

MDC offers free conservation management workshop

Conservation practices on small acreages can help property owners attract and enjoy wildlife. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will offer a free workshop on conservation management for small acreages from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Bass Pro Shop in Independence.

Not everything that grows green in summer is good for wildlife. Native plants offer more benefits for butterflies and birds than non-natives. Invasive species can harm habitat. Forest or woodland management, such as selective timber thinning, can be good for wildlife and the trees that remain. Good vegetative management can improve water quality in ponds and streams. Even small strips of native plant cover next to a pasture or crop field can help.

The workshop will cover topics such as:

- Ways to attract wildlife to an acreage.
- Trees and shrubs for landscaping and wildlife value.
- Identifying and controlling invasive species.
- Woodland management.
- Where to find equipment available for loan.

MDC staff making the presentations will include Chuck Conner, community forester, Andy Carmack, private land conservationist, and Jake Colehour, fisheries management biologist.

Participants are asked to register by Feb. 8. For more information or to register, call 816-622-0900.

MDC offers many types of assistance for private landowners for acreages large and small. To learn more about boosting fish, wildlife, and native plants on your property, visit <https://mdc.mo.gov/property>.