



Sage Grouse Glossary



1. Annual – A plant that sprouts from seed, reproduces, and dies within the same year
2. Biennial – A plant that sprouts from seed and grows (usually into a round cluster of leaves called a rosette) the first year, then grows to maturity during a second year, produces seed the second year, then dies. Example: many thistles are biennials
3. Brood – As a noun, means a group of baby birds. As a verb, means the act of a bird raising its young.
4. Cheatgrass – a winter annual grass that is invasive on sagebrush grasslands
5. Exotic plant – a plant that is not native to an area, a plant introduced by humans
6. Forb – a non-woody plant with “broad” leaves, netted veins in the leaves, and showy flowers such as wildflowers and many weeds. Examples – a dandelion or a buttercup.
7. Fragmentation (of habitat) – placement of human structures such as roads, buildings, ditches, and agricultural fields so that one part of an animal’s original habitat is separated from another
8. Grass – a plant with hollow, jointed stems, parallel veins, leaves on both sides of the stem. Examples: Idaho fescue, Cheatgrass
9. Habitat – includes the food, water, shelter, and space an organism needs to survive
10. Invasive plant – A plant that spreads and persists over large areas
11. Juniper – a coniferous shrub or small tree with scale-like leaves or small needles
12. Lek – An area where Sage Grouse gather in the spring to breed. From Swedish “lek” – a fun and rule-less competitive game
13. Local Working Group – A group made of any interested citizens and wildlife professionals to provide a forum to complete habitat improvement projects and get involved in discussions
14. Medusahead Wild Rye – a winter annual grass that is invasive on sagebrush grasslands, and unpalatable to both wildlife and livestock during most of its life cycle.
15. Native plant – (indigenous plant) a plant that has been present in an area without obvious human intervention
16. Noxious weed – A plant species that has been designated at the state or federal level as damaging to agriculture, humans, and/or livestock. Government agencies and landowners are legally obligated to control noxious weeds on their land.
17. Obligate – an organism that can only live under specific conditions
18. Perennial – Plants that grow from a seed or cutting to maturity, and then continue to grow back and reproduce for more than two years
19. Predation – the act of eating another animal
20. Predator – an animal that eats other animals. Example: Coyotes are a predator of sage-grouse.
21. Riparian Area – the vegetation on the banks of a stream, river, or lake
22. Sage-grouse Initiative – developed to help landowners voluntarily conserve and improve Sage Grouse habitat on their working land. Provides advice and money to complete projects.
23. Sagebrush steppe – a dry, desert-like biome characterized by sagebrush as the primary cover plant with a perennial grass and forb understory
24. Shrub – a plant with solid, woody stems, flowers, and netted veins in the leaves. Examples: Sagebrush, bitterbrush
25. Summer Annual – An annual plant that sprouts from seed in the spring, matures and produces seed in the summer/fall, then dies. Example: Curlycup gumweed
26. Winter Annual – An annual plant that sprouts from seed during a damp period in the fall, lives through the winter, produces seed in the spring or early summer, then dies. Example: Cheatgrass