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Appendix A: Strategic Plan for Quail Management and Research in the United States: Issues and Strategies

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STRATEGIC PLAN FOR QUAIL MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES: ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

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This portion of the plan identifies several broad actions that can be implemented immediately. It is followed by 5 sections on specific issues and strategies: (1) agricultural practices and pesticides, (2) forest practices, (3) grazing and range management, (4) releases of pen-raised quail, and (5) population dynamics and hunting.

Issue 1.0

POPULATION DECLINES

Widespread population declines and local extinctions of quail in the U.S., along with the relative lack of resources and attention allocated to these birds are highly significant problems currently facing natural resource management agencies.

Strategies

1.1.—Develop a program for quail population and habitat management and research modeled on the Accelerated Research Program for the Management of Upland Shore and Migratory Game Birds described in Sanderson (1977). Enlist support and cooperation of state and federal resource management agencies, and non-governmental organizations for such a comprehensive program.

1.2.—Develop cooperative working groups of biologists and managers from state and federal agencies and private conservation organizations to direct management and research efforts. A working group should be established for each region of North America that supports quail.

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Issue 2.0

ECONOMIC VALUES

Few contemporary data are available on the economic values associated with consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of native quail.

Strategies

2.1.—Perform research that quantifies consumptive and nonconsumptive economic values of each species of North American quail on local, state, regional, and continental scales.

2.2.—Disseminate information on economics of quail hunting to landowners, resource agency administrators, and state and federal legislators.

Issue 3.0

LACK OF COMMON VOICE

Constituency groups generally lack a single, common voice and technical expertise to effectively address issues related to quail habitat and population ecology and management.

Strategies

3.1.—Form a national constituency group coalition that will promote strategic planning efforts, influence the political process, and act as a clearing-house to provide information on access to funding sources for research and management projects.

3.2.—Establish a centralized, structured account within each state and have this account administered by a state constituency group council. Constituency groups can develop competitive proposals for habitat improvement or educational projects and, after review and approval, fund them from this account.

Issue 4.0

DEALING WITH MYTHS

There are many widespread and persistent myths held by resource agencies and the general public about quail and quail management.

Strategies

4.1.—Use documented evidence of introduction failures to convince state agencies that introduction of exotic game birds is not cost-effective.

4.2.—Encourage constituency groups to take an active and aggressive stance against translocating species of quail into regions and habitats that are clearly not within their historic range.

4.3.—Provide incentives for sponsorship of short courses and seminars with resource management agencies.

4.4.—Provide incentives for wildlife specialists to write popular newspaper and magazine articles about quail management.

