



# National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy



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## Threats to Sage-Grouse and Habitat

Portions of 14 Western states once provided year-round food, shelter and breeding grounds for the greater sage-grouse. Pressure from urbanization, wildfire, recreation, energy development, livestock grazing, invasive weeds and disease have shrunk these historical habitats, such that only portions of 11 states still have lands for the bird to call home. As a result, their numbers have declined by about 40% since the 1970s. As few as 200,000 greater sage-grouse may be left.

No single factor is the cause of declining sage-grouse populations. However, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) "warranted but precluded" findings identify a number of factors that, since the beginning of settlement in the West, have adversely affected the number of birds and the amount, distribution and quality of sagebrush habitats. The chart below shows threats to greater sage-grouse identified during a 2005 USFWS review of the species; threats identified in the 2010 findings were nearly the same despite rankings being slightly different.

US Fish and Wildlife Service Identified Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse

