Initial Stages of Implementing the Western Quail Management Plan

Casey Cardinal
Western Quail Working Group
Quail 8 Symposium
Western Quail Management Plan

- Developed under the auspices of the AFWA Resident Game Bird Working Group
- Part of a continuing effort to establish species-specific conservation strategies
- Published in 2009
The Species

California Quail
The Species

Gambel’s Quail

[Image of Gambel’s Quail]

[Map of North America showing the range of Gambel’s Quail]

Jim Stewart
The Species

Montezuma Quail
The Species

Mountain Quail

[Image of Mountain Quail]

[Map showing range of Mountain Quail]
The Species

Scaled Quail
The Species

Masked Bobwhite
Western Quail Working Group

- Proposed by AZ Director, Larry Voyles
- Approved by WAFWA in July 2009
- First meeting was in Tucson, AZ, Dec. 2010
- Meet annually at WAFWA Conference
Memorandum of Understanding

• An agreement of the western states to work cooperatively to implement the recommended habitat objectives and management recommendations outlined in the Western Quail Management Plan.
Objectives of the MOU

• Identify and coordinate research needs
• Develop and foster cooperation for population and habitat management
• Encourage establishment of regional working groups to develop action plans
• Encourage parties to identify and prioritize management actions on a regional basis
Responsibilities of the Parties

• Each state will take action within their discretion to maintain and enhance quail habitat

• All states will work cooperatively through the Western Quail Working Group to:
  – Exchange Ideas
  – Prioritize research needs
  – Make every effort to participate
Challenges

- Quail importance in western states
- Biologist Workload
- Multi-species conservation plan
- Weather Dependent Cycles
- Compensatory Harvest mortality
- Knowledge Gaps
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Positives

• Already have a plan
  – Provides indices of population and habitat
    – Range-wide and Bird Conservation Region Assessments
  – Assembles current assessments of threats, management recommendations and research needs
Positives

• Other conservation initiatives to provide an example
Positives

• Species are still fairly abundant
Positives

- Public Lands
  - Multi-use Lands
  - Partnerships
  - Large Scale Habitat Work
Positives

• Interested Partners
Positives

- New research on western quail
  - Oklahoma State University
  - Texas A&M Kingsville
  - Texas Tech University
  - Sul Ross State University
  - New Mexico State University
  - Colorado State University
  - Brigham Young University
Technical Staff Meeting in Roswell

- May 2017
- 8 WQWG States Represented
- Research Updates
- Partner Presentations
- State updates
- Translocation Guideline Discussions
Progress on Plan

• Land Management Practices
  – Scaled Quail
    • Shrub Plantings in KS
    • Creosote reductions in AZ and NM
  – Montezuma Quail
    • Juniper thinning in NM
    • Grazing management changes in AZ
Progress on Plan

• Land Management Practices
  – California Quail
    • WMA projects in Oregon including brush piles, elevated roost structures, and shrub plantings
  – Mountain Quail
    • Native plantings on decommissioned roads in OR
Progress on Plan

• Conservation Programs
  – Partnerships with Landowners, Land Management Agencies, and NGOs
    • Landowners- Habitat First in KS
    • BLM- Shrub treatments in NM and AZ
    • USFS- Opening plantings in Oregon, Shrub plantings on Grasslands in KS
    • PF/QF Chapters- TX, OK, AZ, CO, UT, CA
    • NWTF Biologists- TX, NM/AZ
Progress on Plan

• Harvest Policy
  – Upland Stamp Identifies Small Game Hunters in CA and OR
  – Collect hunter-harvest information
    • Montezuma Wing Barrel Collection and Hunter Survey in AZ
    • Online Harvest Survey in CA and KS
    • Phone survey in OK and OR
    • Mail Survey in WA
Progress on Plan

• Water Distribution and Allocation Policy
  – Wildlife Friendly Ramps in TX
  – Pond sealants in TX
  – Guzzler improvement and installation in NM and TX
Progress on Plan

• Translocations
  – Intrastate Translocations
    • Oregon Mountain Quail
    • Texas Scaled Quail
    • Texas Gambel’s Quail
    • Nuisance Quail in UT and WA
  – Interstate Translocations
    • Gambel’s Quail from Arizona to Utah
    • Scaled Quail from Colorado to Utah
    • Mountain Quail from Oregon to Washington and Nevada
Steps Forward

• Annual Meeting of Technical Staff
Steps Forward

• State of Western Quail
  – Annual document synthesizing information about the species range-wide
  – Questionnaire out to each of the states
  – Federal Agencies will provide updates on acres treated and current research
  – Annual translocation information will be compiled
Steps Forward

- Interstate Translocation Guidelines
  - Primary discussion between program leads
  - Formal letter of request
  - Translocation purpose
  - Historic and current species densities
  - Trapping/handling/translocation procedures
  - Disease/parasite testing
  - Release site evaluation
  - Monitoring requirements post-release, minimum 2 years
Steps Forward

• Logo
  – Need a brand for group products
Steps Forward

• Amendment to the Current MOU
  – Federal Management Agencies
    • USDA- USFS
    • BLM
    • NRCS
Steps Forward

• Listing of all current research
  – WAFWA Chiefs are compiling all proposed, continuing, and completed research annually
  – Coordinate large scale studies across state boundaries
  – Refine what needs have been covered from the plan
  – Define new research needs
Steps Forward

• Monitoring Methodology Analysis
  – Long term goal for the group
    • Continue to develop and refine reliable population indices that are independent of harvest data
  – Summarize methodologies from different states
  – How can we make this information comparable
Thank you

• State Coordinators
  – Wade Zarlingo (AZ)
  – Jonathan O’Dell (AZ)
  – Kathrine Miller (CA)
  – Ed Gorman (CO)
  – Jeff Knetter (ID)
  – Jeff Prendergast (KS)
  – Shawn Espinosa (NV)
  – Derek Wiley (OK)
  – Dave Budeau (OR)
  – Robert Perez (TX)
  – Jason Robinson (UT)
  – Angelique Curtis (WA)