

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-160-R-31

Subproject 47

Progress Report



UPLAND GAME BIRD ECOLOGY

Study I: Pheasant Response to Intensive Habitat Management

Study III: Greater Sage-Grouse Nest Habitat in Southern Idaho

July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

By:

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September 2004

Boise, Idaho



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**PROGRESS REPORT
STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Upland Game Bird Ecology</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-160-R-31</u>		
SUBPROJECT:	<u>47</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Pheasant Response to Intensive Habitat Management</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		
JOB:	<u>2</u>		
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004</u>		

PHEASANT RESPONSE TO INTENSIVE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Abstract

Thirteen sections in Gooding County were mapped in 1999 using hand-held global positioning system units. Censuses of territorial male pheasants were conducted 1994-1999 on the sections and locations mapped. Crop reports and aerial photos are being used to determine habitat within the territories throughout the census years. One of the technicians that originally worked on the project has been hired back to complete the data entry. At least 32% of the data remains to be entered.

Recommendations

1. Complete entering data.
2. Analyze data.
3. Publish results in a peer reviewed journal.

**PROGRESS REPORT
STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Upland Game Bird Ecology</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-160-R-31</u>		
SUBPROJECT:	<u>47</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Greater Sage-Grouse Nest</u>
STUDY:	<u>III</u>		<u>Habitat in Southern Idaho</u>
JOB:	<u>1</u>		
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004</u>		

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE NEST HABITAT IN SOUTHERN IDAHO

Abstract

Several greater sage-grouse projects are underway throughout southern Idaho. These projects rely on radio-marking greater sage-grouse hens and determining hen and brood survival and winter habitat use. We are taking advantage of these samples to determine the relationship between nest success and habitat characteristics. This relationship will also include the influences of land management practices on nest success. Since 2002, we have measured vegetation on 157 sage-grouse nests (Table 1). "Near" sampling are plots within 50 m of a nest and is used for estimating grass height at onset of incubation.

Recommendations

1. Determine soil types, local weather data, and grazing strategies for the nest and random sites.
2. Continue measuring nest sites during 2004.
3. Publish results in peer reviewed journal.

Table 1. Summary of vegetation sampling on greater sage-grouse nests in Idaho.

Year	Nest success (%)	Nests	Vegetation samples (n)	
			Near	Random
2002	48	56	-	-
2003	34	62	40	53
2004	49	39	35	33
Total	43	157	75	86

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