

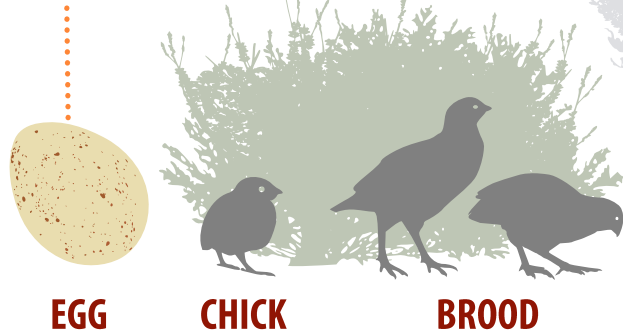
# GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

*(Centrocercus urophasianus)*



Gunnison Sage-Grouse (*C. minimus*) was recognized as a distinct species in 2000. Unique traits include smaller size, large filoplumes, and tail wagging.

Clutch size: 6-9 eggs  
Incubation: 26 days  
Peak hatch: late-May to early-June



**EGG**

**CHICK**

**BROOD**

Mottled gray and brown

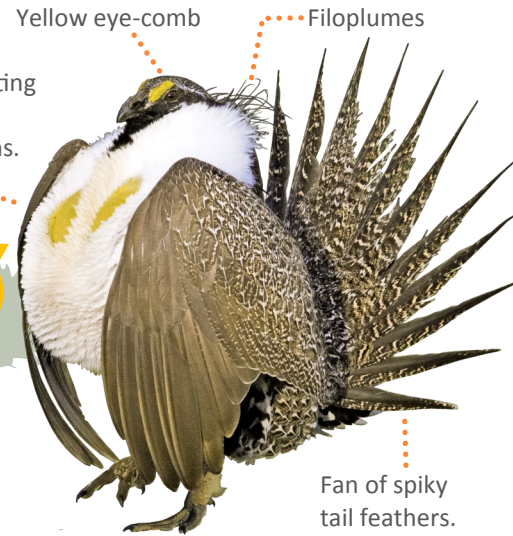
Black and white belly.



**FEMALE**

Males gather on leks, strutting and popping out air sacs to attract the attention of hens.

swishhhhhh...  
WEE-BOOP!



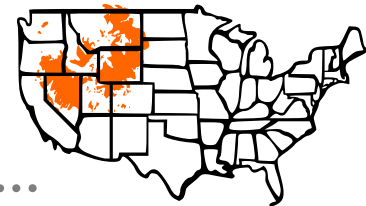
**MALE**

Yellow eye-comb

Filoplumes

Fan of spiky tail feathers.

The Sage Grouse Initiative is a partnership-based, science-driven effort to conserve rangelands and wildlife habitat through sustainable ranching. Pheasants Forever has 8 SGI partner biologists.

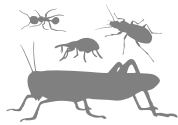


What makes good habitat? Having easy access to food, water, cover, and space to support growth and survival.

## SAGE, IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER

Newly hatched chicks rely heavily on insects, such as ants, beetles, and weevils. Juvenile grouse prefer legumes and wild forbs, especially dandelions.

As adults, sage (*Artemisia* spp.) is the primary source of food of Greater Sage-Grouse. Grit and hard foods are avoided because they do not have a well-developed gizzard.



## SAGE-GROUSE ARE SAGEBRUSH OBLIGATES

Sagebrush steppe habitat is critical to Greater Sage-Grouse for year-round food and cover. Healthy habitat is characterized by scattered sagebrush, native bunch grasses, and leafy forbs. Sagebrush typically covers 10 to 50% of the area and small clearings are used as lek sites. Some grouse populations make seasonal movements (6-150 miles) to winter ranges. Habitat fragmentation, cheatgrass invasion, tree encroachment, and overgrazing contribute to the loss and degradation of Sage-Grouse habitat.



Sage-Grouse distribution

**149 MILE JOURNEY** DISTANCE OF THE LONGEST WINTER GROUSE MIGRATION.

**4-7 POUND MALE** GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IS THE LARGEST NEW WORLD GROUSE.

**71% SAGE BRUSH** DIET COMPOSITION OF THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE.

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs.

For more information visit [pheasantsforever.org](http://pheasantsforever.org)

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



1.) **True / False:** Sage Grouse need sagebrush to survive.

2.) **True / False:** Fragmentation increases habitat availability for grouse.

3.) **True / False:** Sage-Grouse grind hard seeds with their gizzard.

4.) **True / False:** Some Sage-Grouse are migratory.

5.) **True / False:** Logging activities can benefit Ruffed Grouse.

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GOT HABITAT? The Greater Sage Grouse needs food & cover. Draw it.