

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AMONG

MEMBERS OF WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

WESTERN QUAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

Western quail (California [Callipepla californica], scaled [Callipepla squamata], Montezuma [Cyrtonyx montezumae], Mountain [Oreortyx pictus], Gambel's [Callipepla gambelii] and Masked bobwhite [Colinus virginianus ridgwayi]), are socially and economically important wildlife species in the western United States. Despite their importance, management of western quail has a varied history and quail management and research has received inconsistent attention. As a whole, the species-group lacks consistent population indices, and most biologists acknowledge quail habitat is threatened due to a multitude of factors that have not all been adequately identified. Additional emphasis on consistent population indices, identification of threats and implementation of more habitat management for western quail would benefit quail populations and the public who enjoy them.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a cooperative agreement to improve management and implement strategies for conservation of western quail and their habitats.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE AGREEMENT

The Western Quail Management Plan was developed under the auspices of the Resident Game Bird Working Group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and was published in 2009. All state wildlife agencies that have western quail assisted in writing the plan. The Western Quail Management Plan has been endorsed by both AFWA and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA).

The parties of this agreement intend to work cooperatively to implement the recommended habitat objectives and management recommendations outlined in the Western Quail Management Plan. Management of western quail and their habitats has traditionally been accomplished on a relatively small, local scale. Management across state boundaries will improve management and may facilitate broad scale habitat restoration projects.

The parties to this agreement all have management responsibility for western quail populations and the habitats upon which they depend. This agreement does not usurp any statutory authority of any of the individual parties to this agreement or require any party to take action in conflict with statutory authority and responsibility; rather, this agreement is intended to strengthen the

authorities of all entities by developing a cooperative ethic towards implementing the recommended habitat objectives and management recommendations outlined in the Western Quail Management Plan.

3. OBJECTIVES

- Identify and coordinate research needs for western quail and encourage research funding that improves the parties' ability to manage western quail populations.
- Develop and foster cooperation among the parties to this MOU for managing western quail populations and the habitats upon which they depend.
- Encourage establishment of regional working groups to develop action plans to implement the strategies outlined in the Western Quail Management Plan.
- Encourage all parties to this MOU to identify and prioritize management actions on a regional basis and, where appropriate, to combine funding to accomplish the priority management practices.

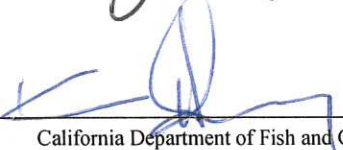
4. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Each state/province will take action within their discretion to maintain and enhance quail habitat.
2. All member states will work cooperatively through the Western Quail Working Group to exchange ideas, prioritize research needs, and make every effort to participate.


5. APPROVAL

We the undersigned designated officials do hereby approve the Memorandum of Understanding as recommended by resolution at the summer meeting of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at Big Sky, Montana on 20 July, 2011.

Approved  Date July 20, 2011
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Approved  Date 7.20.11
California Department of Fish and Game

Approved  Date 7-20-11
Colorado Division of Wildlife

Approved  Date 7-26-11
Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Approved Keith Sepsom Date 9-9-11
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Approved De Manner Date 7/20/2011
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Approved Kenneth S Mayer Date 7/20/2011
Nevada Division of Wildlife

Approved Richard Hatcher Date 7/20/11
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Approved Zod W. Stevenson Date 7/20/2011
New Mexico Game and Fish Department

Approved Ray Johnson for Roy Elicher Date 7/20/2011
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Approved R. Mehrhoff Date 7/20/11
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Approved James J. Kapovich Date 7/20/2011
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Approved Robert [Signature] for Phil Anderson Date 7/20/2011
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife