



QUAIL AND UPLAND WILDLIFE FEDERATION

# THE HABITAT GUIDE

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 3 • APRIL 2026



## Notes from the Dashboard:

Are you prepared for serious weather?

**By Craig Alderman** — No matter where you live, there are weather challenges, and this week here in southwest Missouri, we experienced nature’s fury with a trail of multiple super cell thunderstorms that brought immense damage and destruction — but not the way you think.

The two storms in the KY3 photo (see Page 2) from Buffalo, our home, both affected our office and farm. As we drove home to get into safe shelter, my wife and I watched the supercell on the left drop the wall cloud, build it continually, and finally drop a tornado from its leading edge just north of our location. We turned east out of its path. Further, the storms slowed travel from 50 mph to 25, holding the damage much longer.

The real danger this time, though, was not the tornadoes themselves, it was very, very large hail — 4 to 5 inches in diameter — that destroyed most everything it hit. At the Springfield airport, 90 percent of all the cars were damaged to the point they were undrivable. Neighbors had trucks absolutely destroyed, homes damaged, and we even lost a zoo resident emu that was too late getting into shelter.

The second tornado on the right came straight at the farm, causing us to go into the shelter while unreal rain and ¾-inch hail pounded us.

Continued on Page 2

## Great news at QUWF

*From the editor — We at the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation are pleased to announce our partnership with fellow veteran Carl Higbie and his show “Frontline” on NEWSMAX.*

*Carl is a former Navy Seal and spells issues out cleanly and with reference data to back things up on his show, which airs at 6 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday. You will absolutely enjoy his style, truthfulness and integrity for the truth.*

*Read more on Page*



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**Continued from Page 1** — The combo hit us in what can only be described as a roar and wind-driven rain. The very heavy combination lasted about 8 minutes, within which we got over 2.5 inches of rain, and about 2 inches of hail at the same time. Luckily damage was minimal as I’m guessing we were on the edge of the twister versus a direct hit. The driveway did not fair as well. Gulleys 10 inches deep criss-crossed the lane, and I am still rebuilding.

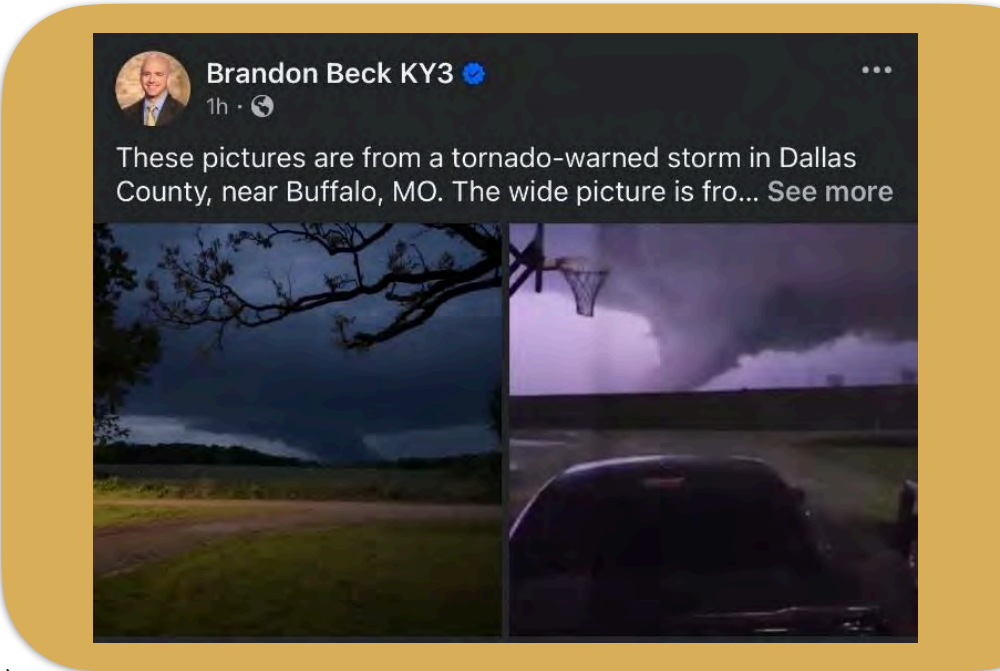
These events also give us extreme flash flooding; our central creek on the farm can go from a few inches deep and 5 foot wide to 8 feet deep and 25 feet wide in a matter of an hour. It happens fast and can wash anything in its way. The worst place to be is camping on the main rivers edge, like sand bars. The big river can grow to 30 feet deep and 50 to 75 yards wide in a blink.

I guess the best advice is be prepared, stay alert, have a plan, and have a NOAA WX radio. (We have several, and watch local storm tracking.)

Get equipment, cars and critters under cover. If cars or trucks must be outside, put blankets over the hood to the rear windows; moving blankets work best. Strap them down with bungee cords so they don’t head to another state with the wind.

When you go into a shelter have your “storm bag” ready, phones and iPads charged, wallet, all checkbooks, ID, keys, shoes, medications, and important things you need if you end up coming out to a disaster. In the shelter have a whistle, battery lanterns, water, and supplies. Your deeds and wills should be in a safety deposit box at a local bank.

DO NOT go looking for the storm. Stay away from all windows — it is not just the wind, it is what is flying in the wind that can kill you. You cannot see a Volvo coming! Most likely, the tornado will be wrapped in heavy rain, and come at night, and the hail will be significant. Planning is safety! Catch you across the creek.



*Craig Alderman is the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation founder and executive director. Reach him at [admin@quwf.net](mailto:admin@quwf.net).*

**Continued from Page 1** — Further, Carl is an avid hunter and owns a farm in Connecticut, where he enjoys conservation work and respects the goals of QUWF — “Making a difference for wildlife and clean streams one acre, one stream at a time.” In nearly daily conversations and goal exchanges, we think the same. Needless to say, he loves this country, his family, his home, and his firing range, with range time being required in his lifestyle.

QUWF will now make NEWSMAX’s “Frontline” show featuring Carl Higbie the “official national and local news and information source of QUWF.” Notice the special segment he did in this month’s Habitat Guide on the new Ursa tractors!

Carl will select a few projects sent in from QUWF national, performed by chapters that represent our wildlife and conservation mission and his as a veteran conservationist landowner focus, to feature on his show. Be sure to follow the basic rules: who, what, when, where and why. As he can, Carl will then mention them and us at the end of his show. The segments will be short, factual, to the point, and only selected by him. Chapters may obtain banners for the show by contacting the national QUWF office.

Carl’s time is exceptionally precious and short with his work at NEWSMAX and his involvement with the veterans and first responders support group, the Pipe Hitters. We are, therefore, very grateful for his partnership to help get our message out, now nationwide.

Catch you watching “Frontline” on NEWSMAX, Be there!

## WY Game and Fish tests more than 5,300 for CWD

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Wildlife Health Laboratory tested 5,370 samples from elk, deer and moose for chronic wasting disease in 2025, and CWD was detected in 842 of those samples.

Game and Fish released its 2025 CWD Surveillance Report this spring. Statewide, CWD prevalence averaged 21.6% in hunter-harvested mule deer bucks, an increase from 19.4% in 2024. The percentage in hunter-harvested white-tailed buck deer was 32.1%, a slight increase from 29.2% in 2024. The percentage of adult, hunter-harvested elk was 2.4%, compared to 2.3% last year. There was no CWD detected in samples from moose last year.

CWD was identified in three new deer hunt areas — 106, 150 and 153 — and in six new elk hunt areas — 2, 61, 62, 87, 93 and 116. CWD also was detected on four elk feedgrounds.

As of Dec. 31, 2025, CWD has been detected in 35 of 37 mule deer herds in Wyoming and 111 of 127 mule deer hunt areas. For elk, CWD has been detected in 24 of 34 designated herd units and 50 of 105 elk hunt areas.

CWD is a fatal disease of the central nervous system in mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and moose. It belongs to a group of rare diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. These disorders are caused by abnormally folded proteins called prions.

There is no cure for CWD. There have been no cases of CWD in humans and no direct proof humans can get CWD. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization recommend not consuming animals in which CWD has been detected.



**Continued on Page 4**

**Continued from Page 3** — All CWD testing is free for animals harvested in Wyoming, and is encouraged in those areas where wildlife managers have insufficient data.

"Wyoming's CWD surveillance would not be possible without the participation of our hunters," said Jessica Jennings, Game and Fish Wildlife Health Lab manager. "We encourage hunters to check the Game and Fish website for the 2026 priority and mandatory testing areas, check current CWD prevalence on the interactive CWD map and no matter where you hunt, please consider having your animal tested for CWD.

"Our CWD surveillance also wouldn't be possible without Game and Fish's field and office personnel collecting samples, mailing samples, entering data and talking with hunters."

## QUWF partners with regional fire district for fire control

**Buffalo, MO** — Knowing the need for controlled burning and the definite planning and control required for safe and successful outcomes, the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation has partnered with the regional Fire District of Southern Dallas County, Missouri, to provide a specialized piece of equipment tailored for these types of agricultural fires. QUWF has provided a custom-designed Wylie Fire Control Wagon.

The Wylie Fire Control Wagon, made in the U.S.A, is a specialized piece of equipment carrying 500 gallons of potable water to the remote fire scene on a heavy-duty dual axle trailer. It can lay down a wet line, fight on scene fires with its 2-inch hoses or refill smaller water tanks, then pump fill itself from streams or ponds as it has its own engine and pump.

"We wanted to share the equipment with the fire fighters who are the first responders and give them equipment uniquely designed for field and forest fires common to agricultural areas and specifically made for it," said Craig Alderman of QUWF. "We had a slight delay in making this happen as the Fire Wagon needed a full inspection and restoration at the factory in Oklahoma ensuring it was in top shape for its new role. This included all new components including the main pump, engine and all hoses/valves. We will be supplying additional large pick-up truck tanks that can be used to refill the Fire Wagon on scene keeping the focus on the fire."

"We absolutely are profoundly grateful to QUWF for this piece of firefighting equipment, normally well beyond our rural budget parameters. The features are perfect for rural fire departments and we have already put it to use on several fires in the region. Further, having it totally examined and refurbished, inspected and tested at the Wylie factory makes it a brand-new Fire Wagon," said Dave Moore, chief of the fire division.

Many rural fire departments and regional departments can use the controlled burn fires as practice training when coordinated. All should check with their local departments and ask. Whenever burning is scheduled, always notify the local 911 control center so they can inform anyone calling in seeing smoke.



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## N.D. Game and Fish offers summer workshops for educators

**Editor's Note: This is a great initiative to teach our educators more about the wildlife and resources in our states, work with your schools and outreach options to be proactive in your area.**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is sponsoring professional development for educator workshops this summer in Bismarck and Dickinson.

### Using the Visual Arts to Teach Life Science – June 9-10, Game and Fish office, Bismarck

This fun and fast-paced workshop will emphasize North Dakota resources, environment and wildlife through hands-on lessons educators can implement in their classrooms. It will include discussions on classroom and curriculum integration, identification of local resources and field trips to demonstrate the use of natural areas as classrooms. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to experiment with different media including clay, water, pastel and colored pencil. No previous art experience is required. The workshop is suitable for educators teaching K-12. All materials are included.

### Pollinators in the Classroom – June 17-18, Dickinson State University, Dickinson

This workshop will explore pollinators, what they are, where they live, life cycles, importance, and how you can make a difference. The workshop will include hands-on activities educators can use in their classrooms and demonstrations of classroom curriculum integration. Students will receive a copy of the *Urban Pollinator Program Curriculum*, and should come prepared for walking field trips in the area. The workshop is suitable for educators teaching K-12. All materials are included.

For more information contact curriculum specialist Sherry Niesar at 701-527-3714.

## Henry Repeating Arms announces expansion of popular platform

Henry Repeating Arms, one of America's leading firearms manufacturers, is expanding its legendary rimfire lever-action platform with a broad lineup of new models built for target shooting, plinking, small game hunting, and modern rimfire enthusiasts.

The new additions include the H1 Western Rifle, H1 Western Frontier Rifle, H1 Sporter Rifle & Carbine, H1 Bandit Rifle, and H1 X Model, making this release the most significant expansion in the history of the H1 platform. Available across multiple configurations in .22 S/L/LR, .22 Magnum, and select models in .17 HMR, the new lineup gives Henry fans more ways than ever to own, use, and enjoy America's favorite rimfire lever action.

**Continued on Page 7**



**Continued from Page 6** — “For more than a quarter century, the H1 has introduced countless families and first-time owners to the fun, reliability, and timeless appeal of a Henry lever action,” said Anthony Imperato, Founder and CEO of Henry Repeating Arms. “This expansion gives that platform new life, new purpose, and new personality while staying true to what made it so beloved in the first place. Whether someone is buying their first rifle, heading into the squirrel woods, teaching the next generation, or just spending an afternoon plinking, there is now an H1 for just about everyone.”

The **H1 Western Rifle** brings a fresh take to Henry's base model rimfire lever action with a pistol grip-style buttstock, checkered genuine American walnut furniture, an 18.5-inch round blued steel barrel, adjustable semi-buckhorn sights, and a 3/8-inch grooved receiver cover for optional optics mounting. Available in .22 S/L/LR and .22 Magnum, it offers a familiar favorite with a new feel.

The **H1 Sporter Rifle & Carbine** is a step toward a more dedicated feature set, this time for plinkers, target shooters, and small game hunters who prefer to use optics and a suppressor. Because the platform is optics-ready from the start, there are no iron sights, keeping the sight picture clear when using low-mounted optics. A receiver cover with an integrated Picatinny rail makes mounting simple without an additional base, while the checkered genuine American walnut pistol grip-style Monte Carlo buttstock helps create a more natural cheek weld so the user's eye lines up behind the optic.

The lineup features round blued steel barrels threaded 1/2x28 for suppressor use, with magazine tubes designed to clear suppressors with an outside diameter of 1 inch or less. The rifle is available with an 18.5-inch barrel in .22 S/L/LR, .22 Magnum, and .17 HMR, while the 16.5-inch carbine is available in .22 S/L/LR and .22 Magnum.

The **H1 Bandit Rifle** packs the big features found in the H1 Sporter Rifle into a smaller package with a 13-inch length of pull for larger youth or smaller-framed adults. The Bandit is available in .22 S/L/LR and .22 Magnum.

The **H1 X Model** brings one of Henry's most popular centerfire configurations to its most popular rimfire lever-action platform. Weighing just 5 pounds, it is Henry's lightest rimfire lever action and features a 16.5-inch 1/2x28 threaded barrel, canted magazine tube for suppressor clearance, fully adjustable fiber optic sights, integrated Picatinny rail, black synthetic furniture, M-LOK accessory slots, sling swivel studs, and an adjustable length of pull from 14-inches to 13.5-inches using included spacers. It is available in .22 S/L/LR and .22 Magnum.

Across the lineup, the new H1 models expand the platform in every direction, from western-inspired walnut-stocked rifles to lightweight synthetic options, optics-ready configurations, suppressor-capable barrels, and compact youth-friendly fits. The result is a broader, more purpose-built H1 family that keeps the fun, affordability, and smooth lever-action performance shooters expect from Henry while opening the door to new uses and new generations of owners, just as the H1 platform has done for over two decades.

The new H1 models are shipping now to licensed firearms dealers nationwide. For more information, visit [HenryUSA.com](http://HenryUSA.com).



# Leave 'abandoned' wildlife where you find it

**EDITOR'S NOTE: It is that time of year to issue the caution about finding wildlife young. Basic rule, leave them alone, regardless of where you might find them in the wild. Mother's normal leave them to look for food and will find them, please! Take a photo but don't touch or move them.**

Many species of wildlife have their young in spring, and many well-meaning Arkansans regularly call the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to report deer fawns and other young wildlife that look abandoned. But moving these animals can actually cause more harm than good.

Most wildlife cannot be with their young nonstop. They must search out food for their offspring or gain much-needed nutrition to continue nursing them. There are also species that do not stay with their young because the parents' presence at the nest or den attracts the attention of predators. It's not uncommon for a doe deer or rabbit to leave her young alone nearly all day while she eats and recuperates from the stress of nursing. Mother and father birds also take many trips, scouring the nearby area for food they will bring back to the hatchlings.

It can be a shock to a person to see these young animals in such a helpless position, but this is how these species survive. In fact, the more trips back and forth a mother makes to her young in the wild, the more scent trails she leaves behind for predators to possibly follow.

Often, a doe deer is within hearing distance of her young, even though you may not see her. The best defenses fawns and rabbit kits have are to stay motionless so they blend into their surroundings and stay quiet so they don't attract unwanted attention.



**Continued on Page 9**

**Continued from Page 8** — Baby birds, almost ready to fly, hop around in the tree, exercising their wings. Bird enthusiasts call these young birds "branches" because you often find them bouncing up and down



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in the branches as they learn. They often end up on the ground a few times before finally getting the hang of things. Parent birds will continue to feed them on the ground until they fly off on their own. This process may take more than a week in the case of birds of prey like bald eagles and barred owls.

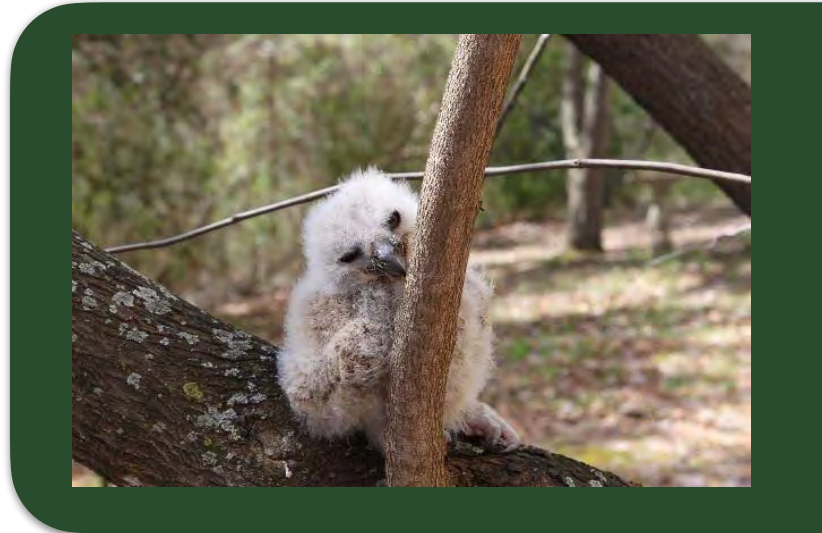
Moving "orphaned" wildlife works against this plan. Instead of rescuing them, well-meaning people often mistakenly take them from their mothers and have little to no experience or idea of how to help the young animal. Wildlife rehabilitation permittees often are overwhelmed by kidnapped young owls and other birds that were mistakenly "rescued" by well-meaning people. Many often run low on donated funds to purchase feed for all of the kidnapped animals and must turn them away.

If you do find a young animal and have taken it from the area, the best practice is to place it back where you found it as soon as possible. In cases where the spot may have been unsafe because of a nearby road or predator, you can move the animal slightly, and its mother will find it. Forget the wives' tales about the mother rejecting the young because of your scent; when she comes back to the area, she will take care of her young regardless.

Young deer and elk present an additional challenge because it is illegal for a rehabilitator to take them in. The AGFC prohibits the rehabilitation of deer because of the possibility of unknowingly transporting chronic wasting disease to a previously unexposed area of the state. CWD spreads through a misfolded protein structure called a prion that stays viable in the environment for decades. If a CWD-positive deer were to get to a rehabilitator's facility, that facility could then infect every deer that later visits it.

**Continued on Page 10**

**Continued from Page 9** — Even if rehabilitators could legally take in deer, studies have shown that 99 percent of rehabbed deer die within two weeks of their release to the wild. These animals do not



*Even if a baby owl or bird falls from the nest, the parents often tend to it on the ground if it is healthy until it is ready to fly. AGFC photo by Mike Wintroath*



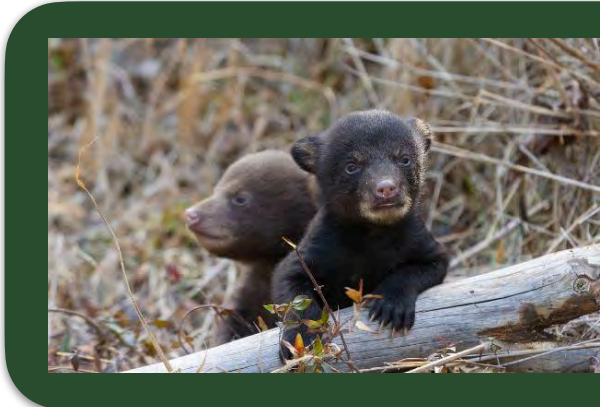
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properly learn to fear people and predators. As a result, almost all of them are quickly killed by wild predators, feral and domestic dogs, and vehicle collisions.

If you happen upon a fawn, you legally must leave it where you find it. Just because an adult deer was found dead nearby does not mean the fawn is alone. That deer that was hit by a car may not be the fawn's mother. Even in cases where the mother has been killed, there is still a chance other does are nearby that will take in the fawn as their own if they find them. In either case, that animal's best chance of living a healthy life in the wild is for people to step aside and let Mother Nature take care of things.

If you know the animal is injured or truly orphaned and it is not a bear, deer or elk, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission keeps a list of licensed rehabilitators available on its website at [www.agfc.com/rehab](http://www.agfc.com/rehab). These rehabilitators do not receive pay for their efforts, have limited space, and often are available only during certain hours, so calling ahead to find out.



*Black bear cubs may look cute and cuddly, but their mom rarely leaves them for more than a short foraging run, and they can be unpredictable when the situation involves their young. AGFC photo by Mike Wintroath*

A close-up photograph of a Ruger American rifle. The rifle is black with a silver barrel. A hand is visible holding the trigger. The text "RUGER AMERICAN" is visible on the barrel. The background is a blurred natural setting.

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# The problems with non-resident licenses?

**From the editor** — If you hunt in other states as a non-resident, you are or will experience the steady climb of the fees for the privilege of hunting in that state. The extreme costs being raised in the western states are a special problem. Those fees, now reaching costs in multiples so much higher than resident licenses, it is becoming a roadblock to hunting in those states. Hunters cannot afford thousands of dollars while a resident pays less than \$80.

Western states like Wyoming and Montana feature very large tracts of federal lands, not state lands, already secured by federal taxes we all pay. States very rarely, if ever, perform any work to enhance federal lands, simply it is not theirs, so why charge these enormous fees for the privilege to hunt them?

It deserves a special conversation rather than an uncontrolled rise in non-resident fees. The legal ability has been confirmed by the Supreme Court for states to do this but fairness in actions says it should have a serious dose of common sense. Do these fees support habitat work or wildlife work on these federal lands? In most cases, NO, it goes into the state coffers.

Smaller states with very small federal lands see the dollar signs and are moving to do the same thing, whether state, federal or private Lands within their state. Most states depend on license sales through the Pittman-Roberston Act, or Dingle-Johnson for Anglers, for all wildlife and conservation work.

The only other one we know of Missouri, it is supported by a state sales tax, and though they get recognition in the state conservation community, they are not doing such a great job, either. Money is not the true answer; good leadership is.

Most state wildlife agencies do not have and do not employ experienced business leaders. It gets them in trouble at many levels including considering the economic impact of hunters and anglers coming into their state. Instead, they promote from within the inner circle of biologists who have little or no business experience running anything. Their ability to negotiate good, fair and open contracts is problematic and they are very secretive when mistakes are made. Our state is no different.

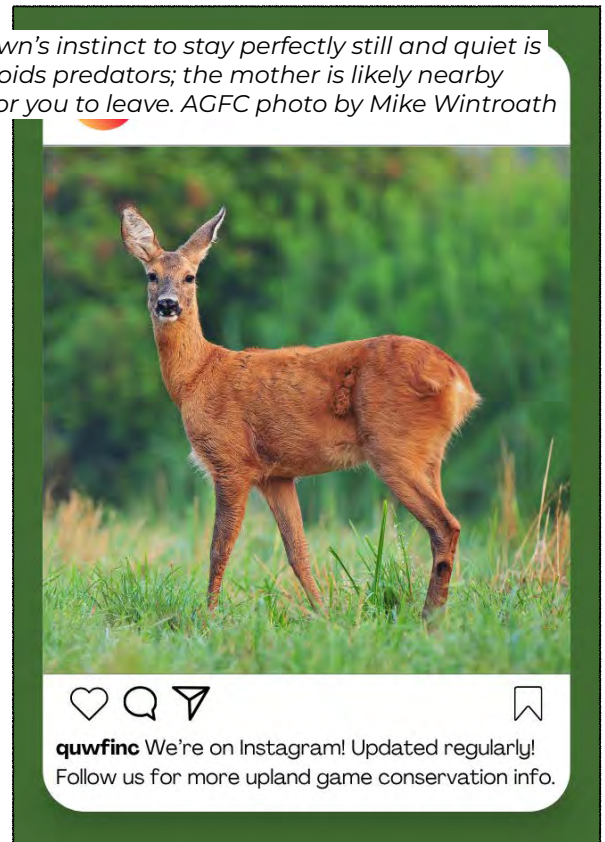
Hunting is a privilege; state residents understandably deserve the better rates and opportunities because it is their home, and all things for conservation are paid by their dollars from conservation, wildlife management to protection and enforcement.

However, having a good open conversation about non-resident hunters is a good path. Many communities, including those in the travel corridors, depend on out of state hunters for the millions of dollars they spend locally on the annual, historical trek to hunt or fish.

I have hunted many states in my career — it always is a gamble of fortune. You may come home with nothing but good stories. It matters if I pay \$250 for a license or now \$1,700 for the same license. Since the odds are not in my favor, I'll choose another option, but that is just me.

— Craig Alderman

*A deer fawn's instinct to stay perfectly still and quiet is how it avoids predators; the mother is likely nearby waiting for you to leave. AGFC photo by Mike Wintroath*



# NSSF welcomes ATF landmark rule-making package

NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, was on hand at the Department of Justice (DOJ) to welcome Acting U.S. Attorney General (AG) Todd Blanche's signing ceremony that released a landmark rulemaking package from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The release of the **new rulemaking package** is the result of months of NSSF working closely with the ATF and DOJ to identify and fix punitive regulations published during the Biden administration, when the ATF was used as a political weapon to force policies intended to hobble the firearm industry and infringe on Second Amendment rights. The package also addresses several inefficient and burdensome regulations that increased compliance costs for the industry but which did not aid ATF in achieving its primary mission on combatting violent crime.

The signing of the rulemaking package was held less than an hour after Robert Cekada was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in a bipartisan vote to serve as ATF Director. Director Cekada is the first ATF director to be confirmed after being nominated by a Republican president.

"This is what 'promises made, promises kept' looks like. President Donald Trump made it clear that his administration would respect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens and would end the unfair targeting of the firearm industry through a special-interest antigun policy agenda," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President & General Counsel, who was on hand for Acting AG Blanche's signing ceremony. "This is more than turning the page on the weaponization of government against a lawful industry that provides the means for citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights. This is the dawning of a new era. NSSF is tremendously grateful to President Trump, Acting Attorney General Blanche and Director Cekada for their fair application of the law and true respect for Second Amendment rights."

Acting AG Blanche signed the **rulemaking package** that included 34 policy changes that will significantly change how the DOJ and ATF protect Second Amendment rights and regulate the firearm industry. Those policy changes are the result of the review of policies directed by President Trump when he published his **Protecting Second Amendment Rights Executive Order**.

The rulemaking changes are comprised of priorities NSSF has long championed including, rescissions of the ATF's "Engaged in the Business," bump stock and stabilizing pistol brace final rules, changes to ATF record retentions that have no law enforcement utility, providing a clearer definition of what constitutes a "willful" violation of the Gun Control Act (GCA) and an illegal straw purchase of a firearm and elimination of the requirement to notify the chief law enforcement officer for purchases of items regulated by the National Firearms Act (NFA).



# Indiana sets migratory bird hunting seasons

Indiana's migratory bird hunting seasons for 2026-27 have been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The hunting seasons include those for mourning dove, waterfowl (i.e., ducks, coots, mergansers, and geese), woodcock, snipe, and sora rails.

The white-fronted goose season and bag limit are separate from those for other geese. The white-fronted goose season is closed during the first and second Canada goose segments but opens at the same time as the other geese seasons during the third segment. The daily bag limit is two white-fronted geese.

The Canada goose and brant daily bag limit is five. Hunters may take any number of Canada goose and brant as long the total between them equals five or less. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow and Ross's geese) remains 20.

There are no changes in duck bag limits from 2025-26. The scaup daily bag limit remains one during the first 15 days of the duck season, and two for the rest of the season.

The possession limit for all migratory birds is three times the daily bag limit, except for light geese, for which there is no possession limit.

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

Species	Area	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3
Mourning Dove	Statewide	Sept. 1 – Oct. 18	Nov. 1 – 29	Dec. 19 – 31
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct. 15 – Nov. 28		
Snipe	Statewide	Sept. 1 – Dec. 16		
Sora Rail	Statewide	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9		
Early Teal	Statewide	Sept. 5 – 13		
Ducks, coots, and mergansers	North Zone	Oct. 24 – Dec. 13	Dec. 19 – 27	
	Central Zone	Oct. 31 – Nov. 8	Nov. 21 – Jan. 10	
	South Zone	Nov. 7 – 8	Nov. 28 – Jan. 24	
Canada geese, light geese, and brant geese	North Zone	Sept. 5 – 13	Oct. 24 – Nov. 1	Nov. 21 – Feb. 14
	Central Zone	Sept. 5 – 13	Oct. 31 – Nov. 8	Nov. 21 – Feb. 14
	South Zone	Sept. 1 – 13	Nov. 7 – 11	Nov. 21 – Feb. 14
White-fronted geese	North Zone	Nov. 21 – Feb. 14		
	Central Zone	Nov. 21 – Feb. 14		
	South Zone	Nov. 21 – Feb. 14		
Youth and Veteran-only hunting days	North Zone	Oct. 17 – 18		
	Central Zone	Oct. 24 – 25		
	South Zone	Oct. 31 – Nov. 1		



## Carl Higbie selected as official news source for QUWF

With sincere appreciation and service, the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation would like to announce that we are honored to include Carl Higbie and Frontline News on NEWSMAX as our official national, local, and veteran-focused news program.

If you tune in weekdays at 6 p.m. EST, 5 p.m. CST, you will see the straight forward, no fluff content of Carl's show. He is one of a kind. He uses current and factual data and research to expose the truth with ethical integrity born from his service as a Navy Seal.

"In my many conversations with Carl, it is significantly apparent he is the right voice on a range of subjects for veterans (he knows about benefit struggles because he lives it) , landowners (Carl does habitat management on his farm), hunters (he is an avid hunter and marksman), Second Amendment supporters and loves our country as veterans who served understand, above and beyond," said Craig Alderman, founder and executive director of QUWF, the only veteran-founded and managed national conservation organization in the U.S.



An advertisement for RXM. The background is a dark, textured surface. On the left, the text "THIS ONE SETS ITSELF APART" is written in large, white, distressed, all-caps font. In the center, a man wearing a black t-shirt, a grey baseball cap with "RUGER" on it, large black earplugs, and sunglasses is shown in profile, aiming a handgun forward with both hands. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo featuring a quail head inside a circle with the letter "R" below it, followed by the text "RXM™" and "LEARN MORE" below that.

# Biologists set to begin research bear captures

As part of ongoing monitoring efforts to document recovery of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Geological Survey, in conjunction with Yellowstone National Park, is working to inform the public that pre-baiting and scientific capture operations are once again about to begin within Yellowstone National Park. Agency biologists with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) will begin the field captures May 1 and continue through October 15. Capture operations can include a variety of activities, but all areas where work is being conducted will have major access points marked with warning signs. It is critical that all members of the public heed these signs.



Monitoring of the grizzly bear population is vital to ongoing research and management of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

To attract bears, biologists use natural food sources such as recently road-killed deer and elk.

Potential capture sites are baited with these natural foods and if indications are that grizzly bears are in the area, culvert traps or foot snares are used to capture bears. Once captured, bears are handled in accordance with strict safety and animal care protocols developed by the IGBST and approved by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Whenever bear capture activities are being conducted for scientific purposes, the area around the site will be posted with brightly colored warning signs to inform the public of the activities occurring. These signs are posted along the major access points to the capture site.

It is important that the public heed these signs and do not venture into an area that has been posted.

**ROCKY**  
**BOOT OF THE MONTH**

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# Notes from the Road:

Yes, it's brood rearing time once again on the landscape

**By Nick Prough** — Many of us wake up thinking about habitat out on the landscape — well, at least many of us diehard conservationists that are out there (you know who you are).

Often we think about habitat for adult quail, adult turkeys, deer, etc. However, over the past few years **brood rearing habitat** has climbed in the importance level on almost every farm I do a farm visit on, whether that be in the Midwest or virtually anywhere across the country.

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

Well, May/June is a great time to evaluate your brood habitat while it is at its best or its worst as these months are when many turkeys and quail will start hatching broods and this cover then becomes instantly important for survival. Good brood habitat can be beneficial for both turkeys and quail as they often use many of the same brood rearing habitats, especially when they are lacking for availability on a specific tract of land.

The best brood rearing habitats have a high abundance of insects present in the spring with good overhead cover for the broods to have adequate overhead cover from predators but also be thin enough for the young chicks to move around on the ground due to their small size. A good mix of bare ground and clumpy grasses such as native warm season grasses and forbs can provide excellent brood cover. Some other quality brood rearing habitats that might be available on your land can be small woodland openings, cover crop fields, small food plots, old fields, prairies, and meadows/hayfields which are adjacent to woodland cover.

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

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**Continued from Page 16** — Ag fields (especially weedy ones) can also provide excellent brood rearing habitats based on the timing of the planting and many weather factors effecting the ag fields so having more than just a nearby crop field is always important so that you aren't "putting all your eggs in one basket," per say. Additionally, relying on crop fields when the planting season is late can be an issue as there isn't any vegetation yet emerging from the ground and thus no cover and no insects. So, providing other brood cover is essential each year.

Once you spot the type of brood habitat you have or that you see quail and or turkey broods in, just mimic those areas they are utilizing on other areas of your land. Having brood habitats scattered across your land is also essential as you don't want to have just one or two brood-rearing areas that predators frequent or have your brood-rearing habitat continue to be a limiting factor.

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

Keep up all the great work out there that each of you, your landowners, your chapters and conservation partners are doing on crucial wildlife habitat projects, youth field day events, as well as all your other conservation outreach efforts, you are working on in your local communities each and every day, as you are definitely ... **"Making a Difference for Wildlife One Acre at a Time"!**



*Nick Prough is the QUWF chief wildlife biologist and wildlife partnership coordinator. He can be reached at [chiefbiologist@quwf.net](mailto:chiefbiologist@quwf.net).*

## Anti-hunting language removed from farm bill

**Editor's Note: We received many calls on this particular effort by some to include anti-hunting and dog training restrictions in the new Farm Bill. Good news, it has been removed.**

**Washington, D.C.** – Yesterday, sportsmen and women received an important victory with the removal of anti-hunting and dog training language from the House Farm Bill, entitled the **Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026**, following the release of the **House Rules Committee Print**.

The removal of this language represents a significant win for the **Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation** (CSF) and millions of sportsmen and women who enjoy hunting and training dogs – our best hunting companions.

In late March, despite strong opposition from Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) Member and Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee G.T. Thompson, among other CSC Members, there was a successful late-night effort to add anti-hunting and dog training language to the Farm Bill that would have caused serious issues for sportsmen and women who hunt with and train dogs.

Following this, CSF and our partners worked to see this language removed from the Farm Bill by leveraging our unique relationships with Members of the CSC, the largest bipartisan, bicameral Caucus in the United States Congress.

**Continued on Page 18**

**Continued from Page 17** — While the bill language of concern, known as the Greyhound Protection Act, appears on its face to be well-intentioned and narrowly focused on greyhound racing, this language is yet another purposefully misleading bill that has far-reaching implications for the millions of sportsmen who enjoy our time-honored traditions of training and hunting with dogs. As written, the bill would impact longstanding and lawful practices such as hunting with hounds and the use of live game in training hunting dogs – traditions that have absolutely no relation to "protecting greyhounds".

"The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation thanks Chairman Thompson for removing the Greyhound Protection Act from the Farm Bill," said Taylor Schmitz, CSF Senior Vice President. "This backdoor, late-night effort is nothing more than another desperate attempt by leading anti-hunting and animal rights activists to deceive Congress and the American public by portraying this language as something other than an effort to undermine our time-honored traditions of training and hunting with dogs."

The House Farm Bill is likely to receive consideration in the House Rules Committee and a final vote on the House floor in the coming weeks.

For all your chapter needs, please call Leslie Casanova [direct](mailto:direct@sportsmaninsurance.com) at Sportsman Insurance Agency at 1-800-925-7767. In most cases, Leslie can have your insurance the same day!

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# Positive cases of CWD detected in Indiana deer

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed three positive cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in wild white-tailed deer during the 2025-2026 hunting season in Noble, Franklin, and Rush counties. CWD is a neurological disease that affects deer, resulting in their eventual death.

"Hunters play an important role in helping Indiana DNR monitor CWD in the deer herd. With their support, we are gaining a better understanding of the extent of this disease across the state," said Joe Caudell, Indiana DNR deer biologist.

There have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans. As a precautionary measure, DNR offers the public free testing of their legally harvested deer and the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) recommends not consuming CWD positive meat.

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**Continued from Page 19** — DNR oversees both CWD Positive Areas, where CWD has been detected and is known to be in the deer population, and CWD Enhanced Surveillance Zones, where CWD has been detected but more information is needed to determine the best deer management actions.

The Noble County positive deer was found at the edge of the state's current CWD Positive Area. This prompted DNR biologists to expand the area because it is likely there are additional deer in the neighboring counties with CWD that are undetected. The CWD Positive Area now includes LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb, Noble, Allen, and Whitley counties.

Because of the positive cases in Franklin and Rush counties, DNR will enhance its surveillance efforts in both counties and surrounding counties. Enhanced surveillance relies on voluntary CWD testing of hunter harvested deer.

CWD is caused by a misfolded prion that causes damage to the animal's nervous system. CWD can spread from deer-to-deer contact or through contaminated environments. It remains in the soil for many years. Animals in the late stages of CWD can experience drastic weight loss and show abnormal changes in behavior. If you see any sick or dead wildlife, please report it at [on.IN.gov/sickwildlife](https://on.IN.gov/sickwildlife).

Indiana's various deer hunting seasons run from mid-September until the end of January.

Hunters can have their harvested deer tested for free by voluntarily submitting a sample via one of DNR's head drop coolers or participating businesses. All CWD sampling locations can be viewed through an [interactive map](#).

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## New tractor with zero electronics

**Article featured on "Frontline" by Carl Higbie on NEWSMAX; reprinted with permission** — There is a new option on the market, a new brand of tractor made for easy maintenance and very little electronic systems or controls. No circuit boards, software glitches, or proprietary parts for the average farmer.

Enter Ursa AG, hailing from Alberta, Canada, with a selection of 12 valve Cummins Powered Deisel tractors now in 150, 180 and 210 HP models. All equipped with mechanical fuel injection royalty. All of the controls are mechanically connected, no circuit boards, software or "Diagnostic Fees" if something needs repairs.

Doug Wilson, owner of Ursa, states the tractor line is designed for long, hard work, affordable, powerful and serviceable by third party shops. Because the Cummins has powered everything from farm machinery to pick up trucks and more over the years, practically all shops know how to work on them. Parts are also easier to come by greatly improving down time.

Though made in Canada, they can be purchased direct in the U.S. and they are working on U.S. distribution with over 400 inquiries.

Here is the real treat, pricing on line shows the 150 with loader, cab, 4x4 and float seat, is \$95,156.30 USD. That is far less than any other color in the U.S., especially Deere.

**Editor's Note: We hope the option for a 50 to 60HP model is on the planning table. That is a recommended perfect size for wildlife habitat work on small to medium size farms.**



# 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.

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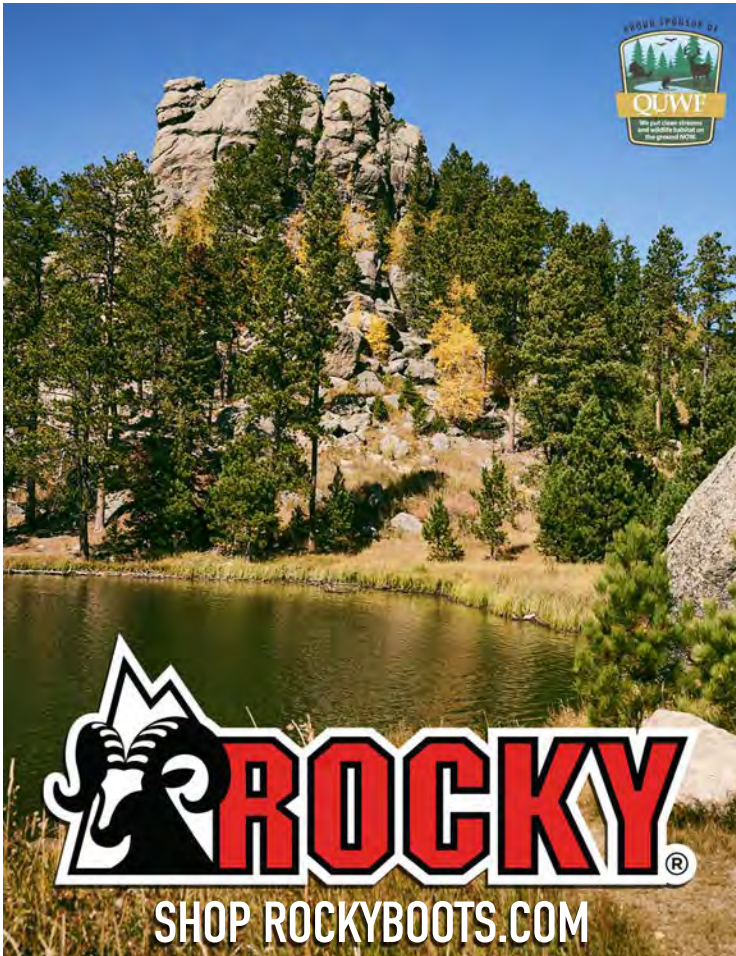
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For all your Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation chapter insurance needs, please call Leslie Casanova direct at Sportsman Insurance Agency at 1-800-925-7767. In most cases, Leslie can have your insurance the same day!

Do you have any questions concerning banquets and/or vendor programs? If so, please call the QUWF National Office at (417) 345-5960.

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