



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 11, 2009
To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
From: Dave Pulliam, Habitat Division Chief
Re: Upland Game Stamp Funds for Mountain Quail

The attached is a project proposal for a Survival, Habitat Use and Movement Patterns of Mountain Quail Study. This is a request for Commission approval to modify the Fiscal Year 2009 Upland Game Bird program to include this project. This mountain quail project is proposed to be funded by dollars identified and approve for the Ruffed Grouse Trap, Transplant and Monitor project which was not completed this year and additional dollars remaining after actual expenditures for the mountain quail project.

During the 2009 fiscal year, we anticipated capturing ruffed grouse from Oregon using a contract capture service. This project was programmed for \$4250.00. Because of difficult capture conditions for ruffed grouse due to weather at a key time of the year and difficulty capturing birds, a release complement was not obtained. On the other hand, 100 mountain quail were obtained from Oregon utilizing this same vendor. These birds are being held over-winter at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area holding pens.

This represents a unique opportunity to gain some important information regarding survival, habitat use and movement patterns of mountain quail post release. These birds will be released in the Stillwater Mountain Range located in Churchill County. It is propose to purchase 26 VHF telemetry collars for mountain quail. Follow-up of these radio marked birds will be conducted by a Lathrop scholar from May through August. The monitoring will document UTM locations of birds, nesting activity, brood size, and habitat and plant associations.

Funding for the quail project was obtained through the Upland Game Stamp program originally approved for \$6800.00. Actual expenditures were \$5,500.00 for the quail plus a travel and per diem cost of approximately \$400.00 leaving \$900.00 remaining and as identified above there is the remaining \$4250.00 unused for the Ruffed grouse Project.

It is proposed to utilize these funds to support the Survival, Habitat Use and Movement Patterns of Mountain Quail Study.