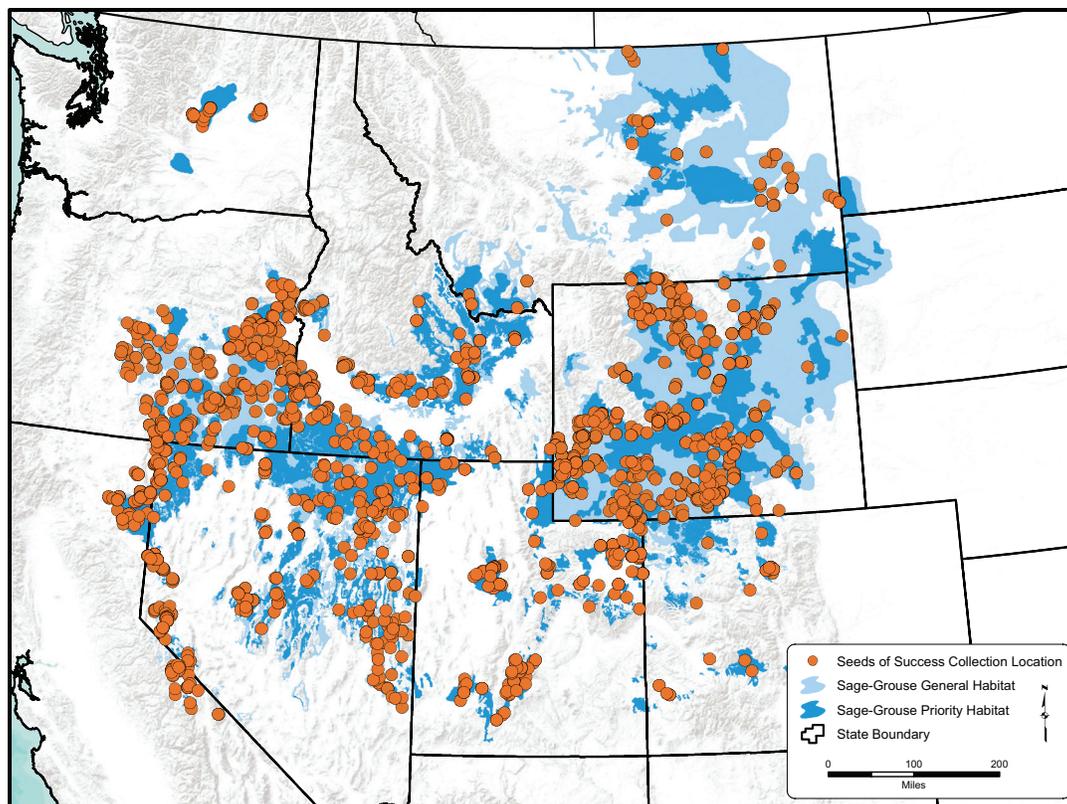




Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat

Greater Sage-Grouse and the Sagebrush Ecosystem

Greater Sage-Grouse are dependent on sagebrush-dominated habitats, using sagebrush itself and other native plants for cover and food. Once seen in great numbers across sagebrush landscapes of the West, Greater Sage-Grouse have declined over the past one hundred years because of the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of sagebrush habitats essential for their survival.



Seeds of Success collections in Greater Sage-Grouse General and Priority Habitat areas from 2001-2013. Collecting teams are continuing to sample the genetic diversity of sagebrush and other native plants that support wildlife.

The Native Plant Materials Development Program and Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat

Native plant materials, including seeds and seedlings, are needed for successful restoration of the plant communities that support the Greater Sage-Grouse. The Bureau of Land Management's Native Plant Materials Development Program is working across all western ecoregions to ensure that appropriate native plant materials are available for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat restoration. Native plant materials take an average of 10-20 years to develop as commercially available seed crops for use on the land. There are many steps in the process including:

- **Seed Collection.** Seeds of Success is working to capture genetic variation from populations of native plants including sagebrush. From 2001 to 2013, Seeds of Success has made over 2,200 native seed collections within Greater Sage-Grouse General and Priority Habitat areas.
- **Evaluation and Development.** Researchers use collected seed to conduct studies about species' biology, underlying adaptive genetic diversity, and basic agricultural needs.



A male Greater Sage-Grouse (USFWS CA/Jeannie Stafford) and Black Sagebrush (*Artemisia nova*) (BLM SOS/UT933).

The Great Basin Native Plant Project is conducting studies with researchers from over 25 institutions. Surprisingly little is known about most native plant species, so this stage is often critical to guide effective species restoration.

- **Production.** It takes time to multiply the amounts of seed so that there are enough native plant materials for commercial availability. This process involves many different partners such as USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Plant Materials Centers and private growers.
- **Habitat Restoration.** The ultimate goal of the Bureau of Land Management’s Native Plant Materials Development Program is to restore resilient native plant communities and habitat. Restoration practices benefit from incorporating genetic considerations and using research to choose the best seed source, seed mix, and restoration technique to maximize appropriate genetic variation and population size, thus ensuring successful habitat restoration in a changing climate.



The Bureau of Land Management’s Montana State Office has a native plant grow-out program with the Special K Ranch in Columbus, MT. Pictured to the left are Wyoming Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*) seedlings which were grown-out in a greenhouse and are undergoing winter hardening before being used for wildlife enhancement projects and disturbance rehabilitation projects.

For more information on the Native Plant Materials Development Program and work being done within sagebrush habitat, contact:

Peggy Olwell, Plant Conservation Program Lead, Bureau of Land Management,
 polwell@blm.gov, (202) 912-7273, <http://www.blm.gov/plants/>