

# NORTH AMERICAN GROUSE PARTNERSHIP

A number of North American grouse species such as Sage Grouse, Pinnated Grouse (Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chickens), and (Columbian and Prairie) Sharp-tailed Grouse have experienced serious population declines during the last 50 years. Such declines have resulted in recent petitioning by various factions to the USFWS requesting inclusion of several grouse species on the threatened and endangered species list. Interpretation of some of the recent data has suggested that within as little as 10 years, all prairie grouse could be categorized as endangered. Residing on either private or public lands or both, depending on the species, these magnificent birds function as primary indicator species for the health of their particular habitats, and they are held in especially high esteem by sportspersons, birders, biologists and land managers.



*The mission of the North American Grouse Partnership is to promote the conservation of grouse and the habitat necessary for their survival and reproduction.*

Consequently, during August 1999, a founding group of thirteen concerned professionals initiated a new national and international advocacy group for grouse, the **North American Grouse Partnership (NAGP)**, which is hoped eventually to function similarly to Ducks Unlimited in both the U.S. and Canada. The **North American Grouse Partnership** is incorporated in Idaho as a 501(C)3, not-for-profit organization. In its mere infancy, this new effort is comprised of state and provincial chapters with working groups to address particular problems that vary with each species. The Prairie Grouse Technical Council, a group of approximately 100 North American grouse biologists, serves as one of the scientific authorities for **NAGP**. It is hoped that **NAGP** will function to bring the immediate plight of declining grouse species to public attention as well as to provide future oversight for the health of grouse populations, and to raise funds to help

stimulate and leverage solutions for the problems resulting in grouse declines. The problems are varied, long-term, and immense, involving millions of acres of private and public land, and in many ways are greater than those faced in the past by waterfowl. The constituency for grouse is smaller than that for waterfowl, but at the same time the constituents who exist are extremely passionate. It is expected that for the first two to five years this organization will function through volunteers, but as funds are raised, a full-time, salaried staff will be employed.

Along with bison, prairie grouse are the magnificent icons of the Great Plains. They were the inspiration for the war dances of so many native Americans. They fed and sustained the early pioneers of the prairies. Today, the mating displays on the grouse

leaks fascinate professional birders and laypersons alike. These birds have provided many memorable days afield for gunhunters, fieldtrialers, and falconers too. Most importantly, they are indicator species for the health of our American prairie land. Their presence or absence tells us that all is well or all is not well on the plains.

If you are somebody who cares about our native grouse species, why not join the **North American Grouse Partnership**, and become a part of the solution for their future? The membership already includes conservationists, fieldtrialers, birders, wingshooters, falconers, ranchers, energy consultants, agriculturists, biologists, and other North Americans like you. We need your participation, your interest and your support. Please tell your friends about **NAGP** and ask them to join as well. Together we can do something positive for these magnificent gamebirds!

## NORTH AMERICAN GROUSE PARTNERSHIP membership application:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 MOBILE PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_  
 MEMBER OTHER ORGANIZATIONS? \_\_\_\_\_  
 (conservation, sporting, birding, ranching, \_\_\_\_\_  
 gunning, hunting, agricultural, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Catagory

- Regular \$35
- Contributing \$50
- Sustaining \$100
- Steward \$250
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Benefits:** Annual Newsletter, window decal, membership in NAGP listserv, discount on NAGP products, membership in both NAGP National and State.

(Please duplicate this form for use by your friends). Please mail completed application form and year 2000 dues/contribution to: NAGP Treasurer, 1670 N. 1/2 Road, Fruita, CO 81521 sealingc@acsol.net