

QUWF



Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation

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

THE HABITAT GUIDE

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

Notes from the Dashboard: Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours



As we gather with loved ones this Thanksgiving, we at QUWF want to express our gratitude for your continued partnership, and your support of and work in wildlife conservation. We wish you and yours a joyful holiday filled with good food and good company!



By Craig Alderman — First of all, *Happy Thanksgiving* to you and yours from all of us at QUWF. Time with family and friends is the most important time we can invest in. Yes, it takes focus and commitment in today’s instant world. If we do not, the very fabric of the family will suffer, and it does.

This morning brought 25 degrees to the QUWF farm. Make sure all your winter items are complete: liquids and chemicals put where they will not freeze, stored equipment batteries on trickle chargers, and hand tool batteries brought in for the winter. Check the water level in all batteries; use **ONLY** distilled water, not regular water. Check sprayers with antifreeze, all trucks, cars, tractors, dozers, side by sides with radiators, checked for the right anti-freeze levels; we use -30 here. Service all your equipment, including cleaning, before putting it away for the winter. Leave gas tanks full in the log splitters.

NOTE: If the vehicle battery is 4 to 5 years old, replace it with one that has the cranking amps equal to or greater than the original battery.

An overlooked but potentially a very costly additional action is **RODENT CONTROL**. Mice and rats will move into idle equipment to make nests and use the wiring harnesses and various parts as chewing blocks. If you have not replaced wiring, engine parts, etc. and you are on a farm or rural area, it will happen. A typical tractor harness will be \$500 to \$600 without labor. Protect it!

We put rat traps in all equipment from engine compartments and under seats to frame brackets on the side by side, and use AG grade rodent control chemical to fight the yearly onslaught. I use good traps that do not allow access by our farm cats. Normally as the weather turns colder, they head for concealed areas in and around equipment.

We put a large piece of flagging tape on the controls so we remember to remove the traps before using the equipment. Recently it took nearly 2 pounds of active AG rodent chemical to clear the pests from our dozer and side by side parked under cover. The big box store rat bait just does not work — it is more of a treat than a means of eradication.

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Continued from Page 1 — Also, I have barn cats, but the equipment is under cover outside which seems to be rodent active at night when the cats are in from the danger of coyotes. Anything in the barn from rats, mice, snakes, etc. meets its end from their patrols. They were so numerous that, when we had the recent bad storms and I parked our truck under cover, they chewed off the exhaust sensor wiring and the cover on the sensor, a \$600 repair. They chewed off the starter wire, neutral wire and nested in the clutch of the side by side.

We had not had a problem like this before other than with habitat seed storage in the barn with the cats taking care of that issue.

Nothing, nothing is getting cheaper to fix, get parts for or replace. Take care of what you have.

Thanks for all you do in wildlife conservation, may God provide you his grace and good health as we work together for what he asked us to manage in his name.

Catch you across the creek.

Craig Alderman is the QUWF executive director.

Snowmobile (winter riding) season is near

Editor's Note: Once deer season concludes and winter sets in, many, including yours truly, enjoy riding on marked and maintained trails through our woods and fields. Whether ATV, side by side or snowmobile if you are lucky enough to live in snow country, it is a great way to see nature. We also built many miles on our farm and still enjoy its natural beauty and wildlife. Our neighbors share trails and access making it a great ride indeed over thousands of acres. Be courteous, pick up all trash, leave the land cleaner than you found it. Always bring your camera.

While we don't yet know what winter has in store, state-designated snowmobile trails are open Dec. 1 to March 31, and trail grooming occurs when there is enough snow on the ground. Now is a good time to prep for the season (think snow!), starting with purchasing your snowmobile trail permit.

Michigan is home to 6,000-plus miles of DNR-designated snowmobile trails, public roads and public lands (only where riding is authorized).

Did you know that nearly 1,900 private landowners allow use of their land to create the trails network? Their generosity allows the DNR to offer trails that connect communities and bring snowmobilers to special places of interest that otherwise wouldn't be available to them.

"We're incredibly grateful to these property owners and their partnerships with their local snowmobile clubs," said Jessica Roehrs, statewide motorized trails analyst for the DNR Parks and Recreation Division. "It's important for all of us to give thanks to these landowners and to remember to be respectful of the land, wherever we ride."



Here is ride-related info to keep in mind:

- Always Ride Right: Ride sober, ride at safe speeds and ride on the right side of the trail. Get more tips at Michigan.gov/RideRight.
- Your \$52 snowmobile trail permit is valid for one year, which begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30 of the following year. Buy permits online through [eLicense](#) (your sticker will be mailed within seven to 10 days) or the [Michigan Snowmobile ORV Association](#) (which processes permit orders daily Monday through Friday) and in person at [DNR license agents and dealers](#).

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- Residents must also [register snowmobiles with the Michigan Secretary of State](#) (unless sleds are used solely on private property). Registration is good for three years, and those registration dollars support the purchase of easements, law enforcement on trails and safety education.
- The snowmobile program is 100% funded by trail permit and registration dollars that are directly reinvested into the program to benefit snowmobilers. The funds pay for grooming, signage, maintenance, bridge and culvert construction, purchase of new equipment, liability insurance, maintenance of trailhead amenities (signage, bathrooms, plowing of parking lots) and other snowmobile-related expenditures.
- Remember that some snowmobile trails may not be open Dec. 1 due to trail conditions or other factors such as in-progress maintenance projects. Know before you go by checking the [DNR's closures webpage](#).

Arkansas state parks expands accessibility

Arkansas State Parks is launched a new initiative on Nov. 22 to enhance accessibility across its properties with the unveiling of state-of-the-art accessibility equipment. Through a partnership with Accessibility Across Arkansas, Logoly State Park introduced an all-terrain wheelchair designed to help individuals with mobility challenges experience the natural beauty of Arkansas' State Parks.

These innovative Trackchairs, equipped with durable tracks instead of wheels, are designed to navigate rough terrain, gravel paths, and natural trails, making Arkansas' scenic landscapes more accessible. The first Trackchair at Logoly State Park will allow individuals to explore trails previously inaccessible to those with mobility challenges.

This initiative was made possible through a partnership with Accessibility Across Arkansas, a non-profit organization focused on improving accessibility and inclusivity throughout the state. Their support and expertise have been key in providing these Trackchairs for free use by individuals with mobility limitations.

Visitors can reserve the Trackchairs in advance on [Accessibility Across Arkansas's website](#). Reservations must be made 48 hours in advance.

Logoly State Park

Established as a state park in 1973, Logoly State Park was created as Arkansas' first environmental education park. The park includes a 200-acre natural area and park staff work with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission to conserve and protect the natural resources found in the park.

Arkansas State Parks

Arkansas State Parks is a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. Arkansas state parks and museums cover 55,006 acres of forest, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation facilities, and unique historic and cultural resources.

Established in 1923, Arkansas State Parks preserve special places for future generations, provide quality recreation and education opportunities, enhance the state's economy through tourism and provide leadership in resource conservation. Connect with ASP on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and visit [ArkansasStateParks.com](#) and [ArkansasStateParks.com/media](#) to learn more.



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.

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Data shows outdoor rec support 5 mil. jobs

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) [announced new economic data released today](#) by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) revealing that outdoor recreation continues to be a major driver of the U.S. economy, jobs, and local communities. According to the latest data from the BEA Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, outdoor recreation generated **\$1.2 trillion in economic output** (2.3% of GDP), comprises **3.1% of U.S. employees** and accounted for **5 million jobs** in 2023.

This is the largest recorded measure since the BEA started calculating the size of the outdoor recreation economy in 2012. According to newly revised data in this year's release from the BEA, the **outdoor recreation economy has grown 36% in real terms since 2012**. These new figures reveal that the outdoor recreation economy contributes more to the U.S. economy than farming, mining, and utilities.

This is the seventh consecutive year that the BEA has released government data on this critical industry sector. Today's release confirms the role of outdoor recreation as a central contributor to thriving economies, healthy people, and connected communities.

Jessica Turner, president of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), elevated the new data as a testament to the strength and importance of the outdoor recreation economy: "With over \$1.2 trillion in economic output and generating 5 million jobs, this marks another year of growth for the outdoor recreation economy, underscoring its resilience and importance across the nation. The new BEA data highlights outdoor recreation as a cornerstone of our economy, generating jobs, supporting small businesses, and providing essential opportunities for Americans to engage with the outdoors for health, connection, and quality of life. This new data should signal to policymakers and leaders across the country that investing in outdoor infrastructure and access must remain a national, bipartisan priority. We urge this Congress to take swift action to pass the EXPLORE Act, a widely supported package of bills that will help to ensure that all Americans have access to the outdoors and support the communities and businesses that rely on recreation economies."

Key Highlights:

- Nominal Gross Output: \$1.2 trillion, up 5% from 2022
- 36% growth in Real Gross Output since 2012
- 5 million jobs, 3.1% of Employment

Diverse Sector Growth (Real Terms):

- Bicycling up 11%
- Climbing/hiking/tent camping up 6%
- Hunting/shooting/trapping up 12%
- Snow Activities up 23%



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- Trips and Travel up 7%
- Lodging up 9%
- The outdoor recreation economy exceeded growth of the U.S. economy from 2022 to 2023 with outdoor recreation real GDP growing 3.6% compared to 2.9% for the U.S. economy and jobs growing 3.3% compared to 1.8%.

Continued Growth Despite Challenges: Despite economic fluctuations and market adjustments following the pandemic, the outdoor recreation economy continues to outpace the broader U.S. economy in several metrics. The data reflects increased participation across a variety of outdoor activities and a surge in related industries such as arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (up 6% in real terms).

Federal Support Remains Critical: The EXPLORE Act, already passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in April 2024, would help ensure that public lands and recreational spaces remain accessible and well-maintained, with updates in antiquated management policies, boosting the outdoor economy without new costs to taxpayers. As the outdoor recreation economy grows, so does the need for continued investment in public lands and infrastructure. Without updates and improvements, many recreation areas risk falling behind demand. Additionally, retroactively extending the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) by the end of the year would bring back certainty to the businesses trying to move supply chains out of China and keep their products affordable for consumers.

ORR continues to support the BEA's Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account. Just like is the case for many other industries, this annual data is vital to showing how the outdoor recreation industry has a significant impact on the national economy and job creation and contributes to the health and vitality of the nation.

Safety first during the gun deer seasons

Editor's Note: Blaze orange is the best safety color for all hunters, in all states. Again, it is the only color not in nature. Wear it for your safety and others. The point of knowing what is behind your target is also a key responsibility of all hunters and firearms users in all circumstances, all the time.

For an expected 100,000-plus deer hunters, the long wait is almost over, Iowa's gun deer seasons are right around the corner. But before heading to the timber, it's important that hunters go through their gear, sight in their gun and take time to review their hunting safety plan, said Craig Cutts, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Bureau.

"Hunters should check their blaze orange gear to make sure it still fits and that that orange hasn't faded to the point of being ineffective," Cutts said. "We're not hiding from deer during the firearm seasons; we want to be seen by the other hunters. The more external blaze orange that's worn, the better the chance that hunters will be seen in the timber."

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Iowa DNR to host CWD virtual public meeting

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has scheduled a virtual public meeting to update the public on statewide chronic wasting disease surveillance and management efforts.

The meeting is scheduled for Dec. 5, at 7 p.m., and will be hosted on Zoom. Those wishing to attend must register in advance using the link below. To view and listen to the presentation, attendees will need a computer or smart device (e.g., phone, tablet) with a secure internet connection. Attendees can also join by calling in but will only be able to listen to the audio. The recording will be posted to the Iowa DNR's YouTube channel and shared on social media platforms, when available.

To register to attend, visit: <https://bit.ly/CWD120524>

As of Nov. 19, a total of 397 wild deer have tested positive for chronic wasting disease in 25 Iowa counties.

“Chronic wasting disease will be a generational challenge,” said Dr. Rachel Ruden, state wildlife veterinarian with the Iowa DNR. “What we do to limit the spread of this disease today will pay dividends tomorrow, and we need everyone at the table.”

This public meeting is an opportunity for all Iowans to learn more about chronic wasting disease surveillance and management efforts in Iowa, understand ways they can help, and most importantly, ask questions.

“As this disease continues to expand its geographic footprint in Iowa, we encourage all Iowans to stay up-to-date on where we have found CWD so they can make informed consumption decisions,” she said.

Testing for the disease requires a tissue sample from a particular lymph node found just behind the jaw.

Chronic wasting disease is a neurological disease belonging to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) or prion diseases. It attacks the brain of infected deer causing the animal to lose weight, display abnormal behavior, lose body functions, and die. It is always fatal to the infected animal and is present in all tissues, including the meat.

To learn more about chronic wasting disease and the DNR's surveillance and management efforts, visit www.iowadnr.gov/cwd.

NSSF welcomes final rule on public land hunting

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, welcomes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) publication of a Final Rule that allows more opportunities to be opened for sportsmen and women to hunt and fish on National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs). The [USFWS announced](#) that 52 new distinct hunting and fishing opportunities across 211,000 acres on 12 NWRs are being added to the 571 existing NWRs and wetland management areas where hunting and fishing opportunities already exist.

“The Firearm Industry Trade Association celebrates every new and expanded hunting opportunity on National Wildlife Refuges benefitting outdoorsmen and women,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President & General Counsel. “It has long been the goal that hunting opportunities should be opened on public lands and made available to the public. They are the public landowners and the ones who are vested in seeing these hunting opportunities benefit sustainable wildlife conservation. The firearm industry is particularly proud of the conservation investments made by firearm and ammunition manufacturers through the federal firearm and ammunition excise taxes that are the primary drivers of wildlife conservation in America.”

NSSF, however, is disappointed that buried within this announcement are restrictions that continue to ban the use of traditional lead ammunition. NSSF will seek to immediately revise and repeal bans on the use of traditional ammunition in the next White House administration or through litigation.

Hunters and recreational marksmen and women should be free to choose the ammunition that will best serve their needs for ethical and efficient harvesting of wildlife. Wildlife management decisions should be based on sound scientific field data.

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Continued from Page 7 — Restrictions on the use of traditional ammunition should only be imposed where the sound science establishes a wildlife population decline caused by hunters' use of traditional ammunition and there is no other less-costly remedial measure available to effectively address the issue. Today's "Hunt-Fish" rule does not rely on such science that would justify restricting the use of traditional ammunition on the newly opened big game opportunities.

NSSF is proud that the firearm and ammunition industry has [invested over \\$27.38 billion](#), when adjusted for inflation, to wildlife conservation in America since 1937 through the Pittman-Robertson federal firearm and ammunition excise taxes. These taxes, paid by the manufacturers, are dedicated solely for the conservation of wildlife, the habitats in which they thrive, hunter education programs and construction of new, or expansion of existing, recreational target shooting ranges to promote safe and responsible firearm skills, handling and ownership. These 10 to 11 percent excise tax dollars collected for the 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.

In 2024, USFWS apportioned over \$1.6 billion to the states for wildlife conservation projects, of which [\\$944 million](#) was sourced from Pittman-Robertson excise taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers.

Utah DWR releases new tool for wildlife info

Editor's Note: Kudos to UTAH for this tool for all landowners and the people who lease or assist with those lands.

SALT LAKE CITY — With ongoing population growth and urban sprawl, increased renewable energy projects, and other ongoing multiuse activities occurring on public lands in Utah, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources wants to help make wildlife a bigger priority in the planning of new development and other land projects — and a public, user-friendly new tool released Thursday will make it easier to do just that.

The [Wildlife Habitat Analysis Tool](#) provides a "one-stop-shop" for research and other authoritative information about Utah's wildlife and plant species. The new tool provides geographic analysis and promotes improved wildlife planning efforts and environmental reviews by offering better access to data earlier in the decision-making process for various development and other land projects in Utah. In addition to giving information about various wildlife and plant species, the tool also provides mitigation recommendations and important site and landscape context for areas being considered for alternate designations and development.

"Utah has an abundance of remarkable plants and wildlife, and project planners and developers had requested a way to incorporate considerations for wildlife early into their project planning," DWR Impact Analysis Biologist Jess Kinross said. "This new tool provides resource specialists, industry, developers and others with the ability to make data-driven decisions and to prevent impacts to wildlife and their habitat by providing them with crucial information early in their project planning and development. Having an understanding of wildlife and their needed resources in project areas will provide the opportunity to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to our native species, which is a win for everyone involved."

The online tool can be found [on the DWR website](#) and works best on a desktop. The tool allows users to perform a dynamic analysis of a land area using the map interface or to generate a static analysis of an area as a PDF file. Instructions on how to use the tool can be found [on the DWR website](#).

"With this new tool, the public will have access to comprehensive Utah plant and wildlife information all in one place, in an easy-to-navigate format," DWR Natural Heritage Program Coordinator Maeve Stevens said. "Even if you aren't a developer, conservationist, or land-use planner, it's a fun tool that allows users to learn more about the interesting wildlife and plant species found in Utah."



All OK nonresident deer hunters need annual license

Nonresident deer hunters participating in any Oklahoma deer season this fall will be required to have a nonresident annual hunting license in addition to a deer license for each method they hunt.

This includes those hunters who had already purchased a nonresident deer license prior to July 1. The 5-day nonresident hunting license is not valid for big game.

Nonresident deer licenses purchased prior to July 1 for archery, muzzleloader and firearms seasons will be valid for the 2024-25 seasons, but those hunters must also possess a nonresident annual hunting license.

For complete rules and regulations for resident and nonresident hunters, consult the current Oklahoma Fishing & Hunting Regulations.



Federal judge eviscerates Illinois magazine ban

[Gun Owners of America](#) (GOA) and Gun Owners Foundation (GOF) secured a [permanent injunction](#) against the State of Illinois' poorly named *Protect Illinois Communities Act*. This law violates the Second Amendment and unconstitutionally bans many semi-automatic rifles, standard capacity magazines, and bump stocks, while instituting new registration requirements for gun owners.

GOA and GOF first filed suit in January of 2023, and within months secured a [preliminary injunction](#) against the tyrannical law. Frustratingly, the anti-gun judges on the 7th Federal Circuit Court blocked this earlier injunction, leading to today's final ruling on the merits.

Erich Pratt, GOA's Senior Vice President, issued the following statement: "This week just keeps getting better for gun owners and worse for anti-gunners like J.B. Pritzker. We warned them to fall in line, but instead they chose to do the opposite. And, while this case took time, we are thrilled with the victory and for the citizens of Illinois. We the People deserve the right to decide how best to protect ourselves and our loved ones, not anti-gun tyrants."

Sam Paredes, on behalf of the board for GOF, added: "This is incredible news, and we're so proud to have played a major part in defeating this egregious violation of the Second Amendment. No doubt Governor Pritzker will appeal, but we are fully prepared to hold him accountable to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights."

GOA spokesmen are available for interviews. Gun Owners of America is a nonprofit grassroots lobbying organization dedicated to protecting the right to keep and bear arms without compromise. GOA represents over two million members and activists. For more information, visit [GOA's Press Center](#).

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Five OK counties affected by CWD special surveillance

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological disease that affects the brains of deer, elk, moose, and other members of the deer family, creating holes that resemble those in sponges. It is always fatal to the animal, and no treatment or vaccine against CWD exists at this time. CWD has been confirmed in wild deer in Oklahoma and wild deer and/or elk in surrounding states including [Texas](#), [New Mexico](#), [Colorado](#), [Kansas](#), [Missouri](#) and [Arkansas](#).

When a wild deer or elk tests positive for CWD, ODWC activates its CWD Response Strategy. This includes designation of [Selected Surveillance Areas \(SSA\)](#) in Cimarron, Texas, and Woodward counties, and parts of Major and Woods counties.

Hunters who harvest deer or elk within the boundaries of an SSA must process those animals before leaving the SSA.



CWD found in Conway, Stone counties in Arkansas

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission recently confirmed that a deer in Conway County and another deer in Stone County have tested positive for chronic wasting disease. Both deer were harvested during the recent alternative firearms season.

The Conway County deer was harvested on Ed Gordon Point Remove Wildlife Management Area during the permit hunt there. Due to the close proximity of multiple CWD positive samples in adjoining Pope and Van Buren counties, Conway County was high on the AGFC's watchlist for CWD.

The Stone County deer was taken on private land adjacent to Sylamore WMA. Stone County is already included in the existing CWD Management Zone due to the close proximity of positive samples from Searcy, Van Buren and Independence counties.

According to AGFC Deputy Director Brad Carner, no regulation changes to the current deer season are planned. "In advance of modern gun deer season we want to encourage hunters to get their deer tested at any of our [free testing locations](#) around the state," Carner said.

AGFC Director Austin Booth says the agency will evaluate the need for any expansion of the CWD Management Zone and regulations concerning deer hunting during the hunting regulations-setting process once the season is over. "Local hunters can help us a great deal by taking advantage of the free testing facilities and getting their deer tested for CWD," Booth said. "More hunter-harvested samples means more chances to find any new concentrations of the disease and give our staff a better picture of the landscape so they can make better-informed decisions moving forward."

CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects deer, elk, caribou and moose. It was first detected in Arkansas Feb. 23, 2016. Since the first detection, AGFC has tested more than 61,000 deer and elk from across the state. To date, 1,769 deer and 56 elk have tested positive for the disease in Arkansas.

Research indicates that CWD is caused by a misfolded protein called a prion that is transmitted through feces, urine and saliva. CWD prions accumulate throughout the body and affect an animal's nervous system. The diseased prions cause normal cellular proteins to misfold into abnormal shapes that accumulate until neural cells cease to function. CWD can have an incubation period of at least 16 months, which means infected animals may not show immediate signs of disease. Infected animals in the later stages of the disease begin to lose weight and exhibit many abnormal behaviors.

Visit www.agfc.com/CWD or more information. To report sick or dead animals, please call 833-356-0824.



Notes from the Road:

Wildlife is one of the many things we are thankful for



By Nick Prough — This time of year, we often hear about what we are thankful for — our family, our health, our children — but often the wildlife and wildlife habitat out on the landscape that so many of us work tirelessly to maintain, and even improve across the landscape, can be to many of us one of our things we often are very thankful for.

We all spend countless hours trying to improve wildlife and wildlife habitat on the farms and properties we either own, manage, or spend many hours on enjoying the outdoors with friends and family. Yes, it is non-stop work, a continuous battle to try not only to maintain the habitat conditions you currently have, but also to improve on them. Each and every one of us knows how it takes a lot of sweat equity, a huge time commitment, and \$\$ to do so as

we are all well aware — especially during the past several years — of much higher costs for anything you even look at.

During the fall season which we are currently enjoying, we often get to spend even more time out on those areas either chasing the elusive whitetail deer or trying to find that shifty fall covey of quail with our old or our brand-new bird dog pup. However, for many landowners and many of us just improving the habitat and getting to enjoy seeing and even just hearing the wildlife populations we so deeply cherish is often as much of what we are thankful for as to any harvesting of any of those species.

Yes, we all like to have some tasty duck breasts wrapped in bacon and stuffed with cream cheese on the smoker or enjoy a warm pot of venison chili on one of our cold winter nights, but to so many landowners and land managers, the “prize” is so much greater than just the harvest. This is especially true as you tend to get a few more soles worn off your many pairs of boots you have walked so far afield in ... which I can attest I have gone through more than my fair share of worn-out boots over the now 30 plus years of working in the fields and forests across the country. I, for one, truly do enjoy helping others try to reach their goals and objectives they have for a specific piece of property or species they are managing for and find great enjoyment in seeing them obtain and even surpass their goals each and every year. Most all of you that know me know this to definitely be the case and for many of you that is also a great satisfaction you get each and every year.

I know for a fact after speaking and visiting with many of you for well over three decades now most all of you also take great pride and enjoyment in what you do out on the landscape in your specific communities for habitat and conservation efforts. We all most certainly should, for the simple fact that a large segment of the public doesn't attempt to improve habitat or the landscape or even have any desire to do what many of us enjoy each and every week doing. So, I just want to remind everyone as you gather with friends and family over the upcoming holiday season, continue to be thankful for God's Great Outdoors we are all working continuously to improve for many generations to come.

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, nest predator removal, 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 and landowner liaison.



Iowa's Doolittle Prairie is one of the most diverse

Surrounded by modern agriculture in nearly flat northwest Story County, sits one of Iowa's true gems – an oasis of diversity in a monoculture modern world. And why would this postage stamp-sized prairie not fall to the plow? Because, it was too wet to farm.

With 14 small wetland basins, Doolittle Prairie naturally held water. During dry years, only the largest basin would have water – the dry basins would feel like walking-on-a- spongy trampoline.

How fortunate we are to have this available today.

At roughly 40 acres, Doolittle Prairie is one of the most diverse prairies in the state, supporting 223 native plant species, including downy gentian, cowbane, prairie violet, great plains ladies' tresses, leadplant, Sullivant's milkweed, smooth blue aster, water hemlock, hoary puccoon, wood betony, prairie phlox, water parsnip and more.

Settled by William Doolittle in 1855, much of the area had never been tilled due to its wet soils. The original 26 acres was acquired from the family in 1979 and dedicated as a state preserve in 1980, for its biological and geological features.

Today, the prairie hosts students and professors from Iowa State University and Drake University. The Iowa Native Plant Society and the Iowa Prairie Network host monthly evening prairie walks through the growing season. Story County Conservation has led naturalist programs and field trips.

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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.



Continued from Page 12 — With ownership split between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (northern 24-acre Plover Tract) and Story County Conservation (southern 16-acre Matheason Tract), the entirety of the area is managed by Story County.

Managing one of the rarest prairies in the state to keep its diversity while battling invaders takes a multi-pronged approach – from labor intensive hand removal of wild parsnip and yellow and white sweet clover, to cutting and treating weedy brush, to fall treatments of invasive Reed canary grass.

The plan includes the use of prescribed fire on no more than one-third of the prairie in a given year.

On this early fall morning, a few remaining monarchs are fluttering among the flowering goldenrod with goldfinches flying low overhead looking for compass plant seeds. Head-high grasses begin moving in different directions as something is hurriedly on the move. Two young pheasants burst into flight – one flying north, the other, west.

Doolittle Prairie, including the public portion of the state preserve, is open to hunting. Story County regulations require nontoxic shot for all hunting, does not allow target shooting and dogs must be leashed from March 15 to July 15. There is a sign with a scannable code at the parking lot that will take visitors to the regulations page.

The prairie offers opportunities to hike, bird watch and to enjoy nature.



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Help protect statewide snowmobiling routes

Does your perfect snowy day include hitting the trails with your sled? Are you interested in helping protect the state's thousands of miles of snowmobile routes? Here's an opportunity to work alongside DNR staff to help maintain and protect more than 6,000 miles of DNR-designated snowmobile trails, public roads and public lands open to snowmobiling (where authorized).

We are accepting applications for an opening on the [Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup](#), which consists of seven volunteers each serving four-year terms and contributing as volunteers (travel expenses to and from meetings are eligible for reimbursement). The group, which works closely with the [Trails Advisory Council](#), meets quarterly at varying locations around the state.

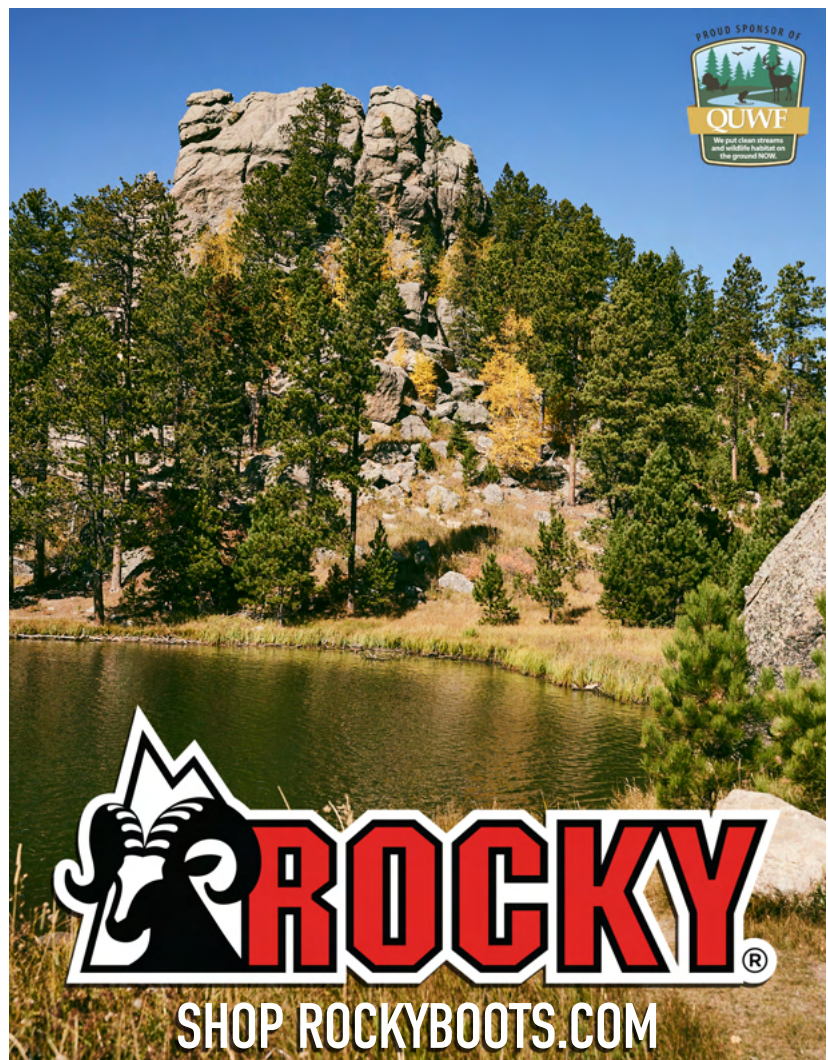
“Michigan's Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup collaborates with the DNR's trails program staff to discuss and implement the sound management of recreational snowmobiling throughout the state,” said Jessica Roehrs, state motorized trails program specialist. “Topics may include snowmobile safety and education, balanced relationships with the environment and wildlife, the collection, development and sharing of snow trail information, and collaboration with other trail user groups.”?

The ideal candidate will fill a member-at-large position.

“Members tell us that being part of this workgroup is a rewarding experience,” Roehrs said. “The opportunity provides snowmobile riders or someone with a vested interest in the sport to share their insight and connect with others who want to contribute to our state's snowmobiling opportunities.”

Interested? [Apply for this position](#) by Jan. 15. For more information, contact [Jessica Roehrs](#) at 517-331-3790.

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



Hunters urged to wear blaze orange

Editor’s Note: Wearing Hunter Orange is the best safety item hunter’s can employ. Why? Blaze Orange is the only color not in nature, nothing has the unique color in nature. Second, it will catch your eye BECAUSE of that fact. Third, deer cannot see color as we do, they can detect light versus dark but the main defense is movement, any movement. As a former camera man for a national TV show, I literally had a buck step over my legs while I was sitting against a tree totally dressed in blaze orange.

Finally, another example, just out of the military I was driving on the Taconic Parkway in NY, when I saw a flash of orange just off the rural highway. I turned around and went back. A young man had flipped his car, was on the ground with severe head wounds, his blaze orange shirt saved his life that day.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is reminding hunters to wear fluorescent hunter orange.

“Hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities, thanks to advances in education as well as science,” said Vermont Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier. “Our volunteer hunter education instructors stress that wearing orange during hunting season is important, and studies prove that wearing fluorescent hunter orange keeps hunters visible to other people in the woods, but it keeps them relatively invisible to deer.”

“Every year we should strive to be the safest we can be by wearing at least a hunter orange hat and vest,” added Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. “Deer are most active during dawn and dusk hours when visibility is low. You can improve your chances of being seen by other hunters by wearing hunter orange, which can be seen even in low-light situations.”

Continued on Page 16



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Continued from Page 15 — “While it isn’t recommended to wear orange during waterfowl and turkey seasons, we certainly still recommend hunter orange when you are going to and from your blind, treestand or calling spot,” said Meier.

While some hunters might be concerned that deer are scared by hunter orange, in fact deer have been shown to be unaffected by the color. A deer’s vision is based on movement, patterns and color variations. Unlike humans, deer do not have multiple color receptors in their eyes. They can see color, but their spectrum is limited. This means deer must rely heavily on their ability to detect movement over the ability to interpret color variations and patterns.

Hunting in Vermont continues to be a safe recreational pursuit and hunters can help keep it that way by choosing to wear hunter orange. This video shows how much more visible hunters are when wearing orange: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kjSI79ss9I>

Maine: ATV inspection program succeeds

Editor’s Note: the use of ATV’s and UTVs or side by sides allows extensive enjoyment of our natural resources IF managed correctly and respectful use of the land is present by the vehicle operators. Private landowners sharing the access, is a super benefit and it behooves operators to use the privilege with exceptional care, treat it with ultimate respect, never leave any trash, pick up any you see and offer to assist landowners if they need it.

Augusta – The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forelandowners (DACF) Maine ATV Trail Inspection Program, established in response to recommendations from Governor Janet Mills’ 2019 ATV Task Force, is proving to be a valuable resource for ensuring that Maine’s extensive trail system remains safe, sustainable, and well-maintained.

The program addresses social, economic, legal, and environmental challenges associated with ATV use while supporting vital partnerships with landowners, as over 80% of Maine’s ATV trails cross private land. The program safeguards recreational and environmental interests across the state through systematic inspections and support for trail improvements.

"Private landowners are essential partners in maintaining Maine's ATV trail system," **said DACF Commissioner Amanda Beal**. "This inspection program helps us maintain these valuable relationships by identifying and addressing problems early, ensuring trails remain safe and enjoyable for everyone."

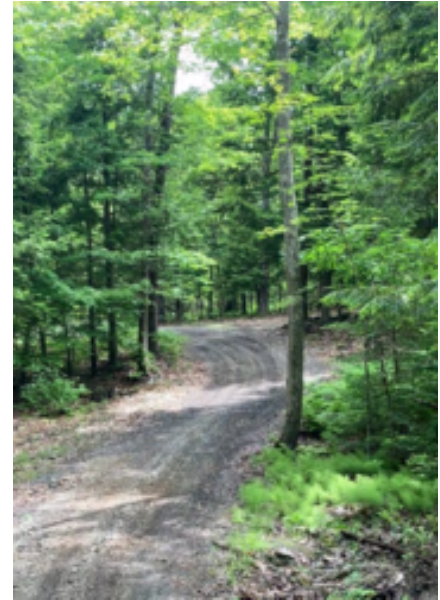
In its final report, the ATV Task Force recommended several key actions to improve the management and oversight of ATV trails. Among these recommendations was the adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) from the [Maine Motorized Trail Construction and Maintenance Manual](#) as official standards for state-funded ATV trails. These standards now serve as the foundation of the new inspection process.

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Continued from Page 16 — Key Features of the ATV Trail Inspection Program:

- **Best Management Practices:** The inspection process is based on the BMPs found in the Maine Motorized Trail Construction and Maintenance Manual, ensuring consistency and quality in trail management.
- **Maine Forest Rangers' Involvement:** Independent inspections are conducted by Maine Forest Rangers, who bring their expertise in monitoring and enforcing Forestry BMPs to ensure unbiased assessments of trail conditions.
- **Proactive Issue Resolution:** The inspection identifies key issues—ranging from trail surface degradation to off-trail riding—and provides clubs with actionable reports. These reports help clubs prioritize maintenance projects and secure funding through grant programs.
- **Comprehensive Reporting and Collaboration with Local ATV Clubs:** Inspections track GPS data to map trail conditions and identify areas of concern, including issues related to BMPs, trail surfaces, vegetation, signage, bridges, and access routes. The detailed reports generated by these inspections help ATV clubs collaborate with DACF's Recreational Trail Coordinators to address issues and improve trail conditions. These reports can also be submitted with grant applications, making it easier for clubs to secure funding for trail repairs.
- **Closure Protocols:** If issues are not addressed, trails may be closed if they fail to meet BMP standards or pose safety risks. Clubs have until the end of the following season to make necessary repairs, after which trails may be shut down to protect riders and the environment.



Maine's approach to trail inspections is garnering attention nationwide. At the recent National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference, DACF Bureau of Parks and Lands Recreational Trails Coordinator James Turner presented Maine's trail inspection process to fellow state representatives.

"We fielded a lot of questions from programs interested in starting similar inspection systems to manage their growing trail networks and support grant management," **Turner said.**

Maine's ATV trails offer over 6,000 miles of recreational routes for trail enthusiasts to enjoy. The new inspection program is a major step toward safeguarding the future of these trails, ensuring they remain safe and accessible for years to come.

For more information about the ATV Trail Inspection Program or to learn about grant opportunities for trail improvements, please read DACF's Off-Road Recreational Vehicle web pages at https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/trail_activities/atv/atv-trail-inspections.shtml.

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Realtree offers Camo Santa custom APX suit

This holiday season, Santa is ready to make an entrance you'll never see coming. Realtree is proud to unveil the APX Santa Suit, a one-of-a-kind creation blending classic holiday charm with Realtree's cutting-edge camouflage. Conceived and crafted by Realtree pattern artist Claire Stovall, the APX Santa Suit features meticulous attention to detail, from custom-designed camo buttons to a personalized camo belt buckle, capturing the spirit of outdoor adventure with the holiday season's magic.

Stovall's artistic expertise brings an innovative twist to the holidays, making the APX Santa suit the centerpiece of Realtree's 2024 holiday campaigns. Set to appear in a variety of ads showcasing must-have products—from hunting apparel to kids' ride-on toys, bags, packs, and accessories—Realtree's "Camo Santa" is here to surprise and delight. Known for blending into the natural surroundings, Realtree camo is now making a bold statement, combining the outdoor lifestyle with festive cheer.

The idea of "Camo Santa" began as a playful experiment three years ago. Since then, Realtree has made this holiday character a tradition, with licensed partners eagerly joining in to have their products featured in the holiday campaign. Leading brands including Otterbox, HeyDude, Crocs, Filson, ScentLok, DSG, SkullCandy, 1888 Mills, and Little Bipsy, and others have all partnered in this year's holiday content, creating an eclectic mix that embodies the spirit of adventure, fun, and functionality.

Realtree's founder and CEO Bill Jordan commented "For me, this has been lots of fun! Our motto here is *"Family, Friends, and the Outdoors"*. We've been able to make this a tradition, and as a father, and now grandfather, we're approaching a very special time of year. Getting to see some of our own employees' children get to meet "Camo Santa" has put some big smiles on faces and, you know what, with everyone so busy and running around, sometimes things like this help you stop and enjoy the moment." Jordan continued, "Hopefully this puts smile on kids' faces and sticks with the big kid inside all of us this Christmas."

Continued on Page 20



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Continued from Page 19 — The APX Santa suit brings the best of Realtree's design expertise to life, showing that Realtree can stand out even when designed to blend in. Camo Santa has kept a tight schedule and is scheduled to be seen in around Columbus as Realtree participates with the local "Shop with a Cop" event to be held December 12th, 2024 and followed by a 4th annual First Responder's luncheon hosted at Realtree's HQ on December 13, 2024. Unconfirmed reported have also advised camo Santa has been spotted at numerous Waffle House locations in and around town.

Realtree invites everyone to keep an eye out for this exclusive holiday campaign and discover the magic of Realtree's "Camo Santa" as he showcases an exciting range of products for outdoor enthusiasts and families alike. Visit Realtree's social media channels and website for a glimpse into the world of Realtree camo-inspired holiday cheer.



Hornady 22 ARC named ammunition of the year

(Grand Island, Nebr.) — The Hornady® 22 ARC (Advanced Rifle Cartridge) has been named the 2024 Ammunition of the Year by the Guns & Ammo of the Year Awards.

"The 22 ARC took the 22-caliber world by storm in 2024," said Neil Davies, Hornady Marketing Director. "This little hotrod is a perfect fit for long-range target shooters and varmint hunters alike. We appreciate the recognition from Guns & Ammo," he added.

The 22 ARC brings exceptional power and performance, elegantly packed into a compact cartridge that fits into your AR-15 but is equally at home in a bolt action. By utilizing the new 62 gr. ELD-VT™ bullet, the 22 ARC brings extraordinary performance, that rivals the 22-250, to the AR-15 platform.

Designing the cartridge and chamber in unison provides consistent accuracy, great velocity spreads and an outstanding shooting experience. This cartridge is the result of careful and meticulous design, following the same proven methodology as the highly acclaimed 6mm ARC.

The 22 ARC is available in the following options:

- 22 ARC 62 gr ELD-VT™ V-Match™
- 22 ARC 70 gr CX™ Superformance®
- 22 ARC 75 gr ELD® Match Black™
- 22 ARC 80 gr ELD-X® Precision Hunter®
- 22 ARC 88 gr ELD® Match

To learn more about the 22 ARC, please visit: <https://www.hornady.com/22arc#!>

Founded in 1949, Hornady® Manufacturing Company is a family-owned business headquartered in Grand Island, Nebraska. Proudly manufacturing products that are made in the USA, Hornady® Manufacturing is a world leader in bullet, ammunition, reloading tool, accessory and security product design and manufacturing.



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Craig A. Alderman, executive director calderman@quwf.net

Nick Prough, chief wildlife biologist and wildlife partnership coordinator chiefbiologist@quwf.net

Betty Richardson, seed program manager habitatseedmngn@quwf.net

Calvin Chainey, social media and research coordinator intern, College of the Ozarks

Laura Hazelett, American Falconry Conservancy president

Advertising and circulation admin@quwf.net

Membership membership@quwf.net

Website Design Wehrenberg Design Company, Springfield, MO

QUWF Email Information Systems, Springfield, MO

Select Photography Mountain Girl Photography, Cody, WY

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Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation PO Box 947 Buffalo, MO 65622 417-345-5960 www.quwf.net

“It’s all about Wildlife” National Staff

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