migration.

North America’s first [State of the Bats](#) gives a sobering outlook for the winged mammals. According to the North American Bat Conservation Alliance report:

- More than half of the 154 known bat species on the continent could face severe population declines over the next 15 years.
- During that time, up to 82 percent of bat species will be negatively affected by climate change, especially extreme drought and temperatures.
- The scope and severity of threats – including habitat loss, **wind turbines** and the bat-deadly disease white-nose syndrome – are increasing.

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Continued from Page 7 — The news isn't all bad. The report outlines ways to help and emphasizes the wide-ranging benefits of bats, from improving crop yields to eating insect pests. It also highlights the promise of focused, collaborative conservation efforts.

Case in point, the lesser long-nosed bat was once endangered in Mexico and the U.S. But thanks to international efforts, it is now delisted and recovered in both countries.

The [North American Bat Conservation Alliance](#) is another example. The coalition involving the U.S., Mexico and Canada created the 2023 State of the Bats report with Bat Conservation International and others.

"Bats face many challenges and the conservation landscape is increasingly complex," said Dr. Jeremy Coleman, alliance co-chair and white-nose syndrome coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "While there is more to do, the level of international collaboration we have achieved for bat conservation in North America is a bright spot and a cause for optimism going forward."

Bear-havior: Preventing problem bears this spring

The black bear's winter slumber will soon be over. In late March to early May, bears leave their dens and begin looking for food to replenish their bodies. As they rejoin us in search of nourishment, it's important to remember that human behavior affects bear behavior.

"Just like humans waking from a long nap, bears first look for water, often drinking from rivers and ponds or eating snow. Their early spring menu consists of last year's vegetation, salvaged carcasses and fresh green shoots as they emerge," said Rachel Leightner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife outreach coordinator. "Though these food sources are readily available, it is difficult to resist the calorie-rich offerings of bird seed, garbage, beehives and pet foods."

You might consider watching bears forage near your home as an exciting chance to see wildlife up close. But what's really happening could be very troublesome for both you and the bear."

Bears that find reliable food sources near homes can become repeat visitors and may lose their fear of humans, she added. Additionally, if a female bear with cubs teaches her young to forage from these food sources, it can lead to problematic behavior later in life and negative outcomes such as property damage, loss of livestock and dangerous situations for both humans and bears.



Leightner said that, fortunately, avoiding these problems is easy if you take a proactive approach and suggested the following steps.

Remove bird feeders during the spring, summer and fall. Birds have an abundance of natural food sources during these seasons. If you like viewing birds from the comfort of your home, consider planting native flowers and shrubs this spring that will draw birds in. Even a small planter of native wildflowers will do the trick. Planting native species for the first time can be a daunting task, but Audubon's [Plants for Birds database](#) can help, providing information about which important food sources each native plant provides, which birds they attract, where to plant and numerous additional resources for amateurs and green thumbs alike.

Bring in outdoor pet foods and keep grills and patio furniture clean. A bear's ability to smell far exceeds the human nose. While you may not be able to smell the pet food and spills on your patio, a bear certainly can.

Secure dumpsters and keep garbage cans indoors overnight. Take garbage cans to the curb the morning of pickup. While it may add a few more minutes to your morning routine, it is still faster than having to clean up garbage contents strewn across your yard from a hungry critter looking for a midnight snack. It also may prevent a bear from finding additional reasons to hang around your property.

Protect beehives with electric fencing, especially if the apiary is in a rural or forested area. Recommendations for materials and design of the fence can be found here: [Protect Your Beehives from Black Bears](#).

These steps are most effective when taken proactively. If you live in the Upper Peninsula or northern Lower Peninsula, don't wait until you see a bear to act. For more tips on how to avoid bear conflicts and encounters, visit [Michigan.gov/Bear](#) and click on the [Preventing conflicts with bears](#) link.

Avian flu detected in deceased CA mountain lions

The Eurasian strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1) was detected in two mountain lions in Mono County in December 2022 and January 2023, according to wildlife health experts with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). While additional disease testing is being conducted to rule out the possibility of co-infections, HPAI H5N1 is suspected to be the cause of the death for both mountain lions.

This is the second species of wild mammal known to have contracted HPAI H5N1 in California since the virus was reported in wild birds in July 2022. In January, the virus [was detected in a bobcat](#) found in Butte County.

The new findings also mark the first detection of HPAI H5N1 in Mono County. To date, the virus has been found in 45 counties statewide.

“The Eurasian lineage of avian influenza is primarily a disease impacting birds but is occasionally being detected in wild mammals. We don’t expect this to have a population-level impact for California’s mountain lions or other mammalian carnivores, but it is a disease we will continue to monitor,” said Dr. Jaime Rudd, a pesticide and disease investigations specialist in CDFW’s Wildlife Health Lab.

“The main route of disease transmission for carnivores seems to be through ingestion of infected birds – typically waterfowl such as geese. Biologists following the movements of these mountain lions noted that they had preyed upon wild Canada geese in the past,” Rudd said.

Remains of the two mountain lions, who were related (mother and daughter), were collected from Mono Lake in Mono County on December 23 and January 14. Samples were submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis for preliminary testing. Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed the detection of HPAI H5N1.

“The main pathological finding for these two mountain lions was encephalitis, which is inflammation of the brain. Additionally, there were lesions in the lungs causing pulmonary edema. Much of the lesions in the brain and lungs were associated with the virus, but additional disease testing is being performed to rule out the possibility of co-infection,” said Rudd.

Of note is that both mountain lions were wearing GPS collars as part of a CDFW population study. The mortality notification sent from the collar helped biologists track the deceased animals and allowed for their remains to be collected in a timely manner to perform necropsies and determine cause of death.

“HPAI H5N1 is still considered a low-risk zoonotic pathogen,” said CDFW Senior Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Deana Clifford. “It’s significant that the detections occurred far from the bobcat detection, and in an area where the disease had not yet been detected in wild birds. This means it’s possible that the mountain lions may represent detections of a new foci of infections for wild birds.”

Notwithstanding the mountain lion and bobcat detections, infection of wild mammals with avian influenza viruses appears to be relatively rare.

Elsewhere in the U.S. and Canada, periodic detections of HPAI H5N1 have been made in mammalian carnivores including foxes, bobcats, raccoons, skunks and bears. Detections in mountain lions have occurred in five other states. The virus has also been detected in a small number of marine mammals.

The strain of HPAI H5N1 currently circulating in the U.S. and Canada has caused illness and death in a higher diversity of wild bird species than during previous avian influenza outbreaks, affecting raptors and avian scavengers such as turkey vultures and ravens. Mammalian and avian predators and scavengers may be exposed to avian influenza viruses when feeding on infected birds.

An [informational flyer](#) addressing frequently asked questions about avian influenza is available on CDFW’s website.

Currently, the [Centers for Disease Control](#) considers the transmission risk of avian influenza to people to be low, but recommends taking basic protective measures (i.e., wearing gloves and face masks and handwashing) if contact with wildlife cannot be avoided. CDFW does not recommend people handle or house sick wildlife.

Practicing biosecurity is the most effective way to keep people, domestic poultry and pets healthy. Please visit the [CDFA](#) and [USDA](#) websites for biosecurity information. Please report sick or dead poultry and pet birds to the CDFA hotline at (866) 922-2473.

Lake Erie continues historic run of excellent fishing

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Lake Erie anglers can expect the 2023 fishing season to provide more world-class fishing and lasting memories, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

After another year of strong walleye hatches, Lake Erie maintains its title as the Walleye Capital of the World. Additionally, a stable yellow perch population in Lake Erie's west zone will provide good fishing in 2023, while low catch rates are expected to continue in the central and east zones.

“Lake Erie is known worldwide as a top fishing destination,” said Travis Hartman, Lake Erie Fisheries Program Administrator for the Division of Wildlife. “With many species to pursue, Lake Erie is again a high-performing destination thanks to science-based management which guides regulations to ensure long-term angling opportunities.”

Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch fisheries are managed through an interagency quota system. Each jurisdiction regulates its catches to comply with annually determined safe harvest levels that ensure sustainability. The most recent quotas were announced on [Thursday, March 30](#).

Walleye

The walleye daily limit on Lake Erie is six fish per angler with a 15-inch minimum length requirement. Walleye hatch success has been exceptional for seven of the past nine years. Anglers will mostly catch abundant 2- to 5-year-old-fish ranging from 15 to 24 inches. Larger fish from 2015 and earlier hatches will provide chances to reel in a [Fish Ohio qualifying walleye](#) (minimum 28 inches).

Abundant young fish will show up in the catch and range from 9 to 14 inches, with an increasing number of 2-year-olds reaching 15 inches as the season progresses. Anglers are encouraged to release these sub-legal fish with as little handling as possible so they can contribute to the future fishery.

“Our staff were pleasantly surprised to see the results of the 2022 walleye hatch index,” said Travis Hartman, Lake Erie Fisheries Program Administrator for the Division of Wildlife. “After another year of above-average results, we expect walleye anglers to find more high-performing fishing across the lake.”

Yellow perch

Yellow perch abundance in the west zone from Toledo to Huron is increasing as a large year class of 2-year-old fish will join the population in 2023. The best success is anticipated during July through mid-August when the water temperature is above 76 degrees, and again from mid-October through November as adult perch move to shallower water to feed at water temperatures below 60 degrees. These two time periods provided a majority of angler yellow perch harvest in 2022. Abundant young perch from 7 to 9 inches will dominate the catch, with jumbo 12-inch and larger fish from older year classes also contributing to the catch.

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Notes from the Road:

Land ownership and decision makers on the landscape changing



By Nick Prough — Many of us over the past several decades and beyond have worked with a countless number of landowners on a wide variety of habitat and conservation projects. I have even just started the past few years starting to work with the second generation of decision makers on the same tracts of land I worked on many years ago, usually that is the son or daughter of their parents I used to work with on that farm.

Well, recently I heard a stat that really got my attention and one that we all need to be very aware of. *In the next decade from 2023-2033, 40% of farms and ranches will either change ownership or be under a new decision maker on that tract of land.* This is the highest ever in recorded history and has to do with the aging landowner population, farm/ranch

retirements and a few other trends going on in the background across the country. In a normal decade, according to further research I dug into this week, a normal decade sees generally about a 10-15% ownership transfer so this new rate is 2.5-3x higher than average. This, of course, has many ramifications across the board for many effects to the landscape but also to conservation and wildlife habitat management for many years to come.

Let's look at just a few of the effects on wildlife habitat and conservation that could be strongly affected from this ongoing trend. I am sure in many of your local counties and states you have already seen the skyrocketing land prices that have soared to something not only our parents and grandparents thought they would never see but even ourselves thinking we would never see \$10,000-\$12,000+ an acre land for just "regular farm or ranch land" in our own lifetimes, but yet that time has recently come. Now I always say land has a value which is not what someone is asking for it but what someone else is willing to pay for it, and recently in the past several months post pandemic I have seen multiple 500-1000-acre tracts sell for \$10,000 an acre in multiple counties here in the Midwest.

So that time that nobody ever thought was possible has in fact arrived and occurring more often than you think. With land values that high one often wonders how somebody could farm or ranch a tract of ground and make it profitable let alone try to manage wildlife on it. The answer is still to be seen if that is ever even possible but the fact that the tracts are in fact selling for these new high bar prices shows that there are willing and able buyers out there doing just that buying it. I also heard a farmer a few months ago tell me I was standing on his 401(K) and when he retires that is his retirement.

Secondly, many know that often federal and even some state cost share programs require a "longer time commitment" for a contract of 5-10+ years in order for the agency representing the public funding to get a lasting effort from its investment so with today's rapidly rising land values and ever-changing ownerships/decision makers one can see that some long-term commitments to 10-year or longer programs may continue to be hurdle for many landowners whose age and demographics are changing. I have seen that first hand at a more common rate than did years ago and I for one believe this trend will also continue.

So that bring us to the wildlife management aspect that we are always trying to get put out on the landscape one acre and one landowner at a time. We will all have to continue to work closely with the changing ownerships and decision makers over the coming years to be sure that we can continue to put quality and a good quantity of wildlife habitat on the ground across the landscape while ever more paying close attention to the changing goals, objectives and demographics of the landowners we work with each and every day. This has always been a very important aspect of wildlife conservation but over the next decade this will be one of the most important aspects of wildlife conservation we have ever been challenged with.

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, youth field day events, as well as all your other conservation outreach efforts, 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 is the QUWF chief wildlife biologist.

Continued from Page 10 — Lake Erie’s central zone from Huron to Fairport Harbor continues to experience low yellow perch abundance, primarily driven by poor to moderate hatches during the past decade. While catch rates are expected to remain low, late season fishing in 2022 provided some limit opportunities from Vermilion to Avon and off of Cleveland.

In the east zone, from Fairport Harbor to Conneaut, the population has declined below the prior 20-year average, but a moderate 2019 hatch has kept abundance above the central zone. Catch rates are expected to remain low during the 2023 season, except for times such as late fall when adult perch congregate in larger schools near harbors. Four-year-old perch from the moderate 2019 year class will average just under 9 inches in length with some reaching 12 inches.

The Lake Erie Committee sets conservative quotas each year to ensure sustainable spawning stocks that will allow the best opportunity for population recovery. Yellow perch daily limits remain as described in the 2023-24 fishing regulations through April 30, 2024, with a daily limit of 30 perch in the west zone, 10 in the central zone, and 30 in the east zone.

Bass

Smallmouth bass and largemouth bass fishing in 2023 will remain good with the opportunity for trophy catches. The daily limit is five bass per day, with a 14-inch minimum size requirement until Sunday, April 30, 2023, and again from June 24, 2023, to April 30, 2024. During the spawning season, from May 1 to June 23, 2023, anglers may harvest one bass per day with a minimum size requirement of 18 inches.

Lake Erie fishing reports, information on Lake Erie research and management programs, fisheries resources, maps, and links to other Lake Erie web resources are available at wildohio.gov. The current fishing regulations can be found on the [HuntFish OH app](#), at wildohio.gov, or locations where fishing licenses are sold.

The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Visit wildohio.gov to find out more.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.

St. Louis campaign targets illegal gun purchases

NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, together with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), announced a month-long public education campaign reminding the Greater St. Louis area public about stiff penalties facing individuals convicted of unlawful firearm purchases. The “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy” campaign is in its 23rd year and drives home the message that anyone making an illegal firearm purchase faces a federal felony penalty of up to 15 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines. An additional 15 years can be added if the illegal straw purchase is made with the intent of trafficking across state lines. The program is funded in full by the firearm industry and will now also include federal funding allocated to ATF by Congress. St. Louis was chosen for this specific campaign by ATF.

“The firearm industry has always been fully committed to keeping firearms out of the hands of those who should not possess them. We are proud to launch this public awareness campaign in St. Louis and of our more than two-decade cooperative relationship with ATF, DOJ and the entire law enforcement community to assist them in their efforts to reduce criminal acquisition of firearms,” said NSSF President and CEO Joe Bartozzi.

The St. Louis area “Don’t Lie” campaign will total nearly 43 million gross media impressions. This includes more than 25 outdoor billboards, digital bulletin boards and posters in key locations throughout the region with the message: “Buy a gun for someone who can’t and buy yourself 15 years in jail. Don’t Lie for the Other Guy.” The campaign also includes more than 1,000 radio spots and more than 2.5 million targeted geofenced online mobile advertisements on Facebook and Instagram.

DON'T LIE
FOR THE OTHER GUY™

**BUY A GUN FOR
SOMEONE WHO CAN'T
BUY 15 YEARS IN JAIL**

Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 12 — To legally purchase a firearm, a person must pass an FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System verification, or NICS check, and fully comply with all state and local laws. When a criminal is illegally trafficking in firearms or knows they cannot pass this check, they may try to induce a friend or acquaintance to make the purchase for them. This is an illegal straw purchase and is a felony.

The “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy” program also involves educating firearm retailers to better detect and prevent illegal straw purchases by providing “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy” retailer kits containing a training video and information for storeowners and staff, as well as point-of-purchase displays aimed to deter illegal straw purchasers. Learn more about “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy” at www.dontlie.org.

USDA expands margin protection for corn, soybean farmers

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expanding its [Margin Protection insurance plan](#), adding more than a thousand counties to the insurance option that provides coverage against an unexpected decrease in operating margin for corn and soybean producers. This expansion, which is in direct response to growing interest among producers, will be available by June 30, 2023. Interested producers will need to purchase their coverage by Sept. 30, 2023, to be eligible for the 2024 crop year.

“Increasing the availability of a program is sometimes the best way we can improve upon an effective program and serve our farmers with more risk management resources,” said Marcia Bunger, Administrator for the Risk Management Agency (RMA). “This expansion of Margin Protection will provide a viable insurance option for so many more farmers across the country, giving them greater protection possibilities, and helping us continue our commitment of increasing the availability and effectiveness of Federal crop insurance as a risk management tool.”

Margin Protection, first implemented for the 2016 crop year, protects against decreases in margin caused by reduced county yields, reduced commodity prices, increased price of certain inputs or any combination of these issues. It is area-based, using county-level estimates of average revenue and input costs to establish the amount of coverage and indemnity payments.

RMA’s expansion of the Margin Protection plan will add 1,255 counties for soybeans and 1,729 counties for corn. This will add coverage in 22 states for soybeans with 34 states being covered in total. It will also make Margin Protection available for corn in the contiguous United States ([see maps](#)). The plan is available in select counties for rice (Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas), and wheat (Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota).

In the 2022 crop year, there were 1.7 million acres of corn and 1 million acres of soybeans insured under the Margin Protection insurance plan.

Margin Protection can be purchased by itself, or in conjunction with a Yield Protection or Revenue Protection policy purchased from the same Approved Insurance Provider that issued the Margin Protection policy. Margin Protection cannot be purchased with the Supplemental Coverage Option or the Enhanced Coverage Option.



Arkansas turkey trending up in recent survey results

LITTLE ROCK — Turkey hunters have some good news to look forward to this season. According to recent interviews featured in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Arkansas Wildlife magazine and podcast, reproductive rates have seen slow improvements over the last three years. Last year's estimates gathered through the Annual Wild Turkey and Quail Population Survey indicate the highest reproductive success since 2012 and 2013.

The number of poults seen per hen during the survey averaged 1.79 statewide, which is only one-hundredth of a poult away from the suggested target (1.8-2.0 poults per hen) to produce a stable to slightly increasing population.

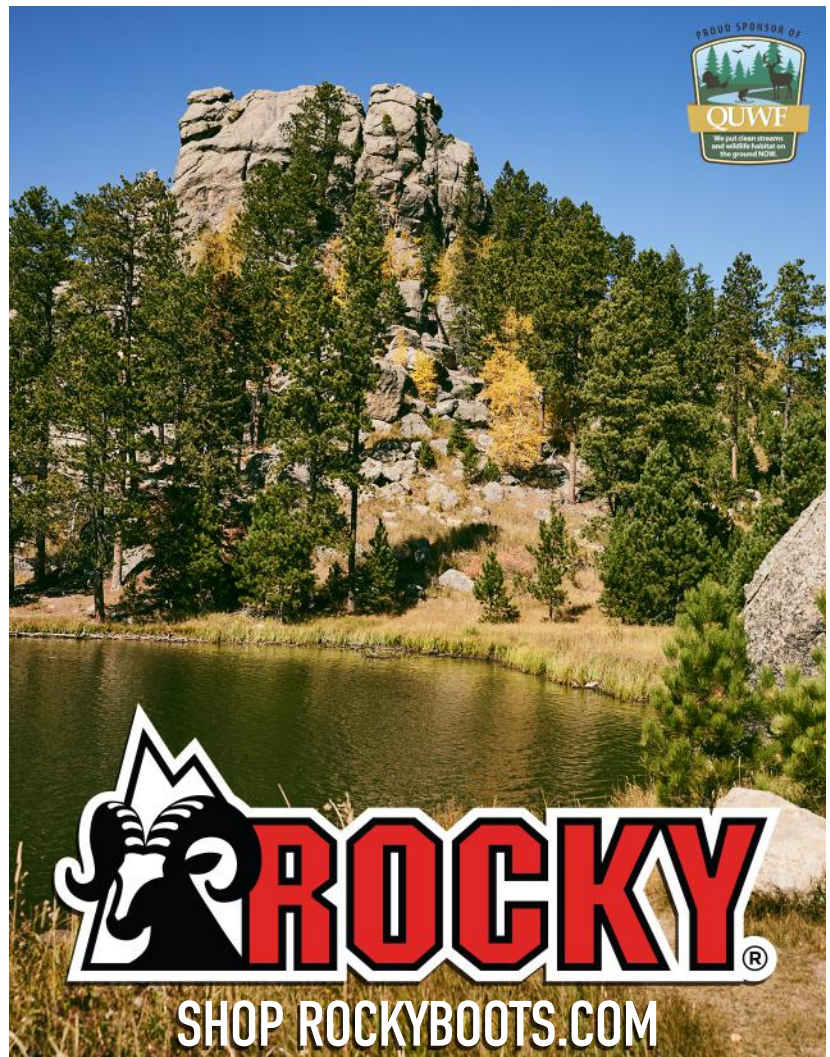
"If hens are only successfully rearing one poult, she's only replacing herself in the population," Wood said. "We want that number to be closer to two poults per hen each year, and we saw that in some regions of the state last year."

The Delta and Gulf Coastal Plain saw the best poult-per-hen ratios last year, with 2.21 and 2.19 poults per hen, respectively. The Ozarks saw 1.64 poults per hen, while brood surveys in the Ouachitas recorded 1.46 poults per hen. Dry conditions coinciding with peak hatching times likely were responsible for the increase.

"Turkey poults can't thermoregulate (maintain their body temperature) during the first few weeks after hatching, so good weather conditions are essential to brood survival," Wood said.

Wood said last year's reproduction should improve the number of birds seen by hunters this year, but it will be next year before the male component is legal to harvest.

"Participating in the Spring Turkey Hunting Survey and recording all the turkeys you see while scouting and hunting will really help us track this increase and monitor the population to make adjustments and guide habitat efforts to hopefully continue building on what last year's good hatching conditions provided."



Thought for the Day:
**"If you can't
 measure it, you can't
 manage it."**

Utah factory offers American-made choice for bowhunters

Salt Lake City, Utah— With increased globalization and lower labor costs driving companies to outsource hunting products, bowhunters might just assume their equipment is made overseas. However, Easton arrows are one notable exception. Hunters may not know as they draw an Easton arrow, the shaft on their rest came off the production line in Salt Lake City, Utah — the only dedicated arrow factory in the United States. Using their unique manufacturing position, Easton is taking their message to the bowhunting community through their “Made-in-USA” campaign.

“Our goal is to provide the highest quality, USA-made arrows for all types of archery that instill maximum confidence when an archer draws his or her bow in the field.” stated Gary Cornum, Easton Marketing Director. Easton employs workers in its arrow manufacturing facilities in Utah and Indiana where they produce a complete line of arrows for the target and bowhunting markets.



QUWF welcomes All veterans. All the time.

The Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation was formed to focus on and help veteran landowners, veteran sportsmen, and all veterans who are interested in the great outdoors.

QUWF staff will help all veterans find and get benefit assistance through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) or other resources.

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We are the **ONLY VETERAN FORMED** and managed national wildlife and conservation organization in the U.S. QUWF and our chapters support veteran businesses as well. Let us know.



National Trappers, Turkeys for Tomorrow join forces

BEDFORD, Indiana — The National Trappers Association and Turkeys For Tomorrow announced a working partnership this week that will help members of both organizations improve their own conservation, trapping and hunting results in the field. Trapping predators and conserving turkeys are practices that share many common goals. Now members of organizations dedicated to each can benefit from the knowledge, expertise and opportunities represented by the other.

“The National Trappers Association is dedicated to sound and scientifically-regulated wildlife management,” said John Daniel, NTA President. “Meaningful trapping has proven time and again to be the most effective and efficient method for managing predators for a balanced and healthy environment for all wildlife. The NTA is excited to partner with Turkeys For Tomorrow to educate the general public, land owners and property managers about the need for sound, science-based management, and to help facilitate plans that include meaningful trapping.”



Turkeys for Tomorrow encourages the strategic trapping of turkey nest predators and supports scientific field research, putting boots on the ground along two major avenues to benefit wild turkeys. Reducing nest predator populations, especially just ahead of the weeks in which young turkeys are at their most vulnerable, has been proven effective at allowing wild turkey flocks to recover, grow and thrive. Turkeys For Tomorrow is young but already has more than 1,500 individual members and will have more than 10 regional chapters founded and thriving by the end of the current spring. The National Trappers Association is committed to defending and promoting the safe and ethical harvest of furbearing mammals, and to the preservation and enhancement of their habitats. The NTA is comprised of 56 state trapping affiliates and represents more than 9,000 dedicated trappers. The pairing of NTA with TFT is a natural fit.

Continued on Page 17



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Dedicated to restoring habitats and
populations of all upland wildlife species

Continued from Page 16 — “In many places during the past few years, populations of raccoons, opossums and skunks have skyrocketed in the same habitats where wild turkeys, once numerous, have all but disappeared,” said Ron Jolly, co-chairman of the board for TFT. “Trapping nest predators is not the whole solution, but it’s a very important part of it. By working with the NTA, we’ll be better able to help our members learn how to trap on their own properties, and we’ll also connect them to dedicated trappers they can hire to get it done.”

First among goals for the two groups is to create a list of preferred trappers for hire, making their services easily accessible to members of TFT. Landowner field days will serve as opportunities for experienced trappers to share their knowledge through demonstrations, and to meet landowners whose turkey flocks would benefit from an application of the trapper’s art and skill.

“Research and direct action are both needed,” said Dan Braman, co-chairman of the board for TFT. “While research takes time, there are common sense actions we can take today. If we do our part to create a more balanced number of predators by trapping, turkeys’ survival numbers will go up.”

To learn more about the National Trappers Association, visit www.nationaltrappers.com. For more on Turkeys For Tomorrow, go to www.turkeysfortomorrow.org.



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Review all products online at www.alpsbrands.com

Join Green Mountain Camp for ‘work-cations’

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is looking for volunteers to join them for fun-filled weekends to get the camps ready for the 2023 season. This year, the GMCC Kehoe ‘workcation’ weekend will be May 6-7 and the GMCC Buck Lake workcation weekend will be May 20-22.

“We look forward to workcation weekend all winter long,” said Education Specialist Hannah Phelps. “With the help of local volunteers, we spruce up both camps in preparation for the summer and enjoy being outdoors knowing it’s for a good cause -- environmental education for today’s youth.”

Volunteers can participate for as long as they are able to; one hour, one day, or both days. They are welcome to stay overnight in onsite cabins or they can bring their own tents. Lunch and dinner will be provided.

The Buck Lake camp is located in Woodbury and the Kehoe camp is on Lake Bomoseen in Castleton. This is an excellent community service opportunity for boy scout and girl scout groups, as well as high school and college clubs. The Conservation Camps are looking for help with general repairs, construction, landscaping, painting, cleaning, firewood, and gardening. Participants are encouraged to bring their own tools, but the camps will have some available.

For more information and to register as a volunteer for one of these weekends, please email Hannah.Phelps@vermont.gov or call 802-249-4199.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by the Fish and Wildlife Department professionals who conserve Vermont's fish and wildlife species. Working biologists, foresters, wardens, and conservation educators teach young people about their role with Vermont's forests, wetlands, wildlife, and fish through interactive activities.

The Green Mountain Conservation Camp program's greatest strength is connecting young people to the outdoors. The camp program is sponsored in part through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.



Did you know?

QUWF has four landowner coops: The Grouse Coop and the Niangua Coop in Missouri, and the Catskill Mountains Wildlife and Oregon Joint Wildlife coops.

Interested in forming a coop?

Email Craig Alderman at admin@quwf.net.

Agreements expand opportunities for VA recreation

RICHMOND, VA — The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are pleased to announce that a total of 22,316 acres of land owned by TNC and Cumberland Forest Highlands, LLC (CFH) is now open to the public for the purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, and wildlife viewing.

A Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, provided funding through DWR to compensate landowners, improve access infrastructure, and enhance wildlife habitats. The properties are in Buchanan, Dickenson and Russell Counties, near the communities of Breaks, Dante and Vansant.

DWR Executive Director, Ryan Brown commented, “We are very pleased to partner with The Nature Conservancy and Cumberland Forest Highlands to open these lands for public access in a beautiful part of the state where outdoor recreation-based economies are being fully embraced.”

The Breaks Parcel includes designated access points to 7,816 acres in Buchanan and Dickenson Counties. This parcel stretches between the communities of Breaks and Greenbrier; which provide excellent opportunities to hunt deer, bear, turkey and small game. For the fortunate hunters who draw an elk license, the area provides good opportunities to hunt elk. This parcel also includes portions of the Coal Canyon and Ridgeview Trails that are part of the Spearhead Trails System managed by the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority (SRRA).

These trails offer the first opportunities in Virginia for hunters and wildlife viewers to utilize ATVs or UTVs to reach public access destinations. This may be particularly helpful for aging and limited mobility wildlife enthusiasts. Finally, this parcel provides bank fishing and paddling opportunities on the Russell Fork River near its confluence with the Pound River. Paddling on the Russell Fork River is extremely challenging during most of the year, and should not be attempted without the proper gear, training and experience.

Continued on Page 21

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Continued from Page 20 — The Dante Parcel in Russell County includes 9,809 acres with designated access points. The Mountain View trail system, also managed by SRRA, will soon have a trailhead in Dante providing a mix of non-motorized and motorized access into portions of this recreation area including a hiking/biking trail around Straight Hollow, and a motorized trail along the ridgeline from the Dante Trailhead to Honey Branch Road. SRRA and the local community have plans to open these new trails later this spring. The Dante Parcel offers excellent hunting and viewing opportunities for a variety of wildlife species.

Near Vansant, 4,253 acres of public access lands are available. Most of this land is located on Big Fox and Little Fox Creeks. These parcels also offer excellent opportunities for deer, bear, turkey and small game. There is a chance of seeing elk on these parcels, but elk are not as numerous as they are on the Breaks parcel. About 780 acres of land in the War Fork community will be managed as part of the Elk Conservation Area. Public access will only be allowed during special events. This area includes the site where elk were released from 2012 to 2014. Guided public elk viewing tours to this area are provided by Breaks Interstate Park, DWR, TNC, and Southwest Virginia Sportsmen, Inc. Managed hunts for elk, deer and turkey will be offered on TNC and CFH lands in the Elk Conservation Area in the future.

Maps of these new public recreation areas, as well as more detailed information regarding rules and regulations for use, are available on the DWR website at: dwr.virginia.gov/powrr/ or by calling the DWR Marion Office at 276-783-4860.

Conservation Police Officers will be patrolling these areas to ensure compliance with posted rules and to address any unauthorized use. No special fees or permits are required to access these properties on foot or by street-legal vehicles which can only be used on designated open roads. However, any person using ATVs or UTVs on the Coal Canyon, Ridgeview or Mountain View Trails must first purchase a Spearhead Trails permit and comply with all rules for trail use as promulgated by SRRA. Other important trail regulations to note include accessing only at an official trailhead, helmets are required and no hunting is allowed from the trail or from trail vehicles. Firearms must be unloaded and cased while transported on an ATV or UTV.

NSSF honors Sen. Steve Daines as legislator of the year

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, proudly honored U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) as the 2022 NSSF Legislator of the Year for his determined commitment to protecting the firearm industry against attacks that threaten the lawful commerce of firearms in America and jeopardize the Constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. Additionally, his commitment to preserving the Constitutional rights of law-abiding gun owners, hunting, public lands access and conservation set him apart as a leader in Congress.

“We are honored to present Senator Daines with the 2022 NSSF Legislator of the Year Award for his unwavering leadership in the U.S. Senate to protect the firearm and ammunition industry, lawful gun owners, hunters and sportsmen and women,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. “Senator Daines’ leadership to ensure fairness in business, reasserting Congress’ role in ensuring the federal government isn’t picking marketplace winners and losers based on politics, protecting gun owners, hunters and sportsmen and women’s rights and public lands access is commendatory. Senator Daines is an example to be emulated.”

Sen. Daines introduced the Firearm Industry Nondiscrimination (FIND) Act in 2022, [S. 4435](#), legislation to ensure firearm-related businesses have fair access to financial services and corporate entities wouldn’t benefit from taxpayer-funded contracts while using those profits to discriminate against constitutionally-protected firearm businesses. He has since reintroduced the FIND Act in the 118th Congress as [S. 428](#). The legislation would make corporations ineligible for federal contracts if they hold discriminatory policies against firearm businesses.



Continued on Page 22

Continued from Page 21 — Sen. Daines fought against anti-hunting special interest influence over the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with the introduction of The Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act, [S. 4940](#), legislation to prohibit Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and their agencies from banning the use of traditional lead ammunition and fishing tackle absent approval by applicable state fish and wildlife departments and proof that their use is primarily causing wildlife population decline. The legislation worked to ensure that the best conservation practices are grounded in sound science and not driven by the political agendas of special-interest anti-hunting groups.

That legislation was introduced after Sen. Daines led 26 Senators [warning](#) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Director Martha Williams not to buckle to politically-driven agendas to ban the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle on National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs), encompassing over 2.3 million acres of public land. Director Williams ignored the warning to acquiesce to hunting and angling restrictions for hunters and anglers.

Today, Sen. Daines reintroduced the NSSF-supported Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act in the 118th Congress.

Looking to protect law-abiding gun owners, Sen. Daines introduced the [Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act](#) in 2022 to protect those who live in a concealed carry or Constitutional carry state to carry concealed firearms in other states. Your Second Amendment right to carry a firearm for self-protection does not end at your state’s border.

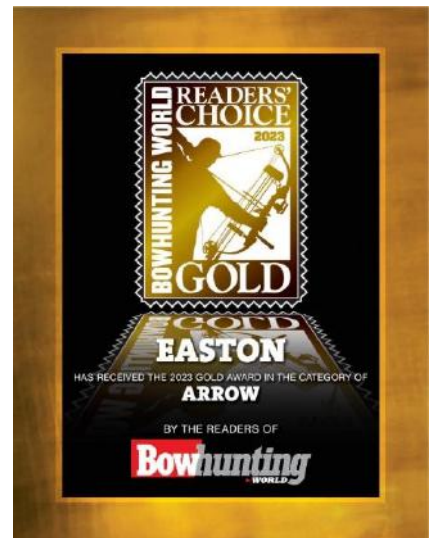
Archers vote Easton as favorite bowhunting arrows

Once again, Easton has been selected as the most-favored arrow brand by the readers of *Bowhunting World* magazine in the 2023 Readers’ Choice voting.

In the annual survey conducted by *Bowhunting World*, bowhunters voted Easton as the leading arrow, earning the brand the coveted Gold Award for the 2023 Reader’s Choice event.

"We’re honored to receive the award in 2023", said Gary Cornum, Marketing Director for Easton. "Since 1922, the Easton team has been driven to innovate the best products and instill confidence for shooters in all archery disciplines. We’re proud to be the brand archers trust most often."

For more information on Easton arrows and archery products and accessories, visit www.eastonarchery.com



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Nonresident Nebraska spring turkey permits sold out

No more 2023 Nebraska spring turkey permits are available to nonresidents. The quota of 10,000 permits has sold out. Permits were available for purchase by nonresidents beginning Jan. 9, 2023. The last permit of the quota was purchased March 24.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in 2022 made several changes to turkey hunting orders at the August 2022 meeting in response to a declining turkey population across the state. Those changes start with the 2023 spring season and include:

- A quota of 10,000 permits available for nonresidents. Youth and landowner permits are not included in this limit.
- All hunters now are required to report their turkey harvests via Telecheck.
- All hunters are limited to two permits in the spring and one in the fall.
- Fall season dates were changed to Oct. 1 to Nov. 30.
- The fall bag limit for all hunters is one turkey.
- All hunters are limited to harvesting no more than one bird per calendar day in the spring.

The fall turkey season permits will go on sale Aug. 14 at 1 p.m. Central time.

For more information on turkey hunting, read the Turkey Guide at digital.outdoornebraska.gov/i/1489064-turkey-guide-2023-web/0.

Ruger Super Wrangler Convertible .22 LR/.22 WMR revolver

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE-RGR) is pleased to introduce the Super Wrangler® family of single-action revolvers. Building on the success of the affordably-priced Wrangler line introduced in 2019, the Super Wrangler features a robust steel cylinder frame and ships with two cylinders, allowing you to convert between inexpensive .22 LR ammunition and powerful .22 WMR ammunition.

Built on the legacy of the popular Ruger® Single-Six®, the Super Wrangler complements Ruger's rich history of producing quality, rugged, reliable single-action revolvers. The attractive price, combined with the affordability of rimfire ammunition, make this revolver ideal for learning to shoot, introducing friends or family to the sport, or just experiencing the fun of single-action shooting.

With the introduction of the Single-Six in 1953, Bill Ruger pioneered the use of modern investment casting in firearms manufacturing to usher in a new level of affordability in single-action revolvers. Through the use of modern CNC-machining methods and lean manufacturing techniques, the Super Wrangler continues this tradition and sets a new bar for affordability while maintaining the rugged reliability that is the hallmark of Ruger firearms.



Continued on Page 24

RUGER®

MAX-9®

YOUR NEXT HANDGUN™



Continued from Page 23 — Initially offered in three attractive Cerakote® models - black, silver and bronze - the Super Wrangler features an adjustable target sight and 5.5-inch barrel. The standard checkered black grip panels can be swapped for Single-Six panels, allowing for a variety of customized options. The Super Wrangler will fit in Single-Six holsters that accommodate 5.5-inch barrels. Cylinders are unique to the Super Wrangler, and are not interchangeable with standard aluminum-frame Wrangler or Single-Six Convertible cylinders.

Single-action rimfire revolvers offer a safe and fun way to introduce new shooters to the sport and can serve as a reminder, to even the most experienced shooters, that range time can be just plain fun.

Whether it's your first firearm or your next, time at the range with the Super Wrangler promises to be well spent.

For more information on the Super Wrangler or to learn more about the extensive line of award-winning Ruger firearms, visit Ruger.com, [Facebook.com/Ruger](https://www.facebook.com/Ruger) or [Instagram.com/RugersOfficial](https://www.instagram.com/RugersOfficial). To find accessories for the Super Wrangler and other Ruger firearms, visit ShopRuger.com or your local independent retailer of Ruger firearms.

The acquisition, ownership, possession and use of firearms is heavily regulated. Some models may not be legally available in your state or locale. Whatever your purpose for lawfully acquiring a firearm – know the law, get trained, and shoot safely.



Drone operators advised to know and abide by wildlife rules

Editor's Note: The growing use of drones to view wildlife, its habitat and land features is an interesting trend. Please check your local regulations for the proper use. They are considered harassment in certain circumstances and with many species. Don't fly them over private property you do not have permission to do so. Drones serve a great purpose for landowners in viewing fence lines, boundaries, checking livestock and for illegal access or trespass.

Drone operators should be aware of wildlife laws pertaining to their use in Nebraska, including restrictions on Nebraska Game and Parks' properties.

State law and the federal Airborne Hunting Act prohibit the use of aircraft, including drones – or recreational unmanned aircraft – to harass birds, fish, or any other animal. Drones never should be used to flush, chase or harass any wildlife, including large flocks of migrating birds, such as sandhill and whooping cranes, and Canada or snow geese.

State and federal endangered species laws also prohibit the harassment of listed species, including the whooping crane, least tern, piping plover, mountain plover and red knot in Nebraska.

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act protects these species by prohibiting their disturbance. Drones should not be flown to observe eagles or near their nests. Eagles may attack drones, especially if flown near active nests or near large congregations of over-wintering or migrating eagles.

Game and Parks does not permit drones to be flown in state parks, state historical parks, state recreation areas or wildlife management areas, unless a special occasion permit has been approved. Contact the nearest Commission district office for an application.

Drone operators should check the Federal Aviation Administration regulations for recreation or commercial-use training requirements and aircraft registration; they should also be aware of other laws and city ordinances governing their use.

“We recognize the increasing availability and affordability of drones creates opportunities and challenges,” said Craig Stover, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Law Enforcement Division Administrator. “The rules Game and Parks has in place that limit drones use in certain settings are intended to protect people, maintain the family-friendly atmosphere of our recreational lands, and avoid unnecessary harm and harassment to sensitive wildlife.”

OK issues statement on arrow rifles in archery season

During a regular meeting April 3, the [Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) approved a position statement pertaining to proposed legislation moving through the state Senate and House of Representatives. The legislation proposes to allow the use of air-powered arrow rifles as a legal method of take during any archery-only season, including Oklahoma's deer archery season.

In the statement, [the Wildlife Commission doesn't support allowing the use of arrow rifles during archery deer season](#), and recommends to the Legislature and Governor that SB 352 and HB 2355 be stricken or vetoed if necessary. Air-powered arrow rifles are currently legal for hunting during any season that allows the use of rifles.

For all your chapter needs, please call Leslie Casanova [direct](#) at Sportsman Insurance Agency at 1-800-925-7767.

In most cases, Leslie can have your insurance the same day!
Also, any questions concerning banquets and/or vendor programs, please call the QUWF National Office at (417) 345-5960.

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