

# GUIDE TO HUNTING QUAIL IN CALIFORNIA

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	5
CHAPTER I. CALIFORNIA'S QUAIL.....	7
SPECIES IDENTIFICATION.....	8
HABITAT.....	9
California quail .....	9
Mountain quail .....	9
Gambel's quail .....	10
BEHAVIOR .....	10
California quail .....	10
Mountain quail .....	11
Gambel's quail.....	12
CHAPTER II. HOW TO HUNT QUAIL.....	13
SAFETY .....	13
HUNTER ETHICS .....	13
EQUIPMENT .....	14
California quail .....	14
Mountain quail .....	15
Gambel's quail.....	15
HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR SHOOTING .....	15
HOW TO FIND QUAIL.....	16
CALIFORNIA QUAIL .....	17
MOUNTAIN QUAIL .....	18
GAMBEL'S QUAIL.....	18
STRATEGY WITH A DOG .....	19
CALIFORNIA QUAIL .....	19
MOUNTAIN QUAIL .....	19
GAMBEL'S QUAIL.....	19
STRATEGY WITHOUT A DOG .....	20
CALIFORNIA QUAIL .....	20
MOUNTAIN QUAIL .....	21
GAMBEL'S QUAIL.....	22
LOCATING DOWNED QUAIL.....	23
DEAD QUAIL .....	23
CRIPPLED QUAIL .....	24
CHAPTER III. WHERE TO HUNT QUAIL.....	25
PUBLIC LANDS .....	25
NATIONAL AND STATE FORESTS.....	25
STATE WILDLIFE AREAS.....	25
STATE RECREATION AREAS .....	26
U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT .....	26
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LAND .....	26
U.S. MILITARY RESERVATIONS .....	26
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LANDS .....	27
PRIVATE LANDS .....	27
FEE/LEASE LANDS.....	27

CHAPTER IV. PUBLIC LAND PROFILES ..... 28

    ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... 28

    HOW TO USE THIS SECTION..... 28

    REGIONAL HUNT AREA PROFILES ..... 30

        REGION 1: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NORTH COAST REGION ..... 30

        REGION 2: SACRAMENTO VALLEY-CENTRAL SIERRA REGION..... 42

        REGION 3: CENTRAL COAST REGION ..... 56

        REGION 4: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY-SOUTHERN SIERRA REGION ..... 63

        REGION 5: SOUTH COAST REGION ..... 76

        REGION 6: EASTERN SIERRA-INLAND DESERTS REGION ..... 79

CHAPTER V. CARE OF BAGGED QUAIL ..... 87

    HOW TO HUMANELY KILL WOUNDED QUAIL ..... 87

    FIELD DRESSING AND CARE ..... 87

    STORAGE ..... 88

    AGING ..... 88

    RECIPES ..... 89

CHAPTER VI. PERSONAL QUAIL MANAGEMENT..... 90

REFERENCES ..... 91

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HUNT AREA LOCATION MAP ..... 92

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HUNT AREA LOCATION MAP ..... 93

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HUNT AREA LOCATION MAP..... 94

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REGIONAL MAP ..... 95

MOUNTAIN QUAIL RANGE MAP ..... 96

CALIFORNIA QUAIL RANGE MAP ..... 97

GAMBEL'S QUAIL RANGE MAP ..... 98

THE QUAIL OF CALIFORNIA ..... 99



# PREFACE

The purpose of this guide is to provide both the experienced and the beginning hunter with information on:

- Basic identification and quail biology useful for hunting;
- How to find quail;
- How to hunt quail, both with and without a dog;
- Where to go quail hunting;
- How to care for bagged quail; and
- How to help manage quail populations.

This information can also be useful to bird watchers, photographers, educators, scientists, and anyone else wanting to know how and where to find quail.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) hopes that this publication will provide a stimulating and useful guide to hunting the quail of California.

We encourage comments, including information that could be added to future editions. Comments or suggestions for future editions should be mailed to:

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## CALIFORNIA'S QUAIL

California has three native species of quail, the California quail, the mountain quail and the Gambel's quail. Among the three of them, there is not a county in the state without at least one species. Both the California quail and the mountain quail are found from one end of the state to the other, while the Gambel's quail is found only in the southeast corner of the state. This group of game birds offers some of the most exciting and challenging upland hunting to be found anywhere.

The California quail is the most commonly recognized of the three species, and is the most widely distributed of the three, comprising most of the annual quail harvest. It is a bird which will often hold for dogs. Opportunities for hunting this quail on public lands are good throughout most of the state.

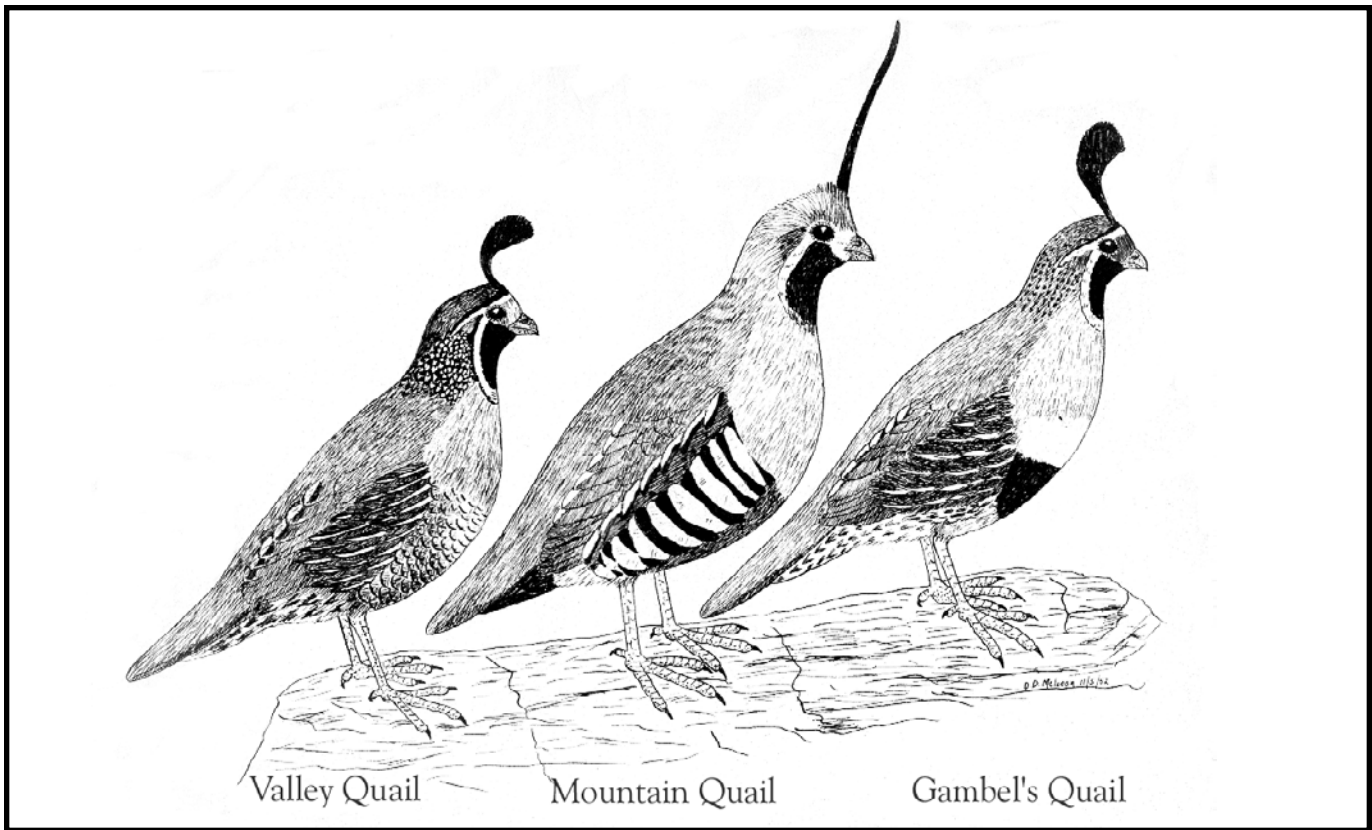
The mountain quail, inhabiting most mountain ranges, is the most difficult to hunt because of its fondness for running, steep terrain, and dense cover, and its dislike for flying. Mountain quail hunters average only a little better than one quail per day hunted, whereas California and Gambel's quail hunters average twice that per day hunted. However, to the persistent hunter go the rewards of what is considered to be one of the finest eating of upland game birds.

The Gambel's quail is found throughout most of the southeastern part of California. The best populations occur along the Colorado River, in the Coachella and Imperial valleys, and in the desert mountains of eastern San Bernardino County. The Gambel's quail is usually a running bird that likes to flush well out. Once the covey has scattered, single or double birds can provide excellent hunting either with or without a dog. Fortunately, most of this quail's habitat exists on public lands.



*Male and female California quail. Photo by Sharon Bailey.*

To measure hunter effort and game harvest each year, the California Department of Fish and Game conducts an annual "Game Take Hunter Survey." According to the 2000 Game Take Hunter Survey, quail are the third most popular game species in terms of time spent in pursuit, behind only ducks and deer. The California, mountain, and Gambel's quail hunter success rates that year were 80, 80, and 71 percent, respectively. Table 1 lists the top counties reporting the greatest take of each quail species. Table 2 summarizes the average hunter effort and success by quail species during the 2000/2001 season.



Valley Quail

Mountain Quail

Gambel's Quail

*DFG file illustration.*

## SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

### CALIFORNIA QUAIL: (*CALLIPEPLA CALIFORNICA*)

ALSO KNOWN AS THE VALLEY QUAIL.

The male, about nine to 11 inches long, is more colorful than the female. He has a black throat circled with a white line, and the top of his head is dark brown with a plume of short, black, curved feathers. A chestnut patch is in the middle of the stomach, his breast is scaled, and his sides are burnish gray streaked with white dashes. The female is similar, but has a shorter plume (about half the size) and a brown-gray head without all the white and black markings of the male. Average weight is about six to seven ounces for both sexes. The call most commonly heard during the fall and winter months is their assembly call, a metallic sounding “Chi-ca-go,” “Chi-wa-ka.”

### MOUNTAIN QUAIL: (*OREORTYX PICTUS*)

ALSO KNOWN AS THE MOUNTAIN PARTRIDGE.

The mountain quail is the largest of the native quail in North America. Unlike the other quail, the sexes look alike. They have a long, slender black plume; the throat is chestnut bordered with white; the breast,

upper back and head are bluish gray; and the sides are chestnut with broad black and white stripes. They are 10 to 12 inches long and weigh an average of about eight to nine ounces. The call a hunter is most likely to hear is their alarm call, a series of “cle-cle-cle,” “ca-ca-ca, cree-a-a, cree-a-ca-ca,” or sharp rapid “scree” or “t-t-t-r-r-r-t” notes. Another call heard during the hunting season is their assembly call which is a series of whistled “kow, kow, kow” or “How, how, how” notes.

### GAMBEL'S QUAIL: (*CALLIPEPLA GAMBELII*)

ALSO KNOWN AS THE DESERT QUAIL.

The Gambel's quail, which is nine to 11 inches long and weighs five to seven ounces, is somewhat smaller than the California quail. The male is again more colorful than the female, and has a rust-red cap with black plume, black throat with a white border, gray upper breast, black stomach patch without scaling, and chestnut sides streaked with white. The female looks like the male, but without the black throat and stomach patch, and has a shorter plume. The most commonly heard call during the hunting season is their assembly call, a nasal “Chi-ca-go-go.”



## HABITAT

In any location, the basic habitat needs for food, cover (shelter), and water must be met or there will be no quail. With these needs met, the relative size of the population will then depend upon the amount, distribution, and quality of these needed resources.

### CALIFORNIA QUAIL



*Foothill California quail habitat showing the appropriate blend of open grass and brushy vegetation with adjacent hardwood/coniferous woodland. DFG file photo.*

The California quail is associated with a combination of brushy vegetation and more open weedy or grassy habitat with some water supply. They avoid dense forests and dense chaparral.

Food is usually abundant throughout the California quail's range. During the fall, the most important foods of the California quail, in order of importance, are the seeds of legumes, annual weeds, grasses, and fruits and leaves of woody plants. Once winter rains have started, their diet changes to one consisting mostly of the green leaves of forbs, clovers, and grasses. These foods may become scarce through overgrazing or a drought, or inaccessible due to a lack of cover.

A good distribution and quality of cover is important for the efficient and safe access to food and water. During the fall and winter months, the California quail are subject to harsh weather and predators (both human and non-human), and they will rarely venture more than 20 yards from cover. In addition to being well-distributed, the cover needs to be of sufficient quality. It must be dense enough to provide some shelter from the elements and protection from

predators. California quail also require good roosting cover. They prefer some dense evergreen tree or shrub that allows them to perch, a few feet off the ground.

In most of their range California quail require some form of surface water. There are some coastal populations that get all their water from dew and suc-



*Mountain quail habitat includes higher elevations of mixed evergreen forests and chaparral with steep slopes. DFG file photo.*

culent vegetation. However, throughout most of the state a good supply of water is very important.

### MOUNTAIN QUAIL

The mountain quail is an animal of mixed evergreen forests and chaparral. This quail is found in habitats associated with pinon-juniper, oak woodland, chaparral, coastal forest, and mountain forests. This quail likes thick brush that covers about half of the area. They appear to do best in areas with a good, even distribution of brush. For example, an area where you can walk through the brush, but not in a straight line for more than 10-30 feet in any direction, and you can just see over the brush is probably very good mountain quail habitat. This area should also have a good sprinkling of oaks and pines.

The "icing on the cake" for mountain quail is steep slopes—they race up slopes to escape danger. However, not one quail will be found here unless there is water nearby. This need is strong enough that during hot weather they will almost always be found within a short distance of water. Before winter "green up," mountain quail are rarely found more than one mile from water, and usually much closer. As with the other

two quail species, once fall rains start and bring about a new flush of growth, the quail will start feeding in areas that they are not found in during the preceding dryer months.

The diet of mountain quail is similar to that of the other two quail species, but with the addition of more fruits such as elderberry, hackberry, serviceberry, grape, gooseberry, poison oak, toyon, and manzanita. They also make extensive use of bulblets, and the meats of acorns and pine nuts.

### GAMBEL'S QUAIL

Gambel's quail prefer desert valleys and uplands of the Mojave desert where mesquite, cat's-claw, salt-bush, tamarisk, creosote bush, desert thorn, skunk-bush, yuccas, burroweed, or prickly pear are found in the vicinity of water. They are most abundant in valley bottoms of decomposed granite or transported soils of river bottoms, and areas where January temperatures rarely drop to freezing.

The diet of Gambel's quail is heavily dependent upon the foliage and seeds of annual plants and legumes. Their most important foods are the greens and seeds of annuals such as deervetch, filaree, and legumes of the locoweed and lupine families. These annuals and legumes are in turn very dependent upon annual rainfall. Good rainfall produces good annual growth which usually results in large Gambel's quail populations.

Cover requirements are similar to those of the California quail, but Gambel's quail are able to cope

with cover that is less dense than that favored by the California quail.

The availability of water is important, but apparently not to the extent it is for California quail and mountain quail. Gambel's quail are able to get by with less water and are apparently able to travel greater distances to get it. However, the best populations exist where there is a good supply of water, food, and cover together.

### BEHAVIOR CALIFORNIA QUAIL

The California quail is a social animal and spends most of the year, including the hunting season, in large groups called coveys. These coveys are usually formed in August and September when several family groups, consisting of parents and their offspring, merge to form one large group, the covey. The quail in these coveys perform all of their daily activities as a group. They roost together at night, wake up and feed together, dust bathe together, siesta and hide from predators together. During pre-season scouting and the hunting season one will almost always find California quail in these coveys. Success in finding California quail during this time can be improved by knowing something about how coveys use their habitat.

How a covey uses its habitat is usually determined by the habitat itself, the weather, and other factors. The distribution of food, cover, and water is the most important factor that influences covey activity. The most important "other factor" is usually predators, both human and non-human.

California quail prefer to roost in dense evergreen shrubs or trees, usually close to water. The covey rises from its roost between first light and sunrise. In cold or foul weather they may leave the roost much later. Just before the covey leaves the roost, one of the males will usually give a few good morning "Chi-cago" calls. This helps any quail that may have been separated from the covey, either when they went to roost or during the night, find their way back. This also makes it easy for the early rising hunter to locate

*A desert wash with enough canopy and ground cover is suitable habitat for Gambel's quail as well as burro deer. Photo by Leon Lesicka.*





*California quail loafing on a downed tree. Photo by Don Lange.*

coveys.

At this point the quail will either drop to the ground and begin feeding toward water, or will fly directly to water. Once the rains have started and the hills and valleys become green, they will feed first before going, if at all, to water. The quail will feed almost non-stop for the first one to two hours after leaving the roost, and on and off for another one to three hours thereafter. They may feed on and off for much longer if the weather is bad, or for a much shorter time if predators are in the area.

During the hunting season they don't like to feed much further than 50 feet from cover. In most cases this is due to the presence of the Cooper's hawk, one of their most efficient natural predators. Where they feed depends upon where the cover is. If cover permits, they will usually head straight from their roost or watering site.

Because California quail don't migrate, food may

become scarce around activity centers toward the end of fall. Because of this, they will often be found several hundred yards to half a mile from these centers later in the morning. Once they have finished their morning feeding, the covey will then either find a good siesta spot where they stopped, or will return to some favorite spot. The quail will stay here resting, dust bathing and digesting food during the middle of the day.

Usually the covey will begin feeding again about two to four hours before dark. Early in the season when it is still hot and dry they will probably go to water before going to roost. Later in the season when it gets wet and cool, they probably will not. During the last two hours of light they will be feeding so that they may go to sleep with a full crop. The covey will usually feed in the direction of the roost, and may spend the last hour of light feeding nearby. During this time they will be giving assembly calls to re-group the covey before going to roost at twilight.

If they are disturbed as they go to roost or during the night, many of the birds may be forced to spend the night exposed to predators and the elements. Because quail cannot see well at night, they will not move from where they land.

### MOUNTAIN QUAIL

Populations of mountain quail that live in areas that receive snowfall usually migrate down from higher elevations in fall. This migration may be as far as 20 miles. In the Sierra, the migration down the mountains starts in late August or early September with the first snows, and by the beginning of October most of the mountain quail are below 5,000 feet in elevation. They spend the winter roosting and loafing under scrub oaks and feeding in low brush. They do not move much during this time, and will usually be found in the same area they were found previously. Coveys living below snow line, which includes most of those in the coast range, generally do not migrate.

Mountain quail usually come to water after their morning feeding. They spend the mid-day hours loafing under thick brush. They come out again in the late afternoon to feed until twilight, before going to roost in heavy cover. They probably will visit water in the late afternoon during hot weather.

Unlike the Gambel's and California quail, the fall/winter mountain quail coveys usually consist of one or two single families and a few unsuccessful breeders, and generally are not larger than about 10 to 20 birds. When hunting you will hear their alarm call more often than you will see them. However, because of their very secretive nature, they use alarm calls sparingly. It is not uncommon to get very close to them before they show any signs of alarm.

A trait that makes finding them very difficult is their intense dislike for open space. They very rarely get more than 20 feet from cover. They also will go to great lengths to avoid having to cross open spaces, such as dirt roads, when frightened.

### GAMBEL'S QUAIL

Coveys of Gambel's quail, like California quail, are often made up of several family groups. The average



*Female California quail. Photo by Ann Laird.*

size of a covey is between 20 and 40 birds. In some parts of their range coveys of several hundred quail can be found around watering holes during the late summer.

During the early fall, coveys of Gambel's quail keep their activities centered around a water source. Later, when the desert greens a little, the coveys will range over a much larger area. They prefer to keep their activities centered around good cover. Throughout most of their range in California this usually means the vegetation found in most desert washes. This vegetation and water is usually most abundant where the washes begin, at the base of some hills or mountains.

## HOW TO HUNT QUAIL

### SAFETY

Quail hunting is a relatively safe sport. However, it is imperative that to remain a safe sport, certain safety rules be adhered to without exception. When you take a newcomer, especially children, into the hunting experience, part of your responsibility as a hunter is to teach that person proper safety. The following rules are good ones to **live** by:

#### THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS OF QUAIL HUNTING SAFETY

1. Always treat the gun as loaded.
2. Never have a loaded gun except when hunting.
3. Always make sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
4. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble.
5. Always keep the safety on until the gun is brought to shoulder.
6. Always make sure your target is a quail and your backstop is not a hunter **or** a dog.
7. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.
8. Never leave guns or ammunition within reach of children or careless adults.
9. Never climb trees or fences with a loaded gun.
10. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.
11. Never drink alcohol or take other mood-altering drugs before or during a hunt.

Always know where all members of your hunting party are. The more members in your party the more difficult this will be. It is recommended to keep hunting parties as small as possible, preferably two, but no more than three. If you are with a large party, try to spread out or split into several groups of two.

If your party has found some quail, determine in which directions it would be unsafe to shoot.

Each person should wear some safety orange, a little is better than none. Camouflage clothing is not necessary for quail hunting, they know where you are regardless of what you wear. Take extra precautions during deer season. This is most important when hunting mountain quail. Most of their range is also popular deer hunting country. Wear plenty of safety orange and talk with your buddy while hunting.

If you have to chase down a crippled bird, make sure your gun is on safety.

Almost all good quail country is good rattlesnake country. Be careful around brush and water.

When hunting in the deserts of California, always be sure to carry plenty of water. If you are hunting with a dog, make sure to carry additional water for your dog. It also pays to avoid hunting during the mid-day hours when it can be quite hot. Be prepared for cold temperatures at night.

### HUNTER ETHICS

In order to preserve the privilege of hunting, it is essential that each quail hunter, as a representative of all quail hunters, conduct him- or herself in an ethical manner. Without the public's support, even if this support is in the form of indifference, we could lose our cherished privilege. The following are some suggestions:

1. Respect other's property:
  - don't trespass without permission
  - don't litter
  - don't harass livestock
  - if driving on someone's property, drive slowly, and don't drive off the roads
  - do leave gates as you find them
  - do offer to repair or compensate for damage you

- may have caused
2. Be kind and courteous:
    - don't interfere with other hunters, campers or bird watchers
    - always be helpful—whether it be telling a landowner about a hole in his fence, or offering to help fix the fence.
  3. Conduct oneself as a sportsman:
    - always hunt safely!
    - always follow regulations—nobody likes a game hog
    - don't shoot birds of prey (including Cooper's hawks)

## EQUIPMENT CALIFORNIA QUAIL

Adult hunters must possess a valid California hunting license and an upland game bird stamp when hunting quail (as well as other upland game birds). The stamp is not required for hunters with a valid California junior hunting license.

The most important piece of clothing is foot wear. They must protect and support your feet, provide sure footing, and be light and comfortable enough to walk all day in them. Lightweight hiking boots are a good choice. However, the running-shoe type of lightweight hiking boots do not provide much protection against rocks for the sides of your feet and ankles. In the northern parts of the state, boots that are also waterproof are desirable.

Pants should be rugged enough to withstand wading through brush. Many hunters choose to wear “brush pants” or chaps. Brush pants are pants with an extra layer of canvas or nylon across the lower legs to protect them from the thorny brush that quail seem to love to hide in. Chaps are similar material that are worn separately.

Using the “layering method” of dressing is preferred as it is often cold starting out in the morning and becomes progressively warmer as the morning wears on and you have done some hiking. Be sure you have some way of carrying the clothing you shed. Tossing them in the game bag is not a good idea. Not only will it get your clothes stained with blood, but also will it prevent the quail from cooling off quickly.

While hunting, game should be carried in a man-

ner that allows air to circulate around them and at the same time minimize exposure to dirt. A game bag made with vents or at least partially made with a mesh material would be helpful. Snake boots, leggings, or chaps can be worn for protection from rattlesnakes, but are generally not comfortable enough for long hunts.

Many hunters carry a small pair of “mini” binoculars. These six or seven power binoculars with usually 20mm objective lenses are made to fold up and can be carried in a shirt pocket. They can be very handy in scouting the terrain ahead, to assist you in finding guzzlers, your hunting partners when you get separated or even your truck at the end of a long day.

The best gun and ammo for quail hunting is a popular subject of debate among hunters. Many of the reasons for choosing a particular set-up are based on personal preference. Here are several things to keep in mind when making a selection:

1. You will have to carry the gun and shells up and down hills. The lighter the gun and smaller the gauge, the less weight you will have to carry. Quail are relatively easy to kill, and all the gauges - .410 bore, 28, 20, 16, and 12 - are successfully used to hunt them. However, the smallest gauges, 28 and .410 bore, generally require more skill to be used effectively. Because of their reduced shot capacity and longer shot strings, tighter chokes (full) must be used to achieve sufficient pattern densities, making it harder to hit quail.
2. The gun should be responsive. It should shoulder and swing quickly. Quail move out like missiles and rarely fly straight.
3. In heavy cover, use an open choke: the shots are closer, it makes it easier to hit the birds, and it does less damage to the bird. Long shots in heavy cover usually result in lost birds.
4. In open cover you can use either a tight or open choke. If the quail flush close, and you are using a tight choke, let them get a short distance away before shooting to avoid excessive damage to the bird.
5. Number eight or number seven and a half shot

gives you plenty of killing power while still providing good pattern density.

Coveys and scattered birds will sometimes answer a call simulating the “Chi-ca-go” call. There are several quail calls being manufactured that can be used on California quail and Gambel’s quail. Mountain quail calls are effective as well. Instructional tapes are available to help you master the calls of the various species.

It is very important to cool bagged quail as soon as possible and keep them cool. You should use a container that will keep the quail cool and dry. Do not let them get wet or sit in water because it promotes bacterial growth, which increases the chances of spoilage. Keeping quail cool is even more important during the warmer, earlier part of the season.

### MOUNTAIN QUAIL

For mountain quail the equipment should include rugged pants and shirts for some brush wading. An open choke is almost always preferred because most of the shots will be close and quick. Trying to hit them before they get behind a tree or bush requires using every advantage at your disposal. Without a dog it is better to shoot only at close birds with an open choke. The reason is that long shots in mountain quail habitat without a dog usually result in lost birds.

A body in good shape with good stamina is almost always required. In most cases, the country you will be hunting mountain quail is rugged.

A good dog can be a great asset when hunting mountain quail. The dog is equally, if not more, important for finding coveys as for retrieving downed birds.

### GAMBEL’S QUAIL

For Gambel’s quail you need the same basic equipment as for California quail, but with some differences:

1. A pair of shoes or boots that resists spines because much of their range is also cactus country;

2. A pair of pliers to pull out spines;
3. Barrels commonly in the modified to full choke range; and
4. More water. It can be very hot during the early part of the season. If you bring a dog, you need to carry water for it too. Many hunters carry the two liter bota bags for themselves as well as their dog. The bota is a soft, easy to carry method that allows you both to share the canteen without sharing saliva.

## HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR SHOOTING

Hitting flying quail is one of the most challenging shooting feats around. They can be difficult to hit for both the beginner and the expert. There are several things that can increase your success at hitting these elusive targets.



*Adult male quail with brood.  
DFG file photo.*

The most important is pre-season practice. Hand-thrown clay birds or visits to your local trap and skeet facility are a must. Both games should be tried if available, as each provides opportunities to work on angles and leads commonly encountered when quail hunting. One of the best practice games is “Sporting Clays.” This can come the closest to mimicking quail hunting. A recommendation when at the course is to try starting with the gun off the shoulder, down where you would have it when a covey of quail flushes on you by surprise. Learning to bring the gun to shoulder smoothly and still hit moving targets is the name of the game. This is also a good time to get familiar with

your safety. Leave the safety on until the gun is being brought to your shoulder. Don’t forget to put it back on again once you have brought the gun down off your shoulder.

The second factor important for consistently hitting quail is developing the ability to select targets. Quail flush as a group for a reason, to present the predator (you) a confusing whirlwind of targets. This reduces the predator’s ability to focus on one target,

and increases the odds the predator will be indecisive long enough to allow escape by all. This system works equally well on Cooper's hawks and hunters alike. The secret to overcoming this defense system is to pick out a single target and stick with it. This sounds easy, but it is not. Many hunters have avoided this problem by not even shooting at the quail until they have flushed and scattered them to allow hunting of singles and doubles. This system works well in country where they can be reliably followed, but for many areas the first covey flush is all you're going to get.

There are several tricks to help focus on a single target. One is to try and pick out the odd bird, that is the one that's going in a different direction. Another is to focus on a bird to the periphery of the flushing covey. Something that also helps is that the members of a covey rarely flush all at once. There are almost always a few stragglers. The trick here is to let the first burst go and gather your senses back together and prepare for the stragglers. They usually come out as singles and pairs. Although it is hard to pass up shots, keep in mind that you will probably have exclusive shots at these because your buddy just emptied his gun on the main covey flush and is not prepared for the stragglers.

Before you try for that second or third bird on a rise, make sure that the first bird you hit is dead. Keep shooting at that first bird until you are sure that it is dead. Mark its fall before taking on another bird. Before moving, reload. You will feel mighty foolish if after a few steps, a straggler gets up and you have nothing to offer but the snap of an empty gun.

### HOW TO FIND QUAIL

There are several factors that will influence your ability to find quail when you arrive at your spot. Weather, time of day, and presence of human and other predators will affect the quails' normal behavior.

When the weather is wet, cold, heavily overcast, or windy, the quail tend to leave the roost much later in the morning. They also tend not to call as often and in many cases not at all. When it is wet they stay close to cover, and will feed intermittently all day long. Heavy overcast also makes it harder to spot them.

The time of day you arrive should influence the ar-

reas you hunt. As discussed in the section on behavior, they will be near roosting cover around sunrise. Later in the morning they will be near water and feeding cover. Midday hunting should focus on dense loafing cover. In the afternoon, efforts should again be centered around good feeding cover.

In many areas the presence or recent presence of other hunters and predators will be an important influence on your decision of where to hunt. This influence can last from a few hours to several days depending upon the extent of the presence.

TABLE 1. TOP COUNTIES FOR HARVEST OF QUAIL SPECIES - 2000

CALIFORNIA QUAIL	
County	% of State Total
1 - Kern	14.0
2 - San Luis Obispo	8.3
3 - Monterey	6.3
4 - Santa Barbara	6.0
5 - Lassen	5.0
6 - Fresno	4.5
7 - Tehama	3.9
8 - Los Angeles	3.8
9 - Riverside	3.5
10 - Siskiyou	3.0

MOUNTAIN QUAIL	
County	% of State Total
1 - Siskiyou	13.9
2 - Trinity	8.5
3 - Kern	6.9
4 - Tuolumne	6.0
5 - Plumas	5.4
6 - El Dorado	4.5
7 - Tulare	4.3
8 - Fresno	4.0
9 - Shasta	3.6
10 - Lassen	3.3

GAMBEL'S QUAIL  
(Range distributed over six adjacent, southern counties)

County	% of State Total
1 - San Bernardino	32.9
2 - Imperial	25.6
3 - Riverside	14.3
4 - Kern	5.3
5 - Inyo	3.7
6 - San Diego	



A Cooper's hawk flying through an area can cause the quail to hide and remain silent for up to an hour or more, making the quail very difficult to find. Coveys recently hunted will tend not to hold, and will flush far out in front of you.

The areas you hunt will obviously be affected if there are hunters already there when you arrive. The best thing to do is to ask them where they are going to hunt and tell them you will hunt those areas they don't plan on immediately hunting. This usually works well on areas that are large and have more than enough habitat for all. However, if the area is small, or good quail habitat is limited, it would be wisest to go to another spot. Sometimes it is possible to join the first party if they find that acceptable.

Another approach to this situation is to place yourself on a hill or some other vantage point and watch them hunt. You want to watch for coveys that slip away from them undetected into another canyon or hill top. Then, if it is obvious they are not going to hunt that area, or are leaving, you can pursue them. This information is also useful for future hunts because it reveals to you one of the covey's escape routes.

After the first weekend of the season, and even more so after the second, hunted coveys will behave differently than during the first weekend. You will notice that they will flush further out, fly and run further, head to the thickest cover much more readily, and call much less than before. This is their response to hunting pressure. So if you are going to work an area that has recently been hunted, you should be prepared for long shots and carefully work all the good escape cover.

Similar behavior occurs in the presence of a Cooper's hawk. If you happen to notice one of these highly skilled predators in the area, you will not likely see or hear any quail. You will most likely find them in the thickest cover in the area. If there is a Cooper's hawk in the immediate area they may not leave the cover, even with you standing on it! The best thing to do in this situation is to move on to the next covey or wait for the Cooper's hawk to leave. They are known to take advantage of hunters flushing hidden quail and then snatching one up as they flee. One should

**Table 2. 2000 Hunter Survey Summary Table**

	California	Mountain	Gambel's
Average seasonal bag per hunter:	10.6	5.5	7.5
Average number quail bagged per day hunted:	1.9	1.0	1.6
Average number of days in the field per hunter:	5.7	5.7	4.6

The size of quail populations in any given year fluctuates more in the northern and southern counties of the state than in the central counties. Good rainfall in the southern counties can produce large populations, whereas in the northern counties cold winters or wet springs can produce small populations. It generally follows that the more quail there are, the more hunters that hunt them, the more time they spend hunting them, and the more quail they harvest.

never shoot a Cooper's hawk, this will not "make" more game, and it is illegal. Instead, the hunting skills of this hawk should be admired because they truly are amazing.

Calling can be used in some circumstances to locate coveys or individuals of all three quail species. Undisturbed coveys are more likely to answer calling during the early morning and evening hours. However, just because quail don't respond to your calling does not mean there are no quail in the area. Quail commonly don't answer calls of other quail in the area. During the midday hours they will usually fail to answer calls. Quail of a disturbed (scattered) covey will readily respond to calling after a short (10-20 minute) quiet period. In this circumstance, with patience and stillness, one can often call some of them right to you!

### CALIFORNIA QUAIL

Look over the terrain and find those areas that meet the quail's habitat needs. With a good pair of binoculars or spotting scope, scan the first 50 feet around cover for feeding quail. If you spot something that looks like it might be quail, watch it for a few seconds to see if it moves. California quail never sit still for more than a few seconds at most when feeding

away from cover. Also scan the tops of shrubs, brush-piles and rocks for a perched sentinel male. He will usually be motionless for at least a few minutes. During their morning and afternoon feeding periods, you should also keep an ear open for their assembly calls (“Chi-ca-go”). This assembly call is usually given by this perched sentinel quail. So if you hear one calling, look for him on the tops of shrubs, brushpiles, and rocks.

It is worth spending a few minutes when you first arrive quietly listening for their calls. Often a quiet group can be induced into revealing their location by imitating their assembly call by mouth or with a call. Give a group of two or three calls every few minutes and listen for any responses. If you do not hear anything, it does not necessarily mean there are no quail nearby.

It is not uncommon for coveys to let assembly calls go unanswered, even from other quail. If you arrive around sunrise, you should note where you hear the assembly calls coming from. The first calls in the morning, around sunrise, are usually given from their roost or nearby. Knowing where these roosts are will help you find them during future trips, since they tend to use the same roost for a while, if not year-round.

**NOTE: You should never hunt quail after sunset, especially near their roost. In addition to being illegal to hunt after sunset, birds scattered out of the roost will not make it back to the roost after dark. This leaves them unprotected from night time predators.**

If listening did not produce the location of any coveys, the only thing to do besides trying another area is to walk through the area. Try the following:

1. Work cover around water, especially in the morning. Keep a lookout for tracks in sand and mud. Watch for rattlesnakes.
2. Along edges of cover listen for their alarm call—the metallic “pit-pit-pit.”
3. Check dirt roads for tracks that may reveal travel routes.
4. Walk gully or valley bottoms first. The reasons for this are:

- a) it’s easier to walk,
- b) it is easier to scan the slopes of both sides from the middle,
- c) they appear to be more willing to give assembly calls if you are below them than above them, and
- d) they may be hiding in the gully bottom, where water and escape cover is usually abundant.

5. If they are spotted on a hill you have three choices:

- a) Chase them up the hill. Unless you are an olympic class runner you won’t catch them. They will, however, usually hang up in some good cover up the hill, or just over the summit in some rocks or brush. When you do make it up to the top, be prepared for them to flush and fly either down and around the hill, or across the canyon to the next hill to start the whole process over again. However, if the canyon is much more than several hundred yards across, they probably won’t fly across.
- b) Try to maneuver so you can hunt them from above. They do not like to run downhill, which makes it easier to get them into the air from above. Again, when they flush they will fly down and along the slope. They then usually try to go back up the hill.
- c) Go back to the car and have lunch. Coveys of quail that have been well hunted tend to flush quickly, well out of range, and head for the thickest cover around. If the cover is very good they will stay here, often even if you or your dog dive in after them.

## MOUNTAIN QUAIL

These quail are often very difficult to find because of the dense nature of their habitat. An effective way of locating them is to set yourself in a likely looking place (see “Habitat” section) and try calling them. If you sit still and there are quail in the area, they will often answer your calls. In some cases they may even come right to you! Make sure you are on high ground, because they seem to prefer moving uphill rather than downhill. It is also easier to hunt them from above because they will often fly downhill and very few hunters are capable of keeping up with them uphill.



*Successful hunters at a DFG-sponsored junior quail hunt in Dunlap, California. File photo.*

decide on a strategy and maneuver into position. How well the quail hold depends largely on how good the cover is they are hiding in and whether they have been shot at recently. If the cover is poor or the covey has been hunted recently, they will most likely not hold for very long, if at all. In most cases, it is therefore a good idea to move quickly to where the dog is on point.

### GAMBEL'S QUAIL

The same methods for California and mountain quail work with the Gambel's quail. In the desert valleys it is popular to drive the dirt roads looking for quail and their tracks crossing the road. This method can be very productive if there is not too much vehicle traffic in the area.

Something you will quickly learn about these quail is their disappearing act. They prefer to run which means running after them. As you pursue them, the covey appears to get smaller and smaller with each step you take until finally you are chasing only a bird or two.

### STRATEGY WITH A DOG CALIFORNIA QUAIL

The key to any dog being of value to you, whether it is a pointer, flusher, or retriever, depends upon control. A dog under poor control is more likely to cause you trouble than be of any enjoyment or service to you.

The greatest asset that a dog can be to a California quail hunter, besides companionship, is as a retriever. Coveys are not too hard to find without a dog, but finding and retrieving downed quail can be very difficult.

The strategy is to start by letting the dog range freely and find fresh scent. Dogs of the pointing breeds are useful here. Once the dog has found some quail and come to point, the hunters must quickly

Anticipate that the quail always seem to be aware of the location of every member of the hunting party, and will flush in a manner and direction to put the greatest amount of distance and obstacles between the hunters and themselves in the least amount of time. They will also try to head toward the thickest, most impenetrable cover nearby. If this is your situation, try to position yourselves either to prevent them from getting to this cover, or to at least get a shot before they bury themselves in it. Once everyone is in position and the quail are still holding, they can then be flushed.

If your plan is laid to waste by some unforeseen maneuver by the quail there is still hope. If you can see where they have flown, you now have the opportunity to put them at a disadvantage. By keeping close to them after the first or second flush, you force them to scatter and hide individually. This is because many of the quail will be separated from the main body of the covey each time they are flushed. Finding themselves alone or in pairs they will hold much more tightly. However, if they are not pursued quickly they will regroup and slip away. They are sometimes called "gray ghosts" for a reason. Having successfully scattered them, a dog can locate and point them for some very exciting shooting.

"It is this type of hunting, where the birds burst from cover and are taken over a pointing dog in clean wing shooting, that the maximum in sport and recreation is realized with a minimum of loss and damage to the game population." - Aldo Starker Leopold.

## MOUNTAIN QUAIL

A dog with a good nose can greatly increase success in finding mountain quail. The dog can be used most effectively by working canyon bottoms in the morning near water and when air currents are still coming down slopes. Then later in the morning, when the quail are usually feeding up the slopes and the warming ground causes updrafts, the ridges can be efficiently used. This puts you and the dog in the general area the quail should be and allows the dog's nose to "cover" the greatest amount of territory.

## GAMBEL'S QUAIL

Are you sure you want to do this to your dog? The greatest advantage of a dog when hunting Gambel's quail is the retrieval of downed game. Gambel's quail generally do not hold for dogs. They prefer to outrun them, and if that does not work, they fly away. Only after the covey has been well broken up can a dog be effectively worked on singles. Even here the quail will start running again, especially if the cover is not thick enough.

If you still choose to use your dog, bring along a pair of needle nose pliers and some antiseptic for the inevitable cactus spines he will encounter. Consider fitting him with dog boots, the kind available through various dog supply houses. Make sure that you know how to properly put the boots on the dog to prevent loss of circulation in his feet and loss of hair on his legs.

When a covey is spotted out ahead, the dog can be sent after them to break them up. The hunter should watch where they fly and work that area carefully.

If the covey is heading for dense cover or hills, you should attempt to head them off or you may lose them. If a covey has pulled a disappearing act on you, work back along the way you chased them. What probably happened was that singles and pairs split off from the main covey as you were chasing them and hid. As you work back there is a good chance you will come across some of these quail still hiding. This is where a dog with a good nose will pay off.

## STRATEGY WITHOUT A DOG CALIFORNIA QUAIL

There is no question that hunting the California

quail with a good dog is the best way to go. However, there are a good many of us that for one reason or another must get by without a canine companion. For those of us in this situation, there is still hope, although there are several things that generally cause problems when hunting quail without a dog. One is finding the quail initially and then after they have flushed. Another is finding the quail once you have finally managed to knock one down. The solution to the first is to know something about the behavior of this quail. The solution to the second involves concentration and discipline.

The first step is to locate a covey of quail, this goes for persons both with and without a dog. There are two keys to this puzzle: one is cover, the other is water. In most parts of California, water is a limiting resource for quail, the only exception being the northwest corner of the state. Therefore, the search must begin by first locating water. Once water has been located, search the surrounding terrain and locate some good cover, the thicker the better. If there is no good cover within a quarter mile try another spot. Head toward the cover, keeping an eye open for quail scurrying along the ground out the "back door." Also keep an ear open for their "pit-pit" alarm call. If they spot you and they are a good distance away, you may hear their assembly call.

When given the space and time, California quail prefer to run away rather than fly. So if you spot a covey running on the ground ahead of you, you have to keep up with them. Otherwise they will disappear like ghosts. But before you head out after them at a frenzied pace, it is wise to take a moment or two to think out a strategy.

If they are heading up a valley draw, odds are they will continue to travel along the cover in front of you. Place one person on each side of the draw and follow them. If you have a third person, put one down in the draw. This will help prevent you from moving past them. If they are heading up the side of a hill (especially a steep one) it is best to try and out maneuver them than to out climb them (unless you are quite an athlete). In most cases they will go right over the top or hang up in some cover on the hill. Send one person around the other side while the other one stays at the bottom of the hill. At some predetermined time both of you head up the hill from opposite sides. Be



*Juniors after a successful day at a DFG-sponsored hunt in Avenal, California. File photo.*

prepared for some fast action at the top of the hill, but also be sure of where the other hunter is before shooting.

One of the most frustrating things about hunting without a dog is finding downed quail. With a little concentration and discipline, this can largely be avoided. There are a pair of rules that must be followed to avoid losing birds.

The first rule is to ask yourself *where will that bird land when I roll it?* This question should be asked as you are raising your shotgun and picking out that first bird; the question has to be answered before you pull that trigger. It does your body and the resource no good if you land a bird in the middle of a blackberry patch. A dog *might* be able to retrieve it, you won't! This question is especially important if you are having one of those all-too-common days where you are not quite on and are knocking down cripples. If you shoot only when they cross open areas, you are much more likely to follow and find cripples. The thing to remember about cripples is that they will fly or run to the nearest, nastiest cover, and the further they are from it when hit the less likely they are to get to it. Trying to answer this question while the little gray missiles are flying all about is not easy, but it will help improve your recovery rate and leave you much more satisfied. Mistakes will be made, but with practice you will improve and you won't come home with a body that looks like it's been through a shredder.

The second rule is *mark your bird*. The instant you pull the trigger on that first bird, your mind should be focused on the following series of questions:

Is the bird dead? If not, shoot it again. Live quail will hit the ground running if they can and disappear quickly. If the bird is still alive when it hits the ground, *do not* take your eyes off it. Do not even think about tak-

ing a shot at another bird. Immediately head over there and get that bird. Do not shoot the bird on the ground if you are within 15 yards of it, this is unsafe and will only destroy the bird. Humanely dispatch the bird upon retrieval.

If it is dead, where is it falling? Don't take your eyes off it until it hits the ground, and don't move. Note the landmark nearest to where you think it landed. Next note where you are standing. This will come in handy if you can't find the bird initially and need to replay the shot in your mind, which only works well from the original location.

Are you positive the bird is dead and you have it well marked? If you can answer yes to both of these questions, you now have the choice of going for another shot or retrieving the downed bird. It is always wisest to retrieve each quail first before shooting another. You will be amazed at how often a "stone dead" quail that landed on bare ground 50 feet from the nearest clump of grass disappears on you. The same set of questions should be answered for every quail you shoot at. If you do shoot a second or third quail before retrieving any of them, start with the most recent one shot because it is usually the easiest to find. Finding at least one of them is better than none, and gives you confidence that they can be found.

Once you have worked a covey and you are not able to find them anymore, calling can sometimes

*Ever vigilant male California quail on "sentinel duty." Photo by Russ Kerr.*

produce a little more action. Find a spot where you can sit down and see some openings around cover. Give a few assembly calls every few minutes. This can be done by mouth or with a call. It may take as long as 30 minutes or more to get any responses, so patience is necessary. You will first see them creeping along or through nearby cover. When you get them close enough, stand up quickly and they will usually take to the air. If they start running, rush toward them to get them into the air. It is tempting to "ground sluice" them, but this is not sporting and usually results in badly shot-up quail.

### MOUNTAIN QUAIL

Hunting mountain quail without a dog is tough. This is hunting for those who don't mind doing a lot of walking and having a light game bag at the end of the day. Because of the quail's secretive nature, they are hard to find. The most successful way to find them is by searching the edges around cover and dirt roads for tracks. Cover with tracks all around usually indicates a favorite hang out. If there are good populations in the area, they will eventually cross roads, even though they don't like to. Once tracks have been found, look for suitable cover and work the area thoroughly. Watch for coveys running out the far side. Any coveys spotted doing this should be run down quickly without hesitation.

Your first good sight of mountain quail probably will be flushing from behind some shrubs or trees. Watch carefully where they fly, then dash over there. If the area they flew to has trees, be alert for quail flushing from them, as they do land in them for escape. Once they have been flushed and scattered, they are much more likely to hold. It is time well spent to carefully work the area you last saw them land. You will often find singles scattered all over the area. If you flush a covey more than once, it may pay to go check the area of the previous flush and search for tightly holding singles you ran by the first time. Always be



alert—it almost seems as though they can tell when you have let down your guard. No sooner have you decided that there are no holders left, one will flush from somewhere nearby, often from behind you.

Calling can be very effective once the covey has been busted. Mountain quail can often be called right to you by imitating their assembly call by mouth or with a call. This is because once they have been scattered they will try to regroup as soon as possible. The way to call them is to sit down where you have a good view of as much open ground as possible. You do not necessarily have to be well hidden, but you do have to sit still. Now try giving a few assembly calls. Sit, listen, and watch. Patience is a must, it may take as long as 30 minutes or more before you see any results. Sometimes they will call back, but more often they will just start walking toward you. Keep giving a few assembly calls every few minutes. Keep your eyes focused on the edges of the clearings. You will first spot them slowly creeping along the edges toward you. The closer you get them the better. When they get as close to you as possible, stand and rush, if necessary, toward them to get them in the air. Again, it may be very tempting to "ground sluice" them, but as stated above, this is not sporting and usually results in badly shot-up birds and lost cripples.

### GAMBEL'S QUAIL

Most of the things that work for hunting California quail without a dog work for Gambel's quail. There are, however, a few differences. Because of the generally more open habitat of this quail, it does not have

as many opportunities to hold in cover. The result is that they run and run and run. If you and a buddy were walking across the desert at a couple miles per hour, a covey could run away from you without your ever knowing it was there. It always pays to keep an eye out for small gray objects scurrying about 100 yards or more in front of you.

If a covey is spotted running in front of you, start running (but make sure the safety is on)! As you run after them you will notice several things: they will try to outrun you, and may succeed; the covey will appear to shrink with each step you take; the cactus you failed to negotiate begins to cause pain; and the heat gets worse. Usually they will eventually hit some good cover and hold. If you manage to get within 40 yards before they do, they will usually flush and fly there. Often when you finally manage to bust the covey, only a small fraction of the quail you started chasing are still in front of you. What happened is that singles and pairs broke away from the covey and took cover along the way. You can take advantage of this by slowly zigzagging back through the route you chased them. One can often flush a good number of these ghosts if not too much time has passed. If you wait too long, they will start moving around to escape and regroup.

If the covey was still relatively intact when you flushed it, carefully note where it landed as you head over there. The more pressure you can put on them, the more likely they will hold and try to hide. If they are not pursued aggressively, they will hit the ground running and leave you nothing but the cacti and the heat.

Once (if) you have managed to get them to hold, you must work the area carefully, stopping often. At this point they are known to hold so tight as to allow you to practically step on them. As an example, one time the author and a buddy sat down about three feet apart for a breather after working a covey. They were discussing the action they had just experienced when, after about five minutes, the conversation was interrupted by the whir of a quail flushing from directly between them!



*The large open spaces of desert wash habitats on the desert floor are used by Gambel's quail to escape hunters, usually by running. Hunters should be prepared*

If you are still on your feet after chasing a covey all over the desert, take a seat. If not, stay there, because you will soon get your second (third, or fourth) chance at them. After things have been quiet for a while, the quail will start calling to regroup. It is at this point where some calling on your part can bring the birds back into you.

## LOCATING DOWNED QUAIL DEAD QUAIL

You are standing in the area where you know the dead quail fell, but you don't see it. Now what? First, keep in mind that they blend in very well with just about anything you might see on the ground. Look for loose feathers on the ground. Feathers are almost always left where they hit the ground. However, there often is another group of feathers dropped by

a quail when shot that can be misleading. The reason they can be misleading is that the bird often travels a considerable distance beyond where it was hit, and if there is even the slightest breeze the feathers can drift a considerable distance from where it might be. The two groups can usually be told apart by where the feathers are found and how tightly the feathers are grouped. The feathers left on the ground where the bird lands are usually tightly bunched. Feathers from the in-air hit are usually found widely scattered and on top of shrubbery. Don't expect to find the quail sitting right there among the feathers. Most often they bounce or roll a few feet from the point of impact with the ground. When you find these feathers remember the direction it was heading when you rolled it. Search the area beyond the feathers in the same direction. If you have searched this area with no success, double the distance beyond the feathers and search again. They usually travel further than you think they did. It is not unusual to spend 30 minutes searching for a single downed bird. You owe it to that bird to keep trying.

### CRIPPLED QUAIL

When you knock down a crippled quail it is your moral and ethical obligation to retrieve and humanely dispatch the bird as quickly as possible. The problem is that finding crippled quail is commonly difficult, and this is the single most frustrating aspect of hunting without a good dog. The key to successfully finding a cripple is to get to where you knocked it down as quickly as you *safely* can.

The first thing you do before taking a step is to reload your gun and put the safety on. Flying cripples should always be shot again, as your chances of finding one of these if you don't knock it down near you is next to nothing.

Assuming you have lost visual contact with the cripple and you are standing where you thought it should be, the first thing you should do is to listen for any sounds that might reveal its location. If you are met only with the sound of your pounding heart, look around for feathers. These will often give you the area and direction in which to look.

There are several things to keep in mind when looking for a cripple. One is that if the bird

landed on sloping terrain, look downhill from where you think it landed. They almost always tumble or run down slope. Two, look for the nearest cover around where the bird landed. They may crawl into it and tuck themselves underneath whatever they can. Three, look down any holes in the area, such as ground squirrel holes, as quail will often try to hide in these holes. Don't forget to look under the edges of rocks or other debris.

**CAUTION:** When looking for crippled quail, watch out for rattlesnakes! Never stick your hand into places you cannot see.

When you do get close or find it, the quail often try to run or fly away. There is a great temptation to shoot it as it runs away, but don't unless it is at least 15 yards away or going to dive into cover that you will not be able to retrieve it from. The reason for this is that at close range there is danger of a ricochet and destroying the bird beyond use. If it is flying away, shoot it again, but let it get a least 15 yards away first. Shooting at it any closer will just make the bird inedible.

**CAUTION:** Your gun should always be on safety when looking for downed birds, with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times. If the downed bird cannot fly, unload the gun and put it down so that you can use two hands.



*Male and female desert, or Gambel's, quail. DFG file photo.*



## WHERE TO HUNT QUAIL

### PUBLIC LANDS

This guide does not provide specific locations of quail populations, nor does it provide guarantees that you will find quail at any one place. Rather, the guide is intended to provide you with a list of accessible public lands that have quail populations on them. It is hoped that this will give the first time quail hunter a place to start, and the experienced quail hunter other areas to hunt that he/she may have overlooked. When using this guide, remember that the closer an area is to a city or large town, the more likely you are to encounter other quail hunters and quail populations that experience more hunting pressure. It also generally follows that the more accessible an area is (especially by car), the more hunting pressure the area will get. So if you are looking for an area with populations that have experienced little or no hunting pressure, be prepared to work for it. When planning a hunting trip it is wise to have more than one spot picked out, just in case several other people had the same spot in mind.

It is up to each individual hunter to explore these areas and discover specifically where the quail are and how to hunt each covey. With careful note-taking and time each hunter should be able to develop a personal portfolio of where and how to hunt the quail of California.

The public lands that are generally open to quail hunting include:

- National forests
- State forests
- State wildlife areas
- State recreation areas
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands
- U.S. military reservations
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands

The access to these lands is in some cases limited (see Chapter IV).

### NATIONAL AND STATE FORESTS

The national and state forests in California comprise more than 20 million acres and offer the greatest number of opportunities for hunting quail. Most of this land is mountain quail country. There are times of the year when blue (Sierra) and ruffed grouse, band-tailed pigeons and/or wild turkeys can also be taken while quail hunting. Most of the forest lands have good camping facilities. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) administers the national forests. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) administers the state forests.

It is wise to contact the local ranger district or forest headquarters office before heading out the door. There are some seasonal and special closures due to fire danger in some of the forests. Campfire permits may be required. In southern California there are also some firearms-use restrictions (see Chapter IV). Some parts, like all wilderness areas, require entry permits. The USFS Internet address for California is <http://ww.r5.fs.fed.us/>. The CDF web page address is: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/>.

There are several state game refuges on Forest Service land in the counties of Modoc, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Placer, Amador, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Mendocino, Lake, Glenn, and Riverside. No hunting of any kind or possession of firearms at any time is allowed on these refuges. They are shown on National Forest Service and California State Automobile Association (AAA) maps (see Chapter IV for details).

### STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

The Department of Fish and Game manages lands it either owns or leases throughout the state. Department administered lands are designated “Wildlife Area” or “Ecological Reserve.” Both designations have specific management objectives.



Male California quail. Photo by Christine Humphreys.

## U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT-ADMINISTERED LANDS

Most lands administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are normally open to hunting and camping, as well as other uses. Campfire permits are required on BLM administered lands. These can be obtained at any BLM field office. There are also seasonal restrictions for camping, open campfires, and smoking outside a closed vehicle, when the potential for wildfire makes them necessary. It is best to check with the local BLM field office when planning a hunting trip. In California there are about 15 million acres of BLM land. Most of the lands have public access. To enter those without public access, permission must be obtained from the landowner whose property would make access possible. Remember you are asking for a privilege, not a right.

## U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION-ADMINISTERED LANDS

There are very limited quail hunting opportunities on U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) administered lands.

## U.S. MILITARY RESERVATIONS

The primary function of the military bases located in California is a military mission. Subordinate to this function the U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD), in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, has instituted wildlife conservation programs on several of its military installations. Good wildlife populations are present on these bases, and they should be enhanced by the wildlife management programs being undertaken.

Public access is available with hunting provided to the extent that such hunting will not conflict with the military mission of the command. Visitors' activities are governed by the military base regulations, and strict adherence to these regulations is expected. A small hunting recreation fee is normally required.

The hunting program on any particular installation can vary greatly from year to year. It is wisest to contact the installation of interest during the spring

Generally speaking for most wildlife areas and ecological reserves, management objectives are to protect, maintain and enhance all the fish and wildlife resources of the areas and to provide compatible recreational opportunities on the areas without endangering these resources. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and other recreational interests are allowed as long as these activities do not interfere with the primary function of each specific area. Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations. These regulations are available at DFG offices, sporting good stores and on the DFG web page at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/gf.comm/statefed01.pdf>.

## STATE RECREATION AREAS

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is responsible for managing a large number of state parks and recreation areas throughout the state. Hunting is allowed on portions of a limited number of recreation areas. As many areas as possible have been listed, even though there may be only limited hunting opportunities on an area. Most have high levels of public use for all forms of recreation during at least part of the year. These other activities can impact the quality of hunting. The DPR Internet address is: <http://parks.ca.gov/default.asp>.

or early summer before making plans for the fall.

### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS-ADMINISTERED LANDS

There are very limited quail hunting opportunities on lands administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

### PRIVATE LANDS

The advantage of getting permission to hunt on private land is that you can often have the place to yourself. However, the hunter has three problems to deal with: finding areas with coveys; finding out who owns the land; and getting permission to hunt on the property.

There are a few ways to make these tasks simpler. Start with a topographic map of an area that interests you. Locate water sources, drainages, and other features discussed above that are important to quail. With a county plot map of the area, available from the assessor's office at the county seat, one can determine who owns the piece of land you are interested in. The next step is to take a look at the property. It might be possible to take a look at it from a public road. Otherwise you will have to make a phone call or write a letter to the landowner.

When making the phone call or writing the letter be courteous and to the point. You should introduce yourself and say that you are looking for a place to hunt quail. Remember you are asking a favor, not demanding a right! If the owner is willing to grant trespass rights or strike a deal, he or she can then be asked for more information about quail populations on the property. You should also ask whether it would be acceptable for you to take a look. This should all be done well before the season begins. This allows a relationship to be developed and allows a hesitant landowner time to "sleep on it." In most cases, a follow-up letter or personal visit is a good way to strengthen the relationship.

### FEE/LEASE LANDS

There are private and public lands throughout the state that provide quail hunting for a fee. Some of these lands are intensively managed for quail and can provide some of the best quail hunting in the state. The types of "hunt-for-fee" range from a daily use fee, to a full season membership, to a lease. The fees charged range from \$12.50 per day on some wildlife refuges to several thousand dollars for a season membership or lease.

When looking into fee lands it is always important to evaluate what the land has to offer versus the price being asked. Some things to keep in mind are:

1. How many quail does the place have?
2. How much quail habitat is there?
3. How huntable are the coveys?
4. How many other people are going to be hunting them?
5. What restrictions are there? Can you hunt every day, just weekends, on holidays, only on part of the place? Can you bring guests? How many? How often?
6. What facilities are available?
7. Is the owner doing or willing to do any quail management? Would the owner allow you to do any management?

*Quail need water whether the source be natural or man-made, such as a "guzzler." DFG file photo.*



# PUBLIC LAND PROFILES

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This section of the guide owes much of its existence to the generous assistance from the wildlife biologists and staff of the California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, U.S. Forest Service, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Military.

## HOW TO USE THIS SECTION

1. Find the region in which you would like to hunt on the state map located on page 95. Refer to the hunt area(s) listed under that region.
2. Each hunt area can be located on a California Hunt Area Location Map (Northern, Central, or Southern; pages 92-94) by its corresponding number. For each hunt area you will find a profile and a map. State highways are indicated by a numbered circle on these maps. Each profile uses most or all of the following format:

**Number:** Gives the regional identification number of the hunt area.

**Area:** Gives the name of the area.

**County:** The county or counties the area is located in.

**Quail species:** Lists the quail species that are found in this area.

**Other upland game:** Lists other upland game species found in the area that can be hunted during their respective seasons.

**General description:** Gives a brief summary of what habitat you should expect to find there.

**Topography:** A few words to give you an idea of what to prepare for in terms of the terrain. Much of the public land in the state is rugged country—the land nobody wanted at the time of settlement. How rugged this land is to hunt depends upon how you try to hunt it. Walking along ridges and canyons is easier than across them.

**Access:** Tells you how to get there. Some of the directions are specific, some are very general. You should not rely on these directions alone. You should always have at least a road map of the area. If you are going to travel the back-country you should also have more detailed maps of the area, like U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic or Forest Service maps. Under this heading you will also find information on any special access restrictions, such as entry permits or four-wheel-drive vehicles only. Before entering an area, check locally for any changes in access.

**Special regulations:** Every area has some rules and regulations regarding use. Common sense and courtesy will keep you in line for most of them. This heading only lists rules and regulations known that require special attention. Regulations do change, so check with the local Fish and Game, BLM, Forest Service, or sheriff's office for any changes before heading out. Depending on which agency administers the land, restrictions regarding off-highway vehicle use, fires, camping, etc. may be different.

**Map for area:** Lists maps that are useful and recommended for hunting in the area. BLM Surface Management or U.S. Forest Service maps in combination with USGS topographic maps are highly recommended in areas you are not familiar with. The BLM Surface Management maps tell you in general who owns the land (private, State, and Federal), but they lack detailed topographic markings. The U.S. Forest Service

maps show general land ownership, roads, trails and facilities in each of the national forests in California. The USGS topographic maps allow you to figure out where you are, where you might want to go, and how to get there and back.

BLM maps can be purchased by mail, phone, fax or Internet ([www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)) from:

Bureau of Land Management  
California State Office Federal Building  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 978-4400  
(916) 978-4416 (fax)

BLM maps can also be purchased at the field offices for the respective areas. Prepayment of the current fee per map payable to *Department of Interior - BLM* is required. Specify the area or map and submit the exact amount by check or money order. An index of existing maps is available at no charge.

USGS maps can be purchased by mail, fax or internet ([www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)) from:

U.S. Geological Survey  
345 Middlefield Road  
Mail Stop 532  
Menlo Park, California 94025  
(650) 853 - 8300  
(650) 329 - 5130 fax

The USGS prints a large variety of maps. The most useful for on-ground hunting are the 7.5 minute (2.5 inches per mile) or 15 minute (one inch per mile) topographic maps (these are the maps listed in the guide). The map prices will include an additional shipping cost. An index of topographic maps is available at no charge by writing or calling the USGS; be sure to allow a month for delivery.

When ordering maps by mail, send a check or money order for the exact amount payable to *Department of Interior - USGS*. Purchases via fax or the internet will require a credit card. USGS maps may also be purchased from commercial map dealers. These are usually listed in your local telephone directory under "maps".

U.S. Forest Service, national forest and wilderness maps can be ordered by mail, phone or fax. Specify the forest or wilderness and submit the exact amount

by credit card, check or money order. Send your requests to:

U.S. Forest Service  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592  
(707) 562-8737  
(707) 562-9130 (fax)  
(530) 647-5390 (credit card purchase)

U.S. Forest Service maps are also available from your local ranger station.

Free AAA maps are only available to AAA members.

**Comments:** Provides some basic information about quail hunting on the area. The relative abundance of each quail species is listed. High abundance means that in an average year there are many coveys of quail scattered throughout the area, and are easy to find. Moderate abundance means that coveys are limited to certain parts of the area, and are not too hard to find. Low abundance means there are only a few coveys on the area, and they are hard to find. The hunting pressure is described as high, moderate, or low. High hunting pressure generally means that there are many hunters using the area, and just about every covey gets hunted, many heavily. Moderate pressure means that there are always a few people out hunting, and many coveys are only lightly hunted. Low pressure means that very few hunters use the area and most coveys are hardly hunted, if at all. Sometimes the populations are described as highly or moderately variable or stable. Highly variable means that the populations can double, triple, or even quadruple in "wet" or "good" years from those in a "dry" or "poor" year. Moderately variable means that the populations go up and down but the highs are rarely more than twice the low numbers. Stable means the populations are about the same size from year to year.

**Information:** Lists a possible source for additional information about the area. Do not be discouraged if your initial attempts do not yield much information. First hand knowledge about quail country and the willingness to share that information varies greatly from person to person. Do not expect to get much specific information over the phone or by mail. In general, the best sources of information are local sportsmen groups, sporting good stores, other hunters, and game wardens.

## REGION 1: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - NORTH COAST REGION

### NUMBER: 1-1

**AREA:** Bass Hill Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Lassen

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 6,000 acres; sagebrush uplands and bitterbrush fields

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling hills

**ACCESS:** Adjacent to Hwy. 395, 5 miles south of Susanville

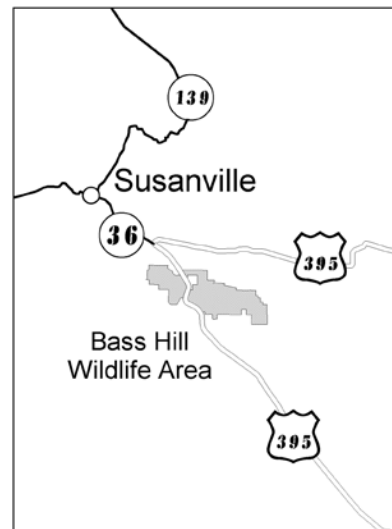
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Area map available from Lassen Unit Office. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Standish, Janesville.

**COMMENTS:** Quail populations are moderate, but highly variable. In dry weather they can be found around water, in wet weather almost anywhere. Hunting pressure is high. There are no facilities, no drinking water, and no camping.

### INFORMATION:

California Department of Fish and Game  
728-600 Fish and Game Road  
Wendel, CA 96136  
(530) 254-6808



### NUMBER: 1-2

**AREA:** Biscar Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Lassen

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, and sage grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Sagebrush uplands and riparian

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat, rims, and draws

**ACCESS:** From Hwy. 395, 45 min. north of Susanville, turn west on to Karlo Rd.; area is about 5 miles west of Hwy 395.

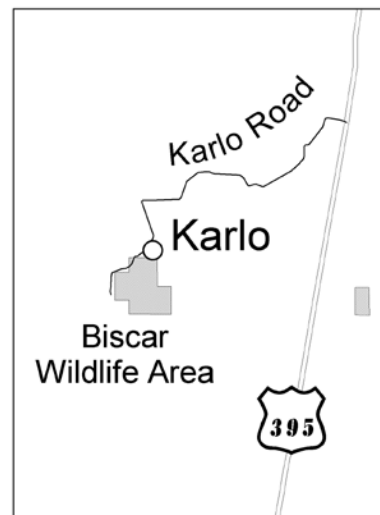
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; USGS 15 minute quad: Karlo.

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is moderate, but highly variable. The quail are usually along Snowstorm Creek. Hunting pressure is high. No facilities or drinking water exist. Sage grouse hunting by permit only.

### INFORMATION:

California Department of Fish and Game  
728-600 Fish and Game Road  
Wendel, CA 96136  
(530) 254-6808



**NUMBER: 1-3**

**AREA:** BLM lands northeast of Susanville (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Lassen

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit, sage grouse, mourning dove and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Sagebrush uplands, sage-juniper woodlands and riparian along Petes Creek and Balls Canyon Creek

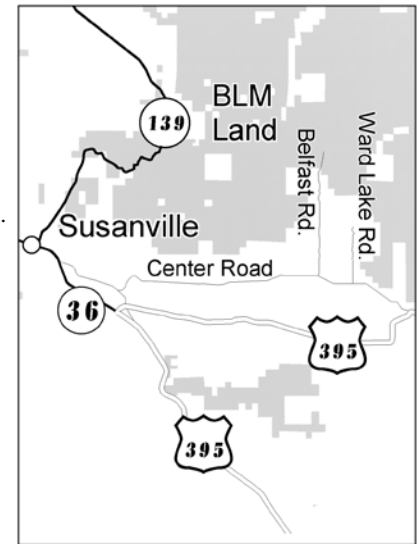
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flats, rims, and draws

**ACCESS:** From Hwy. 395, 30 min. northeast of Susanville, turn north on to Belfast Rd. or Ward Lake Rd.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Off-road vehicle restrictions.

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quads: Susanville, Eagle Lake. USGS 15 minute quads: Shinn Mountain, Karlo, Fredonyer Peak, Wendel, Litchfield, Susanville, BLM Northeast California Recreation Guide.

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant and highly variable from year to year. The best populations are on private land (need permission to trespass). Habitat along Petes Creek and Balls Canyon Creek are best on the public land. Hunting pressure is moderate. There are no facilities.



**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
 Eagle Lake Field Office  
 2950 Riverside Drive  
 Susanville, CA 96130  
 (530) 252-5319

*California Department of Fish and Game*  
 728-66 Fish and Game Road  
 Wendel, CA 96136  
 (580) 254-6808

**NUMBER: 1-4**

**AREA:** BLM and Forest Service lands around Alturas (BLM, USFS)

**COUNTY:** Modoc

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Sage-grassland, juniper forests

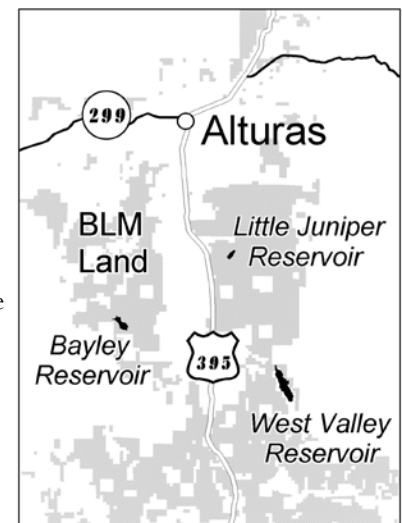
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Generally flat to rolling hills

**ACCESS:** Mostly unimproved roads where 4-wheel drive or high-clearance 2-wheel drive is recommended. Private lands scattered through the area require permission to trespass (see BLM Surface Management map).

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting on XL Ranch Indian Reservation or state game refuges.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Modoc National Forest. BLM Surface Management 30 x 60 minute quad: Alturas. USGS 30x60 minute quad: Alturas.

**COMMENTS:** There are vast tracts of BLM and Forest Service land all around Alturas. Some BLM lands are occupied by California quail. Check out the areas near water that are adjacent to good brush or Juniper cover. The Forest Service land has California quail in the lower elevations. California quail populations are low to moderate. Areas to try include: Little Juniper Res., Fitzhugh Creek, Jim Creek, West Valley Res., Bayley Res., Crooks Canyon, and Portuguese Ridge. Hunting pressure is low to moderate.



**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
 Alturas Field Office  
 708 West 12th Street  
 Alturas, CA 96101  
 (530) 233-7932

Modoc National Forest  
 800 West 12th Street  
 Alturas, CA 96101  
 (530) 233-5811

**NUMBER: 1-5**

**AREA:** China Point Ecological Reserve (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Siskiyou

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and occasional mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit and gray (tree) squirrel.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** About 240 acres; characterized by a mix of Klamath mixed conifer forest and annual grassland. Some patches of blackberries occur near the river.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Variable.

**ACCESS:** Located adjacent to the Klamath River near the town of Happy Camp.

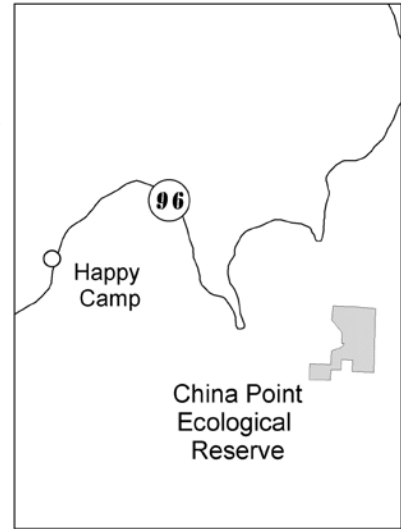
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Hunting shall be allowed in accordance with the general hunting regulations. Fishing shall be permitted from boats as well as from shore; boats may be launched and operated in the Klamath River.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Klamath National Forest Map.

**COMMENTS:** No person, except as provided in Title 14, Section 630, subsection (a)(10) and employees of the U.S. Forest Service in the performance of their official duties, shall enter this reserve during the period February 15 through July 31. The number of quail present is small and variable.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300



**NUMBER: 1-6**

**AREA:** Cinder Cone and Bald Mt. Area (BLM, USFS)

**COUNTY:** Lassen, Shasta

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Sage and woodland chaparral.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat lava outcrops to steep hills.

**ACCESS:** Numerous, see forest service map. Primary access is Cindercone Access road.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Lassen and Modoc National Forests

**COMMENTS:** Abundance of both species is low to moderate, and variable annually. Coves are found around springs, along streams and adjacent brush. Hunting pressure is low to moderate. Facilities range from none to fully developed campgrounds. No water.

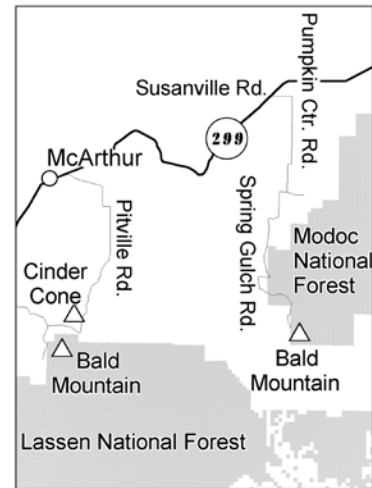
**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96099  
(530) 225-2300

Bureau of Land Management  
Alturas Field Office  
708 West 12th Street  
Alturas, CA 96101  
(530) 233-7932

Lassen National Forest  
2550 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-2151

Modoc National Forest  
800 West 12th Street  
Alturas, CA 96101  
(530) 233-5811





**NUMBER: 1-7**

**AREA:** Cinder Flats Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Shasta

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 720 acres; Oak/gray pine woodland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** 2 miles northeast of Cassel on Cassel Road. Road not passable after heavy rain

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** USGS 15 minute quads: Jellico, Burney Wildlife Area map

**COMMENTS:** The most common quail found on the area is California quail. The quail are found near the south end of the area, around the lake. There are no facilities. Hunting pressure is low.

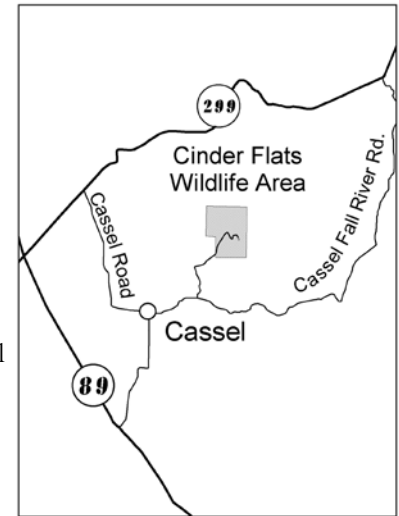
**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game

601 Locust Street

Redding, CA 96099

(530) 225-2300



**NUMBER: 1-8**

**AREA:** Doyle Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Lassen

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, and chukar partridge

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 11,000 acres of foothill and flatlands covered with mountain mahogany, big sage, bitterbrush and uniper

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to rolling

**ACCESS:** 5 miles northeast of Doyle; reached via Hwy 395; 2-wheel drive in dry weather, 4-wheel drive in wet weather.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map. USGS 15 minute quad: Doyle

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant, but highly variable. Most of the quail live along Long Valley Creek. Hunting pressure is high early in the season, and low late in the season. There are no facilities on the area. With the surrounding public domain land, the area provides over 30,000 acres for recreation.

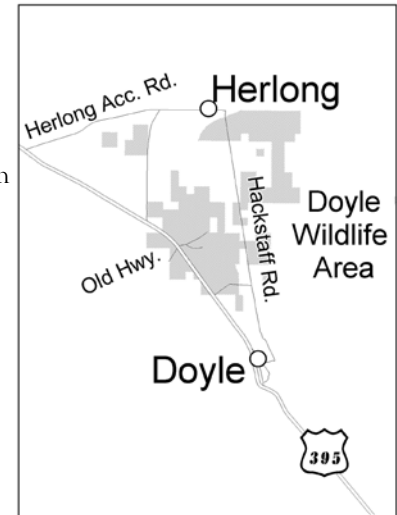
**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game

728-600 Fish and Game Road

Wendel, CA 96136

(530) 254-6808



**NUMBER: 1-9**

**AREA:** Dutch Flat Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Modoc

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Possible blue grouse, black-tailed jackrabbit and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 160 acres, stream and riparian habitat

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Variable

**ACCESS:** This is an in holding within the Modoc National Forest just outside the town of Adin in Modoc County. Access is via U.S. Forest Service unimproved dirt roads from Highway 299 just north of Adin. From Alturas, go 39 miles SW on Highway 299 almost to Adin, go NE about 3 miles on gravel road, at Y continue north about 1 mile on dirt road, at second Y continue north about 3 miles. Typically, this road is closed during wet periods of the year to prevent excessive rutting and erosion.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specifics on hunting regulations. Seasonal road closures.

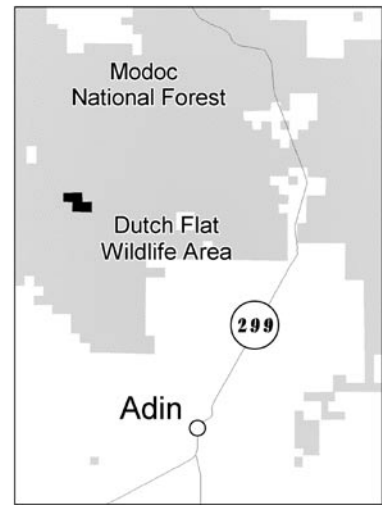
**MAP FOR AREA:** Modoc National Forest Map

**COMMENTS:** Part of a riparian refuge area for Modoc suckers, both State and Federally listed endangered species. Quail may occasionally occur on the wildlife area in low numbers.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300

Modoc National Forest  
800 West 12th Street  
Alturas, CA 96101  
(530) 233-5811



**NUMBER: 1-10**

**AREA:** Fort Sage Mountains (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Lassen

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, cottontail and black-tailed jackrabbit.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Sagebrush uplands, sage-juniper woodlands, and bitterbrush fields

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling to steep

**ACCESS:** From Hwy. 395, 20 minutes northeast of Doyle

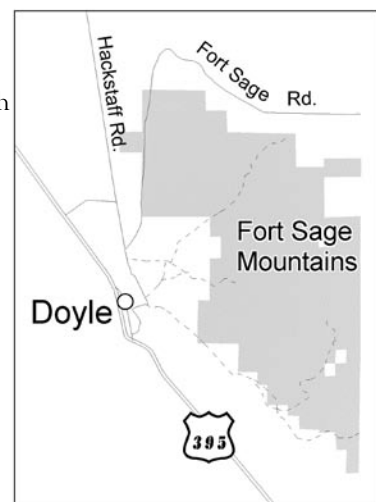
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management quads: Portola, Susanville. USGS 15 minute quad: Doyle

**COMMENTS:** California quail can be abundant near water. Mountain quail are uncommon and only at highest elevations. Populations are highly variable. Hunting pressure is moderate to low. Most hunter interest in area is for chukar partridge. No facilities. Most of the area burned in 2001.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management	California Department of Fish and Game
Eagle Lake Field Office	728-600 Fish and Game Road
2950 Riverside Drive	Wendel, CA 96136
Susanville, CA 96130	(53) 254-6808
(530) 252-5319	



**NUMBER: 1-11**

**AREA:** Honey Lake Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Lassen

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Ring-necked pheasant, mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 7,700 acres. Sagebrush uplands, greasewood, ditches and grain fields; the wildlife area has two management units, Fleming and Dakin.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** East of Susanville, Hwy. 395 to Standish

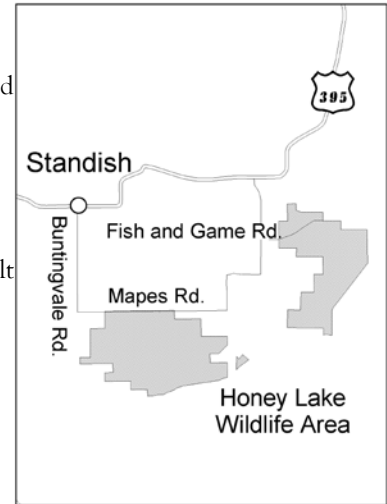
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Quail hunting only allowed during pheasant season. Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Area map available from either unit office

**COMMENTS:** Quail populations are moderate, but highly variable. They are found in brush on the north end of Fleming Unit, and farthest west on Dakin Unit. Hunting pressure is high early in season, low later in season. Limited parking, restrooms, water, and camping.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
Honey Lake Wildlife Area  
728-600 Fish and Game Road  
Wendel, CA 96136  
(530) 254-6644



**NUMBER: 1-12**

**AREA:** Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Siskiyou

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 5,017 acres; oak woodland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Gentle to moderate rolling hills

**ACCESS:** 4 miles north of Hornbrook; access onto the area is by foot or horse only, no vehicles

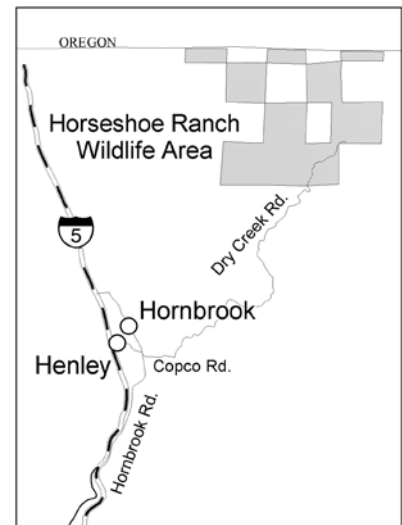
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** USGS 7.5 minute quad: Iron Gate Reservoir

**COMMENTS:** Both quail can be found throughout the area near water (before “green-up”).

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1724 Ball Mountain Road  
Montague, CA 96064  
(530) 459-3926



**NUMBER: 1-13**

**AREA:** King Range National Conservation Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Humboldt, Mendocino

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail, mountain quail and tree squirrel

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse and band-tailed pigeon

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 60,000 acres; coastal chaparral, coniferous forest, coastal oak woodland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rugged and mountainous

**ACCESS:** Shelter Cove Rd. from Redway on Hwy101; Mattole Rd. from Ferndale. Several minor roads (many are seasonal or require 4-wheel drive) that also access the area.

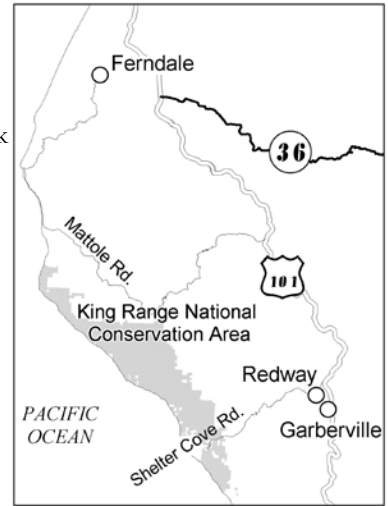
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** King Range National Conservation Area (Available from BLM)

**COMMENTS:** California quail and mountain quail are both moderately abundant and are found throughout the area. Hunting pressure is low due to remoteness and rugged terrain. Facilities are limited to primitive campgrounds.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
Arcata Field Office  
1695 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 825-2300



**NUMBER: 1-14**

**AREA:** Klamath National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Siskiyou

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue and ruffed grouse, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** About 1,500,000 acres total

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to rugged

**ACCESS:** Many of the roads are 2-wheel drive during the dry season. Most of the roads are 4-wheel drive during the wet season. Check with forest supervisor's office or ranger stations for special road closures. Ranger stations are located in Fort Jones, Happy Camp, Orleans, and McDoel.

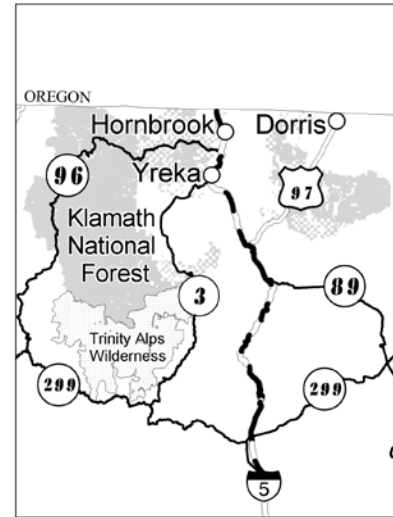
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** See Forest Service map

**MAP FOR AREA:** Klamath National Forest

**COMMENTS:** The best places to look for quail are burns and clear cuts that are at least a few years old. These areas will have a good distribution of brushy cover and food attractive to the quail and open enough to hunt in.

**INFORMATION:**

Klamath National Forest  
1312 Fairlane Road  
Yreka, CA 96097  
(530) 842-6131



**NUMBER: 1-15**

**AREA:** Lassen National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Lassen, Shasta, Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** About 1,200,000 acres total. Mostly forested and brush land; Jeffery pine dominates; brushfields and extensive understory brush are limited; Chaparral; oak woodland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling, deep canyons to rugged mountains

**ACCESS:** Numerous; see forest service map. Many of the off-road trails are exceedingly rough and 4-wheel drive is highly recommended.

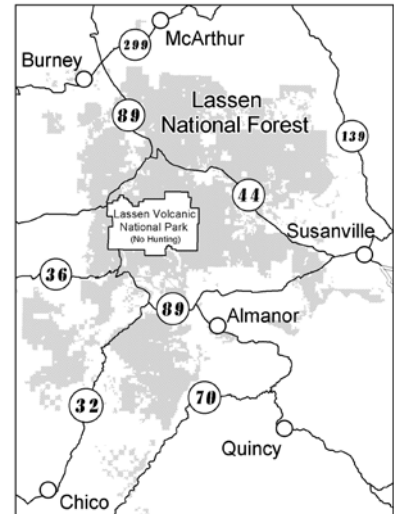
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting or possession of firearms in State Game Refuges (see Forest Service map).

**MAP FOR AREA:** Lassen National Forest

**COMMENTS:** The abundance of mountain quail is low in most years. The distribution of California quail is limited. There are huntable populations of California quail below Ponderosa Way in Tehama County. The best places to hunt are around the drainages where pockets of brush are found. Populations of mountain quail are moderately variable, and highly variable for California quail. The mountain quail are found mostly in brushfields, old clear cuts and along streams. Hunting pressure ranges from low to moderate. Facilities range from none to fully developed (see Forest Service map).

**INFORMATION:**

Lassen National Forest  
2550 Riverside Dr.  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-2151



**NUMBER: 1-16**

**AREA:** Merrill's Landing Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, small numbers of ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys in some years

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** About 300 acres. An island in the Sacramento River just north of Glenn County. Mainly a riparian jungle with cottonwood and willow trees, briar patches, and some open areas.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Mostly flat terrain with thick vegetation.

**ACCESS:** Access is by boat only. Boat access locations are located at Mill Creek, Woodson Bridge, and Bidwell River Boat Launches.

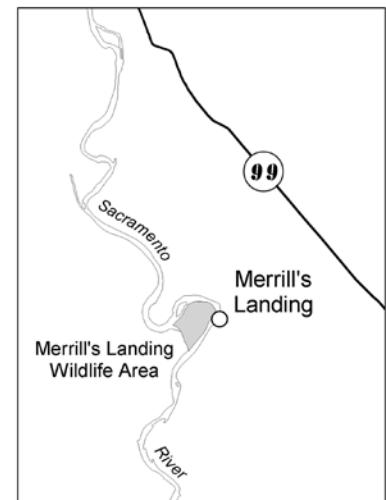
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specifics on hunting regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** U.S. Geological Survey 15-minute quad: Corning.

**COMMENTS:** Low populations of quail, the wildlife area frequently is underwater during high river flows.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300



**NUMBER: 1-17**

**AREA:** Modoc National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Lassen

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** About 1,650,000 acres total. Sage juniper woodlands, pine and fir forest.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling to steep

**ACCESS:** Numerous; see map

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** Modoc National Forest

**COMMENTS:** Mountain quail are moderately abundant and California quail are of low abundance. Populations are moderately variable. Both species are found near springs, streamsides and adjacent brush. Hunting pressure is low to moderate. Facilities range from none to fully developed campgrounds (see Forest Service map).

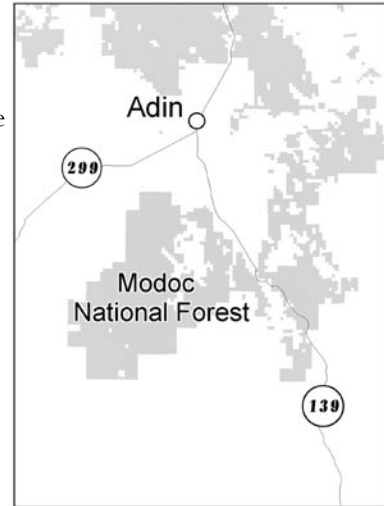
**INFORMATION:**

Modoc National Forest

800 West 12th Street

Alturas, CA 96101

(530) 233-5811



**NUMBER: 1-18**

**AREA:** Modoc National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Modoc

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit and blue grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Very diverse area with chaparral, Juniper-sage, pine and fir forests.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to steep mountains

**ACCESS:** 4-wheel drive or high-clearance 2-wheel drive is recommended for many of the areas. Some roads are closed during wet weather. Check local Forest Service office for map displaying closed roads.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting or possession of firearms in State Game Refuges (see Forest Service map).

**MAP FOR AREA:** Modoc National Forest

**COMMENTS:** California quail are low to moderately abundant and mountain quail are uncommon. Both are found in the lower elevations near water and good cover.

Areas to try for quail include: Lost River area, south of Newell, Big Sage Res., Goose Lake, lower elevations of Warner Mountains, and Forest Service land around Pit River. Areas for mountain quail include: Forest south of State Game Refuge near Whitehorse Flat Res., most of Forest Service land south of Howard Gulch, and Forest service and BLM lands to south of Lava Beds National Monument. Hunting pressure is low to moderate. There are improved and unimproved campgrounds throughout.

**INFORMATION:**

Modoc National Forest

800 West 12th Street

Alturas, CA 96101

(530) 233-5811

Modoc National Forest

P.O. Box 159

Adin, CA 96006

(530) 299-3215



**NUMBER: 1-19**

**AREA:** Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Shasta and Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, mourning dove, and ring-necked pheasants.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** About 575 acres; roughly 80% is within 100-year high flow floodplain. Mostly riparian areas with a small amount of upland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Mostly flat terrain.

**ACCESS:** Approximately 10 miles east of the town of Cottonwood where Cottonwood Creek enters the Sacramento River. There is also walk-in access on Adobe Road off of Hacienda Road.

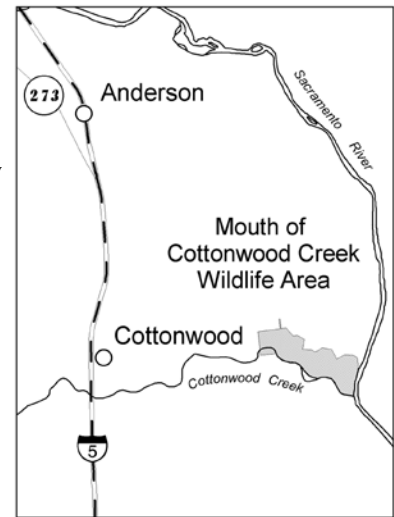
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specifics on hunting regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area Map.

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is highly variable and the area receives high hunting pressure.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300



**NUMBER: 1-20**

**AREA:** Paynes Creek Recreation Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Narrow river bottom forest (riparian corridor), oak grassland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling foothills

**ACCESS:** About five miles north of Red Bluff along I-5, take the Jelly's Ferry offramp going east. Take the Bend Ferry Road across the river and follow it to the Paynes Creek Recreation Area. The best hunting areas are accessible by foot only.

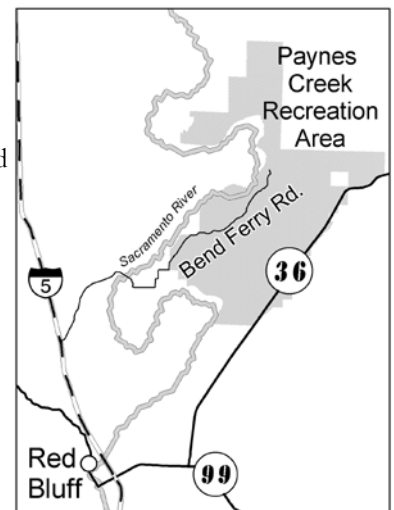
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** USGS topo map 30x60 series: Red Bluff

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant along the Sacramento River and small creeks which cross the property. Hunting pressure is moderate. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
Redding Field Office  
355 Hemsted Drive  
Redding, CA 96002  
(530) 224-2100



**NUMBER: 1-21**

**AREA:** Six Rivers National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue and ruffed grouse, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** About 1,100,000 total acres; chaparral, oak woodland, upland Douglas Fir forest and coastal mixed coniferous forests.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to steep, mostly steep

**ACCESS:** Hwy. 36, 199, 299, and 96 pass through the forest; logging roads

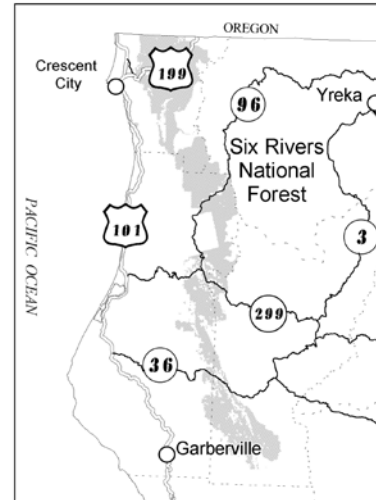
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** See Forest Service map

**MAP FOR AREA:** Six Rivers National Forest

**COMMENTS:** The relative abundance of both mountain quail and California quail ranges from high to low depending upon the year. California quail are found near streams or other water. Mountain quail are found throughout forested areas. Hunting pressure is low to moderate. There are many USFS campsites in the forest.

**INFORMATION:**

Six Rivers National Forest  
1330 Bayshore Way  
Eureka, CA 95501  
(707) 442-1721



**NUMBER: 1-22**

**AREA:** Shasta - Trinity National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Trinity, Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue and ruffed grouse, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** About 2,000,000 total acres; chaparral, oak woodland, and coniferous forests

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Ranges from small valleys to steep mountain slopes

**ACCESS:** Main access is from I-5, Hwy. 299, 3, 36, 89 and 97, and numerous Forest Service roads

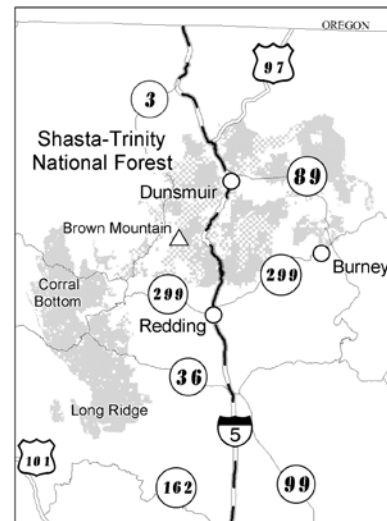
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** See Forest Service map

**MAP FOR AREA:** Shasta - Trinity National Forest

**COMMENTS:** Mountain quail are moderately abundant throughout the forest. California quail are low to moderately abundant and mostly restricted to valley bottoms (caution: much of the valley bottoms are privately owned - check maps). Populations of both species are highly variable annually. Within Trinity County mountain quail hunting is a very strenuous sport. Some areas to hunt for mountain quail in Trinity County include: Hayfork Divide, Brown's Mtn., North Fork, Corral Bottoms, Indian Dick, Eel River, Long Ridge, New River, Democrat Mtn., Ajax Mtn., Hettenpom, Yolla Bolly, Kettenpom, Zenia, Mad River, Coffee Creek, Trinity Center, and Bowerman Ridge. Hunting pressure is low due to steep terrain.

**INFORMATION:**

Shasta - Trinity National Forest  
2400 Washington Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 244-2978





**NUMBER: 1-23**

**AREA:** Surprise Valley (BLM, USFS)

**COUNTY:** Modoc

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, blue grouse, cottontail rabbit, and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Sage-grassland

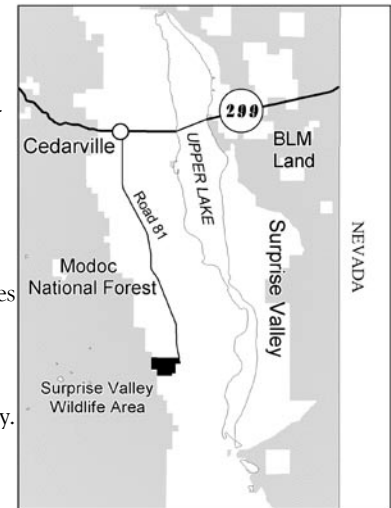
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling hills with rock outcroppings

**ACCESS:** 4-wheel drive or high-clearance two-wheel drive is recommended for much of the area. Many areas can become inaccessible even during mildly wet weather.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting or possession of firearms in State Game Refuges (see Forest Service map)

**MAP FOR AREA:** Modoc National Forest map; BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quads: Cedarville, Alturas

**COMMENTS:** California quail are found in the rolling hills surrounding Surprise Valley. Blue grouse are found on Modoc National Forest land. BLM lands along east side and south end, and Modoc National Forest land along the west side. Populations are moderate and variable. Quail in this area do better during years with a dry June. They are found along stream courses and rock outcroppings near water. Hunting pressure is low to moderate. Blue grouse may be found at higher elevations in the Warner Mountains. There are services in Cedarville.



**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management	Modoc National Forest
Surprise Field Office	800 West 12th Street
602 Cressler Street	Alturas, CA 96101
Cedarville, CA 96104	(530) 233-5811
(530) 279-6101	

**NUMBER: 1-24**

**AREA:** Tehama Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Band-tailed pigeon, wild turkey, and tree squirrel

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 46,904 acres of foothill oak grassland and chaparral

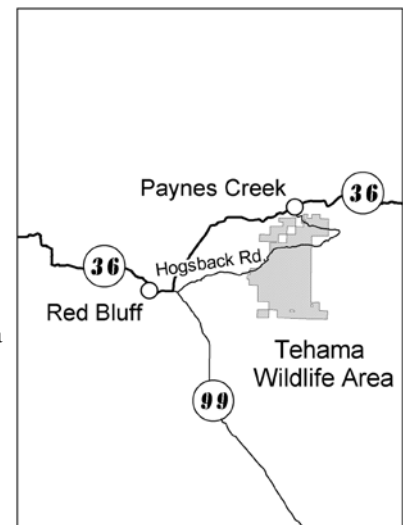
**TOPOGRAPHY:** A broad bench slopes from about 1,000 feet to about 2,400 ft. Rugged canyons with exposed, prominent rim rocks and lava outcroppings cut through the area

**ACCESS:** East of Red Bluff, on Hwy. 36 to the town of Paynes Creek; take Plum Creek Road about 3 miles to the wildlife area boundary

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Deer hunters holding G-1 tags and a Tehama Wildlife Area permit are allowed to hunt quail during the G-1 deer hunt. Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map. USGS 15 minute quads: Panther Spring and Manton.

**COMMENTS:** Only deer hunters holding G-1 tags and a Tehama Wildlife Area permit are allowed to hunt quail during the G-1 deer hunt. The Tehama Wildlife Area is open, without special permit, from the end of the G-1 deer hunt through the remainder of the general quail season. California quail are abundant along most of the area's drainages. Most quail are found associated with brushy slopes and canyon bottoms. Hunting pressure is moderate. Facilities include two dry camps with sanitary facilities. This is rugged quail hunting.



**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
 Tehama Wildlife Area  
 P.O. Box 188  
 Paynes Creek, CA 96075  
 (530) 597-2201

**NUMBER: 1-25**

**AREA:** Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, blue grouse, cottontail rabbit, and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, mixed conifer forest

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Steep, mountainous terrain

**ACCESS:** From I-5 in Red Bluff, take Hwy. 36 west about 50 miles to Harrison Gulch Ranger Station. Area is accessible by a variety of roads going south. Access to the Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area is via non-motorized travel only.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Be respectful of private in-holdings.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Shasta-Trinity National Forest

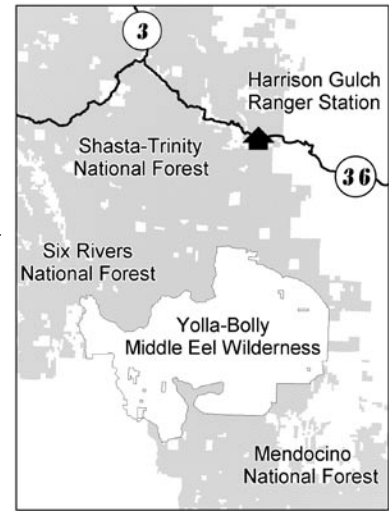
**COMMENTS:** Mountain quail are of moderate abundance and California quail are of low abundance. The populations are highly variable. Mountain quail are found associated with brushy pockets near water sources in the higher elevations. California quail are not found in any great numbers because most of the land is above their normal range. Most of the California quail will be found at the lower elevations of the area. Hunting pressure is low. There are Forest Service campgrounds scattered throughout the area.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1760 Bidwell  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
(530) 528-9405

Shasta Trinity National Forest  
2400 Washington Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 244-2978

Mendocino National Forest  
825 North Humboldt Avenue  
Willows, CA 95988  
(530) 934-3316



**REGION 2: SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND CENTRAL SIERRA REGION**

**NUMBER: 2-1**

**AREA:** Antelope Valley Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Sierra

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse, mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 5,600 acres of eastside pine with openings of sagebrush and bitterbrush.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Relatively flat, with some steep hills and draws.

**ACCESS:** From Highway 49 east of Sierraville, turn south on Antelope Valley Road, go approximately 3 miles to the WA boundary. This area is surrounded by Tahoe National Forest and private land on the north.

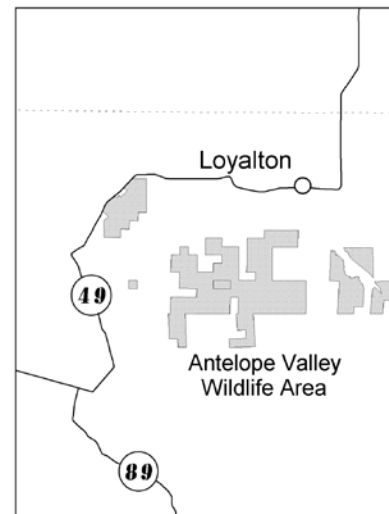
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; BLM Surface Management 30 x 60 minute quad; USGS 7.5 minute quads: Antelope Valley, Loyalton, Sierraville and Sardine Peak

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is moderate and highly variable. The quail are usually along Antelope Creek. Hunting pressure is low except for opening weekend. There are no facilities or drinking water.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-2**

**AREA:** Auburn State Recreation Area (DPR)

**COUNTY:** Placer, El Dorado

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 42,000 acres of chaparral and oak woodland; 4,950 acres are open to hunting

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling hills to steep narrow canyons

**ACCESS:** 1 mile S of Auburn on Hwy 49

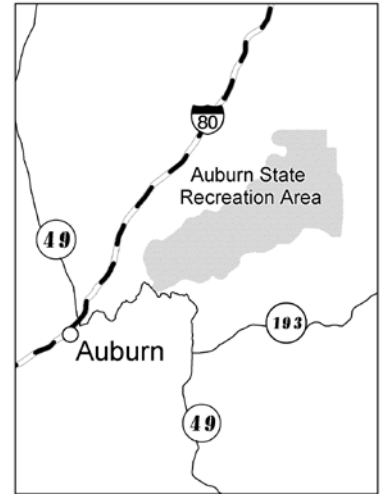
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Some areas are closed to hunting (check with Parks Dept.)

**MAP FOR AREA:** Parks Department map; GS 7.5 minute quads: Auburn, Pilot Hill

**COMMENTS:** Low abundance of quail. They are usually found in open mixed brush and grassland areas near water. Hunting pressure is moderate and high on opening weekend. 100 primitive campsites, no potable water.

**INFORMATION:**

Folsom State Park  
7806 Folsom Auburn Rd.  
Folsom, CA 95630  
(916) 988-0205



**NUMBER: 2-3**

**AREA:** Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Plumas

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse, mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,700 acres of eastside pines with openings of sagebrush and bitterbrush.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Relatively flat with some steep hills and draws.

**ACCESS:** From Highway 70 at Beckwourth, turn north onto the Beckwourth Genesee Road, go approximately 3 miles to the WA boundary. This area is bounded on the north by Plumas National Forest and private land on the south.

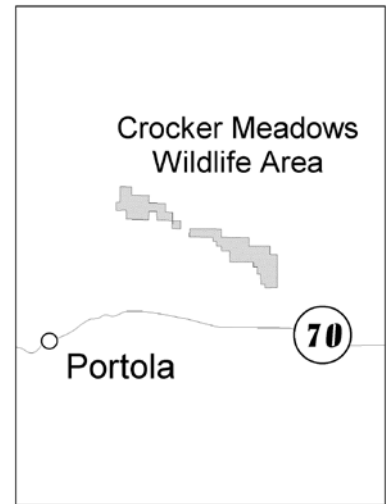
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; BLM Surface Management 30 x 60 minute quad: Portola; USGS 7.5 minute quads: Reconnaissance Peak, Portola and Crocker Mountain.

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is low to moderate and highly variable. The quail are usually in the flatter portions of the area to the south. Care must be exercised to prevent straying onto the adjacent private lands to the south. Hunting pressure is low except for opening weekend. There are no facilities or drinking water.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-4**

**AREA:** Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Yuba

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Wild turkey, mourning dove, tree squirrel, black-tailed jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit and band-tailed pigeon.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 6,315 acres of blue oak woodland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling hills

**ACCESS:** From Highway 70 (Ellis Lake) in Marysville, go east on Hwy. 20 about 11.5 miles and turn left on Marysville Road; proceed 8.5 miles east on Marysville Road and turn right on Dolan Harding Road to parking lot 2 and 1 mile to parking lot 1. Lots 3-6 are ahead on Marysville Road to Loma Rica Road, Los Verjeles Road and Collins Lake Road.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations. Open for hunting from July 1 through January 31 and the spring turkey season. Turkey hunting reservation required for the first nine days of the spring season, then open every day without a reservation.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map.

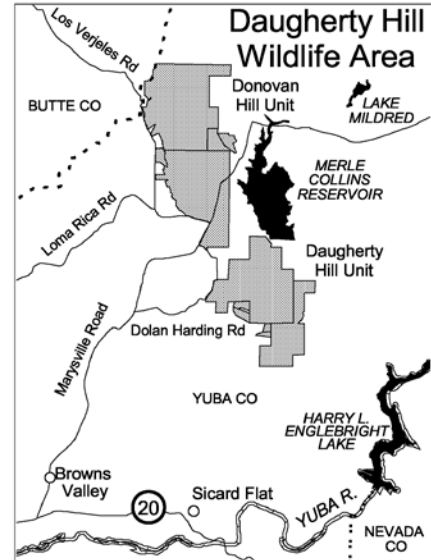
**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is good and hunting pressure is moderate.

Overnight parking allowed in the 6 parking lots.

**NEARBY FACILITIES:** Contact the Rancho Cordova DFG Regional Office for information on the spring turkey hunt reservation drawing.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-5**

**AREA:** East side of Indian Valley Res. (BLM, DFG)

**COUNTY:** Colusa/Lake (This area is in both Region 2 and 3)

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Steep canyons, moderate sloping ridges

**ACCESS:** Road off Hwy. 20; take Bartlett Springs Road (4-wheel drive when wet).

Most hunters use the Walker Ridge Road off Hwy. 20.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quad: Lakeport USGS 15 minute quads: Wilbur Springs, Clearlake Oaks

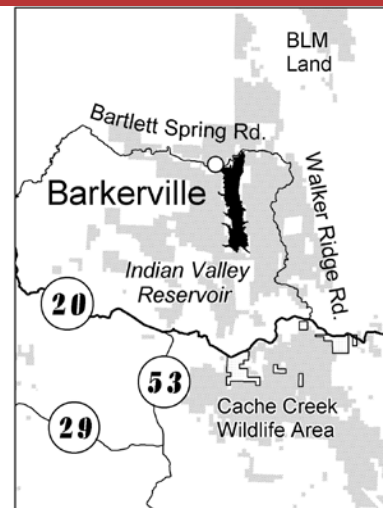
**COMMENTS:** There are low, stable populations of quail on the area. Dogs are highly recommended because of the dense brush. Hunting pressure is considered high for the existing populations. There is a campground at Indian Valley Dam. Indian Valley Wildlife Area is located around the reservoir.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
Ukiah Field Office  
2550 N. State Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 468-4000

California Department of Fish and Game  
Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900

Department of Fish and Game  
Central Coast Region  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Yountville, CA 94599  
(707) 944-5531



**NUMBER: 2-6**

**AREA:** Eldorado National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** El Dorado, Placer, Amador, Alpine

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, wild turkey, and blue grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Mixed conifer forest

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Ridges gentle to steep

**ACCESS:** Good access on many Forest Service dirt roads (many require high-clearance 2-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive)

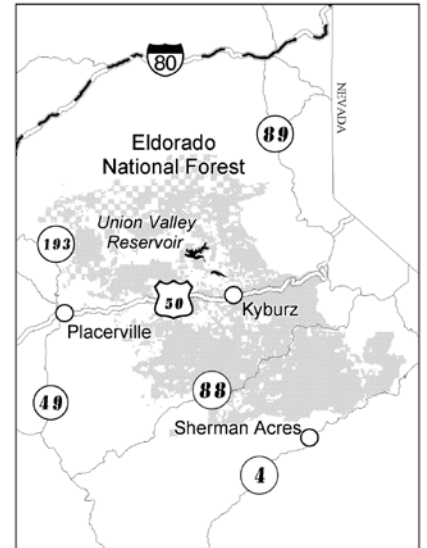
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting on State Game Refuge (see forest service map for location)

**MAP FOR AREA:** Eldorado National Forest

**COMMENTS:** Mountain quail are low to moderately abundant between 4,000 and 7,000 ft. Generally migrate down slope between September and November following the first snow storm. Populations are moderately variable. Hunting pressure is low to high depending upon ease of access. Quail are found near young conifer stands and manzanita. Some of the best areas to hunt, in terms of finding and being able to get clear shots at mountain quail, are in and around recent patch cuts (logged patches). Good areas to try include Iron Mtn., Ice House, Peavine, Plummer Ridge, Alder Ridge, Cat Creek Ridge, and Silver Creek to name just a few. California quail are found below 3,000 feet. Developed campgrounds can be found throughout the forest.

**INFORMATION:**

Eldorado National Forest  
100 Forni Road  
Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 622-5061



**NUMBER: 2-7**

**AREA:** Fiske Creek - Wilson Valley Area (BLM, DFG)

**COUNTY:** Yolo, Lake, Colusa

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Coastal Chaparral, oak woodlands and riparian habitat

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat valleys to rugged canyons

**ACCESS:** This is a very large area and includes Cache Creek Wildlife Area; Hwy.16 to County Road 40; Hwy 20 at North Fork Cache Creek crossing; Area closed to motorized vehicles. Maps should be consulted.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** For Cache Creek Wildlife Area, consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations. Hunters need a permit to hunt turkeys the first two days of the spring turkey season on the DFG Cache Creek Wildlife Area and BLM Cache Creek Management Area.

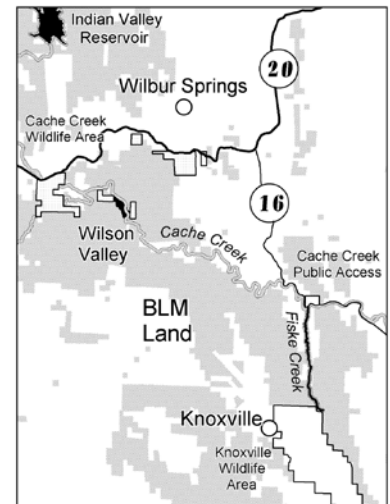
**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quads: Lakeport, Healdsburg. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Wilson Valley, Glascock Mt., Knoxville, Lower Creek, Guinda

**COMMENTS:** Both California quail and mountain quail are generally of low abundance in this area. They are both found in the gullies and along streams, and around springs. Hunting pressure is low. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Napa, CA 94558  
(707) 944-5500

Bureau of Land Management  
Ukiah Field Office  
2550 N. State St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 468-4000



**NUMBER: 2-8**

**AREA:** Feather River Wildlife Area Management Units: Abbott Lake (439 acres), O'Connor Lakes (471 acres), Nelson Slough (750 acres), Lake of the Woods (698 acres), and Star Bend (50 acres) (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Yuba and Sutter

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Ring-necked pheasant, crow, mourning dove, tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit and wild turkey.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 2,640 acres; river bottom riparian

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** 1. Abbot Lake and O'Connor Lake Units - Parking lot located on top of the levee at the end of Star Bend Road. Star Bend Road is 1/2 mile north of the intersection of Highway 99 and Garden Highway on Garden Highway.

2. Nelson Slough Unit is located 23 miles north of Sacramento and under the Highway 99 bridge: Access is either east or west of Highway 99 on Sacramento Avenue. Sacramento Avenue is 1 mile north of the Highway 99 Bridge. 3. Lake of the Woods and Star Bend Units: Access to both properties is from the Star Bend Fishing Access located on Feather River Boulevard about 30 miles north of Sacramento and 10 miles south of Marysville. From Sacramento make a left turn on Feather River Boulevard after crossing the Bear River Bridge on Highway 70. From Marysville, turn right on Feather Boulevard after crossing the Yuba River on Highway 70. The Lake of the Woods Unit is downstream of the Star Bend Fishing Access and extends for about 5 miles to the Bear River. The Star Bend Unit is upstream of the Star Bend Fishing Access.

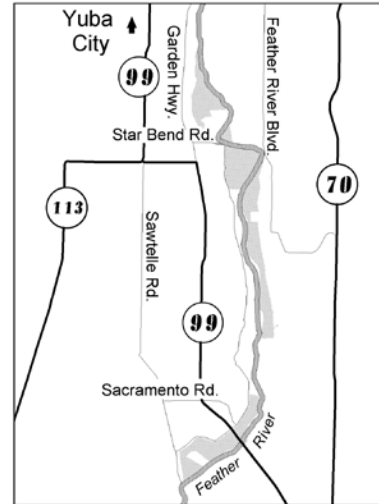
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations. No rifles or pistols may be used or possessed. Hunting allowed from July 1 through January and during spring turkey season. Special closure in a portion of the O'Connor Lakes Unit marked as closed from March 1 through June 30.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map.

**COMMENTS:** Moderate to high quail populations. Birds may be found in the weedy fields as well as in heavy brush.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-9**

**AREA:** Fremont Weir Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Yolo

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and ring-necked pheasant

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 212 acres of riparian woodland and meadows

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** Approximately three miles southeast of Knights Landing off County Road 116.

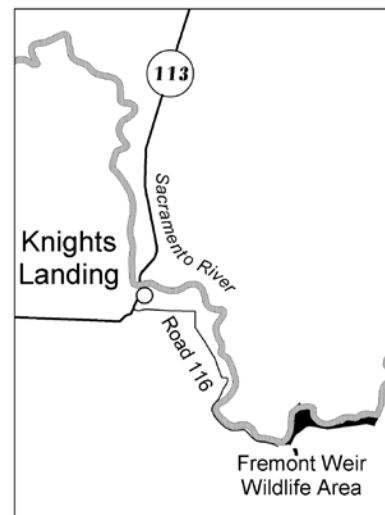
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** DFG wildlife area map. USGS quad map: Knights Landing.

**COMMENTS:** Quail can be found throughout the area. Coveys are centered around the areas with good cover.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-10**

**AREA:** Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Sierra and Lassen

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 9,020 acres of Great Basin sage/bitterbrush with some limited eastside pine on the western portion.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Relatively flat with some hills and draws.

**ACCESS:** From Highway 395 north of Bordertown, NV, turn west onto the area just south of the Sierra County line, go through (and please close) the boundary gate. This area is surrounded by the Toiyabe and Tahoe national forests, as well as private lands on the north and south.

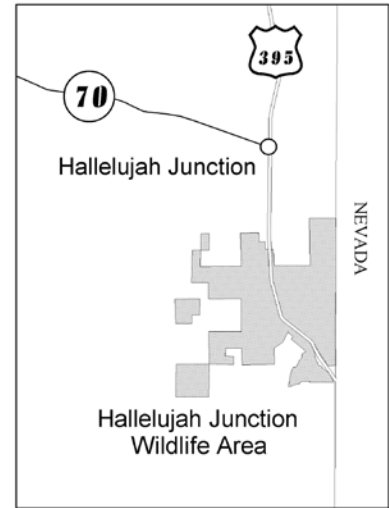
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; BLM Surface Management 30 x 60 minute quad: Portola; USGS 7.5 minute quad; Evans Canyon.

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is moderate and highly variable. The quail are usually along Long Valley Creek and in the higher areas near Evans Canyon. Hunting pressure is low except for opening weekend. There are no facilities or drinking water.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-11**

**AREA:** Heenan Lake Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Alpine

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,653 acres of ponderosa pine and aspen with openings of grasslands, sagebrush and bitterbrush

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Relatively steep with some hills and draws

**ACCESS:** Approximately 8 miles southeast of Markleeville off Highway 89. This area is surrounded by the Toiyabe National Forest with private land on the south.

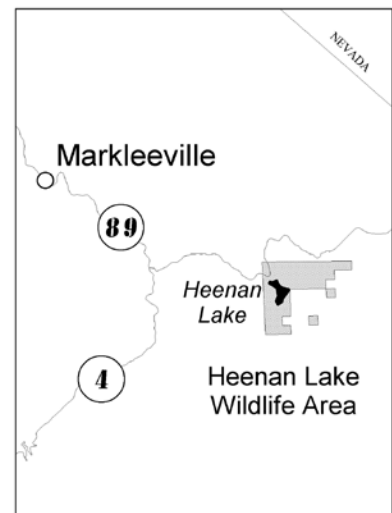
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; BLM Surface Management 30 x 60 minute quad: Smith Valley; USGS 7.5 minute quads: Heenan Lake, Topaz Lake.

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is low and highly variable. Hunting pressure is low. There are no facilities or drinking water.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-12**

**AREA:** Hope Valley Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Alpine

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse, mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 2,869 acres of ponderosa pine, aspen and grasslands with openings of sagebrush and bitterbrush

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Relatively flat with some steep hills and draws

**ACCESS:** Approximately 6 miles northwest of Markleeville at the junction of Highway 88 and 89. The area is surrounded by the El Dorado and Toiyabe national forests.

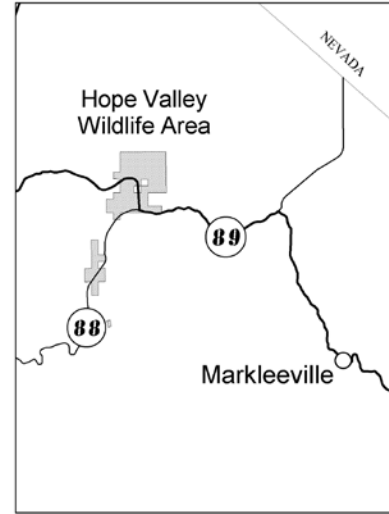
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; BLM Surface Management 30 x 60 minute quad: Smith Valley; USGS 7.5 minute quads: Freel Creek and Carson Pass.

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is moderate and highly variable. The quail are usually along edges between habitat types and in the flatter portions of the area. Hunting pressure is low except for opening weekend. There are no facilities or drinking water.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-13**

**AREA:** Jenkinson Lake (USFS)

**COUNTY:** El Dorado

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Mixed conifer and black oak forests

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate slopes

**ACCESS:** Park Creek Rd., and Iron Mountain Rd.

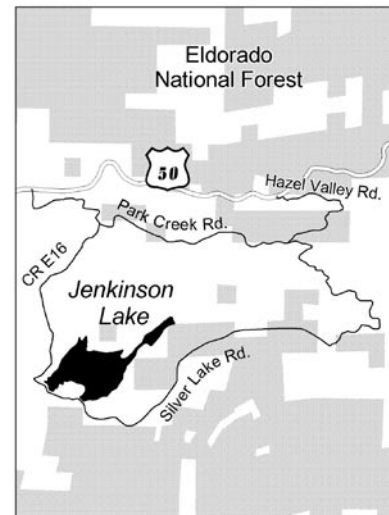
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** Eldorado National Forest

**COMMENTS:** Moderate abundance of quail, widely scattered over the area. Quail are found in stream areas, and stands of brush and black oaks. Hunting pressure can be high because of easy access from Hwy. 50.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900





**NUMBER: 2-14**

**AREA:** Lake Oroville State Recreation Area (DPR)

**COUNTY:** Butte

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Wild turkey and band-tailed pigeon

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 16,100 acres total, 4,150 acres open to hunting. The majority of the recreation lands consists of a narrow strip surrounding the lake extending a minimum of 300 feet from the high water line to more than 1/2 mile areas. There is a considerable amount of public land surrounding much the lake which is open to hunting.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to rugged

**ACCESS:** 7 mi. E of Oroville via Hwy 162; boat access only to much of the area

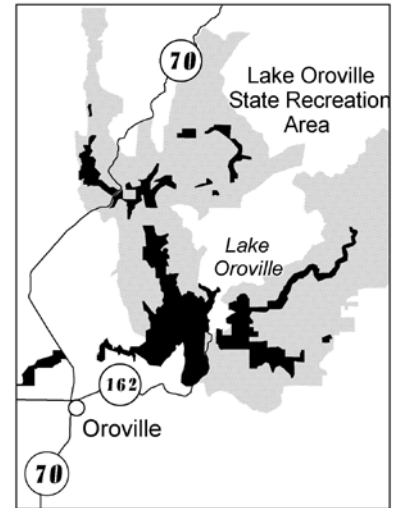
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** See special regulations for area. There are areas closed to hunting. DPR is fairly restrictive on hunting activities on recreation areas. Contact the recreation area, prior to going hunting, for a map and information on what sections are currently open for hunting. DPR offices are generally closed on weekends during the fall and winter.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Lake Oroville State Rec. Area

**COMMENTS:** There are plenty of quail, but the cover can be difficult to hunt in.

**INFORMATION:**

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area  
400 Glen Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-2200



in  
of

**NUMBER: 2-15**

**AREA:** Lassen National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse and band-tailed pigeon

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,200,000 acres total. Mixed conifer, brush covered ridges

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to steep

**ACCESS:** Forest roads mostly 2-wheel drive, but high-clearance vehicles highly recommended

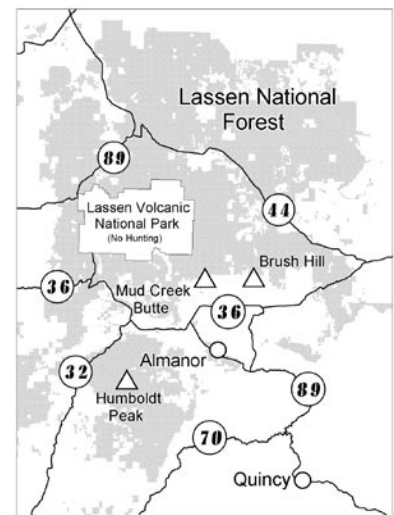
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting or possession of firearms in State Game Refuge (see Forest Service map).

**MAP FOR AREA:** Lassen National Forest

**COMMENTS:** Mountain quail are moderately abundant but highly variable. They are generally found along streams, heavy cover, small clearings in forest, brush fields, and near gooseberry and elderberry patches in the fall. Hunting pressure is high opening weekend, and low thereafter. Some good areas to try are Mud Creek Butte and Brush Hill (north of Lake Almanor), Humboldt Pk. (southwest of Lake Almanor), and along Yellow Creek (north and south of Yellow Creek PG&E campground).

**INFORMATION:**

Lassen National Forest  
Almanor Ranger District  
Box 767  
Chester, CA 96020  
(530) 258-2141



**NUMBER: 2-16**

**AREA:** Mendocino National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino and Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Band-tailed pigeon, tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, and mourning dove

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Over 1,000,000 acres total. Brushland and pine forests

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rugged

**ACCESS:** See Forest Service map; 2-wheel drive and 4-wheel drive roads; need 4-wheel drive for most of area.

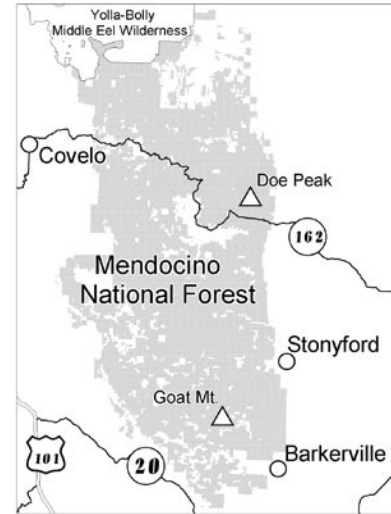
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Permits needed for fires outside campgrounds

**MAP FOR AREA:** Mendocino National Forest

**COMMENTS:** The abundance of both species is moderate in localized areas, and are moderately variable. Hunting pressure is high. Good areas to try for California quail include Dry Creek, Doe Pk., Rattlesnake Creek, Trout Creek along Goat Mountain Road, and Powder House creek. Mountain quail are scattered throughout the area, being found up high before snowfall, and lower after snowfall. There are several guzzlers along ridges in the Grindstone Creek area that can provide some hunting. There are numerous campgrounds throughout the forest (see USFS map).

**INFORMATION:**

Mendocino National Forest  
825 North Humboldt Avenue  
Willows, CA 95988  
(530) 934-3316



**NUMBER: 2-17**

**AREA:** Oroville Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Butte

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, black-tailed jackrabbit, and band-tailed pigeon

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 11,870 acres; river bottom, tailings

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to small undulations

**ACCESS:** Southwest of Oroville, west of Hwy. 70

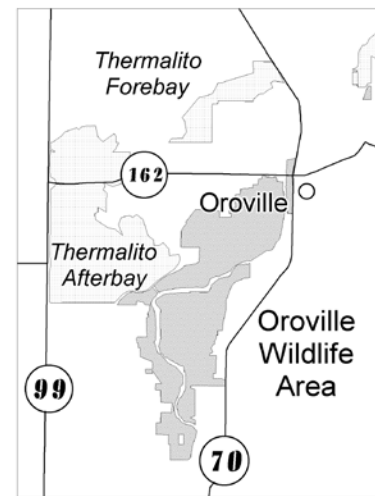
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area

**COMMENTS:** Moderate quail populations, but difficult to hunt because of dense escape cover. New brushpiles and plans to open up some of the cover should improve hunting.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
945 Oro Dam Blvd. West  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-2236



**NUMBER: 2-18**

**AREA:** Plumas National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Plumas, Butte, Sierra

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel, wild turkey, band-tailed pigeon, and blue grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,100,000 total acres; mixed conifer brush forests

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Steep, 2,000 - 5,000 ft. elevation

**ACCESS:** Forest roads mostly 2-wheel drive; high clearance vehicles highly recommended.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting in the State Game Refuges

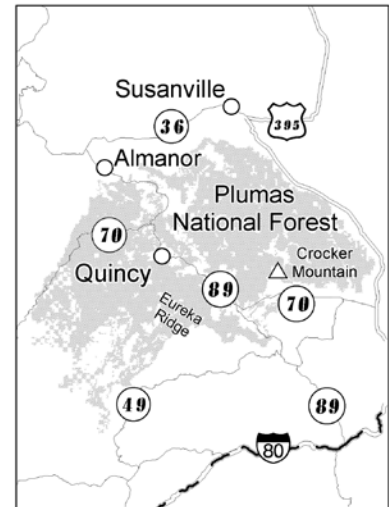
**MAP FOR AREA:** Plumas National Forest

**COMMENTS:** California quail of low abundance, being found primarily at lower elevations along the edges of valleys and agricultural land, which is mostly private. Mountain quail are moderately abundant at the higher elevations in mixed conifer forests. They are often found along streams, small brush fields, and in the fall near chokecherry and gooseberry patches. The abundance of both species is highly variable.

Hunting pressure is high during opening weekend and deer season, and low thereafter. There are many forest service campgrounds. Some good areas to try are Crocker Mtn. (east of Lake Davis), Happy Valley (northeast of Jackson Creek campground), Mt. Ingalls (northwest of Lake Davis), Kettle Rock (southwest of Antelope Lake), Eureka Ridge (southwest of Sloat), Deanes Valley (south of Meadow Valley), Keddie Ridge (north of Greenville), Argentine Rock (north of Sloat).

**INFORMATION:**

Plumas National Forest  
P.O. Box 1500  
159 Lawrence Street  
Quincy, CA 95971  
(530) 283-2050



**NUMBER: 2-19**

**AREA:** Putah Creek Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Solano

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 860 acres of coastal chaparral and oak woodland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Relatively steep with some flat areas

**ACCESS:** Approximately 10 miles west of Winters off Highway 128

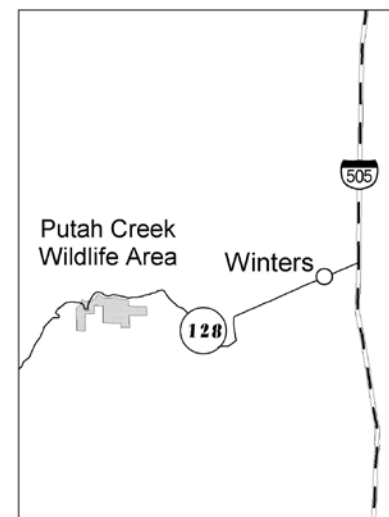
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; USGS 7.5 minute quads: Monticello Dam and Mt. Vaca.

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is low to moderate and highly variable. The quail are usually difficult to hunt because of the steep terrain and heavy cover.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER:** 2-20

**AREA:** Sacramento River Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Glenn and Butte

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Riparian woodland, meadows, and gravel bars

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** By boat or from Glenn Co. Road 29 approximately 6 miles south of Hamilton City.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specifics.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map.

**COMMENTS:** Quail can be found throughout the area. Because of the dense cover, hunting can be difficult.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER:** 2-21

**AREA:** Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Sierra

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,385 acres of heavily burned eastside pine with some limited cover of sagebrush. Very open habitat.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Relatively steep with some hills and draws.

**ACCESS:** From Highway 49 east of Loyalton, turn south on Smithneck Road, go approximately 3 miles to the WA boundary. This area is bounded by Tahoe National Forest and private lands.

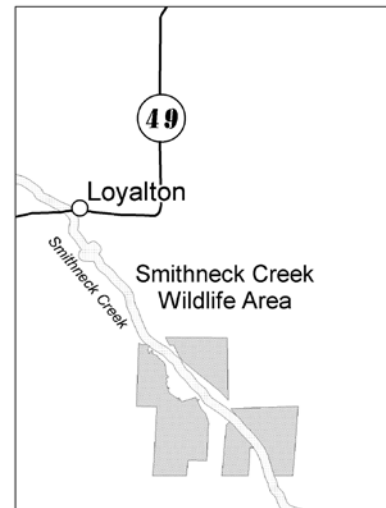
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specifics.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; BLM Surface Management 30 x 60 minute quad: Portola; USGS 7.5 minute quads: Loyalton and Sardine Peaks

**COMMENTS:** Quail abundance is low and highly variable. The quail are usually along Smithneck Creek. Care must be exercised to prevent straying onto adjacent private land. Hunting pressure is low. There are no facilities or drinking water.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-22**

**AREA:** Spenceville Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Yuba, Nevada

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, black-tailed jackrabbit, gray squirrel, and band-tailed pigeon

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 11,213 acres of foothill oak/grassland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling foothills, valleys

**ACCESS:** The area can be reached via the Hamilton Road or by traveling south on the Smartville Road from Smartville. It may also be reached from Sheridan or Wheatland via the Camp Far West Road. The roads are all high-clearance 2-wheel drive accessible in dry weather.

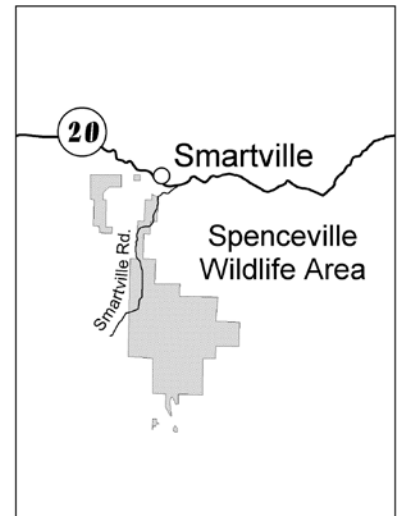
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area, BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quad: Yuba City USGS 7.5 minute quads: Smartville, Camp Far West

**COMMENTS:** There are moderate populations in some locations. Coveys are centered around those areas with both good cover and water. This includes the areas along the creeks and around the 40 or so springs. There are also some coveys around the reservoirs. Populations are relatively stable from year to year. Hunting pressure is high during opening weekend and moderate to low for the remainder of the season. Facilities at the site include camp and picnic sites. No restrooms. No potable water.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-23**

**AREA:** Stanislaus National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Calaveras, Alpine

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, wild turkey, and blue grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,000,000 acres total; ranges from oak grassland to sub-alpine vegetation

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rugged and steep

**ACCESS:** Primarily access is via Hwy 4; many roads are ok in high-clearance 2-wheel drive vehicle.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting or possession of firearms in State Game Refuge (see forest service map).

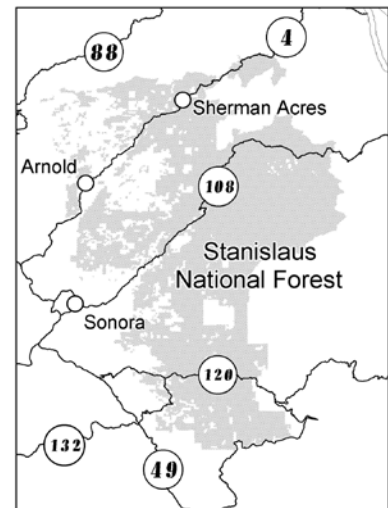
**MAP FOR AREA:** Stanislaus National Forest

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant below 5000 ft. elevation, and are found along streams and near other water sources. Mountain quail are found above 3000 ft. near clear cuts, streams and meadows. They are moderately abundant. Populations of both species are moderately variable. Hunting pressure is moderate. There are a few developed campgrounds. Some good areas to try are north of Arnold, between Pumpkin Hollow and Hermit Spring, and south of Sherman Acres.

**INFORMATION:**

Stanislaus National Forest  
19777 Greenley Road  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 532-3671

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-24**

**AREA:** Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Sutter

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, ring-necked pheasant, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, tree squirrel and crow.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The wildlife area consists of the Tisdale Bypass and 2 long narrow parcels located on either side of the Sutter Bypass. The Sutter Bypass east levee and east channel portion is 22 miles in length and 300 feet in width from Highway 20 to the junction with the Feather River levee and Nelson Slough Management Unit of the Feather River Wildlife Area. The east levee is generally closed to vehicles. The Sutter Bypass west levee and west channel portion is 15.6 miles in length and 300 feet in width from Highway 20 to Highway 113. The west levee is closed to vehicles.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** The main hunting area is the Tisdale Bypass. Access to this area is from Progress/Reclamation Roads or Garmire/Cranmore Roads.

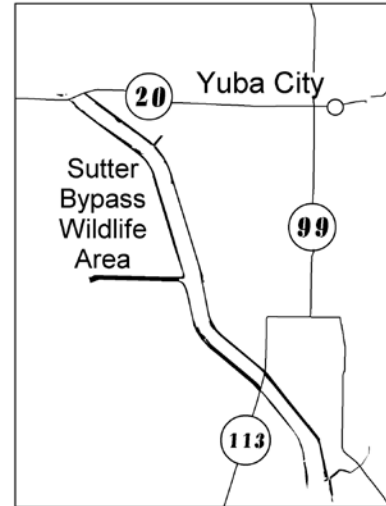
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations. Hunting is permitted daily during open seasons for all legal species. No rifles or pistols may be used or possessed.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map.

**COMMENTS:** Good quail populations in dense cover. There are no facilities or drinking water.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



**NUMBER: 2-25**

**AREA:** Tahoe National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Yuba

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon and blue grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 800,000 acres; mixed conifer, brush and timber covered ridges, chaparral

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to very steep

**ACCESS:** Forest roads mostly two-wheel drive, but high-clearance vehicle highly recommended. No motor vehicles allowed in the Wilderness Areas.

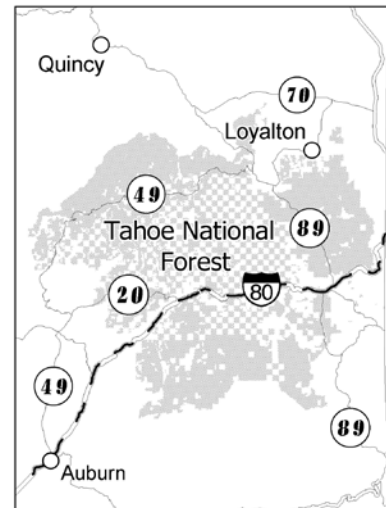
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting or possession of firearms in State Game Refuge (see Forest Service map).

**MAP FOR AREA:** Tahoe National Forest

**COMMENTS:** California quail populations are low and highly variable. They are mostly found at lower elevations along valley edges. Mountain quail are moderately abundant and highly variable. They are found in mixed conifer forests at higher elevations. Areas along streams and around springs, small brush fields and openings in forest, and near chokecherry and gooseberry in fall are good places to look. Hunting pressure is moderate to high during opening weekend and low thereafter. There are campgrounds throughout the forest. Some good areas to try are Pliocene Ridge (north of Alleghany), Saddleback Mtn. (southeast of Little Grass Valley Res.), Gold Valley (southwest of Gold Lake), Keystone Mtn. (southwest of Sierra City), Bald Mtn. Range and Sardine Valley (north of Stampede Reservoir). Bowman Lake, Rattlesnake Creek, Grouse Ridge, Duncan Peak, Boca Reservoir, Prosser Creek Reservoir.

**INFORMATION:**

Tahoe National Forest  
Highway 49 and Coyote St.  
Nevada City, CA 95959



**NUMBER: 2-26**

**AREA:** Toiyabe National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Alpine, Mono

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 600,000 acres; mixed conifer forest, Juniper-sage

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to steep

**ACCESS:** Most of access is by foot or horse

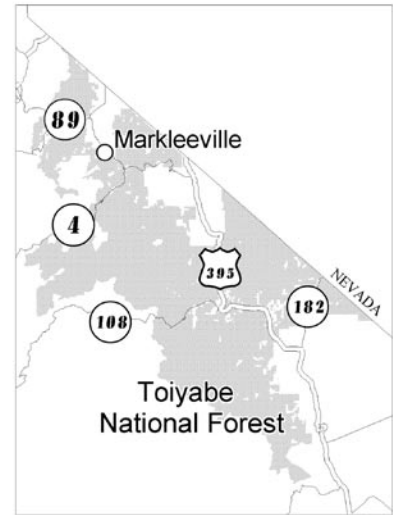
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** See Forest Service Map

**MAP FOR AREA:** Toiyabe National Forest (Carson Ranger District)

**COMMENTS:** Mountain quail abundance is low and coveys are widely scattered. Hunting pressure is low. Some areas to try include Haypress Flat, Leviathan Peak, Silver Hill, Indian Creek, Hawkins Peak, Pickett Peak, Carson Pass, and Crater Lake. Blue grouse on ridges 7,000 ft and higher in vicinity of Hawkins Peak, Red Lake Peak, Markleeville Peak, and Monitor Pass.

**INFORMATION:**

Toiyabe National Forest  
Carson Ranger District  
1536 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701  
(702) 882-2766



**NUMBER: 2-27**

**AREA:** White Slough Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** San Joaquin

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Ring-necked pheasant and mourning dove

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 880 acres

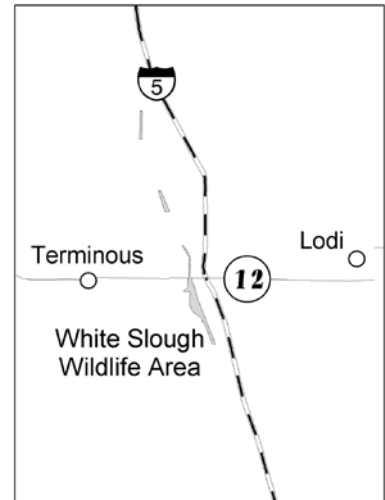
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** Approximately eight miles west of Lodi. Pond 5 area is south of Walnut Grove Road. Pond 6 area is north of Woodbridge Road. Ponds 7 & 8 are east of Guard Road. Ponds 9 through 13 are along the frontage road on the west side of Interstate Highway 5.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900



## REGION 3: CENTRAL COAST REGION

### NUMBER: 3-1

**AREA:** Big Sandy Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Monterey, San Luis Obispo

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 852 acres; open grassland, some stream habitat

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** Indian Valley Road; from the town of San Miguel, go east over the Salinas River, take the first left turn, and immediately another left turn. After a couple of miles, take the left fork again; this is Indian Valley Road. The parking lot is about 2 miles past this turn. Paved road all the way.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Only shotguns and bow and arrows may be possessed or used. Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** AAA - San Luis Obispo County; Wildlife area map

**COMMENTS:** California quail are of low to moderate abundance. Populations are stable. The quail are found in the river washes in the tree cover, or on the northern end of the site. The area is only large enough to provide hunting for a few groups per day. Hunting pressure is usually light. There are no facilities at the parking lot off of Indian Valley Road.

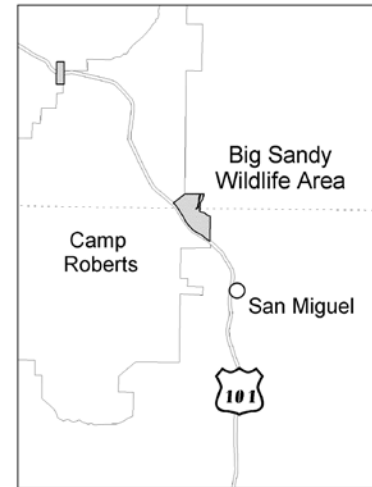
#### INFORMATION:

California Department of Fish and Game

20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100

Monterey, CA 93940-5729

(831) 649-2870



### NUMBER: 3-2

**AREA:** Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (CDF)

**COUNTY:** Lake

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, and band-tailed pigeon

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest

**TOPOGRAPHY:** About 3,500 acres; moderate to steep slopes from 2,360-3,750 feet elevation

**ACCESS:** Near Hobergs, the forest is accessed from Forestry Road off California Hwy 175.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No off-highway vehicles may be ridden on the forest. All vehicles must be licensed for highway driving and are to stay on designated forest roads. Hunting is permitted on this forest under applicable state game laws and regulations. Hunters should be extremely careful to avoid shooting around public and private residences and campgrounds. Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF) is surrounded by more than 70 adjoining property owners whose permission is needed to enter or hunt adjoining property. No public land adjoins BMDSF. Campfire and special use permits must be obtained prior to entering the area from the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection. Camping is allowed only in the designated campgrounds. There are self-registration forms available at the entrance to Calso Camp Campground.

**MAP FOR AREA:** USGS 7.5 minute quad: Whispering Pines

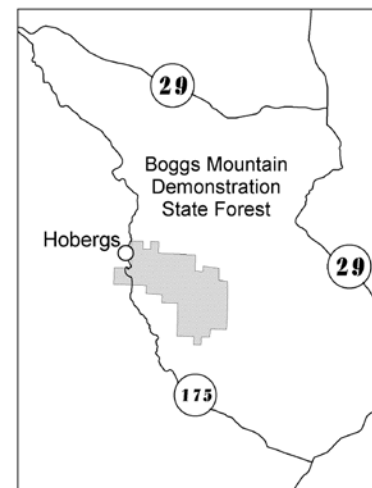
**COMMENTS:** Unimproved campgrounds are scattered throughout the forest. Camping, campfires, and use of gas stoves are limited to Calso and Ridge camps. The campground sites are located on the west side of the forest off BMDSF Road 500 approximately 1-1/4 mile from the Hwy 175/Forestry Road turnoff. Campsites consist of tables and fire rings. No water is available at the campsites. All accumulated trash must be packed out. There are 15 campsites at Calso Camp and two large sites at Ridge Camp.

#### INFORMATION:

Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest

P.O. Box 839

Cobb, CA 95426





**NUMBER: 3-3**

**AREA:** Caliente Range (BLM)

**COUNTY:** San Luis Obispo

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove, and cottontail rabbits

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Desert shrub lands, juniper forest

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling hills to steep

**ACCESS:** There is a hiking trail that goes from Hwy. 166 north into the hunting areas. There is a parking lot at the trailhead. Access includes the Selby Road on the north flank of the Caliente Range, in the Carrizo Plain. The access point for this road is from Soda Lake Road, roughly 17 miles south of Hwy. 58. This road is open to the Caliente Ridge parking lot until wet weather makes the road impassable. Much of the rest of this area is landlocked or has very indistinct boundaries, and it is easy to wander onto closed private land. Use BLM and USGS topo maps.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30 x 60 minute quad:

Taft. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Painted Rock, Chimineas Ranch, Taylor Canyon, Caliente Mountain, Wells Ranch, Cuyama, New Cuyama

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant. Populations are highly variable. The quail are found well scattered throughout the area. They are concentrated near water during the hunting season prior to the first rains. There are several guzzlers and other water sources on the Range. Hunting pressure is generally low. There are no facilities. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water, as there is none available.

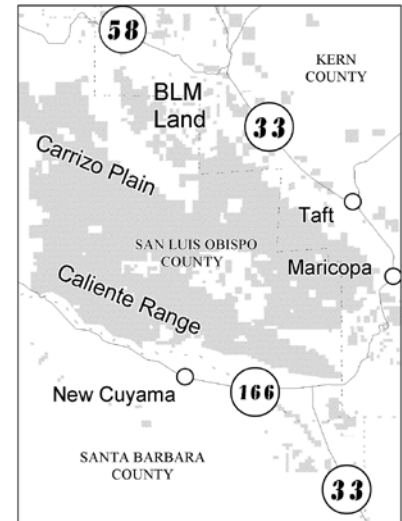
**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management

3801 Pegasus Drive

Bakersfield, CA 93308

(661) 391-6000



**NUMBER: 3-4**

**AREA:** Camp Roberts (USDOD) (Call taped information line to ensure military activity has not closed hunting)

**COUNTY:** Monterey, San Luis Obispo

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 35,000 acre National Guard Base; open grasslands, chaparral, streams, oak woodland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to gently rolling to steep

**ACCESS:** This area is open only on select days from April to December. There is an access fee. Call the taped information line for the latest information. Entrance is through the Check Station at the East Garrison Off-ramp from Hwy. 101, 40 miles south of King City, 15 miles north of Paso Robles. Roads on the base range from paved to rough 4-wheel drive jeep trails.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** A hunting permit is required. They are available at the check station. Some areas closed to access and hunting (see Camp Roberts hunting map). No overnight camping. Hunting restricted by military training.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Camp Roberts hunting map. BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quad: Paso Robles. USGS 7.5 minute quads: San Miguel, Bradley, Adelaide, Paso Robles

**COMMENTS:** California quail populations are moderate to high. They are moderately variable. The best quail hunting is found in hunting areas 2, 3, 4, 6, 7. Hunting pressure is usually low, except on opening weekends. The area can get quite busy with hunters because pig hunting is allowed during the same period. Facilities are limited to a few chemical toilets.

**INFORMATION:**

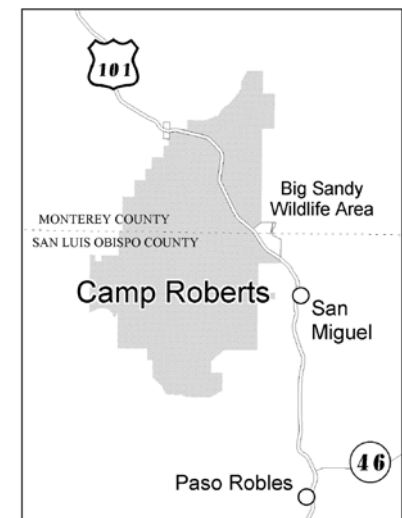
California Army National Guard

Headquarters Camp Roberts

Attn: Hunting and Fishing Program

Camp Roberts, CA 93451-5000

(805) 238 - 8167 (taped information)



**NUMBER: 3-5**

**AREA:** Chew's Ridge and Piney Creek - Los Padres National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Monterey

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Band-tailed pigeon

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, oak-grassland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Steep, with numerous deep cut streams

**ACCESS:** Off Carmel Valley Rd.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No shooting outside hunting season. U.S. Forest Service adventure pass required.

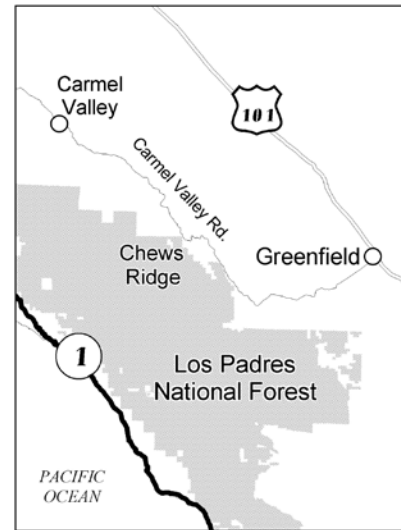
**MAP FOR AREA:** Los Padres National Forest

**COMMENTS:** Low to moderate populations of both species scattered throughout the area. California quail usually near water and open grassland. Mountain quail can be found near water before fall rains. Hunting pressure is low due steepness of terrain and dense chaparral. Difficult hunting. There are Forest Service campgrounds at China Camp, White Oak and at Chew's Ridge. There are no facilities at Piney Creek.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100  
Monterey, CA 93940-5729  
(831) 649-2870

U.S. Forest Service  
406 Mildred  
King City, CA 93930  
(831) 385-5434



**NUMBER: 3-6**

**AREA:** Clear Creek Management Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** San Benito

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, oak-grassland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderately steep with a few small streams and springs

**ACCESS:** From the north, off Panoche Road through New Idria. From the south off Los Gatos Canyon Road up Clear Creek. This is about 30 miles northwest of Coalinga.

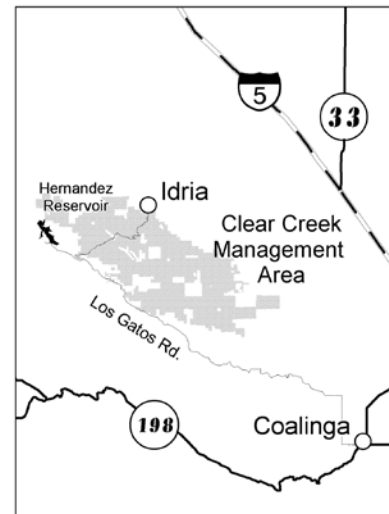
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quad: Coalinga, or BLM Clear Creek Management Area map

**COMMENTS:** There are moderate populations of California quail where water and grass occurs on the fringe areas outside the serpentine soils. Best populations are found at San Carlos Bolso and south of Condon Peak. Mountain quail are of low abundance, most of which are found in the area between Santa Rita and Condon Peak. Avoid the serpentine soils (looks green). Hunting pressure is low, but there is heavy off road vehicle use of the area. There are facilities off Coalinga Road at west entrance to Clear Creek.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, CA 95023  
(831) 630 - 5000



**NUMBER: 3-7**

**AREA:** Cow Mountain Recreation Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Lake, Mendocino

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, oak woodlands

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Generally rugged ridges and canyons

**ACCESS:** Scotts Creek Rd. runs through the area. Most visitors access the area from the Mendocino County side (west) on Mill Creek Road. Access from the east (Lake County) is from Scotts Creek Road.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Cow Mountain is divided between North Cow Mountain (vehicles allowed only on main road—no off road travel on firebreaks, secondary roads, etc.) and South Cow Mountain (a highly developed OHV area with more than 125 miles of four wheel drive, ATV and motorcycle trails). Both north and south Cow Mountain are open for hunting.

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quads: Ukiah, Lakeport, Healdsburg. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Highland Springs, Hopland, Lakeport, Purdys Gardens, Cow Mountain, Ukiah

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant. Mountain quail are of low abundance. Populations of both species are moderately variable. Both species are found in cover near water early in the season, and just about anywhere once fall rains have begun. The use of dogs is highly recommended because of the dense vegetation. Hunting pressure is low. There are campgrounds at Red Mountain, Willow creek, and Mayacmas Recreational sites.

**INFORMATION:**

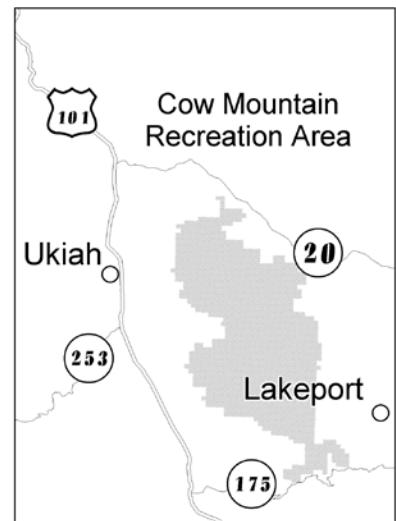
Bureau of Land Management

Ukiah Field Office

2550 North State Street

Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 468-4000



**NUMBER: 3-8**

**AREA:** Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation (USDOD) (Call taped information line to ensure military activity has not closed hunting.)

**COUNTY:** Monterey

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, oak-grassland and grassland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to rugged

**ACCESS:** Via Hwy. 101: Take "Jolon Road/Fort Hunter Liggett" exit, just north of King City and continue 20 miles west. Take Mission Road, then turn left just past the main gate. Wildlife check station is on left.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Hunting restricted by military training and limited to weekends and federal holidays. Hunting permits available by mail only. OHV use not permitted. Access fee. Mandatory hunter registration, check-in and check-out.

**MAP FOR AREA:** AAA - Monterey and San Benito Counties. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Cone Peak, Bear Canyon, Cosio Knob, Alder Peak, Jolon, Williams Hill, Burnett Peak

**COMMENTS:** There are moderate to high populations scattered throughout the base. Abundance is highly variable. California quail are found where water, grass and cover are in close proximity. Mountain quail are usually found in the rugged areas and near dense chaparral. Facilities include: water, chemical toilets, campground and public phone at check station. There are camping facilities at nearby Los Padres National Forest and more open hunting areas in the Indians area north of the fort. Billeting and restaurant available on post.

**INFORMATION:**

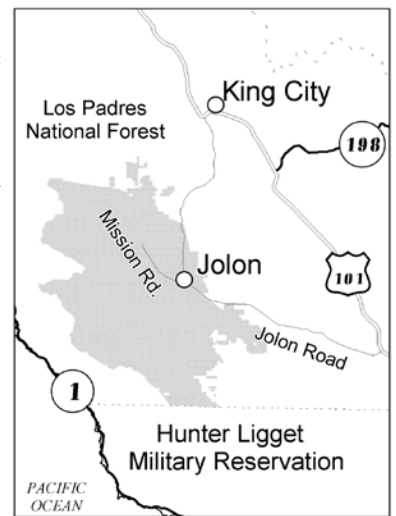
Commander, Fort Hunter Liggett

AFRC-FMH-DPW-E

P.O. Box 7091

Fort Hunter Liggett, CA 93928-7091

(831) 386 - 3310 (taped information)



**NUMBER: 3-9**

**AREA:** Jackson Demonstration State Forest (CDF)

**COUNTY:** Mendocino

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Band-tailed pigeon, cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, wild turkey and blue grouse

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 50,200 acres of mixed coniferous forest

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rugged and steep

**ACCESS:** Hwy. 20, between Fort Bragg and Willits

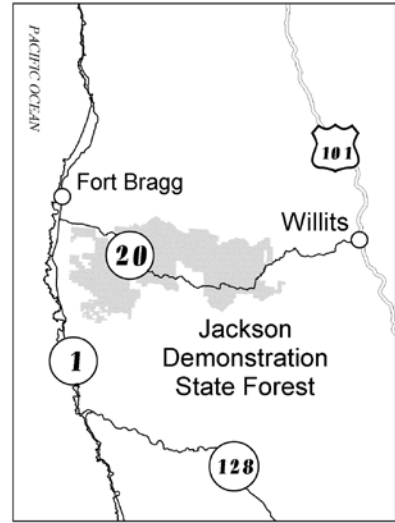
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Camping permits are required. Campfires only in designated camp sites. Check for seasonal road and campground closures. Certain areas are closed to hunting and use of firearms. Information and camping permits may be obtained at forest office in Fort Bragg.

**MAP FOR AREA:** USGS 7.5 minute quads: Fort Bragg, Mendocino, and 15 minute quad: Comptche. BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quad: Ukiah

**COMMENTS:** Due to dense timber, mountain quail populations are low and hunting pressure is low. There are numerous improved camping areas within the forest. No potable water is provided.

**INFORMATION:**

Jackson Demonstration State Forest  
802 North Main Street  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
(707) 964-5674



**NUMBER: 3-10**

**AREA:** Knoxville Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Napa, Yolo. BLM land is adjacent to wildlife area in Lake, Napa, and Yolo counties.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Gray squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, and wild turkey.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Ridges and rugged valleys. The terrain is rugged, with elevations ranging from 1,000 feet to 2,200 feet.

**ACCESS:** The Knoxville Wildlife Area (8,200 acres) is accessed from the north in Lake County via Highway 29 to Lower Lake to Morgan Valley Road past the McLaughlin Mine where it becomes the Knoxville-Berryessa Road in Napa County (approximately 17 miles). The wildlife area is also accessed on the southern side via Highway 128 East (Napa County) through Rutherford to Knoxville-Berryessa Road (approximately 23 miles) or Highway 128 West through Winters (approximately 29 miles). To access adjacent BLM lands, take Knoxville Devilhead Rd. off Berryessa Knoxville Rd. just north of Knoxville (is only road into area). Most of wildlife area access restricted to foot or horse traffic.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specifics.

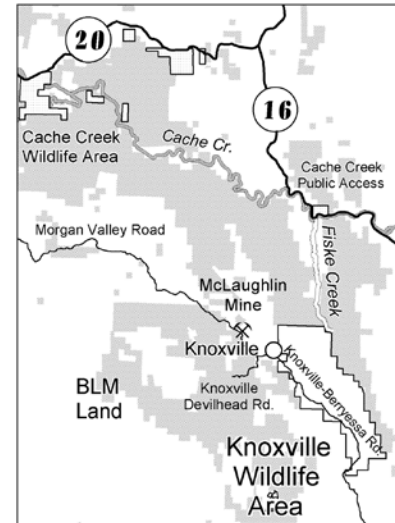
**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quad: Healdsburg. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Jericho Valley, Walter Springs, Aetna Springs, Knoxville.

**COMMENTS:** Both quail species are generally of low abundance in this area, with California quail being the more abundant species. They are found in the gullies, and around streams and springs. Hunting pressure is low due to access. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:** Knoxville Wildlife Area is patrolled by DFG wardens. In case of emergency please call 911. To obtain information or hunting regulations on Knoxville Wildlife Area please see the Department of Fish and Game website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov> or call Bureau of Land Management for information on BLM lands in the area.

Bureau of Land Management  
Ukiah Field Office  
2550 North State Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 468-4000

Department of Fish and Game  
Central Coast Region  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Yountville, CA 94599  
(707) 944-5531



**NUMBER: 3-11**

**AREA:** Laguna Mountain - Sweetwater Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** San Benito

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, oak-grassland, and small intermittent creeks

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Steep mountains

**ACCESS:** Off Los Gatos Rd. approximately 20 miles northeast of King City or 32 miles northwest of Coalinga. All hiking access from parking lot or access point on road.

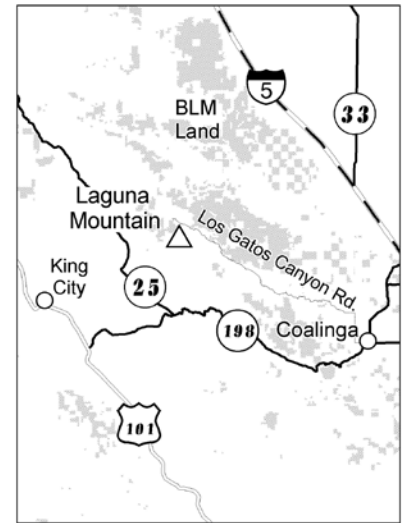
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM area map - Laguna Mountain Area

**COMMENTS:** Moderately abundant coveys of California quail are found near creeks and springs in the vicinity of oak-grassland and chaparral. Populations are highly variable. Hunting pressure is low due to hiking access only and dense chaparral.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, CA 95023  
(831) 630 - 5000



**NUMBER: 3-12**

**AREA:** Los Padres National Forest - Santa Lucia Ranger District (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Monterey and San Luis Obispo

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Band-tailed pigeon, cottontail rabbit and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Varies from fairly open shrublands to dense chaparral

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling hills to very steep and rugged

**ACCESS:** Roads vary from paved to rough 4-wheel drive.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Area subject to special area closures for resource protection. U.S. Forest Service adventure pass required.

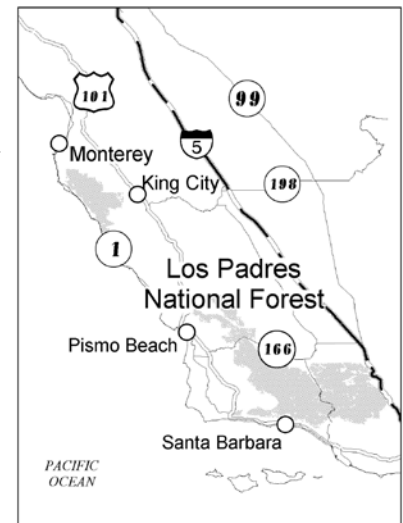
**MAP FOR AREA:** Los Padres National Forest

**COMMENTS:** California quail are abundant throughout the forest in suitable habitat. There are many water developments of all kinds throughout that tend to concentrate the quail in some areas. Many of the intermittent streams have habitat that supports good populations. Populations are highly variable. Mountain quail are found in the central portion of the forest, roughly from Black Mtn. to Machesna Mtn., Garcia Ridge area. They are usually found in the steeper, brush portions of the forest. Their populations are not high anywhere, but they can be found in many areas along with the California quail. There are more open hunting areas on the ocean side of the forest. Hunting pressure is moderate. Facilities are limited to primitive campgrounds. Little potable water.

**INFORMATION:**

Los Padres National Forest  
6755 Hollister Avenue, Suite 150  
Goleta, CA 93117  
(805) 968-6640

Los Padres National Forest  
1616 Carlotti Drive  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 925-9538



**NUMBER: 3-13**

**AREA:** Mendocino National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and Tehama

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail and California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Mixed hardwoods, conifer forests and chaparral

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rugged valleys and ridges

**ACCESS:** Numerous Forest Service roads

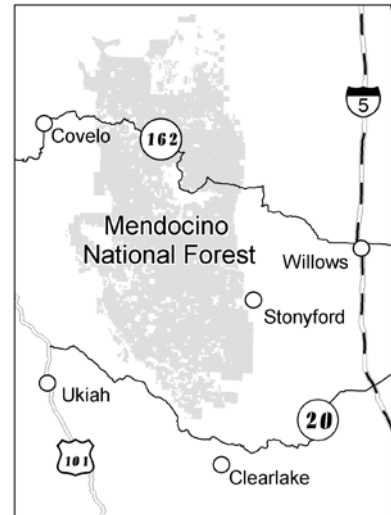
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Contact local Ranger Station

**MAP FOR AREA:** Mendocino National Forest

**COMMENTS:** Both mountain quail and California quail can be found near water just about anywhere in the area. The trick is finding them in an area that is accessible enough to hunt. Much of the forest is densely vegetated and difficult to walk through.

**INFORMATION:**

Mendocino National Forest  
825 N. Humboldt Avenue  
Willows, CA 95988  
(530) 934-3316



**NUMBER: 3-14**

**AREA:** Stockdale Mountain (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Monterey

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** None

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, some islands of oak-grassland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate to very steep canyons

**ACCESS:** From San Miguel, cross Salinas River to the east, go two miles north to Vineyard Canyon Rd. Go northeast on Vineyard Canyon Rd. for approximately 15 miles. Turn left (north) at Slacks Canyon Road and drive approximately seven miles to parking lot at end of road. The last three miles of this road is dirt and can be impassable when wet.

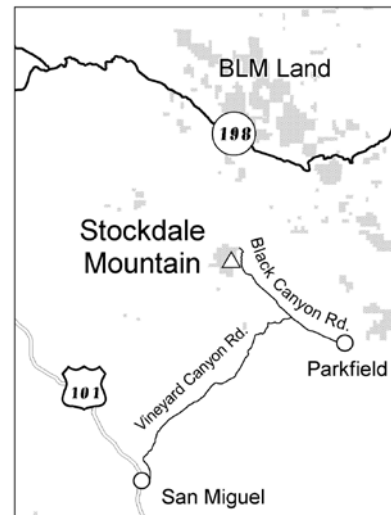
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 quad: Paso Robles

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant and highly variable. They are found near water. Hunting pressure is low due to hiking access only. No facilities. No water. Hunters are reminded to respect private property boundaries as much of the land adjacent to BLM land is in private ownership.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, CA 95023  
(831) 630 - 5000



**NUMBER: 3-15**

**AREA:** Tumey Hill and Griswold Hills Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** San Benito, Fresno

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Arid brush-grassland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Steep, numerous rocky outcroppings

**ACCESS:** Three miles south of Panoche on New Idria Rd.

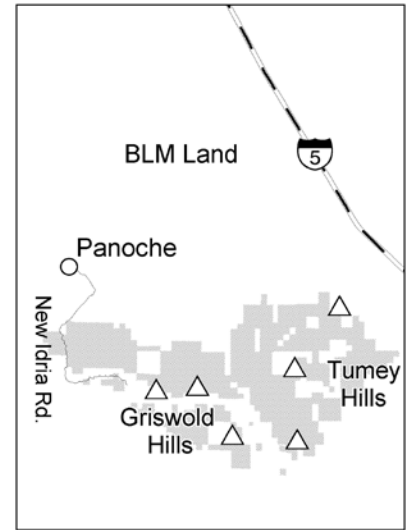
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 quad: Mendota. AAA-Monterey and San Benito Counties. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Panoche, Tumey Hills, Hernandez Reservoir, Idria.

**COMMENTS:** Moderate populations of California quail. Size of population is highly variable. Are most often near water. Hunting pressure is light to moderate due partially to steep hiking access.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, CA 95023  
(831) 630 - 5000



**REGION 4: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AND SOUTHERN SIERRA REGION**

**NUMBER: 4-1**

**AREA:** Stanislaus National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Alpine, Calaveras, Mariposa and Tuolumne.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Blue grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, mourning dove, band-tailed pigeon, wild turkey, gray squirrel, cottontail rabbit, white-tailed and black-tailed jackrabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Approximately 898,000 acres; varies from oak/grasslands, chaparral, mixed conifer to sub-alpine vegetation.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling hills to extremely steep terrain.

**ACCESS:** Major routes include Highways 4, 49, 108 and 120. Also, there are many county roads into the area.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting or possession of firearms in State Game Refuge (see Forest Service map).

**MAP FOR AREA:** U. S. Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest.

**COMMENTS:** California quail area moderately abundant below 5,000 feet elevation, and are found along streams and near other water sources. Mountain quail are found above 3,000 feet near clear cuts, streams and meadows, they are moderately abundant. Both species are moderately variable. Hunting pressure is light to moderate. There are some developed campgrounds.

**INFORMATION:**

Stanislaus National Forest  
19777 Greenley Road  
Sonora, California 95370  
(209) 532-3671

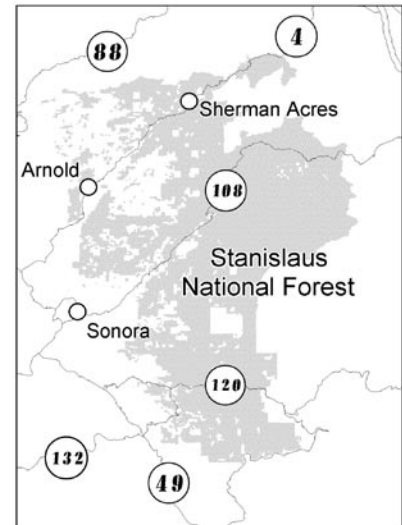
Mi-Wuk Ranger District  
Post Office Box 100  
Mi-Wuk Village, California  
95346  
(209) 586-3234

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005

Calaveras Ranger District  
Post Office Box 500  
Hathaway Pines, California 95233  
(209) 962-7825

Summit Ranger District  
No. 1 Pinecrest Lake Road  
Pinecrest, California 95364  
(209) 965-3434

Groveland Ranger District  
24545 Old Highway 120  
Groveland, CA 95321  
(209) 962-7825



**NUMBER: 4-2**

**AREA:** Squaw Leap Management Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Fresno and Madera

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Wild turkey, mourning dove, band-tailed pigeon, gray squirrel and cottontail rabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 4,600 acres; oak/grassland, mixed oaks, chaparral and scattered conifers.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Elevation varies from 900 to 2,000 feet. Rolling hills to steep terrain.

**ACCESS:** Located approximately five miles northwest of the town of Auberry. From Auberry proceed north on Auberry Road; turn left on Power House Road; turn left on Smalley Road to Squaw Leap Management Area.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Only game birds and game mammals may be taken during the open season. Ground squirrels and coyotes are not game species.

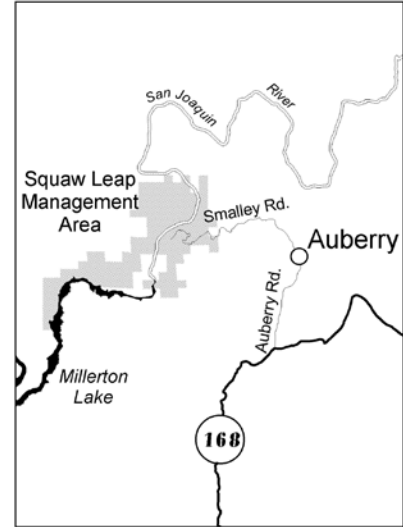
**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management Status 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Shaver Lake. U. S. Forest Service - Sierra National Forest.

**COMMENTS:** Good populations of California quail; limited population of other upland game species.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
Post Office Box 171  
Auberry, California 93602  
(559) 855-3492

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-3**

**AREA:** Kinsman Flat Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Madera.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Wild turkey, mourning dove, band-tailed pigeon, gray squirrel and cottontail rabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 510 acres; mixed oaks, chaparral and scattered conifers.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Elevation approximately 3,600 feet; located on a rolling bench.

**ACCESS:** From the town of North Fork, travel east on the Minarets Road for approximately 15 miles; turn south on Wiki-up Ranch Road; turn east on Arrowhead Road to Wildlife Area.

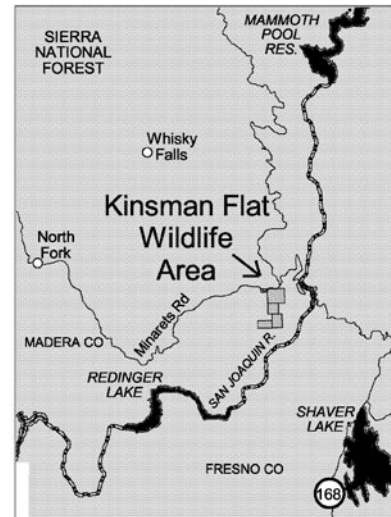
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Only shotguns and archery equipment are permitted during the spring turkey season. Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specifics.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area Map; United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series (topographic) Musick Mountain Quadrangle.

**COMMENTS:** Quail populations are moderate; other upland game species are scarce. No camping or trailers.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005





**NUMBER: 4-4**

**AREA:** Hensley Lake (ACOE)

**COUNTY:** Madera.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and cottontail rabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Oak/grasslands and chaparral.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling foothills to moderate terrain.

**ACCESS:** From Highway 99 at Chowchilla proceed east on Avenue 26; turn south on Road 29; turn east on Road 603 to Hensley Lake.

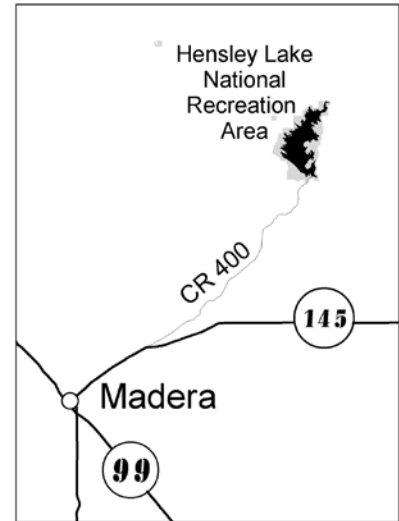
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Hunting is allowed only in the 500-acre wildlife area (see United States Army Corps of Engineers map). Shotgun only—no rifles.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Hensley Lake (available from United States Army Corps of Engineers).

**COMMENTS:** Small population of California quail and other upland game species.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Hensley Lake  
Post Office Box 85  
Raymond, California 93653-0085  
(559) 673-5151



California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005

**NUMBER: 4-5**

**AREA:** Pine Flat Reservoir (ACOE)

**COUNTY:** Fresno.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Wild turkey, mourning dove, band-tailed pigeon, gray squirrel and cottontail rabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Oak/grassland, mixed chaparral.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate to very steep terrain.

**ACCESS:** Located east of Fresno. Travel southeast on State Highway 180 to Trimmer Springs Road; continue east to Lake. Travel east on Highway 168; east on Sample Road; south on Pitman Hill Road; east on Watts Valley Road; south on Maxson Road to Lake.

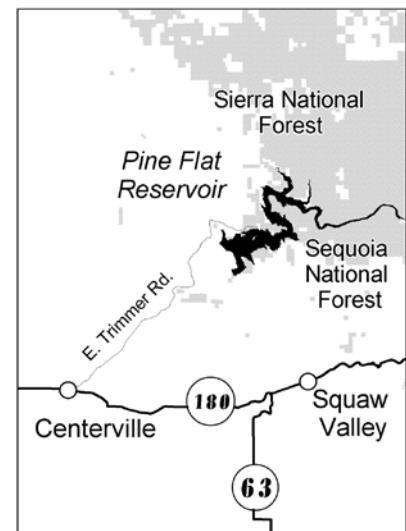
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** There are some special closures; check with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) before hunting.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Pine Flat Lake (available from United States Army Corps of Engineers).

**COMMENTS:** Low to moderate populations of quail and other upland game species.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Pine Flat Lake  
P.O. Box 117  
Piedra, California 93649-0117  
(559) 787-2589



California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005

**NUMBER: 4-6**

**AREA:** Tumey Hills Management Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Fresno and San Benito

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove and cottontail rabbit.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 23,000 acres; arid brush/grassland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate to very steep.

**ACCESS:** Tumey Hills access is 5 miles west of Highway I-5 on Panoche Road.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Gates open from Friday before opening of quail season until April 1.

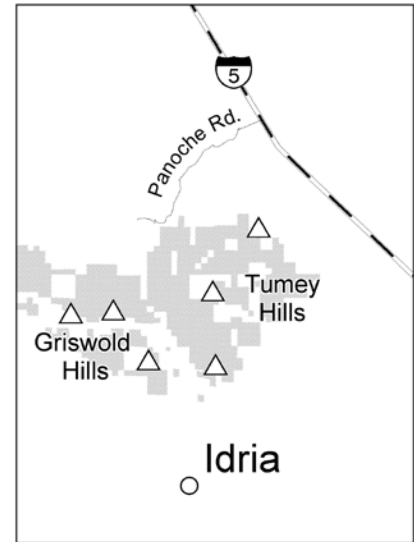
**MAP FOR AREA:** United States Bureau of Land Management Surface Management Status, 30x60-minute Quadrangle; Mendota. United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Panoche, Tumey Hills, Hernandez Reservoir, Idria.

**COMMENTS:** Low to moderate populations of California quail and other upland game species.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, California 95023  
(831) 630-5000

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-7**

**AREA:** Black Mountain Area (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Kern.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge and mourning dove.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Creosote bush scrub.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Mountainous; elevation 3,800 to 5,200 feet.

**ACCESS:** Highway 395 on east; Garlock Road on south; and Redrock-Inyokern on west. Area has many dirt access roads, both 4-wheel drive and 2-wheel drive. Recommend 4-wheel drive for interior access. Most of the Blackrock Mountain area is closed to Off-Highway Vehicle use, with access limited to the base of the mountain.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

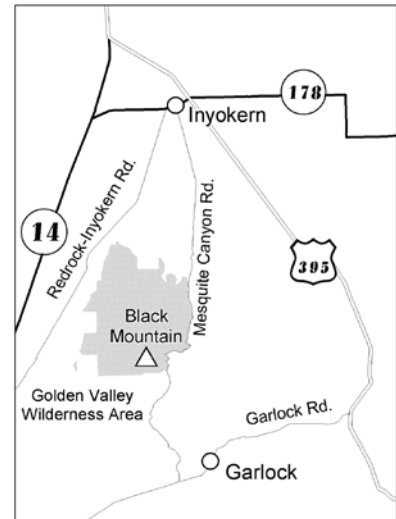
**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Ridgecrest and Cuddeback Lake. El Paso Mountains Motorized Vehicle Access Guide (United States Bureau of Land Management map). United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Garlock, Saltdale Northwest.

**COMMENTS:** California quail are of low abundance and highly variable. They are found around springs with atriplex patches. Hunting pressure is low. Chukar are moderately abundant and are found throughout the area near water.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
Ridgecrest Field Office  
300 South Richmond Road  
Ridgecrest, California 93555-4436

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-8**

**AREA:** Eastman Lake (ACOE)

**COUNTY:** Madera and Mariposa.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit and black-tailed jackrabbit.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Oak/grassland and chaparral.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling foothills to moderate and steep terrain around upper end of reservoir.

**ACCESS:** East on Avenue 26 at Chowchilla; then north on County Road 29 to Eastman Lake.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Hunting is allowed in the wildlife management area (see United States Army Corps of Engineers map) on the Lakeview Trail east of the Chowchilla River, and on the entire upper portion of the Chowchilla River north of Raymond Bridge (quail are most abundant in this area). Shotgun only—no rifles.

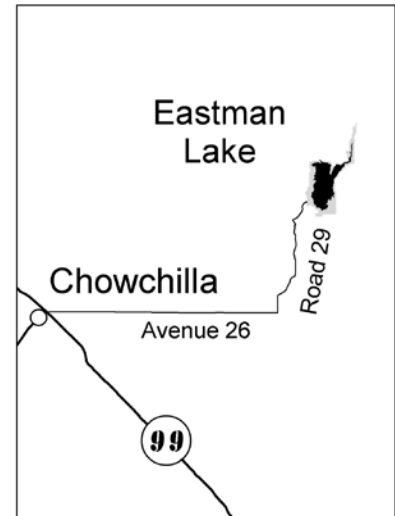
**MAP FOR AREA:** Eastman Lake (available from United States Army Corps of Engineers).

**COMMENTS:** This small area has moderate populations of California quail throughout the wildlife area. However, hunting them can be difficult because much of the area on the upper end is narrow, allowing the quail to escape easily. These coveys must be hunted from along the area boundary. Hunting pressure is moderate.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 67  
Raymond, California 93653-0067  
(559) 689-3255

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-9**

**AREA:** El Paso Mountains (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Kern.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail, Gambel’s quail and mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Creosote bush scrub with mixed atriplex.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Gentle rolling hills to steep rocky mountains from 2,500 to 4,500 feet elevation.

**ACCESS:** Highway 395 on east; Highway 14 on west; Garlock Road on south; and Inyokern Road on north. Area has many dirt access roads, both 4-wheel drive and 2-wheel drive. Recommend 4-wheel drive for interior access.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

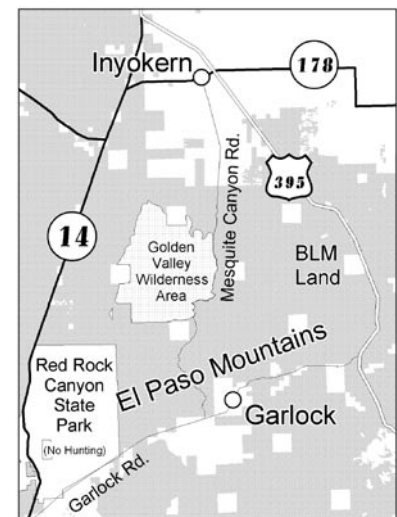
**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Ridgecrest and Cuddeback Lake. El Paso Mountains Motorized Vehicle Access Map (United States Bureau of Land Management map).

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant; Gambel’s quail are of low abundance; and mountain quail are of very low abundance. The abundance of all three is highly variable. Most of the quail can be found around springs and guzzlers. California quail and Gambel’s quail are mostly found in the eastern and southern portions of the range where there are good stands of Atriplex. Mountain quail are in the higher elevations. Chukar are moderately abundant and found throughout the range. Look for areas with good stands of cheat grass. Hunting pressure is usually heavy on opening weekend and moderate to low during the remainder of the season.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
Ridgecrest Field Office  
300 South Richmond Road  
Ridgecrest, California 93555-4436  
(760) 384-5400

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710



**NUMBER: 4-10**

**AREA:** Inyo National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Inyo and Mono.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove, blue grouse, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed and white-tailed jackrabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,800,000 acres. Black bush-creosote bush scrub, pine forest.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Elevations from 4,000 to over 10,000 feet; generally steep, rugged terrain.

**ACCESS:** Highway 395 on east; Nine Mile Canyon - Kennedy Meadows Road on the south and west.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Inyo National Forest and Sequoia National Forest.

**COMMENTS:** Both species are of low abundance. The California quail are highly variable and the mountain quail are fairly stable. The California quail are generally found at the lower elevations on the east side of the Sierras in association with brush. Mountain quail are found in the higher elevations in brush fields associated with water and meadows. They migrate to lower elevations in winter months.

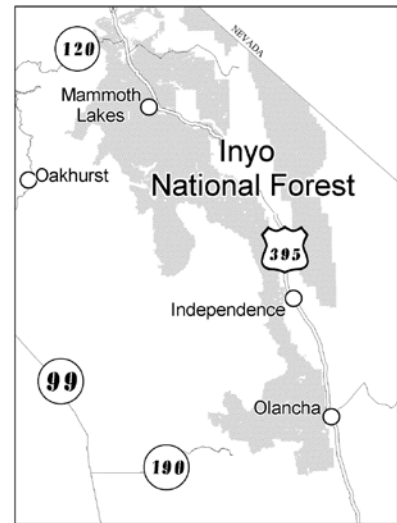
**INFORMATION:**

Inyo National Forest  
873 North Main Street  
Bishop, California 93514  
(760) 873-2400 (760) 873-2538 TDD

Mt. Whitney Ranger District  
Post Office Box 8  
Lone Pine, California 93545  
(760) 876-6200

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005

White Mountain Ranger District  
798 North Main Street  
Bishop, California 93514  
(760) 873-2500  
Mammoth Ranger Station  
Post Office Box 148  
Mammoth Lakes, California 93546



**NUMBER: 4-11**

**AREA:** Jawbone Canyon - Chuckwalla Mountain (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Kern.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Desert scrub.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate to steep.

**ACCESS:** Jawbone Canyon Road from Highway 14.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

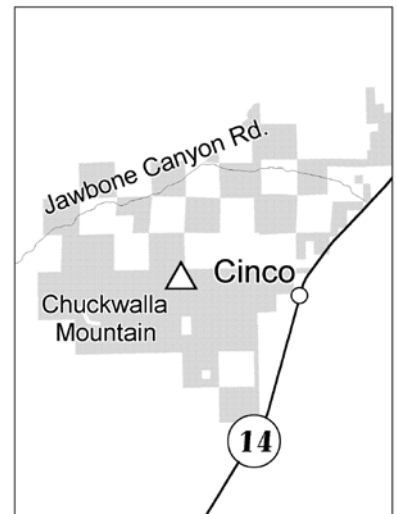
**MAP FOR AREA:** United States Bureau of Land Management Surface Status 30x60-minute Quadrangle: Tehachapi; United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Cinco, Cross Mountain.

**COMMENTS:** California quail populations can be high following years of good rainfall. They are found near water and shrub cover in and along the washes. There are no facilities available.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
Ridgecrest Field Office  
300 South Richmond Road  
Ridgecrest, California 93555-4436  
(760) 384-5400

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-12**

**AREA:** Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Fresno.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Black-tailed jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit, and mourning dove.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 828 acres; brush/grassland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling terrain.

**ACCESS:** Five miles west of Highway I-5 on Little Panoche Road.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Only shotguns and archery equipment may be possessed or used. Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

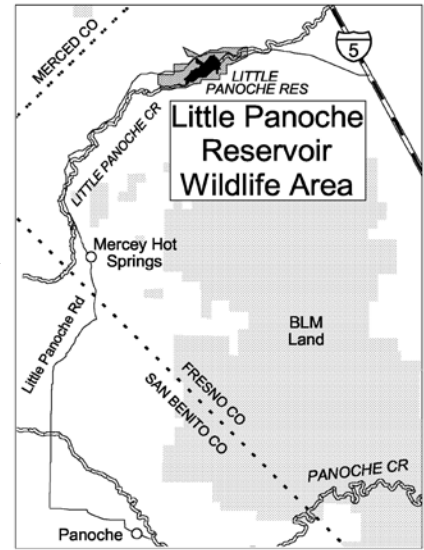
**MAP FOR AREA:** United States Bureau of Land Management Surface Management Status 30x60-minute Quadrangle: Mendota. United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Laguna Seca Ranch. California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map.

**COMMENTS:** During good years, there can be several coveys on the area. However, high hunting pressure and easy access combine to make hunting very difficult after the opening weekend. The size of the quail population can fluctuate widely from year to year. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
Los Banos Wildlife Area  
18110 West Henry Miller Avenue  
Los Banos, California 93635  
(209) 826-0463

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-13**

**AREA:** Long Hollow, Juniper Ridge, Dripping Springs and Curry Mountain Areas (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Fresno.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, juniper and open grassland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Almost entirely steep and rugged with a few valleys and sloping hills.

**ACCESS:** There are two access routes into the Long Hollow, Juniper Ridge and Dripping Springs areas. One at the end of Coalinga Mineral Springs Road (13 miles west of Coalinga on Highway 198), and the other is approximately 3 miles north on Coalinga Mineral Springs Road from its intersection with Highway 198. Both are foot or horseback access only. Access to Curry Mountain is from the south side of Highway 198, approximately 6 miles west of Coalinga. Again, access is by foot only.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

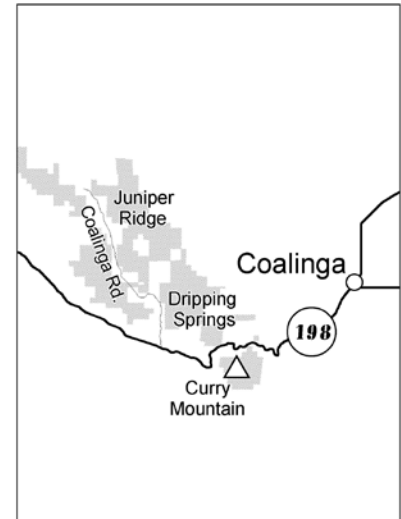
**MAP FOR AREA:** United States Bureau of Land Management Surface Management Status 30x60-minute Quadrangle: Priest, Sherman Peak, Alcalde Hills, Smith Mountain, and Curry Mountain.

**COMMENTS:** The Curry Mountain area has a very low quail population. California quail are low to moderate abundance on the other areas. No facilities available.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, California 95023  
(831) 630-5000

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-14**

**AREA:** Panoche Hills (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Fresno.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove, cottontail rabbits and black-tailed jackrabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 35,000+ acres; arid brush/grassland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate to very steep.

**ACCESS:** Mercey Hot Springs Road (near the Mercey Hot Springs Resort).

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Gates open from Friday before opening of quail season until April 1.

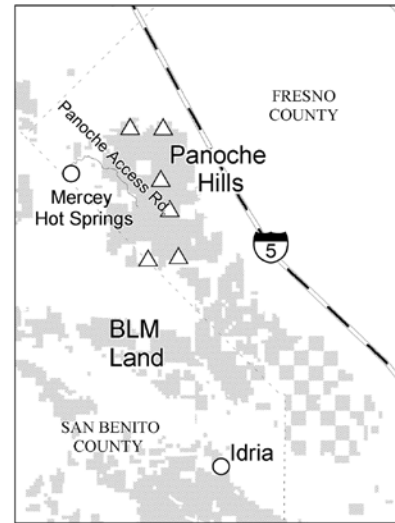
**MAP FOR AREA:** United States Bureau of Land Management Surface Management Status 30x60-minute Quadrangle: Mendota. United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Laguna Seca Ranch, Mercey Hot Springs, Chounet Ranch.

**COMMENTS:** Populations of California quail vary greatly and are generally low.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, California 95023  
(831) 630-5000

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710



**NUMBER: 4-15**

**AREA:** Rand Mountains (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Kern.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and Gambel's quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove and black-tailed jackrabbit.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Creosote bush scrub.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Steep rocky hills between 2,000 and 3,000 feet elevation.

**ACCESS:** Off Highway 395 via Randsburg and Red Mountain, from Garlock - Randsburg Road; and from California City via Red Mountain Road. Numerous 4-wheel drive and motorcycle trails. Extremely rugged terrain; travel with caution.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

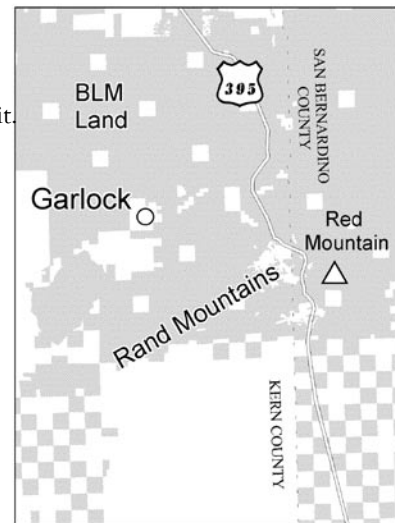
**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Cuddeback Lake. Rand Mountains Motorized Vehicle Access Routes (United States Bureau of Land Management map), and United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Saltdale Southeast, Cantil, Johannesburg Southwest.

**COMMENTS:** Both California quail and Gambel's quail are of low abundance. Populations are highly variable from year to year; are found near guzzlers in canyon areas. Hunting pressure is low.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
300 South Richmond Road  
Ridgecrest, California 93555-4436  
(760) 384-5400

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-16**

**AREA:** Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Fresno, Kern and Tulare.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, wild turkey, blue grouse, mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, and white-tailed and black-tailed jackrabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,088,000 acres; mountain chaparral, oak woodland, pine fir forest.

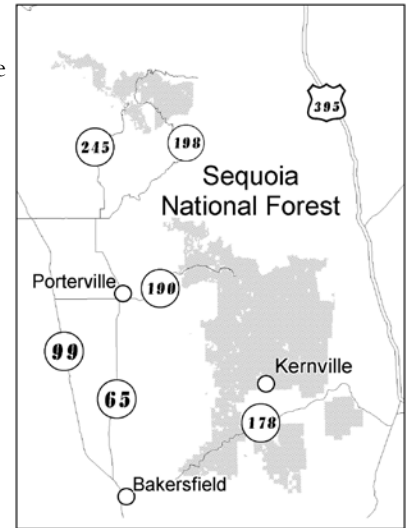
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Elevations range from 900 to more than 12,000 feet, with mostly mountainous terrain.

**ACCESS:** Mountain Highway 99 from Kernville; Nine Mile Canyon Road from Highway 395; Chimney Peak Road from Highway 178. From Fresno, east on Highway 180. From Visalia, northeast on Highway 245 or County Road J-21, or on Highway 190 east from Porterville.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Sequoia National Forest

**COMMENTS:** Both mountain and California quail are moderately abundant, but have variable populations. California quail are mostly found at lower elevations and associated with brush fields. Mountain quail are found at higher elevations through the fall, migrating to the oak belt as winter snows begin. In the fall, look for quail along the edges of meadows and in the winter in the brush fields associated with oaks. Hunting pressure for California quail on opening and holiday weekends is high; rest of season low. Hunting pressure on mountain quail is low. Numerous developed campgrounds and undeveloped camping sites can be found throughout the forest.



**INFORMATION:**

United States Forest Service  
900 West Grand Avenue  
Porterville, California 93257-2035  
(559) 784-1500

Tule River Ranger District  
32588 Highway 190  
Springville, California 93265  
(559) 539-2607

Hot Springs Ranger District  
43474 Parker Pass Drive  
Route 4, Box 548  
California Hot Springs, California 93207  
(661) 548-6503

Cannell Meadow Ranger District  
105 Whitney Road  
Post Office Box 9  
Kernville, California 93238  
(760) 376-3781

Hume Lake Ranger District  
35860 East Kings Canyon Road  
Dunlap, California 93621  
(559) 338-2251

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005

Greenhorn Ranger District  
4875 Ponderosa Drive  
Post Office Box 3810  
Lake Isabella, California 93240  
(760) 379-5646

**NUMBER: 4-17**

**AREA:** Sheep Ridge (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Tulare.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral and oak woodland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Steep.

**ACCESS:** Highway 198 east to Three Rivers; north on North Fork Drive to end of road. Department of Fish and Game owns 80 acres here that allows foot access to 6,000 acres of United States Bureau of Land Management land. North Fork Drive is dirt and can be easily rutted.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

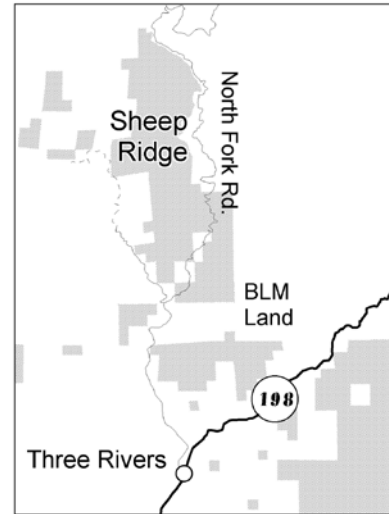
**MAP FOR AREA:** Sequoia National Forest.

**COMMENTS:** Quail are scattered throughout the area near water (before “green-up”). Hunting pressure is low, not for lack of quail, but because of difficult terrain. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
3801 Pegasus Drive  
Bakersfield, California 93308-6837  
(661) 391-6000

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-18**

**AREA:** Sierra National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Inyo and Mono

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Gray squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, blue grouse, wild turkey, cottontail rabbit, and white-tailed and black-tailed jackrabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,200,000 acres; chaparral, yellow pine and red fir forests.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat meadows to steep ridges and canyons.

**ACCESS:** Highways 41, 49, 140 and 168. Also, there are many county roads into the area.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Sierra National Forest.

**COMMENTS:** California quail are found to about 5,000 feet elevation, with low to moderate populations. Mountain quail are moderately to highly abundant throughout the forest. They are usually found near water, meadow systems, new tree plantations, and logged areas with good stands of mountain whitethorn. Mountain quail populations are good to excellent eight out of ten years. Hunting pressure is moderate. There are numerous campground facilities available.

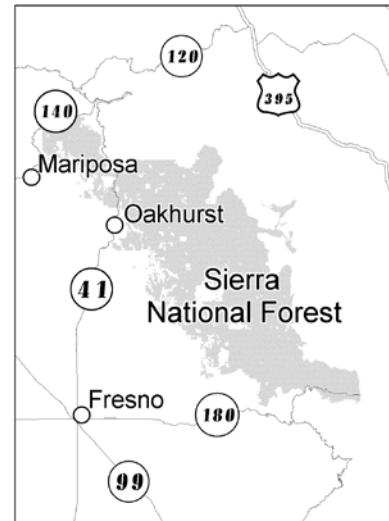
**INFORMATION:**

United States Forest Service  
Sierra National Forest  
1600 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, California 93611-0532  
(559) 297-0706

Bass Lake Ranger District  
Post Office Box 10  
North Fork, California 93643  
(559) 877-2218

High Sierra Ranger District  
P. O. Box 559  
Prather, California 93651  
(559) 855-5360

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005





**NUMBER: 4-19**

**AREA:** Temblor Mountain Range (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Kern and San Luis Obispo.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove, cottontail rabbit and black-tailed jackrabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Atriplex scrub.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Gentle rolling hills to steep, rocky ridges and canyons.

**ACCESS:** Crocker Springs Road via Mocal Road via Highway 33, northwest of Fellows; and Elkhorn Grade Road via Highway 33, south of Maricopa. Four-wheel drive is strongly recommended for the entire area in wet weather.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None.

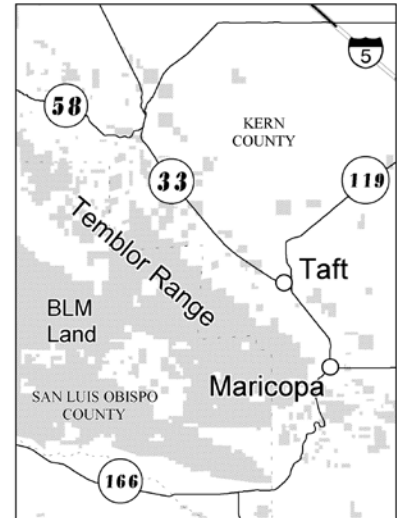
**MAP FOR AREA:** United States Bureau of Land Management Surface Management Status 30x60-minute Quadrangle: Taft. United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Maricopa, Elkhorn Hills, Fellows, Panorama Hills and Reward.

**COMMENTS:** California quail populations are highly variable, ranging from low, following dry years, to high following two or three wet years. They are found near guzzlers before "green-up"; moderate in number during opening weekend, and low to moderate thereafter.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
3801 Pegasus Drive  
Bakersfield, California 93308-6837  
(661) 391-6000

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-20**

**AREA:** Walker Pass (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Kern.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, black-tailed jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit and mourning dove.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Pinyon-sage and creosote bush scrub.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** From low elevation, flat ground to steep rocky mountains. Elevation ranges from 3,500 to 6,000 feet.

**ACCESS:** Highway 14 on the east; Highway 178 on the north; and Kelso Valley - Jawbone Canyon on the south. Many dirt roads, both 4-wheel drive and 2-wheel drive. Scodie Mountains access is restricted to 4-wheel drive or motorcycle.

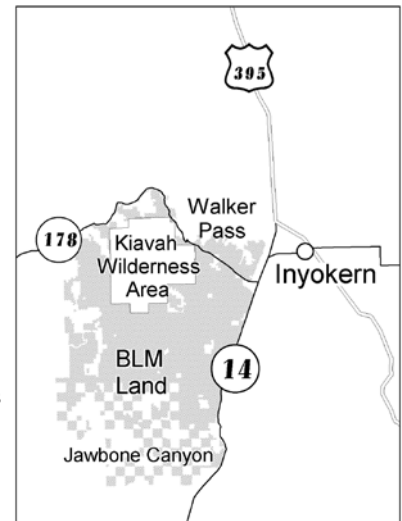
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Some vehicle closures.

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Ridgecrest. Walker Pass Vehicle Access Map and Jawbone Canyon Vehicle Access Map available from the United States Bureau of Land Management. United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Dove Springs, Cinco, Pinyon Peak, Cross Mountain, Horse Canyon, Cane Canyon, Walker Pass, Onyx.

**COMMENTS:** California quail and mountain quail are moderately abundant, but annual numbers are variable. California quail are found near springs and guzzlers in canyons. Mountain quail are found at higher elevations in pinyon-sage habitat. Hunting pressure is moderate to high, especially on opening weekend.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
300 South Richmond Road  
Ridgecrest, California 93555-4436  
(760) 384-5400



**NUMBER: 4-21**

**AREA:** Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (Lower Cottonwood Creek Unit and Upper Cottonwood Unit) (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Merced.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit and black-tailed jackrabbit.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 6,316 acres of oak grassland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate to steep sloped ridges.

**ACCESS:** Foot access only. There are parking lots which are accessible from Highway 152.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Only shotguns and archery equipment may be possessed or used on Lower Cottonwood Unit. Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

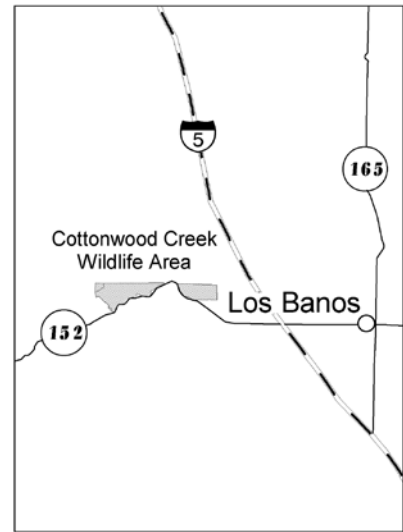
**MAP FOR AREA:** United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute Quadrangle; San Luis Dam, Pacheco Pass, Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area Map.

**COMMENTS:** The quail are of low abundance on the area. The best hunting requires considerable walking. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
Los Banos Wildlife Area  
18110 West Henry Miller Avenue  
Los Banos, California 93635  
(209) 826-0463

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-22**

**AREA:** New Melones Lake - Peoria Ridge Wildlife Area (BOR, BLM).

**COUNTY:** Tuolumne.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Gray squirrel, cottontail rabbit, mourning dove and wild turkey.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Approximately 2,500 acres of blue oak grassland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Ranges from rolling hills to rugged and very steep.

**ACCESS:** State Highway 120/108 to O'Byrnes Ferry Road and New Peoria Flat Road. By boat from New Melones Reservoir.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No vehicles are allowed on the area. Contact BOR New Melones Lake for further information on access, boundaries, lake conditions and regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** USGS Quadrangles, BLM Boundaries and Land Status maps available from BLM. BOR New Melones Lake recreation map available at the visitors information center.

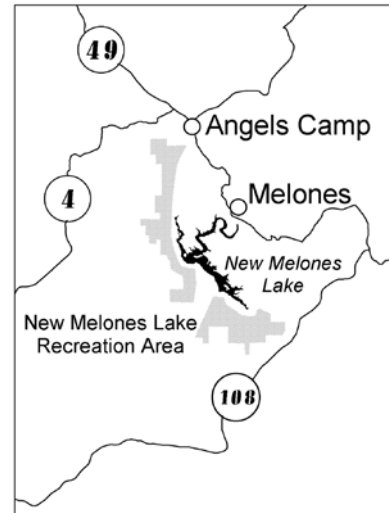
**COMMENTS:** Contact BOR New Melones Lake visitors center for maps and additional information to prevent potential trespass problems with adjacent private landholders. Quail populations range from locally abundant to scarce and are scattered, depending upon habitat quality and water availability.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Reclamation  
New Melones Lake - CVP  
6850 Stud Horse Flat Road  
Sonora, California 95370  
(209) 536-9094

United States Bureau of Land Management  
Folsom Field Office  
63 Natoma Street  
Folsom, California 95630  
(916) 985-4474

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-23**

**AREA:** Tuolumne and Mariposa Planning Unit (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Mariposa and Tuolumne.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Gray squirrel, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, mourning dove and wild turkey.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Approximately 90,000 acres in blocks of several sections to small scattered 40-acre parcels; primarily chaparral and oak grasslands vegetation.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Ranges from rolling hills to rugged and very steep.

**ACCESS:** State Highway 49 and secondary roads. By boat from various reservoirs. Mostly 2-wheel drive during dry weather, but high-clearance vehicles are recommended.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** A no-shooting zone occurs in the entire Red Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern (along the road between Crimea House and Chinese Camp). No hunting is allowed on BLM lands along the lower Merced River in Mariposa County. Consult with BLM for specific regulations in these areas.

**MAP FOR AREA:** USGS Quadrangles, BLM Unit Boundaries and Land Status maps available from BLM.

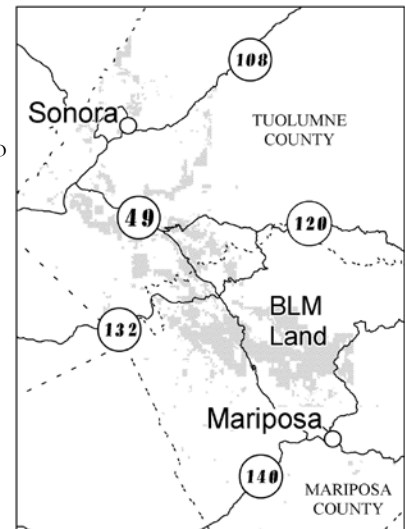
**COMMENTS:** Some lands are inaccessible due to being landlocked by private lands.

In some cases, boundaries are not marked or unclear and caution against trespass is advised. Quail populations range from locally abundant to scarce and are scattered, depending upon habitat quality and water availability.

**INFORMATION:**

United States Bureau of Land Management  
Folsom Field Office  
63 Natoma Street  
Folsom, California 95630  
(916) 985-4474  
(209) 532-8507

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



**NUMBER: 4-24**

**AREA:** Canebrake Ecological Reserve Access (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Kern.

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail.

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit and black-tailed jackrabbits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The Canebrake Ecological Reserve Access is an "Access Only" to BLM property and it, in turn, adjoins national forest property. Vegetation consists of chaparral, pinyon pine and mixed conifers.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate to very steep.

**ACCESS:** Approximately 25 miles east of Isabella Lake on Highway 178 on the north side of the road.

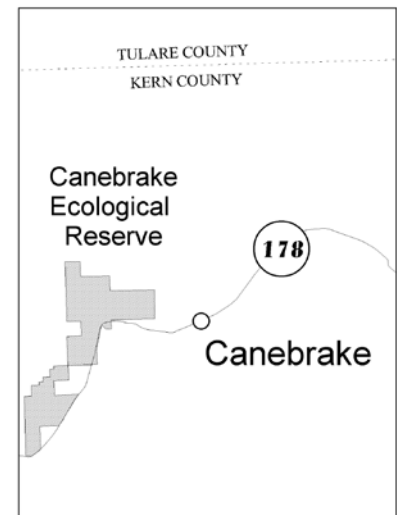
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Hunting is not allowed on the State Ecological Reserve.

**MAP OF AREA:** Department of Fish and Game: Canebrake Ecological Reserve; BLM Surface Management Status 30x60-minute Quadrangle: Isabella Lake; and U. S. Forest Service: Sequoia National Forest.

**COMMENTS:** There is private property adjacent to the Ecological Reserve. No hunting or trespassing is permitted on the private land. To access the BLM land, follow the trail from the Canebrake Ecological Reserve parking lot in a northerly direction for approximately one mile to the BLM property.

**INFORMATION:**

California Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005



## REGION 5: SOUTH COAST REGION

### NUMBER: 5-1

**AREA:** Angeles National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Los Angeles

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail, California quail, and Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, mourning dove and band-tailed pigeon.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 694,000 acres. Chaparral, foothill woodland, mixed coniferous forest.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Elevation ranges from 1,200 to 10,064 ft. Generally mountainous.

**ACCESS:** Good; many unimproved roads where high clearance 2-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive is required; some weather-related seasonal closures.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Forest Adventure Pass required for each vehicle while recreating on the Angeles National Forest. Fire permits needed for all areas outside campgrounds and picnic areas. Wilderness visitor permits needed for Cucamonga Wilderness Area and East Fork San Gabriel of Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area. San Dimas Experimental Forest and 3,000 acres of Littlerock Canyon is closed to entrance.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Angeles National Forest

**COMMENTS:** California quail are found throughout the forest and are moderately abundant; populations are highly variable. Mountain quail are found in localized areas, are low to moderately abundant, and populations are variable. Gambel's quail can be found along the north edge of the forest but are of very low abundance.

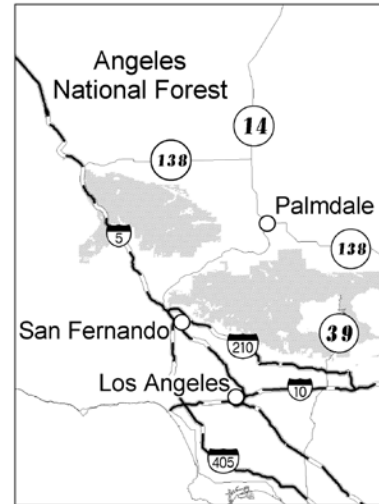
#### INFORMATION:

Angeles National Forest

701 North Santa Anita Avenue

Arcadia, CA 91006

(626) 574-5200



### NUMBER: 5-2

**AREA:** Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Base (USDOD)

**COUNTY:** San Diego

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, mourning dove and band-tailed pigeon

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, oak woodlands, streams

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to moderate

**ACCESS:** Contact the federal game wardens in May to apply for lottery drawing during the month of May. Must also pass Camp Pendleton Hunter Safety test. Fee for permit. You should write to the address below for more information about their small game program. Permits must be purchased during June, July or August.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Varies; please contact Camp Pendleton.

**MAP FOR AREA:** The base may provide you with one. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Oceanside, Las Pulgas Canyon, Morro Hill, Fallbrook.

**COMMENTS:** Beginning of seasons can be very hot and dry, while the end of the seasons may be wet and muddy. Prepare accordingly. Fishing and camping permits may also be available. There are moderate to high quail populations on the base.

They are moderately variable. Coveys are centered around areas with good cover near streams, Santa Margarita River, springs and guzzlers. Hunting pressure is high throughout the season. Most of the area is chaparral country, so be prepared to wade through brush.

#### INFORMATION:

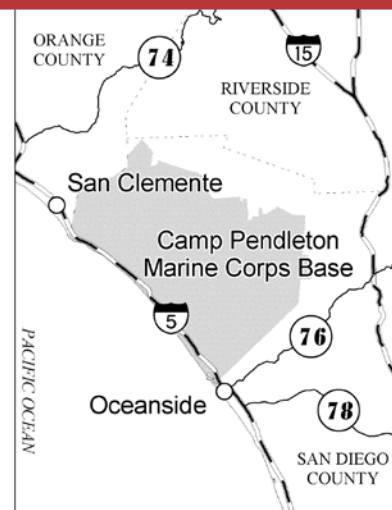
AC/S, Environmental Security

Resource Enforcement and Compliance Branch

P.O. Box 555008

Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5008

(760) 725-3360



**NUMBER: 5-3**

**AREA:** Cleveland National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Orange, Riverside, San Diego

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit, band-tailed pigeon and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 430,000 acres. Chaparral, oak woodland, coniferous forest, sage scrub, streams.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to mountainous with many valleys.

**ACCESS:** Generally good access, some areas are foot access only (locked gates and wilderness areas - see maps). There are seasonal fire closures to vehicle access for many of the areas in the Palomar and Descanso ranger districts.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Within the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area, use of firearms is not allowed. Bow hunting is allowed. Wilderness areas closed to vehicles.

**MAP FOR AREA:** Cleveland National Forest

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant in areas with water and suitable cover. There are many guzzlers scattered throughout the forest. They are usually located just off the main dirt roads along some jeep trails. Populations are highly variable. Hunting pressure is high during opening weekend, moderate to low for the remainder of season. There are camping facilities throughout forest.

**INFORMATION:**

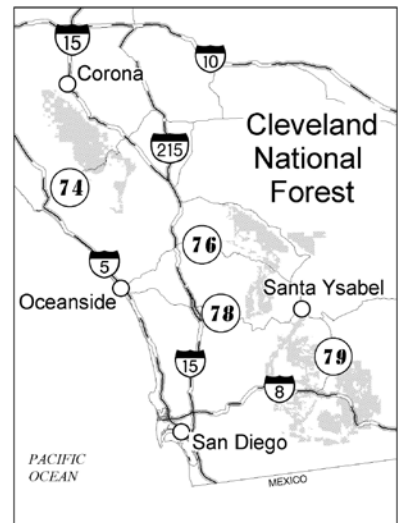
U.S. Forest Service

Cleveland National Forest

10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Suite 200

San Diego, CA 92127

(858) 673-6180



**NUMBER: 5-4**

**AREA:** Hauser Mountain and San Ysidro Mountains Area (USFS, BLM)

**COUNTY:** San Diego

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral, meadows, oak woodland, streams

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling foothills and valleys

**ACCESS:** For Hauser Mountain: No public vehicle access; hunters may enter area by hiking in on the Pacific Crest Trail.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

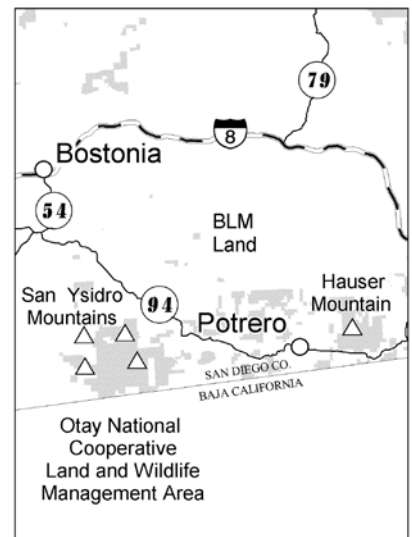
**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): El Cajon. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Morena Reservoir, Potrero, and Cleveland National Forest

**COMMENTS:** California quail are of high abundance in areas with good cover near water. Hunting pressure is low due to difficult access. There are no facilities. The San Ysidro Mountains area is the Otay National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area. These areas were originally designated for hunting values.

**INFORMATION:**

Cleveland National Forest  
Descanso Ranger District  
3348 Alpine Blvd.  
Alpine, CA 91901  
(619) 445-6235

Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
63-500 Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
(760) 251-4800



Bureau of Land Management  
El Centro Field Office  
1661 South 4th Street  
El Centro, CA 92243  
(760) 337-4400

**NUMBER: 5-5**

**AREA:** Los Padres National Forest (USFS)

**COUNTY:** Santa Barbara, Ventura

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Band-tailed pigeon, cottontail rabbit and wild turkey

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,700,000 acres. Primarily chaparral with some oak and pinyon/juniper woodlands.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Some flat to moderate but mostly rugged terrain

**ACCESS:** Many paved roads. High-clearance 2-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive recommended for many of the back-country dirt roads.

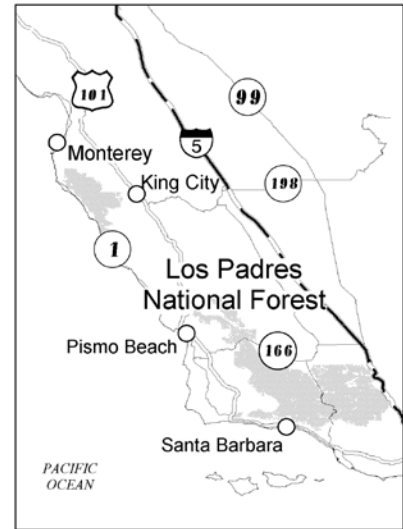
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** There are a few areas in which the discharge of firearms is prohibited (see Forest Service map). Certain areas are subject to special area closures for resource protection (contact Forest Service office).

**MAP FOR AREA:** Los Padres National Forest. AAA Ventura and Santa Barbara county map.

**COMMENTS:** Both California quail and mountain quail are moderately abundant throughout the forest, with the California quail populations highly variable and the mountain quail moderately variable. Hunting pressure can be high during the early part of the season and moderate for the remainder. Some areas that can be good include but are not limited to Frazier Mtn., areas accessible from County Road 090100 between Ozena and Lockwood Valley, and Forest Service roads 8N06 and 9N09. Numerous campgrounds are available throughout the forest (see Forest Service map).

**INFORMATION:**

Los Padres National Forest  
6755 Hollister Avenue, Suite 150  
Goleta, CA 93117



**NUMBER: 5-6**

**AREA:** McCain Valley and Jacumba National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Areas (BLM)

**COUNTY:** San Diego

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, black-tailed jackrabbit, and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral and desert scrub

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat, broad valleys with rolling hills and rugged ridges between valleys

**ACCESS:** McCain Valley is located 60 miles east of San Diego. Take Campo off-ramp from Interstate 8 to old Hwy. 80, then east 2 1/2 miles to McCain Valley Rd. Turn north to signed entrance of management area. Jacumba area is reached by taking old Hwy. 80 to about 4 miles east of town of Jacumba. Take dirt road north under Interstate 8 and go about 2 miles. High-clearance 2-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive is advised.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

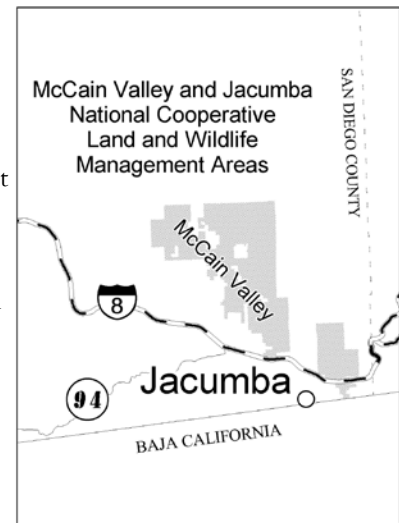
**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): mostly El Cajon; western edge on El Centrol map. For McCain Valley: USGS 7.5 minute quads: Live Oak Springs, Jacumba, Sombrero Peak, Agua Caliente Springs, Monument Peak. For Jacumba: USGS 7.5 minute quad: Jacumba. AAA - San Diego County.

**COMMENTS:** Both quail have moderate populations in areas with good cover near water. This includes springs and 12 guzzlers on the area. The populations are highly variable, doubling or tripling in “wet” years. Hunting pressure can be high during opening weekend and moderate to low for the remainder of the season. There are two campgrounds, picnic sites with tables, fireplaces, chemical toilets and potable water.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
El Centro Field Office  
1661 South 4th Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
63-500 Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
(760) 251-4800



**NUMBER: 5-7**

**AREA:** San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** San Diego

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, black-tailed jackrabbit, and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 1,650 acres. Acacia scrub and chaparral upland. Desert riparian woodland.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat valley floor to steep mountains

**ACCESS:** Foot access only. County Highway S-2 bisects the length of the wildlife area and provides public access.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult "Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas" for specific area regulations.

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Borrego Valley. Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area map; USGS 15 minute quads: Julian and Ranchita.

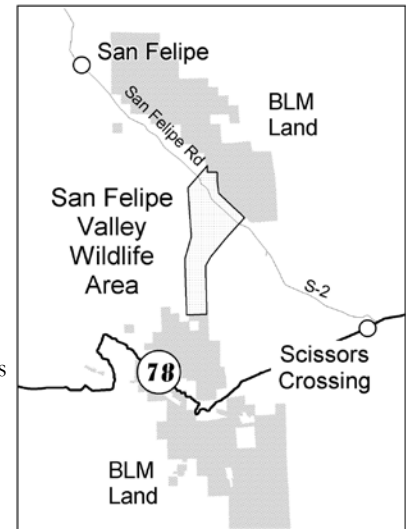
**COMMENTS:** California quail populations are highly variable. Quail are moderately abundant along San Felipe Creek and in areas with water and suitable cover. Hunting pressure is high opening weekend and moderate for the remainder of the season. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 467-4201

Bureau of Land Management  
El Centro Field Office  
1661 South 4th Street  
El Centro, CA 92243  
(760) 337-4400

Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
63-500 Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
(760) 251-4800



**REGION 6: EASTERN SIERRA AND INLAND DESERTS REGION**

**NUMBER: 6-1**

**AREA:** Beauty Mountains (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Riverside, San Diego

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Chaparral

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Mountainous

**ACCESS:** No Vehicle access. California Riding and Hiking trail traverses area from north to south.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

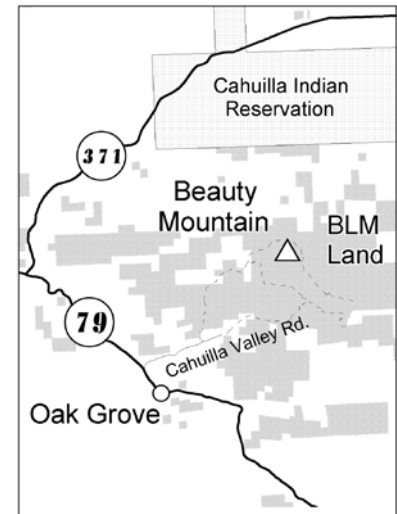
**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Borrego Valley. Cleveland National Forest. USGS 7.5 minute quad: Beauty Mountain.

**COMMENTS:** Quail are of moderate abundance and are found near springs and small reservoirs on the area with sufficient cover. Hunting pressure is low due to difficult access. There are no facilities available.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
California Desert District  
6221 Box Springs Boulevard  
Riverside, CA 92507  
(909) 697-5200

Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
63-500 Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
(760) 251-4800



**NUMBER: 6-2**

**AREA:** Colorado River (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Black-tailed jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit, and white-winged and mourning dove

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Creosote scrub desert, riparian

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to rolling hills to rugged canyons

**ACCESS:** Access is good but limited due to new Wilderness Areas. There are many 2-wheel drive roads. Travel along or in washes should only be attempted in 4-wheel drive. Hunting on Indian reservation requires permit.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** To hunt on Indian reservation land a season permit is required for upland game (\$25 in 2002). These permits are available at the Indian office in Parker. Permit allows hunting on Indian lands on both the California and Arizona sides of the river (without need of an Arizona license).

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Needles, Parker, Blythe, Trigo Mountains, and Yuma. Good maps for the area include the AAA Colorado River Guide, AAA county maps, as well as BLM wilderness area maps showing routes of travel as well as the wilderness boundaries themselves for those wilderness areas found within this hunting area.

**COMMENTS:** Gambel's quail populations are highly variable in this area. Lots of rain usually means lots of quail. This is good quail hunting country. The washes are usually the best places to hunt. Some of the best quail habitat left is on Indian reservation lands along the river. Some of this stuff is thick and hard to hunt, but there are usually lots of quail. There are facilities in the communities along the river.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 2160  
Blythe, CA 92225  
(760) 922-4686

Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
63-500 Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
(760) 251-4800

Bureau of Land Management  
El Centro Field Office  
1661 South 4th Street  
El Centro, CA 92243  
(760) 337-4400

For questions regarding public land along the river call: (602) 726-6300  
For hunting on Indian reservation call: (602) 669-9285



**NUMBER: 6-3**

**AREA:** Imperial Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Imperial

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Ring-necked pheasant, mourning dove, cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 7,930 acres

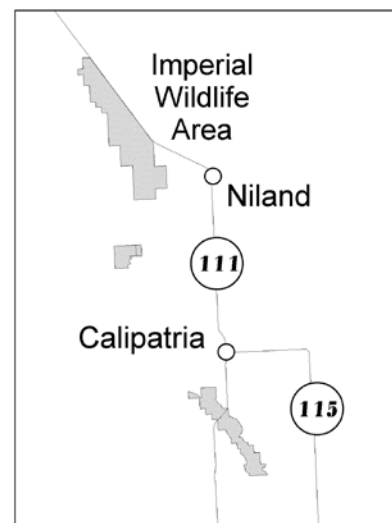
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

**ACCESS:** Five miles northwest of Niland on California Highway 111

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game  
Imperial Wildlife Area  
8700 Davis Road  
HCO 1, Box 6  
Niland, CA 92257  
(760) 359-0577





**NUMBER: 6-4**

**AREA:** Inyo Mountains, Nelson Range, Panamint Range, Sierra Nevada Mountains, Argus Range, Coso Range, Lower Centennial Flat (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Inyo

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Mountain quail, California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Creosote bush scrub, Great Basin sagebrush, Joshua Tree and Pinyon/juniper woodland

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Valley floor to steep mountains

**ACCESS:** Most of the areas are accessible on 2-wheel drive dirt roads. However, 4-wheel drive recommended for backcountry. Access is limited to the western portion of the Coso Range and the eastern portion of the Argus Range because of China Lake Naval Weapons Center - no public access. Boundary is vigorously enforced.

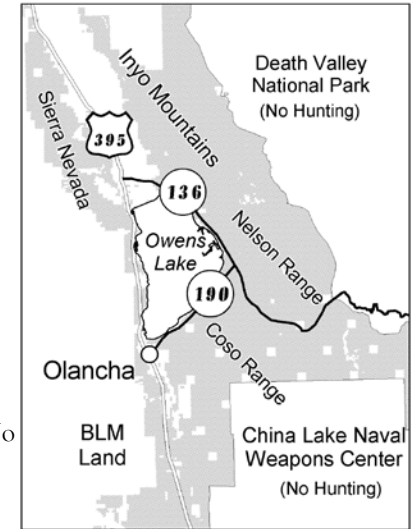
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No public access on China Lake Naval Weapons Center. No hunting in Death Valley National Monument (eastern slopes of Panamint Range).

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Saline Valley and Darwin Hills. USGS 15 minute quads: For Panamint Range - Panamint Butte, Emigrant Canyon, Telescope Peak, Marble Canyon, Manly Peak. For Coso Range - Coso Peak, Keeler, Haiwee Reservoir, Darwin. For Argus Range - Coso Peak, Maturango Peak, Panamint Butte, Darwin. For Sierra Nevada Mountains - Olancha, Haiwee Reservoir, Monache Mountain, Searles Lake, Lamont Peak. For Nelson Range - Ubehebe Peak. For Inyo Mountains - Waucoba Mountain, Waucoba Wash, Independence, New York Butte, Darwin, Ubehebe Peak, Keeler. For Lower Centennial Flat - Darwin, Keeler, Coso Peak.

**COMMENTS:** The abundance of California quail is low to moderate around the springs, creeks, and guzzlers along valley floors and foothills. Mountain quail are of low to moderate abundance in higher elevations around water. The populations of both are highly variable. There are populations of chukar partridge scattered throughout the area. Abundance is highly variable. Hunting pressure is low in the more remote areas, and moderate in those areas in and around the Owens Valley. No facilities. Primitive dry camping.

**INFORMATION:**  
Department of Fish and Game  
407 W. Line St.  
Bishop, CA 93514

Bureau of Land Management  
Bishop Field Office  
785 N. Main Street, Suite E  
Bishop, CA 93514-2471  
(760) 872-4881



Bureau of Land Management  
Ridgecrest Field Office  
300 S. Richmond Road  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
(760) 384-5400

**NUMBER: 6-5**

**AREA:** Inyo National Forest and BLM Bishop Field Office (USFS, BLM)

**COUNTY:** Mono, Inyo

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail and mountain quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove and cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Sagebrush flats to juniper/pinyon pine forests

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat to extremely rugged and steep (bajadas, canyons, etc.)

**ACCESS:** Many 2-wheel drive roads; however, 4-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicles recommended for most access routes.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Benton Range, Bishop, and Mount Whitney. Inyo National Forest.

**COMMENTS:** This area has only limited populations of quail. Mountain quail can be found up on some of the mountains near springs. California quail can be found down in the Owens Valley where cover and water exist on BLM and LA city lands. However, the area is best known for its chukar hunting. They are found in the lower canyons and ridges of most mountain ranges of the U. S. Forest Service and BLM lands.

**INFORMATION:**  
Inyo National Forest  
873 North Main Street  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 873-5841

Department of Fish and Game  
407 W. Line St.  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 872-1171

Bureau of Land Management  
Bishop Field Office  
785 N. Main Street, Suite E  
Bishop, CA 93514-2471  
(760) 872-4881



**NUMBER: 6-6**

**AREA:** Mojave Desert (BLM,NPS)

**COUNTY:** San Bernardino

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, and mourning dove

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Creosote scrub, catclaw washes, pinyon/juniper forest, mixed cholla

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Desert washes to rugged canyons

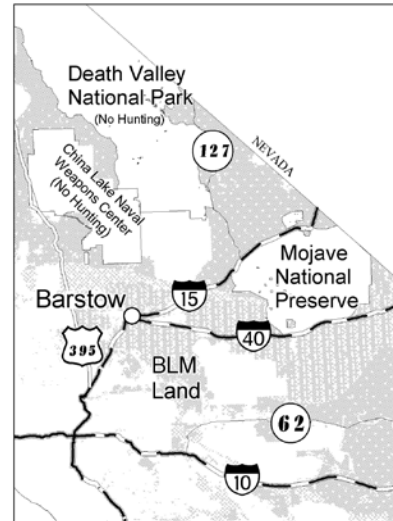
**ACCESS:** Many areas are accessible by 2-wheel drive; however, most of area requires 4-wheel drive. The designation of wilderness in 1994 has closed many roads which makes access more difficult in some areas. See maps for getting to specific sites.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Ridgecrest, Cuddeback Lake, Owlshead Mountains, Soda Mountains, Newberry Springs, Mesquite Lake, Ivanpah, Amboy, Dam and Needles. AAA - San Bernardino County. Specific USGS 7.5 and 15 minute topo maps.

**COMMENTS:** Gambel's quail are low to moderately abundant near springs, guzzlers, and desert washes in the following areas: Opal Mtn. and Black Canyon, Red Mountain - Spangler Hills, Stoddard Mtns., Ord Mtns., Newberry Mtns., Rodman Mtns., Old Dad Mtns., Bristol Mtns., Granite Mtns.- east, Marble Mtns., Providence Mtns., Clipper Mtns., Piute Range, Castle Mtns., New York Mtns., Hackberry Mtns., Midhills, Ivanpah Mtns., Mescal Range, Clark Mtn., Shadow Mtns., Kingston Range, and Avawatz Mtns. Generally the hunting pressure is low to moderate depending on quail production of the previous nesting season based upon adequate precipitation of the prior fall and winter. There are almost no facilities, and plenty of water should be carried. This can be hostile country and one should be prepared for extremes in both hot and cold.

<b>INFORMATION:</b>	Department of Fish and Game	Bureau of Land Management	Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service	407 W. Line St.	Barstow Field Office	Needles Field Office
Mojave National Preserve	Bishop, CA 93514	2601 Barstow Road	101 West Spikes Road
222 East Main Street	(760) 872-1171	Barstow, CA 92311	Needles, CA 92363
Barstow, CA 92311			(760) 326-7000
(760) 255-8800			



**NUMBER: 6-7**

**AREA:** Picacho State Recreation Area, SE Chocolate Mtns., Palo Verde Mtns., Chuckwalla Mtns., Little Chuckwalla Mtns., Mule Mtns., Orocopia Mtns (BLM, DPR)

**COUNTY:** The first three areas are in Imperial, the last four are in Riverside

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Sonoran desert scrub and desert washes

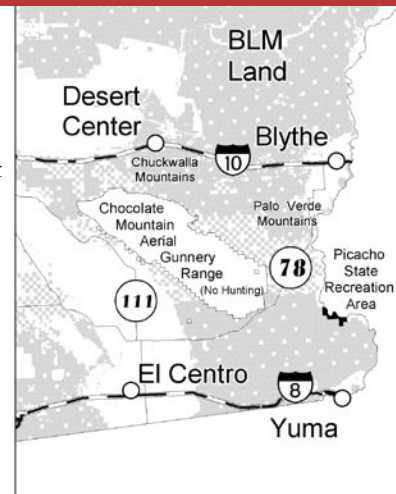
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat washes to steep and rugged mountains

**ACCESS:** High-clearance 2-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive recommended for off-road travel. Access is good but limited due to new wilderness area.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Only migratory game birds and quail may be hunted on Picacho State Rec. Area. Most of Chocolate Mountains closed to public, only southeast corner open.

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Eagle Mountains, Salton Sea, Blythe, Trigo Mountains and Yuma. USGS topo maps are highly recommended. AAA county maps are useful.

**COMMENTS:** Quail are generally in moderate abundance, available to the hunter who is willing to work for them. Populations are variable, being best following a "wet" winter/spring. In general quail are found in desert washes, particularly in the vicinity of water and closer to mountain canyons, but certainly not limited to those areas. In the Imperial Valley, washes leading to the Coachella and East Highline Canals and the Colorado River are popular quail hunting areas. Hunting pressure is high to moderate during opening weekend, especially along the Coachella Canal and the Colorado River. These areas also receive moderate pressure for the remainder of the season. The majority of the desert receives only minor



pressure during most years. The desert can be very hostile country; bring plenty of water and be prepared for extremes of hot and cold weather.

**INFORMATION:**

Picacho State Recreation Area P.O. Box 848 Winterhaven, CA 92283 (760) 996-2963	Bureau of Land Management Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office 63-500 Garnet Avenue North Palm Springs, CA 92258 (760) 251-4800	Bureau of Land Management El Centro Field Office 1661 South 4th Street El Centro, CA 92243 (760) 337-4400	Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 2160 Blythe, CA 92225 (760) 922-4686
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**NUMBER: 6-8**

**AREA:** Riverside, Big Maria, Coxcomb, Eagle, Granite, Little Maria, McCoy, and Palen mountains. (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Riverside

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, and black-tailed jackrabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Ironwood/Palo Verde washes

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat washes, rolling hills, steep canyons

**ACCESS:** Most access limited to 4-wheel drive vehicles. See AAA map of Riverside Co. for 2-wheel drive access. Access is limited due to new wilderness areas.

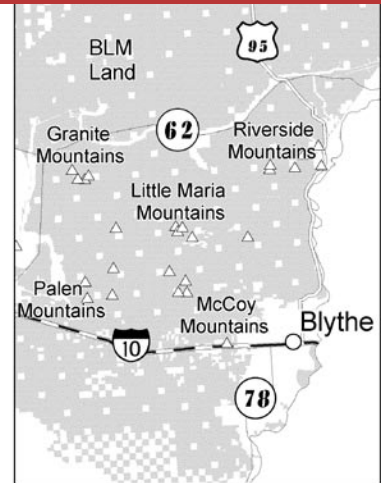
**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Colorado River Indian Tribe land along the Colorado River requires a license from the tribe.

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): primarily Parker and Blythe with small portions on Sheep Hole Mountains and Eagle Mountains. AAA - Riverside County. USGS 7.5 and 15 minute quads: For Big Maria Mtns.- Big Maria Mtn.; For Little Maria Mtns. - Midland; For McCoy Mtns. - Midland, McCoy Springs; For Palen Mtns. - Palen Mtns.

**COMMENTS:** Generally the quail populations are low to moderate in the mountain ranges themselves, moderate in the washes near water (guzzlers, springs, aqueduct), and high along the Colorado River. Populations are highly variable. Hunting pressure is low to moderate. Good places to start include Palen Pass, McCoy Wash, and along the Colorado River Aqueduct. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game 4775 Bird Farm Road Chino Hills, CA 91709 (909) 597-9823	Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 2160 Blythe, CA 92225 (760) 922-4686	Bureau of Land Management Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office 63-500 Garnet Avenue North Palm Springs, CA 92258 (760) 251-4800
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**NUMBER: 6-9**

**AREA:** San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains (USFS, BLM)

**COUNTY:** San Bernardino, Riverside

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail, mountain quail and Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar partridge, mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, and band-tailed pigeon

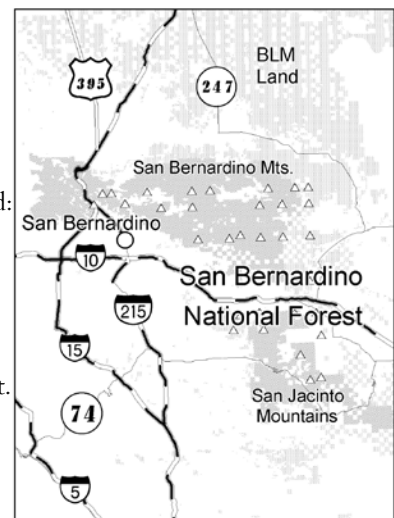
**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 600,000 acres (San Bernardino National Forest). Quite varied: Yellow pine forest, chaparral (can be very thick), desert brush scrub.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat valleys to rugged mountains

**ACCESS:** Good access throughout forest for 2-wheel drive. More remote areas high-clearance 2-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive recommended. In wet weather 4-wheel drive in many locations.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting on State Game Refuge 4-G (located around Mt. San Jacinto and only shown on Forest Service map) and refuge 4-D (located directly south of Cathedral City). All of the forest land outside the game refuges and San Jacinto State Park are open to hunting with shotgun. Some areas of the forest are closed to rifle hunting and most of the forest is closed to target shooting. Check with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for additional specifics on firearms restrictions. Calls will be directed to local sheriff's office(s) for local, area-specific information.

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (west to east to south): San Bernardino, Big



Bear, and Palm Springs. San Bernardino National Forest.

**COMMENTS:** California quail are moderately abundant and mountain quail are low to moderately abundant. California quail populations are moderately variable. Mountain quail populations are stable. Look for areas that have burned within the last 5 years, near water and below 5,000 ft. elevation. Hunting pressure is moderate to high, especially early in the season.

Some areas to try in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountain Area are: Cleghorn Ridge, north of The Pinnacles, north of Stove Flats, Carbine Flat, Cajon Wash, Crowder Canyon and White Mountain. There are considerable BLM land holdings all around the northern and eastern edges of this forest and west and south of the San Jacinto Mountains. Mountain quail, Gambel's quail, and California quail can be found in the washes and hills of these lands. Some areas that can be good include: Round Mountain, Rattlesnake Canyon, and Whitewater River. Access to BLM land around the Whitewater River is limited to foot or horse along Pacific Crest Trail (Wilderness permit needed). In the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa Mountain area: Rouse Ridge, Garner Valley (see forest service map for location of private inholdings), Butterfly Peak, Diego Flat, and Santa Rosa Spring. Just to the outside of this forest is some BLM land called the North Mtn. Experimental Area that has California quail.

**INFORMATION:**

San Bernardino National Forest  
1824 S. Commerce Center Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408  
(909) 884-6634

Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
63-500 Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
(760) 251-4800

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department  
Public Affairs  
655 East Third Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0061  
(909) 387-0682

**AREA:** San Jacinto Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Riverside

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Ring-necked pheasant, mourning dove, common snipe, cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 9,000 acres

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Flat

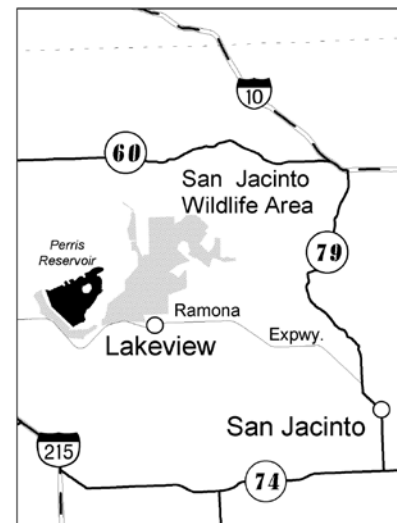
**ACCESS:** In western Riverside County east of Lake Perris State Recreation Area.

Checking station is on Davis Road 2 1/4 miles north of Ramona Expressway, or 5 miles south of California Highway 60 (take Theodore Street exit and proceed south onto Davis Road). Davis Road may be impassible after heavy rain. Four-wheel drive necessary.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult "Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas" for specific regulations.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game  
San Jacinto Wildlife Area  
17050 Davis Road  
Lakeview, CA 92567  
(909) 928-0580



**NUMBER:** 6-11

**AREA:** Santa Rosa Mountains (BLM)

**COUNTY:** Riverside

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Black-tailed jackrabbit and mourning dove

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Desert scrub

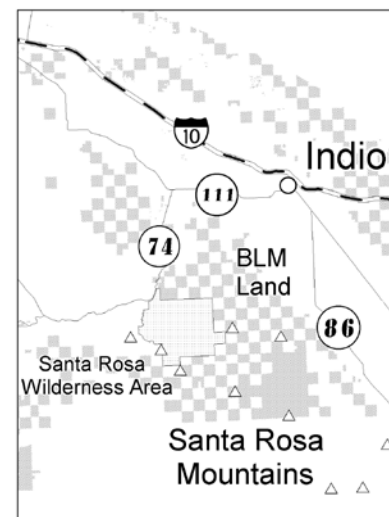
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Moderate to steep ridges, washes

**ACCESS:** Unmarked dirt roads from Hwy. 86. Scattered parcels of private land makes access difficult. Suggest use of BLM Surface Management map and USGS topo map for guidance. Four-wheel drive necessary.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** No hunting in the state game refuge in the northern part of the Santa Rosa Mountains or in Anza Borrego State Park.

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (north to south): Palm Springs and Borrego Valley. USGS 7.5 minute quads: Rabbit Peak, Martinez Mtn., Clark Lake, and Valerie.

**COMMENTS:** Gambel's quail are moderately abundant in the lower elevations near



water early in the season, especially in the washes. Populations are highly variable. Hunting pressure is low to moderate. There are no facilities.

**INFORMATION:**

Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
690 West Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
(760) 251-4800

**NUMBER: 6-12**

**AREA:** Santa Rosa Wildlife Area (DFG)

**COUNTY:** Riverside

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Cottontail rabbit

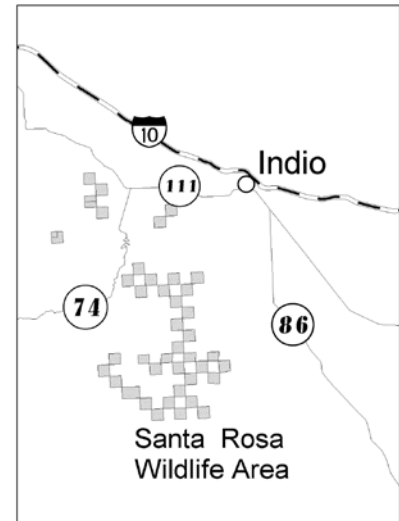
**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 103,229 acres.

**ACCESS:** Approximately fifteen miles southwest of Indio. Approximately ten miles south of Indio on California Highway 86. Take the trail west to Martinez Canyon.

**MAP FOR AREA:** USGS 7.5 minute quads: Rabbit Peak, Martinez Mtn., Clark Lake, and Valerie.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game	Bureau of Land Management
San Jacinto Wildlife Area	Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office
17050 Davis Road	690 West Garnet Avenue
Lakeview, CA 92567	North Palm Springs, CA 92258
(909) 654-0580	(760) 251-4800



**NUMBER: 6-13**

**AREA:** Whipple, Chemehuevi, Piute, Old Woman, Turtle, and Sacramento Mountains (BLM)

**COUNTY:** San Bernardino

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove and black-tailed jackrabbit

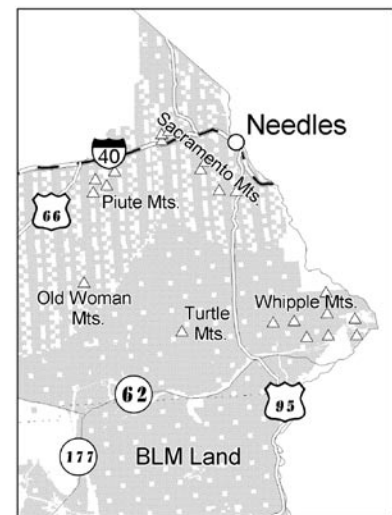
**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Palo verde and catclaw washes

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Large to narrow washes with rolling hills to steep mountains.

**ACCESS:** Limited 2-wheel drive access to most of these areas. 4-wheel drive highly recommended for most of the dirt roads. Indian lands near Chemehuevi and the Whipple mountains require hunting permit from the tribe. Access is limited due to wilderness areas.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Indian lands require permit available from tribe.

**MAP FOR AREA:** The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (west to east, north to south): Amboy, Sheep Hole Mountains, Needles, Parker. The following BLM 30x60-minute quadrangle Desert Access Guides (Surface Management Status [maps]) for the area show roads, wilderness boundaries, agency ownership, topography, 50-meter contours, and key visitor information (west to east, north to south): Amboy, Davis Dam, Needles, Parker, and Sheep Hole Mountains. Surface Management 30x60 minute quads: Davis, Needles, Parker. AAA - San Bernardino County. USGS 7.5 minute quads: For Sacramento Mountains - Flattop Mtn., Needles SW, Monumental Pass; For Chemehuevi Mountains - Whale Mtn., Topock, Chemehuevi Peak, Castle Rock, Savahia Peak NE, Havasu Lake; For Whipple Mtns. - Savahia Peak, Whipple Mtns. SW, Whipple Wash, Vidal Junction, Parker NW, Parker; For Turtle Mountains - West of Mohawk Springs, Mohawk Springs, Martins Well, Mopah Peak, Sablon, Horn Spring; For Piute Mountains-Fenner Spring; For Old Woman Mountains - Old Woman Statue, Painted Rock Wash, Sheep Camp Spring, Wilhelm Spring, Milligan, East of Milligan.



**COMMENTS:** Gambel's quail are of low to high abundance depending upon the year. The best areas to look for coveys are major washes associated with the Colorado River, and areas near permanent water. Hunting pressure is low to moderate during the first two weeks of the season and low for the remainder. Hunting pressure around the Sacramento, Chemehuevi, and Whipple Mountains can be moderate to high during the beginning of the season and remain moderate through the remainder. The only facilities are along the Colorado River.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game  
4775 Bird Farm Road  
Chino Hills, CA 91709  
(909) 597-9823

Department of Fish and Game  
407 W. Line St.  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 872-1171  
(760) 240-1372

Bureau of Land Management  
Needles Field Office  
101 West Spikes Road  
Needles, CA 92363  
(760) 326-7000

**NUMBER: 6-14**

**AREA:** Lake Perris Reservoir State Recreation Area (DPR)

**COUNTY:** Riverside

**QUAIL SPECIES:** California quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Mourning dove, common snipe, cottontail rabbit

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

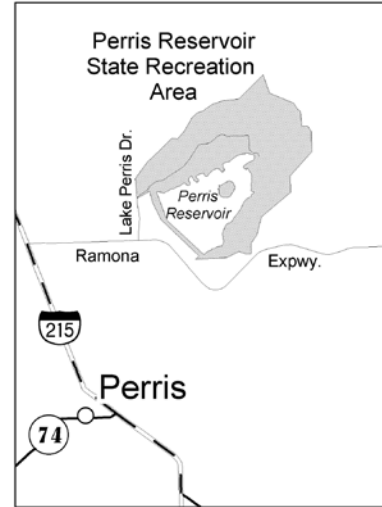
**TOPOGRAPHY:** Rolling hills

**ACCESS:** This area is located approximately 7 miles northeast of Perris in western Riverside County. From Highway 60 east, take Moreno Beach Drive south 3 miles to Via Del Lago. Continue east one mile to Lake Perris entry gate. After entry gate, take first road to the left to the designated upland game parking lot.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas* for specific regulations.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game  
San Jacinto Wildlife Area  
17050 Davis Road  
P.O. Box 1254  
Lakeview, CA 92567  
(909) 928-0580



**NUMBER: 6-15**

**AREA:** Providence Mountains State Recreation Area (DPR)

**COUNTY:** San Bernardino

**QUAIL SPECIES:** Gambel's quail

**OTHER UPLAND GAME:** Chukar and mourning dove

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 5,900 acres. Variety of Mojave Desert habitats ranging from lowland sage to pinyon - juniper complex.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** On the east slope of the Providence Mountains, the area sweeps up from the Clipper Valley to heavily weathered rhyolite crags exceeding 7,000 feet elevation.

**ACCESS:** This area is located approximately 23 miles northwest of Essex and 33 miles west of Goffs in eastern San Bernardino County.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Consult *Hunting Regulations for Resident and Migratory Upland Game Birds* for specific regulations. DPR is fairly restrictive on hunting activities on recreation areas. Contact the recreation area prior to going hunting for a map and information on what sections are currently open for hunting. DPR offices are generally closed on weekends during the fall and winter.

**MAP FOR AREA:** BLM Surface Management 30x60 minute quads: Amboy and Ivanpah, and USGS topo maps are highly recommended. AAA county maps are useful.

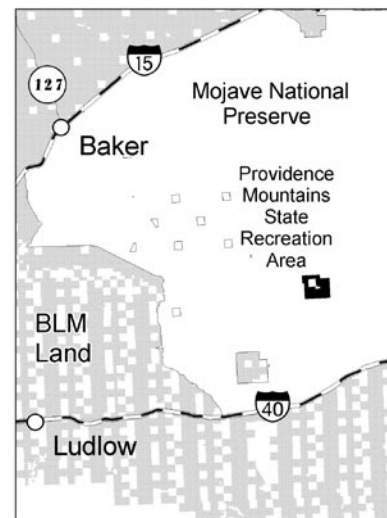
**COMMENTS:** The desert can be very hostile country. Bring plenty of water and be prepared for extremes of hot and cold weather.

**INFORMATION:**

Department of Fish and Game  
4775 Bird Farm Road  
Chino Hills, CA 91709  
(909) 597-9823

Department of Fish and Game  
407 W. Line St.  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 872-1171  
(760) 240-1372

Department of Parks and Recreation  
Providence Mountains State Recreation Area  
P. O. Box 1  
Essex, CA 92332  
(760) 928-2586



## CARE OF BAGGED QUAIL

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### HOW TO HUMANELY KILL WOUNDED QUAIL

Most hunters have developed some method to humanely kill a crippled bird. For those that are not sure, here is an easy-to-learn method that is quick and humane.

1) Place right or left thumb on base of neck where it hits the skull. Wrap the index finger underneath and grasp firmly.

2) With other hand, place a finger under the bill and lift sharply back toward your thumb. This breaks the neck.

### FIELD DRESSING AND CARE

The quail should be dressed (gutted) as soon as possible. It is a good idea to dress them as soon as there is a lull in the action. The basic method goes as follows:

1) Hold or place the quail belly side up and pluck the feathers from between the vent (anus) and the bottom of the breast bone. Pluck a few feathers at a time by pulling with sharp jerks toward the tail. Caution, the skin tears easily.

2) Make a small cut through the skin across the area you just plucked. Make sure not to cut the intestines.

3) With a small gutting hook or your finger reach up into the body cavity (toward the head) and gently pull out the intestines. Pull or cut off the intestine and the vent.

4) Be sure to remove the lungs (the red-pink spongy stuff up in the body cavity). Also wipe or rinse out any blood. If you wash the body cavity out be sure

to wipe it dry.

5) Next remove the crop. With the bird on its back, you will find a lump at the front of the breast at the base of the neck. Slit the skin and you will find a thin leathery pouch about the size of a large marble. It may be filled with seeds, grass, insects, and water, or nothing at all. Pull it out and discard.

You are done with the field dressing. This allows the bird to cool as quickly as possible, and removes as many sources of bacteria as possible.

It is always important to get the birds cooled down and kept cold as soon as possible. It is especially so during the early part of the season when it can be quite hot. So get the birds on ice quickly. It is also important not to let them get wet in the ice chest. Water promotes the contamination and growth of bacteria.

ALWAYS KEEP THE BIRDS AS CLEAN AS POSSIBLE-  
DIRT AND FLIES INCREASE CHANCES OF SPOILAGE.

DONOT LEAVE QUAIL IN GAME BAG, TRUNK OR  
DIRECT SUNLIGHT.

When you get home, remove all internal organs that may still be in the bird. This includes the heart, kidneys, and the wind pipe. The next task is to pluck the birds. The bird can be skinned very easily, but the skin should be left on because it adds flavor and helps keep the meat moist when cooking.

There are two methods of plucking quail. The dry method involves simply pulling a pinch full of feathers at a time toward the tail of the bird (with the grain). However, it is not uncommon to tear the skin when doing this. The second method, wet plucking, makes it easier to pluck without tearing the skin.

To wet pluck you need a good sized pot of hot water (about 130-140° Fahrenheit) filled about half way. The water should be deep enough to allow complete immersion of the quail. Dunk one quail at a time for about one minute. Remove from the water and pluck the feathers. Wipe both the outside and inside of the bird dry. Cut off the feet at the first joint above the feet, and the head. Place in refrigerator if you are going to eat it soon, or freeze it.

If you dry pluck, wipe the body cavity dry if internal organs were not ruptured by shot. If they were, you should rinse out the body cavity with water and wipe dry.

## STORAGE

If the quail are not going to be eaten within about a week, they should be frozen using one of the following methods:

1) Freeze them in water. For example: Place 5-6 cleaned quail in a half gallon milk carton. Fill with water to within 1/2 - inch of the top crease of the flat sides. Staple the top shut and label with contents and date frozen. They will keep this way almost until next season.

2) Ziplock bags - place cleaned birds in bag and squeeze out the air and seal. Warning: if water gets onto the seal it may fail when freezing. This will result in freezer burn. You should check to see if the seal held.

3) Tightly double wrap several quail in heavy butcher paper and label with date and contents.

If they are going to be consumed immediately or within a week the cleaned and dry quail should be placed in a sealed container in the refrigerator (plastic wrap or re-sealable plastic container).

## AGING

You do not have to age quail to have a fine meal, but to get the most out of them and if you like flavorful, tender game you should age it. It has been found through taste tests on game that well aged meat was always rated the highest for taste, texture and ten-

derness. The gamey taste and tenderness of meat is caused by the breakdown of muscle tissue by certain bacteria. These same bacteria will cause spoilage of the meat if they become too numerous. This is usually recognized by a strong off-odor. The French do not consider their game sufficiently aged until it is in a condition most of us would consider rotten. Another type of bacteria can cause food poisoning, but does not grow in cold places like your refrigerator. Therefore, so long as you age your quail in the refrigerator you don't have to worry very much about food poisoning.

Aging of upland game can be done nicely in your refrigerator. Place cleaned - dry quail in a sealed container into the refrigerator (plastic wrap or other air-tight container). They can be left there up to about 7 days (at 47° Fahrenheit or less). The longer you leave them, the more gamey the taste. Birds left over 7 days may become too ripe. How long it takes to get to your favorite level of gaminess depends upon several factors:

1) How warm it was in the field - In hot weather they can spoil in a day.

2) How quickly you cooled them down - The faster the better.

3) How well they were cleaned and how badly they were shot up - Poorly cleaned or badly shot-up quail will age very quickly. Whenever shot has passed through the gut and into the meat aging will occur much more quickly there. These quail should not be aged more than three or four days before eating.

4) The temperature at which they were aged - the higher above freezing, the faster they age.

The aging process begins as soon as you kill them. Therefore, birds bagged, cleaned, and placed in the refrigerator all on the same day will take longer to age, or keep in the refrigerator longer than one bagged Saturday, cleaned and put in the refrigerator on Sunday night. The best way to tell when the game has reached a desired level of aging is by smell. It will take some experimentation to familiarize yourself with the smell of meat that has aged to your liking.



## RECIPES

### QUAIL KABOBS

2 quail, deboned  
1 large bellpepper  
8 mushrooms  
1 small to medium onion  
1 can pineapple chunks or fresh pineapple  
8 cherry tomatoes  
1/4 lb. bacon  
your favorite seasoning or marinade

Debone whole quail by filleting out the breast, wing, and leg muscles. Cut meat into about 1" cubes. Wrap each piece with half a strip of bacon. Cut bellpepper, onion, and pineapple into about 1" chunks. On each skewer place 2-3 pieces of wrapped meat, 2 mushrooms, 2 pieces of onion, 2 cherry tomatoes, 2-3 pieces of bellpepper, and 2 pieces of pineapple. Alternate the pieces when you put them on the skewer and make sure that no piece of meat or tomato is an end piece (the meat will dry out, and the tomato will fall off). Season or marinade the kabobs to your liking. Place over coals and turn every few minutes until done. Serves 2.

### QUAIL VINO

2 quail per person  
Sliced mushrooms - at least 2 cups  
1/4-1/2 cup chopped green onions  
Wild rice  
2 tbsps. lemon juice  
Salt - to liking  
Ground pepper  
Dry white wine - at least 1 cup  
1/2 cup butter or margarine

Brown plucked quail in butter; remove from pan and set aside. Saute mushrooms and onion in pan. Place quail, mushrooms, and onion in a shallow pan and cover with heavy-duty aluminum foil. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes. Remove foil and add wine, lemon juice, a little salt, and pepper. Cook for another 15 minutes or until brown, basting often. Serve hot over cooked wild rice.

### QUAIL SALSA

2 quail per person  
sliced mushrooms  
sliced bellpeppers  
sliced tomatoes  
salsa - preferably fresh and mild temperature (hot for

those craving a zinger of a meal)  
sliced red onion  
garlic  
ground pepper  
butter or margarine  
1 can tomato sauce

Split quail (with or without skin) in half (lengthwise), place in large skillet with butter, grated garlic, and tomato sauce. Bring to simmer and cook for 10 minutes. Add sliced mushrooms, bellpeppers, tomatoes and red onion, and salsa. Simmer for 30 minutes or until done. Can be served as is or on toast or rice.

### QUAIL TOAST - CALIFORNIA STYLE

2 quail per person  
small to medium red onion  
2 cups sliced mushrooms  
1/4 cup butter or margarine  
1/2 cup white wine  
All-purpose flour  
pepper  
salt  
1 clove garlic  
2 slices thick sourdough toast per person

Sprinkle the quail inside and out with a mixture of flour salt and pepper. Brown quail in large skillet with butter or margarine and grated garlic. Add mushrooms, sliced onion and wine, cover and let simmer over low heat for 10 minutes. Stir and simmer for another 15 minutes uncovered. Serve quail on toast with sauce poured over quail.

### QUAIL WITH PLUM SAUCE

1 cup plum jelly  
2 tbsps catsup  
2 tbsps apple cider vinegar  
1/2 tsp dry mustard  
4 tbsps soy sauce  
6 quail

by Keith Sitton  
Arkansas Wildlife

Preheat oven to 375°. While the oven is heating, make plum sauce by thoroughly mixing all condiments and spices. Place quail in a glass baking dish, and roast, uncovered, 15-20 minutes. Brush with plum sauce, and roast 10 minutes more. Serve with the remaining plum sauce, heated and presented in a gravy boat.

## CHAPTER VI.

# PERSONAL QUAIL MANAGEMENT

### DO:

#### BECOME INVOLVED.

Join local sportsman's clubs or "Quail Unlimited" chapter.

#### CONTACT REGIONAL FISH AND GAME OFFICE.

Ask what you can do to help in your area.

#### REPORT POACHERS.

To turn in a poacher call toll free  
1 (800) 952-5400 24 hours.

### DON'T:

#### LITTER.

#### CAMP NEAR SPRINGS OR GUZZLERS.

It is illegal to camp, rest, picnic, or park for more than 30 minutes within 200 yards of any manmade wildlife watering place (guzzlers, horizontal wells and small impoundments of less than one surface acre in size) on public land. This is very important so that wildlife in the area can get a drink when they need it.

#### HUNT THE SAME COVEY ALL DAY LONG.

This is unproductive and does not allow them to eat, drink, or rest.

#### FLOCK-SHOOT QUAIL.

It is unsportsmanlike and can result in many lost cripples.

#### HUNT COVEYS OF LESS THAN EIGHT BIRDS.

Leave birds to produce next year's coveys.

#### HUNT QUAIL AFTER SUNSET.

Let them find a safe roost together. It is illegal to hunt upland game birds after sunset in California.

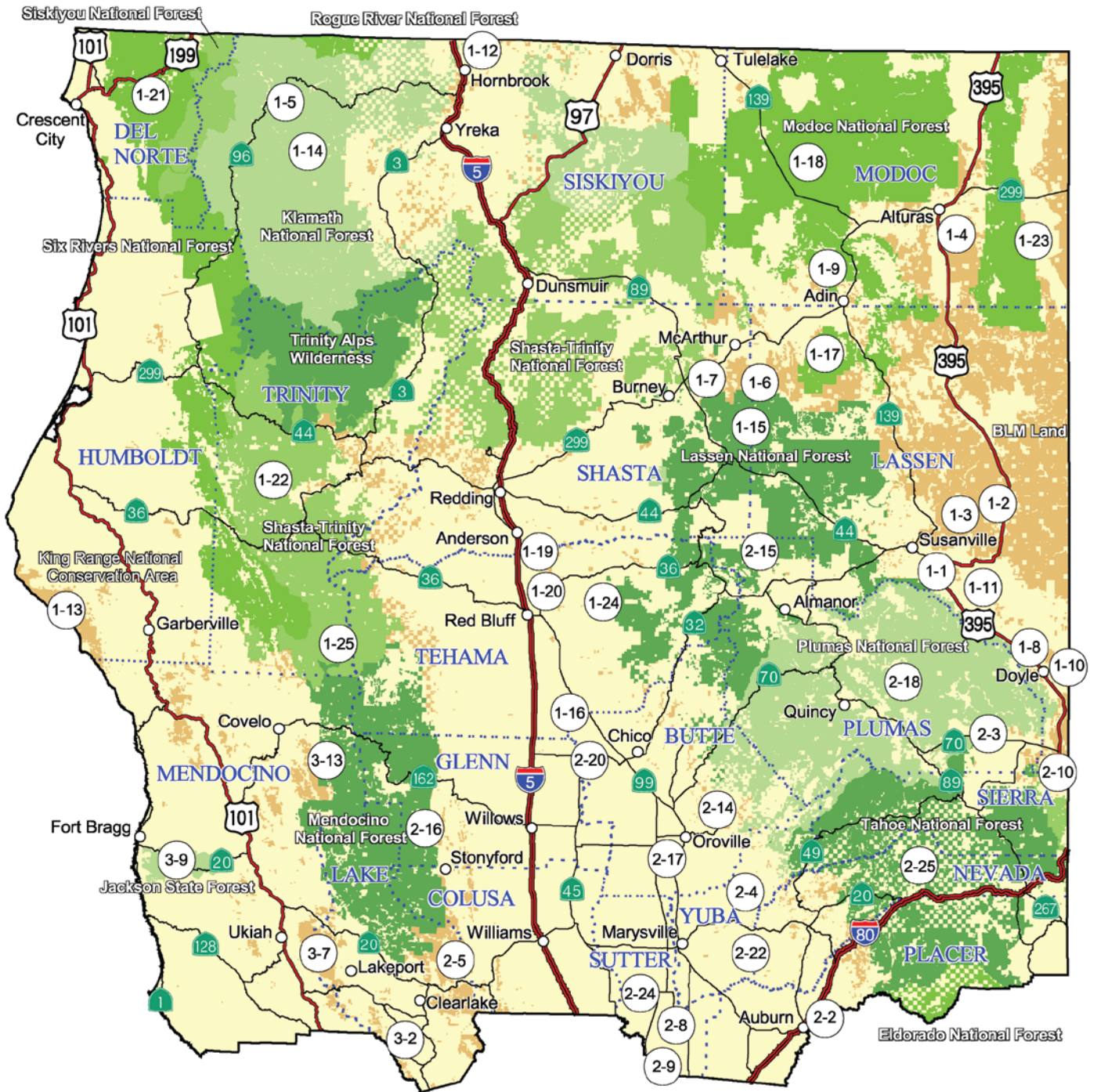


*Above: Volunteers assist DFG personnel on a guzzler construction project to provide an additional water source for quail and other desert wildlife. Below: Project benefit is realized, as a large flock of California quail drink at a completed guzzler. DFG file photos.*

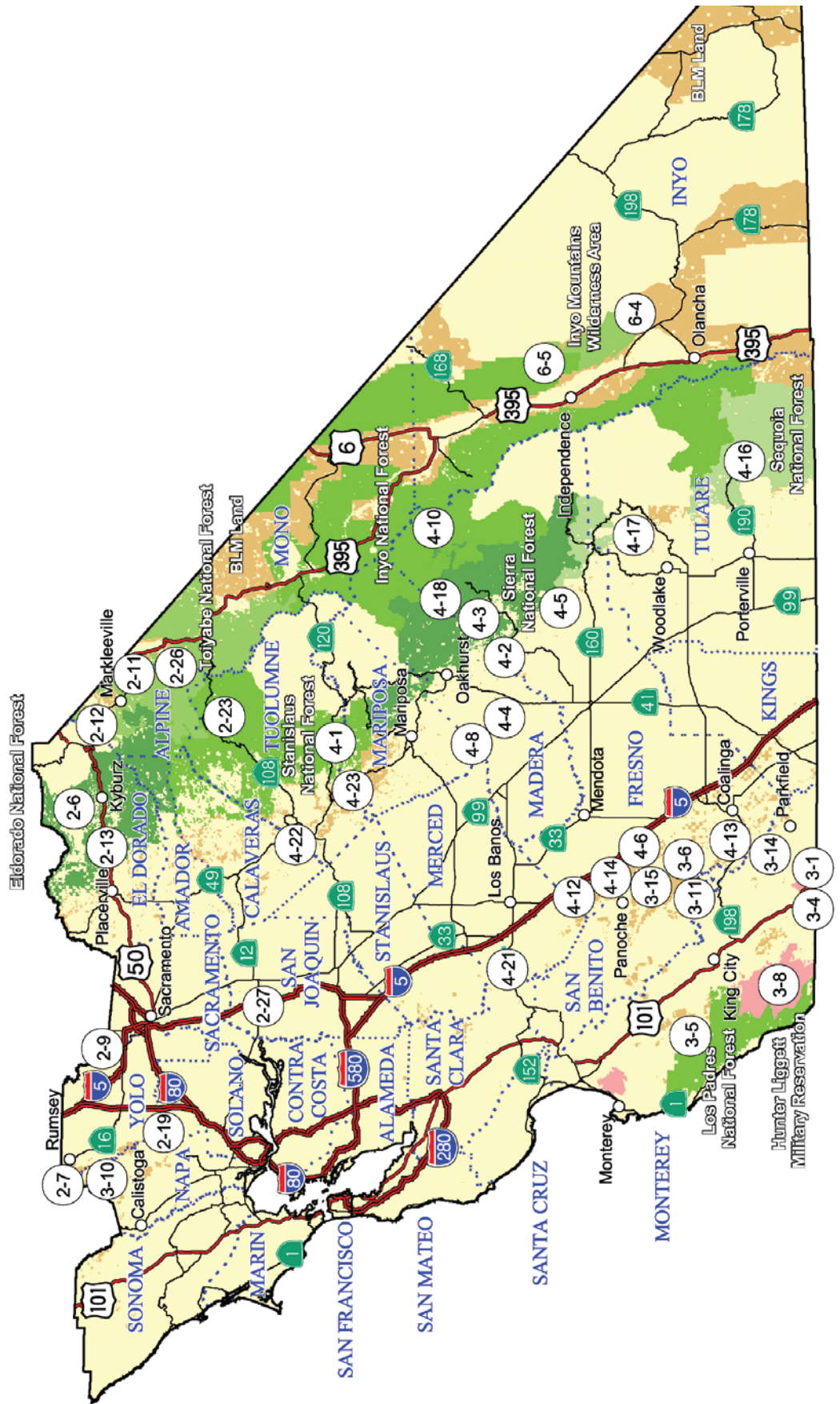
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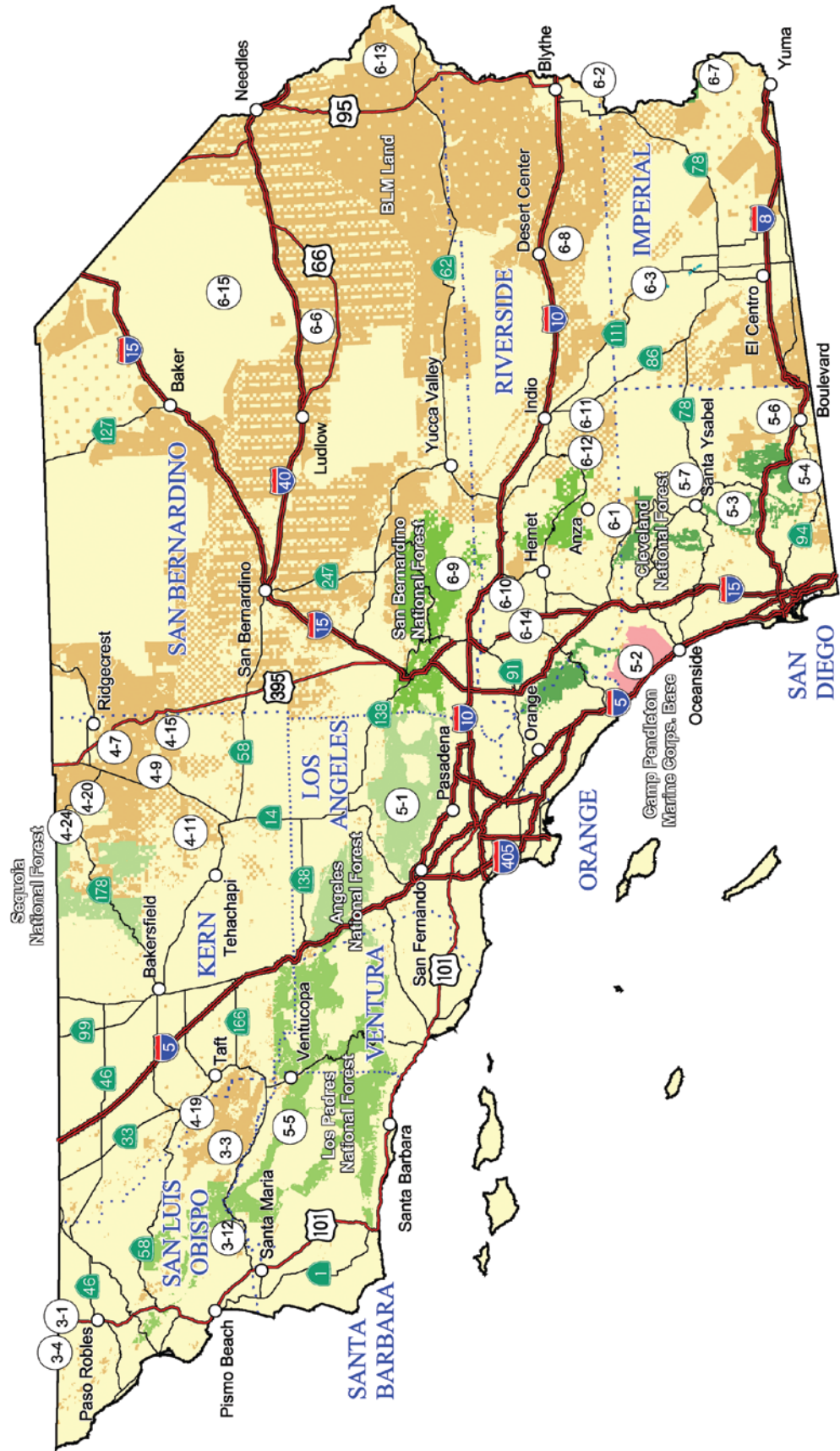
# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HUNT AREA LOCATION MAP



# CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HUNT AREA LOCATION MAP




# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HUNT AREA LOCATION MAP





# California Department of Fish and Game

## State Headquarters


 Headquarters

## Regional Headquarters

 Northern California - North Coast Region (1)


 Sacramento Valley - Central Sierra Region (2)

 Central Coast Region (3)

 San Joaquin Valley - Southern Sierra Region (4)

 South Coast Region (5)

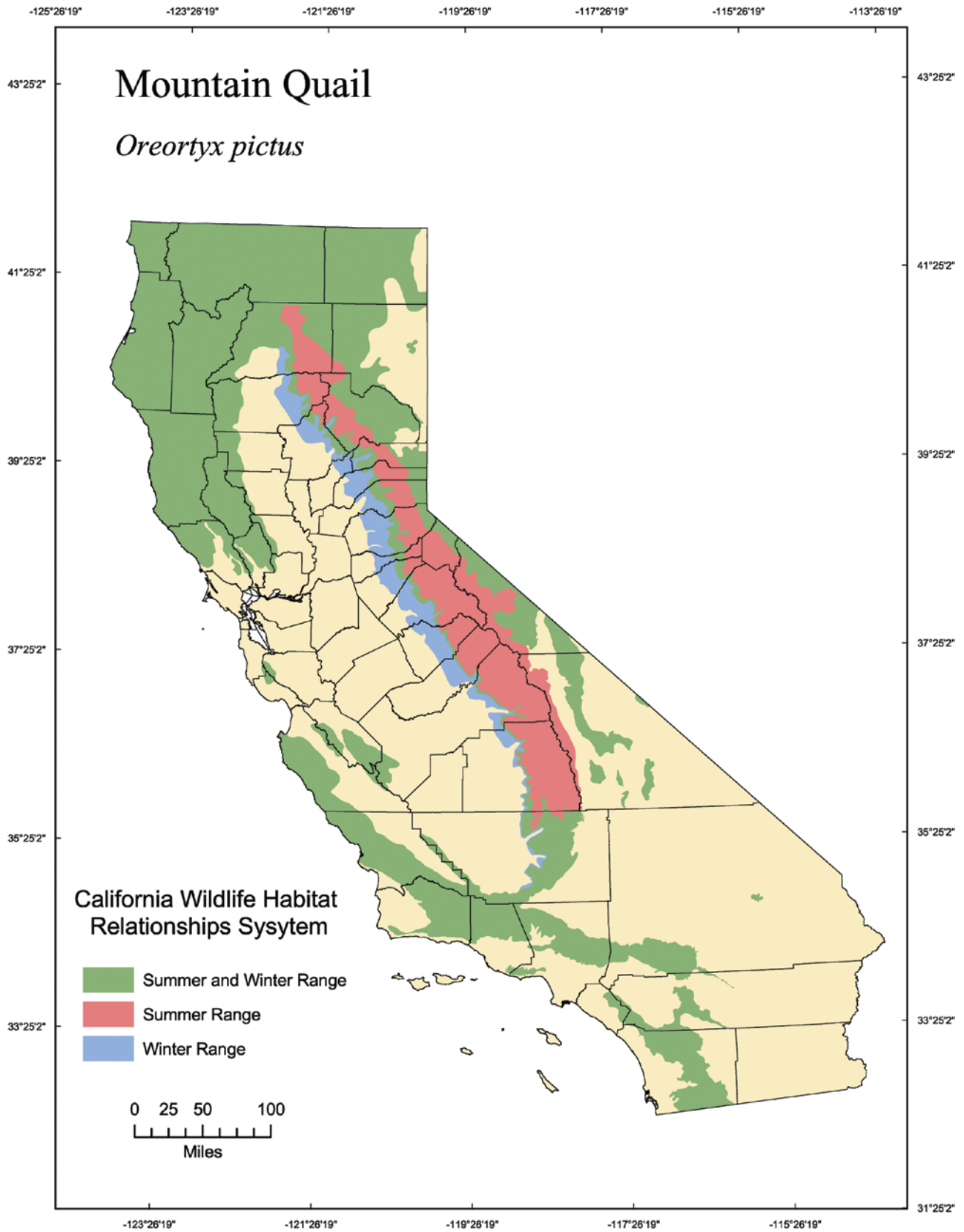
 Eastern Sierra - Inland Deserts Region (6)

 Marine Region (7-along entire coast)

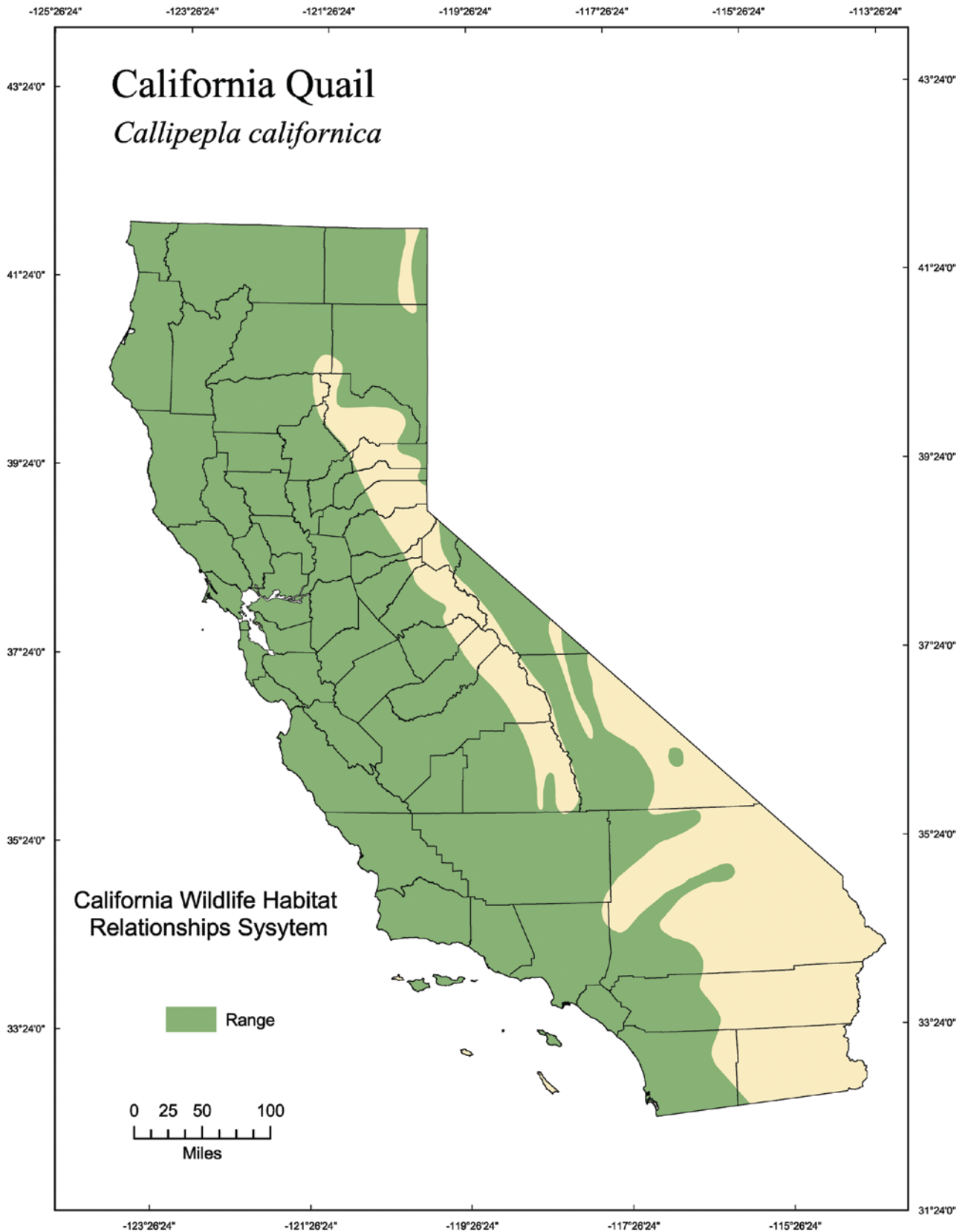
 Field Offices

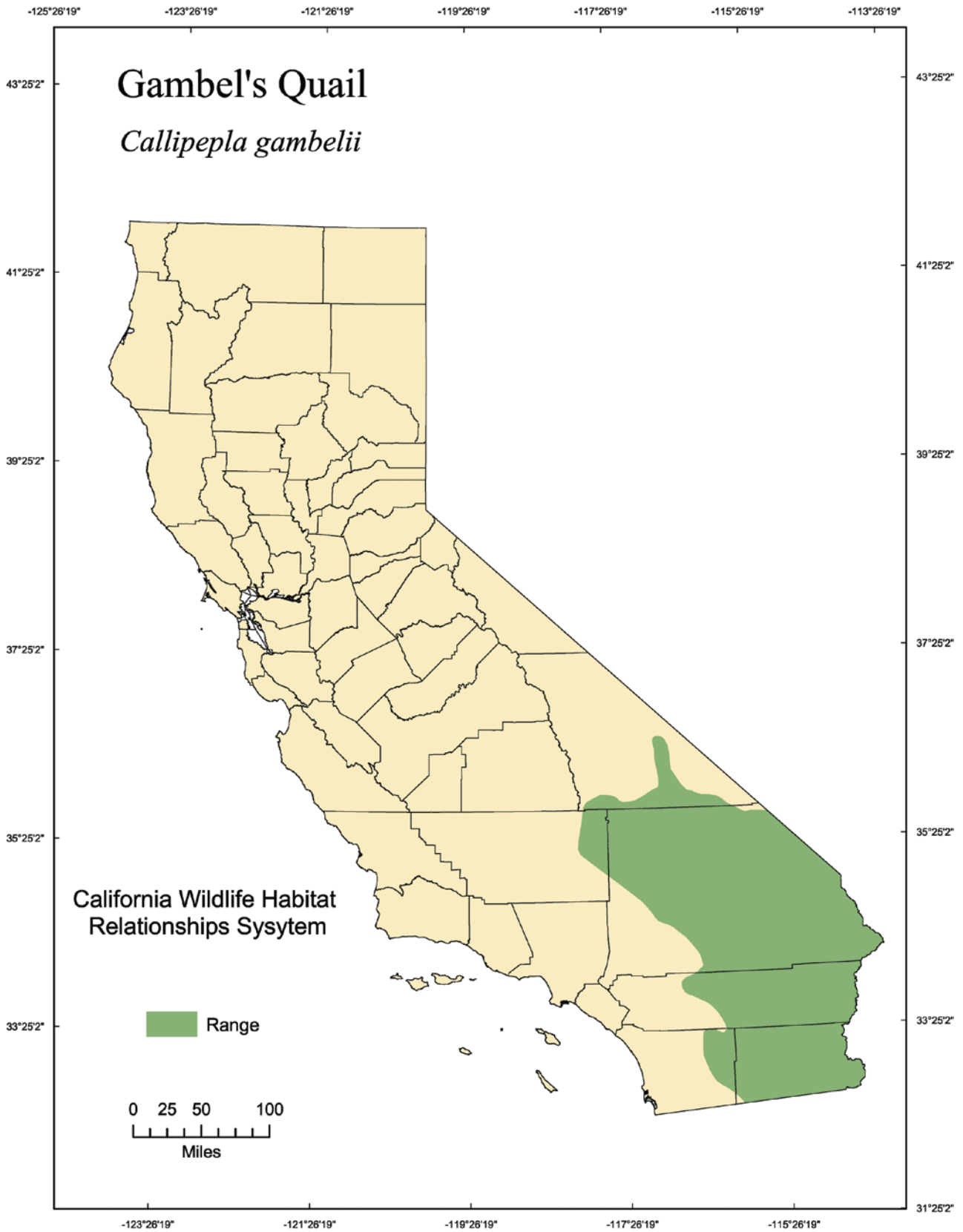


Department of Fish & Game  
Information Technology  
Branch  
GIS Program  
jpe 7/13/1999









# THE QUAIL OF CALIFORNIA



## CALIFORNIA (VALLEY) QUAIL

This bird was selected by the California Legislature in 1931 as the official state bird. Males are about 9½ to 11 inches long, and are more colorful than females. Males have a black throat circled with a white line; the top of the head is dark brown with a plume of short black curved feathers set at a cocky angle. A chestnut patch is in the middle of the stomach, the breast is scaled, and flanks are brownish gray sharply

## MOUNTAIN QUAIL

This is the largest native quail in North America. Both sexes look alike. They have a long, slender, erect black plume of two feathers; the throat is chestnut bordered with white; the breast, upper back and head are bluish gray; and flanks are chestnut with broad white stripes.



## GAMBEL'S (DESERT) QUAIL

This bird is a close relative of the California quail but occurs only in desert areas. The male, often referred to as a "redhead quail," has a rust-red cap with long black plume, black throat with a white border, gray upper breast, black stomach patch, and chestnut flanks sharply streaked with white. Females look similar, but lack the black throat and stomach patch and have a shorter plume.

