

## Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

Scaled quail, *Callipepla squamata* (Vigors), are found throughout the mesas, canyons, and rangelands of southeastern Colorado. Insufficient cover and food-producing vegetation here along the extreme northern edge of the range, prevent these birds from reaching population densities found farther south.

In order to increase numbers of scaled quail, habitat improvements must provide or increase some factor which is limiting. For instance, if food is more important in limiting quail numbers than resting cover, additional resting cover alone would not make the birds more abundant.

Habitat improvements are often difficult to evaluate in that they attract and, therefore, concentrate birds that existed in the area prior to development. However, if sites are created that provide year-around needs of the species, birds so attracted there should remain and increase.

In 1960, personnel of the United States Forest Service's Carrizo District began experimenting with ways of improving habitat conditions for scaled quail and other wildlife. The Colorado Department of Game, Fish and Parks offered recommendations for habitat development and agreed to conduct evaluation studies. Efforts were centered on 256,000 acres in Baca and Las Animas counties (Fig. 2). This paper reports 4 years of experimentation and evaluation.

Since completion of this study, the above mentioned agencies have begun a cooperative habitat development program on the Carrizo District. Many of the findings and recommendations presented in this bulletin are being used.

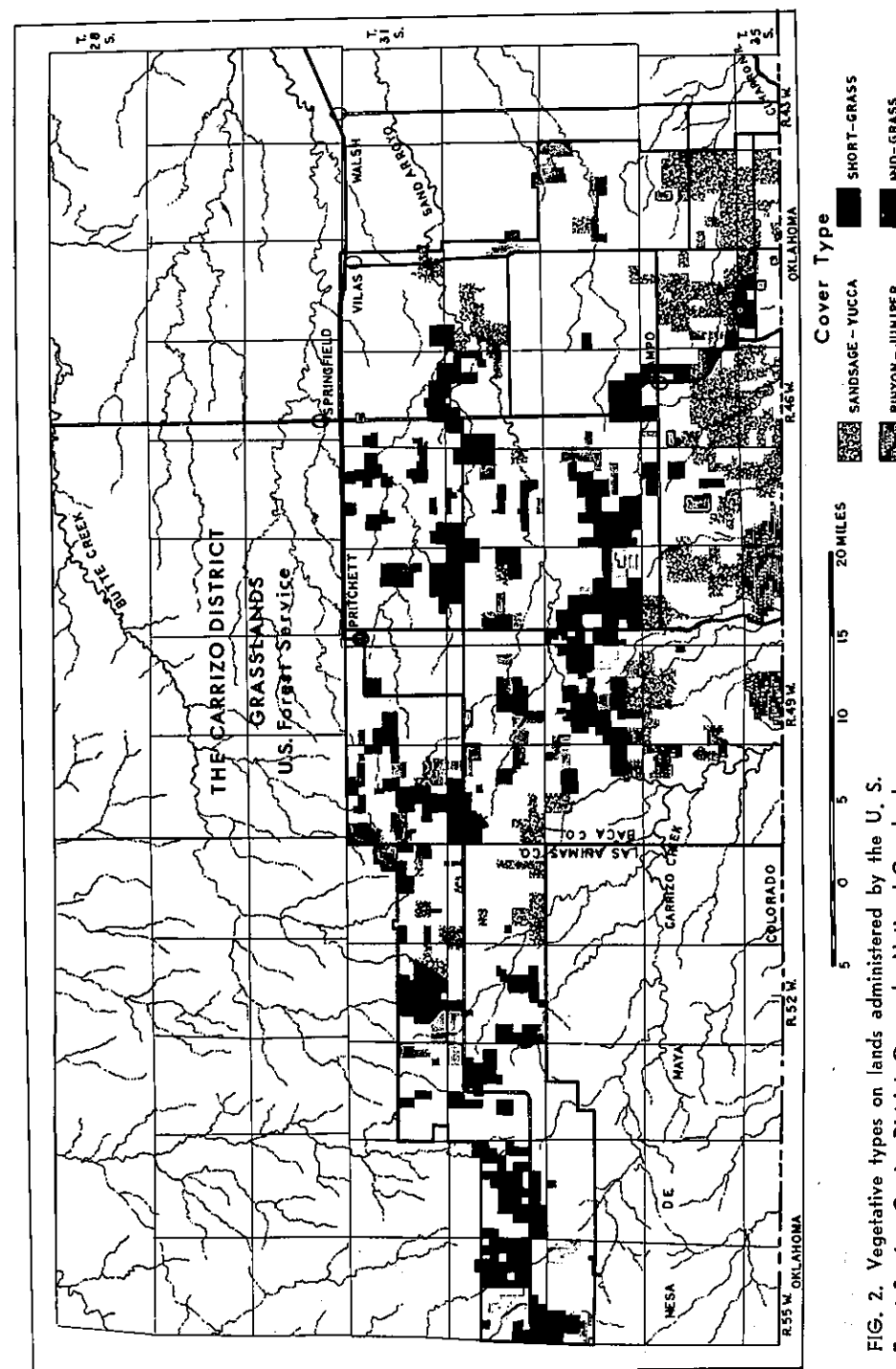


FIG. 2. Vegetative types on lands administered by the U. S. Forest Service, Carrizo District, Comanche National Grasslands.