



Nevada Hunting Season Forecast

Chukar Partridge - 2005

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 outlines the observations of NDOW biologists and wardens gathered from last spring to the present. Scores are subjective but are reasonably estimated by the managing game biologists for the indicated areas. Please remember: this information does not predict hunter success. Chukar densities and distribution can be quickly influenced by a variety of natural and human-caused factors.

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*)

County	Density Assessment:		Production Assessment:		Habitat Assessment:	
	Score/	Comments	Score/	Comments	Score/	Comments
WESTERN REGION						
WASHOE (South)	4	Densities are good in traditional use areas.	4	Good to excellent production rates observed this summer.	4	Habitat conditions much improved over last year. Good grasses & forb production.
WASHOE (North)	4	Densities good to excellent this year. Hunters will encounter good bird numbers in traditional use areas.	5	Production was excellent this year. Increased bird numbers should be noticeable.	4	Habitat conditions improved over last year. No loss of habitat with the exception of unit 011.
HUMBOLDT	4	Densities remain high for this year. Hunters should encounter excellent bird numbers in traditional locations.	5	Production was excellent this year. Many areas with high bird numbers.	4	No additional loss of habitat. Conditions not as dry as 2004.
PERSHING	4	Densities are high in the majority of the county and are improved over last year.	4	Lots of broods observed. High ratio of chicks to adults.	4	Habitat remains good. Many springs did not wither and provided reliable water throughout the summer.
CHURCHILL	4	Densities are high throughout the county with good bird numbers in even the marginal ranges.	4	Very high production rates. Hunters can expect to see good bird numbers in the traditional hunting areas.	4	Habitat conditions improved from last year. Good forage production in the desert ranges.
MINERAL	4	Densities up from last year. Areas that have held birds in past years should provide good hunting this year.	4	Good to excellent. Areas with perennial water will have high numbers of young birds.	3	High precipitation received in the fall and spring produced good to excellent habitat conditions. Water remains limited.

EASTERN REGION

ELKO (West)	4	Densities good to excellent this year. Hunters will encounter good bird numbers in traditional use areas.	5	Good to excellent production rates observed this summer.	4	Habitat conditions much improved over last year. Good grasses & forb production.
ELKO (East)	4	Densities good to excellent this year. Hunters will encounter good bird numbers in traditional use areas.	4	Good to excellent production rates observed this summer.	4	High precipitation received in the fall and spring produced good to excellent habitat conditions.
EUREKA	3	Good numbers observed in several locations.	4	Brood data not compiled, but circumstances should have supported good production.	4	Abundant water, forage and cover available during brood-rearing and pre-hunting season.
LANDER	5	Densities are excellent this year. Hunters will encounter good bird numbers in traditional use areas.	5	Lots of broods observed. High ratio of chicks to adults.	4	High precipitation received in the fall and spring produced good to excellent habitat conditions.
WHITE PINE (West)	4	Densities up from last year. Areas that have held birds in past years should provide good hunting this year.	4	Good to excellent production rates observed this summer.	4	Abundant water, forage and cover available during brood-rearing and pre-hunting season.
WHITE PINE (East)	4	Densities are good in traditional use areas.	4	Good to excellent production rates observed this summer.	4	High precipitation received in the fall and spring produced good to excellent habitat conditions.

SOUTHERN REGION

NYE (Southern)	4	Traditional chukar areas contain very good densities	4	Large broods observed in most areas into August	3	Habitat conditions improved over past few years
NYE (Northern)	3	Densities much improved over past several years	4	Chicks per hen and average brood size well above average	4	Habitat significantly improved due to climatic conditions
ESMERALDA	4	Densities improved over past several years	4	No surveys conducted, rating based upon civilian reports and improved climatic conditions	3	Good spring precipitation receipts resulted in improved nesting and brood rearing conditions