



# THE HABITAT GUIDE



**Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation**  
Making a Difference for Wildlife and Clean Streams, One Acre, One Stream, at a Time

## Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

### Notes from the Dashboard: Drought lemonade

#### QUWF begins turkey poult survey online

Please help us better understand the sightings and nest success in your area for the wild turkey.

By completing the online survey posted on our **QUWF Inc. Facebook page**, you can help us know how the spring nesting season is working out in your area and around the country.



**By Craig Alderman** — As all have heard, we are under a drought condition here in the Midwest, and the upper Midwest, and yes, we can smell the Canadian fires. Is it abnormal to me, living here 25 years? No. Is it global warming? I doubt it; it’s weather patterns repeating from years ago doing the same thing. Are we below average in rain fall? NO, but it comes in fast spurts doing little for crops and hay production.

Trying to understand the logic of weather is not reasonable and can cause alcoholism. Trying to work around its temperament and reality is.

So, how does one make lemonade out of the lemons of Mother Nature? Planning and observation. The very low water levels or dry creek beds in the creeks and some streams do allow repairs of crossings, repairs of banks and roads and installation of flash flood culverts while you can get to the areas. Removal of obstructions to the flow like fallen trees or large boulders in the streams now is possible.



In forestry, we used to plan for a “frozen harvest” every 25 years of areas too remote and with soft ground access. But once every 25 years the ground froze very solid for equipment to get in and harvest what need to be thinned. Same with drought lemonade.

In the Niangua QUWF Coop, we worked with landowners to do just that, we got a dozer in to clear creeks, move out obstruction and clear an area of access previously inaccessible. Chain saws cleared downed trees from the access roads. If flash floods do come, and they will, it should help preserve the access and the approaches were angled 30 degrees to the creek flow.

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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.

**Continued from Page 1** — Up north, our chief biologist was managing four projects at the same time, clearing areas for wildlife, installing ponds and treating for invasives like thistle and teasel.

Like nature, we cannot stand still, there are projects that we can get done in preparation for the future in both weather, wildlife and crops. We cannot change the cards we are dealt but we can better prepare for the next hand, making drought lemonade.

Catch you across the creek we fixed.

*Craig Alderman is the QUWF executive director.*



## Gov. Sanders kicks off Delta Waterfowl Duck expo

When the waterfowl hunting world convenes on Friday, July 28 for the Delta Waterfowl Duck Hunters EXPO, it's fitting that the opening salvo—the show's first hail call—would come from Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, a duck hunter herself and champion of the outdoor economy in the Natural State.

Gov. Sanders will open the EXPO during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:45 a.m. Friday in the main entrance of the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

“We’re honored that Gov. Sanders will join us to celebrate conservation, ducks, and duck hunting in the great state of Arkansas,” said Dr. Scott Petrie, chief executive officer of Delta Waterfowl. “Our board of directors, staff, volunteers, and members deeply appreciate the governor’s passion for duck hunting and her belief in the economic and recreational benefits it brings to the people of Arkansas and throughout North America.”

Gov. Sanders was inaugurated in January as the first female governor of Arkansas. Before being elected as the state’s 47th governor, she served as White House press secretary from 2017 to 2019 for President Trump. In Arkansas, Sanders has enacted reforms to education, public safety, taxes, and state government. She also introduced the Natural State Initiative to grow the outdoor economy of Arkansas.

“Arkansas is home to the finest duck hunting on the face of the earth,” said Gov. Sanders. “We are proud to host this year’s Delta Waterfowl Duck Hunters EXPO in our capital city and welcome sportsmen, conservationists, and industry leaders from around the country. This is a chance to show tens of thousands of duck hunters the promise of Arkansas’ natural beauty and outdoor economy.”



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**Continued from Page 2** — Delta’s 2023 EXPO, which is presented by Federal Premium Ammunition, returns to Arkansas after drawing 23,500 people last year. It’s a major celebration, bringing together a who’s who of the waterfowl hunting world.

The 80,000-square-foot show floor is loaded with hundreds of exhibits, where you can find all the gear you’ll need for the upcoming hunting season. The Expo’s many attractions include the Duck Dog Stage presented by Eukanuba and Lucky Duck, the Duck Hunters Stage presented by Benelli, and the Delta Waterfowl Stage presented by BOSS Shotshells and First Lite. In addition, the Expo features a Duck Dog Parade, Callmakers Championship, the World Championship Cutdown Duck Calling Contest, and the Duck Hunters Grand Banquet.

## Training course offered for new hunter ed instructors

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is offering a New Instructor Training Course for people interested in volunteering to teach Hunter Education in Vermont.

The training will take place Saturday, August 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Buck Lake Green Mountain Conservation Camp in Woodbury.

Policies and procedures, field techniques and teaching methods will be covered to give instructors the tools to teach future hunters how to have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Applicants are required to pass a background check with a Vermont State Game Warden and apprentice-teach with a chief instructor before they will receive their full State of Vermont Hunter Education Instructor certification.

“Our hunter education instructors are all volunteers, donating their time to pass on a cherished Vermont tradition,” said Hunter Education Training Coordinator Nathan Lafont. “The hours our instructors put in will leverage federal dollars that enable the Hunter Education Program to function.”

Those planning to attend should send in a filled out application package found at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/128> and register for the training event online at [Event - New Instructor Training - August 5, 2023 in Woodbury, VT \(register-ed.com\)](#), or call the Hunter Education Office at 802-828-1193 prior to the course date.

“Additional instructor training courses will be offered in the future, and the instructor application can be filled out and submitted at any time,” added Lafont.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available for free upon request. Requests should be made as early as possible. Please call the office staff at 802-828-1193 (voice) or 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).

Iowa Learn to Hunt program opens registration for youth waterfowl workshop

Polk City, Iowa - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering a program to teach skills needed to hunt, field dress and cook waterfowl to youth who have little to no waterfowl hunting experience on Aug. 26, at the Olofson Shooting Range, near Polk City.

The workshop will feature knowledge and skills building sessions with hands-on learning as well as a live-fire wingshooting.

“For those interested in the challenge of waterfowl hunting as a means of sourcing their own protein, this program provides the opportunity to learn the skills and knowledge it takes to do it all yourself,” said Jamie Cook, program coordinator with the Iowa DNR.

Participants will learn basic strategies for hunting waterfowl such as proper equipment, where to hunt, safe shooting practices, and how to field dress, butcher and cook the ducks and geese. The wingshooting session will provide lessons on shooting techniques and range time for those looking to improve their shooting skills. The course runs from 2 to 7 p.m., and is designed for participants 8 years of age and older. The cost is \$20 for the course and includes a meal and a youth membership to Delta Waterfowl. Space is limited so early registration is encouraged. Youth must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

For more information or to begin the registration process, go to <https://tinyurl.com/4pam7e25>

The program is provided through a partnership with the Iowa DNR and Delta Waterfowl. It is part of a national effort to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters due to the overall decline in hunting and outdoor recreation.



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## Alabama fall BOW workshop is October 6-8

Registration for the fall Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop opens on August 1 at 7 a.m. for first-time attendees and August 7 at 7 a.m. for both first-timers and those who have previously attended. The event takes place at the 4-H Center near Columbiana, Alabama, on October 6-8, 2023.

The BOW workshop is offered through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). The Alabama Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is a sponsor of this year's event.

Designed for women ages 18 years or older, the three-day workshop offers hands-on instruction in a fun, outdoors setting. Participants can choose four classes from more than 50 courses such as backyard wildlife, camp cooking, map and compass, camping, mountain biking, shooting sports, fishing, hunting, canoeing, nature photography, archery, ATV handling, bird watching, boat handling and more.

BOW coordinator Marisa Futral said the classes are perfect for attendees who are new to the outdoors. "There are many ladies who have not been exposed to these outdoor activities and are apprehensive about trying them," she said. "BOW is ideal for those women because everything is taught at a beginner level."

The registration fee for BOW is \$275, which covers meals, dormitory-style lodging, program materials and instruction. For more information about this fall's workshop including a list of classes and class descriptions, visit [www.outdooralabama.com/bow](http://www.outdooralabama.com/bow).

"Enrollment is limited, and classes fill up pretty fast," Futral said. "Those interested in attending BOW should register as soon as possible to make sure they get the classes they want."

To view photos of past BOW workshops, visit Outdoor Alabama's Flickr at [www.flickr.com/photos/outdooralabama](http://www.flickr.com/photos/outdooralabama).

## AR: New division and partnerships for recreational shooters

**LITTLE ROCK** — Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director Austin Booth announced the formation of a new branch within the AGFC's ranks to focus on recreational shooting and the development of shooting ranges and programs throughout The Natural State at today's regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

"The connection between conservation and shooting is as old, at least, as (the Pittman-Robertson Act), which ensures that hunters and recreational shooters are the most passionate and impactful conservationists in the country," Booth said. "One of the biggest things that we hear from communities around Arkansas that they want more of is support around recreational shooting."

Booth said the Recreational Shooting Division will be headed up by Interim Chief Grant Tomlin, who has overseen this aspect of AGFC business for the last 10 years as a member of the agency's Education Division. Many of the AGFC's popular shooting sports programs, such as Archery in the Schools and the Youth Shooting Sports Program, have flourished with the help of Education leadership and support and will comprise the foundation of the new division. Establishing facilities through partnerships with local municipalities and entities also will be a major focus of the new direction.

To solidify his resolve toward the agency's new direction, Booth introduced the AGFC's desire to pursue a partnership with the city of Clarksville and University of the Ozarks.

In his first presentation as chief of the new division, Tomlin said this partnership will help grow the university's nationally recognized Clay Target Shooting Program by building an Olympic-level shooting sports facility in Clarksville for students as well as the general public. According to Tomlin, a finalized memorandum of understanding is still being completed for commissioner review and expects it to be presented next month.

According to Tomlin, the AGFC hopes to provide up to \$2 million in matching funds to help the university construct the proposed \$12 million facility. If approved, the match would be contingent on the university raising the remainder of the required funding.



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**Continued from Page 5** — Both the creation of the new division and the pending partnership with the university are key contributors to accomplishing goals set by the agency and director in [The Natural State Tomorrow](#), the AGFC’s 5-year strategic plan.

Booth explained that today’s announcement was only one of the agency’s many accomplishments in the last year during his [address to the Commission](#). He also highlighted the strides being made in habitat management and conservation on private land through the recently established Private Land Habitat Division, the record-breaking year in construction and infrastructure maintenance to promote access and increased habitat quality, and the evolution of the agency’s Black Bass Program to better align agency actions with the desires of Arkansans.

“When I look at where this agency is going, when I look at the hours that I see on everyone’s timesheets, our new pick from Gov. (Sarah) Sanders for a Commissioner, the most palpable and important thing this agency has going forward is momentum,” Booth said. “Thank you to the staff for your vision and tireless execution and to the Commissioners for your day-in, day-out support.”

The Commission also unanimously voted to lift all length and creel limits on Craig D. Campbell Lake Conway Reservoir beginning July 21 to allow anglers to catch and keep fish before the lake’s drawdown and renovation. They also heard the first reading of a regulation change to suspend boat dock and fishing structure permit fees on Lake Conway. If passed, the change will still require landowners bordering the lake to obtain and maintain permits under the agency’s official land use policy. The fees associated with those permits will be waived during the renovation process.

## Game and fish commission approves changes to budget

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission met this week in Wheatland. The seven-member board approved the annual Wyoming Game and Fish Department budget — a regular task at July meetings. The standard operational budget, which supports the day-to-day work of the department, was approved at \$99.2 million. Game and Fish doesn’t receive state general-fund dollars. The bulk of the budget comes from sportspeople.

The Commission also approved \$20.1 million for one-time projects that include funding the Jackson housing project and a portion of the state education and shooting complex project. In addition, the Commission voted to approve the projects presented by the Animal Damage Management Board. The department allocates \$200,000 annually toward predator control projects for wildlife protection.

In an effort to increase public access for sportspeople, the Commission voted to approve the 10-year renewal of the Dave Johnston Power Plant Public Access Area in Converse County, a new public access area on the North Platte River near Glenrock and a public access road and parking area on private land in Carbon County owned by Sims Land & Livestock, Inc. near McFadden.



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**Continued from Page 6** — The Commission also approved changes to a series of regulations after considering extensive public comment:

- Chapter 22, Watercraft Regulation.
- Chapter 44, Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points and Competitive Raffle Chance.
- Chapter 46, Fishing Regulations.
- Chapter 47, Gray Wolf Hunting Seasons.

The Commission received numerous informational presentations and updates. Game and Fish continues to monitor chronic wasting disease throughout the state and was presented with an overview of prevalence rates across the state and ongoing research. The department also provided an update on the Jackson employee housing project that is expected to break ground in August. Additionally, the Commission was updated on the use of revenue from House Bill 122 — which went into effect July 2021 — to secure public access for hunting and fishing. Portions of the funds generated were used in the acquisition of the Ellis Ranch and Pitcher-Brokaw access easement.

## Maine: DIFW creates new wildlife management area

**AUGUSTA, Maine** — The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and wildlife recently finalized a purchase of over 700 acres in the town of Rangeley, creating a **wildlife management area** that features over 600 acres of prime deer wintering habitat, and shore frontage on Ross Pond, which contains a wild, self-sustaining brook trout fishery.

The new parcel, named the Rangeley Wildlife Management Area, is the first to be purchased under a new law the legislature passed in 2021. The law directs the department to purchase land to create new Wildlife Management Areas with the primary purpose of improving or maintaining deer habitat in northern, eastern, and western parts of the state.

“This wildlife management area, located in the heart of one of Maine’s most popular outdoor recreational destinations, will not only enhance and protect deer, brook trout and other wildlife, but will also provide outstanding opportunities for those who hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors in the Rangeley area,” said Judy Camuso, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The site, just east of Dodge Pond, contains an active deer wintering area and other important wildlife habitat within a forested area that is just 2 ¼ miles from the center of Rangeley. Conservation of this area will provide essential wintering habitat for deer and will also provide public lands where people to hunt, fish and enjoy other outdoor recreational activities.

Public access to this parcel will be through a gravel road that connects the parcel to Route 16/4 in Rangeley. The department finalized the purchase of this parcel on June 14th. The Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust initially alerted the department about this parcel and potential for sale, and worked with the seller and department towards the sale and conservation of this parcel. Funding for the purchase came from the Maine Deer Management Fund, and federal funds under the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration program.

The new WMA features excellent deer habitat that is utilized by deer throughout the year. The Department will manage this as an active deer wintering area that will provide winter cover for deer, as well as provide plentiful spring and summer browse. The property also includes inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat and the western shore of Ross Pond, one of Maine’s Heritage Fish Waters.

Deer are at the northern edge of their range in Maine, and deer populations in northern, eastern, and western have declined over the past 50 years due to a number of factors including loss of forested wintering habitat, and impacts by predators such as coyotes and bear. Deer utilize dense forested softwood canopies as wintering areas for shelter and browse.



## Oklahoma waterfowl stamp art entries due Aug. 31

Every year for the past 42 years, Oklahoma has conducted an annual Waterfowl Stamp Design Contest to celebrate great artwork and to raise funds for wetland habitat projects across the state.

This year's duck stamp contest is under way, and all entries are due by **Aug. 31**.

Oklahoma is blessed with a tremendous number of excellent wildlife artists. If you are one (or know one who would like to enter), the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation invites you to get creative with us!

Any artist from any state is eligible to enter an artwork. The **gadwall duck** is this year's selected subject. The winning artwork will become the design for the 2024-25 Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp, which can be purchased by state waterfowl hunters and stamp collectors nationwide. The winning artist will receive a **\$1,200 purchase award**. Since Oklahoma's waterfowl stamp program began, about 12,000 acres of habitat has been purchased and many thousands of acres of habitat has been enhanced, restored and maintained for the benefit of waterfowl.

The current Oklahoma waterfowl stamp features a green-winged teal in artwork created by Scott Calpino of Bernville, Penn.

After the entry period closes Aug. 31, **public voting** will take place online and count as part of the scoring.

Wildlife Department judges will consider each artwork in terms of anatomical accuracy, artistic composition and suitability for printing.

For complete rules, go to [www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/resources/waterfowl/duck-stamp-program](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/resources/waterfowl/duck-stamp-program).

2023-2024 WATERFOWL HUNTING STAMP

Expires June 30, 2024

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## Iowa: Celebrate a child's first fish with certificate

Preserve the memory of your child or grandchild hooking their first fish this summer with a special certificate. Print the certificate yourself from an electronic file posted online or request a printed certificate.

Apply for a first fish certificate online at [www.iowadnr.gov/firstfish](http://www.iowadnr.gov/firstfish). It's easy and free to participate. There are no size, species or age requirements – only that it is the very first fish the angler has successfully landed.

Family and friends can join in on the celebration by viewing the first catch photos of their kids and other budding anglers on the [First Fish webpage](#) once the entry is approved.

Give your kids a lifetime of BIG memories this summer. Follow the simple tips for taking kids fishing on the Iowa DNR website at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/idnr/Fishing/Fishing-Tips-How-Tos/Taking-Kids-Fishing>.

# Federal Ammunition protests MN DNR rule

The Honorable Sarah Strommen  
 Commissioner  
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
 500 Lafayette Road  
 Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: DNR Order Banning Lead Ammunition on Some State Lands

## Dear Commissioner Strommen:

Federal Ammunition has been in Anoka, MN for more than 100 years. We are the world leader in ammunition design and manufacturing, and we proudly employ more than 1,500 Minnesotans. These are high quality local jobs. The city, county and neighbors have historically supported what we do because of the social, economic, and philanthropic benefits we bring to the region.

We are astonished by the recent Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) order banning the use of traditional ammunition on 56 Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) across the state. The order will affect thousands of hunters who pursue game within these SNAs each year, and greatly harms one of Minnesota's economic engines; the firearms and ammunition industries.

Federal's position on the use of lead ammunition is driven by science, therefore it must be concrete, not theoretic. We support science driven decisions by professional wildlife managers, which in this case is the consumer's choice. Those same professionals have a responsibility to implement regulations backed by the integrity of facts. Wildlife managers who fail to follow the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation undermine the foundation of the most successful wildlife management paradigms.

Minnesota DNR policy should focus on maintaining and growing hunting opportunities for all, not catering to the opinions of the extremes. This DNR decision was made in isolation – no alternative

viewpoints or stakeholder perspectives considered. An issue as important as this should have full transparency as well as stakeholder input and should be determined through the legislative process and not via agency directives. Constituents have no recourse and therefore cannot hold anyone accountable at the ballot box.

This action builds barriers to resident and non-resident enjoyment of our hunting heritage and the great outdoors. It will contribute to a price spike for Minnesota ammunition consumers. Alternative hunting ammunition (made of copper, tungsten, or bismuth) is significantly more expensive to manufacture and to purchase than traditional counterparts.

It is our belief the action taken was done based on theoretic claims of population harm while Bald Eagles and other raptors flourish. In fact, the MN DNR states the eagle recovery is a "conservation success story" and that the population has exceeded its recovery goal and continues to grow by over 30 nesting pairs per year.

There are significant negative environmental and economic consequences that follow this short-sighted policy. Traditional lead ammunition is almost entirely composed of recycled materials sourced here in Minnesota whereas alternative types of ammunition require mining or resource extraction imported from overseas or other states. Sourcing and employing locally is the right thing for Minnesota's environment and economy.

We are consistently the largest contributor in the nation to the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund (WRTF). We are an important stakeholder in Minnesota's management of wildlife and wild places. We are proud to support conservation through the federal excise tax, an 11% excise tax on every ammunition purchase. In 2022, the firearms and ammunition businesses combined to generate more than \$3.6 billion in economic output throughout the nation, putting Minnesota in the Top 10 for jobs, economic activity, and excise tax contributions. This policy undermines that support and dismisses industry input and ironically will hurt the very population it is intended to help. With less ammunition sold, there will be less money funding conservation through the Pittman-Robertson federal excise tax program.



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**Continued from Page 9** — In summary, this decision is made in contradiction to the science as it creates no measurable wildlife benefit. It dismisses strong Minnesotan/American jobs while promoting unnecessary and intensive resource extraction. This is yet another razor's cut at an outright ban of traditional ammunition, and ultimately, hunting as a scientific management tool.

We respectfully request that this rule be withdrawn and request a meeting with you, your staff, and the Governor. This order did not include a legislative process, public comment period or industry dialogue and the only certain result is harming hunters, Minnesota's work force, and the future of wildlife management funding in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Jason Vanderbrink  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Sporting Products, Vista Outdoor

## Michigan DNR expands pheasant release program

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' highly anticipated pheasant release program is expanding for the upcoming pheasant hunting season. This year, the program will include:

- Three times more rooster pheasants released than last year.
- Four new release sites in Cass City, Crane Pond, Dansville and Stanton state game areas.
- Additional releases in December on state game areas with an open pheasant hunting season.

This strategic expansion ensures a greater distribution of released pheasants and gives hunters even more options to explore Michigan's diverse landscapes.

“For seasoned hunters and newcomers alike, this is a prime opportunity for everyone to experience the thrill of pheasant hunting. We're excited to expand the pheasant release program and offer hunters a unique chance to connect or reconnect with upland bird hunting in Michigan,” said Adam Bump, DNR upland game bird specialist. “The increased number of rooster pheasants and the addition of new release locations ensure that hunters can enjoy a memorable hunting season.”

The rooster-only pheasant releases will occur Oct. 20 to Nov. 14, coinciding with the pheasant hunting season. All release sites that have an open December pheasant hunting season will have an additional pheasant release in December.

This year, pheasants will be released on 13 state game/wildlife areas throughout southern Michigan:

1. Cass City (Tuscola County) – fall and December release.
2. Cornish (Van Buren County) – fall release only.
3. Crane Pond (Cass County) – fall release only.
4. Crow Island (Bay and Saginaw counties) – fall and December release.
5. Dansville (Ingham County) – fall and December release.
6. Erie (Monroe County) – fall and December release.
7. Lapeer (Lapeer County) – fall and December release.
8. Leidy Lake (St. Joseph County) – fall and December release.
9. Pinconning (Bay County) – fall release only.
10. Pointe Mouillee (Monroe and Wayne counties) – fall and December release.
11. Rose Lake (Clinton and Shiawassee counties) – fall and December release.
12. Stanton (Montcalm County) – fall and December release.
13. St. Johns Marsh (St. Clair County) – fall and December release.

The sale of the \$25 pheasant license funds the pheasant release program, with pheasants supplied by the Michigan Association of Gamebird Breeders and Hunting Preserves.

“We encourage people to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity to connect with nature and experience the joy of upland bird hunting,” Bump said.

To learn more about the pheasant release program, including licensing requirements, season dates and hunting regulations, visit [Michigan.gov/SmallGame](https://Michigan.gov/SmallGame).

# Notes from the Road:

## Landowners make a huge difference for wildlife



**By Nick Prough** — Many of us have visited our favorite public hunting ground, whether that be a state wildlife area or federal lands over the years, and while they are a very important piece of the puzzle for both habitat management and hunting opportunity, landowners managing private land is also a very key part of the wildlife management puzzle as well.

In some western states, up to 80% of the land is publicly-owned land, but in many midwestern states such as Missouri (94%) and Iowa (99%) more of the state is privately owned. Private landowners have and will continue to effect wildlife populations and habitat management on a large scale when they have such a large ownership effect on the landscape. I have spent most of my career working with private landowners, whether that be for a state agency as a private land biologist, as a biologist for a large corporate landowner or as a biologist for a Non-Government Organization (NGO), so I have worked with landowners who have owned 1 acre to landowners who have owned 40,000+ acres and every size tract in between.

These landowners have a strong commitment just as farmers and ranchers do to the land and the landscape and for that matter the wildlife species that inhabit their lands. Many are very passionate about the land and wildlife and have a strong desire to do the right thing for the right reasons on their lands as well as passing their lands on to the next generation better than they received it.

Many of your QUWF chapters have in the past and continue to work with many private landowners in your respective states and core areas and that is definitely a much needed and valued effort no matter how large or small the landowner tract is.

There are many different ways you can assist a landowner, whether that be helping them with some labor needs on a new wildlife opening or brood rearing habitat they are creating by running a chainsaw, helping locate or move/operate equipment for them, providing them with some of your available resources, equipment and manpower as well as just being there to lend a helping hand when they need it. Some of your chapters also participate in matching challenge grant programs with state wildlife agencies where your chapter puts up funds to be matched by a state agency which in then can be put towards cost share for specific habitat projects a landowner may need assistance on.

I encourage everyone whether you are in a QUWF chapter or just a sportsman to reach out to your local landowners and see how you can be of any assistance this summer and well before the fall seasons will arrive. As an active habitat manager and biologist who is very active in the field, I can assure you there is never a month even when the temperatures hit 100 plus degrees as it is this week, that some type of habitat management activity can't be accomplished.

I have seen many landowners truly make a difference for quail, turkey, deer, grouse and many other wildlife on their lands across states from coast to coast as well as on many adjoining landowners who may or may not be doing habitat work themselves.

Once you get a few landowners working in the same direction and with common goals and objectives you start to develop the beginning stages of a wildlife COOP where landowners can further formalize equipment sharing, labor needs, habitat tricks/ideas, and other resources that can make everyone in the areas projects much more efficient and benefit the wildlife on an even larger scale. We continue to have numerous wildlife coops across the country and several new ones in the works, so be sure to keep an eye out as well for the next possible wildlife coop in your area as well.

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/landowner liaison.*

## ALPS Mountaineering's LNT80 trash, firewood hauler

ALPS Mountaineering, manufacturer of performance gear for wilderness adventures, exploration, and family camping, understands that minimizing mess and clutter is key to a fun and successful camping adventure.

One of the problems staying at primitive campsites or when overlanding is the lack of options when it comes to trash disposal. In the spirit of Leave No Trace, ALPS Mountaineering has developed the LNT80 exterior storage unit. Designed to fit securely and safely to external-mounted spare tires and tailgates, the LNT80 is the perfect way to haul trash and transport firewood to and from a campsite while keeping your vehicle clean and making room for other essential gear.



The LNT80 is designed to carry up to 50 pounds and is constructed of an easy-to-clean PVC material with heavy-duty hardware. Boasting an 80-liter capacity, the LNT80 offers plenty of storage space to keep your vehicle odor-free and handily solves the problem of "Where do I put the garbage?"

The system attaches to spare tires and tailgates with an innovative strap design that allows the main bag to be quickly removed from the mounting straps for emptying, cleaning, and storage. Also included is a vinyl-coated security cable to keep the LNT80 safely attached to your rig.

Leave No Trace is a critical practice to keep our wild lands litter-free and enjoyable for generations to come. The LNT80 makes this an easy philosophy to follow when overlanding or primitive camping, and it keeps your vehicle clean and organized in the process. A win for you and a win for the environment.

For more information on LNT80 and other sustainable camping gear from ALPS Mountaineering, visit [alpsmountaineering.com](http://alpsmountaineering.com).

## Where will the EV battery materials come from?

A top Biden official warned Thursday that looming shortages of critical minerals threaten the global energy transition, potentially causing prices to skyrocket and slowing deployment of renewables.

"The global energy transition is ongoing, but it's also at risk," said Jose Fernandez, the undersecretary for economic growth, energy and the environment at the State Department. "Within a decade, shortages of critical minerals such as lithium, graphite and copper will increase prices and slow the deployment of clean energy technologies."

One report, released Wednesday, found the global energy transition could fuel shortages in EV battery metals and minerals unless investment and production are ramped up and new mines are approved at a faster clip.

Around \$70 billion will be needed annually to accelerate the production of critical minerals, according to a coalition of international mining companies, renewables firms, financial institutions and nonprofits called the Energy Transitions Commission.

The demand for minerals is going to quickly outstrip domestic production, and the U.S. and its allies will need to look abroad. The demand for lithium alone is projected to grow by as much as 42 times if we are going to reach our goals by 2050.



## More than 400 Florida residents gather to discuss CWD

**Editor's Note: Do you notice there is no mention of controlling or testing penned cervids, where CWD originates and spreads from? Until the source is addressed, hunter restrictions are but a band aid on the real problem.**

Following confirmation of a positive test for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a white-tailed deer in Holmes County, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) conducted a public meeting in Bonifay. The meeting provided information about CWD and an opportunity for area residents to ask questions about CWD and CWD management strategies.

More than 400 members of the public attended the meeting, crowding the auditorium at the Bonifay K-8 school. Hunters, farmers, private landowners, taxidermists, meat processors, wildlife rehabilitators and other interested parties were included in the audience. Wildlife health experts and agency leaders answered questions about CWD, potential hunting regulations within the CWD Management Zone, CWD management strategies and sampling of harvested deer.

“The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are doing an outstanding job keeping the public informed,” **said Congressman Neal Dunn, M.D.** “Florida’s Second Congressional District knows the key to success is working together, just as we always do when faced with adversity. I encourage our communities to join me in supporting FWC and FDACS in their efforts to protect the public.”

“As a hunter, I know how important it is to stay ahead of the spread of CWD and how vital community support is going to be for our success,” **said Senator Jay Trumbull.** “We need hunters now more than ever to work with FWC and FDACS staff, continue to hunt and submit samples for testing.”

“We really appreciate so many community members coming out to ask questions and learn about our unified efforts to respond to this serious issue,” **said FWC Executive Director Roger Young.** “It’s going to take all of us working together to be successful.”

“It will take an all hands on deck approach to safeguard Florida’s deer population and our world-renowned natural resources from this animal disease,” **said Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson.** “The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will continue to work diligently with our state, federal and community partners to respond.”

The FWC and its agency partners take CWD very seriously and have implemented a comprehensive response plan. As part of the plan, the FWC will collect samples from specific established zones to further assess any spread of the disease. The results from this increased sampling effort will inform resource managers so they can respond with appropriate management strategies.

The FWC has increased CWD monitoring and surveillance in the area and FDACS is prioritizing CWD testing from all samples collected from the tri-county area.

The FWC is asking anyone who sees a sick, abnormally thin deer or finds a deer dead from unknown causes to call the CWD hotline, **866-CWD-WATCH (866-293-9282)** and report the animal’s location.

To receive updates about Florida’s CWD response, visit our [subscription page at MyFWC.com](#), “About Us” and “Sign up for News Releases” to sign up for a free information subscription service and choose “Chronic Wasting Disease Updates (CWD).”

A recording of the meeting can be found at [The Florida Channel](#).

**For more information, visit [MyFWC.com/CWD](http://MyFWC.com/CWD).**



## MD waterfowl blind site licensing process now available

**Editor's Note: If you have never experienced hunting geese on the eastern flyway in Maryland, put it on your bucket list. It is a fantastic experience with many locations and guides to choose from.**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is offering an online process for Maryland hunters to apply for a 2023-2024 waterfowl blind site license, which reserves a location for a landowner or authorized individual to place a hunting blind.

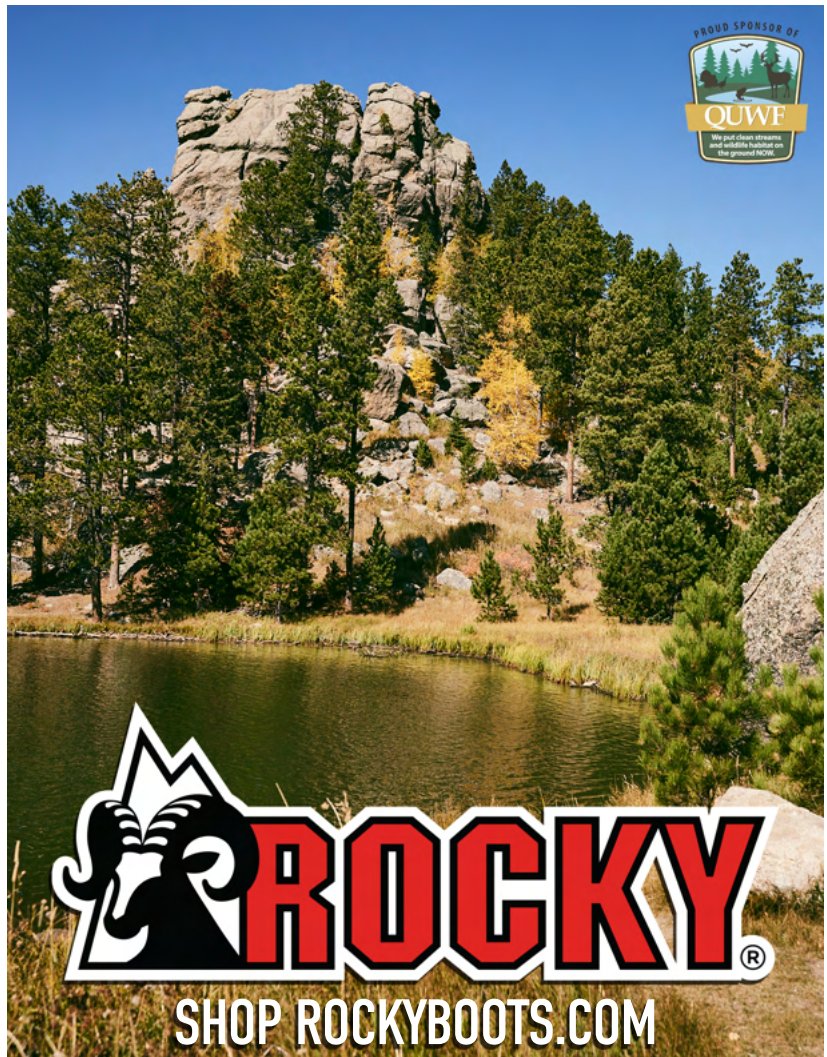
From July 12 through July 25 at 11:59 p.m., hunters may enter the annual lottery for the opening days of blind site licensing through the department's [Compass](#) licensing portal.

Hunters can register to be entered into a random lottery for a county of their choice. Landowners who would like to license their own property may also enter the same lottery. Lottery entrants will be asked to provide a current email address and phone number where they can be reached in the event of any connection problems.

There is no charge to enter the lottery. Hunters must be Maryland residents and must hold a current Maryland hunting license prior to their appointment to license offshore waterfowl hunting blind sites.

Additional information and important instructions are available on the [department's website](#). Winners of the lottery will be posted on the department's website and will be notified by email with the time, date, and virtual meeting link for the meeting. These virtual meetings will begin August 1, and continue during normal business hours. In some counties, appointments will take place on multiple business days.

After the opening days, blind site licensing for all counties will occur by appointment only. Customers may begin making [appointments online](#) on August 10 for virtual meetings that will begin August 16. Customers who schedule an appointment will receive an email that includes a virtual meeting link to communicate with Department of Natural Resources staff at the appropriate date and time.



# Once again, it's not the climate, it's the fuel

Wildfires are being drawn into the climate change hysteria as dueling experts seek to explain the warm, dry weather experienced this year.

One recent article moved past the climate concerns to explain how "[The truth about forest fires goes up in climate-change smoke.](#)" The author, Ross McKittrick, a professor of environmental economics at the University of Guelph, Ontario, describes how the number of wildfires and area burned have trended down over the past few decades in Canadian forests. He uses numbers from the Canadian [Wildland Fire Information System](#).

"Wildfires have been getting less frequent in Canada over the past 30 years," McKittrick writes. "The annual number of fires grew from 1959 to 1990, peaking in 1989 at just over 12,000, and has been trending down since. From 2017 to 2021, there were about 5,500 fires per year, half the average from 1987 to 1991."

In the U.S. the largest fire recorded was the [Miramichi Fire](#) in Maine, in 1825, which burned 3 million acres. Four of the ten largest fires reported in the U.S. occurred before 1910. The remaining 6 occurred after 2000. The most devastating forest fire is the [Peshtigo Fire](#), which occurred in October 1871 in Wisconsin, killing over 1,200 people and burning 1.5 million acres. The Fire Center's data is limited to the past 40 years, however, the [Wayback Machine](#) is a helpful resource.

U.S. wildfires have dropped dramatically over the past century, both in number and total acres burned. One forester was quoted stating, 'the science' is ignored" continuing, "Climate change doesn't make fires more intense, fuel loading does."

Focusing on active forest management practices, including harvesting, spacing and thinning, as well as prescribed fires would do far more to protect forested lands than locking them up in preserves and hoping lightning never strikes.

## 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.



## ALPS Mountaineering introduces new dutch oven carrier

**New Haven, Mo.** - ALPS Mountaineering, manufacturer of performance- gear for wilderness adventures, exploration, and family camping, answers the call by campers for a convenient way to tote and store their favorite Dutch ovens with the new Dutch Oven Carrier. Part of a new series of camping soft goods for 2024, the Dutch Oven Carrier makes it easy to move heavy and awkward Dutch ovens around the campsite and to store them conveniently in a vehicle or at home.

The Dutch Oven Carrier is crafted from a rugged yet stylish wax cloth material to withstand the rigors of the campsite. Soft cotton handles over the top and sides of the carrier provide two ways to carry heavy ovens securely.

Integrated into the bottom of the carrier is a padded layer. This prevents the oven's feet from denting or scratching other objects and prevents wear-through over years of use. Additionally, the carrier includes an exterior pocket to keep associated tools and utensils close at hand and a pass-through hole for your skillet handle to nest perfectly under the Dutch oven.

The Dutch Oven Carrier is sized to accommodate ovens up to 13 inches in diameter and up to 8 inches tall.

For more information on the Dutch Oven Carrier and other quality camping gear from ALPS Mountaineering, visit [alpsmountaineering.com](http://alpsmountaineering.com)



### 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).



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## MT FWP program to focus on shooting sports facilities

**HELENA** – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking public input on how it should move forward with developing shooting ranges throughout the state. An [online survey](#) is open now to gauge public interest in shooting ranges and public opinion on what should be included when considering the development of new shooting ranges or improvement to existing shooting ranges. This 10-minute survey will help gather detailed information to guide efforts throughout the next five to 10 years.

FWP recently launched a Shooting Range Development Program, with the goal of developing new FWP-administered shooting sports facilities throughout the state. Facilities may include archery, pistol, rifle and other shooting-related sports.

Since the launch of the program FWP has expanded the archery range at Lone Pine State Park, is completing construction of a new archery range at Big Arm State Park and will soon begin improvements to the archery range at Makoshika State Park.

A priority for FWP is to develop shooting range facilities close to major population areas around the state, including a flagship range that could be used for competitions, tournaments and education activities, such as hunter and bowhunter education.

FWP will use the survey results to help guide the department's shooting range development plans for the coming years. To participate in the survey, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/VT5YNW2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VT5YNW2).



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

## Help ensure Florida's manatees and sea turtles with decals

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is unveiling its new 2023 manatee and sea turtle decals. New editions of these high-quality collectible stickers are released every July and are available with a \$5 donation at your local tax collector's office. All proceeds from the decals help fund manatee and sea turtle conservation efforts.

The high-quality waterproof stickers feature beautiful original artwork and are designed to look appealing on a vehicle's bumper or the side of a boat. They can also be seen on laptops, water bottles and coolers throughout the state and around the world. Collecting them is a fun way for people to support the research, rescue and management efforts that conserve these species and spread the word about the challenges they face.

“Proudly displaying your manatee or sea turtle decal is a great way to raise awareness about challenges facing these iconic Florida species,” said **Ron Mezich**, who leads the FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section. “And even more importantly, all proceeds from the decals go directly to helping these species and conserving their habitats.”

**The decals also spotlight important conservation issues:**

- The “Healthy Manatees Need Healthy Habitat” decal displays a manatee mom and calf resting in a thriving submerged aquatic vegetation bed. Manatees depend on available forage as they are herbivores that consume a variety of submerged, emergent and floating plants. While boating in Florida's waterways, you can protect manatee habitat by avoiding shallow grass beds.
- The “Healthy Turtles Need Healthy Habitats” decal features a green sea turtle in a lush green seagrass bed. Green turtles depend on vegetation such as sea grasses and sea weeds as a primary food source. These plants need clear, clean water to grow in Florida's estuaries and lagoons. When on the water or at the beach, you can help keep coastal waters clean and clear by stashing your trash and disposing of it.

You can also support these species by purchasing a “Save the Manatee” or “Helping Sea Turtles Survive” [license plate](#) at your local Tax Collector's office. For additional information about how to get involved, you can also visit the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida's website at [wildlifeflorida.org](http://wildlifeflorida.org).

Learn more about how to help conserve manatees and sea turtles at [MyFWC.com/Manatee](http://MyFWC.com/Manatee) or [MyFWC.com/SeaTurtle](http://MyFWC.com/SeaTurtle). To view and order past editions of decals – from 1992 through 2022 – simply type “decals” in the search box at MyFWC.com.

If you see a sick or injured manatee or sea turtle, call the [FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline](tel:888-404-FWCC) at 888-404-FWCC (3922).



### In case you missed this ...

Over the history of the ESA (endangered species act), approximately 1,700 species have been listed but only 3% have ever been considered recovered. The last time Congress significantly amended the ESA was in 1988.

The Biden administration is implementing the ESA with a “whatever the cost” mentality that is impacting the economic opportunity of rural communities and threatening the property rights of their citizens, while doing little to recover species.

## ALPS OutdoorZ DEADQUIET shield bio harness now shipping

**NEW HAVEN, Mo.** – ALPS OutdoorZ, premiere manufacturer of extreme-duty hunting packs and outdoor gear, understands that many a hunt has been foiled by noisy fabrics. That is why the company has introduced a new line of accessories designed to ensure maximum silence in the field while providing optimal protection from the elements, starting with that essential hunting accessory—the bino harness.

The all-new DEADQUIET® Shield Bino Harness utilizes the proprietary DEADQUIET® fabric developed by ALPS OutdoorZ to create a bino harness that not only protects expensive optics from weather and environmental hazards but is also quiet in operation.

The layered DEADQUIET® fabric consists of a fleece exterior that effectively deadens the sound of contact with hands, brush, and other clothing. The inside layer is a rugged suede that offers silent retrieval and replacement of binoculars and exhibits a high wear resistance for years of hard use. Sandwiched between these layers is a waterproof membrane that keeps binos dry and protected in the harshest weather.

Built on a structured case design for added protection and support, the DEADQUIET® Shield Bino Harness is adjustable for a perfect fit as clothing requirements change throughout the season. MOLLE webbing is integrated into both sides of the harness so that left- and right-hand archers and gun hunters can conveniently position a rangefinder, call, or other attachments within easy reach without interference.

Additional features of the DEADQUIET® Shield Bino Harness include: suede-lined shove pocket that can accommodate a phone, handgun, or other gear; silent, zipper-free access; reinforced elastic tethers with silent swivels that can be easily adjusted or removed; bottom MOLLE webbing that is perfect for securing the ALPS OutdoorZ DEADQUIET® Ember Handwarmer.

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## Conservation license required to access most Montana lands

**HELENA** – Working with the 68th Legislature, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) simplified licensing requirements on state lands as part of Governor Gianforte’s Red Tape Relief Task Force.

The two agencies consolidated the conservation license and state lands recreational use license into one annual conservation license, supporting the maintenance of places like fishing access sites (FAS), wildlife management areas (WMA). On Montana school trust lands, conservation license sales will help fund Montana schools and other state institutions.

Effective July 1, Montanans who access state lands will be required to have a conservation license. Hunters, trappers, and anglers in Montana who have purchased licenses and tags this year already possess this license. “Fishing access sites and wildlife management areas represent some of the most amazing outdoor recreation opportunities we have in Montana. Access to all these sites for a small annual fee is a tremendous bargain,” said Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Director Dustin Temple. “By requiring an annual conservation license for everyone 12 and older who uses these sites, we’re ensuring the cost of maintenance is shared by all users, not just hunters, anglers, and trappers.”

Increased use on FAS and WMA sites has led to increased maintenance costs. Much of the increased use is from people who come to these sites to enjoy outdoor recreation, not necessarily to hunt, fish, or trap. With the requirement of a conservation license for everyone, that cost of maintenance is shared by all users.

On Montana state trust lands, the conservation license replaces the required State Lands Recreational Use License for general recreation on legally accessible state trust lands that are not otherwise closed or restricted. Recreational use fees are part of the revenue generated from state trust lands and help fund Montana schools and other state institutions.

“Conservation license purchases help fund Montana schools,” said Montana DNRC Director Amanda Kaster. “State trust lands are working lands and now it is even easier for residents and visitors alike who recreate on state-managed lands to do their part to support the education of Montana’s students.”

Hunters, anglers, and trappers are already required to purchase a conservation license along with their hunting and fishing licenses from FWP. However, for those people who enjoy recreation on any of Montana’s more than 330 FAS and 77 WMA sites, wildlife habitat protection areas, or legally accessible state trust lands, and don’t already buy a hunting or fishing license, they will need to have a conservation license to access those lands. These licenses, which cost \$8 for residents, \$4 for resident youth ages 12 to 17 and seniors 62 and older, and \$10 for nonresidents can be purchased at any FWP office or online at [ols.fwp.mt.gov/](https://ols.fwp.mt.gov/).

A Special Recreation Use License is still required for trapping, commercial or concentrated recreation, outfitting, or special events on state trust land. Information on access and licensing for special recreation on state trust land is available at [dnrc.mt.gov/recreation](https://dnrc.mt.gov/recreation).

Montana State Parks do not require a conservation license.

## The Canadian wildfires and smoke just won’t stop

New research says that wildfire smoke is more dangerous than other pollution sources. Scientists at Rutgers University say as that Canadian smoke travels into our area it heats up and collects toxins their [new study](#) says it's significantly impacting air quality.

These particles are too small to be seen with the naked eye and can be breathed deep into the body, entering the nose and throat and traveling to the lungs.

PM2.5 can cause short-term health effects, even for healthy people, including irritation of the eyes, nose and throat; coughing, sneezing; and shortness of breath. It can also cause long-term effects such as asthma and heart disease.

A total of 18 states are under air quality alerts, stretching from Montana to New York and as far south as Georgia, according to [AirNow](#), an air quality website run by a partnership between the federal government and state and local air quality agencies.

There are more than 900 active fires in Canada now, with nearly 600 of them deemed "out of control". The 2023 fires have burned more than 26 million acres in Canada -- more than 850% of normal and far surpassing the previous record set in 1995 of 17.5 million acres burned.

## Montana: Nonresident hunters can check status online

**HELENA** – Nonresident hunters who registered to be placed on the Alternates List can now check their status on MyFWP: [myfwp.mt.gov/fwpExtPortal/myDrawResult\\_input.action](https://myfwp.mt.gov/fwpExtPortal/myDrawResult_input.action). Every year, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks gets several unused nonresident combination licenses (big game, general elk and general deer combination licenses) returned by customers. FWP resells these returned licenses through the Alternate's List.

After registration for the list closed on June 30, the list was randomized. The hunter in the uppermost randomized position on the list will be contacted by email to finalize the purchase of the license, and so on until the returned nonresident combo licenses are exhausted. Licenses will start being offered for purchase early August.

[MyFWP](#) also allows nonresident hunters to check their position on the list.

The odds of getting a license from these lists vary greatly from year to year. Refunds and issuance may occur at any time after mid-July, but availability of these licenses generally increase between early fall and the opening of general hunting season in late October.

For more information, visit [fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licensedraw/alternatesList.html](https://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licensedraw/alternatesList.html).

## Nest predator bounty program sets record youth participation

**Pierre, S.D.** – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) today announced the final tail collection total for the fifth year of the Nest Predator Bounty Program as part of Gov. Noem's Second Century Initiative. For 2023, 50,552 total tails were submitted by 2,481 participants.

The 2023 program saw the highest level of youth participation since inception, with youth under the age of 18 composing 46% of total participants. Youth participation has steadily increased, with last year's participation at 32%.

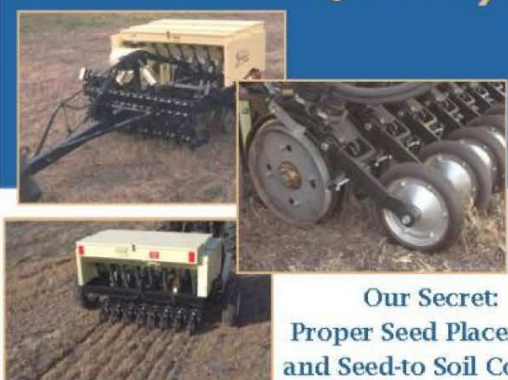
"It is very exciting to see the next generation out trapping and getting involved in wildlife management," said Kevin Robling, GFP Department Secretary. "Youth participation continues to increase each year of the program, and we are so proud to see more youth and families getting outdoors."

New for 2023, every participating youth received one free live trap when submitting their tails for the first time. In total, 1,014 live traps were distributed to youth across South Dakota.

"In an effort to get more youth involved in trapping, we offered a free live trap for every youth participant," continued Robling. "We also renamed our Youth Trap Giveaway in honor of Benton Howe. Each week one participating youth under the age of 18 was drawn to receive a raccoon trapping starter kit, trapping handbook, a knife, and a write-up remembering Benton Howe's love for the outdoors."

The 2023 program opened for South Dakota youth under the age of 18 on March 1. The program then opened to all South Dakota residents on April 1. The cap of 50,000 tails was reached on June 29.

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## Research seeks answers to MO River fishery decline

Biologists are continuing to tag and track walleye and sauger in the Missouri River and Lewis and Clark Lake between Fort Randall and Gavins Point dams as part of an effort to understand declines in the fishery following historic flooding in 2011.

Since 2021, 201 fish have been tagged in the river and reservoir as part of a study of fish movement. The fish sport metal jaw tags, but also have acoustic transmitters implanted in their abdomens. Fifteen receivers spaced every 5 miles throughout the system record any fish that passes within a half mile. So far, 44 fish have been caught and 39 harvested. Two fish have been caught three times.

Biologists hope to use this information to help determine why fishing has declined in the reservoir since 2011, when months of high flows flushed many fish through the Gavins Point dam. The loss included emerald shiners, the primary forage base in the reservoir, which hasn't recovered. Neither have walleye, despite more than 100 million fry and fingerlings being stocked since 2014.

Will Radigan, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate student doing the field work for the project, said so far the study has shown about 25% of the nearly 200 tagged fish are moving less than a mile, while 10% have moved more than 60. One fish tagged in May 2022 below Fort Randall dam moved 66 miles downstream to Gavins Point dam by September, turned around and went back upstream and was caught in April near where it was tagged.

Two walleye and two sauger have passed through Gavins Point Dam, a fact that is suspected to be part of the issue facing the fishery. Radigan is also sampling larval fish in the spillway below the dam and has found during peak entrainment, more than 20,000 fish per hour pass through the dam. More than 90% are freshwater drum, which is now the primary forage base in the reservoir, but walleye and sauger are also moving through the dam.

Biologists used nets, electrofishing and hook and line to catch a sampling of fish from different reaches of the river, reservoir and the delta at its upper end. They even enlisted the help of Mike Hansa of Yutan, a fishing guide with The Walleye Guys, who helped catch 56 fish to tag.

A few more fish will be tagged next spring, and tracking will continue through 2025.

Jaw tags are stamped with a three-digit number. Anglers catching these fish are asked to call the conservation agency in their state to report the tag number. If they harvest the fish, they are asked to recover the transmitter and return it as well.

In Nebraska, anglers should report tag numbers to the Northeast District Office in Norfolk at 402-370-3373.

Partners on this research project include the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources.

### In case you missed it: From the ocean?

With a Canadian company preparing a bid to mine the Pacific Ocean for minerals needed for electric vehicle batteries, an international oversight agency is meeting in Jamaica this month to come up with permitting rules.

A growing number of countries — [most recently Canada](#) — are opposing the prospect of quickly moving to allow ocean mining. They are facing off against mining proponents like China, Norway and Russia.

The debate around deep-sea mining — which some say could emerge as a trillion-dollar industry — is heating up as the world searches for materials for EVs and other renewable energy technology without disturbing land and critical watersheds. It will be up to the International Seabed Authority, or ISA, to determine how fast — and under what conditions — companies and countries can mine.

The authority missed a July 9 deadline to craft new rules, and is now required to consider — but not necessarily grant — permits to mine the ocean floor, even without environmental protections in place. ISA is made up of 167 member nations, plus the European Union.

**The United States isn't at the table as it's not a member of the authority.** But it's making its presence known through a 5-person delegation attending the talks, a group made up of officials from the State Department, NOAA and the Interior Department.

## Iowa: Learn to Hunt to teach fur harvesting

**DES MOINES** — The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering a program to teach skills needed to trap furbearers to anyone who has little to no trapping experience.

The eight workshops will feature several knowledge and skill building sessions with instructors that will teach the basics of trapping in Iowa.

“For those interested in the tradition of trapping as a means of sourcing fur, this program provides the opportunity to learn the skills and the knowledge it takes to do it all yourself,” said Jamie Cook, program coordinator with the Iowa DNR.

Participants will learn basic strategies for trapping such as proper equipment, trap placement, trapping regulations and steps for preparing hides for trade.

The courses take place in various locations statewide with times and details varying for each event. Each course is designed for participants of all ages. Space is limited so early registration is encouraged.

For more information and to begin the registration process, go to <https://license.gooutdoorsiowa.com/Event/EventsHome.aspx>

Courses will be offered beginning in August in Dixon, Forest City, Otho, Hazelton, Knoxville, Mt. Pleasant, Spencer and St. Charles.

The program is provided through a partnership with the Iowa DNR and Iowa Trapper Association. It is part of a national effort to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters, anglers and trappers due to the overall decline in hunting and outdoor recreation.

## Vermont’s migratory game bird seasons announced

**MONTPELIER, Vt.** — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has announced the 2023-2024 migratory game bird hunting season dates and bag limits.

A printable copy of the [Migratory Bird Syllabus](#) can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department’s website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) under “Hunt” – “Waterfowl.” A printed version also will be available from [license agents](#) and post offices in August.

A statewide Vermont open hunting season for resident Canada geese will occur September 1-25. The daily bag limit is five Canada geese in the Connecticut River Zone and eight in the rest of the state during this September season. The purpose of the September season is to help control Vermont’s resident Canada goose population prior to the arrival of Canada geese migrating south from Canada.

A second Canada goose hunting season for resident and migrant geese will be held October 14-November 27 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Zones with a daily bag limit of three Canada geese in the Lake Champlain Zone and Interior Vermont Zone.

In the Connecticut River Zone, the second Canada goose season will be October 5-November 3 and November 22-December 21 with a daily bag limit of two Canada geese.

Duck season this fall opens on October 7 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones and on October 5 in the Connecticut River Zone. The Lake Champlain Zone has a split season (October 7-11 and November 4-December 28). The Interior Vermont Zone has a straight season (October 7-December 5). The Connecticut River Zone has a split season (October 5-November 3 and November 22-December 21).

Scaup daily bag limits are a hybrid season this year. The Lake Champlain (October 7-11 & November 4-December 8) and Interior (October 7-November 15) zones allow the harvest of one scaup daily. The remainder of the season you are allowed two scaup daily. Within the Connecticut River Zone, you are allowed only one scaup daily for the entire season.

Vermont’s youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be September 23 and 24. Resident and nonresident hunters 17 years of age or younger on those dates may hunt ducks and geese within the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones during this weekend while accompanied by an adult 18 or older. In the Connecticut River Zone, youth must be 15 years of age or younger on those dates. Both adult and youth must have Vermont hunting licenses. The adult may not hunt or carry a firearm. Youth ages 16 and 17 must have a Vermont Migratory Waterfowl tag and federal duck stamp.

**Continued on Page 25**

# SAAMI welcomes AMMO, Incorporated

**SHELTON, Conn** — The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute®, Inc., (SAAMI®), is pleased to announce that AMMO, Incorporated, has joined SAAMI as a Voting Member. AMMO, Inc., is a manufacturer of ammunition and is headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona.

“We are very pleased to have AMMO, Inc., join the SAAMI family,” said Joe Bartozzi, SAAMI’s President and CEO. “They are joining a long list of leading manufacturers who are at the forefront of promoting firearm safety by the creation of standards that ensure the safety, reliability, and interchangeability of firearms and ammunition.”



As a new Voting Member, AMMO, Inc., will have a seat on the SAAMI Board of Directors and representation and voting privileges on committees. They will have the ability to introduce new cartridges for SAAMI standardization and will have full access to SAAMI firearms and ammunition technical standards, as well as the reference ammunition program assessments. This status also lets AMMO, Inc.’s customers know they support the work SAAMI does for the entirety of the industry and the safety of participants of the shooting sports.

## ALPS Mountaineering announces new trekking poles

ALPS Mountaineering, manufacturer of performance-driven gear for wilderness adventures, exploration, and family camping, has developed a new trekking pole system for 2024. Designed for both technical and casual hiking, the new Alliance trekking poles deliver the on-trail performance serious adventurers demand but in an ultra-lightweight design.

The heart of the Alliance trekking poles is the freshly engineered hybrid frame. Blending carbon fiber and aluminum construction, the Alliance poles offer the superior rigidity and stability needed for navigating the most aggressive trails, while the material combination makes a set of two poles weigh only 15.2 ounces.

Adding to the weight and fatigue reduction of the carbon fiber/aluminum poles are durable EVA foam grips. They allow you to grasp the pole in comfort while minimizing slipping hands even in wet conditions. Adjustable wrist straps further enhance grip retention and provide essential leverage when traversing steep terrain. Additionally, the Alliance trekking poles incorporate a high-quality, fast-locking adjustment system that lets you quickly adjust pole length for changing terrain and support needs.

The pole ends are equally adaptive to the environment. Beneath the rugged and removable walking caps are aggressive tungsten carbide tips that are ideal for traversing rocks and hard ground. For softer soil or snow, the Alliance comes with standard- and large-size baskets.

For more information on the new Alliance trekking poles and other outdoor recreation and camping gear from ALPS Mountaineering, visit [alpsmountaineering.com](http://alpsmountaineering.com)



**RUGER**<sup>®</sup>  
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## Share your observations of wild turkey hens with IN DNR

You can help the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) learn more about the state's wild turkey population by sharing observations of hens with and without poults (i.e., young turkeys) through Aug. 31. Each summer, DNR personnel and community members from across Indiana conduct brood surveys, counting hens and poults to estimate how many young turkeys live through the summer. Summer brood survival is one of the primary factors influencing wild turkey population trends in various regions of the state and informs the DNR's wild turkey management.

This year, the DNR aims to collect 3,000 reports across the state with at least 25 reports per county.

Observations can be shared at [on.IN.gov/turkeybrood](https://on.IN.gov/turkeybrood). No password is needed. This link provides survey instructions, an illustrative guide to turkey identification, and results of previous brood surveys.

For more information about wild turkey biology and DNR's management of the species, see [on.IN.gov/turkey](https://on.IN.gov/turkey).

## Yamaha announces the end of snowmobile production

**Editor's Note: For those of you in our Northern Tier states, this is a major point in snowmobile history. The snowmobile is as important as ATV's or UTV's in our northern states or Canada and represents a major form not only of recreation but working outside in the snow.**

### It's Been a Good Ride...

Regardless of the brand you ride, yesterday was a very sad day in the snowmobile world with the Yamaha announcement of their exit from the snowmobile industry.

Yamaha is a very respected name in the motorized recreation world, and well known for their reliability. In the US market alone Yamaha is selling 18 distinct snowmobiles, appealing to a wide range of tastes and requirements.

As [SnowGoer](#) pointed out, "there were many factors in place. The limited growth in the snowmobile market and Yamaha's relatively small position in that market were certainly important.

One big factor that some folks might miss, though, is the demise of snowmobile sales in Russian, Jaret Smith, Yamaha's snowmobile product manager, said. The Russian market topped 30,000 units as recently as 2014, and it was growing rapidly. Yamaha had a dominant position in the Russian market, particularly with its VK540 and VK Professional utility snowmobiles. Economic conditions and embargoes related to Russia's moves into Ukraine has cratered the Russians snowmobile market, and taken sales of out-of-country snowmobiles to zero."

[Yamaha](#) started its adventure in 1968, when it launched the SL350. It wasn't some incredible piece of engineering, as it used an engine developed for the motorcycle side of the business, but it opened the doors for [Yamaha](#) to enter what has proven to be a very lucrative niche for it.

Over the last 55 years Yamaha has sold tens of thousands of sleds, across all family types and for all uses, and on most of the continents of this planet. Unfortunately for the snowmobile community at large, that will end after Model Year 2025.



## Oklahoma: Second CWD positive deer confirmed

**Editor's Note: Once again nothing is mentioned about the "source of CWD", penned cervids. Until the states begin to limit the existence of penned cervids, nothing the hunter can do will stop the spread from the source.**

A second wild white-tailed deer has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Oklahoma.

The deer was located about 15 miles east of Woodward in Woodward County after a landowner reported the deer behaving abnormally.

Oklahoma's first case of a wild deer infected with CWD was confirmed the first week of June in Texas County, prompting the activation of the next stage in the state's CWD Response Strategy jointly produced by the [Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation](#) and the [Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry](#).

"We will be working through our response plan implementing surveillance efforts and steps to monitor and slow the potential spread of this disease. Our ultimate goal is to ensure healthy and well-managed deer with as little impact to either the resource or our constituents as possible," said Jerry Shaw, Wildlife Programs Supervisor with ODWC.

CWD is an always-fatal neurological disease that affects the brains of deer, elk, moose, and other members of the cervid family, creating holes resembling those in sponges. CWD transmission from wild animals to people or to livestock has never been documented.

The Wildlife Department has conducted CWD monitoring on hunter-harvested deer and elk, and road-killed deer, since 1999.

Department staff will continue monitoring for evidence of CWD within Oklahoma's borders and will release additional information, including ways deer and elk hunters can help with detection and mitigation, as hunting seasons approach.

Additional guidelines or management plans will be distributed and well-advertised if determined necessary to further protect Oklahoma's deer and elk populations.

Additional human health information relating to CWD is available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/chronic-wasting-disease#publications>.

For more information on the disease, hunting regulations, and proper disposal of infected animals, go to <https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/resources/deer/cwd>.

## SAAMI announces acceptance of two new cartridges

**SHELTON, Conn** — The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute®, Inc., (**SAAMI®**) has announced the acceptance of a new shotshell and rimfire cartridge for SAAMI standardization. SAAMI is the organization at the forefront of promoting firearm safety by creating standards that ensure safety, reliability, and interchangeability of firearms, ammunition, and components.

Click on the cartridge name to open the introduction package.

**28-Gauge 3"** – The 28-Gauge 3" was introduced by Olin Winchester with three loadings: 1? oz. lead shot traveling at a velocity of 1,200 fps, ¾ oz. non-lead shot traveling at a velocity of 1,350 fps, and 1 oz. non-lead shot traveling at a velocity of 1,300 fps, all at a Maximum Average Pressure of 14,000 psi.

**21 Sharp** – The 21 Sharp rimfire cartridge was introduced by Olin Winchester with a 25-grain bullet traveling at a velocity of 1,725 fps and a Maximum Average Pressure of 24,000 psi.

For further information on these new cartridges please visit <https://saami.org/technical-information/cartridge-chamber-drawings/>.



# 485 Northeast Canadian fires still raging

This map below shows many of the fires currently in Northeast Canada. Red denotes fires out of control, Green shows fires being held and Gold shows fires under control.\



As Canadian wildfire smoke blanketed Chicago on the last week of June, Tuesday and Wednesday, the Windy City earned the unwelcome distinction of having the “worst air quality of any major city in the world,” according to federal Air Quality Index readings. Authorities issued warnings instructing residents to stay indoors if possible or don masks if they had to be outside.

As Chicagoans looked out their windows in horror and disbelief, people in the West likely were thinking, “Welcome to the club.”

On Tuesday, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre reported 485 active fires burning across the country, of which 257 were out of control. According to the Centre, there have been 2,949 fires this year, resulting in about 19 million acres of land being burned.

## Get your parts and accessories ordered early

Negotiations seem to have collapsed between Teamsters and UPS and a strike looms.

Talks between shipping giant UPS and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union fell apart this week, increasing the likelihood of what would be one of the largest strikes in U.S. history.

The union has not gone on strike against UPS since a nearly two-week protest in 1997. If the union does go on strike, it would be the largest strike against a single business in nation's history.

Shoppers may find some products in short supply on store shelves, and materials for manufacturing may also experience delays.

## In case you missed this ...

Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm is touring the southern states in a Cadillac EV this week to promote travel by Electric Vehicle. The trip has not been without hiccups, mainly having difficulties finding chargers along the planned route.

NPR reported broken chargers and not enough chargers for the vehicles waiting in line. In fact, staff was sent ahead of the Secretary to "hold a spot" at the charging station, so the Secretary and her entourage would not have to wait.

Holding a spot at an EV Charger was not a crime, according to the police that were called by frustrated drivers, even if the car "holding the spot" for the Secretary was not an Electric Vehicle!!

The Secretary reminded the group there is funding of \$7.5 Billion that is being funneled to states to build EV Chargers.

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