

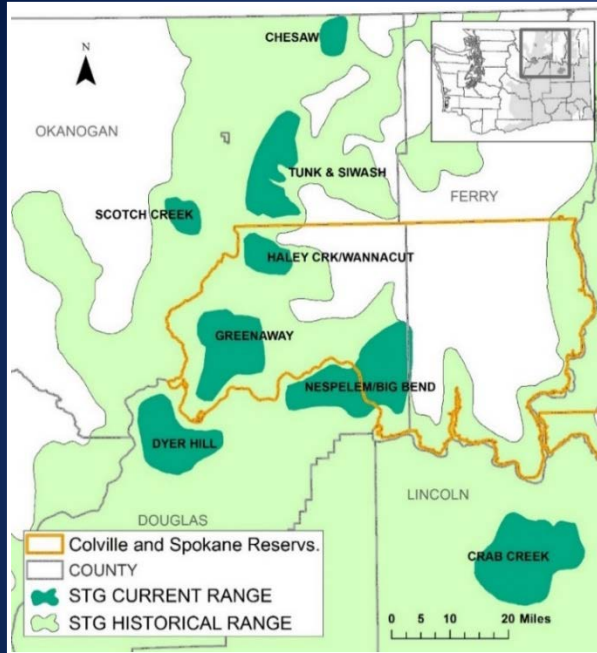
Periodic Status Review: Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse



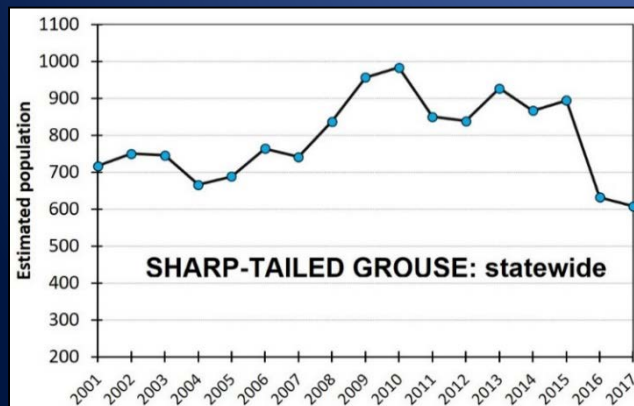
Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Hannah Anderson
Listing and Recovery Section Manager, Diversity Division
Wildlife Program

Status in Washington



- State-threatened, 1998
- Currently occupy ~8% of historical range, declining
- Reliant on grassland/steppe habitat for breeding, riparian for winter
- Threatened with habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, small population size, predation
- Multiple conservation actions underway



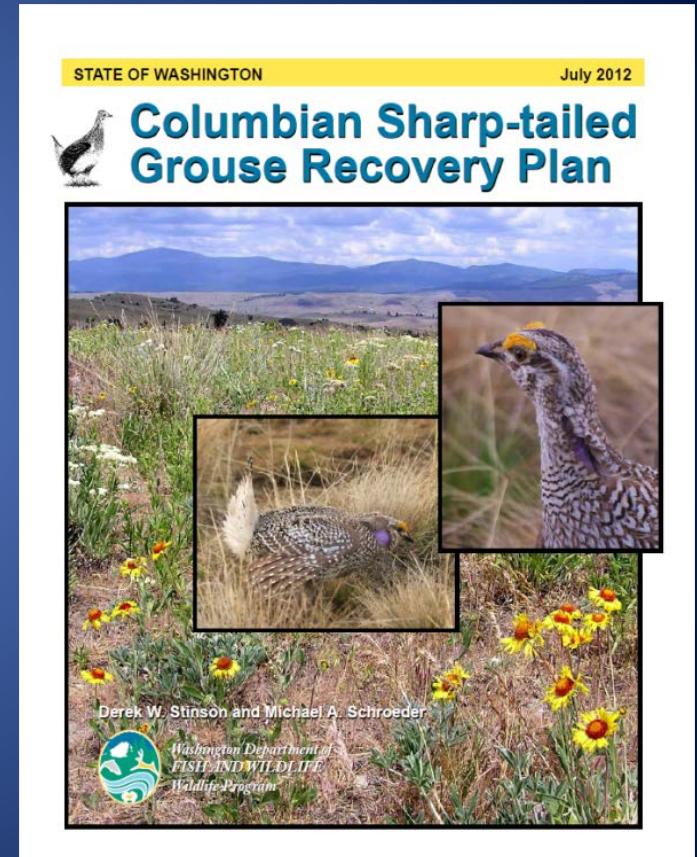
Recovery Plan

Up-list from threatened to endangered if population drops to less than 450

- 2017 estimate = 608

PSR Recommendation:

- Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse should remain on the list of threatened species



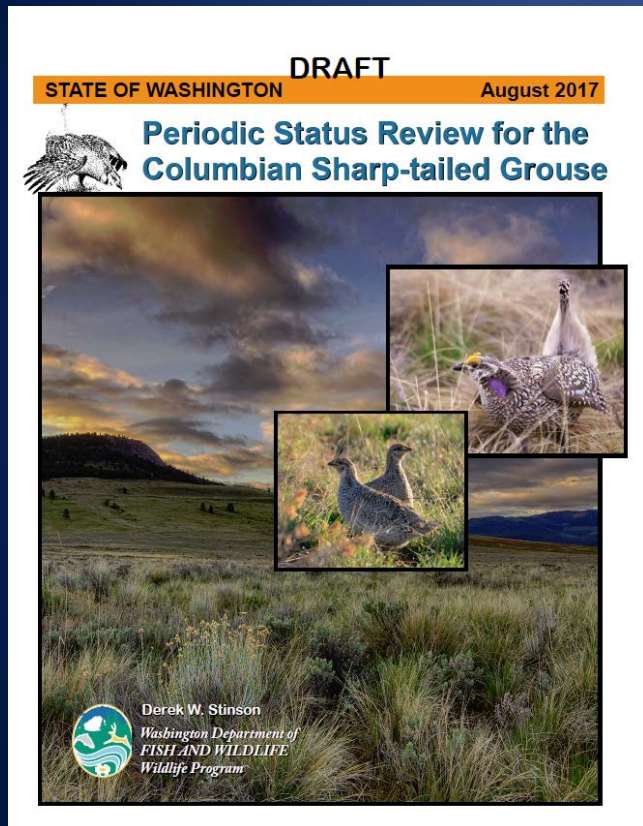
Additional Considerations

- All local populations are now <200 birds, and may require augmentation
- Wildfires had short-term and unknown impact
- Habitat connectivity continues to diminish



Total	Scotch Creek	Tunk & Siwash	Chesaw	Dyer Hill	Greenaway & Haley Crk	Big Bend	Nespelem	Crab Creek
608	78	14	34	122	52	64	112	132

Summary of Initial Comments



90-day Public Comment Period:

- 3 support keeping the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse listed
- 1 suggested de-listing

Letters Received:

- 2 suggested uplisting to endangered
 - Washington Diversity Advisory Council
 - Seattle Audubon

Public Testimony: 8 December 2017

- 3 recommended uplisting to endangered
 - WDAC
 - Tahoma Audubon
 - Washington State Audubon

Commission Guidance: Jan 2018

- Department to initiate procedures to allow status reclassification
- Two public comment periods were opened
 - CR-102 filing 30 days (May 2, 2018 – May 23, 2018)
 - SEPA 14 days (May 10, 2018 – May 24, 2018)
- No additional public comments received

Recommendation

- Given the additional considerations, the Department recognizes and agrees that the threats are significant and that the current status is consistent with the definition of Endangered.
- WAC 220-610-110 defines Endangered as:
“...any wildlife species native to the state of Washington that is seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state.”
- We recommend the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse be reclassified to endangered status in Washington.

Questions?



Image: May 2018 release of translocated
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse