

Gunnison Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*)

The Gunnison Sage-Grouse was designated as threatened in 2014 (USFWS 2014a) with 1.4 million acres (566,000 ha) designated as critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (USFWS 2014b). The Gunnison Sage-Grouse is found south of the Colorado River in Colorado and Utah. They are about one-third smaller than the Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), and males have more distinct, white barring on their tail feathers, longer and more dense filoplumes on their necks. Female Gunnison and Greater sage-grouse have nearly the same plumage, but the female Gunnison is



again about one-third smaller than the greater sage-grouse. Historically, Gunnison Sage-Grouse were found in southwestern Colorado, southeastern Utah, northeastern Arizona, and northwestern New Mexico. However, today only approximately 5000 breeding Gunnison Sage-Grouse occur among 7 separate populations in Colorado and Utah. The largest population, about 4,000 birds, inhabits the Gunnison Basin, Colorado.

Literature Cited

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2014a. [Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; threatened status for Gunnison sage-grouse; final rule](#). Federal Register 79:69192–69310.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2014b. [Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; designation of critical habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse; final rule](#). Federal Register 79:69312–69363.