



# Sagebrush Habitat

Managing lands for food, security and connectivity

Greater sage-grouse rely on sagebrush lands for all aspects of their life cycle to meet seasonal needs for food, cover and reproduction. A local population may need up to 40 square miles of intact landscape to stay healthy. The BLM manages 67 million of the 145 million acres of greater sage-grouse habitat in the U.S. Recent science shows declining sage-grouse numbers due to habitat loss and climate effects such as drought, increasing wildfires and invasive species. Satellite mapping shows that 1.9 million acres of sagebrush habitat were lost between 2012

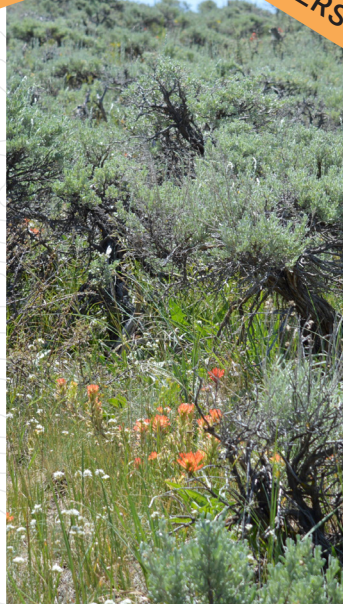
and 2018. Nearly 60% of this loss happened on BLM-managed lands, mostly resulting from wildfires. While burned areas can be restored, treatment is costly and uncertain to be effective before sage-grouse and other wildlife are forced to leave the areas permanently. More than 350 other species, like mule deer, pronghorn and the pygmy rabbit, are also affected by the loss of sagebrush habitat. The BLM is updating its habitat plans to ensure that management actions taken today will have positive effects that last into the future.

*The BLM has proposed updates to its sagebrush management plans to balance protection of sage-grouse habitat with other uses of public lands in the face of continually changing climate factors.*



**Breeding**  
(early March – mid-May)

Open areas with nearby tall sage for cover, food, and nesting.



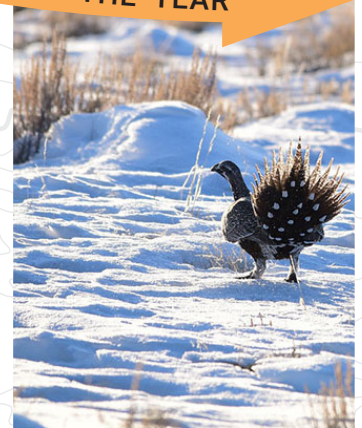
**Nesting**  
(late March – end of May)

Tall sage & sprouting grasses provide cover and food as well as safe areas for nesting and chicks.



**Raising Young**  
(June – September)

Sage, native grasses, and forbs provide food and cover.



**Winter Survival**  
(October – March)

Tall sage peaking above the snow is only food source while snow drifts provide some cover.