

WIRES OVER WILDLIFE

A program with a big WOW for landowners and wildlife

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) **Wires Over Wildlife** program is a voluntary partnership between landowners and Citizens Electric. The goal of this partnership is to improve native plants and habitat where power lines pass through electric company easements. These power line right-of-ways connect properties as well as wildlife corridors and provide great opportunities to improve Missouri conservation. This program works to convert overgrown brush and trees under electrical lines into more productive wildlife habitat, such as food plots or native wildflowers that benefit pollinators and wildlife. MDC provides expertise and plans the projects, Citizens Electric provides cost-share funds, and landowners contribute annual maintenance such as mowing or light disking.

HOW IT WORKS

- Landowners contact MDC or Citizens Electric for free assistance.
- MDC staff meet with landowners on their property to determine goals, opportunities and to develop a plan.
- Once the practices have been implemented by the landowner, a portion of the costs are reimbursed by Citizens Electric.
- Landowners maintain improvements for 10 years for wildlife long-term benefits.

BENEFITS OF W.O.W.

For landowners: Reduce maintenance of unwanted vegetation and receive technical assistance, financial assistance and planning guidance for habitat improvements. Enjoy native plants, monarchs and pollinators and wildlife-watching on your property.

For electric co-ops: Reduce mowing and maintenance under powerline easements, collaborate with members on property enhancements and improve wildlife habitat.

For nature: Improve conservation habitat on a larger scale with connected properties and increase wildlife, native plants, and monarch and pollinator habitat.