Local USFS Biologist Receives Quail Unlimited Award

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Quail Unlimited recently presented an Ochoco National Forest biologist a national award for outstanding service to quail management and wildlife conservation, during their 25th anniversary convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The group is the nationâ€™s oldest nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to wise management of quail and presented Crooked River National Grassland Wildlife Biologist Anne Roberts one of three â€œAnswer the Callâ€• Outstanding Service Awards.

Crooked River National Grassland Wildlife Biologist Anne RobertsRobertsâ€™ quail management work on the Crooked River National Grassland includes controlling western juniper encroachment, constructing fences around riparian areas, completing controlled burns, planting shrubs and building guzzlers so wildlife can find water in arid areas.

She also fostered partnerships among groups such as the Central Oregon Upland Bird Chapter of Quail Unlimited, Gray Butte Grazing Association and Oregon Hunters Association. Answer the Call is a partnership program, so her collaborative work with various groups representing diverse interests was instrumental in her selection.

â€œAnne is truly an example of what the Forest Service partnership program is all about,â€• said David Zalunardo, terrestrial ecology leader for the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests. â€œCrooked River National Grassland partnerships have grown in the number of partners now working cooperatively on habitat improvement projects through Anneâ€™s guidance.â€•

Annually, about 1.7 million user-days worth more than $32 million to local economies are spent in pursuit of six species of quail on 15 million acres of habitat on national forests and grasslands.