

Species Habitat Evaluation for California Quail in Nevada

Landowner/Operator: _____ County: _____ Date: _____
 Farm No.: _____ Tract: _____ USGS Quad Name: _____
 Field(s): _____ Acres: _____ Section: _____ Township: _____ Range: _____
 Assisted By: _____

An NRCS Area Biologist should be contacted before attempting to use this form

Habitat: In the wild, California quail are typically found in willow thickets along perennial streams where food, cover, and water are available. California quail require a close interspersion of open feeding areas, protective shrub cover, small, dense, stands of trees and dependable summer water all within a 1/2-mile radius. The cruising range of California quail is 1/3 to 1/2-mile.

Food: California quail require an abundant supply of forb seeds during the summer, fall, and early winter. The tender, green, new growth of annual grasses and forbs are important food sources in late winter and early spring. Insects, particularly abundant in riparian areas and on irrigated cropland, are important to the diet of young birds in the spring. Choice foods of California quail area: alfalfa, small grains, cheatgrass, clover, filaree, millet, milo, and mullein.

Species Habitat Evaluation: California Quail

FACTOR	COMPONENTS	HABITAT VALUE RATING	PRESENT	PLANNED
Cover Type <i>(Four major cover types include: 1) evergreen trees or cottonwood; 2) willows, orchards, salt-desert shrub; sagebrush-grass; dense brush tickets; 3) tall grass or weeds; low shrubs; croplands; meadows; and, 4) un-vegetated openings)</i>	All 4 major cover types are present within evaluation area	0.8 to 1.0		
	3 of the 4 major cover types are present within evaluation area	0.4 to 0.7		
	Less than 3 of the major cover types are present within evaluation area	0 to 0.3		
Plant Community Diversity "Edge" <i>(Percent of area with mix of escape cover and open areas supporting food sources)</i>	More than 50% of evaluation area with a mix of cover and open feeding areas	0.8 to 1.0		
	25 to 50% of evaluation area with a mix of cover and open feeding areas	0.4 to 0.7		
	Less than 25% of evaluation area with a mix of cover and open feeding areas	0 to 0.3		

Species Habitat Evaluation: California Quail *(continued)*

FACTOR	COMPONENTS	HABITAT VALUE RATING	PRESENT	PLANNED
Food Sources	More than 50% of evaluation area with riparian vegetation or irrigated cropland	0.8 to 1.0		
	25 to 50% of evaluation area with riparian vegetation or irrigated cropland	0.4 to 0.7		
	Less than 25% of evaluation area with riparian vegetation or irrigated cropland	0 to 0.3		
Food and Cover Proximity "Edge"	Open areas supporting abundant food sources immediately adjacent to cover	0.8 to 1.0		
	Open areas supporting abundant food sources are 150-feet to 600-feet from cover	0.4 to 0.7		
	Open areas supporting food source more than 1/3-mile from cover	0 to 0.3		
Water Sources	Distance to perennial water source from cover is less than 150-feet	0.8 to 1.0		
	Distance to perennial water source from cover is 150 to 600-feet	0.4 to 0.7		
	Distance to perennial water source from cover is more than 600-feet	0 to 0.3		

Habitat Evaluation Score for California Quail =

NOTES: