

## Missouri State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Missouri's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Protecting Cave Life Through Clean Water**

Polluted groundwater is a threat to both humans and wildlife. Recent studies revealed that 88 percent of the Mark Twain school's sewage lagoon has been leaking into the groundwater that feeds Tumbling Creek Cave. This cave is the most biologically diverse cave west of the Mississippi River. With the help of State Wildlife Grants, a diverse group of partners has come together to improve the on-site sewage treatment system for the school, protecting clean water and benefiting the health of wildlife and people. The next step will be to create an outdoor classroom/community space that will help local residents better understand the connections between surface and subsurface ecosystems in this important cave of the Ozark Highlands.

### **Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Revitalizing Grasslands with Fire and Grazing**

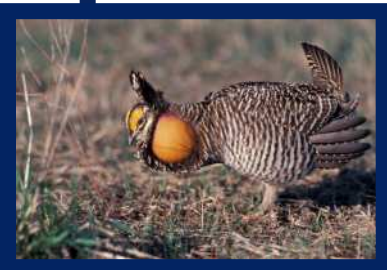
The greater prairie-chicken and northern bobwhite quail are grassland birds that are declining because of the loss of prairie habitat and poor management of remaining grasslands. To help grassland wildlife, the Missouri Department of Conservation is using State Wildlife Grants to remove trees and add fencing and water sources so cattle grazing is less intensive. In combination with prescribed burns, this will restore the natural balance of the ecosystem while improving grazing systems will benefit cattle producers and wildlife. This is a cost effective way to increase plant diversity and improve habitat.

### **Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Places Kansas City Wildlands Diversity Initiative**

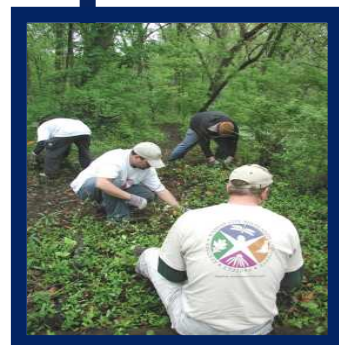
Working together, we can conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations. State Wildlife Grants are helping accomplish this by providing a consistent funding source for the Kansas City Wildlands program. This highly successful partnership of more than two dozen entities has garnered the support of thousands of volunteers who work to restore land in the metro Kansas City area. Activities include clearing brush, eliminating exotic plants, and restoring native plants. As our communities grow, there tends to be less green space for people and for wildlife. Investing in native plants, natural communities, and green areas has tremendous benefit for the entire community.



Mark Twain School Students,  
Photo Courtesy of Missouri  
DOC



Prairie-Chicken, Photo  
Courtesy of Missouri DOC



Wildlands Volunteers,  
Photo Courtesy of Missouri  
DOC

**Congress has appropriated \$7.3 million in State Wildlife Grants to Missouri since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$5 million state and partner dollars.**