



Greater Sage-grouse Status Review

Overutilization

Hunting

- Recreational hunting not driving population dynamics on a rangewide basis.
- Negative impacts on local populations have been demonstrated.
- States have adaptive management approaches in place and are able to change seasons rapidly (within days) if necessary



Since 2010....

34% reduction in hunting mortality, reduced potential for negative impacts to breeding population

Year	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Total
1960s	151,481	265,589	118,263	1,514,811
1970s	232,258	323,555	196,874	2,322,581
1980s	164,661	237,451	105,689	1,646,610
1990s	90,967	166,034	48,044	909,674
2000s	31,373	43,540	20,680	313,731
2010-2013	20,725	27,786	13,603	82,899



Scientific and Recreational Use

- Research occurring in 8 states, > 50 studies ongoing or completed since 2010
- Mortality rates reported in 2015 are similar to those we reported in 2010
 - < 3% of captured birds
- Recreational use is limited to lek viewing
 - Potential disturbance factor, little information as to actual impacts



Summary

- Recreational hunting is not driving population dynamics on a rangewide basis.
- Hunting has continued since 2010
 - ND has closed its season;
 - MT has closed portions of their state to hunting
- Mortality from research is low
- Known recreational use limited to lek viewing
- No new information since 2010 to change our assessment of this impact

