

2015 Upland Game Bird Population Trends – Salmon Region

2015 Conditions – Early spring and mid-July weather conditions were cooler and wetter than average. Nesting success and chick survival appear to have been good. As a result, most upland game bird populations should be above average, with the exception of stable pheasant and mourning dove populations.			
Upland Game Bird	Trend from last year (2014)	10-Year Trend (2006-2015)	Comments
Pheasant	Stable	Stable	There is little pheasant habitat in the Salmon Region and numbers are very low. Pheasants are occasionally harvested in the lower Lemhi and Pahsimeroi valleys.
Chukar	Up	Up	Most chukar habitat in the Salmon Region is marginal due to a wide variation in weather conditions. However, favorable weather last winter and this spring /summer should provide very good chukar hunting this fall.
Gray Partridge (Hun)	Up	Up	Gray partridge are uncommon in the Salmon Region, but appear to have increased and expanded their range over the last few years. A few gray partridge are harvested incidentally by chukar hunters.
Forest Grouse (Dusky, Ruffed, Spruce)	Up	Up	Dusky grouse are the most common forest grouse species in the Salmon Region and are well distributed through most of the drier forested habitats. Dusky grouse production this year appears above average and hunting will be very good. Ruffed and spruce grouse habitat is limited to riparian habitats and moist, high elevation forest types.
Greater Sage-grouse	Up	Up	Lek counts were up across the Salmon Region, particularly in the Antelope Flat area SW of Challis. Production was up as well due to favorable weather conditions and hunting will be very good.
Mourning Dove	Stable	Stable	Upland habitat seed production is early this year due to dry summer weather. This translates to an early migration and fewer doves will be available for harvest in September.