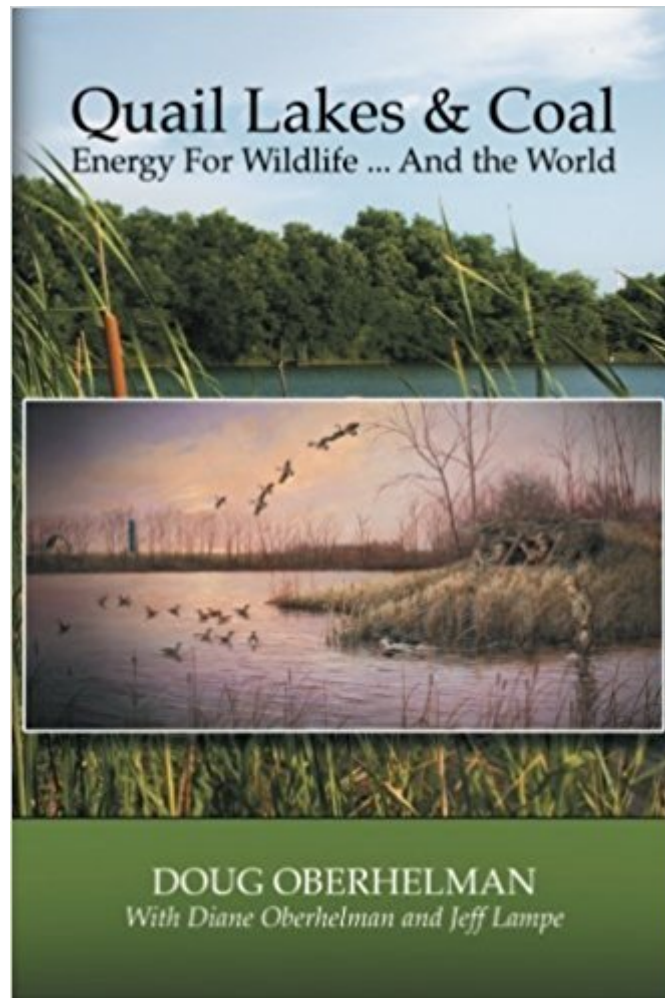




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Quail Lakes & Coal: Energy For Wildlife ... And The World



Synopsis

There's no way to guess Quail Lakes was a surface mine. Aside from two deep lakes, there's no evidence that massive earthmoving machines once rumbled across these rolling 1,200 acres of Illinois farmland, lakes, wetlands, and native prairie plants. But the same Quail Lakes that today is home to endangered bird species and hundreds of other wild creatures was a coal mine – a surface mine with pits as deep as 75 feet. Despite what you have heard about surface mining, Quail Lakes points to something very different. The Quail Lakes you will read about in this book is a microcosm of the realistic and responsible use of land that is possible today. The same property that has yielded crops to feed generations of farmers and livestock also provided coal to generate electricity for homes and businesses. And miners did not leave the land worn out. To the contrary. Thanks to federal mine reclamation laws and passionate stewardship by owners Doug and Diane Oberhelman, the farm fields once again yield bumper crops. Wildlife abounds. And the grasslands and lakes offer wonderful opportunities for fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, swimming, wildlife watching, stargazing, and anything else you can dream of doing in a place where wild animals roam and stars shine bright.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Doug Oberhelman is the Chairman and CEO of Caterpillar Inc., a Fortune 500 company based in Peoria, Illinois. Since 1996, he and his wife Diane have worked to bring wild creatures and native plants back to 1,200 acres of Illinois land that from 1976 to 1984 was surface mined for coal.

This book captures a personal commitment to conservation, wise use of resources, and perspective on the land under our feet. It chronicles a specific piece of land and human interaction with that land through Native American history, pioneer development, resource extraction and restoration. In addition it provides a balanced perspective on the wise extraction and use of resources vital to the quality of human life and the maximization of human potential. As an owner of a much smaller but not dis-similar piece of property, this book articulated my wife's and my own connection with the land under my feet and its wise management and use. An informative and meaningful read.

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Gift for my husband, picky reader but this captured his attention being an outdoorsman; we bought a 2nd book for a friend.

Great Book!! Easy read! This book displays Doug Oberhelman's concern for the environment and explains how strip mining can develop property for wildlife. It is a history lesson for Central Illinois, specifically western Peoria County and Northeastern Fulton County. I learned a lot.

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