



California Department of Fish & Game Upland Game Bird Account Project Proposal

Project Title: The Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) in California: Assessing Status and Factors Related to Population Trends

This project proposal must clearly identify benefits to upland game birds, upland game bird hunting opportunities, or public hunting outreach (Fish and Game Code Section 3684c).

CDFG or Non-Governmental Organization project contact:

Name: Dan Connelly (Pheasants Forever)

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Project start and completion dates by State Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30): *7/1/2012 to 12/31/2013 (*based on funds being available at the start of the fiscal year:2012-2013, otherwise the same monthly duration from the start of funding availability)

California Department of Fish and Game Region and location of proposed project:

Statewide: All Regions that have significant pheasant populations.

Objectives: *State how this proposed project will maintain or enhance existing upland game bird resources. Example: an additional Special Hunt, increased upland habitat acreage, opening of public land areas for upland game bird hunting opportunities, access to private lands, or resource assessments that will ensure resource perpetuation. This is a resource assessment project that will give the resource the best chance to flourish throughout its range in California.* The status of pheasants in California has not been thoroughly assessed in nearly 25 years. An understanding of pheasant population trends and factors impacting pheasant populations is needed to guide management of pheasant populations and their habitats and help ensure Upland Game Bird Account funds that are directed towards pheasants provides the most benefit. This project will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of available information on pheasants and factors possibly related to population dynamics, and where data are adequate, will evaluate the relationship between pheasant populations and possible limiting factors. Specific objectives of this project are to:

1. Gather, compile, and summarize existing published reports, unpublished reports, and data sets on population status, harvest, and ecology of ring-necked pheasants in California.
2. Synthesize existing information to determine and summarize regional (e.g., Klamath Basin, Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Imperial Valley) and local Wildlife Area and Federal Refuge (e.g., Mendota Wildlife Area and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge) pheasant population status and trends.
3. Gather, compile, and summarize existing information on landscape, environmental, and other factors (e.g., extent of nesting and brood habitat, precipitation, management

practices, pesticide use, hunting regulations) hypothesized to impact pheasant populations in California.

4. Model pheasant populations vs. habitat and other factors at regional and/or local scale (depending upon available data) to evaluate strength of evidence linking population change to changes in habitat and other factors.
5. Report results of modeling and identify data still needed to further reduce uncertainty and guide management of pheasant populations and their habitat in California.

Pheasants Forever has been in ongoing discussions with the USGS Western Ecological Research Center, in Dixon, California to assist in the completion of this task. It is our intent to engage the Center, with Joe Fleskes as the lead in this regard.

Benefits: *Describe benefits to upland game bird species, upland game bird public hunting opportunities, or public outreach and education relating to upland game bird hunting.*

The ring-necked pheasant is one of California's most prized game birds, but hunter success and harvest has greatly declined. A comprehensive assessment of the pheasant population status and possible factors related to population trends in California has not been conducted in nearly 25 years. This information is needed to guide management of pheasant populations and their habitats in California. If data are adequate, modeling of relationships between pheasant populations and other factors may result in a better understanding of factors that are currently limiting pheasant populations. This information can be used by managers to direct their efforts at limiting factors and optimize benefit provided by the Upland Game Bird Account and other programs. If successful, larger pheasant populations and increased hunter success should result.

Schedule of project tasks: *A brief project summary is required annually for multi year projects and a final project report by August 1st following the fiscal year of project completion. Please summarize your projected tasks by date:*

Tasks	Start Date	Finish Date
Gather, compile, and summarize existing published reports, unpublished reports, and data sets on population status, harvest, and ecology of ring-necked pheasants in California.	7/1/12	9/30/12
Synthesize existing information to determine and summarize regional and local pheasant population status and trends.	10/1/12	12/31/12
Gather, compile, and summarize existing information on habitat and other factors hypothesized to impact pheasant populations in California.	1/1/13	5/31/13
Project data summary.	6/1/13	6/30/13
Model pheasant populations vs. habitat and other factors at regional and/or local scale (depending upon available data) to evaluate strength of evidence linking population change to changes in habitat and other factors.	7/1/13	8/30/13
* final report		11/30/13

The following pages include tables that you may use to fill in your budget breakdown. Please feel free to generate your own tables, but all information must be included. Additional information such as area maps should also be included.

Project Funding Breakdown (\$)	
Item of Expense (salary & wages, equipment, supplies, etc)	Amount
Salaries/Benefits of Data Technician and GIS Specialist	\$ 41,130
Salaries/Benefits of Statistician-Modeler and Project Leader	44,550
Project Coordination – PF Staff	4,500
Gas and Maintenance of Vehicle	1,250
Vehicle Cost	1,000
Publication and Printing	<u>3,770</u>
Direct Costs Total	96,200
Indirect Costs (10%)	<u>9,620</u>
Project Total	105,820
Less: Matching Contributions (see below)	(8,250)
Total Request	\$ 97,570

State the measurable products expected to result from this project and how the effectiveness will be evaluated.

Project products will include:

- 1) Updated bibliography of information on California pheasants and their management.
- 2) Updated summary of data on pheasant population status and harvest in California.
- 3) Summary of data on landscape and other factors hypothesized to impact pheasant populations in California.
- 4) Report describing results of modeling pheasant populations vs. habitat and other factors at regional and/or local scale (depending upon available data) to evaluate strength of evidence linking population change to changes in habitat and other factors.
- 5) Report describing key data that are needed to guide management of pheasants and their habitats in California.

List any CDFG personnel participation by name and classification:

Name: <u>Scott Gardner</u>	Classification: Staff Environmental Scientist
Name: <u>Andy Atkinson</u>	Classification: Senior Environmental Scientist
Name: <u>Steve Brueggemann</u>	Classification: Environmental Scientist
Name: <u>Chad Fien</u>	Classification: Environmental Scientist

Non-Governmental Organization and other Agency Contributions	
Organization/Agency Name	% of Matching Funds and/or Volunteer Effort
Dan Connelly-Pheasants Forever -Staff time (160 hrs @\$28.14/hr)	\$ 4,500
Pheasants Forever – Cash Contribution	1,000
USGS – Use of vehicle	1,000
CalOre Wetland and Waterfowl Council – Cash Contribution	1,000
Pheasants Forever – Donated indirect	750
Total Matching Contributions	\$ 8,250