

## Five Quick Sage-Grouse Facts

- 1 The range of the Bi-State greater sage-grouse includes the majority of Mono County, the White Mountains in Inyo County, and portions of several counties in western Nevada.
- 2 Sage-grouse typically nest under sagebrush, but will also use bitterbrush and other shrubs for nesting.
- 3 Their diet mainly consists of sagebrush, small insects, and wildflowers.
- 4 The complex courtship ritual performed by males on leks is known as strutting or lekking. During this mating display, a male bird will inflate air sacs on its breast, fan its tail, erect feathers on his head, and make a soft bubbly popping, mixed with swishing sounds.
- 5 Lek means "play" in Swedish and birds return to the leks year after year for generations. Males have been observed on some of the leks in the Eastern Sierra since the 1950s.



Photo © USGS

## Other Ways to Help!

- Practice ethical and responsible bird viewing.
- Be respectful of birds and other wildlife while recreating in the Eastern Sierra.
- Stay on open roads and trails in your car, truck, or motorized vehicle.
- Prevent domestic pets from becoming sage-grouse predators.
- Seek out volunteer opportunities with local organizations and agencies to help improve habitat for the greater sage-grouse!

### A Special Thanks to our Partners:

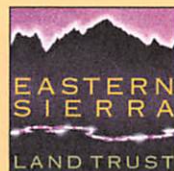


# The Bi-State Greater Sage-Grouse Viewing



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**Facts & Viewing Suggestions**  
to enjoy the largest grouse species  
unique to California & Nevada



Eastern Sierra Land Trust  
250 N. Fowler St.  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 873-4554  
[www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org)





## Lek Viewing Guidelines

The Eastern Sierra is a popular place to view lekking behavior. The sage-grouse, however, is at risk of being "over-loved" by those who wish to enjoy the spectacular displays performed on leks. Follow these lek viewing guidelines whenever viewing sage-grouse to help you enjoy the male "dances" while ensuring the safety of the birds:

- View leks after peak lekking season.
- Arrive at the lek before dawn to lessen disturbance to birds.
- Do not drive near or onto any lek or meadow area. Some roads may exist immediately adjacent to lek meadows; do not use these roads.

- Remain 300 yards from birds.
- Watch the lek performances from inside a vehicle using binoculars.
- Turn off vehicle and lights and remain quiet and still in vehicle until the end of strutting displays.
- Avoid bringing pets such as dogs that can frighten the birds.
- Respect area closures and private property.
- Do not post, report, or record the location of any lek via the internet to any electronic mailing list, or online birding checklist programs such as "eBird".

## Why the Bi-State Greater Sage-Grouse is Important

The Bi-State population of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a keystone species that occupies sagebrush scrub habitat in the Eastern Sierra near the California and Nevada border. This population has been identified as a "Distinct Population Segment" (DPS) by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Genetic analysis determined that the DPS has been separated from the much more widely distributed greater sage-grouse for thousands of years making it a unique resident of our area. As the largest species of grouse in North America, the sage-grouse is well known for the elaborate, early morning dance that males perform on breeding grounds called "leks". This bird has earned a special place in the heart, history, and culture of the Eastern Sierra.

These unique birds are being monitored closely by land and wildlife management agencies due to concern about the future of the species. Impacts from recreation, non-native plant invasion, habitat conversion, infrastructure development, and wildfire, may be factors that influence their population. A Bi-State Conservation Action Plan was created by federal, state, and local partners guiding efforts to protect the greater sage-grouse. The implementation of conservation actions in this plan will help protect sage-grouse and preserve their unique habitat for future generations.

*Seasonal wildlife restrictions may be in effect due to potential human disturbance impacts from lek viewing. For more information, please contact:*

*LA Department of Water and Power  
(760) 873-2283*

*Bureau of Land Management,  
Bishop Field Office  
(760) 872-5000*

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