

HABITAT USE AND SURVIVAL OF MALE GREATER SAGE GROUSE IN SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA

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Greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), the largest North American grouse species, can be found in sagebrush habitats throughout the western United States. However, for much of the 20th century, sage grouse populations have been declining over their entire range. Conversion and degradation of sage grouse habitat likely contribute most to sage grouse population declines. For this reason, management agencies must know key habitat used by sage grouse. This study was undertaken to better understand the habitat needs and survival rate of male sage grouse in southwestern Montana. Radio telemetry was used to monitor marked birds and obtain locations for habitat measurements. Actual use and random available vegetation plots were measured using standard vegetation sampling methods, i.e., line-intercept and Daubenmire methods. Preliminary results were presented.