

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

Assessment of Chukar and Gray Partridge
Populations and Habitat in Hells Canyon

3.2-7

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper describes Chukar and Gray Partridge habitat and habitat requirements, population status and limiting factors due to climate, predators and habitat.

2. CONCLUSION

“Chukar and Gray Partridge are abundant and the second most important hunted upland bird in Idaho. Habitat quality In Hells Canyon is good although the invasion of medusahead and yellow-star thistle is degrading habitat. Grazing intensity has the largest impact on partridge populations “For best habitat, grazing should be limited and control of medusahead and yellow-star thistle should be a high priority. A good paper with future management concerns listed.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

This study is very good information. Land management practices will have the most positive or negative effect on Mountain Quail.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

Normal land management practices will have the most positive or negative effects. PM&E's could be included with Big Game PM&E's. Noxious weed control appears to be very important as Washington noted large declines in chukars where yellow-star thistle is abundant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Every day land management actions are very important as are protection of spring seeps PM&E'S can be addressed with mule deer. Noxious weeds (medusahead and yellow star thistle) control is necessary to maintain or improve partridge habitat.