

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Upland Game Release Plan

For

Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011



*2009 mountain quail
release, Churchill County.
Photo courtesy of Neil
Murphy, Conservation
Education Division*

May 2009

STATE OF NEVADA

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Nevada Department of Wildlife

Upland Game Release Plan

For

Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECTS		
Species	# Proposed Introductions	# Proposed Augmentations
California Quail	TBD	TBD
Mountain Quail	5	1
Rio Grande Turkey	6	1
Merriam's Turkey	0	0
Chukar Partridge	0	TBD
Ruffed Grouse	4	4
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	0
Total Upland Game	19	8

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Upland Game Release Plan

For

Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is pleased to present the agency's Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011). The following narrative summarizes the agency's accomplishments over the past planning period which was previously described within the FY08-09 Biennial Release Plan (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009).

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WESTERN REGION

Mountain quail restoration continues to be a priority for the Nevada Department of Wildlife's Game Division. Obtaining source stock from thriving populations continues to be challenging; however, in fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife provided a total of 200 mountain quail for translocation to Nevada. These birds were captured late in the fall from western Oregon and over-wintered at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. During the holding periods, only 16 birds were lost, mainly due to abnormal predation events. Over the two year period, 184 mountain quail (97 in 2008 and 87 in 2009) were released in the Stillwater Range of Churchill County. For the 2009 release, 26 mountain quail (30%) were radio marked with VHF transmitters. Follow-up conducted through May of 2009 showed that the marked birds ascended the drainage to the upper portions of the watershed and are taking advantage of the availability of dense cover. Funds for capture and radio transmitters were provided by the Nevada Upland Game Stamp program.

In FY09, a total of 59 Rio Grande turkeys consisting of 23 males (jakes) and 36 females were released along the West Fork of the Carson River south of Gardnerville. These birds were released on private lands with suitable habitat and a cooperative agreement was developed between the Department and the landowner. Turkeys were provided by the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Wild Turkey Federation. A total of 8 turkeys were outfitted with telemetry devices; however, four of the devices appear to be non-functioning. To date, these turkeys have dispersed throughout available habitats along the Carson River through Gardnerville and into the East Fork of the Carson River as well.

Also in FY09, a number of nuisance California quail were captured from Reno and Carson City urban areas during January and February of 2009. Approximately 400 quail were captured from two different sites during the trapping effort. These quail were released at several locations in both the Western and Eastern Regions. In the Western Region, 45 birds were released at the Minor Ranch near Dayton along the Carson River. Also, approximately 145 quail were released in various canyons along the west slope of the Santa Rosa Range in Humboldt County.

EASTERN REGION

No releases of upland game were conducted during fiscal year 2008 in the Eastern Region. In 2009, approximately 242 California quail were released on the west side of the Ruby Mountains in Elko County. Approximately 175 birds were released in January of 2009 along Cottonwood Creek above the former Zunino Ranch. The current landowner is dedicated to providing adequate habitat and winter feed during extreme conditions. In addition to this release, another 67 quail were released near Lamoille Grove west of Lamoille Creek. The landowner at this site is also dedicated to providing suitable habitat and wintertime feeding if conditions warrant.

SOUTHERN REGION

During the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years, no releases of upland game were conducted in the Southern Region. Attempts were made to obtain mountain quail at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station and Wildlands Conservancy properties in California; however, another poor production year and low base populations prohibited any capture attempts. Additionally, poor habitat conditions for upland game in general throughout the Southern Region during 2008 and 2009 also discouraged potential releases of upland game birds. Improved habitat conditions, due to average to above average precipitation receipts in 2009, may warrant greater efforts for upland game establishment in the coming biennium.

**2008 & 2009 NEVADA UPLAND GAME
RELEASE PLAN**

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Species	FY	Location		Co.	Type	# Released
California Quail	08	No Releases in FY08				0
	09	Pine Nut Range	Minor Ranch	LY	Augmentation	45
		Santa Rosa Range	McConnel Creek	HU	Augmentation	30
		Santa Rosa Range	Horse Creek	HU	Augmentation	30
		Santa Rosa Range	Buffalo Creek	HU	Augmentation	40
		Santa Rosa Range	Falls Creek	HU	Augmentation	45
		Ruby Mountains	Cottonwood Creek	EL	Introduction	175
	Ruby Mountains	Lamoille Creek	EL	Introduction	67	
<i>FY Subtotal:</i>					432	
TOTAL:					432	
Mountain Quail	08	Stillwater Range	Freeman Creek	CH	Augmentation	97
	<i>FY Subtotal:</i>					97
	09	Stillwater Range	Freeman Creek	CH	Augmentation	87
	<i>FY Subtotal:</i>					87
TOTAL:					184	
Rio Grande Turkey	08	No Releases in FY08				0
	09	Carson Valley	Brooks Ranch	DO	Introduction	59
		<i>FY Subtotal:</i>				
TOTAL:					59	
Merriam's Turkey	NO RELEASES DURING BIENNIUM					0
	TOTAL:					0
Sharp-tailed Grouse	NO RELEASES DURING BIENNIUM					0
	TOTAL:					0
Chukar Partridge	NO RELEASES DURING BIENNIUM					
	TOTAL:					0

Proposed Releases

California Quail

Location	Type
Western Region	A
Eastern Region	A & I
Southern Region	A

Release sites are not specified – releases depend upon availability of depredated quail trapped from urban areas along Carson Front.



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: California Quail (*Callipepla californica*)

INTRODUCTION: _____, or **AUGMENTATION:** X

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 and 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: All Regions

COUNTY: Statewide

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: not specific

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Depredating quail will be trapped from the Carson Front.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion. USFS Coordination. Coordination with private landowners.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Cooperators will be notified prior to each release and will be provided with a post-release narrative.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Releases will augment existing populations occupying suitable habitat (augmentation) or will take place in unoccupied suitable habitat (introduction).

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control is recommended.

COMMENTS: Calif. quail releases occasionally used to address short-term declines attributed to prevailing unfavorable habitat conditions. Steptoe Valley WMA is a priority release site.

NDOW REGION: Statewide **DATE PREPARED:** February 11, 2003
(rev.: 6/2/2009)

Proposed Releases

Mountain Quail

Location	Co.	Type
Introductions – priority for first available donor stock		
Bilk Creek/Trout Creek Mountains – Log Cabin Creek	HU	I
Clover Mountains – Cottonwood Canyon	LN	I
Delamar Mountains – Boulder Spring **	LN	I
Delamar Mountains – Jump Up Canyon**	LN	I
Rainbow Canyon**	LN	I
Augmentations – priority after introductions		
Virginia Range - Bullion Ravine**	ST	A

** carryover [previously identified in FY08-09 Biennial Release Plan]



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 and/or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Bilk Creek Range/Trout Creek Mountains - Log Cabin Creek

COUNTY: Humboldt County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T47N, R37E, Sec 36

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Winnemucca BLM

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Media releases will be coordinated; Humboldt County Advisory Board and other interested parties will be notified. BLM biologists will be notified prior to the release and copied with the release report.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Mountain quail are native to the State of Nevada and these release efforts are an attempt to establish viable populations in suitable habitats. Both Log Cabin Creek and the Kings River have exceptional year around habitat to support these populations. There is plenty of winter cover in the willow component available as well as summer foraging within the riparian area.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Other upland game bird populations have increased in recent years in this area and are following normal cycles suggesting that there are no abnormal numbers of predators or a need for predator control in the area at this time.

COMMENTS: This release is expected to expand hunting opportunity and to firmly establish a population of mountain quail in the Bilk Creek Range and Trout Creek Mountains. Upland game stamp funding may be utilized to help fund a graduate student

to conduct monitoring and determine the success of the project. This effort will compliment releases that have been conducted over the last two years by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in the Trout Creek Mountains. Movement of radio marked mountain quail into Nevada has been documented by ODFW.

NDOW REGION: Western **DATE PREPARED:** June 4, 2009



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Clover Mountains, Cottonwood Canyon

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T7S R70E Sec. 2

TRANSPLANT STOCK: China Lake NAWS

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management, Caliente Field Office

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Local sportsmen will be notified and asked to participate in the release; BLM District Biologist will be notified prior to the release and copied with the release report.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Adequate habitat exists for mountain quail. Mountain quail are native to the State of Nevada and these efforts are an attempt to get mountain quail established in areas of suitable habitat. The habitat in Cottonwood Canyon is similar to select Wildlands Conservancy properties and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station in southern California where the source stock will most likely come from.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended at this time.

COMMENTS: Mountain quail have been petitioned for listing. This is an attempt to establish these birds in suitable habitat since much of the historic habitat in Northern Nevada has been lost to wildfires.

NDOW REGION: Southern **DATE PREPARED:** 6/4/2009



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*)

INTRODUCTION: X , or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Delamar Mountains - Boulder Spring

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T7S R65E Sec. 24

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Wildlands Conservancy properties (CA.), or China Lake NAWS.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES: Ely BLM District

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Local sportsmen will be notified and asked to participate in the release; BLM District Biologist will be notified prior to the release and copied with the release report.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Adequate habitat exists for mountain quail. Mountain quail are native to the State of Nevada and these efforts are an attempt to get mountain quail established in areas of suitable habitat. The habitat in Boulder Canyon is similar to select Wildlands Conservancy properties and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station in southern California where the source stock will most likely come from.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: Mountain quail have been petitioned for listing. This is an attempt to establish these birds in suitable habitat since much of the historic habitat in Northern Nevada has been lost to wildfires.

NDOW REGION: Southern
 (rev.: 6/2/2009)

DATE PREPARED: February 3, 2003



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Delamar Mountains - Jump Up Canyon

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T8S R64E Sec. 36, 24

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Wildlands Conservancy properties (CA.), or China Lake NAWS.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES: Ely BLM District

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Local sportsmen will be notified and asked to participate in the release; BLM District Biologist will be notified prior to the release and copied with the release report.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Adequate habitat exists for mountain quail. Mountain quail are native to the State of Nevada and these efforts are an attempt to get mountain quail established in areas of suitable habitat. The habitat in Jump Up Canyon is similar to select Wildlands Conservancy properties and the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station in southern California where the source stock will most likely come from.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: Mountain quail have been petitioned for listing. This is an attempt to establish these birds in suitable habitat since much of the historic habitat in Northern Nevada has been lost to wildfires.

NDOW REGION: Southern
(rev.: 6/2/2009)

DATE PREPARED: February 3, 2003



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Rainbow Canyon

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T6S R66E Sec. 14, 23, 25

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Wildlands Conservancy properties (CA.), or China Lake NAWS near Ridgecrest, CA.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES: Ely BLM District

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Local sportsmen will be notified and asked to participate in the release; BLM District Biologist will be notified prior to the release and copied with the release report.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Adequate habitat exists for mountain quail. Mountain quail are native to the State of Nevada and these efforts are an attempt to get mountain quail established in areas of suitable habitat. The habitat in Rainbow Canyon is similar to select Wildlands Conservancy properties and the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station located in southern California where the source stock will most likely come from.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: Mountain quail have been petitioned for listing. This is an attempt to establish these birds in suitable habitat since much of the historic habitat in Northern Nevada has been lost to wildfires.

NDOW REGION: Southern
(rev.: 6/2/2009)

DATE PREPARED: February 14, 2005



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*)

INTRODUCTION: _____ or **AUGMENTATION:** X

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2009

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Virginia Range – Bullion Ravine

COUNTY: Storey

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 11 S 270634 4353563

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management – Carson District

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan, 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

The BLM will be notified prior to the release and provided with a post-release narrative.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Mixed shrub/Pinyon-Juniper woodland with a riparian corridor consisting of dense willow thickets and an understory of grasses and forbs. This canyon is steep and rocky with tall, dense cover. According to member of the county advisory board, there have been mountain quail in the canyon before, but not in great numbers. Suitable habitat is also available within about a half mile near Jumbo Falls. There is no grazing and access is good.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Raptors and Grey Fox. No predator control is recommended.

COMMENTS: Release will increase distribution in the Virginia Range. Small number exist currently.

NDOW REGION: Western **DATE PREPARED:** May 29, 2007

Proposed Releases

Rio Grande Turkey

Location	Co.	Type
Introductions - priority		
Clover Mountains - Bunker Pass*	LN	I
Delamar Mountains - Chokecherry Canyon*	LN	I
Deer Lodge Canyon*	LN	I
Doc's Pass*	LN	I
Fairview Spring*	LN	I
Oak Well Hollow*	LN	I
Augmentations – priority after introductions		
Carson Valley – Brooks Ranch*	DO	A

**carryover – previously identified in FY08&09 biennial release plan.*



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2009

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Carson Valley - Brooks Ranch

COUNTY: Douglas

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: _____

TRANSPLANT STOCK: In state or out-of-state opportunities

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Cooperative Agreement with landowner pending.

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: Turkeys to be released on private lands.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. Cooperative Agreement with landowner.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Notification will be coordinated through the Western Region Information Officer.

HABITAT EVALUATION: 1000+ acres of private land plus adjoining private lands.

River riparian, established deciduous trees (cottonwood galleries) and shrubs. Thick willow cover. There have been turkey sightings within about 2 miles upstream in California. Adjoining landowners are in agreement for the release of turkeys within the area.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control is recommended at this time.

COMMENTS: Release will establish a population in Carson Valley along the Carson River corridor and will allow additional opportunities for sportsmen.

NDOW REGION: Western **DATE PREPARED:** April 27, 2007
(rev.: 6/2/2009)



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)

INTRODUCTION: X , or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Clover Mountains – Bunker Pass

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T6S R70E Sec. 9

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Available sources in state or out-of-state

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land management, Caliente Field Office

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

NDOW will notify NWTF members as well as local interested sportsmen to assist with trapping and release.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Habitat is suitable for wild turkeys with moderate amounts of oak brush, pinyon, and juniper. Water sources include springs and stock ponds. Mature trees that have burned as well as mature oak trees may serve as roosting trees.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: _____

NDOW REGION: Southern **DATE PREPARED:** May 21, 2007
(rev.: 6/2/2009)



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Delamar Mountains – Chokecherry Canyon

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T5S R65E Sec. 2

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Available sources in state or out-of-state

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management, Caliente Field Office

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

NDOW will notify NWTF members as well as local interested sportsmen to assist with trapping and release.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Habitat is suitable for wild turkeys with moderate amounts of oak brush and pinyon and juniper woodlands. Water sources include springs and stock ponds. Various mature trees may serve as roosting trees.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: _____

NDOW REGION: Southern **DATE PREPARED:** May 21, 2007
(rev.: 6/2/2009)



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Deer Lodge Canyon

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T1N R70E Sec. 26

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Available sources in state or out-of-state

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management, Caliente Field Office

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

NDOW will notify NWTF members as well as local interested sportsmen to assist with trapping and release.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Habitat is suitable for wild turkeys with moderate amounts of oak brush, mountain mahogany, and thick pinyon and juniper woodlands. Water sources include springs and stock ponds. Various mature trees may serve as roosting trees.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: _____

NDOW REGION: Southern **DATE PREPARED:** May 21, 2007
(rev.: 6/2/2009)



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Doc's Pass

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T6S R71E Sec. 6

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Available sources in state or out-of-state

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land management, Caliente Field Office

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

NDOW will notify NWTF members as well as local interested sportsmen to assist with trapping and release.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Habitat is suitable for wild turkeys with moderate amounts of oak brush and pinyon and juniper woodlands. Water sources include springs, stock ponds, and big game guzzlers. Mature trees that have burned, as well as mature oak trees may serve as roosting trees.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: _____

NDOW REGION: Southern **DATE PREPARED:** May 21, 2007
(rev.: 6/2/2009)



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Fairview Spring

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T4N R65E Sec. 26

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Available sources in state or out-of-state

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management, Caliente Field Office

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

NDOW will notify NWTF members as well as local interested sportsmen to assist with trapping and release.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Habitat is suitable for wild turkeys with moderate amounts of oak brush, and pinyon and juniper woodlands. Water sources include springs and stock ponds. Various mature trees may serve as roosting trees.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: _____

NDOW REGION: Southern **DATE PREPARED:** May 21, 2007
(rev.: 6/2/2009)



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Oak Well Hollow

COUNTY: Lincoln

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T4S R70E Sec. 6

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Available sources in state or out-of-state

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management, Caliente Field Office

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

NDOW will notify NWTF members as well as local interested sportsmen to assist with trapping and release.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Habitat is suitable for wild turkeys with moderate amounts of oak brush and pinyon/juniper woodlands. Water sources include springs and stock ponds. Ponderosa Pine trees may serve as roosting trees.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended.

COMMENTS: _____

NDOW REGION: Southern **DATE PREPARED:** May 21, 2007

Proposed Releases
Merriam's Turkey

Location	Co.	Type
<i>No Releases Planned in FY 2010 & 2011</i>		

Proposed Releases

Chukar Partridge

Location	Co.	Type
Southern Region		A



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*)

INTRODUCTION: _____, or **AUGMENTATION:** X

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2008 and 2009

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Southern Region

COUNTY: Clark, Lincoln and Nye

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: not specific

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Chukar may be trapped from in-state or out-of-state sources and transplanted in Nevada.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: BLM Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Cooperators will be notified prior to each release and will be provided with a post-release narrative.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Releases will augment existing populations occupying suitable habitat (augmentation) or will occur upon unoccupied suitable habitat (introduction).

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control is recommended.

COMMENTS: Chukar releases are occasionally used to address short-term declines attributed to prevailing unfavorable habitat conditions.

NDOW REGION: Southern **DATE PREPARED:** May 22, 2007

Proposed Releases

Ruffed Grouse

Location	Co.	Type
Introductions – Priority for first available donor stock		
East Independence Range - Gance Creek or Jim Creek*	EL	I
North Tuscarora Range - Toe Jam Creek*	EL	I
Pine Forest Range – Knott Creek	HU	I
Toiyabe Range - Big Creek & Birch Creek*	LA	I
Augmentations – priority after introductions		
Ruby Mountains – Gennette Creek*	EL	A
Ruby Mountains – Gilbert Creek*	EL	A
Ruby Mountains – Green Mountain Creek*	EL	A
Santa Rosa Range – Dutch John Creek*	HU	A
	HU	

* carryover [previously identified in FY08-09 Biennial Release Plan]



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

INTRODUCTION: _____, or **AUGMENTATION:** X

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: East Independence Range - Gance Creek and/or Jim Creek

COUNTY: Elko

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T39N, R53E, S1, or T40N, R54E, S30

TRANSPLANT STOCK: TBD - out-of-state sources or in-state source

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

U.S Forest Service-Mountain City Ranger District

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: USFS Categorical Exclusion

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

None required

HABITAT EVALUATION: The East Independence Range Allotment has been under a two-year-rest rotation grazing system for 14 years. All habitat types, including aspen, have responded excellent. The aspen stands are now multi-layered with abundant grass and forbs in the understory. The East Independence Range contains some of the best condition aspen stands in the Elko County. Forage plants such as chokecherry, rose, currant, elderberry and serviceberry are abundant and in good condition.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Wildlife Services routinely controls coyotes on the flats east of the Independence Mountain Range. More importantly, with such good habitat conditions, ruffed grouse can easily hide and escape from predators.

COMMENTS: The topography in the East Independence Range will allow for rapid expansion into other parts of the range. Ruffed grouse have the potential to spread from Gance Creek to the North Fork of the Humboldt River on the east side of the range and into Burns Basin, Happy Camp and into Jacks Creek on the West side of the range. This release site has been approved by the USFS. Four ruffed grouse were released into this site in 2005.

NDOW REGION: Eastern **DATE PREPARED:** Feb. 27, 2007



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

INTRODUCTION: X , or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: North Tuscarora Range - Toe Jam Creek

COUNTY: Elko

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T40N., R50E., Section 30

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Oregon, Idaho or in-state opportunities.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management-Elko District. Also, Barrick Gold Mining Company owns significant land in the area and will have to be involved in the approval of this project.

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: USFS Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

A letter to the Permittee and Barrick to be sent when transplant occurs.

HABITAT EVALUATION: The Rock Creek Allotment will be rested for three years. This will enhance the condition of the riparian and aspen vegetative communities. After the rest, the area will be grazed in a way that will allow continued improvement of this system.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Wildlife Services routinely controls coyotes on the flats east of the Independence Mountain Range. More importantly, with improved habitat conditions, ruffed grouse can easily hide and escape from predators.

COMMENTS: The topography in the North Tuscarora Range will allow for rapid expansion into other parts of the range. Ruffed grouse have the potential to spread from Toe Jam Creek into the McCann Creek, Rock Creek and the Cottonwood Drainages.

NDOW REGION: Eastern **DATE PREPARED:** March 5, 2007
(rev.: 6/2/2009)



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010/2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Pine Forest Range, Knott Creek Watershed

COUNTY: Humboldt County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T43N, R28E, Sec 17 (private)

TRANSPLANT STOCK: TBD: Oregon, Idaho or in-state opportunities.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Release on private lands.

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. Nevada Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Release on private lands.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Media releases will be coordinated; Humboldt County Advisory Board and other interested parties will be notified.

HABITAT EVALUATION: There is approximately 10,000 acres of aspen habitat in this range. Forage and drumming areas are available within most of these aspen and fir stands. Snowberry and serviceberry is available as well as limited amounts of rose near riparian areas. All forage species are in excellent shape in the area. Aspen stands are multi-age classed with plenty of grass and understory for cover.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Other upland game bird populations have increased in recent years in this area and are following normal cycles suggesting that there are no abnormal numbers of predators or a need for predator control in the area at this time.

COMMENTS: This release is expected to expand hunting opportunity and to firmly establish a population of ruffed grouse in the Pine Forest. Follow-up surveys will be conducted to assess the success of ruffed grouse in expected brooding areas.

NDOW REGION: Western **DATE PREPARED:** May 27, 2009



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

INTRODUCTION: x, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Toiyabe Range - Big Creek & Birch Creek

COUNTY: Lander

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T.16N. R.43E. Sec. 20 and T.18N. R.44E. Sec. 29

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Idaho, Oregon, or in-state opportunities.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

USFS

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: USFS Categorical Exclusion.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Lander County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

HABITAT EVALUATION: Riparian community stable with good understory present in the form of grasses and forbs. Aspen stands in good ecologic condition with substantial succoring.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Birds will be from wild-trapped stock that are used to dealing with predators. No control needed.

COMMENTS: This is a carry-over from FY05.

NDOW REGION: Eastern
(rev.: 6/2/2009)

DATE PREPARED: March 5, 2007



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

INTRODUCTION: _____, or **AUGMENTATION:** X

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 and/or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Ruby Mountains (Unit 102) - Gennette Creek

COUNTY: Elko

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T29N, R57E

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Idaho, Oregon, or in-state opportunities.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

U.S. Forest Service

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: This release is in compliance with the existing Forest Plan.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Media releases will be coordinated, Elko County Wildlife Advisory Board and other interested parties will be notified.

HABITAT EVALUATION: This is an augmentation in the Ruby Mtns. where birds were first released in the 1960's and there is ample habitat available with only occasional bird observations reported.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Other upland game bird populations have increased in recent years in this area and are following normal cycles suggesting that there are no abnormal numbers of predators nor a need for predator control in the area at this time.

COMMENTS: This release is expected to more firmly establish ruffed grouse populations in a portion of the Ruby Mtns with excellent habitat and increase the genetic diversity of ruffed grouse populations in the Rubies.

NDOW REGION: Eastern **DATE PREPARED:** March 5, 2007
(rev.:6/4/2009)



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

INTRODUCTION: _____, or **AUGMENTATION:** X

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Ruby Mountains (Unit 102) - Gilbert Creek

COUNTY: Elko

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T29N, R57E

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Idaho, Oregon or in-state opportunities.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

U.S. Forest Service

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: This release is in compliance with the existing Forest Plan.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan. 2010 & 2011 Upland Game Biennial Release Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Media releases will be coordinated, Elko County Wildlife Advisory Board and other interested parties will be notified.

HABITAT EVALUATION: This is an augmentation in the Ruby Mtns. where birds were first released in the 1960's and there is ample habitat available with only occasional bird observations reported.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Other upland game bird populations have increased in recent years in this area and are following normal cycles suggesting that there are no abnormal numbers of predators nor a need for predator control in the area at this time.

COMMENTS: This release is expected to more firmly establish ruffed grouse populations in a portion of the Ruby Mtns with excellent habitat and increase the genetic diversity of ruffed grouse populations in the Rubies.

NDOW REGION: Eastern **DATE PREPARED:** March 5, 2007



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

INTRODUCTION: _____, or **AUGMENTATION:** X

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 or 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Ruby Mountains (Unit 102) - Green Mtn. Creek

COUNTY: Elko

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T29N, R57E

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Idaho, Oregon or in-state opportunities

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

U.S. Forest Service

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: This release is in compliance with the Forest Plan.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Media releases will be coordinated, Elko County Wildlife Advisory Board and other interested parties will be notified.

HABITAT EVALUATION: This is an augmentation in the Ruby Mtns. where birds were first released in the 1960's and there is ample habitat available with only occasional bird observations reported.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Other upland game bird populations have increased in recent years in this area and are following normal cycles suggesting that there are no abnormal numbers of predators nor a need for predator control in the area at this time.

COMMENTS: This release is expected to more firmly establish ruffed grouse populations in a portion of the Ruby Mtns with excellent habitat and increase the genetic diversity of ruffed grouse populations in the Rubies.

NDOW REGION: Eastern **DATE PREPARED:** March 5, 2007



**SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING
AND APPROVAL SUMMARY**

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

INTRODUCTION: _____, or **AUGMENTATION:** X

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010/2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Santa Rosa Range - Dutch John Creek

COUNTY: Humboldt County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T44N, R39E

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Out of state sources. Examples include: Minnesota, Michigan, Idaho and Oregon

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

United States Forest Service

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: Release is in compliance with the existing Forest Plan & Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:

None

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Media releases will be coordinated; Humboldt County Advisory Board and other interested parties will be notified.

HABITAT EVALUATION: This is an augmentation in the Santa Rosa Range where birds were first released in the 1980's and there is ample habitat available.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Other upland game bird populations have increased in recent years in this area and are following normal cycles suggesting that there are no abnormal numbers of predators nor a need for predator control in the area at this time.

COMMENTS: This release is expected to increase genetic diversity and to firmly establish a Ruffed Grouse population in the Santa Rosa Range.

NDOW REGION: Western **DATE PREPARED:** May 27, 2009

Proposed Releases

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse

Location	Co.	Type
Bull Run Range – Columbia Basin	EL	I



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)

INTRODUCTION: X , or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2010 & 2011

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Columbia Basin, Bull Run Range

COUNTY: Elko

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T43N, R52E section 20 or 21

TRANSPLANT STOCK: TBD: likely stock from Idaho and/or Utah.

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:

Bureau of Land Management-Elko, USFS, Western Exploration Company (possible).

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: Categorical Exclusion (not yet completed)

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: Nevada Upland Game Species Management Plan.

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: *(Include methods & dates)*

Private land owners will be contacted prior to release.

HABITAT EVALUATION: The Columbia Basin area contains several habitat types conducive to supporting sharp-tailed grouse. The lower elevation areas support sagebrush grass steppe communities that are in good to excellent ecological condition. Grasses, especially Idaho fescue, dominate the under-story. There are also wet meadows with healthy willow corridors scattered throughout much of the area. The mid-elevation areas are characterized by excellent mountain brush communities. Serviceberry, which is the sharp-tailed grouse's winter mainstay, is well represented throughout the basin. Aspen stands and chokecherry pockets dominate the draws in the mountains. These stands also are represented by healthy under-stories.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: Wildlife Services routinely controls coyotes in the Columbia Basin area. There is some potential for raven control during the first couple years of a release. The need for raven control will be evaluated prior to the release. More importantly, with such good habitat conditions, sharp-tailed grouse can more effectively hide and escape from predators.

COMMENTS: The habitat for sharp-tailed grouse is excellent in this area and it is extensive. The one negative is there is a significant amount of private land within Columbia Basin. The private land company that owns the vast majority of the area is actively trying to sell the land to the Federal Government as part of the Southern Nevada Land Act. Despite this possible sale, it is felt that enough of the area is public and accessible that it warrants the reestablishment of sharp-tailed grouse. Habitat conditions in this area are considered to be good to excellent based on the condition of the mountain brush, understory and riparian communities.

NDOW REGION: Eastern
(rev.: 6/2/2009)

DATE PREPARED: Feb. 27, 2007