Nevada Department of Wildlife

Small Game Release Plan

#18

For

State Fiscal Years 2020 & 2021

Mountain quail seeking cover in Hendry's Creek – photo by Heath Korell (NDOW)

Adopted - June 2019

Amendment Proposal - June 2020
(proposed changes are represented in *blue italics*)

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Nevada Department of Wildlife

Small Game Release Plan Summary

For

Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECTS		
Species	**# Proposed Introductions**	**# Proposed Augmentations**
California quail	TBD	TBD
Mountain Quail	2	1
Rio Grande Turkey	*1*	3
Merriam's Turkey	1	1
Chukar Partridge	TBD	TBD
Gray Partridge	*1*	-
Ruffed Grouse	*1*	2
American Beaver	-	TBD
Total:	*6*	**7**

Proposed Releases

Rio Grande Turkey

Location	Co.	Type
Introductions – priority for first available donor stock		
Walker River Recreation Area (Lyon County)	*LY*	*I/A*
Augmentations – priority after introductions		
Delamar Mountains (Lincoln County)	LN	A
Wilson Creek Range (Lincoln County)	LN	A
Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area of Lyon County	LY	A

Small Game
Release Site Planning and Approval Summary

5-2020

Date: 5/26/2020

Region: WR

Name: Jason Salisbury

Office: Fallon

Species or Subspecies: Wild Turkey

Introduction: ■ **or** **Augmentation:** ■

Fiscal Year of Planned Release: 2021 or 2022

Release Site **Site Name:** Walker River Recreation Area

County: Lyon

Legal Description: Nevada State Parks, Walker River Recreation Area

Transplant Stock: Liking Ranch (Battle Mtn, NV) or UT sources

Cooperating Land Management Agencies: Nevada State Parks

Land Management Agency Approval Document: Nevada State Parks

Other Documents and their Status:

Nevada Department of Wildlife's Wild Turkey Species Management Plan

Notification of User Groups *(include methods and dates)*:

Local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation would be notified and may participate in the release operation. Other upland game related user groups such as the Carson Valley Chukar Club will also be contacted for participation.

Habitat Evaluation:

Habitat along the East Fork of the Walker River within the Walker River Recreation Area is suitable for Rio Grande turkeys. There are numerous galleries of Fremont Cottonwoods along with willow and buffalo berry stands. Other shrubs and riparian species associated with the river bottom are available. Turkeys should distribute themselves from the historic Pitchfork Ranch to the Rafter 7 Ranch upstream and beyond.

Predator Evaluation:

Potential predator control was not evaluated due to the area's designation as a State Recreation area. There is potential for raven removal in the area.

Comments:

Proposed Releases

Gray (Hungarian) Partridge

Location	Co.	Type
Introductions – Priority for first available donor stock		
Desatoya Range (Churchill County)	*CH*	*I*
Augmentations – priority after introductions		
No augmentations are proposed for Fiscal Year 2021		

Small Game
Release Site Planning and Approval Summary

5-2020

Date: 5/26/2020

Region: WR

Name: Jason Salisbury

Office: Fallon

Species or Subspecies: Hungarian Partridge

Introduction: ☒ **or** **Augmentation:** ☐

Fiscal Year of Planned Release: 2021 or 2022

Release Site

Site Name: Desatoya Range

County: Churchill

Legal Description:

Transplant Stock: Elko County, NV

Cooperating Land Management Agencies: BLM and private landowners

Land Management Agency Approval Document: Categorical Exclusion. Private lands.

Other Documents and their Status:

Releases would likely occur on private lands adjacent to public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Notification of User Groups *(include methods and dates)*:

User groups will be notified via email one week prior to the capture date that is yet to be scheduled. Release generally occurs the same day or the following.

Habitat Evaluation:

The east and west side of the Desatoya Mountains have burned and have been rehabilitated with a variety of wheatgrasses as well as shrubs. Large and small spring complexes consisting of wild rose, elderberry, snowberry, and chokecherry are available. All forage species are in excellent shape in the area. Aspen stands are multi-age classed with plenty of herbaceous 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:

Proposed Releases

Ruffed Grouse

Location	Co.	Type
Introductions – Priority for first available donor stock		
Elk Mountain (Elko County)	*EL*	*I*
Augmentations – priority after introductions		
Bull Run and South Tuscarora Range (Elko County)	EL	A
Pine Forest Range – Boyd Basin (Humboldt County)	HU	A

Small Game
Release Site Planning and Approval Summary

5-2020

Date: 5/26/2020 **Region:** ER

Name: Kari Huebner **Office:** Elko

Species or Subspecies: Ruffed Grouse

Introduction: √ **or** **Augmentation:** ☐

Fiscal Year of Planned Release: 2021 or 2022

Release Site **Site Name:** Elk Mountain

County: Elko

Legal Description: Near UTM 657108 4646586

Transplant Stock:

Cooperating Land Management Agencies: USFS

Land Management Agency Approval Document:

Other Documents and their Status:

In discussions with the Forest Service (Kyra Walton, Wildlife Biologist, Jarbidge Ranger District), ruffed grouse are considered native to Jarbidge and surrounding areas thus there is no need for an EA for augmentation.

Notification of User Groups *(include methods and dates)*:

Habitat Evaluation:

There are large expanses of aspen for forage, cover, nesting, escape, and thermal protection. There are also a variety of shrubs (such as serviceberry and snowberry), forbs, and grasses associated with the aspen communities. Grazing is fairly intense directly near water sources, but quickly disperses throughout the aspen stringers.

Predator Evaluation:

None

Comments:

Elk Mountain and associated drainages offer moderate amounts of suitable ruffed grouse habitat and provides an opportunity for linkage with the Jarbidge and Bruneau populations.