

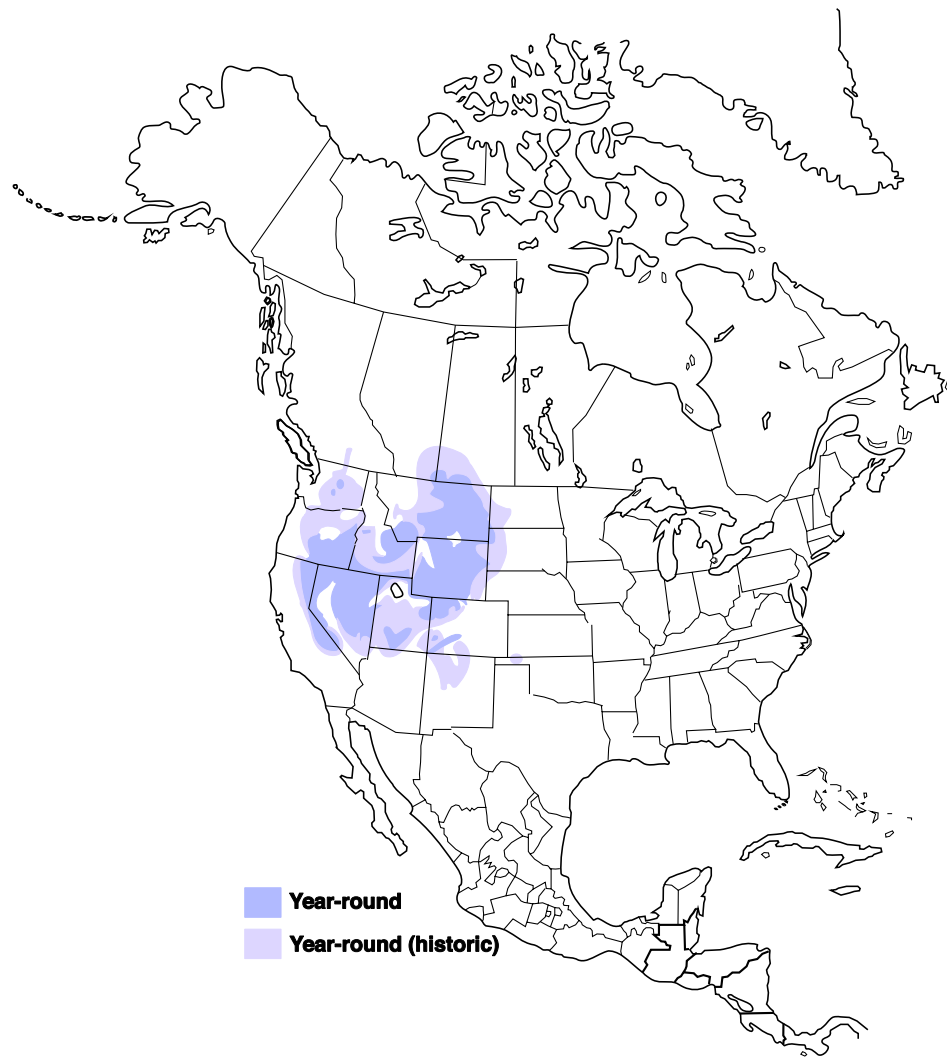


# Species at Risk Profile Series: Greater Sage-Grouse



- Greater Sage-Grouse are listed as endangered in Canada.
- They are the largest grouse in North America.
- Two subspecies existed in Canada, but the western species (*C. u. phaios*), which occurred in BC, has been extirpated.
- They have a spectacular breeding display in which males strut, fan their tails and inflate and deflate air sacs located on their breast.
- These displays are performed on 'leks', traditional strutting grounds where males display while females watch.
- They are found exclusively in sagebrush-dominated native prairie.
- Females begin breeding their first year and lay 7-9 eggs each year.
- Nests are located under sagebrush plants, and incubation lasts 25-29 days.





## Conservation

- Greater Sage-Grouse are a highly sensitive species and avoid disturbance.
- Cultivation and oil and gas development have eliminated most available habitat.
- Low juvenile survival may be contributing to population declines.
- Overgrazing a pasture reduces the amount of sagebrush available to the grouse.
- West Nile Virus is considered a potential threat, especially for small populations.
- The small populations of sage-grouse in Canada are susceptible to inbreeding.

## Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Greater Sage-Grouse [here](#).

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