

- 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):																

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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								

Please comment on your choices : I am assuming this is woody cover, as in shrubs, not trees, as in non-mesquite woody cover. After visiting a number of bobwhite sites in Texas, I believe mesquite cover is not the issue (except as it relates to raptor perches), as they had huge populations in some areas with 100% mesquite cover. The answers to this question would vary considerably depending on what kind of woody cover. Desert broom seems worthless.....I have never seen them under it, never trapped them under it. While the same amount of mimosa or white ball acacia provides dual use---food and cover. This question seems misleading. And seasonality should be a consideration---they use woody veg. more in winter. Graph Confidence 1 3 2 3 3 2 4 1 5 2 6 2 7 2 8 3 9 3

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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						

Please comment on your choices : Please note, in my entire 11 years working with bobwhites, I have only seen one nest in the wild, but many in the flight pens and display pens. One wild nest does not constitute expertise in the matter. I suspect flight pen nest site selection might be different than wild nest site selection.....but I don't know for sure. Again, seasonality plays a big role. Brood habitat is way different than habitat the rest of the year, for example. My answers will be based on a year-round average....which is a pretty bad way to go about this.

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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					

Please comment on your choices : This might be better off done by class of bird (chicks, adults) and seasons (winter vs summer), and canopy coverage might be better off assessed at different levels above ground.

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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				X					
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 : This does not specify whether this is as viewed from above or from the side (as in using a Nudds board or Robel pole). I am assuming it is as seen from the side---but from what height off the ground?

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

The edge between grassland and shrubland is most important. This is a "feathered" edge, not abrupt. In the summer, the birds use more the grassland type areas, with widely scattered shrubs and trees (used for calling), while they nest in grass clumps. In the winter, they go into drainages (however shallow) where there are leguminous shrubs used both for feeding and for cover. They may feed and loaf in the uplands near the drainage however. Habitat should be multi-layered and have "lumpy" appearance. There are trees, but there is a well defined and most likely a multilayered shrub layer beneath the trees with grass underneath. Bare ground is very important for movement and feeding. Chicks require a higher degree of bare ground, but need a relatively closed canopy of forbs above. So the forbs used by them have somewhat of an inverted pyramid form of growth. Leguminous shrubs are the winter food source. High diversity of shrubs, forbs and grass is important, as it provides a continuum of food items throughout the season. The ideal year-round habitat is a shallow drainage with leguminous shrubs (especially *Acacia angustissima* and *Desmanthes* spp. in Mexico; *Mimosa* spp and *Acacia angustissima* in the U.S.) bordered by grassland with a wide variety of native grass species and native forb species. and a minimal amount of buffelgrass. Forb species especially important are ragweed, croton, partridge pea, and probably senna.....and many others. Summer habitat should not be completely shrub-free. Dotting of various species of leguminous shrubs is probably best---from the feathered zone mentioned earlier. But the leguminous shrubs are key to the winter habitat. As many species as possible, so there are always seeds dehiscing and landing on the ground.

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