

2015 Upland Game Bird Population Trends – Southeast Region

2015 Conditions – Conditions in the winter were again mild. The early nesting season was extremely dry, but but significant moisture was received later in the nesting season and through early summer providing good summer habitat. These conditions should prove beneficial for upland game birds. Observations by field biologists generally have been positive.

Upland Game Bird	Trend from last year (2014)	10-Year Trend (2006 - 2015)	Comments
Pheasant	Stable	Stable	There are no pheasant surveys conducted in the Southeast Region; however, field observations suggest numbers and productivity are relatively stable compared to last year. Pheasant stocking will continue at Sterling WMA in 2015.
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	Stable	Stable	Lek surveys suggest that sharp-tailed grouse numbers have remained relatively stable over the last 10 years. In 2014, the conversion of CRP fields resulted in some inactive leks in localized areas, particularly in the Arbon and Rockland valleys. These field conversions may affect fall distribution. Fields with a forb component (e.g., alfalfa) are typically the best. If conditions are dry, hunters should expect early movement of grouse up into mountain shrub communities (serviceberry) and to areas where green forbs can still be found. Land enrolled in the <i>Access Yes!</i> program provide ample access to hunting areas. You can view an <i>Access Yes!</i> guide on the Fish and Game website at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/huntplanner/accessyesguide.aspx
Chukar	Stable	Stable	Chukar numbers remain low and are found in only a few localized areas in the Southeast Region.
Gray Partridge (Hun)	Stable	Stable	There are no surveys conducted for gray partridge in the Southeast Region, but incidental information suggests numbers are stable.
Forest Grouse (Dusky, Ruffed)	Stable	Stable	No surveys are conducted for forest grouse in the Southeast, but harvest data over the past five years suggest relatively stable numbers. Early season reports suggest birds will be available in good numbers this fall.