

**Montana Upland Game Bird Forecast Table**

**Fall 2012**

<b>Region 1</b>	
<b>Forecast</b>	
Dusky Grouse	Last year's harvest was average. Substantial rains during late nesting, early hatch period. Anticipate below average.
Ruffed Grouse	Expect fewer than last year, well below average.
Spruce Grouse	Down from last year closer to average.
Pheasant	Down from last year, well below average.
<b>Region 2</b>	
<b>Forecast</b>	
Dusky Grouse	Harvest was average. Early hatch affected by cool, wet weather. Expect near average, similar to last year.
Ruffed Grouse	Down from last year, below average.
Spruce Grouse	Near average, comparable to last year.
Pheasant	Cold wet end of May and first half of June. Expect continued below average.
<b>Region 3</b>	
<b>Forecast</b>	
Dusky Grouse	Harvest was 71% of average. The early hatch possibly affected by cold and moisture, with otherwise favorable spring conditions. Improvement toward average.

Ruffed Grouse	Cold wet in early June, late May potentially affected hatch, with otherwise favorable spring conditions. Slight improvement to near average.
Spruce Grouse	Continued average.
Gray Partridge	Improvement to average.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Continued below average, may be down from last year.
Sage-grouse	Cold and wet end of May and into early June. Harvest was average. Lek data suggest no change. Comparable to last year.
Pheasant	Cold and wet end of May and into early June, with otherwise favorable spring conditions. Improvement over last year to average numbers.
<b>Region 4 N</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Dusky Grouse	Harvest was well above average last year. Expect continued above average.
Ruffed Grouse	Comparable to last year, near average.
Gray Partridge	Improved from last year, may be average or slightly above average.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Lek counts above average. Cold, wet events in late May likely had little effect. Expect average numbers with some improvement from last year.

Pheasant	Cool, wet late May may have affected early hatch, however survey data suggest good numbers. Improvement over last year to average or above average abundance.
<b>Region 4 S</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Dusky Grouse	Harvest was 88% of average, good hatch conditions, expect some improvement, closer to average.
Ruffed Grouse	Comparable to last year, above average.
Gray Partridge	Improvement over last year to near average or above average.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Early hatch may have been affected by cold wet late May, otherwise good conditions. Expect above average, comparable to last year.
Sage-grouse	Harvest was 109% of average, cool wet May likely affected chick survival in some areas. Expect similar to last year, near average.
Pheasant	Expect good over winter survival, early hatch may have been affected by cool/wet May. Field observations are favorable. Expect improvement over last year to average numbers.
<b>Region 5</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Dusky Grouse	81% of average harvest, anticipate some improvement from last year, closer to average.

Ruffed Grouse	Slight improvement from last year but remaining below average.
Gray Partridge	Continued below average, comparable to last year.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Comparable to last year, with slight improvement but remains below long term average. No specific sharp tailed grouse lek surveys are completed in Region 5.
Sage-grouse	Sage grouse numbers appear to be better than last year, with the majority of observed hens accompanied by broods. Harvest was 58% of average. Expect numbers to continue to be below the long term average.
Pheasant	Expect some improvement from last year, with overall numbers remaining below the long term average.
<b>Region 6 W</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Gray Partridge	Expect some improvement over last year, closer to average.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Early hatch may have been affected by cool wet period. Good nesting cover, mild winter, and spring surveys indicated numbers near the long-term average. Expect improvement over last year, to near average.
Sage-grouse	Brief cold wet in late May, harvest was 85% of average. Expect some improvement over last year.

Pheasant	Short period of cold wet end of May. Mild winter conditions and good residual cover. Continued below average, with improvement over last year.
<b>Region 6 E</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Gray Partridge	Mild winter conditions along with good nesting and brood rearing cover. Anticipate improvement over last year to average numbers.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Early hatch may have been affected by cool wet period. Good nesting cover and mild winter conditions. Spring surveys indicated numbers above long-term average. Expect improvement over last year, to above average.
Pheasant	Early hatch may have been affected somewhat by wet weather. Good nesting/brood rearing cover and mild winter conditions. Surveys indicate spring populations above long-term average. Expect improvement over last year, with above average numbers.
<b>Region 7N</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Gray Partridge	Expect some improvement over last year, to average numbers.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Brief late May cold wet. Expect continued near average abundance.
Sage-grouse	Brief late May cold wet. Harvest was 108% of average. Expect average or better.

Pheasant	Early hatch may have been affected by late May cold/wet period. Expect some improvement over last year, to average numbers.
<b>Region 7 S</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Gray Partridge	May be somewhat improved from last year, to average numbers.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Comparable to last year, slightly above average.
Sage-grouse	Expect some improvement over last year to average numbers.
Pheasant	Good spring expect for brief cold wet at end of May. Open winter. Expect continued above average.