

Missouri Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Missouri Department of Conservation in consultation with Missouri's State Technical Committee are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in seventy-nine counties in north-east, north central and north-west Missouri. The purpose of the Missouri Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration SAFE is to develop habitat that will provide the forbs, warm season grass and shrubby cover necessary for the nesting and brood rearing of the bobwhite quail and pollinator habitat for the monarch butterfly.

Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with landowners and agricultural producers to establish and manage vegetative covers that control soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

SAFE is a unique type of CRP that offers organizations the opportunity to partner with the USDA to establish habitat for high-priority wildlife species on agricultural land. SAFE sponsors work with the USDA to identify the wildlife species, the vegetative cover that provides habitat for the target species, and the location in the state where the habitat is needed. A partnership is formed between the SAFE sponsor and the USDA, and federal funds are made available to allow for CRP enrollment on eligible land within the SAFE project location.

Target Wildlife Species

The goal of the Missouri Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration SAFE project is to provide habitat for bobwhite quail and monarch butterflies which are important to Missouri. Both species have suffered significant population declines and habitat development for these species will also assist with many other migratory bird species and other pollinators.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in the Missouri Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration SAFE are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for bobwhite quail and monarch butterflies. The habitat being established is designed to provide the nesting, brood rearing, and shrubby cover necessary to the bobwhite quail life cycle. The brood rearing habitat created will also provide essential foraging and nesting habitat for the monarch butterfly. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by plant diversity and wildlife benefits while ensuring protection of the soil and water resources. Management activities are site specific and are used to enhance the wildlife benefits for the site. NRCS or TSP will work with participants to plan appropriate management activities, such as disking, inter-seeding, prescribed burning, herbicide application or grazing that will create plant diversity for the benefit of wildlife and enhancement of the permanent cover. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for bobwhite quail and monarch butterflies.



Project Location

The Missouri Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration SAFE project location is Adair, Andrew, Atchison, Audrain, Barton, Bates, Bollinger, Boone, Buchanan, Butler, Caldwell, Callaway, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Cass, Chariton, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cole, Cooper, Daviess, Dekalb, Dunklin, Franklin, Gasconade, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Howard, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Knox, Lafayette, Lewis, Lincoln, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Marion, McDonald, Mercer, Miller, Mississippi, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, New Madrid, Newton, Nodaway, Osage, Pemiscot, Perry, Pettis, Pike, Platte, Putnam, Ralls, Randolph, Ray, Saline, Schuyler, Scotland, Scott, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Louis, St. Louis City, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, Sullivan, Vernon, Warren, and Worth counties.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-4D, SAFE Wildlife Habitat Planting
- ◆ CP38E-12, SAFE Food Plots
- ◆ CP38B-23, SAFE Wetland Restoration on Floodplains
- ◆ CP38B-23A, SAFE Non-Floodplain Wetlands Initiative
- ◆ CP38E-25, SAFE Rare and Declining Habitat
- ◆ CP38A-33, SAFE Upland Bird Habitat Buffer Initiative
- ◆ CP38E-42, SAFE Pollinator Habitat Initiative
- ◆ CP38A-43, SAFE Prairie Strips

Haying and Grazing

Managed or emergency haying is not allowed on Missouri Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration SAFE acres. Grazing, when used for management activities, will follow guidelines outlined in project polices and as defined in an approved conservation plan.

Eligibility Requirements

Because SAFE is part of CRP, certain land and participant eligibility rules apply. To begin with, land must be in the project area and meet cropping history. CRP participant eligibility rules also apply to SAFE.

Payments and Incentives

In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

For More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.



Missouri Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration SAFE Project Map



Legend

-  FSA County Boundary
-  Missouri Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration SAFE Project Area