

A Next Generation of Conservation Review

FY07 Greater Prairie-Chicken Recovery Accomplishments



Highlighting the Efforts of Missouri Grasslands Coalition Partners

Audubon Missouri
Audubon Society of Missouri
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Native Plant Society
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Osage Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council
Ozark Regional Land Trust
Partners in Flight
Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever
Quail Unlimited
Society for Range Management
Southwest Missouri Resource Conservation and Development Council
The Nature Conservancy – Missouri
University of Missouri-Columbia Commercial Agriculture Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service

FY2007 Summary

Missouri Grasslands Coalition Accomplishments

New Funding Secured

Grassland and prairie-chicken conservation priorities attracted \$2.5 million to Grasslands Coalition Focus Areas (GCFAs). This total includes:

- ✓ Partners received 14 grants from federal, state and private sources totaling \$807,000.
- ✓ MDC used \$475,000 from Wildlife Diversity Funds (WDF) for prairie-chicken recovery.
- ✓ Coalition Partners tapped into another \$160,200 through competitive WDF grants.
- ✓ MDC staff enrolled GCFA landowners in USDA programs worth \$377,000.
- ✓ A Landowner Incentive Program grant will bring \$700,000 over three years to GCFAs.

New Habitats Protected within GCFAs

- ✓ Grasslands Coalition partners purchased 492 acres and protected 400 more acres through easements or land exchanges.
- ✓ Existing long-term agreements protected 1,740 acres of quality grassland habitats.
- ✓ New USDA contracts will improve and protect 1,800 additional acres for years to come.

More Intensive Management of Public and Private Grasslands

- ✓ Over 600 acres of fescue or cropland were converted to beneficial grasses.
- ✓ 4,700 acres were treated to control sericea lespedeza and other invasive plants.
- ✓ MDC crews burned more than 4,000 acres of public land.
- ✓ Over seven miles of hedgerow were removed to reopen fragmented grasslands.
- ✓ Scattered trees within fields were removed from 904 acres of public and private land.
- ✓ 500 pounds of native seed were harvested to plant 282 acres of reconstructed prairie.
- ✓ Patch-burn grazing and other grazing rotations improved brood-rearing habitat on 3,322 acres of MDC prairies. Newly installed hydrants and fences will allow 1,000 more acres of public land to be grazed beginning next year.
- ✓ Patch-burn or other wildlife-friendly grazing rotations were implemented on 1,500 privately owned acres within Focus Areas.

New Partnerships Forged

- ✓ Audubon Missouri, the City of Cole Camp and MDC joined forces to hire a term employee to lead community-based conservation efforts in the Hi Lonesome GCFA.
- ✓ The Conservation Federation of Missouri adopted a resolution supporting prairie-chicken recovery and grassland management efforts.
- ✓ Missouri NRCS changed existing programs to more strongly support prairie-chicken recovery efforts.
- ✓ The Southwest and Osage Valley Resource Conservation & Development Councils became engaged in our grassland conservation efforts.
- ✓ The Audubon Society of Missouri joined the Coalition and pledged \$8,000 toward work with the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative and the Sac-Osage Rural Electric Cooperative to install raptor exclusions on power poles near prairie-chicken leks.
- ✓ Coalition representatives are working with Commercial Agriculture Program economists to identify affordable ways for farmers to help prairie-chickens, quail and other grassland birds.