

**Sheeprock Sage-grouse Management Area Translocation Final Field Update-
8/11/2017**

Population Dynamics and Seasonal Movements of Translocated and Resident Greater Sage-Grouse of the Sheeprock Sage-grouse Management Area (SGMA)

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Survival

Radio-marked sage-grouse were being monitored every two to three days. There have been 17 confirmed mortalities since the 2017 translocations were completed in April: 14 translocated birds from 2017, 2 translocated birds from 2016, and 1 resident male from 2016. Of the 14 translocated birds from 2017, six were artificially inseminated females, four were SHAM buffer females, one was a control female, and 3 were male. The remaining mortalities were two translocated females from 2016 and a resident male captured in 2016.

Nesting and Brooding

Nine females initiated nests in 2017: 4 2017 translocated females (one AI, one SHAM and two control), one 2017 resident female, four 2016 translocated females, and one 2016 resident female. Of these nine, seven hatched broods: two 2017 translocated females, one 2017 resident female, three 2016 translocated females, and one 2016 resident female. Three of the seven broods successfully reached the 50-day brood survey: a 2016 resident female with one chick, a 2016 translocated female with four chicks, and a 2017 translocated female with three chicks.

Radio-marked Grouse Movements

Translocated grouse currently in the study area have localized around the lek areas and several have flocked with residents. The wide movements seen in the earlier part of the season have tapered off.

With reduced available moisture during the late season, the resident and translocated grouse moved to the wetter areas during mid to late July.

Data Analysis

At the request of the partners for information regarding possible sites for habitat projects, we have been working with Michel Kohl, the USU Post-Doctoral Fellow, who was hired to implement an evaluation of the BLM Habitat Assessment Framework, to develop a “thunderstorm map” that would prioritize project areas. We completed a resource selection function analysis to develop these maps. This process is near completion and the maps will be distributed for partner review in the next week.

Notes:

A fire in July occurred north of the Pony Express and just northeast of the Government lek. This did not affect any of our marked sage-grouse.

Melissa will be travelling to the study site twice per month to monitor grouse from August until late November, and will be trapping some residents periodically during the late Summer/Fall as well.

Landowners

We thank the landowners who allowed us access to their properties to capture birds. We also are indebted to the dozens of volunteers who have helped with the translocation effort. We particularly thank Jason Robinson and Avery Cook, DWR for coordinating the effort through the public review process and the logistics required to complete the translocation. We also thank the Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, the BLM, the West Box Elder CRM, the Parker Mountain and West Desert Adaptive Resources Management Local Working Groups, the Jack H. Berryman Institute, the Quinney Professorship for Wildlife Conflict Management, the DWR, and the US Geological Service for funding, encouragement, and project support.