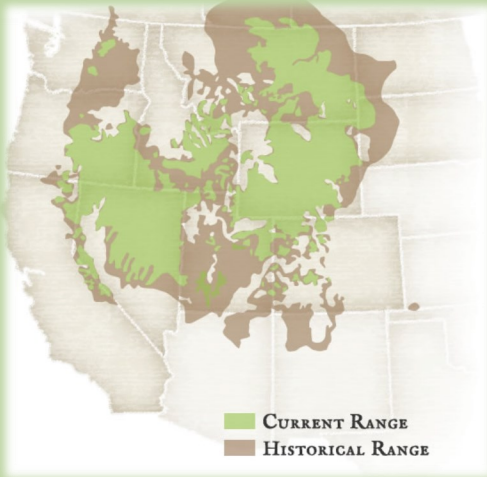


GREATER SAGE-GROUSE



Introduction to their range, habitat, and life cycle

About the Bird

- Largest native grouse in North America (chicken sized)
- Labeled as “umbrella species”, “indicator species”, and “landscape species” indicating significant changes in their environment and providing protection for many species
- Will travel more than 47 miles between seasonal habitats

Life Cycle

- Lifespan is 1-1.5 years with 3-4 years considered old
- Males ‘strut’ and ‘drum’ at traditional lek locations during mating
- Ground nesting bird and lays 6-13 eggs
- Chicks and hens mainly eat insects and forbs during summer
- 99% of winter diet is sagebrush leaves and buds

Habitat

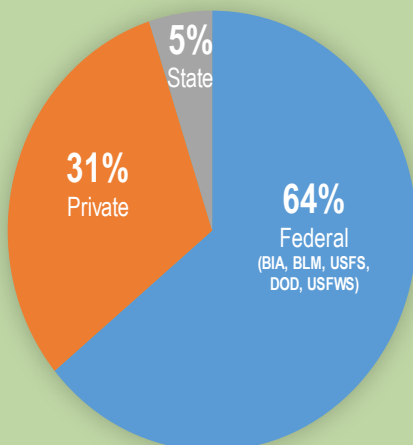
- Depend on sagebrush for all stages of life cycle
- Prefer a minimum of 15-25% sagebrush cover
- Rely on riparian, wet meadow, and stream habitat during brood-rearing and summer months

Predators

- Coyotes, foxes, golden eagles, ravens, raccoons, skunks
- Power lines, wind turbines, and fences
- Help prevent predation by increasing and maintaining sagebrush and grass cover within habitat

- Occurs across 11 states and 2 Canadian provinces
- Ranges across 156 million acres (56% less than historic range)
- Home range or habitat use covers 230 square miles or more
- Population estimate ranges from 200,000—500,000

Land Ownership
Range-wide (%)



Data provided by USFWS

Additional Information and Videos:

www.SageGrouseInitiative.com

“Icon of the Sagebrush Sea” video: <https://youtu.be/be3oqullxMA>

Greater Sage-Grouse male display video: <https://youtu.be/AZSttPGQM1E>

Greater Sage-Grouse Identification and Field Guide



© Daniel J. Cox/NaturalExposure.com

Male sage-grouse: chocolate brown belly band, broad wing span, long pointed tail, and large size are diagnostic. Sage-grouse have slower wing beats than other grouse.

Sage-grouse

Male and female - big difference in size
Male L 28" W 38" Female L 22" W 33"



Male – casual pose, black belly, black throat



Female – casual pose, black belly



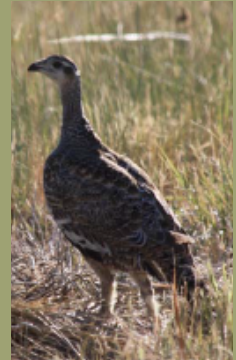
Sharp-tailed Grouse Sage-grouse DO NOT roost in trees



Sage-grouse nests



80% of hens nest within 4 miles of the lek they attend



juvenile sage-grouse



Clockers

Photo courtesy Big Horn Environmental Consultants

Incubating females leave the nest twice a day and excrete large scat piles nearby called "clockers". Clockers indicate that a sage-grouse nest is close by.



Cecal tar

Photo courtesy Big Horn Environmental Consultants

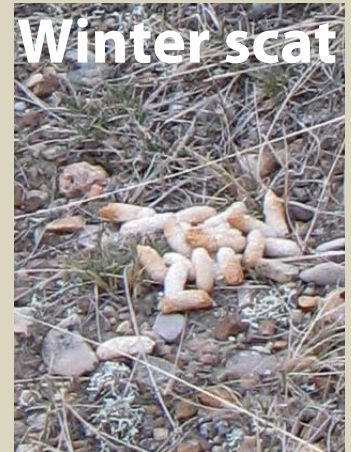
Cecal tar is common in winter when birds are eating 100% sage leaves and their digestive systems are separating volatile oils from digestible parts.



Foraging scat

Photo courtesy Big Horn Environmental Consultants

A single dropping indicates sage-grouse are on the move as they forage. Found in spring, summer, and Fall.



Winter scat

Photo courtesy Big Horn Environmental Consultants

Winter scat is generally shaped like a Cheeto™ and, upon examination, is exclusively digested sagebrush leaves.

Sage-grouse Lekking Arena



male sage-grouse