

# 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

### In case you missed it ...

**Montana** — Providing public access to over 100,000 acres of public land, Governor Greg Gianforte today celebrated the grand opening of the Big Snowy Mountains Wildlife Management Area to Montanans.

“It’s a great day in Montana as we celebrate unlocking over 100,000 acres of public land for folks to enjoy in the Big Snowy Mountains,” Gianforte said.

Find QUWF Online!

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.

## Notes from the Dashboard: Got boots? Rocky Loggers have ‘earned my vote’



**By Craig Alderman** — I cannot remember a time when I did not wear work boots. On the farm growing up, it was a requirement. In college studying forestry and wildlife, I changed to loggers’ boots as they were tougher, had better support and lasted longer under really harsh conditions. Today, I still wear loggers’ boots and have tried about every brand at every price point out there. From handmade versions to store bought throw aways in a year, proclaimed to be ughhh, tough.

Let me tell you about the last pair I bought from Rocky, the loggers’ model that was and is still waterproof, has a safety toe, and they do take a harsh beating. These boots are 4 years old and about to retire after an exceptional performance run.

Having fought forest fires, controlled burns, floods, heavy in water / mud and snow use when installing farm culverts, water bars, pond restorations and stream repair, broadcast seeding, they never let me down.



I really like the higher and more substantial heel. I operate a lot of equipment on the QUWF farm and doing nearly weekly wildlife habitat work. From tractors, backhoes to bulldozers, trucks and graders. The higher heel makes it so much easier to “catch the clutch or brakes” with ease. I have always liked the best ankle support and protection I can get and these provided both. Twisting an ankle when you are back in the woods and meadows is not what you want.

They are my year-round boot as well, working on equipment in the winter has the same challenges, maybe more.

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**Continued from Page 1** — Then there is the big use, I do a lot of timber stand improvement, felling trees, cutting them up and skidding them out. You work in constant mud, harsh hot weather with dust and grime or snow and ice. The boots are a winner in all seasons, and this is from personal and heavy use. I operate a dozer and put in farm roads, boundary roads, timber access roads, water bars, stream crossings and its not all operation. I got the dozer stuck fast in a sink hole recently and it was dig out and jack it up time and the Rocky Loggers were right there totally dependable. I have about worn out the heels and the inside waterproof bootie. The safety toe is visible from years of what you see in the photo on Page 1, but they are still waterproof.



Then I was told I would get a new pair for my birthday, and boy the new Rocky Ram's Horn Loggers arrived. Look out! They fit like a glove (order a full size larger for boots), are waterproof and have the safety toe. The tread is more aggressive, I think I will like that option.

The other good news, as a QUWF member you save a bunch on Rocky Boots at [www.rockyboot.com](http://www.rockyboot.com), with Free freight. Problem is the old pair are like an old, good friend, so they will help out until the last leather stitch gives out. Catch you across the creek!

*Craig Alderman is the QUWF executive director.*



## Vermont wildlife course for educators July 16-21

**Editor's Note: Kudos to Vermont on this educational outreach for our fish and wildlife's future. Many more states should mirror this effort to educate our teachers and help provide the funding for them to attend.**

**MONTPELIER, Vt.** — Vermont's popular fish and wildlife summer course for teachers and other educators will be held July 17-22, 2023.

The interactive field course that gets educators out into Vermont's streams, forests and wetlands with some of the state's leading natural resource experts takes place at the Buck Lake Conservation Camp in Woodbury.

Now in its 38th year, "Wildlife Management and Outdoor Education Techniques for Educators," is a one-week, three-credit graduate course taught by Vermont Fish and Wildlife and other Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) staff through Castleton University.

"Wildlife resources are important to all Vermonters in one way or another," says Fish and Wildlife's Outreach Director, Alison Thomas. "If educators can get connected with the outdoors and in turn expose their students, then many of these students will be able to make informed decisions about Vermont wildlife and their habitat needs."

"This course is unique in that it helps non-formal and pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers from any discipline -- math, language arts, physical education, or history -- improve their instructional strategies and make their lesson plans more relevant to their students."

"This course is hands-on," added Thomas. "It continues to evolve and incorporate new environmental education ideas and activities, but we also continue to do traditional programs that have been part of the week

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**Continued from Page 2** — for more than three decades. It is a great mix of new and old with all of it being incredibly helpful and memorable. We believe during these difficult times, it is important now more than ever that we foster personal relationships with the natural world, habitat and wildlife and encourage an individual's connection with the outdoors.”

Tuition is \$710 for the course. Books, food and overnight facilities are included. A limited number of partial scholarships are available.

A course description, schedule of activities and registration information are available by email from [Alison.Thomas@vermont.gov](mailto:Alison.Thomas@vermont.gov) Buck Lake Conservation Camp is located east of Route 14, north of Woodbury Village.

## Firearm industry economic impact raises 322%

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The total economic impact of the firearm and ammunition industry in the United States increased to \$80.73 billion in 2022 from \$19.1 billion in 2008, a 322 percent increase, while the total number of full-time equivalent jobs rose to over 393,696 from approximately 166,000, a 136 percent increase in that same period, according to a [report](#) released by the NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association.

On a year-over-year basis, the industry's economic impact rose to \$80.73 billion in 2022 from \$70.52 billion in 2021. Total jobs increased by over 17,877

in the same period, to 396,696 from 375,819. The firearm industry has broader impacts throughout the economy. It supports and generates business for firms seemingly unrelated to firearms, at a time when every job in America counts. These are real people, with real jobs, working in industries as varied as banking, retail, accounting, metalworking and printing among others.

The firearm and ammunition industry paid over \$7.48 billion in business taxes, including property, income and sales-based levies. An additional \$1.15 billion was paid in federal excise taxes, which directly contributes to wildlife conservation.

“Our industry's economic input is undeniably contributing to every state and every community. This milestone achievement of over \$80 billion in economic impact proves that the American firearm and ammunition industry is strong,” said Joe Bartozzi, NSSF President and CEO. “Ours is an industry that is consistently growing and innovating to meet the American demand for the highest quality firearms and ammunition for lawful firearm ownership. Over 4.2 million Americans from all walks of life, for the first time, discovered and exercised their right to lawful firearm owners and safely participate in the recreational shooting sports last year. This growth equals more jobs that add to our local economies, averaging \$65,000 in wages and benefits, up from \$56,900 reported last year. Since 2008, federal tax payments increased by 266 percent, Pittman-Robertson excise taxes that support wildlife conservation by 226 percent and state business taxes by 46 percent.”

The annual Firearm and Ammunition Industry Economic Impact Report provides a state-by-state breakdown of job numbers, wages and output covering direct, supplier and induced employment, as well as federal excise taxes paid.

### FIREARM AND AMMUNITION INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT | 2023



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## ASA urges Florida to support anglers' rights

Alexandria, VA – On April 18, [American Sportfishing Association](#) (ASA) Southeast Fisheries Policy Director Martha Guyas appeared at a press conference on the steps of the old Florida state Capitol, urging the Florida state legislature to pass legislation enshrining the Right to Hunt and Fish into the Florida state constitution ([Florida H.J.R. 1157](#); [Florida S.J.R. 1234](#)).

"This legislation helps us maintain Florida's sportfishing culture while also promoting conservation and ensuring future access to our vibrant fisheries," said Guyas. "People value what they understand, and the connection with nature that people get while fishing helps anglers understand the importance of conservation to supporting healthy fisheries and fishing opportunities."

Guyas noted that more than 4.3 million anglers fish in Florida each year, contributing nearly \$14 billion in economic output and supporting more than 120,000 jobs.

Once the resolution is approved by both chambers, voters will decide whether to amend the state constitution by adding language that states in part, fishing and hunting "shall be preserved forever as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife."

The press conference was organized by the International Order of Theodore Roosevelt (IOTR) and attended by Florida's anglers and hunters. Speakers included IOTR Executive Director Luke Hilgemann, Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Southeastern States Senior Coordinator Mark Lance, Florida State Senator Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford) and Florida State Representative Lauren Melo (R-Naples), both of whom are the lead sponsors of the respective resolutions.

Guyas concluded her remarks by thanking Senator Brodeur and Representative Melo for their leadership on the legislation. Additional information on ASA's efforts throughout Florida and [Keep Florida Fishing](#), ASA's Florida advocacy arm, may be found [here](#).



## NSSF applauds Daines' protecting access for act intro

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, applauds U.S. Sen. Steve Daines' introduction of [S. 1185](#), the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act, which would prohibit U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) from banning the use of traditional lead ammunition and tackle absent approval by the applicable state fish and wildlife department and proof that lead ammunition and tackle is primarily causing wildlife population decline. The legislation has 24 Senate co-sponsors.

"This legislation ensures that conservation policies are firmly rooted in sound scientific evidence and not driven by special-interest anti-hunting groups. Threats to wildlife conservation come not only from groups opposed to hunting, but also through policies that threaten the primary source of conservation funds," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. ***"Federal rules that prohibit the use of traditional lead ammunition on National Wildlife Refuges are devoid of any scientific evidence that shows a causal linkage between the use of traditional ammunition and a population level decline of a species.*** These misguided policies only seek to divorce the firearm and ammunition industry, and the hunters that support these conservation funds by purchasing these products, from the wildlife and habitats these tax dollars are responsible for perpetuating. NSSF commends Senator Daines for his leadership to ensure the American Wildlife Conservation Model remains the gold standard for the world to emulate."

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**Continued from Page 5** — NSSF **denounced** the USFWS Final Rule it published in 2022 that offered sportsmen and women a “bait-and-switch” deal to open hunting and fishing opportunities in 18 National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs), but banned the use of traditional lead ammunition and fishing tackle. *The Final Rule offered no scientific evidence of detrimental population impacts to support banning the use of traditional ammunition, despite promises by the Biden administration to “follow the science.”*

Firearm and ammunition manufacturers pay a 10 and 11 percent excise tax to the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, commonly referred to as the “Pittman-Robertson excise tax.” ***The firearm and ammunition industry was directly responsible for \$1.15 billion Pittman-Robertson taxes of the record-breaking \$1.6 billion apportioned to the states through the USFWS for state conservation and education programs in 2022 alone.*** Since 1937, the firearm and ammunition industry has paid over \$25.38 billion into the fund since its inception in 1937, when adjusted for inflation.

## Arizona: Prepare now for upcoming fall hunt draw

**PHOENIX** — For hunters planning to apply for hunt permit-tags issued through the upcoming 2023 fall draw process, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) offers the following tips to make the process go smoothly:

- **Open an AZGFD portal account.** Visit [accounts.azgfd.com/Account/Register](https://accounts.azgfd.com/Account/Register) and fill in the required information. AZGFD encourages all customers to have an AZGFD portal account; that’s the only place where draw results will be posted. Family account features are available with a portal account, so everyone — including youth — can view their draw results online as soon as they are available.
- **Check your AZGFD portal account.** Visit [www.azgfd.gov](https://www.azgfd.gov), then click on “Account Login” at the bottom of the homepage. Take this time to review personal data, including application history and total bonus points (bonus, loyalty, hunter education). If something seems amiss, call AZGFD at 602-942-3000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- **Applicants must possess a valid Arizona hunting license, or combination hunt and fish license, to apply for a hunt permit-tag.** A license must be valid on the last day of the application period (June 6). Licenses can be purchased **online**, or at any AZGFD office statewide. License dealers no longer sell paper licenses, but many offer to sell licenses through the department’s online purchase system. AZGFD provides a list of dealers statewide that offer online license purchases at [www.azgfd.com/license/](https://www.azgfd.com/license/). When purchasing an Arizona hunting license, or combination hunt and fish license, online, the license number will appear at the bottom of the customer's receipt. Don’t throw it away! That license number will be required as part of the draw application process.
- **Know your Customer ID.** This is a must to submit an application. There are four ways to locate a Customer ID: 1) Log into your AZGFD portal account, and click on “View Details” under “My AZGFD Dashboard; 2) Check your hunting license, or combination hunt and fish license, if it was purchased online; 3) A Customer ID number can be retrieved by visiting [customerlookup.azgfd.com/](https://customerlookup.azgfd.com/). If the account is located, AZGFD will send the Customer ID number to that email address; 4) Call AZGFD at 602-942-3000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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- **Download “Arizona E-Tag.”** Download this mobile app from either the Apple or Google Play stores, and opt in to receive an electronic permit-tag in your AZGFD portal account (this is not an option selected through the draw). **Be sure to update to the most recent version of the app, which is compatible with both Apple and android products.** The Arizona E-Tag app provides real-time delivery of licenses and big game tags purchased or drawn after the app has been downloaded. The app also provides the ability to electronically tag a harvested animal and complete the hunter questionnaire. For more information, visit [www.azgfd.gov/etag](http://www.azgfd.gov/etag).



- **Plan to purchase a PointGuard product.** Choosing PointGuard Plus, or the standard PointGuard, ensures that applicants can surrender their hunt permit-tag for any reason, and the accumulated bonus points that were expended to draw that hunt permit-tag will be reinstated. A portal account is no longer required to **[purchase a PointGuard product](#)**.
- **Sign up to receive a hunter questionnaire via text message.** As part of the application process, a customer can now enter his or her phone number (ghost number format) to receive a hunter questionnaire via text message on their mobile device.

**When’s the draw?** AZGFD will post an announcement on its [website](#) and social media channels when the 2023 fall draw opens. The deadline for the department to receive all applications is **11:59 p.m. (Arizona time) Tuesday, June 6, 2023**.

## Ohio’s wild turkey season checks thousands of birds

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – Ohio’s wild turkey hunters have harvested 15,555 birds in the spring season through Sunday, May 21, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. In 2022, spring turkey hunters checked 11,770 birds during the corresponding dates. The three-year average for turkeys taken in that period is 14,667. This season’s total harvest includes 1,823 turkeys taken during the two-day youth season on April 15-16, all birds checked in 30 days of hunting in the south zone, and all birds harvested through 23 days of hunting in the northeast zone (Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Trumbull counties).

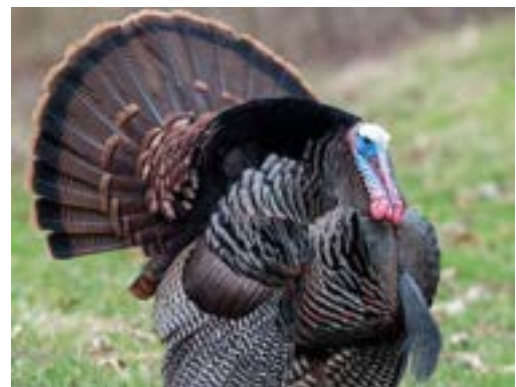
The spring wild turkey hunting season concluded in the south zone counties on Sunday, May 21. Hunting in the five counties of the northeast zone remains open until Sunday, May 28. Hunting is open from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset in those counties, with a season limit of one bearded turkey. Find more information in the [2022-23 hunting and trapping regulations booklet](#).

The 10 counties with the highest 2023 spring turkey harvest totals so far are Gallia (428), Muskingum (419), Monroe (410), Ashtabula (409), Tuscarawas (407), Belmont (398), Coshocton (381), Adams (377), Jefferson (374), and Washington (369).

The Division of Wildlife has issued 50,100 spring turkey permits that are valid until Sunday, May 28.

Wild turkeys were extirpated in Ohio by 1904 and were reintroduced in the 1950s by the Division of Wildlife. Ohio’s first modern-day turkey season opened in 1966 in nine counties, and hunters took 12 birds. The turkey harvest topped 1,000 for the first time in 1984. Spring turkey hunting opened statewide in 2000, and Ohio hunters checked more than 20,000 turkeys for the first time that year. More information about previous turkey seasons can be found in the [Spring Turkey Harvest Summary](#).

Find more information about Ohio’s wild turkey hunting at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov).



## Utah's endangered species fund allocates \$4.4 million

SALT LAKE CITY — A total of \$4.4 million was allocated to dozens of wildlife-related projects at the recent annual Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Endangered Species Mitigation Fund meeting on May 3.

[The Endangered Species Mitigation Fund](#) was created in 1997 to direct funds toward the protection, conservation and recovery of federally listed species and species of greatest conservation need, as identified in the [Utah Wildlife Action Plan](#). The goal of the funding is to prevent additional species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act and to work toward downlisting or delisting species already listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Roughly 42 projects will be funded by the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund over the next fiscal year (from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024). The \$4.4 million is an increase from past years, due to an additional \$1 million of ESMF restricted funding that was approved for spending by the Utah Legislature during the 2023 legislative session.

“Conservation funding for species that are not hunted or fished is hard to come by,” DWR Assistant Habitat Section Chief Paul Thompson said. “Those of us in Utah working to better understand and maintain healthy populations for our lesser-known species are fortunate that our state legislature had the foresight to establish the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund to help preserve Utah's biodiversity.”

The projects that will be funded each year are selected and approved by the [Endangered Species Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee](#), a seven-person committee of diverse stakeholders and organization representatives.

### **This year, the funds will be allocated to the following:**

- Programs and recovery efforts to help Utah species currently listed under the Endangered Species Act, including the Utah prairie dog, June sucker, Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, bonytail, Virgin River chub, woundfin, California condor, desert tortoise and several plant species. Approximately 40% of the total funds will go toward these species' recovery efforts.
- Conducting studies to better monitor Utah's native species populations so they can be more effectively managed in order to prevent additional listings under the Endangered Species Act. Three projects in particular will be funded this year to better understand the distribution of Utah's mountainsnails, springsnails and freshwater mussels. Additional projects to better understand other native species include projects focusing on boreal toad, least chub, bluehead sucker, roundtail chub, flannelmouth sucker, pygmy rabbits, black rosy finch and other native bats and pollinator species.
- Matching federal State Wildlife Grant funding, which will stretch funds even further to help with additional conservation projects that benefit Utah's native species.

### **Since 1997, the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund has:**

- Completed more than 600 projects that benefit native fish and wildlife species.
- Dedicated more than \$80 million toward native species conservation efforts.
- Helped recover populations of various species to achieve two Endangered Species Act delistings, three downlistings (from endangered status to threatened), and to prevent 28 species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.

These recently allocated funds and projects are in addition to the [\\$3.4 million in Habitat Council funds](#) and the [\\$3.9 million in conservation permit funds](#) that were each allocated to wildlife research and habitat projects in April. Both of those 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 habitat-related projects.

**Cowboy Wisdom: “If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is to stop digging.” - Kent Rollins**

© Cowboy Kent Rollins, [www.kentrollins.com](http://www.kentrollins.com), “Comfort Food the Cowboy Way”

## Vermont to host trapping, hunting public hearings

**Editor's Note: This is a slippery slope when science is not included in the overall picture of "why trapping" or the need to control coyote populations by various means.**

**MONTPELIER, Vt.** — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board are accepting public comment and will hold three public hearings on new proposed regulations for trapping and for hunting coyotes with the aid of dogs.

The new proposed regulations come in response to the Vermont Legislature's [Act 159](#) and [Act 165](#), both passed last year.

Act 159 directed the department to improve trapping safety and the welfare of animals trapped during the state's [regulated trapping seasons](#). The department's proposal includes establishing a safety buffer between public roads, state-owned trails, and places where traps can be set, and restricting the use of body-gripping traps to reduce the risk to pets.

Act 165 directed the department to create rules guiding the use of dogs to hunt coyotes, a practice that is not currently regulated. The department's proposal will cap the number of individuals permitted to hunt coyotes with dogs in Vermont to 100 hunters. It will also restrict the number of dogs involved in each hunt to four or fewer and includes safety provisions like requiring that dogs wear tracking and control collars when coyote hunting.

Complete details on both sets of legislative requirements, the proposed regulation changes approved for public comment by the board earlier this spring, and additional recommendations from the department are available at: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/trapping-bmps-and-coyote-hunting-regulations-updates>

Public comment will be accepted from May 17 – June 30, 2023. Comments can be emailed to [ANR.FWPUBLICCOMMENT@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPUBLICCOMMENT@vermont.gov) with the subject line "trapping and coyote regulations."

Two in-person public hearings and one online public hearing will be held to provide additional opportunity for comment, at the following dates and locations:

- June 20, 2023, 6:30-8:30 pm. Rutland Middle School, 67 Library Avenue, Rutland Vt.
- June 21, 2023, 6:30-8:30 pm. Montpelier High School, 5 High School Drive, Montpelier Vt.
- June 22, 2023, 6:30-8:30 pm. Online via Microsoft Teams at: <https://tinyurl.com/trappinghearing>

Following public comment, revisions by the department, and a final vote by the board, the new regulations are expected to come into effect in January 2024.

Reasonable accommodation at public hearings is available upon request for persons with disabilities. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such requests must include their contact information. Please send an e-mail to [abigail.connolly@vermont.gov](mailto:abigail.connolly@vermont.gov) or call 802-793-8777 (voice), 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).

## Sign up to join Ohio landowner-hunter access partnership

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife invites landowners to enroll their property in the Ohio Landowner-Hunter Access Partnership. Enrollment in the program, which incentivizes landowners to provide access to hunters, begins June 1 and runs until July 15. Since the program's launch in 2021, more than 15,000 acres have been enrolled.

Those interested in enrolling their property can visit the [Ohio Landowner-Hunter Access Partnership](#) page at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov) to receive more information. Landowners can receive annual payments ranging from \$2 per acre for crop land to \$30 per acre for perennial wildlife habitat such as grasslands, wetlands, and forests. Enrollment contracts are two years, with the possibility of re-enrollment.

The Ohio Landowner-Hunter Access Partnership program is funded, in part, by the federal Farm Bill under the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program. This bill provides funding to state and tribal agencies through a competitive grant process to implement programs encouraging hunting access on private properties.

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**Continued from Page 9** — Enrolled lands can be accessed between September and June by those with a free daily access permit. Permits are distributed on a first come, first served basis, and reduce overcrowding on huntable lands. Participating hunters receive a list of rules for the property prior to accessing the land, and landowners receive a notification when hunters will access their property. All hunting activities except white-tailed deer gun hunting are permitted by Ohio Landowner-Hunter Access Partnership users. Permits can be obtained at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov) or on the free [HuntFish OH](#) mobile app.

A recent survey showed that landowners enrolled in Ohio Landowner-Hunter Access Partnership are overwhelmingly satisfied with the program. More than 80% of respondents would recommend enrollment to other Ohio landowners. More than 100 parcels are currently enrolled.

Hunters and landowners can find more information about the program, including answers to frequently asked questions, on the [Ohio Landowner Hunter Access Partnership](#) page at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov).

## Land use planning commission studies short-term rentals

**Editor's Note: We support establishing rules for short term renting or leasing of hunting lands, cabins or camping areas. The basic rule of a sportsman is leave it better than you found it, unfortunately in today's society, the "trail of trash", noise and discourteous action are spoiling it for everyone.**

**Augusta, ME** — The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) is studying short-term rental activity in the Commission's service area and seeking public input on potential regulatory options.

Short-term rentals have a deep history in rural Maine. The rise of user-friendly online reservation platforms and evolving traveler preferences have contributed to the growing popularity of short-term rentals in the Commission's service area. While short-term rental activity can bring positive economic effects, it can also create nuisances for neighbors and have environmental impacts.

Throughout June and July 2023, the Commission will facilitate in-person community meetings in the Millinocket, Moosehead, and Rangeley regions. Additionally, at least one virtual meeting and a written public comment period will be held. These events aim to gather feedback from community members regarding the positive and negative aspects of this type of rental activity and potential regulatory options.

"We are particularly interested in hearing from community members in these three regions as they have a significant number of short-term rental listings in the Commission's service area. Their insights will help us evaluate, refine, and potentially establish a regulatory approach," **stated Stacie Beyer, Executive Director of the Land Use Planning Commission.**

The LUPC's [short-term rental webpage](#) contains materials related to this project. As meeting dates, locations, and times are finalized and informational materials become available, the webpage will be updated. Individuals may sign up for project updates by email, including meeting announcements and reminders, using the blue box located in the upper right-hand corner of the webpage.

## Turtles on the roadway need your help

**Editor's Note: Turtles are on the move in about every state they reside. In Missouri you cannot go to town without carefully dodging at least a dozen of the little travelers. Take your time, let them pass, and if your do move them out of the roadway, put them on the side they were heading for. If it is a snapping turtle, use care as they are not the friendliest blokes on the roadway. Maybe use a stick or something to push them along.**

Vermont's turtles are on the move, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for the public's help in keeping them safe. Female turtles will soon be looking for places to deposit their eggs, and they sometimes choose inconvenient or dangerous locations. For example, turtles often lay eggs in gravel parking lots and driveways and along road shoulders, which puts them at risk of being hit by motor vehicles.

"Turtles commonly cross roads as they move to nesting sites and summer foraging habitats," said Luke Groff, biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. "Many turtles killed on roads are nesting females, so not only is the female taken from the population but so are her future progeny. Turtles grow slowly and females may not reproduce until 10 or even 15 years old. So, for some species, the loss of mature breeding females may have population-level effects."

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**Continued from Page 10** — Turtle nesting activity peaks between late May and early June, and drivers are urged to keep an eye out for turtles on the road – especially when driving near ponds and wetlands.

“Turtles are usually slow to move, so they have a tough time safely crossing roads. If you spot a turtle on the road, please consider helping it across but be sure you’re in a safe spot to pull over and get out of your car. Human safety comes first,” said Groff. “If you’re going to move a turtle off the road, always move it in the direction it was traveling. They know where they’re going.”

Most turtles can be picked up and carried across the road. However, snapping turtles have long necks and a powerful bite, so people should be alert and know what the species looks like. If the turtle is large or if it lacks colorful lines, spots, or other markings, then it may be a snapper. Instead of picking up snappers, try pushing them across the road with a shovel or pulling them across the road on cardboard or a car floor mat.

## Ruger introduces LC Charger in 5.7x28 mm

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE: RGR) is excited to introduce the Ruger® LC Charger™ chambered in 5.7x28mm. This large-format pistol features a 10.3” threaded barrel, ambidextrous manual safety, and a reversible magazine release. Based on the Ruger LC Carbine™ and utilizing the same magazines and controls as the innovative Ruger-5.7™ pistol, the LC Charger combines the best of both platforms.

The LC Charger is chambered in 5.7x28mm, a low-recoiling cartridge available in an exciting array of options for target shooting, small game and personal defense. The pistol features an M-LOK® aluminum free-float handguard with adjustable hand stop, multiple QD attachment points for slings, and a full-length Picatinny rail for optics.

Like the Ruger-5.7 pistol, the LC Charger utilizes Ruger's safe, reliable and proven Secure Action™ fire-control mechanism that combines a protected internal hammer with a bladed-safety trigger that has a short, smooth pull, clean break and positive reset. The nitride-coated alloy steel barrel is threaded ½”-28 for the attachment of standard muzzle accessories.

Made in the USA of strong and lightweight materials, the Ruger LC Charger is ideal for the range, home defense, backpacking, or small game.

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



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# Notes from the Road:

## Yes, it's brood-rearing time once again



**By Nick Prough** — Many of us wake up thinking about habitat out on the landscape, well at least many of us die-hard conservationists that are out there, and you know who you are, and often we think about habitat for adult quail, adult turkeys, deer, etc.

However, over the past few years Brood Rearing Habitat has climbed in the importance level on almost every farm I do a farm visit on whether that be in the Midwest or virtually anywhere across the country.

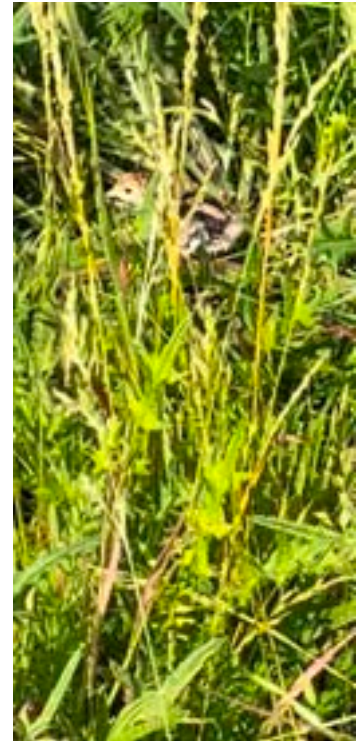
Yes, brood habitat is often one of the most limiting factors affecting upland bird survival. I have noticed over the past few years that it is often one of the most brought up topics with landowners during and after a site visit and many times over the past few decades one of the least managed for out on the landscape of many properties you see in the field.

Well, June is a great time to evaluate your brood habitat while it is at its best or its worst as this month is when many turkeys and quail will start hatching broods and this cover then becomes instantly important for survival. Good brood habitat can be beneficial for both turkeys and quail as they often use many of the same brood rearing habitats especially when they are lacking for availability on a specific tract of land. The best brood rearing habitats have a high abundance of insects present in the spring with good overhead cover for the broods to have adequate overhead cover from predators but also be thin enough for the young chicks to move around on the ground due to their small size. A good mix of bare ground and clumpy grasses such as native warm season grasses and forbs can provide excellent brood cover. Some other quality brood rearing habitats that might be available on your land can be small woodland openings, cover crop fields, small food plots, old fields, prairies, meadows/ hayfields which are adjacent to woodland cover.

I have for many years told landowners to carry a softball and if you can kick it through the cover easily then your brood cover should be adequately the right density or thin enough for the young broods to move through. This technique has continued to be useful for many landowners across the country, and I recently discussed that with a large landowner just last week that was yes you guessed it lacking in brood cover.

Ag fields (especially weedy ones) can also provide excellent brood rearing habitat based on the timing of the planting and many weather factors effecting the ag fields so having more than just a nearby crop field is always important so that you aren't "putting all your eggs in one basket per say."

Additionally, relying on crop fields when the planting season is late can be an issue as there isn't any vegetation yet emerging from the ground and thus no cover and no insects. So providing other brood cover is essential each year. Once you spot the type of brood habitat you have or that you see quail and or turkey broods in then just mimic those areas they are utilizing on other areas of your land.



**Continued on Page 13**

### 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](mailto:admin@quwf.net).**

**Continued from Page 12** — Having brood habitat scattered across your land is also essential as you don't want to have just one or two brood rearing areas that predators frequent or have your brood rearing habitat continue to be a limiting factor.

Before you know it, you will be spotting great brood habitat as you drive by it on your UTV or out your truck window and it will become second nature to spot it just like when you are looking for good deer or turkey habitat. So once again get out in the field in June and check out your quail and turkey brood habitat that you can find and keep an eye out for those little broods as hatching is just literally around the corner.

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.*

**Cowboy Wisdom: "If you climb in the saddle, you better be ready for the ride." - Kent Rollins**

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## 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.

**You are NOT alone.**

Veterans who served our country honorably deserve and have earned the right now to enjoy its freedoms and receive the support and benefits they deserve.

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.



# Indiana announces migratory bird seasons

Indiana’s migratory bird hunting seasons for 2023-2024 have been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The hunting seasons include those for mourning dove, waterfowl (i.e., ducks, coots, mergansers, and geese), woodcock, snipe, and sora rails.

The bag limit for dark geese may include any combination of five per day. Dark geese are Canada geese, white-fronted geese, and brant geese, with no limitations by species. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow and Ross’s geese) remains 20.

There are no changes in duck bag limits from 2022-23. This includes the scaup daily bag limit, which is one during the first 15 days of the season, and two for the remainder of the season.

Note that in the central zone this year, the second segment of the duck season and the third segment of the goose season opens on the Friday after Thanksgiving. The duck season closes on Saturday, Jan. 13. Past Indiana waterfowl hunter surveys indicated that Indiana duck hunters strongly preferred for the hunting season to open on the Friday after Thanksgiving rather than the Saturday.

Find more information about the migratory game bird hunting seasons and regulations at [on.IN.gov/gamebird-seasons](https://on.IN.gov/gamebird-seasons).

To view more DNR news releases, please see [dnr.IN.gov](https://dnr.IN.gov).

## Did you know?

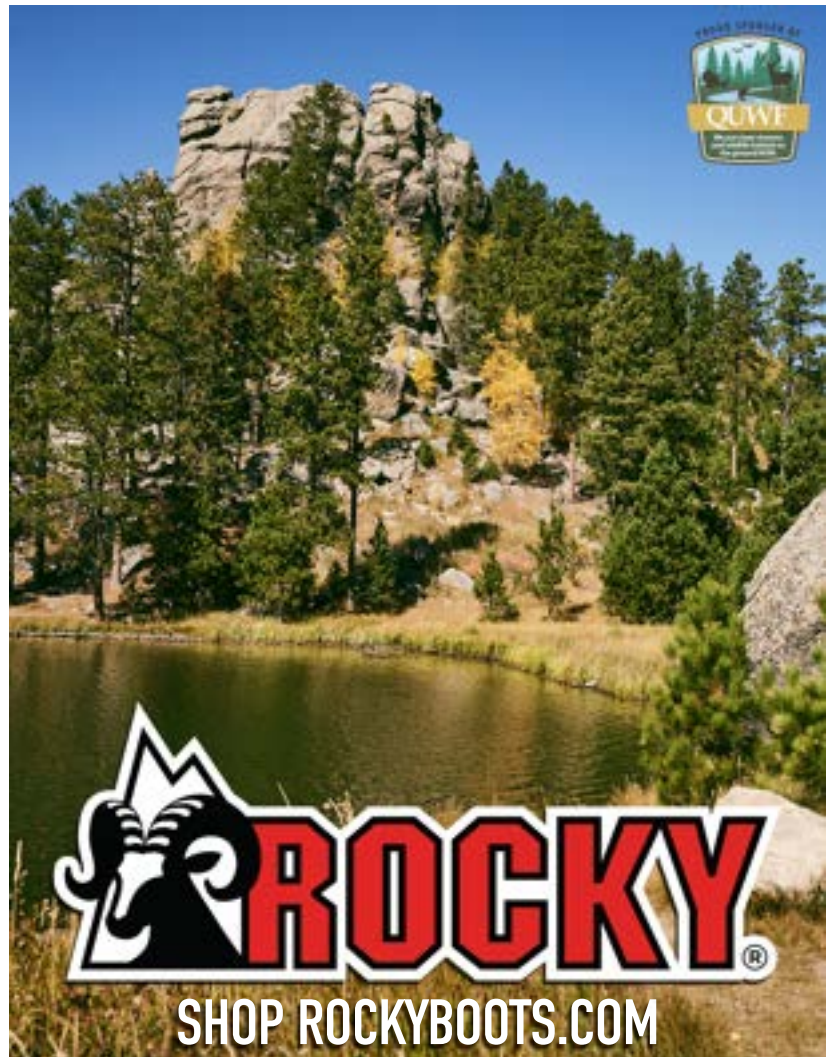
The USFS has a \$9 billion budget, 35,000 employees, 600 ranger districts, and 193 million acres, including 154 national forests, 209 national grasslands, 80 experimental forests and 6 national monuments in 40 states.

To enable mobility in isolated rural areas, USFS has a fleet of over 18,250 vehicles, one for every two employees. The agency says more than 9,000 of those vehicles are pickups, mostly Ford F-150s.

Now it proposes to replace that fleet with electric vehicles to prove it can be done, reducing one agency’s carbon footprint, doing its part to address climate change.

**Continued on Page 15**

Species	Area	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3
Mourning dove	Statewide	Sept. 1 - Oct. 15	Nov. 1 - 26	Dec. 16 - Jan. 3
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Nov. 28		
Snipe	Statewide	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16		
Sora rail	Statewide	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9		
Early teal	Statewide	Sept. 9 - 24		
Ducks, coots, and mergansers	North Zone	Oct. 28 - Dec. 17	Dec. 26 - Jan. 3	
	Central Zone	Nov. 4 - 12	Nov. 24 - Jan. 13	
	South Zone	Nov. 11 - 12	Dec. 2 - Jan. 28	
Geese (Canada, brant, white-fronted, snow, and Ross's)	North Zone	Sept. 9 - 17	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	Nov. 18 - Feb. 11
	Central Zone	Sept. 9 - 17	Nov. 4 - 18	Nov. 24 - Feb. 11
	South Zone	Sept. 9 - 17	Nov. 11 - Feb. 11	
Youth and veterans only hunting days	North Zone	Oct. 21 - 22		
	Central Zone	Oct. 28 - 29		
	South Zone	Nov. 4 - 5		



**Continued from Page 14** — The new fleet will be phased-in, beginning with a small experiment — three Ford F-150 Lightnings. Does it even need to be said that a healthy forest does far more to sequester carbon dioxide than all the electric vehicles in the world? Or that forest fires in the U.S. release more CO2 and particulate pollution annually than all the cars?

## OK: Selman bat watches on hold for 2023

After 26 seasons, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is pausing the popular Selman Bat Watch program.

“Over the next few months, we will be taking a detailed look at how we can best serve our outdoor constituents with outreach programs like these and how we can most effectively manage wildlife resources across the state,” said Kurt Kuklinski, Wildlife Diversity Supervisor. “We are so thankful for the incredible team of volunteers and conservation partners, and the leadership of recently retired Selman Bat Watch coordinator Melynda Hickman, that made each and every bat watch a success. Without their dedication and support, we wouldn’t have been able to share this experience with thousands of visitors.”



Though public visits to Selman Bat Cave Wildlife Management Area are on hold, the Wildlife Department will continue to conserve the area’s healthy population of Mexican free-tailed bats and their sensitive cave habitat. The migratory bats arrive in the state in spring, and pregnant females navigate to Selman Bat Cave or one of the state’s three other known maternity caves where they each give birth to one pup.

**Continued on Page 16**



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**Continued from Page 15** — The bats emerge at dusk to feed on flying insects and may forage up to 50 miles from the cave before returning at dawn. Due to the sensitive nature of the bat cave, unregistered visitors aren't allowed onsite to keep human disturbance of this important habitat to a minimum. The Wildlife Department bought Selman Bat Cave and the surrounding 340 acres of land in 1995 with [funds donated](#) to the [Wildlife Diversity Program](#) and from hunting and fishing license revenue.

## Vermont's Summer Free Fishing Day is June 10

**MONTPELIER, Vt.** — Vermont's annual, statewide Summer Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 10 this year, and it will be highlighted by a free family fishing festival in Grand Isle as well as opening day of the state's regular bass fishing season.

"Vermont's Free Fishing Day gives resident and nonresident anglers the opportunity to go fishing without a license for the day in Vermont lakes and streams," said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. "Free Fishing Day is a great opportunity for an experienced angler to be a mentor to friends who have not gone fishing before. A day on the water could lead to a lifetime of great experiences and healthy local food."

Free Fishing Day in Vermont also will be celebrated at the "**Grand Isle Family Fishing Festival**," to be held at the Ed Weed Fish Culture Station at 14 Bell Hill Road in Grand Isle. The festival will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Designed for young anglers and families, this exciting event offers basic fishing instruction and the chance for kids to catch big trout in a hatchery pond. No prior fishing experience is needed, and Vermont Fish and Wildlife will be supplying fishing rods, reels and bait for use by participants.

Vermont's regular bass season also opens on June 10, marking the start of some of the hottest bass fishing action in the northeast. The season opens each year on the second Saturday in June and extends through the last day of November.

To learn more about fishing in Vermont or to purchase a fishing license, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

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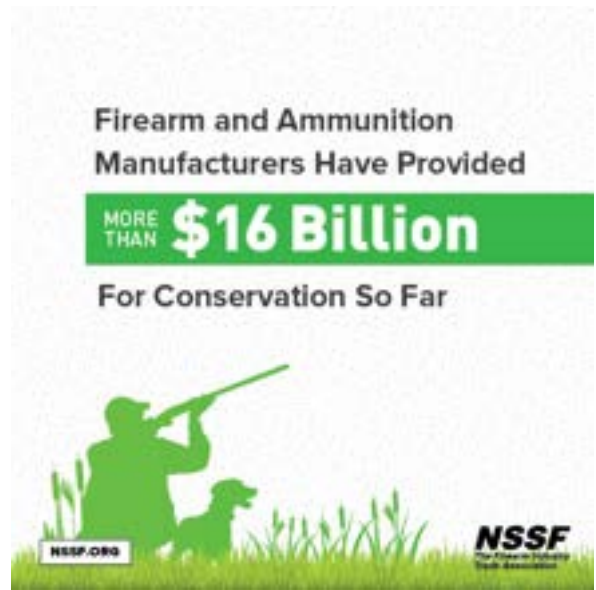
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# Firearm industry surpasses \$16 billion in excise tax contributions

**Editor’s Note: Make sure you take an active roll and find out where and how your state is using these dollars. It may surprise you.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, celebrated a milestone achievement after announcing firearm and ammunition manufacturers topped **\$16.1 billion** in excise tax contributions to the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund since its inception in 1937. When adjusted for inflation, the total is more than **\$25 billion**. The latest Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax (FAET) Collection report released by the Department of the Treasury, covering the 4th Quarter Calendar Year 2022, indicates that firearm and ammunition manufacturers contributed more than **\$235 million**, the third-highest 4th calendar-quarter in history.

“The entire firearm and ammunition industry should celebrate this truly outstanding achievement and take pride in this announcement,” said NSSF President and CEO Joe Bartozzi. “The firearm and ammunition industry understands the conservation of wildlife and the habitats in which they thrive are invaluable. They are critical to future generations taking part in hunting and the recreational shooting sports traditions and learning about their vital importance.



Continued on Page 19

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*Review all products online at [www.alpsbrands.com](http://www.alpsbrands.com)*

**Continued from Page 17** — The Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, funded significantly by taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers, is responsible for the restoration and recovery of America’s iconic game species across the country, including the Rocky Mountain elk, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope, wild turkey and a variety of waterfowl. These contributions have also facilitated the remarkable recovery of the majestic American bald eagle, of which there are now more than 316,000 in the lower 48 states. The firearm and ammunition industry is filled with pride to achieve this landmark for conservation funding and the role our industry plays to ensure America’s wildlife is perpetuated for future generations.”

The astonishing total represents more than \$1 billion contributed to conservation since announcing crossing the \$15 billion contribution threshold just 12 months ago. It was less than one year before that remarkable achievement that NSSF announced Firearm and Ammunition Excise Tax contributions surpassed \$14 billion.

The Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, commonly known as [the Pittman-Robertson fund](#), is funded by excise taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers on their products, as well as archery equipment manufacturers. The excise tax is set at 11 percent of the wholesale price for long guns and ammunition and 10 percent of the wholesale price for handguns. The excise tax, paid by manufacturers and importers, applies to all firearms produced or imported for commercial federal law enforcement sales, whether the purpose is for recreational shooting, hunting or personal defense. The tax is administered by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) of the Department of the Treasury, which turns the funds over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

USFWS deposits the Pittman-Robertson revenues into a special account called the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund administered by the USFWS. These funds are made available to states and territories the year following their collection based on a statutory formula.

These 10 to 11 percent excise tax dollars collected since 1937 under the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act are specifically designated to be used by state wildlife agencies for conservation and related purposes. Collectively, purchasers of firearms and ammunition, hunters and the industry are the greatest source of wildlife conservation funding.

## Hoppe’s celebrates 120 years of cleaning perfection

**OVERLAND PARK, Kan.** — Hoppe’s, the No.1 name in gun care products, is celebrating its 120th anniversary this year, a major milestone for the industry’s oldest gun cleaning supply brand.

Hoppe’s began in 1903 when Frank August Hoppe mixed nine chemicals together to create the famous Hoppe’s No. 9, the world’s most effective gun cleaner. Since then, the brand has grown and expanded from gun cleaning solvents to oils, tools and other supplies, and in the process has become the most trusted name in gun care.

Some of Hoppe’s most popular products today include the quick and easy [BoreSnake™](#), [GunMedic™](#), and a variety of all-in-one [cleaning kits](#). From veteran hunters and shooters to young beginners, the legendary smell of Hoppe’s has made the brand a must-have item for any gun room. Hoppe’s has prided itself over the last 120 years as the only name you need to know for taking care of your firearms.

“Hoppe’s has been at the forefront of gun care for a long time, and everyone on the team is proud to continue this legacy that began 120 years ago,” said Laurie Kokoruda, senior product manager. “We strive to honor our history with tried-and-true solutions like Hoppe’s No. 9, while also pushing ahead to develop new products that make gun care faster, easier and more effective.”

To learn more about Hoppe’s, its 120-year legacy and its full lineup of gun cleaning products, check out [Hoppes.com](#).



**Cowboy Wisdom: “Always remove your hat before eating at the table.” - Kent Rollins**

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# Farmer Veteran Coalition announces USDA program

Farmer Veteran Coalition is happy to announce that they are sub-awardees for **Flower Hill Institute's** USDA FSA Emergency Relief Program (ERP) 2. This program raises awareness of FSA's continuing relief efforts for disasters in 2020 and 2021, and provides information and technical assistance (TA) to producers who wish to participate in ERP 2 and FSA's other farm funding and disaster assistance programs.

ERP 2 covers losses to crops, trees, bushes, and vines due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021. Phase 2 intends to fill additional assistance gaps and cover eligible producers who did not participate in existing risk management programs.

If you want to know if you were in a designated disaster site, use this link: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/disaster-designation-information/index>

You can email us at [support@farmvetco.org](mailto:support@farmvetco.org) or call our support number at 855-FVC-FARM (855-382-3276). We can help you determine if you are an eligible producer, have eligible commodities, and figure out what your benchmark years are. We can also assist with filing out the Technical Assistance request form.

To access the Technical Assistance request form, click the link below: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7406aa0a48194dc2a302a64bb1036eb9>

To learn more about the claim process, please visit the link below: <https://flowerhill.institute/usda-fsa>

**DO NOT DELAY, CLAIMS MUST BE FILED BY JUNE 2, 2023.**

*The FSA Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Outreach and Technical Assistance program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the USDA, FSA Outreach Office. The FSA ERP Coordinators do not offer or provide direct contractor services or financial capital, nor does the voluntary use of this program guarantee the success of a loan application.*

*This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number FSA23CPT0012915.*

**Project Fact Sheet**  
**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**  
 Outreach, Education, & Technical Assistance

**Overview**  
 In April 2023, FLOWER HILL INSTITUTE (FHI) executed a cooperative agreement with Farm Service Agency to provide nationwide Outreach, Education, & Technical Assistance to producers who wish to participate in ERP-Phase 2 and FSA's other farm funding and disaster assistance programs. To assist in this effort, FHI has partnered, through subsequent collaborative agreements, with the following 4 organizations:

**FARMER VETERAN COALITION**  
**LATINO FARMERS & RANCHERS INTERNATIONAL**  
**FARMER'S OUTREACH SOLUTIONS**  
**WOMEN IN RANCHING**

**Goals for this program:**

- To raise awareness of FSA's continuing relief efforts;
- To identify, educate, and provide technical assistance (TA) to qualifying underserved producers in understanding and fulfilling ERP-2 application submission requirements and post-award obligations; and
- To technically assist producers in enrolling in an appropriate Risk Management program for their operation.

**Assistance that can be requested:**  
 To request assistance under USDA's FSA ERP-2 Outreach, Education, & Technical Assistance Program, please visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](https://www.fsa.usda.gov) or use the QR code to go directly to the Technical Assistance request page. You may also request a printed TA Request Form, then submit the completed form to an FHI Team Member or Collaborator Organization representative.

Understanding FSA Processes     ERP-2 Application     Post Award Obligations  
 Insurance Coverage Options     Record Keeping     Financial/Tax Support  
 Other FSA Retail Programs

**Emergency Relief Program (ERP) – Phase 2**    **Applications due: June 2, 2023**  
 ERP covers losses to crops, trees, bushes, and vines due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021. Phase 2 intends to fill additional assistance gaps and cover eligible producers who did not participate in existing risk management programs. In general, payments for ERP Phase 2 are based on the difference in allowable gross revenue between the selected representative benchmark year(s) and the disaster year(s).

**Disclaimer:**  
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