**Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever**

***The Habitat Organization***

***JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT***

**Habitat Specialist – Crew Lead**

Gray Summit, Missouri

**(1 Opening)**

# Application Deadline: November 12, 2021

# Anticipated Start Date: December 1, 2021

**Overview:** This position is part of a partnership between the Missouri Department of Conservation, Quail Forever (QF), and Shaw Nature Reserve. Under the direction of these partners, the crew lead and (2) technicians will conduct habitat management work on cooperating private land, targeted public lands within designated priority geographies, and Shaw Nature Reserve. This position is for a full-time, permanent employee of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. This new and unique partnership will allow for varied field duties including prescribed fire, seed collection, natural community identification, invasive species control, crew leadership, and project coordination between multiple conservation organizations.

**Duties:** The incumbent will lead a team of two (2) habitat specialists as they work with partners to coordinate and conduct wildlife habitat management practices throughout multiple priority areas occurring within ~75 miles of Gray Summit, MO. Major responsibilities include:

* Implement habitat management work on cooperating private landowners as well as public lands that includes but is not limited to edge feathering, herbicide application, burn line construction and prescribed burning, invasive/exotic plant control, native grass/forb establishment, shrubby cover establishment, and timber stand improvement (hack and squirt or chainsaw method).
* Procure supplies and equipment following Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever best management practices.
* Coordinate project prioritization and schedules
* Manage up to two Habitat Specialist team members
* Provide habitat management technical assistance and information to landowners
* Assist with grant reporting duties in conjunction with collaborating organizations
* Serve as burn crew member on public lands and/or burn boss for prescribed fires on private lands
* Ensure habitat management activities are accurately reported and entered timely manner
* Perform other related duties as assigned
* Job may require odd hours and travel/time away from home

**Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

* A solid understanding of environmental, ecological, and/or natural resource science. Education may be substituted for experience as determined relevant by the partners. Preference will be given to candidates that possess a bachelor’s degree with an emphasis in ecology, forestry, or wildlife management.
* At least one year of experience conducting upland habitat management, prescribed burning, operating tractors and agricultural implements (disking, mowing, fire line creation, etc.), identification and control of invasive species and other undesired vegetation
* Safe transportation/hauling of equipment
* Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with colleagues and partner agencies
* Ability to work independently with little supervision
* Knowledge of wildlife ecology, grassland management, and/or forest management including the ability to utilize various habitat management equipment and tools in the development of wildlife habitat
* Excellent verbal/written communication and organizational skills
* Valid driver’s license required
* Applicant may be required to obtain a CDL and/or private pesticide applicators license
* Firefighter Type 2, Wildland Fire Chainsaws (S-212) or equivalent

**Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

* Two years of experience conducting prescribed burns
  + Firefighter Type 1 or single resource boss
  + S-219 Firing Operations, S-211 Wildland Pumps, S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, demonstrated experience with suppression as well as safe prescribed fire tactics in various Midwest fuel models
* Two years of experience using mechanical or chemical methods for controlling invasive species
* Two years of experience operating and maintaining tractors, discs, and planting equipment

**Training and Experience Guideline:** Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. More than one year of work experience in a wildlife, forestry, or agricultural related job. Applicants who possess a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management or closely related natural resources field and/or related field experience is preferred.

**Salary:** Starting range of $36,000 – 40,000 depending upon qualifications and experience + Benefits

**Housing:** Housing is provided at no cost to the crew lead and two crew members if they wish to make use of it. Housing is located at Shaw Nature Reserve, 605 Manor House Lane, Villa Ridge, MO 63089, and has two full baths, four bedrooms, kitchen, and shared living space.

**To Apply:** Please combine your cover letter, resume and 3 references into 1 Word document or PDF file before uploading to the “Resume” section of your application on our Recruitment website at: [www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs)

**If you have questions about the position, contact:** Casey Bergthold, Director of Conservation Operation – Midwest [cbergthold@quailforever.org](mailto:cbergthold@quailforever.org) or at 573-823-0675

***Pheasants Forever, Inc is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, status as a protected veteran, status as a qualified individual with disability, or any other category that may be protected by law.***