

APPENDIX I

Upland Game/Small Game Population Characteristics and Harvest Recommendations

These species have high annual population turnover rates and high reproductive potential. They cannot be stockpiled; therefore, liberal seasons and bag limits are not a concern to the wildlife manager through good/poor production years. Landowners may attempt to conserve game by curtailing hunts within the framework of seasons/bag limits if they so desire; however, this is moot because hunting *over the entire range* of these species in the High Plains is very conservative due to private landownership. Integration of winter food/cover plots, highly-diverse tall grass/legume nesting cover, and shelterbelts into farming operations promotes more pheasants; brush management featuring strips and mottes of sumacs, plum thickets, shinnery oak, sand sage, narrowleaf yucca (beargrass), mesquite, and cholla (tree) cactus favors scaled quail, bobwhite quail, wild turkeys, and rabbits. Preservation of little bluestem-sand bluestem-shinnery oak-sumac-plum thicket associations in sandhill habitat favors both quail species, wild turkeys, rabbits, and is critical for lesser prairie chickens. Availability of surface water and protected roost sites (shelterbelts on uplands and cottonwoods in bottoms) are the limiting factor for distribution of Rio Grande wild turkeys. Again, the best all-around wildlife habitat enhancement tool on High Plains rangelands is a ***planned grazing system that incorporates wildlife habitat requirements***.



The majority of pheasant roosters and wild turkey gobblers are harvestable surplus for the hunter's bag. Care should be taken to not hunt within 1/4 mile of turkey roosts. Wild turkeys are highly mobile and will move if harassed around these areas, especially in early morning/late evening.