



Fact Sheet

Greater Sage Grouse

Why is it important to Nature Alberta?

Nature Alberta's vision is that *Alberta's natural heritage is widely enjoyed, deeply appreciated and thoroughly protected*. Our mission is *to be a strong voice for the greater appreciation and conservation of Alberta's natural environment*. One of our guiding philosophies is that *all native species of animals and plants have a right to co-exist with Albertans*. The loss of any species in Alberta, including Greater Sage Grouse, is an unnecessary tragedy that diminishes the social, economic and environmental viability of our province, for current and future generations.



What is the Issue?

Greater Sage Grouse are the largest of Alberta's grouse species known for their impressive mating displays as witnessed each spring at their "lek" (breeding) sites. At one time, these birds were found throughout southeastern Alberta. Today, however, their population has declined to as few as 40 individuals in the Manyberries area. Populations have also declined throughout the species range in Saskatchewan and the United States.

What are Nature Alberta and its partners doing about it?

Nature Alberta is proud to be a member of the Alberta's [Endangered Species Conservation Committee](#) (ESCC) which makes recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development on species listing and recovery under the province's *Wildlife Act*. Since 1998, the ESCC has reviewed the status and provided its advice to the Minister on the recovery of Sage Grouse. A founding member of Nature Alberta, [Grasslands Naturalists](#) is also actively involved in the conservation of this species.



Photo © Randy S. Chatelain

What are others saying about this?

Alberta Wilderness Association

Defenders of Wildlife

EcoJustice

Nature Canada

Who is responsible for resolving this issue?

As a legally listed Endangered species, Sage Grouse management comes under the jurisdiction of the Governments of Alberta (*Wildlife Act*) and Canada (*Species at Risk Act*). In Alberta, the Province has prepared a [Status Report](#) and a multi-stakeholder Sage Grouse Recovery Team with its many partners is implementing a recovery plan. Several research documents are also available. The [Calgary Zoo](#) has recently announced it has received funding to start a sage grouse captive breeding and rearing program. The Federal Government has also assessed this species, produced a [recovery strategy](#), and recently issued an Emergency Protection Order under the *Species at Risk Act* which came into effect February 18, 2014. This order has been challenged by the [City of Medicine Hat](#) and LGX Oil and Gas Inc.

What other organizations are involved?

A number of complex factors are contributing to Sage Grouse decline. An equally complex number of researchers, landholders, industries, conservation organizations and government agencies are working to resolve this issue. Please note this list is not exhaustive:

[Alberta Conservation Association](#)

[Multi-SAR](#)

[Nature Conservancy Canada](#)

[Calgary Zoo](#)

What can I do about it?

Just by reading this factsheet, you've all ready started! We hope you will continue to learn about the endangered Sage Grouse by clicking on the links provided throughout this document. You can also support the many organizations that are working on this issue. If you live, work or play in southeastern Alberta, we hope you will do your part to lessen your impact on Sage Grouse populations and their sage brush habitat.

More Information:

[Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

[Sage Grouse Initiative](#)

[Montana Fish and Wildlife](#)