

# Grassland Management in Pennsylvania

## Stewardship Opportunities for Private Landowners



Grassland habitat,  
PA Game Commission

Bobwhite Quail,  
Jacob Dingel, PA Game Commission

## What is Grassland Habitat?

Grasslands in Pennsylvania are areas dominated by grasses such as little and big bluestem, Indian grass, as well as flowering plants such as goldenrod, black-eyed Susan and other herbaceous plants. Shrubs and small trees are uncommon.

## Status of Grasslands in Pennsylvania

Native grassland habitat has been declining in Pennsylvania due to conversion for other uses (e.g., urban, agriculture) and encroachment of trees and shrubs.



Grassland Habitat, Mike Pruss, PA Game Commission

## Why Are Grasslands Important?

- Grasslands can serve as primary habitat, or as travel corridors, for a variety of wildlife.
- Grasslands help protect soil, filter sediment and chemicals from runoff, thus enhancing water quality, and
- Grasslands are often colorful, vibrant and thus aesthetically appealing.



PA Fish & Boat Commission

## How Are Grasslands Managed?

Grasslands can be established and managed using a variety of best management practices including:

- Brush clearing
- Carefully timed biannual mowing
- Seeding of prairie grasses and other native plants
- Prescribed burning
- Selective use of herbicides

For more information see:  
Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan Grasslands Goals  
(Grasslands Component, Section 20) at:

[www.fish.state.pa.us/promo/grants/swg/00swg.htm](http://www.fish.state.pa.us/promo/grants/swg/00swg.htm)

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## What Assistance May Be Available To Landowners?

- **Technical Assistance** for habitat management may be available through various conservation programs and personnel, including:
  - Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), & Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
  - A professional biologist who can work to help you develop a habitat management plan that benefits wildlife and helps meet *your* wildlife management goals.
- **Habitat Management Assistance** may also be available for implementing the habitat management plan for your property-contingent upon availability of funding.
- **Habitat Protection** funds for long-term protection, such as conservation easements, may be available for *your* land. Contact a resource professional.



Coneflower,  
Mike Pruss,  
PA Game Commission



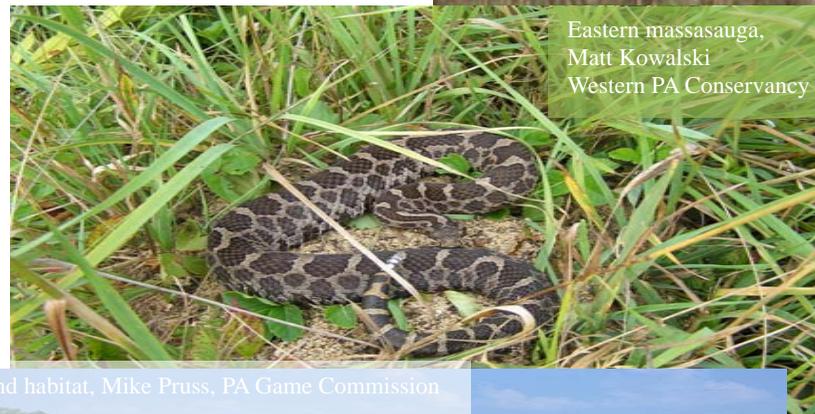
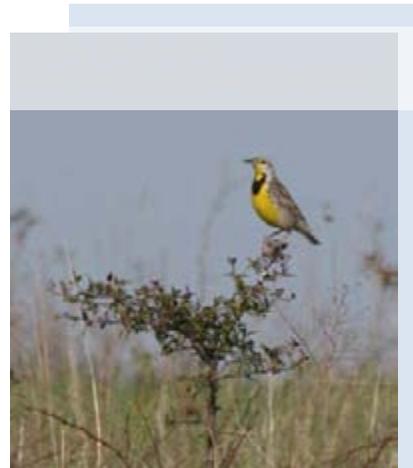
Eastern Box Turtle,  
Andy Shiels,  
PA Fish & Boat Commission

## Many Wildlife Species Use Grasslands

Grasslands support many wildlife species including birds such as the northern bobwhite quail and eastern meadowlark, small mammals, and reptiles such as the eastern box turtle and eastern massasauga.

## Management Goals for Pennsylvania's Grasslands

- Establish, restore and enhance approximately 13,000 acres statewide.
- Support multi-species Management
- Develop management guidelines for grassland restoration.



Eastern massasauga,  
Matt Kowalski  
Western PA Conservancy



Grassland habitat, Mike Pruss, PA Game Commission

## What Can You Do?

In Pennsylvania, grasslands are often found on private lands. Therefore, private landowners can play a key role in the conservation of this habitat and the species that use it. If you own land and want to restore or establish grassland on your property, please contact a resource professional *soon*.

### For Technical Assistance Pennsylvania Game Commission

Rich Voytko, Private Lands Habitat Program  
Phone: 724-662-3740, Ext. 108

### Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Division of Habitat Management  
Phone: 814.359-5119

For PFBC Regional Habitat Biologists, see:  
[http://www.fish.state.pa.us/dir\\_habitat.htm](http://www.fish.state.pa.us/dir_habitat.htm)

### Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

800 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Phone: (412) 288-2777 Fax: (412) 231-1414  
[www.WaterLandLife.org](http://www.WaterLandLife.org)



Enhance and enjoy your land!