

Sage-Grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse

Over the years, some upland game bird hunters have had a difficult time determining the difference between sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. This is a problem when sharptails are taken by hunters during the sage-grouse season. Hunters most often mistake sharptails for young sage-grouse. Their ranges do overlap in parts of eastern and southern Idaho.

Sage-Grouse

Size:

Larger; small turkey in size.

Color:

Darker; black/brown in most cases.

Behavior:

Slower wing beats.

Vocalization:

Silent in flight.



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Sharp-tailed Grouse

Size:

Smaller; chicken or hen pheasant in size.

Color:

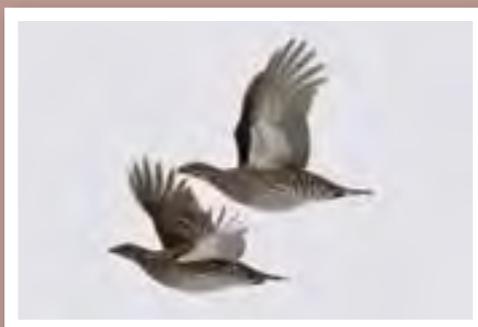
Lighter; slate gray/light brown with white under the wings and lower belly.

Behavior:

Fast flyers; wobble back and forth when taking off.

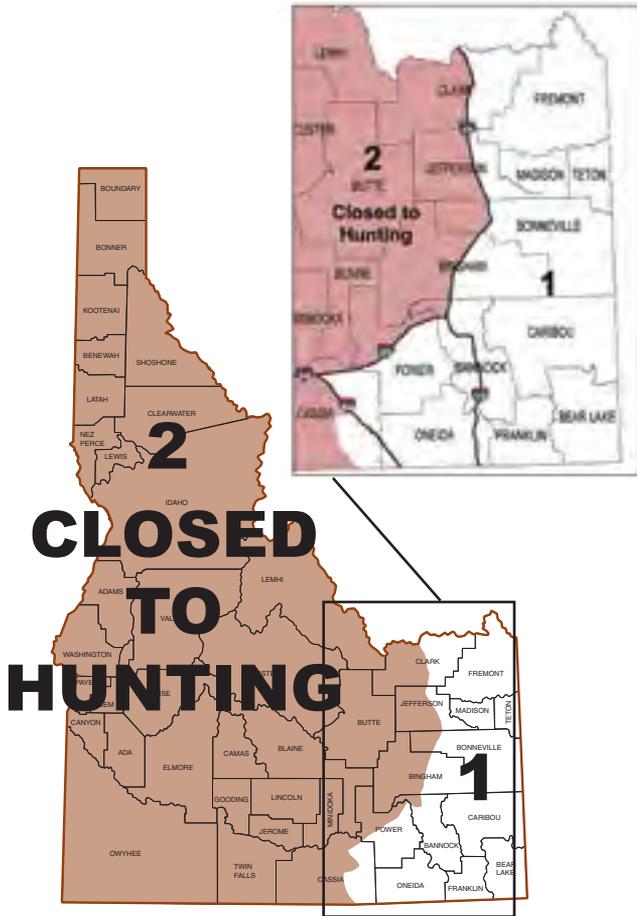
Vocalization:

Chucking in flight; laughing sound.



**When in doubt,
don't shoot!!!**

Sharp-tailed Grouse



Area 1

Bingham and Clark counties east of Interstate 15, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson County east of Interstate 15, Madison, and Teton counties, Bonneville County east of Interstate 15, Bannock County east of Interstate 15 and south of Interstate 86, Bear Lake, Caribou, Cassia County east of Interstate 84 and that portion west of Interstate 84 south of the Malta-Sublett Road and east of the Malta-Strevell Road, Franklin, Oneida, and Power County south of Interstate 86.

Area 2

Remainder of the state: **CLOSED.**

Seasons

2014 — October 1 through October 31

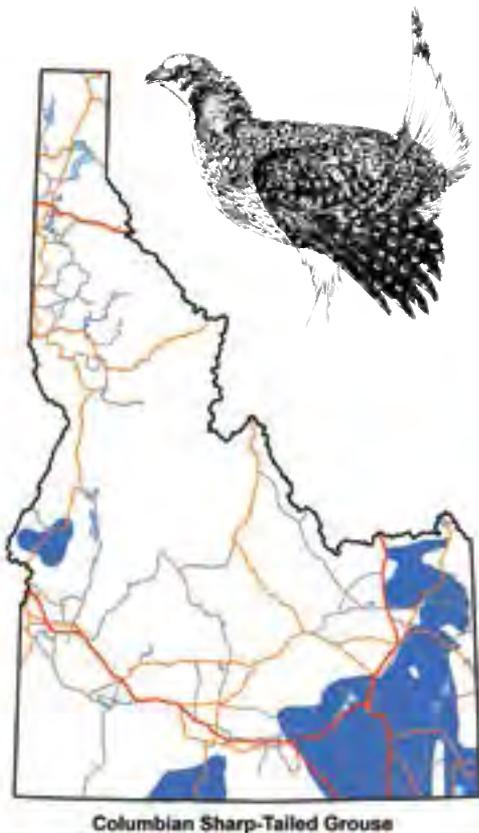
2015 — October 1 through October 31

Daily Bag Limit2

Possession Limit6

Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation:

Any person hunting sage or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession their hunting license with a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation. See pages 53, 56-57.



Sharp-tailed Grouse

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of this species. Columbian sharp-tailed grouse were once distributed in grassland/mountain brush habitats throughout southern and western Idaho north to the Palouse Prairie. Habitat changes due to agricultural development and livestock grazing, and human development, among other factors, have reduced this grouse's range to areas mostly in southeastern Idaho. Agricultural lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program currently provide important habitat for this species and have led to increased populations since 1986. Good populations still exist from Fremont County south to Utah in grasslands associated with chokecherry, sagebrush, hawthorn, serviceberry, bitterbrush and other brushy cover.