Greater Sage-Grouse *(Centrocercus urophasianus)*

The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is one of the top priority species of conservation concern in Canada. Dependent upon sagebrush habitat for food and shelter, this species is at risk due to habitat loss and degradation, industrial disturbance, changing climatic conditions, and other threats. Populations now occupy only 7% of the historical range in Canada (in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan) and are estimated to have declined by 98% in the past 25-45 years. Population estimates in 2012 based on male lek counts estimate only 93-138 adults total in Canada split between two isolated populations (Environment Canada 2013). This critical situation calls for immediate attention to prevent further decline and eventual extinction. Find out more on the **IUCN Red List**.

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Key Workshop Goals

A Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop was conducted for the Canadian populations of this threatened species at the Calgary Zoo on 14-17 January 2014. This international multi-stakeholder workshop included over 40 participants representing a diversity of expertise and perspectives, from field researchers, wildlife modelers and government representatives to local ranchers and representatives from the energy industry. The following goals were agreed by workshop participants to be integral to the survival of the species in Canada. ***Click on the text in the table below to learn more about each goal and its corresponding actions.***

Habitat and Landscape Management
Work closely with ranchers, community pastures, and others to manage grazing in an effort to optimize vegetation conditions of seasonal habitats for greater sage-grouse.
Design research to evaluate the potential benefits of fire management in silver sagebrush vegetation types and its potential value for sage-grouse.
Reduce GSG mortality due to predation while increasing nesting success.
Eliminate further cultivation and reclaim suitable/targeted cultivated land to maintain and create effective habitat corridors (genetic, migratory, dispersal, etc.).
Increase functional sage-grouse habitat.
Avoid future impacts to functional habitat through informed and collaborative planning and site-specific mitigation.
Reduce mortality due to WNV. When possible use the WNV vaccinations currently available (e.g. Fort Dodge Equine vaccine, DNA plasmid vaccine, etc.).
Minimize/control the introduction of invasive species.
Restore important invaded areas that are suitable for sage-grouse habitat.
Collaboration, Stewardship and Policy
Effective governance for organizing institutions and people to achieve conservation, remediation, and stewardship of northern sagebrush steppe, including greater sage-grouse recovery.
Population Management
Provide a genetic “safety net” for Canadian greater sage-grouse, in the event that they go extinct in the wild.
Increase (reinforce/augment) the wild populations of sage-grouse in Canada to help sustain the recovery efforts in order to keep this species on the Canadian landscape.

More detailed information about the actions being taken to fulfill these goals can be found in the full workshop report available at http://www.cbsg.org/content/greater-sage-grouse-canada-phva-2014.

Workshop organizers: Calgary Zoo and the IUCN SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group
Workshop sponsors: Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development