

- Masked Bobwhite Habitat Requirements
- Industry Specific

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1. Rank the following habitat characteristics in order of their importance to masked bobwhite quail. Some of the variables listed below will have positive impacts while others will be negative, please rank the importance of a variable irrespective of this difference. Different variables cannot be given the same rank. A rank of 1 is the most important while a rank of 16 is the least important.

	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)	4 (4)	5 (5)	6 (6)	7 (7)	8 (8)	9 (9)	10 (10)	11 (11)	12 (12)	13 (13)	14 (14)	15 (15)	16 (16)
Grass Cover	X															
Forb Cover								X								
Brush and Shrub Cover																X
Mammalian Predators									X							
Leguminous Shrubs					X											
Invasive Plant Species															X	
Summer Forb Diversity										X						
Tree Cover														X		
Woodland/ Grasslands Edges		X														
Avian Predators				X												
Thermal Refugia													X			
Bare Ground						X										
Vegetation Height (Herbaceous)											X					
Herbaceous Species Diversity													X			
Structural Diversity (of Vegetation)				X												
Arthropod Diversity and Abundance							X									

*Other (please specify):* Please note that all of my responses are relevant to summer 'breeding' habitat conditions only. These responses may or may not relate to winter habitat conditions which are typically quite different than summer habitats. I recommend that separate sets of habitat criteria be established to qualify summer vs. winter habitats. These independent sets of criteria can then be used to develop remote sensing models to identify, rank and map these two habitat types. It is also important to note that the habitat conditions across the entire historic range is significantly variable. My responses relate to conditions in Arizona and northern Sonora which are the areas I am most familiar with. I am interpreting the grass cover characteristic as meaning native perennial bunch grasses and native annual grasses collectively. I am also interpreting the brush and shrub cover as a grassland replacing shrubland type in which most or all of the beneficial grassland ecological characteristics are replaced with a closed canopy undesirable shrubs.

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2. There is considerable difference of opinion as to the relationship between woody vegetation and masked bobwhite habitat suitability. The graphs above represent various interpretations of this relationship. Please rate the graphs according to the likelihood that each graph approximates the relationship between woody vegetation cover and masked bobwhite habitat suitability and rank your confidence in this choice. An answer of 1 indicates the most likely relationship whereas 9 indicates the least likely.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Graph 1		X							
Graph 2			X						
Graph 3						X			
Graph 4									X
Graph 5				X					
Graph 6			X						
Graph 7					X				
Graph 8							X		
Graph 9								X	
Confidence (1= very confident, 9= a pure guess)			X						
<i>Please comment on your choices :</i>									

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3. The above graphs represent three different interpretations of the relationship between masked bobwhites and both bare ground and nest substrate height. Please rank the graphs in order of their likelihood in approximating the true relationship. An answer of 1 indicates the most likely relationship whereas 9 indicates the least likely. Also, please provide your confidence in your ranking.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bare Ground Graph 1			X						
Bare Ground Graph 2				X					
Bare Ground Graph 3					X				
Bare Ground Confidence (1=very confident, 9= complete guess)			X						
Nest Substrate Height Graph 1				X					
Nest Substrate Height Graph 2				X					
Nest Substrate Height Graph 3					X				
Nest Substrate Height Confidence (1=very confident, 9= complete guess)					X				
<i>Please comment on your choices :</i> Please note that the single most important component to nest substrate is the density of perennial bunch grasses. Even though height of nest substrate is very important, this characteristic in my view is secondary compared to the density of larger diameter bunch grasses.									

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4. The above graphs represent nine different interpretations of the relationship between masked bobwhites and herbaceous cover. Please rank the graphs in order of their likelihood in approximating the true relationship. An answer of 1 indicates the most likely relationship whereas 9 indicates the least likely. Also, please provide your confidence in your ranking.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Graph 1		X							
Graph 2			X						
Graph 3		X							
Graph 4				X					
Graph 5						X			
Graph 6					X				
Graph 7							X		
Graph 8									X
Graph 9								X	
Confidence (1= very confident, 9= just guessing)			X						
<i>Please comment on your choices :</i>									

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5. The above graphs represent six different interpretations of the relationship between masked bobwhites and the amount of visual cover. Please rank the graphs in order of their likelihood in approximating the true relationship. An answer of 1 indicates the most likely relationship whereas 9 indicates the least likely. Also, please provide your level of confidence in your ranking.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Graph 1					X				
Graph 2									
Graph 3						X			
Graph 4		X							
Graph 5				X					
Graph 6			X						
Confidence (1= very confident, 9= just guessing)				X					
Please comment on your choices :									

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6. Please describe, with as much detail as possible, the habitat features which best represent optimal masked bobwhite habitat.

Edges between shrublands and grasslands represent the best breeding habitat conditions. The edges should be feathered with an ecotone like structure. Plant species diversity is also very important. A large component of the shrubs should consist of beneficial leguminous species including *Acacia angustissima*, *Desmanthus* sp. and *Mimosa* sp. Native annual and perennial grasses are also very important. A density of 300 to 500 perennial bunch grasses per acre is optimal for breeding and protective cover purposes. Bunch grasses 8" or bigger diameter at ground level provides the best nest substrate. Also, forbs and weeds provide addition food source and cover. Brood habitat consisting of broad leaved forbs such as ragweed is very important. The brood habitat should have clear near bare ground conditions underneath the leave a closed canopy. A matrix of bare ground 15 to 50% is also very beneficial. This provides mobility and escape routes from predators.

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