



Wildlife Habitat Award

The next winner I would like to introduce for the Wildlife Habitat Award is Carl Roberts, for the work he has done to promote wildlife on his acreage.

The purpose of this award is to stimulate a greater interest in fish and wildlife habitat management by giving recognition to landowners who have made outstanding progress in the development and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources. Not only do the winners of this award have to be nominated locally, but they must be approved by Wildlife and Parks.

According to Carl, the ice storm in 2007 brought many different kinds of animals into the windbreaks around the house and feed yard, something he had never seen before. So, in 2009 he began implementing a system to help attract wildlife to the area, with hopes of seeing more song birds and some upland game.

Carl mentioned that he has always had an appreciation for wildlife, and had limited use of the 30 acres he has devoted.

To attract the wildlife Carl has installed a rubber tire style water tank, planted trees and shrubs, interseeded forbs into the grass, and started a brush pile. When I asked what the brush pile was going to attract, he mentioned he was not sure, it was something fish and game wanted, but that he knows it has brought in a lot of pack rats. He has learned not to park equipment close to the brush pile, unless he plans on wanting to do some maintenance afterwards.

One of the biggest problems he has faced so far with the project is the wildlife destroying the habitat, as the pack rats and coyotes both have caused him to fix a few things.

While Carl says that the long term benefits will take more time to see, he has seen an increase in deer moving through the area. The management of the area has now, in his words, given him something to work with as he approaches old age.

At this time, will you please welcome Carl Roberts to accept the Wildlife Habitat Award.