



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Utah

Financial Assistance available through the Sage-Grouse Initiative

Application Deadline
April 23, 2010

*Helping People
Help the Land*



Natural Resources
Conservation Service
125 S. State Street, Rm 4402
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
801-524-4550

Overview

Two species of sage-grouse, the Greater Sage-Grouse and the Gunnison Sage-Grouse, are found throughout portions of Utah. Historically, all 29 counties in Utah provided adequate sage-grouse habitat. Over the past several decades, habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss have contributed to a significant decline in population. Current estimates indicate that the Greater Sage-Grouse occupy approximately 40%, and the Gunnison Sage-Grouse occupy about 30%, of their historical distribution.

As a result of the dwindling population, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) announced that the greater sage-grouse warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act; however, it will not be listed because of the need to focus on other higher priority species. Because of the DOI decision not to list the sage-grouse, landowners now have an opportunity to take proactive measures to protect the species.

USDA's Sage-Grouse Initiative will assist landowners in the 11 western states with voluntary implementation of practices for sage-grouse conservation. In Utah, this initiative is open to rangeland operators in historic or currently occupied sage-grouse habitat. A map showing the historic and current distributions of sage-grouse in Utah is located on the reverse side of this fact sheet.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance will be provided through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS will reimburse participants a set rate upon completion of the practice(s) to NRCS standards and specifications.



Examples of approved practices include:

- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Brush Management
- Range Planting

Program participants may choose to do the work themselves or hire it out.

Eligibility

Applicants and the land to be enrolled must meet the eligibility requirements of EQIP or WHIP and all Sage-Grouse Initiative requirements.

How to Apply

To apply for financial assistance or obtain additional information, please contact your local USDA Service Center. Applicants may apply for the Sage-Grouse Initiative funding through **April 23, 2010**.

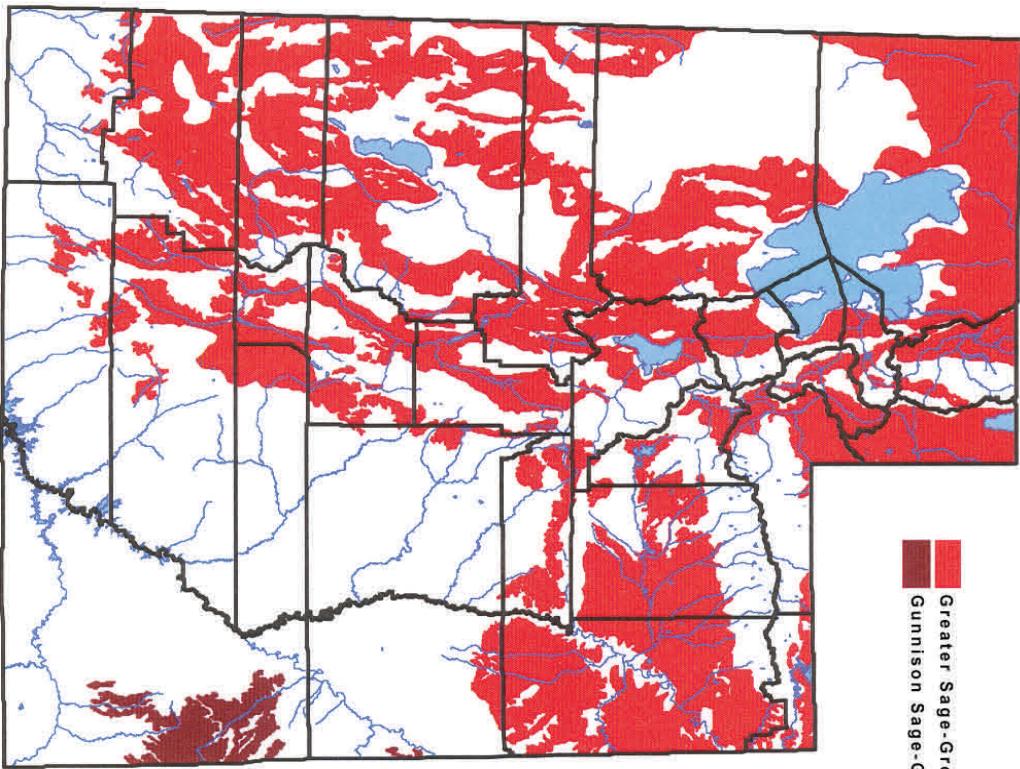
You may also visit the NRCS Utah Web site at:

www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/sage-grouse/index.html

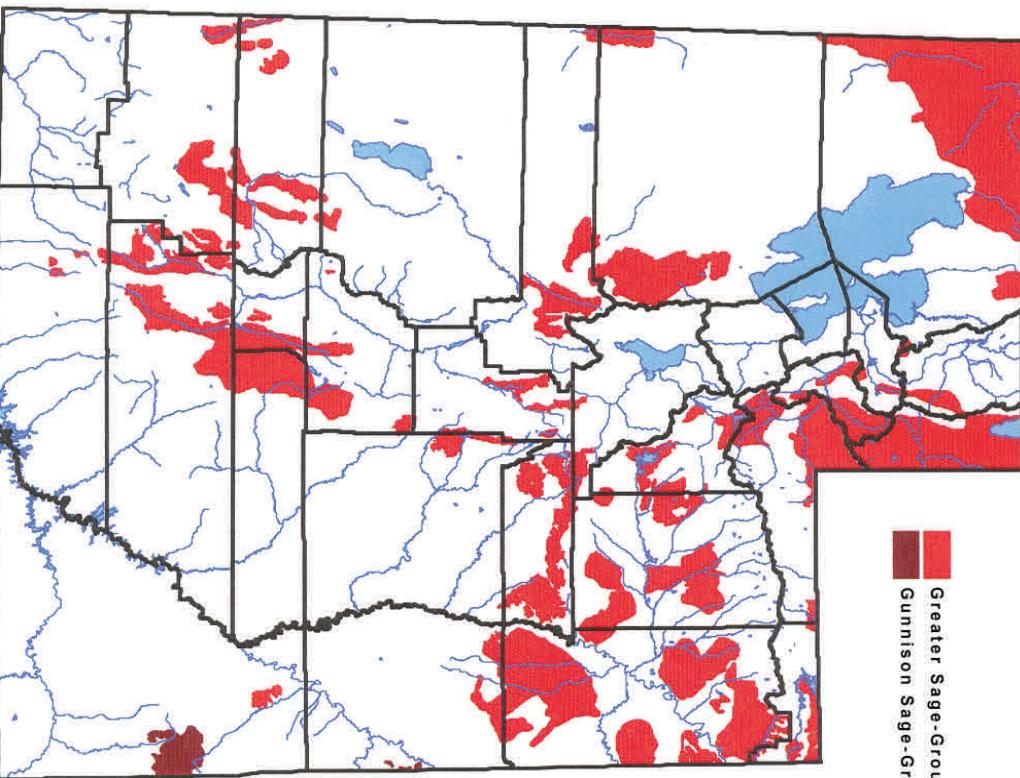
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Historical and Current Distribution of Sage-Grouse in Utah

Historical Distribution



Current Distribution



Source: "Sage-Grouse in Utah," Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, November 9, 2001