

Upland Game

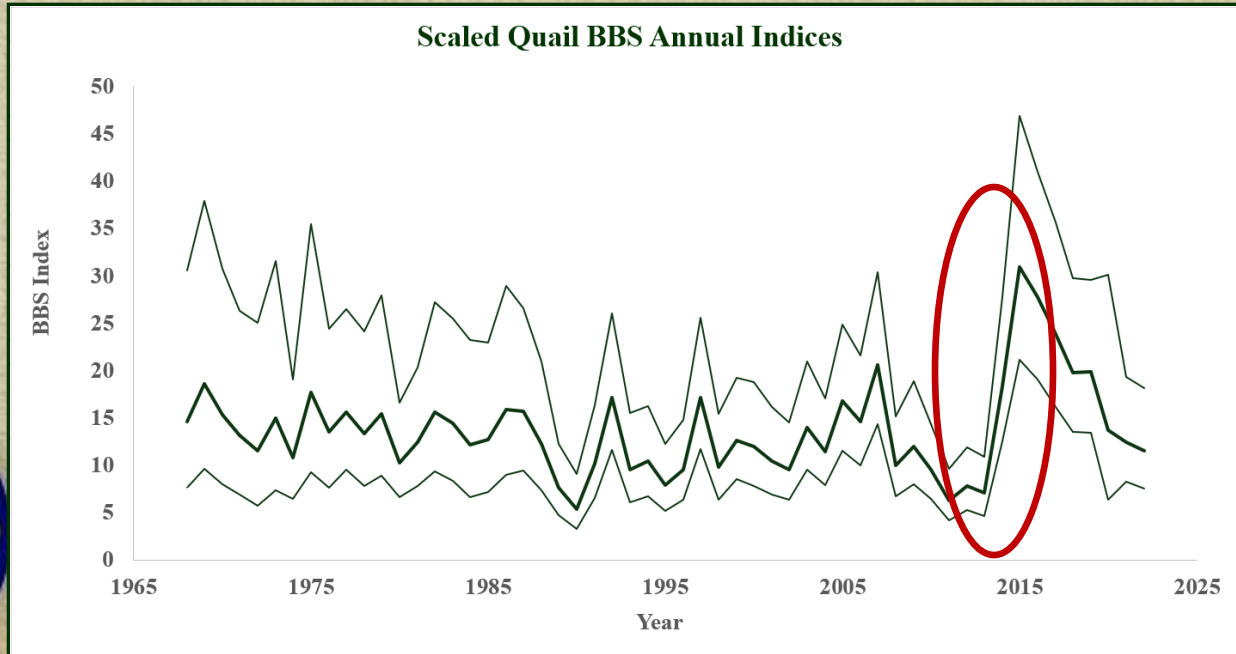
19.31.5 NMAC

November 7, 2025

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting
Los Alamos, NM

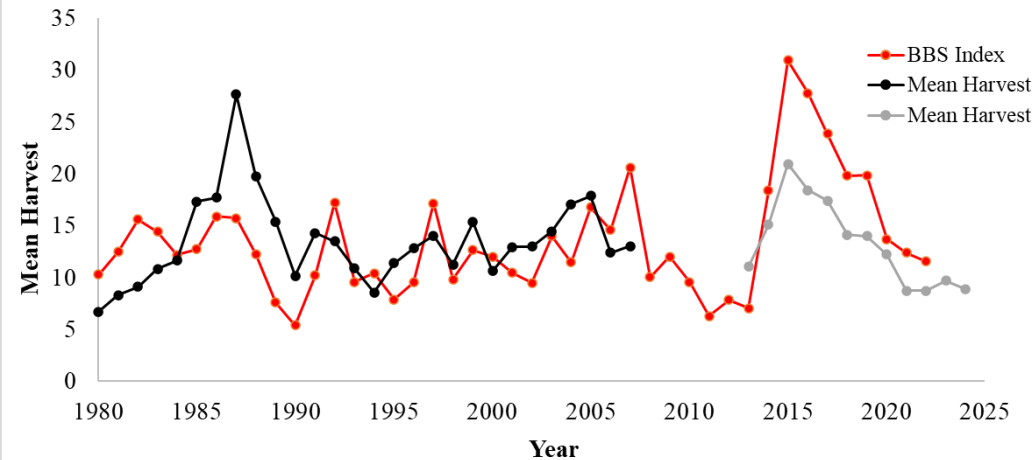


Background Upland Game Population Fluctuations

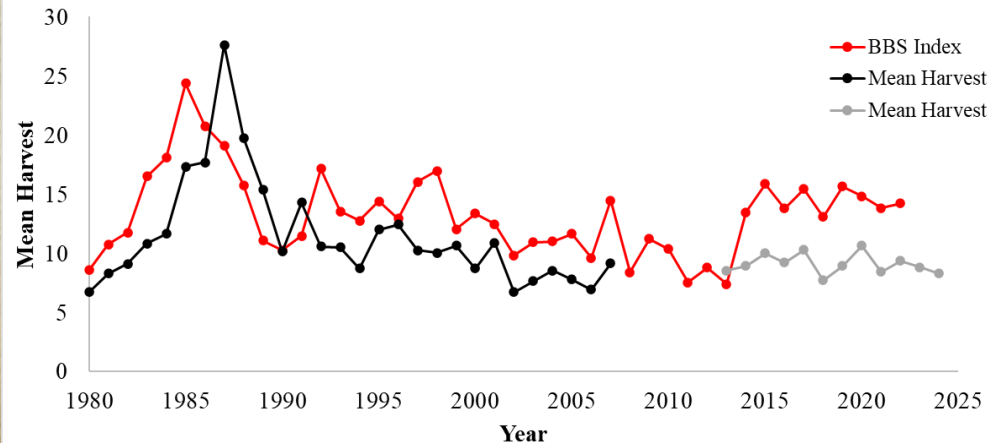


Harvest Trends Compared to Population Fluctuations

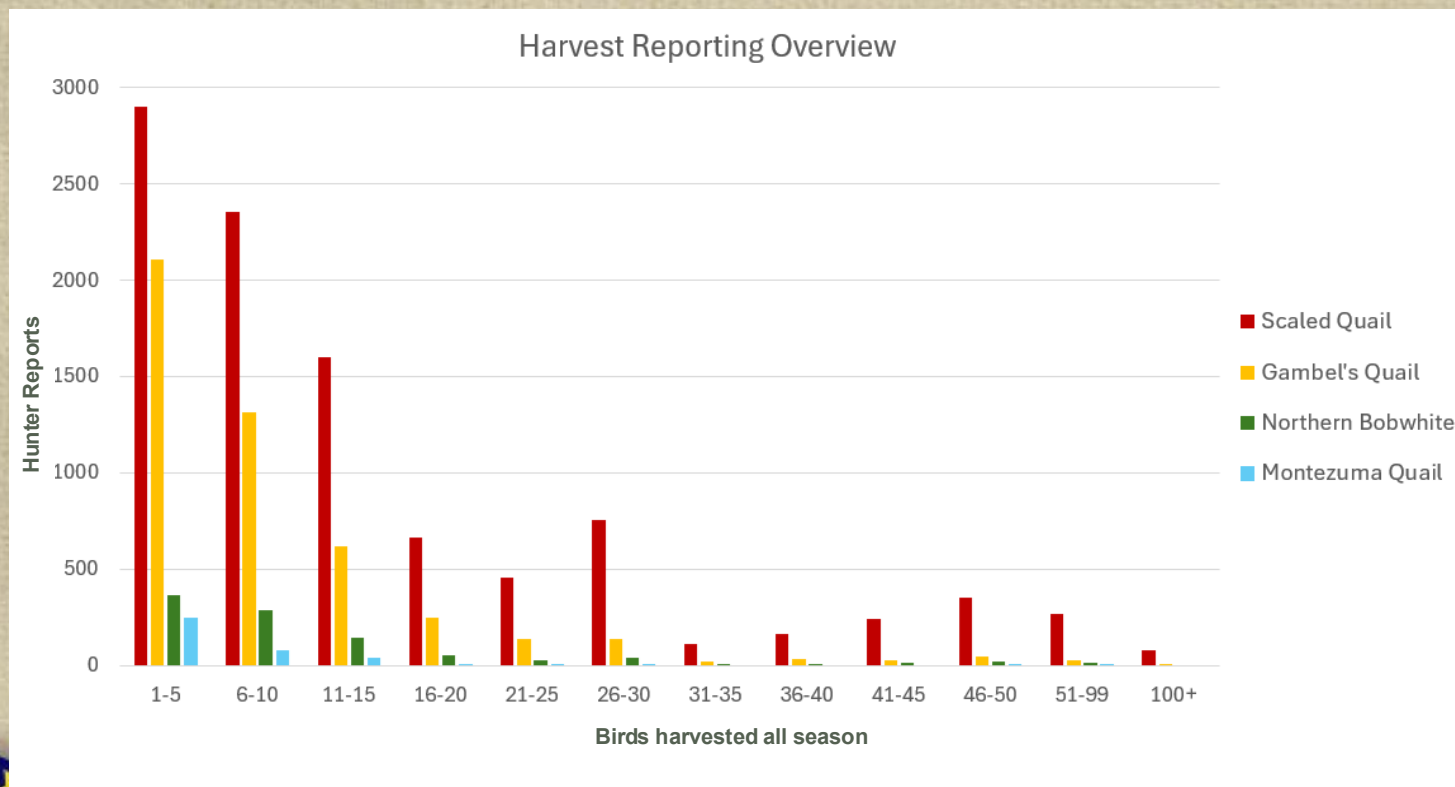
Scaled Quail Population Trends compared to Mean Harvest



Gambel's Quail Population Trends compared to Mean Harvest



Reported Quail Harvested During Season (2014-2024)



Gambel's - 85% harvested 15 or less
Scaled - 70% harvested 15 or less
Bobwhite - 80% harvested 15 or less
Montezuma - 63% harvest 5 or less



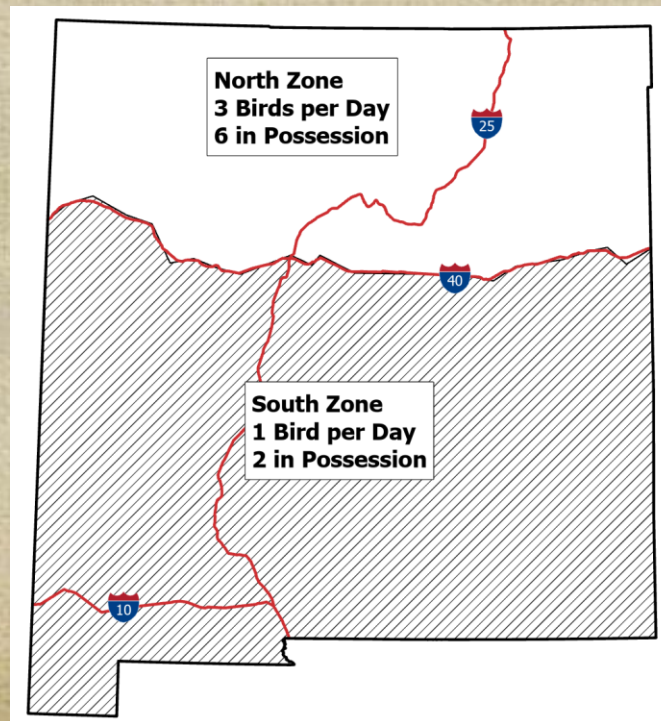
Amend: Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

- **Divide Dusky Grouse into a North and South Zone**
 - Use I-40 as the dividing line
- **Set Bag Limits for Dusky Grouse Zones**
 - North- 3 Birds/Day; 6 in possession
 - South- 1 Bird/Day; 2 in possession



Amend: Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

Divide Dusky Grouse into two zones and set harvest limits for zones



Amend: Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC (continued)

- Adjust hunt dates according to calendar
- Add additional special youth pheasant draw hunt on Jackson Lake WMA
- Open Bluebird and Pine River WMAs for upland hunting during Squirrel Season/Grouse
- Open Double E, LBar, Navajo and River Ranch WMAs for upland hunting during Quail Season



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Update Seasons based on Calendar

Species	2026	2027	2028	2029	Licenses
Middle Rio Grande Valley WMAs Youth-only Pheasant Hunt	Oct. 17	Oct. 16	Oct. 21	Oct. 20	20
W.S. Huey WMA Youth-only Pheasant Hunt	Dec. 5	Dec. 4	Dec. 2	Dec. 1	40
W.S. Huey WMA Pheasant Hunt	Dec. 12	Dec. 11	Dec. 9	Dec. 8	40
Jackson Lake WMA Youth-only Pheasant Hunt (New)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	10



Public Comment Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

- **Hybrid meetings**
 - Albuquerque- May 21- 3 in person, 8 online
 - Las Cruces- May 28- 1 in person, 4 online
- **Virtual Meeting**
 - Quail Forever Virtual Meeting- July 24- 9 online
- **11 Comments received**



Public Comment Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

- **Comments received as of November 6, 2025**
 - **Make harvest reporting mandatory for small game hunters (10)**
 - **Create an Upland HIP # or Stamp to track upland hunters/harvest (6)**
 - **Support lower southern grouse harvest limits (6)**
 - **Change SE quail opener date so doesn't overlap with SE deer (2)**
 - **Reduce the quail harvest limits in the state (2)**
 - **8-10 per day for Scaled, Gambel's and Bobwhite**
 - **2-3 per day for Montezuma**
 - **Delineate southern Grouse zone by I-40 on north and I-25 on east (2)**
 - **Reduce northern zone grouse harvest limits and limits near Pecos, NM (2)**



Public Comment Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

- **Comments received as of November 6, 2025**
 - **Change southern grouse limit to zero (1)**
 - **Open grouse season Tuesday after Labor Day (1)**
 - **End shooting hours at sunset (1)**
 - **Establish season for American Crow (1)**
 - **Change quail seasons from statewide to regions and set harvest limits by region (1)**
 - **Restrict nonresidents to two 5-day hunt periods (1)**
 - **Do not move dates for Bernardo youth pheasant hunt (1)**
 - **Increase the length of the pheasant season to 30 days and require eTag to regulate harvest (1)**
 - **Stock pheasants on public lands (1)**
 - **Do not release non-natives on public lands (1)**



Questions?



Casey Cardinal

