

## **GAMBEL'S AND SCALED QUAIL MANAGEMENT GUIDLINES**

Procedure 1: To determine annual quail population trends.

- A. Regional and Game Branch personnel may conduct surveys in their respective areas of responsibility. Regional personnel, in coordination with Game Branch, will decide numbers and locations of survey routes. Even 1 route per region is useful to establish long term trends. However, multiple routes are preferred. Due to quail distribution in Arizona, quail survey routes are most applicable to Regions 3, 4, 5, and 6.
1. For each Gambel's quail call count route, a minimum of 3 survey repetitions should be conducted. The first should begin the last week of March, the second should be 14 to 17 days later, and the third should be 14 to 17 days after the second. If the third count is greater than the previous 2 counts, a fourth count should be conducted 14 to 17 days after the third.
  2. As with Gambel's quail, a minimum of 3 survey repetitions should be conducted for scaled quail. Scaled quail call counts should be conducted beginning the first week of July, the second should be 14 to 17 days later, and the third should be 14 to 17 days after the second. If the third count is greater than the previous two counts, a fourth count should be conducted 14 to 17 days after the third. At this time, scaled quail call routes will be restricted to Region 5, with the option to conduct additional surveys in Region 1.
  3. Routes shall be conducted as per Quail Call Count Survey Form. AGFD personnel should forward completed call count survey forms to the Game Specialist within 2 weeks of the last surveys. The Game Specialists will monitor the surveys, summarize the routes, and forward the summary to the Small Game Biologist in Game Branch within four weeks of the last survey.
- B. Game Specialists should schedule surveys and maintain current up-to-date files with route descriptions and historic survey trends for all established routes.

Procedure 2: To collect annual data on age, sex, hunt success, and condition of harvested quail.

- A. Hunt check stations and/or wing barrels may be established in the same areas as call count routes.
1. Check stations should be operated the opening day and/or the first weekend of the quail season.
  2. Wing barrels may be used in some areas in lieu of formal check stations. Wing barrels will be set up at least two days before the opening of the season and checked Monday or Tuesday after the opening weekend. The barrels will be checked weekly for the first month of the season and once every other week for the remainder of the season. Each time the barrels are checked, all used wing envelopes will be collected and labeled by location and

the supply of envelopes replenished. The information from envelopes will be recorded. Wing barrels are to be fitted with locks to prevent data tampering and to encourage hunters to provide accurate harvest location data.

3. Wing envelopes may be distributed to hunters prior to opening weekend. Only data from opening weekend will be collected. Wing envelopes should be forwarded to the small game biologist by November 15.
- B. The operation of the check station(s) and wing barrels are the responsibility of the Regional Game Specialist. Game Branch personnel will assist where needed. The Game Specialists will summarize the data and submit the summary to the Game Branch within 6 weeks after the last day of the quail season.
  - C. Hunt questionnaires will be sent to a random sample of general hunting license holders by February 1, or as soon thereafter as possible. The collection and distribution of questionnaire data and results will be the responsibility of the Game Branch. Data will be tabulated, summarized, and sent to the Game Specialists within 60 days of the initial mailing.

Procedure 3: To use survey and harvest data to support quail hunt regulations, to gain insight into quail population dynamics, and to inform the public of recreational opportunity.

- A. Quail survey route data will be summarized by the Small Game Biologist in Game Branch each year and used in combination with other data (including precipitation data – see procedure 4) to provide regional predictions for the upcoming hunting season.

Procedure 4: To analyze quail population indices and correlate these events with climatological data and other phenomena. Predictions of quail abundance will be provided to the public.

- A. Game Branch will examine regional rainfall information, call count surveys, and other sources of information to estimate quail population abundance and predict reproductive success.
- B. Check station data may be used to evaluate annual quail abundance, reproductive success, hunt success, and hunter participation.

Procedure 5: Protect and enhance quail habitat through coordination with land management agencies and private landowners.

- A. Review allotment management plans to assure that grazing management is consistent with the needs of quail.
- B. Delineate changes in land areas available to quail, or quail hunting, due to urban expansion and land use change. Evaluate quail habitat with GIS-based overlays to document available habitat.

- C. Coordinate with Development Branch – Landowner Relations Program, NRCS, USFS, BLM, the State Land Department, private landowners, and other entities to actively manage habitats for quail. Increase emphasis on enhancement of desert grasslands in southeastern Arizona for scaled quail.