2023 Sage-grouse Harvest Report

The 2023 Sage-grouse report provides information on the estimated harvest of Sage-grouse. A post-season harvest survey was conducted by phone and email. A stratified random sample of 3,500 potential Sage-grouse hunters was drawn from among Harvest Information Program (HIP) participants. The sample was stratified as follows:

- 1 = Not Likely to hunt
- 2 = Somewhat Likely to hunt
- 3 = Very Likely to hunt
- 4 = Very Likely to hunt for 3 or more years

Harvest Data Summary

The survey contacted 1,550 (44.2% response rate) hunters in 2023. Approximately 6% (94) reported hunting Sage-grouse during the season. Thirty-six (36) hunters (38%) reported that they successfully harvested sage-grouse. Statewide harvest was estimated at **473** <u>+</u> **229** (**243** – **703**).

Comparison with 2022 survey results:

Comparing the figures for the Sage-grouse season for both years, the estimated harvest in 2023 is significantly lower than 2022 when an estimated $822 \pm 333 (489 - 1,154)$ birds were harvested. In 2023, hunter numbers decreased to **677 \pm 170 (507 - 847)** from 963 ± 196 (768 - 1,158) in 2022. Total days hunted decreased significantly in 2023, when hunters reported **1,543 ± 472 (1,071 - 2,015)** days compared to 3,196 ± 984 (2,213 - 4,180) in 2022.

Hunter Statistics and Harvest Estimates by Strata and County

The following summary tables provide estimates of hunter numbers, days in the field and Sage-grouse harvest statewide and by county. Estimates are followed by the standard error of the estimate, and 95% upper (UCI) and lower (LCI) confidence intervals around the estimate.

2023 Sage-grouse Harvest by Strata

			LCI	UCI	Days	SE (Days	LCI	UCI		_	LCI	UCI
Strata	Hunters	SE(hunters)	Hunters	Hunters	Hunted	Hunted)	Days	Days	Harvest	SE(harvest)	Harvest	Harvest
(1) Not Likely	80	40	32	201	140	77	51	385	40	40	8	204
(2) Somewhat Likely	198	65	105	371	506	191	247	1036	66	66	13	337
(3) Very Likely	328	40	259	417	744	121	542	1020	291	85	167	509
(4) Very Likely for >3 years	71	10	54	92	154	29	107	223	76	25	41	141
Total	677	87	507	847	1543	241	1071	2015	473	117	243	703

2023 Sage-grouse Harvest by County*

			LCI	UCI	Days	SE (Days	LCI	UCI			LCI	UCI
County	Hunters	SE(hunters)	Hunters	Hunters	Hunted	Hunted)	Days	Days	Harvest	SE(harvest)	Harvest	Harvest
Moffat	624	148	395	988	557	165	316	984	240	69	138	416
Grand	313	102	168	583	420	152	211	836	137	91	42	447
Jackson	209	42	142	310	351	78	228	540	68	24	34	133
Rio Blanco	95	45	39	230	66	32	27	163	29	21	8	105
Summit	156	60	75	323	76	29	37	158	0	0	0	0
Other	401	193	164	981	73	34	31	174	0	0	0	0
Total	677	87	507	847	1543	241	1071	2015	473	117	243	703

*Hunters could provide up to 3 counties when asked "where did you harvest Sage-grouse?"



