

# Quail Covey Headquarters

## *A Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Practice Job Sheet*

### **QUAIL COVEY HEADQUARTERS ARE IMPORTANT FOR QUAIL SURVIVAL**

#### **PURPOSE:**

Covey headquarters are clumps of dense shrubby cover with a canopy at least three feet high and little vegetation at ground level. Quail need and use this type of patchy “escape” cover on a daily basis. They use headquarters to avoid hot summer sun and seek protection from predators and harsh weather. Without this habitat component, few quail will be present. This habitat component should be placed next to early-successional vegetation such as managed wildlife friendly grasses/legumes and tilled soil in order to be most effective.



#### **SPECIFICATIONS:**

- Headquarters should be located according to plan map.
- Headquarters shrub plantings should be 30' x 50' and 1,500 square feet.
- Plant shrubs 5' X 5' in an 11 x 7 row arrangement this equals 77 shrubs/headquarters.
- Plant: gray or silky dogwood, staghorn or smooth sumac, American plum, blackberry, raspberry, elderberry, hazelnut, or false Indigo. A mix of plants provides vegetative diversity.
- Entire planting area needs to be free of existing vegetation. Remove unwanted cover either by disking or chemical treatment during the fall prior to shrub planting.

#### **MAINTENANCE:**

- Exclude livestock from natural headquarters and plantings.
- Use herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.

#### **PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Provide natural cover sources for quail and other wildlife.

Consult with NRCS or ODOW private lands biologists or OPF/OQF biologists for recommendations on more complex sites. Contact your local ODOW office or OPF/OQF biologist for additional information on wildlife management.

