SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEMS

Web of Life

More than 350 species call the sagebrush ecosystem home. All are linked together in a food web, starting when plants make food from sunlight. Each species is adapted to survive with little water during hot, dry summers and cold winters.

The Sun: Energy source for all life in ecosystem

Air: **Carbon dioxide** for plants and **oxygen** for animals

Predators: **Carnivores** (meat eaters) and **insectivores** (insect eaters)

Water: Needed for all life; most from snow melt in this arid environment

Cliff Swallows

Golden Eagle

Pronghorn

Coyote

Badger

Prairie Dogs

Sagebrush Lizard

Elk

Bluebunch Wheatgrass

Burrowing Owls

Insects

Herbivores: Plant eaters

Omnivores eat plants and animals such as insects

Big Sagebrush

Pygmy Rabbit

Greater Sage-Grouse

Sage Thrasher

Antelope Bitterbrush

Mule Deer

Sandhill Crane

Western Yarrow

Arrowleaf Balsamroot

Cattle

Humans

Producers: Plants combine sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide through **photosynthesis** to make food

Bacteria

Fungi

Soil: Nutrients for plants

Decomposers break down plants and animals when they die, recycling nutrients

Key

- **Plant food source**
- **Animal food source**
- **Decomposition**
- **Important nonliving things**

Help Preserve Sagebrush Habitat

Learn and Share

Learn more about sagebrush ecosystems and ways to help. Explore them and spread the word!

Don't Let Invasives Spread

Remove seeds from shoes, clothes, pets, and vehicles/ tires before and after visiting natural areas.

Volunteer

Make fences safer for wildlife. Remove invasive plants like cheatgrass and plant natives species.

Visit **www.fws.gov/GreaterSageGrouse** to learn more!

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