

## SAGE GROUSE LEK SURVEY

### A short Protocol Checklist

This is a very brief reminder of what, when and how to count sage grouse when observing them on the lek. It is not all encompassing nor is it intended to be. Its purpose is to simply serve as a reminder of some of the things that you have learned in the training session. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Volunteer Coordinator (775.688.1893) at any time.

1. Do not approach any closer than about 200 yards to the lek. This will prevent disturbance of the birds while strutting. It is suggested that you scout your lek site during the daylight hours prior to your actual survey. This will allow you to identify the easiest and best areas in which to observe your lek from.
2. If at all possible, observe your lek from inside your vehicle. Sage grouse are less sensitive to the approach of a vehicle and its presence than they are to you. Use your binoculars and spotting scope.
3. Remember to note your arrival time and departure time. Please note this time on your lek survey card.
4. Try to arrive at your lek at least one hour before sunrise. Stay at your lek until the birds have departed or at least one-hour after sunrise. This information can be found on the web at [http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS\\_OneYear.html](http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.html) Remember, most GPS units will display sunrise/sunset times.
5. Remember to set your GPS unit map datum at NAD 27 and the units into UTM. NDOW's data sets are all built using these.
6. Count the number of birds on your lek at least three times each visit. These counts should take place 15 minutes apart and in conjunction with others in your party. Note all three counts on your lek survey card. Remember to distinguish between males and females.
7. In the comments section of your survey card, please note the following information:
  - a) wind direction, speed
  - b) temperature in degrees Fahrenheit
  - c) ground condition – dry, muddy, snow (depth in inches)
  - d) cloud cover in the following manner:
    1. clear
    2. partly cloudy (less than 25% cover)
    3. scattered (more than 25% but scattered horizon to horizon)
    4. cloudy (more than 50% cover)
    5. foggy
8. Note presence of predators by species, time and activity  
Example – golden eagle @ 6:45 am flying over lek; coyote chasing grouse at 8:15 am.
9. Be sure to use the common name of the lek. Remember that the UTM's of you and your vehicle may be different than the actual lek site.
10. Please remember to note your hours and mileage on your volunteer time sheet. This can be found on the web at <http://ndow.org/volunteer/time/timesheet.pdf>

Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Volunteer Coordinator at any time. Thank you.

## SOME ADDITIONAL THINGS TO REMEMBER

Vehicle – we recommend that you take chains for your vehicle. Again, springtime is a particularly hazardous time to travel on the back roads of Nevada. You will be traveling in isolated, remote areas off the pavement. Chains may give you the ability to get yourself out of some precarious situations.

Food and Water – take enough food and water for three days. You may get stuck, lost or just want to spend some time off the beaten path. Be prepared.

Extra batteries – GPS units go through batteries fairly quickly. Carry extras.

Camera – a camera with a long lens will allow you to get good quality pictures without disturbing the birds.

Remember, survey cards, time sheets and GPS units are required to be turned into the Division of Wildlife **no later than Friday, May 9.**

Always leave a trip plan with your spouse, a friend or a neighbor. This should contain the following information:

Departure time

Return time

Destination location and map reference

Cell phone numbers.

**Always** advise the Volunteer Program Coordinator or your Regional Coordinator of your departure date and time, destination, and your estimated return time. Contact the Volunteer Program Coordinator or your Regional Coordinator upon your return. This will preclude conflicts during lek survey and will allow us to find you should an emergency situation arise.

If an emergency situation arises and your family needs to contact you, they may contact the Volunteer Program Coordinator at 775.688.1893 and we will take the necessary measures to locate you and advise them of the situation.

Important Phone Numbers:

Kim Toulouse: 775.688.1893

Norv Dallin: 775.777.2305

Wildlife Dispatch: 775.688.1331

### NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE STRUTTING GROUND COUNT RECORD

County Lyon Ground name Wiley Ditch # 1

Location: T \_\_\_\_\_; R \_\_\_\_\_; S \_\_\_\_\_; 1/2 \_\_\_\_\_; 1/4 \_\_\_\_\_; Date March 23, 2003

UTM: Northing known locaton Easting \_\_\_\_\_ Time 0537 - 0750

Weather and ground conditions Wind N @ 15; 28°F; dry ground; sky, 3

\_\_\_\_\_

—

Count 23; 24; 21 Cocks: Total 22; 23; 21; Yearlings \_\_\_\_\_; Hens 1; 1; 0

Comments Coyote running through lek at 7:45, flushed all the birds

—

—

Observer(s) Toulouse and Stiver