

How You Can Help the Gunnison Sage-Grouse

Protecting an imperiled species is challenging, but there are some simple things residents and visitors can do to help the Gunnison Sage-grouse remain an integral part of its ancestral habitat.

- Recreational activities can impact these sensitive birds. When hiking, biking and driving in sage grouse habitat, remember to stay on trails or roads, leave gates as you found them, and keep pets close to you and under control so as not to disturb or injure grouse.
- Observe the morning mating ritual only at the Waunita Watchable Wildlife Site. Arrive while it is still dark, remain in cars and make no noise until after the birds have left the lek. (See siskadee.org for detailed viewing protocols.)
- Respect seasonal road and area closures. Wildlife managers have identified key areas important to sage-grouse breeding and nesting. Closures are an effective way to minimize our impacts during these critical seasons.
- When designing and building your dream home in sage-grouse habitat, be sensitive to the needs of the sage-grouse. Following recommendations of Gunnison County and the Colorado Division of Wildlife will help conserve wildlife and you will be rewarded in the knowledge that your property is being used to provide valuable, quality habitat.
- If you are fortunate to own acreage in sage-grouse habitat, consider placing it in a conservation easement or other conservation agreement. These customized agreements allow for your continued enjoyment while helping sage-grouse and other wildlife thrive.

We can all be encouraged by the number of species being brought back from the brink of extinction by the concerted efforts of diverse people and agencies nationwide. Local efforts are important! If all of us do our part to raise the awareness of our neighbors and friends, the Gunnison Sage-grouse will be better off, and we and future generations will be richer in a world inhabited by the beautiful Gunnison Sage-grouse.

Brochure produced by the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Working Group, with support from the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Strategic Committee - Gunnison, Colorado

The Gunnison Sage-Grouse

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP THEM THRIVE



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As dawn breaks on crisp spring mornings in the sagebrush hills of the Gunnison Basin, the Gunnison Sage-grouse perform their ancient mating ritual. Ever vigilant for signs of danger, the male sage-grouse dance, drawing their mates to their lek, or mating ground. One by one, female birds appear, attracted by the males displaying their beautiful tail feathers, yellow air sacs, long “pony tails” and alluring voices. Species survival is their goal.

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