



**Shawnee**  
Resource Conservation  
& Development



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Arranged By  
**Raymond Bieri III**



# RC&D Council Overview

Since 1967 The Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, extends across the lower 16 counties of Illinois.

In order to accomplish organizational goals, we strive to maintain strong partnerships with other organizations in our conservation area. Through these partnerships, and with the help of our talented and skilled Project Coordinators, we are able to create measurable change for the better, in Illinois.

## Mission Statement

*The mission of this Organization is to provide local leadership and the framework required to develop and carry out a plan of action for the conservation, development and wise use of the resources of the Area.*

### Shawnee RC&D Area



# Board of Directors

**Kevin Rohling, Chairman**

**Chris Evans, Vice-Chair**

**Chris Evans, Secretary/Treasurer**

Tom Anderson

Tom Fisher

Caleb Grantham

Charles Nolan

Rudy Rice

Dale Shumaker

Gary Pluta

David Warner

John Hemphill

Scott Wilmouth

Greg Legan

Jean Sellar

## Executive Director

Raymond Bieri III

## Program Director

Cathy Poshard

## Grant Specialist

Tabitha Ayres

## Want to Get Involved?

The Shawnee RC&D is looking for dedicated professionals and enthusiastic community members to join our Council. Meetings are held four times per year in Marion, IL. Council members are responsible for helping find new projects or conservation opportunities, networking with community and government leaders to accomplish conservation goals, representing Shawnee RC&D to the general public and informing others about the work we do. For more information about joining our council, or to submit a project or grant idea, please contact: Raymond Bieri, Executive Director, (618) 944-1736, or email [director@shawneercd.org](mailto:director@shawneercd.org).

# From the Director

Raymond Bieri III

2022 has been a year of turnover for the Shawnee RC&D. Tabitha, our former Executive Director stepped down from her position and became our Grant Specialist. I was hired to take over the duties of the Executive Director. It is my utmost pleasure to be working with the Shawnee RC&D. I became familiar with the organization when I worked as a technician for the Forest Restoration Support Team in the Spring/Summer of 2021. I greatly enjoyed working with FRST and helping restore some of the Southern Illinois landscape. After my time with FRST ended, I focused on my master's degree in forestry at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Then I heard that the Executive Director position was opening up and I immediately set myself to learning as much as I could about the organization. I nearly memorized the website and read all of the Annual Reports going back to 2013. My thoughts were filled with all the possibilities and opportunities of working with the Shawnee RC&D.



Thankfully, the Shawnee RC&D decided to take a chance and hire me. I have dedicated all the time and energy I have towards leading the organization forward. Much of my time after starting the position was spent familiarizing myself with organizational processes and meeting with our project coordinators and contractors. I have already gotten to take part in planning new projects with the Forest Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others. I have



helped write two grant proposals so far. We have received notification that both proposals are going to be funded! The Council indicated that they wanted me to increase the visibility of the organization. To this end, I have gotten out to take pictures at various public events including FRST and CWMA workdays, as well as a prescribed burn. I then share these pictures on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Another project that I have been involved with is the Beginning Forest Landowner Program with University of Illinois Extension. As a partner organization, the Shawnee RC&D provides matching contributions. I take pictures for the field events of the program and have been conducting site visits and some forestry consultation

for the landowners involved in the program.

One process has taken up more time than we would like. This is the process of securing insurance coverage for our operations. Cathy, Kevin, and I have spent a lot of time getting multiple quotes and conducting research to ensure the organization gets the best coverage. There is more to figure out with this process. However, I am confident that we are close to securing a great policy and getting all the associated details figured out.





# Director's Report Continued



Three of our project coordinators, Jesse Riechman, Isaiah Tanner, and Nick Seaton moved on to other positions. We are thankful for the great work that these guys have done. We hired Zack Stawicki as the new coordinator of SIPBA and Megan Gulik as the new coordinator for FRST. We are currently working towards hiring a new coordinator for the CWMA. We are also saying goodbye to our Chairman, Kevin Rohling. The Shawnee RC&D has greatly benefitted from Kevin's service. I am immensely thankful for Kevin's guidance as well. Kevin, Cathy, and Tabitha have given me everything I needed to effectively perform the duties of the Executive Director.

Moving forward, I will continue to work with our project coordinators and partners to plan new and exciting projects. I will also continue to increase the visibility of the organization and seize many opportunities to promote and spread the mission of the Shawnee RC&D. Finally, I plan to increase the private funding of the organization by developing multiple fundraising campaigns and platforms.



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2022 was a year of change and renewal for the Shawnee RC&D (SRCD). We said goodbye to some long-time staff, contractors, and Council Members and welcomed several new individuals to the organization who will help determine the path forward. We are excited to welcome Raymond Bieri III on as our new Executive Director beginning last summer. Ray's leadership and determination has been integral to working through challenges and seizing opportunities that have arisen this year. Some of the challenges this year included saying goodbye to some long-time Coordinators. Jesse Reichman



has been the Coordinator for the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association (SIPBA) for ten years. Jesse's leadership in that position and his collaborations alongside conservation agencies and organizations across the region and beyond will be greatly missed. Nick Seaton was Project Coordinator for the River-to-River Cooperative Weed Management Area for almost five years. Nick's leadership and collaboration brought new ideas and exciting projects to the region as well. We hope to continue to collaborate and work alongside Jesse and Nick in their new roles with the Shawnee National Forest. We will also miss Isaiah Tanner who served as Coordinator for the Forest Restoration Support Team for almost two years and accepted a position with The Nature Conservancy. In addition, we will miss Julie Peterson, a long-time Council member who served as our Secretary-Treasurer for the past year. Julie was a great asset to the Council and will be sorely missed. Despite these departures, we thank them for their contributions to the SRCD and the conservation community and wish them success in their future endeavors.

With every change comes opportunity and we have been excited to both renew old relationships and recruit new conservationists to carry the torch. This year we renewed our relationship with one of our strongest allies, the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association. We worked closely with the SIPBA Board and Executive Committee. This process led to welcoming Zach Stawicki on as the new Coordinator for SIPBA. Zach has hit the ground running with the support of the SIPBA Board, volunteers, and guidance from the long-time Burn Crew Coordinators, Chris Walker and Sally Harris. We are excited to see SIPBA's volunteers and contractors continue to provide critical conservation executing private land prescribed burns across the region. The SRCD also recently hired Megan Gulik as the new Coordinator of the Forest Restoration Support Team and we look forward to her contributions as the point person for volunteer corps invasive plant control on private lands. The Steering Committee for the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area recently convened to begin the search for a new Project Coordinator and we look forward to engaging partners in that effort as well. Finally, we were excited to welcome several new Council Members this year including John Hemphill, Greg Legan, Jean Sellar, David Warner, and Scott Wilmouth, all of whom have a wealth of experience and knowledge to bring to the Council. In addition, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteer Council Members, many of whom have served for decades and who contribute their time and energy to the SRCD. We couldn't do it without you! In addition to filling positions, engaging partners, and enlisting new Council Members, we also updated our Constitution and Bylaws and Operational Policies and implemented the suite of project administration actions that keep the projects and programs moving forward. I look forward to what the SRCD will accomplish with our partners in conservation in the next year and beyond!



# Let The Sun Shine In

## 2022-2023

The Let the Sunshine In (LSSI) program began officially in 2016 with the award of an U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grant to hire a program coordinator. Since then, the primary responsibilities of the coordinator have been to foster communication between LSSI program participants, generate outreach and education relevant to the program, and to pursue grants consistent with the LSSI ecosystem restoration goals.

This report covers LSSI activities for the period roughly between April 2022 and March 2023.

### Internal Communication

Monthly Zoom meetings are held on the last Friday of every month. Meetings are an important source of information flow between partners, with representatives of most partner organizations present on most calls. Calls are scheduled and hosted by the LSSI coordinator.



### External Communication

During the previous year I have written articles specific to the ecosystem restoration goals of the program for *The Southern Illinoisan* (including guest commentaries that ran April 6, April 21, and October 22). Recently (February and March) I wrote and voiced an 'In Focus' commentary that aired on WSIU 91.9 FM. The commentaries were specific to

the multi-use mandate and management of the Shawnee National Forest. In early 2022, I wrote a multi-part series of articles about the Shawnee National Forest that ran in several southern Illinois weekly newspapers (including the *Carbondale Times*). The articles highlighted the Forest's history, the USFS mission, recreation, timber harvest, and forest management activities.

In 2022, I assisted and advised Kyle Brazil, current Central Hardwoods Joint Venture Coordinator, with his efforts to establish a Let the Sun Shine In program in southern Indiana. That effort involved developing a working group of potential program partners and the writing of a USFS Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant proposal.



**Dr. Mike Baltz,**  
*Project Coordinator*

is the former southern Illinois Area Director for the Nature Conservancy and is currently the Let the Sun Shine In program coordinator. He has a Master's degree in Environmental Science from Miami University and a PhD from the University of Missouri. His research area of expertise is migrant songbird ecology and conservation.

# Let The Sun Shine In Continued

## Grant Writing and Management

*USFS Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant program: Cross-boundary Oak Ecosystem Restoration in southern Illinois (\$400,000).* This grant was awarded in late 2020. Project deliverables included hiring a forest stewardship technician to work with District Forester Benjamin Snyder and monies to facilitate restoration efforts on 760 forested acres. To date, 640 acres have received forest stand improvement and/or invasive species control.



*NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant program: Southern Illinois Oak Ecosystem Restoration (\$1.1 million).* This grant was awarded in late 2021 and all of 2022 was spent working on finalizing supplemental agreements specific to the award. The first application deadline projects was March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, and work specific to the project could begin this fiscal year.



*USFS/NRCS (Joint Chiefs) grant program: Cross-boundary Upland Oak Restoration in Southern Illinois Grant Proposal (\$2.3 million).* I assisted with the writing of this proposal and the partners received word recently that the grant had been awarded. The project will fund LSSI-type forest restoration work in three Forest Stewardship Clusters for three years.

*USFS Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant program: Large-scale Oak-hickory Ecosystem Restoration in southern Illinois (\$300,000).* I assisted with the writing of this proposal. The partners have received word that the proposal was ranked very high in the Region, but we are awaiting word on an award. The project would fund LSSI-type forest restoration work in Forest Stewardship Clusters.

*Forestry for the Birds program.* I am working with conservation interests in Indiana to develop a Forestry for the Birds program for Illinois, as well as to develop a Forestry for the Birds forester training program for conservation professionals in the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region that includes parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee.

We are currently seeking private funding for the \$100,000 proposal and anticipate beginning work on the project in May-June 2023.

Shawnee RC&D

941 State Hwy 146W

Golconda, IL 62938

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[www.shawneercd.org](http://www.shawneercd.org)

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## Put Your Money to Work for Local Resource Conservation

The Shawnee RC&D is primarily funded by grants and agreements with federal and state agencies. Private donations help to further the mission of the RC&D by providing necessary matching funds and can be targeted toward your personal area of interest.

The RC&D can receive tax deductible donations under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501c3. The RC&D may accept all forms of contributions including, but not limited to gifts, property, cash, stocks and securities. Feel free to contact us with any questions at 618.944.1736 or [director@shawneercd.org](mailto:director@shawneercd.org).

The RC&D offers outreach and education, on-site technical help, landowner training and education, and cost share in each of the program areas. For a detailed description of each program, please visit our website at [www.shawneercd.org](http://www.shawneercd.org).

**Your contribution can be mailed to:**

**Shawnee RC&D 941 State Hwy 146W Golconda, IL 62938**





# The Forest Restoration Support Team (FRST)

## 2022

Ray Bieri, *Executive Director*

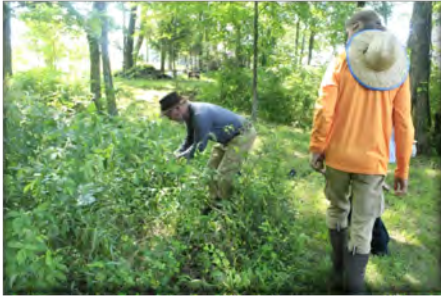
The Forest Restoration Support Team is a powerful project that was created by the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association (SIPBA) and River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (RTRCWMA) to provide a corps of volunteers to assist private landowners with non-native invasive species removal, and ultimately restoration of forested landscapes across Southern Illinois. Isaiah Tanner was the coordinator for FRST for most of 2022. In October of 2022, Isaiah moved on from his position with the Shawnee RC&D to a position with The Nature Conservancy in Missouri. The Shawnee RC&D then contracted with Megan Gulik as the new coordinator for FRST.



Throughout 2022 Isaiah led several workdays, 15 in total. 9 of these workdays were for individual members of FRST and another 5 were in the Union Hills Subdivision. The Union Hills Homeowners Association has been very active with their forest restoration efforts. Much of the community is interested and engaged in the process. Isaiah also led another workday at Trail of Tears State Forest. Before these workdays can occur, site assessments had to be conducted. So, 8 site assessments were also conducted for FRST members. Another project that FRST oversees is the delivery of herbicide and tools to landowners that choose to take on restoration on their own. The FRST coordinator visits with the landowner, provides consultation, and then supplies them with the herbicide and tools they need. Isaiah continued this project and made several deliveries to landowners.

FRST tends to focus on controlling non-native invasive species to allow forests to regenerate. However, restoration efforts can be helped by artificially planting native species. To this end Isaiah distributed and helped plant native species to community members. There is also an exciting new program being offered to Southern Illinois landowners that want to manage their forested land. This is the Southern Illinois Beginning Forest Landowner Program. Isaiah helped teach a class on non-native invasive species management for this program. Finally, Isaiah also ensured that the Neon One Volunteer Management software would continue to serve FRST and SIPBA well.

# The Forest Restoration Support Team (FRST) Continued



Megan Gulik, *Volunteer Coordinator*

The Forest Restoration Support Team has seen growth and transition this past year. Isaiah did a lot of good work for the program and moved onto a new job last October. After graduating from SIU's forestry program in December, I was hired in January, and since then I have acquired an LLC, insurance, and a pesticide applicator's license. In the last couple of months, I've helped landowners procure the tools they need for invasive species work, log their volunteer hours, helped new members get into the program, assisted on SIPBA burns, and partnered with Green Earth for a volunteer day.

Looking forward, I am excited to help more members combat non-native invasive species on their properties by supplying the tools they need, hosting volunteer days, and keeping members and volunteers involved in the management of woodlands in southern Illinois. I am eager to continue and strengthen partnerships within the stewardship community and plan to serve current FRST members with at least one workday on each of their properties, as that has been done in years past. We have 26 current active members, and I aspire to grow that number throughout the year.

## River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area 2022 - 2023 Annual Report

Nicholas Seaton, *Project Coordinator*

### **The River to River CWMA is a partnership between:**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources—Illinois Department of Agriculture

Illinois Department of Transportation—Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge — Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge

The Nature Conservancy — Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service — USDA Forest Service

Shawnee National Forest — University of Illinois Cooperative Extension



# River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Continued

The past year has been one filled with change. As I look back on what we have accomplished and the partnerships we've maintained it's hard to realize how fast it went. Our partnerships are what keep the CWMA relevant and viable, whether it be educational training, landowner consultations, outreach, or implementation, we have managed to remain an important part of the conservation community.

Throughout the year, the CWMA worked on four separate grants that were awarded to the RC&D and partnering agencies. The Regional Adaptive Management Partnerships (RAMP), Cross Boundaries, Beginning Forest Landowners Program, and Plants of Concern Program are projects that help to contribute to the mission of the RC&D by spreading quality educational material across the region, gather important data and focus on land management.



Throughout 2022, the CWMA project coordinator produced 9 action alerts which focused on specific invasive species in the region during the season when they were readily visible and easy to identify. These were posted on the organizational Facebook page and began to gain traction with the public, engaging 35,812 people through shares and "likes".



In person presentations were also a big part of fulfilling the educational mission of the CWMA. Invasive species presentations on management and ID were given to the Master Naturalists, S. IL farm beginnings program and at the S. IL conservation workshop. These were opportunities for participants to ask questions, learn more about the common invaders that occur in the woods and see what they can do to remove them. This is where the CWMA really shines and a significant impact is made.

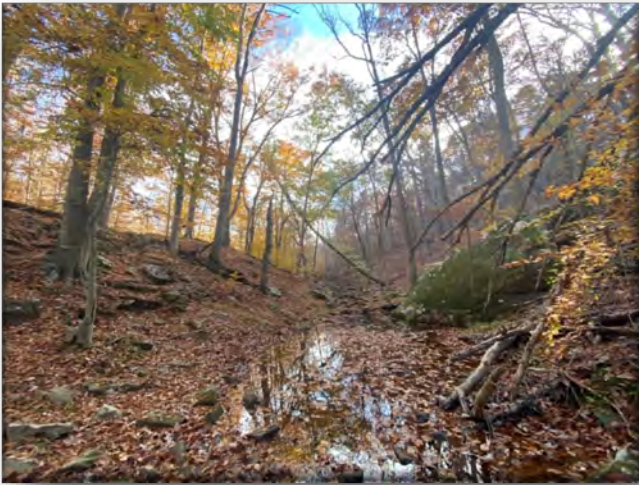
Working on the Cross Boundaries grant, the CWMA coordinator, planned one large burn unit in addition to the many others that were planned in collaboration with the Forest Service and IDNR. This collaborative work was coupled with in-person meetings and forest management plan reviews. In total, there were 6 burns participated on, and 23 landowner site visits throughout the year.

The Beginning Forest Landowner program brings participants through a immersive and engaging curriculum that covers all of the aspects of land ownership. It is a great opportunity for those interested in learning how to be better stewards of their properties. With the program, the CWMA spoke on invasive species management and removal using integrated pest management strategies and best management practices. Two in the field and one in the classroom presentation were given to the 2022 cohort in addition to in-person consultation for those interested. Presentations were on Invasive species ID/management, sprayers and tools and ID in the field on a participants property.

# River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Continued

Finally, in partnership with the Plants of Concern Program, the CWMA helped on surveys for threatened and endangered plant species across the forest. This is an incredibly important program that is shedding light on previously unknown species distributions throughout the forest. Without knowledge of the diversity of the woods how can we protect it? The CWMA coordinator helped with 26 surveys throughout the year. More information can be found at [plantsofconcern.org/southern-illinois](http://plantsofconcern.org/southern-illinois) to volunteer and get involved with surveys.

It has been a productive year, and as stated above one filled with change. In January of 2023 I started a new job with the Forest Service as their Forest Ecologist and look forward to the continued partnership with the RC&D and future CWMA coordinator. This work has been incredibly fulfilling throughout the last 5 years and I am fortunate to have had so many passionate people around me to keep the momentum. We are in the greatest place together right here.





# Coordination and Implementation of CWPPs in Southern Illinois 2022

David Allen, *Project Coordinator*

## **Project Overview**

This project provides regional coordination for implementing recommendations from the Union County, Pope County, Hardin County, and Makanda Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). Initially developed and coordinated separately, since 2020 the vision has been to coordinate these CWPPs as a regional effort to streamline (avoid duplication of) coordinator salary needs and take advantage of a developing economy of scale in implementing CWPP recommendations. This project supports the National and Northeast Regional Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy by implementing these CWPPs to reduce risks and create a more fire resilient landscape. In all these counties, most of the land is privately owned, which presents challenges for management across the landscape. The Shawnee Resource, Conservation, and Development Area (Shawnee RC&D) hired a contractor, David Allen, to serve as the lead coordinator for the project. This project will also rely on the assistance of RC&D contractor, Chris Walker, to work directly with fire departments. In addition, RC&D contractor Kelley Shoemaker will serve the project by managing the project data and routinely checking the Federal Excess Property Program's log of available equipment.

## **General Project Administration**

In 2022 CWPP steering committee meetings were held to discuss accomplishments and needs for the Pope County and Makanda Township CWPPs. For Pope County, a prioritized list of needs was developed. For Makanda Township, the greatest need identified is an update of their CWPP. In 2023, the CWPP Coordinator will assist in looking for funding opportunities and if located, will assist in proposal development.

## **Landowner Contacts and Home Assessments**

Discussions are in progress with the Pope County Fire Protection District to complete assessments of individual homes and structures to identify ways to reduce wildfire risk in 2023. Priority will be given to assessments that are within or adjacent to planned prescribed burn units.

## **Public Events (Fire Prevention, Fire Science, Fire-Adaptation, Etc.) In Pope, Hardin, And Makanda Township.**

01 July 2022. *Cave Fire/Rescue 4th of July Bash, Cave-In-Rock, Illinois.* CWPP coordinator assisted the Cave-in-Rock Fire Department by providing them with fire prevention and forest management education materials to distribute to event participants.

17 September 2022. *Cornhole Tournament @ Golconda Shrimp Festival.* A Cornhole Tournament was hosted by the Rural Pope County Fire Protection District volunteer first responders. The intent of the tournament was to attract participants to their interpretive booth. The CWPP coordinator provided giveaway items for the event.

# Coordination and Implementation of CWPPs in Southern Illinois Continued

## Regional Website or Facebook Site Developed

The Coordinator is working with local fire departments and agencies to determine the best format for a Facebook site. An outline and suggested format was developed for agency partners to consider.

## Equipment For Fire Departments Through Federal Access Property & Grant Programs

As a result of this project, 9 different items (68 total units) have been obtained from the Federal Excess Property program and delivered to Fire Departments within the purchase unit of the Shawnee National Forest. Priority for distributing these items is given to Departments operating in communities with an approved CWPP. The CWPP coordinator is continually communicating with representatives from local fire departments to help identify the department's needs and connect them with available items. In addition, the coordinator, in many cases, has assisted the departments by traveling to various locations (in and out of state) to pick up and deliver the items. The estimated value of the items obtained in 2022 through the Federal Excess Property Program by the CWPP Coordinator as a result of this project is \$117,440.

The CWPP Coordinator purchased two-way radio programming cables and a laptop computer with software to program radios to communicate with the US Forest Service and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This will facilitate cross-agency communication on regional fire incidents – a goal identified in all the southern Illinois CWPP's.

*\*\*Note that prior to March 2022, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources terminated their contract with the Federal Excess Property Coordinator and put the State Federal Excess Program on hold. After that date and through the rest of 2022, the CWPP coordinator had no capability to assist fire departments with property transfers. Several items have been secured and are in storage at the IDNR's Dixon Springs District office until the State program resumes.*



David was born in raised in Saline County, IL. He holds a B.S. in Forestry from SIU, and an M.S. in Forestry from Penn State. He has spent 5 seasons fighting fires with the forest service, and 29 years as the District Forester with IDNR at the Dixon Springs facility. He has worked in numerous states and on many federal and state grants.



## Coordination and Implementation of CWPPs in Southern Illinois Continued

Table 1. 2022 List of equipment/supplies obtained by the CWPP Coordinator from Federal Excess Property Program, receiving departments, estimated/real value, quantity and total value to southern Illinois fire departments.

| Item  | Fire Department                            | Unit       | Est./real Value | Quantity | Total Value |
|---|--|------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Stainless Steel Tables                                | Pope County Rural Fire Protection District | each       | \$370.00        | 11       | \$4,050.00  |
| 5.5' X 9.5' Utility Trailer                           | Pope County Rural Fire Protection District | 1          | \$500.00        | 1        | \$500.00    |
| <u>2-way radio program cables</u>                     | Illinois Department of Natural Resources   | each       | \$25.00         | 2        | \$50.00     |
| Laptop Computer                                       | Illinois Department of Natural Resources   | 1          | \$500.00        | 1        | \$500.00    |
| <u>Wesco® Adjustable Fork Width Pallet Jack Truck</u> | Not been distributed to date               | each       | \$870.00        | 2        | \$1740.00   |
| Mercury 3.5 hp 4 stroke outboard boat motor           | Not been distributed to date               | each       | \$1,100         | 1        | \$1,100     |
| Hanes Disposable Face Masks                           | Not been distributed to date               | Box of 500 | \$90.00         | 50       | \$4,500.00  |
| Military Cargo Truck                                  | On hold for transfer to Cave-in-Rock FD    | each       | \$100,000       | 1        | \$100,000   |
| 500 gal. Intelagard baffled Tank/pump system          | On hold for transfer to Cave-in-Rock FD    | each       | \$5,000.00      | 1        | \$5,000.00  |
|   |  |            |                 |          |             |
| <b>Total for 2022</b>                                 |  |            |                 |          | \$117,440   |

### Enhanced Road Brushing and Thinning

A local tree service was contracted to remove hazardous trees on approximately 4 miles of roadways in the Makanda Township. Removal of these trees will enhance the roadway's effectiveness as a fire break in the event of wildfire or prescribed fire operations on adjacent properties. It will also mitigate the possibility of road closures from falling trees which could block evacuation routes, impede emergency response, or cause damage to emergency vehicles.

# Coordination and Implementation of CWPPs in Southern Illinois Continued

Figures 1 & 2: Hazard trees removed by a contractor along roads in Makanda Township.



## New Forest Stewardship Plans

Five (5) Forest Stewardship Plans were developed covering 375 acres with grant funds in 2022.

In addition, 37 Plans were developed in the CWPP areas covering 4,189 acres, which is valued at \$70,208 in matching funds. The coordinator assisted the IDNR District Foresters in reviewing many of the Plans and entering data in the GIS data management system.

We also sent letters to 27 landowners that have expired Forest Stewardship Plans (greater than 10 years old). These landowners were offered cost share to develop new plans.

## Forest Stand Improvement (Thinning) and Invasive Species Treatment

Utilizing grant funds from the Forest Service and IDNR we worked with 10 landowners to complete 541 acres of thinning and light to moderate non-native invasive treatment in 2022. In most cases contracts were awarded through a competitive bidding process. This includes 41 acres where trees were thinned through a combination of commercial and noncommercial means. This provided the opportunity to remove and utilize a portion of the small diameter and low-quality trees resulting in a greater reduction of fuels on the ground than would normally be accomplished.



# Coordination and Implementation of CWPPs in Southern Illinois Continued

Figure 3: Thinning project in Pope County.



Figure 4: Thinning followed by a prescribed burn in a landscape scale (Cross Boundary) burn unit in Pope County.



Figure 5: Mulching project to reduce fuels and control invasive plant species.



An additional 46 landowners with current Forest Stewardship Plans (Plans) were contacted via mail to make them aware of financial and technical assistance available to help them with Plan implementation. These plans were in priority areas where thinning and prescribed burning were recommended in their plans. We will work with interested landowners to determine needs and where appropriate solicit bids to complete the work utilizing funds from various sources.

# Coordination and Implementation of CWPPs in Southern Illinois Continued

## Prescribed Fire

The coordinator participated in the coordination and implementation of 12 prescribed burns covering 1,086 acres on state and private land in the CWPP areas in 2022.

The coordinator communicates with fire staff representatives from Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Shawnee National Forest, and Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association (SIPBA) on a regular basis regarding plans for the upcoming and future burn seasons.

CWPP grant funds were also used to pay a contractor to maintain a SIPBA trailer that is outfitted with prescribed burn equipment. This equipment is delivered to burn sites as needed throughout the burn season.

## Seek Additional Funds

One of the goals of CWPP coordination is to bring in additional funds to help with implementation of the CWPPs. It is an important role for the coordinator to utilize available funds from various sources to further the goals of the CWPPs. This includes working with partners to identify and prioritize potential projects and oversee the implementation of those projects utilizing funds from various sources.

## The Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association 2022 Annual Report

Zack Stawicki, *Project Coordinator*

### Background

I just graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in December 2022. I graduated with a bachelor's in forestry with a specialization in Wildlife Habitat Management and Conservation. While at SIUC I was the Vice president of the Forestry Club and Society of American Foresters, as well as the squad boss for the Fire Dawgs.





# The Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association

## Continued

Since my start, SIPBA has been busy. We had only a month or so to prepare for the burn season. At this time, we had to work with our partners to decide what we were going to burn. Our first burn was at Scott Muehlhausers property and we were able to burn two large units safely and effectively. We continued our success throughout the season without any issues. At the time of writing this we have completed 8 burns and have supported partners on several of their burns. We completed these burns without escapes or complaints. In the future I hope to keep this streak going.

The experience I gained from this season will help me plan out next season even better. I hope to have a better plan on what properties that will get burned. I also would like to try to form two units, one on the east and one on the west. This will help maximize the number of properties we will be able to affect. This increased load would require more help from the membership. I hope to have trainings throughout the summer to create an expert prescribed fire force. This will help SIPBA Continue to grow and thrive in the Future.

## Awardees

### **Dan Connelly –**

Dan has been a long-time ally of the Shawnee RC&D. He has served as the primary Illinois Department of Agriculture contact for the River to River CWMA and worked alongside us on a host of invasive plant issues. Dan also led the local charge to locate and document emerald ash borer in the region. But, perhaps more than anything, Dan has always gone out of his way to make sure that there were ample opportunities for everyone in southern Illinois to take pesticide testing. This was incredibly beneficial to natural resource management in the region, allowing for the timely acquisition of licenses for everyone, especially summer interns and new hires. Dan has definitely been a major factor in building the RC&D's and the region's capacity to manage natural resources.

### **Tim Pohlman –**

It is hard to overstate the impact Tim has had in southern Illinois. He has led countless initiatives and projects with the Shawnee National Forest and has always been ready to collaborate and partner with others at a moment's notice. Tim has constantly supported the RC&D and natural resource conservation throughout all of southern Illinois and has shepherded a close working relationship between the Shawnee National Forest and the RC&D.

### **Jenny Lesko -**

Jenny has been influential in forestry and natural resource management in southern Illinois. She brings an eye for rare plants and high-quality ecosystems to her work with private forest landowners that has greatly benefited conservation on private lands. Jenny supports prescribed fire and invasive species control as well as wise management of forest resources. Her involvement in SIPBA, Let the Sun Shine In, and other RC&D initiatives has been crucial to their success.

**Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.**

**Balance Sheet**

As of September 30, 2022

|  | Sep 30, 22               |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                |                          |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                        |                          |
| <b>Checking/Savings</b>                      |                          |
| 1000 · NOW Checking                          | 18,593.35                |
| 1002 · Money Market                          | 61,307.65                |
| <b>Total Checking/Savings</b>                | <u>79,901.00</u>         |
| <b>Accounts Receivable</b>                   |                          |
| 11000 · Accounts Receivable                  | 92,223.84                |
| <b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>             | <u>92,223.84</u>         |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>                  | <u>172,124.84</u>        |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                          |                          |
| 15000 · Furniture and Equipment              |                          |
| 15001 · Accumulated Depreciation             | -13,596.00               |
| 15000 · Furniture and Equipment - Other      | 13,596.00                |
| <b>Total 15000 · Furniture and Equipment</b> | <u>0.00</u>              |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>                    | <u>0.00</u>              |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                          | <u><u>172,124.84</u></u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>              |                          |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                           |                          |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                   |                          |
| <b>Other Current Liabilities</b>             |                          |
| 1235 · SBA Loan                              | 29,373.00                |
| 1237 · Educational Fund                      | 910.00                   |
| 1238 · Stewardship Week                      | 960.28                   |
| 1239 · CWMA                                  | 1,670.25                 |
| 1240 · FRST                                  | 858.51                   |
| 24000 · Payroll Liabilities                  | -13.56                   |
| <b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>       | <u>33,758.48</u>         |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>             | <u>33,758.48</u>         |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                     | 33,758.48                |
| <b>Equity</b>                                |                          |
| 30000 · Opening Balance Equity               | 4,928.08                 |
| 32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets              | 142,389.98               |
| Net Income                                   | -8,951.70                |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                          | <u>138,366.36</u>        |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>        | <u><u>172,124.84</u></u> |

**Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.**

**Profit & Loss**

October 2021 through September 2022

|   | <u>TOTAL</u>      |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>                |                   |
| <b>Income</b>                                 |                   |
| 42100 · Indirects - Grants                    | 49,839.55         |
| 4300 · Grant Income                           |                   |
| 430600 · Contracted Services Reimbursement    | <u>231,090.29</u> |
| <b>Total 4300 · Grant Income</b>              | <b>231,090.29</b> |
| 43400 · Direct Public Support                 |                   |
| 43450 · Individ, Business Contributions       | <u>41.01</u>      |
| <b>Total 43400 · Direct Public Support</b>    | <b>41.01</b>      |
| 45000 · Investments                           |                   |
| 45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD       | <u>51.06</u>      |
| <b>Total 45000 · Investments</b>              | <b>51.06</b>      |
| 46400 · Other Types of Income                 |                   |
| 46430 · Miscellaneous Revenue                 | <u>2,577.24</u>   |
| <b>Total 46400 · Other Types of Income</b>    | <b>2,577.24</b>   |
| <b>Total Income</b>                           | <b>283,599.15</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                                |                   |
| 60900 · Business Expenses                     |                   |
| 60920 · Business Registration Fees            | <u>47.00</u>      |
| <b>Total 60900 · Business Expenses</b>        | <b>47.00</b>      |
| 62100 · Contract Services                     |                   |
| 62105 · Contractors                           | 4,150.24          |
| 62110 · Accounting Fees                       | 9,162.50          |
| 62150 · Outside Contract Services             | <u>231,090.29</u> |
| <b>Total 62100 · Contract Services</b>        | <b>244,403.03</b> |
| 62800 · Facilities and Equipment              |                   |
| 62842 · Equipment                             | 1,221.90          |
| 62845 · Equipment, Contractor                 | 192.01            |
| 62870 · Property Insurance                    | <u>763.00</u>     |
| <b>Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment</b> | <b>2,176.91</b>   |
| 65000 · Operations                            |                   |
| 65005 · Payroll Expense                       | -489.59           |
| 65020 · Postage, Mailing Service              | 7.38              |
| 65040 · Supplies                              | 1,097.69          |
| 65045 · Supplies Contractor                   | 410.85            |
| 65050 · Telephone, Telecommunications         | <u>1,629.27</u>   |
| <b>Total 65000 · Operations</b>               | <b>2,655.60</b>   |
| 65100 · Other Types of Expenses               |                   |
| 65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O        | <u>11.00</u>      |
| <b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>  | <b>11.00</b>      |
| 65110 · Bank Charges                          | 78.00             |



Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.

Profit & Loss

October 2021 through September 2022

|                                   | <u>TOTAL</u>            |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 66000 · Employee Payroll          |                         |
| 66100 · Employee Federal Taxes    | 0.00                    |
| 66200 · Employee State Taxes      | -13.56                  |
| 66400 · Employer Federal Taxes    | 35.09                   |
| 66000 · Employee Payroll - Other  | 39,557.46               |
| Total 66000 · Employee Payroll    | <u>39,578.99</u>        |
| 68300 · Travel and Meetings       |                         |
| 68305 · Employee Travel           | 687.78                  |
| 68320 · Travel Contractor         | 382.54                  |
| Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings | <u>1,070.32</u>         |
| 70000 · Conservation Education    | 2,500.00                |
| 9999 · Annual Meeting             | 30.00                   |
| Total Expense                     | <u>292,550.85</u>       |
| Net Ordinary Income               | <u>-8,951.70</u>        |
| Net Income                        | <u><u>-8,951.70</u></u> |