



NV 2004 Hunting Season Forecast Chukar Partridge

The Department of Wildlife formerly conducted pre-season chukar density flights in key habitat areas in northern Nevada in an attempt to assess population densities and develop a pre-season forecast to deliver the findings to the hunting public. These flights have been discontinued but the Department's endeavor to provide service to the public remains. The following table is an attempt to articulate the collective observations of NDOW biologists and wardens gathered from last spring to the present. Scores are still subjective but are reasonably contrived by the game biologists having management responsibilities for the indicated areas. We remind the reader that this information does not predict hunter success as chukar densities and distribution can be quickly influenced by a variety of natural and human-caused factors.

County	Density Assessment:		Production Assessment:		Habitat Assessment:	
	Score/	Comments	Score/	Comments	Score/	Comments
WESTERN REGION						
WASHOE (South)	3	Varies from low in 022 & 015 to exceptional in 014	4		3	Southern part of county had very light winter & low summer rains
WASHOE (North)	3	Low density in 011 to high in 012	4		3	
HUMBOLDT	4	Densities remain high – comparable to last season	4	Complete broods into mid Sept. -Good summer survival	3	Range is dry like last year. Natural riparians withering in late summer.
PERSHING	4	Groups commonly found throughout the county	4	Chick/adult better in western county. Good hatch indicated by class I & II chicks.	3	Some ranges still recovering. Serious drought in western part of the county.
CHURCHILL	4		4		4	Green up on north slopes. Good water levels in guzzlers
MINERAL	3		3		3	
EASTERN REGION						
ELKO	5	Chukar groups common within suitable habitat all summer.	5	Large complete broods observed through mid Sept.	5	Late summer rains benefited NE Nevada
EUREKA	5	Initial assessments in the spring revealed excellent densities on west side of Diamonds.	4		4	
LANDER	5		5		4	
WHITE PINE (WEST)	3	Initial assessments in the spring revealed excellent densities on west side of Diamonds.	4	No surveys conducted, no broods observed, rating from hearsay	4	
WHITE PINE (EAST)	3	Random observations well distributed. Should be at least comparable to 2003	4	Random observations indicate large brood size	4	Average summer moisture = best fall conditions in years.

Density Assessment Score: 0 (no birds observed) – **5** (total birds very abundant)

Production Assessment Score: 0 (no chicks observed) – **5** (chicks greatly outnumber adults)

Habitat Assessment Score: 0 (water, cover, forage missing) – **5** (water, cover, forage abundant)