

# PHEASANTS FOREVER AND QUAIL FOREVER

*The Habitat Organization*

## ***JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT***

# **Habitat Specialist**

## **Kansas**

**Application Deadline:** July 10, 2022

**Location:** Melvern Wildlife Area, Reading, KS

**Anticipated Start Date:** August 2022

**Overview:** This position is part of a partnership between Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) and Pheasants Forever. The incumbent will conduct habitat management work on public wildlife management areas. Habitat Specialists are full-time, permanent employees of Pheasants Forever and will receive daily leadership from KDWP Field Managers. This Habitat Specialist position will be located at the Melvern Wildlife Area near Reading, Kansas.

### **Description of Area:**

Melvern Wildlife Area is located in the physiographic area known as Osage Cuestas. The area habitats include approximately 4,000 acres of native tall grass prairie, 2,000 acres of woodland habitat, and 3,000 acres of crop land. Much of the upland area is dominated by native tall grass prairie with small wooded draws interspersed. The lowlands located along the Marais des Cygnes river flood plain are primarily crop land. A mix of moist-soil management and crop rotation are utilized to manage for desirable wetland vegetation beneficial to migratory birds on Melvern's 350 acres of wetlands. Wildlife area staff are actively involved in converting lowland crop fields into managed wetlands. Management of upland habitats over the years has consisted of converting croplands and cool season grasses to native warm season grasses and forbs, selective cutting of invading woody vegetation, and prescribed burning to stimulate native warm season grasses and forbs. White-tailed deer and wild turkey are plentiful on the area. Waterfowl numbers vary depending on available habitat, but the area has supported large numbers during both the fall and spring migrations. Mourning dove numbers vary yearly depending on nesting conditions. Bobwhite quail populations are excellent on the area, but a good dog is needed due to the dense vegetation. Squirrel and cottontail rabbit numbers are generally healthy and provide some of the most underutilized hunting opportunities on the area. Non-game species are very plentiful on the area and provide some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities. A wide array of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians can be found on the area. Fishing for catfish, white bass, and crappie in the Marais des Cygnes River are also popular activities. Trapping can be a very successful venture due to the wide array of furbearer habitats.

**Duties:** The incumbent will assist with all aspects of managing the assigned wildlife management area. Major responsibilities include:

- Directing, supervising, and implementing habitat management work on public wildlife areas;
- Procuring supplies and equipment;

- Supervising and participating in the construction, maintenance and repair of area buildings, equipment, and roads;
- Coordinating agricultural permits to insure positive benefits for wildlife;
- Providing public information;
- Participating in scientific field studies and surveys;
- Participating in training and evaluation of seasonal employees.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

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

- A basic understanding of environmental, agricultural 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 wildlife management;
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with colleagues and partner agencies;
- Ability to work independently with little supervision;
- Knowledge of wildlife ecology, wetland and grassland 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.

**Training and Experience Guideline:** Please combine your cover letter, resume, and 3 references into a single Word document or PDF file before clicking on the blue **APPLY** icon at the bottom or upper right corner and uploading to the "Resume" area of your application. For a complete list of current job openings, visit our Recruitment website at: [www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs) (company benefits are also available to view here).

**Pay:** \$33,000 Salary depending on experience and qualifications + benefits.

**To Apply:** Please combine your cover letter explaining why this position is a good fit for you, resume, and 3 references into a single Word document or PDF file before uploading to the "Resume" area of your application on our Recruitment website at [www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs) .

**If you have additional questions, please contact Marina Osier, Kansas State Coordinator at 515-201-1873.**

*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.*