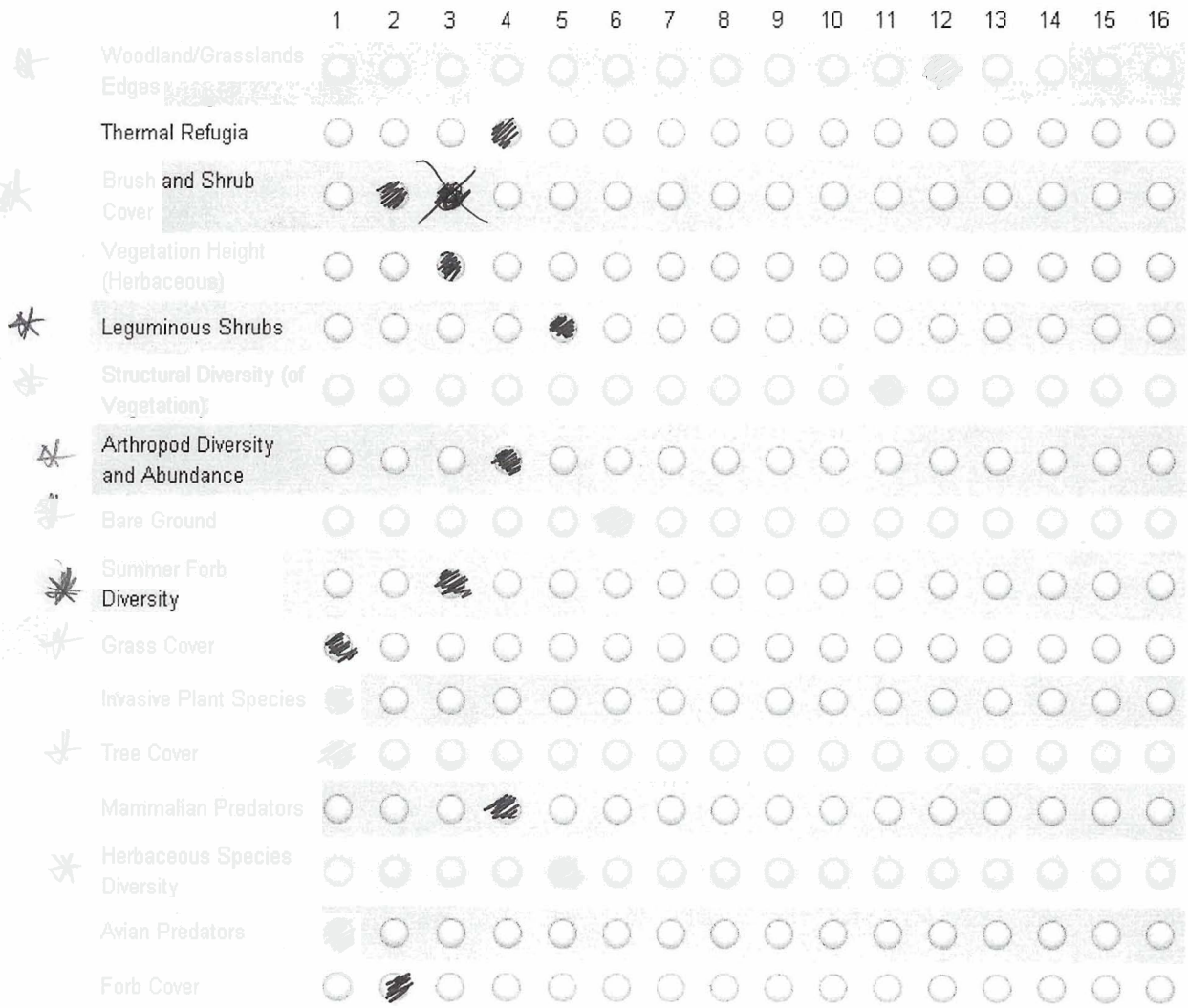
D.H. Ellis responses
My best guesses

As a follow up to my interviews with masked bobwhite experts we have designed the following survey to gather specific information regarding masked bobwhite habitat. We greatly appreciate you taking the time to answer the following questions. We will use the information obtained from this survey, in combination with personal interviews and peer reviewed publications, to identify the best remaining masked bobwhite habitat and to inform future habitat management decisions.

Question #1 Variable Importance

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. An answer of 1 indicates the most important whereas 16 indicates the least important. Different variables cannot be given the same rank.

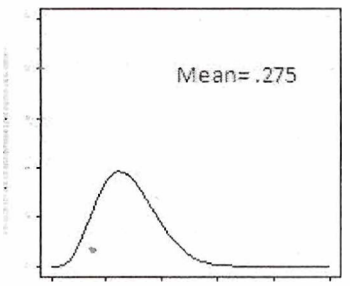


Other (please describe):

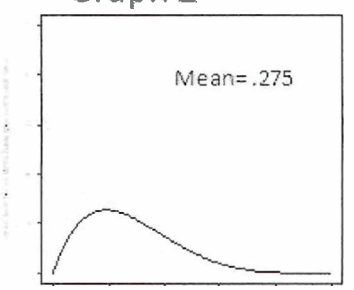
Question #2 Woody Cover

The question for this page relates to the woody cover graph page I sent you. Below is the same information as on the file I sent you titled "Proportion Woody Cover". If you did not receive this page or are having trouble viewing it please contact me (520-626-8293 or dlaroche@email.arizona.edu) and I will try to send you another version. The y-axis represents bobwhite abundance and the x-axis represents the proportion of cover from woody vegetation.

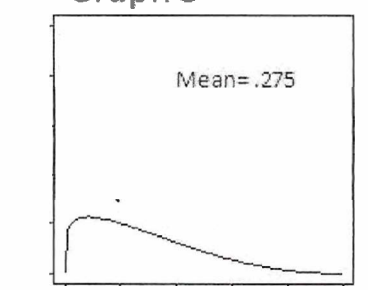
Graph 1



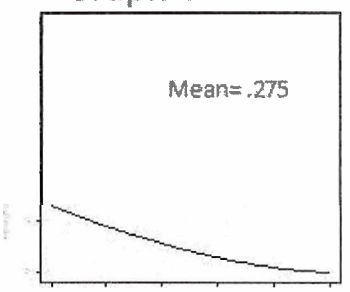
Graph 2



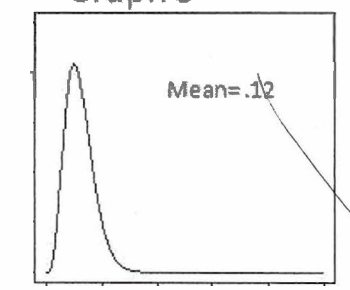
Graph 3



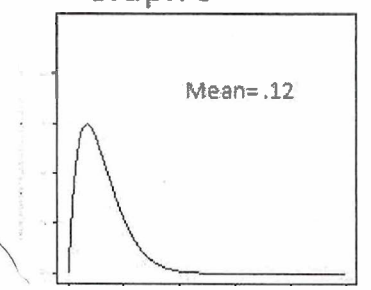
Graph 4



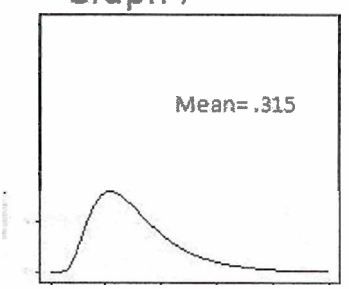
Graph 5



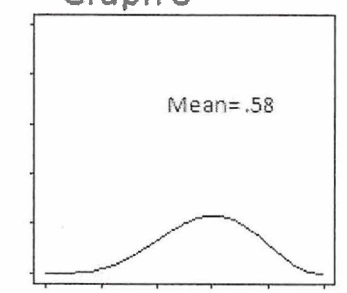
Graph 6



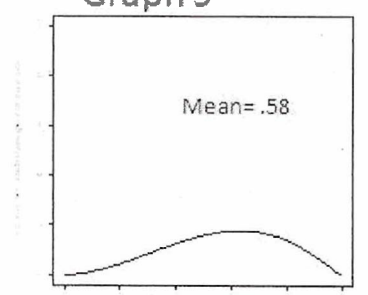
Graph 7



Graph 8



Graph 9



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	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 3	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 5	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 6	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 7	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 8	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 9	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Confidence (1= very confident, 9= a pure guess)	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○

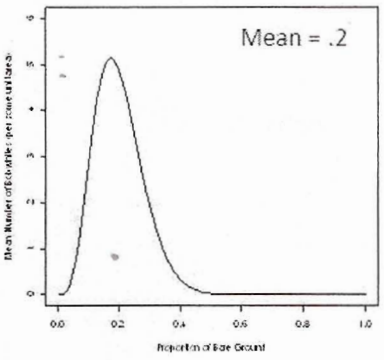
Please comment on your choices:

In USA MBW need wide expanse (ca 2 miles wide) without mesquite some low shrubs OK (ca 1 m tall) but extensive mesquite = gambel's oak In Mexico (no gambel's o.) MBW in mesquite grassland but in USA must eliminate mesq. over large areas or Gambel's to cut compete MBW

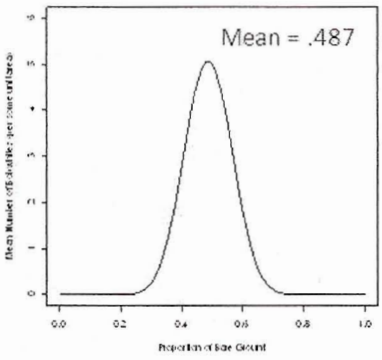
Question #3 Bare Ground

The image below includes three graphs which map potential relationships between masked bobwhites and bare ground. This set of graphs is the same as the one I sent you entitled "Proportion Bare Ground ". If you did not receive this page, or are having trouble viewing it, please contact me (520-626-8293 or dlaroche@email.arizona.edu) and I will try to send you another version. For this set of graphs the y-axis represents bobwhite abundance and the x-axis represents the proportion of bare ground.

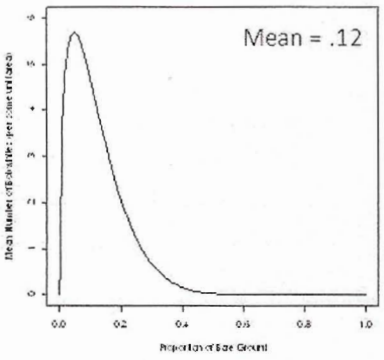
Bare Ground Graph 1



Bare Ground Graph 2



Bare Ground Graph 3



The above graphs represent three different interpretations of the relationship between masked bobwhites and bare ground. 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	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Bare Ground Graph 2	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Bare Ground Graph 3	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Bare Ground Confidence (1=very confident, 9= complete guess)	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○

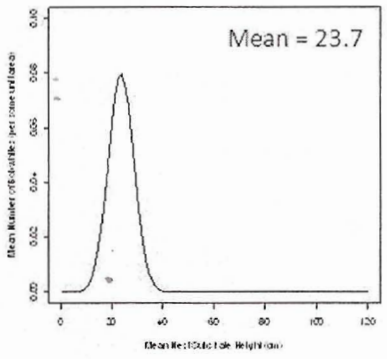
Please comment on your choices:

1 & 2 best.

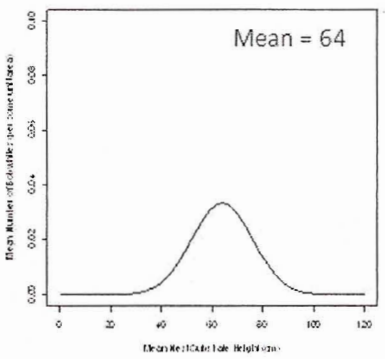
Question #4 Nest Substrate Height

The image below contains three graphs which map potential relationships between masked bobwhites nest substrate height. This set of graphs is the same as the one I sent you entitled "Nest Substrate Height". If you did not receive this page or are having trouble viewing it please contact me (520-626-8293 or dlaroche@email.arizona.edu) and I will try to send you another version. The y-axis represents bobwhite abundance and the x-axis represents the height of nest substrate vegetation (in centimeters).

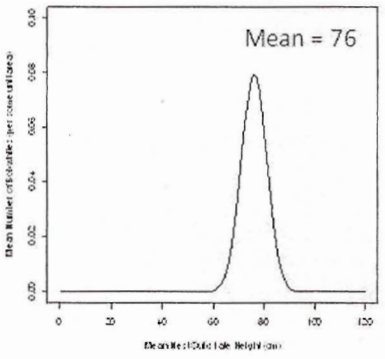
Nest Sub. Graph 1



Nest Sub. Graph 2



Nest Sub. Graph 3



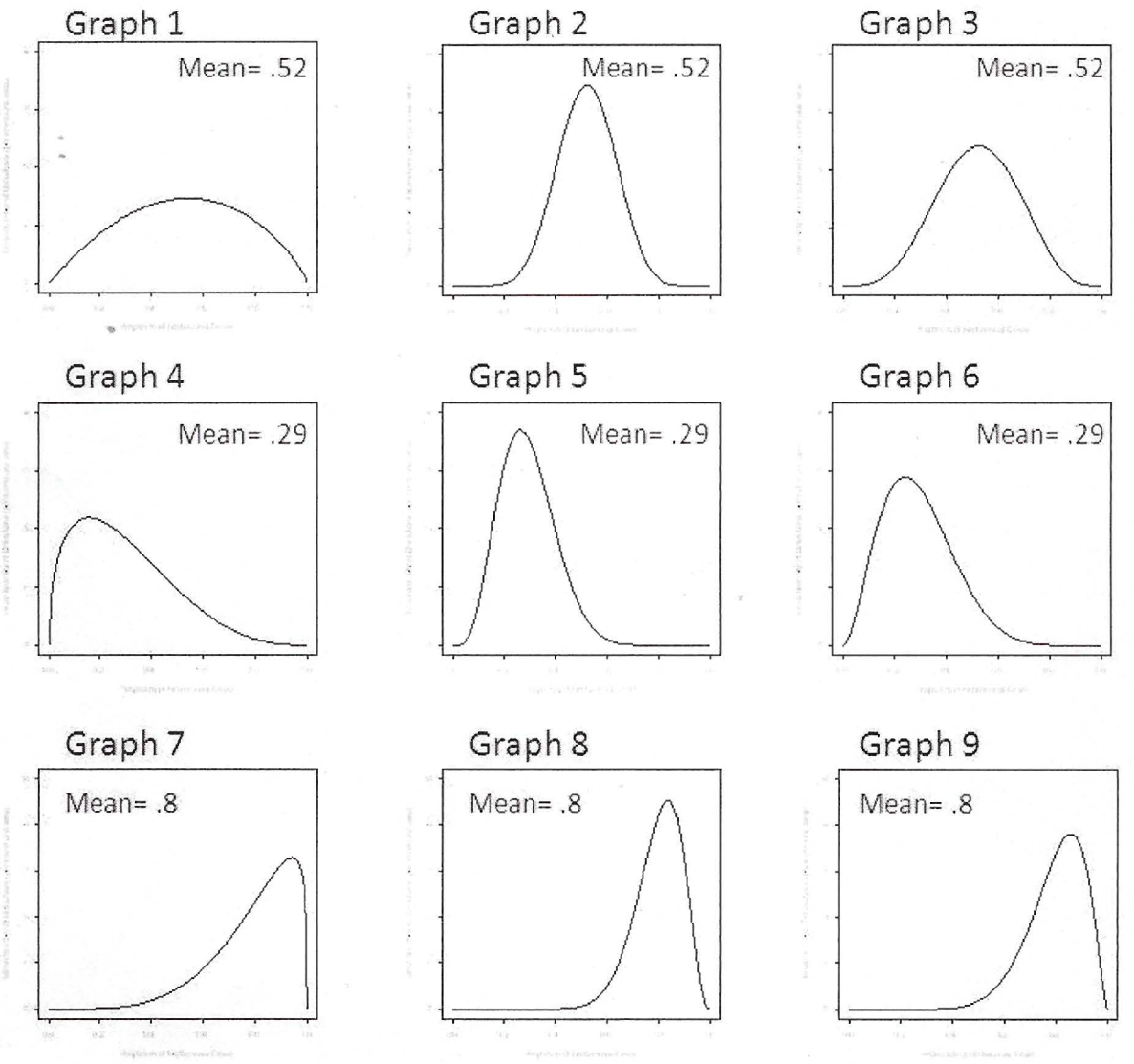
The above graphs represent three different interpretations of the relationship between masked bobwhites and nest substrate height. Please rank the graphs in order of their likelihood in approximating the true relationship. An answer of 1 indicates the most likely relationship whereas 9 indicates the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

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nest Substrate Height Graph 1	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Nest Substrate Height Graph 2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Nest Substrate Height Graph 3	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Nest Substrate Height Confidence (1=very confident, 9= complete guess)	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○

Please comment on your choices:

Question #5 Herbaceous Cover

The image below is the same as the one I sent you entitled "Proportion Herbaceous Cover". If you did not receive this page or are having trouble viewing it please contact me (520-626-8293 or dlaroche@email.arizona.edu) and I will try to send you another version. The y-axis represents bobwhite abundance and the x-axis represents the proportion of herbaceous cover.



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	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 3	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 5	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 6	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 7	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 8	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 9	▨	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Confidence (1= very confident, 2= just guessing)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

semi-guessing.

Please comment on your choices:

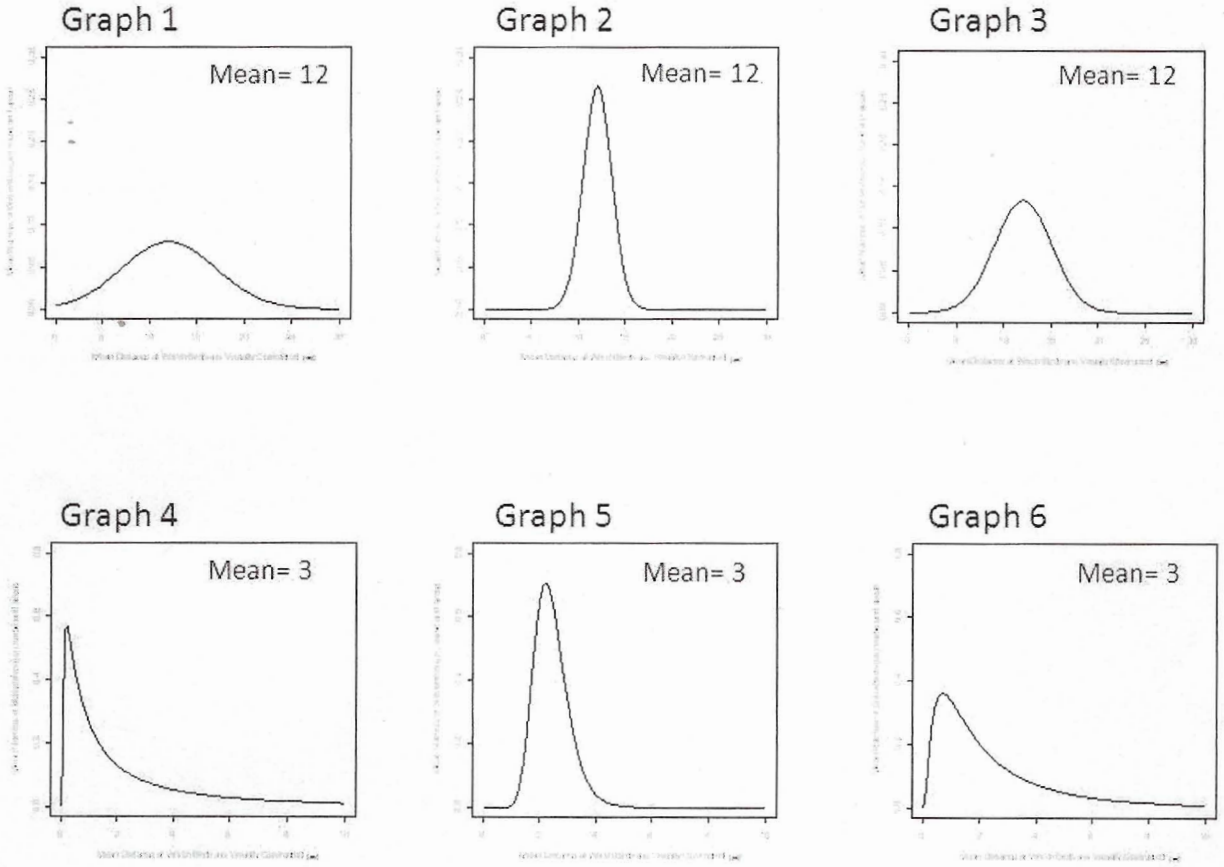
Needs dense grass over most of area so...

I R 2 or 7

Open areas also important.

Question #6 Visual Obstruction

The image below is the same as the one I sent you entitled "Visual Obstruction". If you did not receive this page or are having trouble viewing it please contact me (520-626-8293 or dlaroche@email.arizona.edu) and I will try to send you another version. The y-axis represents bobwhite abundance and the x-axis represents the distance at which a masked bobwhite would be obstructed from view (in meters).



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	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 3	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 5	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Graph 6	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Confidence (1= very confident, 2= just guessing)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Somewhat confident

Please comment on your choices:

Additional Comments

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

In Mexico, mesquite grassland (w.o. Gambel's Q)

In USA (w. " ") grassland w. mesquite far away but scattered low shrubs (cover of " ca 2%)

Tall Grass cover ca 80% but w. enough soil visible to allow for travel in open lanes 4' wide

Latin Food plants (Acacia angustissima, pigweed, grass w. large seeds (Sorghum halepense ?))