

Quail Management Strategies

*Gleaned from
“the best of the best”*

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Habitat Management

- **Grazing Control**

 - Quail need grass!

 - Manage “top down”

 - instead of “bottom up”

- **Soil Disturbance**

 - Disking 15-ft wide, @ 1/16th mile intervals

 - Aerating *ca.* 20-30% of a pasture/year

 - When? *Between Halloween and Easter*

- **Winter Burning**

 - 100-300 yards wide

 - Every 3 years, depending. . . .

- **Brush Control**

 - Organize based on hunting

 - Mottes for loafing and escape cover

 - IPT to keep mesquite and huisache in line

- **Food plots**

 - When you need ‘em they usually won’t grow

 - When they grow, you usually don’t need ‘em

 - Planting and irrigating large plots for doves
benefits quail, too, though

Population Management

- Harvest Management

- Previous season's results
- Fall census (helicopter?)
- Rainfall during breeding season
- Fall bird counts during dog training
- Hunt intervals 21-30 days
- Truck limit (12-24), *not the allowable daily hunter bag of 15 birds per person*
- Take only 2-3 from a covey and move on

- Harvest Records

- Hunt location
- Hunt duration
- Area covered
- Number covey found and quail bagged
 - J:A and M:F
 - Weights

Population Management

- Hunt Management

- Space out hunting pressure using feed lanes
- Protein pellets, corn and milo
- Every 4-10 days
- 15 October to March
- Testing protein during breeding season via a research project.

- Predator Management?

- April thru August

- Coyotes • Skunks • Badgers • Feral Hogs
- Racoons • Armadillos • Opossums

In Summary

- Grazing Control
- Saturate landscape with usable space
- Be flexible, especially in light of our challenging weather and climate