



THE MINNESOTA SHARPTAILER

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Fall 2023

A New Study of Hybridization Between Prairie-Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse – Hunters, We Need Your Help!

by Katelin Goebel, MNDNR Wildlife Biologist

Researchers from MN DNR (led by Charlotte Roy), ND Game and Fish Department, and University of ND are beginning a study to explore whether habitat changes and/or behavior are influencing sharp-tailed grouse expansion into prairie-chicken range in northwest MN. In this region, prairie-chicken booming grounds are disappearing, sharptail dancing grounds are increasing, and hybridization between the species seems to be increasing. It is unclear whether sharptail expansion and hybridization is contributing to prairie-chicken declines through production of hybrid offspring, if the observed changes are driven by increasing woody encroachment of grasslands, or whether both factors could be at play.

An important first step in our research is understanding the current status of hybrids in prairie-chicken and sharptail populations. To do this, **we need your help!** **Sharptail and prairie-chicken hunters are encouraged to voluntarily submit 5-10 large wing or tail feathers from each harvested bird.** Feathers from each bird should be in a separate paper envelope (please do not mix feathers from different birds together), labeled with the county of harvest, and mailed to: Grouse Research, DNR Regional Headquarters, 1201 E Hwy. 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

We will use these feather samples to examine the genetics of prairie chickens and sharptails in northwest Minnesota. This data will allow us to understand the extent to which hybridization is currently occurring across the landscape. Our goals are to inform prairie chicken and sharptail management, so that both species can persist. We will share our findings with you in a future newsletter!



Images from left to right are a sharp-tailed grouse, a hybrid, and a greater prairie-chicken. Courtesy of Jesse Kolar, ND Game and Fish Department.

See the article on page 6 for additional information.

Lac Qui Parle WMA Brush Cut

After a rough start securing volunteers, persistence prevailed -16 MN Master Naturalists students and 3 instructors gathered at the Crosby Ripple Unit of Lac Qui Parle WMA in late June to cut brush and search for a rare plant, slender milkvetch. They put in 30 hours that qualify for match for CPL habitat project grants. Thank you, Master Naturalists, and Walt Gessler for sticking to it!



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Mike's Message

Mike Chalich, MSGS President

Hello, Folks!

Dave Pauly handed over the leadership torch to me at the end of the Board meeting August 26th. We communicated multiple times prior to ensure a smooth transition. We all owe a great deal of gratitude to Dave (Griz) for his 10 years as president! Thank you! He will thankfully stay on as Habitat Coordinator! Griz has great knowledge and connections. I discussed with him earlier, my thoughts of creating assistant habitat coordinators in the EC, NW and SW zones. We live in a large State, and simply put, need the extra help. Especially in the EC zone. Dave can mentor the new folks to learn the trade. A real win for MSGS! If interested, please contact me or Dave.

Dave Dickey has been Membership Coordinator for a number of years and told the Board, he'd like to retire at years end. Thank you Dave for all those years of volunteer work! You've done first rate work for MSGS! Anyone interested in filling the position, please contact me.

Here's some of the items that I intend to focus on during my two-year term as your President. Details will come out after my 1st Board meeting in January.

* **Membership:** We have approximately 250 members. I believe we can double! Ask a friend, hunting buddy, relative. We're going to attend more county fairs and sporting events, volunteer to work the booth! More members will give us more volunteers and people interested in serving our organization, and a larger voice.

* **Fundraising:** We discussed ordering shirts, hats, decals at the Board meeting. We have more work to do, as merchandise will add dollars to our accounts, and promote MSGS. I want to look into the feasibility of holding banquets, etc.. We do have a joint Spring Fling with the Prairie Chicken Society scheduled for April 20th in Crookston and another double gun shoot in Princeton April 28th. More to come on that.

* **Facebook/Instagram:** Fortunately for us, our new NE Region Representative, James Meadow has graciously agreed to set up and manage accounts that we can promote our cause and advertise for new members and sell our merchandise! He and I attended the Prairie Grouse Summit in Grantsburg, WI in early August. Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society was down to 80 members. Since going on Facebook/Instagram, they now have 230 and growing daily! They've also sold merchandise coast to coast. They are working with us as we need it. Thank you, James!

* **Goal/Objectives:** One of many things that was drilled into my head during my RR career was, having specific, measurable, attainable actions that support our goals as stated in our bylaws. I'll make sure that happens.

* **EC Zone Lottery Season:** My belief is we need to work with DNR to establish a lottery STG season. Similar to the Chicken season. My fear is if the season remains closed, support will fade.

There is so much more, but for now, I've used up my space. Sign up a new member, promote our cause! MSGS is working hard to sustain our iconic, favorite, native gamebird!

If you have thoughts you'd like to share to promote our cause, please contact me.

Thank you! Mike, 218 259 0760, michael_chalich@hotmail.com

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NE MN - James Meadow

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SE MN - Ray Marshall

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Coordinators

Habitat - Dave Pauly

Newsletters - Jodie Provost

Website/Facebook - James Meadow

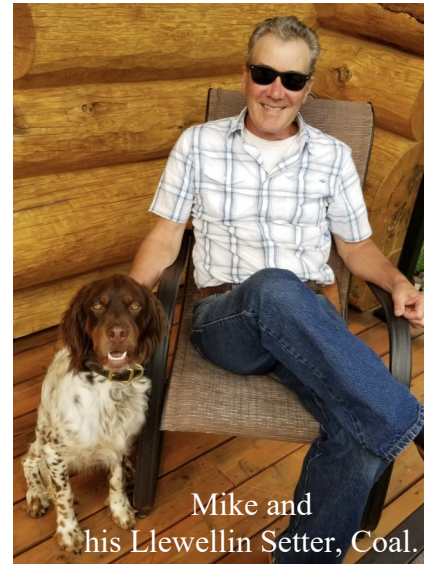
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Dave Pauly



Mike and
his Llewellyn Setter, Coal.



Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society is dedicated to the management and restoration of sharptails in Minnesota for hunters and non-hunters.

2023 Minnesota Grouse Seasons, Surveys, and Study Reports

Excerpted from MN DNR Reports By Charlotte Roy, Grouse Project Leader

SEASON DATES

Sharp-tailed Grouse - Northwest MN (NW): Sept. 16 - Nov. 30; East-central MN (EC): CLOSED (since 2021)

Prairie Chicken - Lottery Deadline: Aug. 18; Season: Sept. 30 - Oct. 8

Ruffed Grouse and Spruce Grouse - Seasons: Sept. 16 - Jan. 1

REPORTS - *Thank you* to all cooperators, volunteers, and hunters that make the below surveys and studies possible!

Sharp-tailed Grouse appear stable in the NW and have increased in the EC though the 31 leks remains far below the 70 leks counted as recently as 2010. This year's statewide average of 11.5 grouse per lek was similar to the long-term average since 1980. Surveys were conducted 20 March to 13 May, with 1,777 birds observed at 155 leks in NW and EC MN. Additionally 2 birds at 1 lek were observed in SW MN. Comparisons between leks observed in both 2022 and 2023 indicated similar numbers of birds/lek in EC, NW, and statewide.

In EC MN, mean number of grouse per lek was 8.0 (247 birds on 31 leks; an 87% increase over the 132 birds on 18 leks in 2021), similar to last year, and counts at leks were also similar. However, distribution and number of leks is localized and small. Most (77%) leks reported were in the Aitkin Wildlife work area, and 9 of 10 additional leks counted resulted from greater survey effort there. No leks were reported in the Cambridge work area, the case since 2018. The Tower work area reported 3 leks in 2022 and 2023 in contrast to 2021 when none were observed. Five birds were reported at St. Croix State Park, the second spring birds have been at the Park, and 2 additional leks observed in the Cloquet work area. Traits of a population decline are being exhibited in EC. The increase in leks counted illustrates how changes in survey effort can influence number of leks observed.

In NW MN, mean number of grouse per lek was 12.4 (1,528 birds on 123 leks; compared to mean of 12.5 and 1,779 birds on 142 leks in 2022). Fewer leks were observed in part due to continuing staff vacancies in at least one work area. Counts at leks that were observed during both 2022 and 2023 were similar. Thus, sharptails appear to be stable in the NW although they may be increasing in some parts and declining in others. For example, more are being reported in the southern part of the NW in areas that used to hold primarily greater prairie-chickens.

In 2021, an estimated 2,979 hunters harvested 3,774 sharptail. The 10 year means are 5,444 hunters and 9,338 sharptail harvested. Estimated harvest per active hunter was 1.3 and the 10 year mean was 1.8.

Greater Prairie Chicken were surveyed in all 17 survey blocks during spring 2023 between April 7 and May 11. Observers located 51 booming grounds and counted 594 males and birds of unknown sex. Including areas outside survey blocks, observers located 115 booming grounds, 1,051 male prairie-chickens, and 115 birds of unknown sex. Estimated densities of 0.07 booming grounds/km² and 11.6 males/booming ground within survey blocks were similar to densities during recent years and during the 10 years preceding modern hunting seasons (i.e., 1993–2002), but lower than the peak in booming grounds/km² in 2007 when CRP enrollments were also the highest. Survey cooperators reported sharptail dancing grounds, sharptail-chicken hybrids, and sharptail at chicken booming grounds in survey blocks.

In 2022, 109 hunters were estimated to have gone afield and harvested 111 prairie-chickens and 46 sharp-tailed grouse during prairie-chicken hunts. Hunter success (0.60) was higher than last year but similar to recent years. Satisfaction (3.9 on a scale of 1-5) also was similar to recent years and consistent with improvement following changes to the permit areas and season in 2013 (i.e., longer length and earlier dates). Notably, in 2022, the number of applicants for the prairie-chicken lottery was the highest since 2009, indicating more interest in prairie-chicken hunting. 125 permits were again available in the 11 permit areas. A 3-year collaborative study by TNC, USFWS, and DNR began in spring 2021 continues to examine effects of conservation grazing on prairie-chicken reproductive success and grassland vegetation.

Ruffed Grouse Mean drums per stop (dps) were 2.1 statewide, up from last year (1.9 dps) and similar to recent peaks. However, dps were not up in all survey regions, and increases were most notable in the NE where 1 route had a particularly high dps. Survey results may be affected by a lot of changes in survey observers the last few years, and numerous extreme weather conditions the last 2 years. Survey routes were conducted 17 April to 5 May. Many observers reported a late spring. Drum counts were 2.4 in the NE (2.0 last year), 1.5 in the NW (2.9 last year), 1.6 in the Central Hardwoods (1.4 last year), and 0.6 in the SE (1.0 last year). In 2021, harvest in MN was estimated at 206,699 ruffed grouse by 57,284 hunters. The 10 year means are 77,889 hunters and 281,866 grouse harvested. Estimated harvest per active hunter was 3.6 and the 10 year mean was 3.6.

Spruce Grouse survey results were not yet available for 2023. In 2021, an estimated 6,255 hunters harvested 7,248 spruce grouse. The 10 year means are 8,699 hunters and a harvest of 12,442 spruce grouse. Estimated harvest per active hunter was 1.2 birds and the 10 year mean was 1.4.

Additional detail on the above information can be found on the DNR website at these links: [grouse survey reports](#), [grouse hunting](#), [prairie chicken hunting](#), [prairie chicken management](#), and [research publication](#).

2023 MSGS Board Election Results

for President, Treasurer, NE MN Rep & SW MN Rep

Congratulations and gratitude are due to Mike Chalich, Gretchen Mehmel, James Meadow, and Sabin Adams for their election to MSGS President, Treasurer, and Northeast and Southwest MN Representatives, respectively. Their dedication to our mission, fresh perspectives, and skills are greatly appreciated. Your Board is critical in steering our conservation ship straight and true toward a Minnesota future with a robust sharp-tailed grouse population and the multiple benefits that come with it.

MSGS Summer Board Meeting Summary

by Martha Minchak, Secretary



MSGS board members at their summer meeting on Aug. 26 at LaPorte picnic shelter.

The summer board meeting was held on Sat., August 26, 2023 at the LaPorte Fireman's picnic shelter. Present were Dave Pauly (outgoing President, Habitat Coordinator), Mike Chalich (new President), Kyle Arola (Vice President via zoom), Martha Minchak (Secretary), Gary Huschle (NW MN Rep), James Meadows (NE MN Rep & new Website/Social Media Coordinator), Ray Marshall (SE MN Rep), Sabin Adams (SW MN Rep via zoom), Dave Dickey (Membership Coordinator), Bill Berg (Honorary Director), Jodie Provost (Newsletter Editor), and guest, Ann Marie Krmpotich, USFWS Private Lands Program Manager.

After a potluck picnic, the meeting was called to order about 1 pm. Martha reported on board election results. Gratitude was expressed to all outgoing and incoming officers, especially Dave Pauly for his years of service as just the 2nd President. We want to ensure that all our board members, coordinators, and volunteers

feel heard, respected, and assisted as needed. An Aug. 25 preliminary Treasurer's report by Gretchen was approved. She will need time to learn the accounts, banking and auditing, may propose new options, and seek a new CPA. Kyle shared his many habitat efforts in the NW and Thief Lake Wildlife Area, including funds to seek contract burners to help keep up with vast burn needs. DNR has \$120K and RMEF and MDHA have provided \$220K. Thief Lake has 115 K acres in 70 burn units alone. DNR will do the firebreaks and burn plans, and contractors the burn. MDHA, ABC, and PF/MSGS are also funding brush mows and shears. 450 acres has been added to Thief Lake. Arson fires occurred on Thief Lake (but staff turned it into a 'prescribed fire!') and Agassiz NWR this spring. Kyle will help plan the 2024 joint meeting with MPCS.

Regional Reps reported from around the state. Gary noted it should be a good year for production in the NW. James attended the Upper Midwest Prairie Grouse Summit and is interested in approaching large landowners in the NE about habitat mgt. Ray has been leading the conversation with DNR about the MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Mgt. Plan. The first call with DNR occurred June 7 and the second will occur Sept. 11. Nate Huck, new DNR resident game bird consultant began in late August. Sabin shared the excellent work that he, Jake Granfors, and Becca Kludt, all with PF, are doing on behalf of open landscape habitat mgt. for sharptails using Outdoor Heritage Funds (Legacy Amendment moneys) secured from the LSOHC in partnership with MSGS. It includes acquisitions, and habitat enhancements and restorations throughout MN sharptail range. He surveyed in SW MN again last spring for sharptail. There is still one lek in Medicine County. He is interested in seeking a CPL grant to remove cottonwoods on a WPA nearby and securing funds to use thermal imagery from fixed-wing aircraft to find leks. Susan Felege at UND is leading a research effort using this technique.

Dave Dickey reported 276 total members = 48 Life, 26 complimentary, 3 sponsor, 11 sustaining, 56 contributing, 96 regular, 21 retired, and 15 students. After being Membership Coordinator for the last 7 years, he'd like to pass the baton by the end of the year. Raising the Life Membership above the current \$500 amount and decals with our logo were discussed. We are out of merchandise, so Martha will work with Bailey on it. Give to the Max needs to be promoted better for this Nov. 16. Outreach efforts were discussed, many of them noted in this newsletter.

Mike outlined his ideas and vision for MSGS. See 'Mike's Message' on page 2.

The meeting adjourned at about 5 pm.

Audubon's Conservation Ranching Program Lands in MN

by Krysten Zummo

New grassland ecologist working for birds through Audubon's unique wildlife habitat certification

This June, the National Audubon Society hired Krysten Zummo of La Crosse, Wisconsin, as the organization's new grassland ecologist for Minnesota. Krysten works under Audubon's Minnesota-Iowa-Missouri regional office, and her primary focus will be working with private landowners in spearheading the implementation of the organization's wildlife habitat certification program, Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR).

Why is Audubon, a non-profit whose mission is to protect birds and the places they need, involved in ranching? As many are aware, a study published in *Science* in 2019 detailed the loss of 3 billion North American birds since 1970. Among bird types, grassland birds have experienced the steepest declines at approximately 53%. The main driver of this decline is the loss and/or degradation of native grassland habitats to agricultural uses such as row crops and pasturelands. However, privately owned agricultural lands also offer significant opportunities for working lands and conservation to work together.

The [Audubon Conservation Ranching](#) program, Audubon's flagship grassland habitat initiative, is a collaborative effort between farmers, ranchers, and Audubon to address the decline of grassland bird populations. This market-based conservation approach offers incentives for good grassland stewardship through a certification label on beef and bison products. Focal grassland species include but are not limited to Sharp-tailed grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Henslow's Sparrow, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Blue-winged Teal, Short-eared Owl, and more. This diverse list of focal species provides flexibility in habitat management depending on the type of grassland on each ranch as well as the rancher's goals.

Over 100 ranches, encompassing nearly 3 million acres across the United States, have earned *Audubon Certified* status as bird-friendly land. This certification includes the *Audubon Certified* bird-friendly seal on beef and bison products, highlighting their origin from lands managed to support birds and biodiversity. The program stands on three pillars that support bird conservation and habitat-helping cattle: habitat management, animal health & welfare, and environmental sustainability. These pillars were developed through the collaboration of grassland ecologists, bird biologists, ranching professionals, animal welfare experts, and supply chain partners.

Building on the program's success in 14 other states, Audubon's hiring of Krysten is part of ACR's expansion to Minnesota in 2023. Krysten will work closely with farmers and ranchers in Minnesota that are interested in certification. Part of this process includes developing individualized Habitat Management Plans focused on creating diverse grassland habitats that support the needs of cattle, grassland birds, pollinators, and overall environmental sustainability.

Krysten joins the National Audubon Society from Mississippi Valley Conservancy, a non-profit land trust where she aided landowners in permanent land protection and habitat management. Prior to her work with MVC, she was a Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever in eastern Colorado. Her dedication and expertise in working with landowners in voluntary conservation efforts and her commitment to habitat restoration and public outreach make her an exceptional addition to the Audubon team.



 Audubon



To learn more about Audubon Conservation Ranching, you can reach Krysten at Krysten.Zummo@audubon.org. For additional info, see a recent story in MPR News - [Prime, grass fed — bird friendly? Audubon Society label coming to a meat aisle near you | MPRNews](#)

A Different Kind of Lek Visitor in Northwest MN

by Katelin Goebel, MNDNR Wildlife Biologist

On an early, brisk April morning, I set up my ground blind at a prairie chicken lek in Norman County, MN and waited for the show to begin. First one at a time, then in groups of 3-4, male prairie chickens seemingly materialized out of thin air and swooped down to claim their turf. Their cackling calls encouraged others to arrive at the lek, and the prairie was soon alive before me. Birds darted back and forth right outside my window, stomping their feet and booming as they'd been practicing all spring.

As the sun poked above the horizon, the cacophony grew as other birds joined in the call that many prairie-lovers know well. As prairie chickens boomed, clucked, and whooped, I could hear the clicking and popping of a few sharp-tailed grouse nearby but just out of view. Off in the distance, sandhill cranes' rattling calls echoed across the open fields. A few meadowlarks belted out their melodic, lilting songs to greet the sun. On this particular morning, though, I was listening for a different sound.

Sure enough, a new call emerged from the edge of the lek. It was neither the echoey boom of a prairie chicken or the snappy "chilk" of a sharptail. It sounded almost as if a prairie chicken was trying his best to boom but ran out of steam halfway through. The sound repeated a few more times, and as if the bird was out of breath, the calls stopped. I knew the bird I came here for was present, but just out of sight – a prairie chicken × sharp-tailed grouse hybrid, a cross between the two species.

The hybrid stepped out from behind a clump of tall, dried grass. Overall, his color was more like a prairie chicken – dark brown, but with a lighter breast. His tail wasn't quite typical of a prairie chicken or sharptail, as it was mostly rounded but came to a pointed tip. The most distinguishing features of this hybrid were his purple air sacs on his neck, which match a sharptail, in contrast to a prairie chicken's golden ones. The hybrid's pinnae were also distinct. On a prairie chicken, these feathers on top of the head stand straight up like bunny ears while displaying. A sharptail has no pinnae. This hybrid, however, had medium-sized pinnae that looked much like cat ears.

In addition to the strange look and sound of the prairie chicken × sharp-tailed grouse hybrid, its display behaviors showed a mix between the two species. Whereas sharptails hold their wings straight out while stomping their feet and scuttling around (resembling a taxiing airplane), prairie chickens keep their wings tight to their body. The hybrid held his wings mid-way out, awkwardly, as he stomped and called. Other hybrids may blend in more easily with birds at leks, since hybrids' traits and behaviors appear to occur on a spectrum. After a hybrid breeds with a pure prairie chicken or sharptail, its offspring (called "backcrosses") are even trickier to identify because they look more like the pure parent.

This peculiar lek visitor is becoming more common in northwest Minnesota. Both prairie chickens and sharptails are classified as Species in Greatest Conservation Need in the state, as they have faced declines largely due to habitat loss. As prairie chickens have declined in the northern portion of their range, sharptail range has expanded south. Wildlife managers and researchers have observed more instances of sharptails and hybrids at prairie chicken leks in recent years, with reports as far south as Clay County. The number of sharptail dancing grounds has also increased in areas inhabited by prairie chickens.

Wildlife managers report that sharptails are aggressive toward prairie chickens at leks. Fighting is a common behavior on spring mornings, as male prairie chickens spar to gain preferable territory near the center of the lek and increase their chances of successfully breeding. If hybrids and sharptails breed with female prairie chickens instead, however, the results are hybrid offspring – birds that aren't quite prairie chickens nor sharptails. The long-term effects of hybridization on Minnesota's prairie chicken population are unknown, but this is a potential concern for this species that is already declining. As production of hybrid offspring increases, the gene pools of these species mix and the number of pure prairie chicken and sharptail chicks is reduced.

Sharptailer Short Shots

- **New MN DNR resident game bird consultant**, Nate Huck, came on board end of August - welcome Nate! MSGS looks forward to collaborating. An informative article about Nate can be read in the [Outdoor News](#).
- **MSGS and MPCS will hold a Joint Meeting** on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Crookston. Mark your calendars!
- **[Give to the Max Day](#)** is Nov. 16. Let's smash our MSGS donation record from 2021 of over \$3000!
- MSGS's **3rd Annual Double Gun Shoot** will be Sunday, April 28, 2024 at Wings North again near Pine City, MN.
- Stay tuned for dates and locations of **MSGS Brush Cuts** in spring 2024. Details will be in the winter newsletter.
- Prefer to get **your newsletters** via email digitally or by snail mail hard copy? We want you to get what you will read. If you prefer to receive it differently than you do now, let Dave Dickey, Membership Coord., know at 99whitetail@gmail.com.

2023 Upper Midwest Prairie Grouse Summit



An Upper Midwest Prairie Grouse Summit took place on August 1-2 at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area near Grantsburg, WI. The purpose was to gather key leaders to address the issue of fragmented sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie-chicken populations across our ecoregion. It was co-hosted by Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (WSGS) and North American Grouse Partnership (NAGP). About 40 people from North Dakota to Michigan attended. Above we are pictured behind metal art of displaying sharptail, created in honor of Jim Evrard, long time WSGS leader. Pdfs of all presentations are on the [NAGP website](#) under the "Lakes States Collaborators & Resources" tab on the left. Thank you immensely to WSGS, especially Ken Jonas their president, and NAGP. And to all that shared information and came from local grouse and conservation societies, and government agencies. Our work is based in science and our fellowship gives it wings.

A Short History of Fire in the Aitkin Work Area

by Dave Dickey and Bill Berg

While recently discussing the possibility of managing habitat for sharp-tails in the proposed copper-nickel mine area near Tamarack, Bill Berg remembered members of the Tamarack fire department commenting on the sharp-tails they saw when they burned the grass areas around town in the spring as a fire protection exercise. This practice was common every spring around Tamarack and McGregor.

When I arrived in Aitkin in the spring of 1970 to become the area wildlife manager, it was very common for many landowners to burn some of their pastures, hay fields, crop fields, and lowland areas. In the spring evenings you could see an orange glow almost every night when conditions were right. This probably did not create sharpie habitat but it certainly maintained habitat. If the burn should get away or pop up again the next day, forestry would show up with their narrow box pickup with a small water tank, a gas-powered pump, and a garden hose to "help" put it out. The landowner maybe got charged for this. But this all began to change in 1976 when the "big" fires occurred that fall and the following spring.

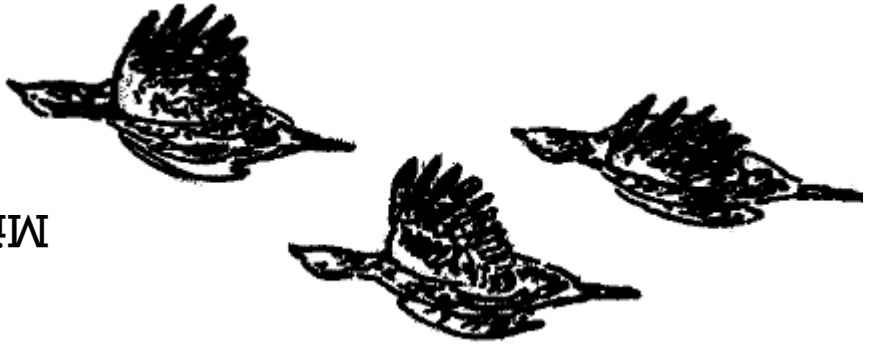
We had never seen fire fighters from other states with yellow shirts – we called them the yellow jackets. And we had to show them that you could not put out fire by shoveling peat on the fire. And what's this, planes dropping red liquid and helicopters with water buckets! We had a lot to learn and we did!

Since then, the practice of land owners burning slowly has died out. They discovered that if their burn got away, forestry might show up with a crew and a helicopter to put the fire out and that wasn't cheap.

Then a forester, who I will not name, realized that most of the fires that they responded to in the spring were due to land owner burning. So, the solution? when spring conditions were good for burning, close down all permit burns until green-up. So then no one was burning unless they could convince the burn was for habitat purposes and they had the know how and equipment to burn. So as spring progressed from south to north, entire counties were shut down and no habitat maintenance burns on private were occurring.

Apparently, it is now up to each area to decide to shut down permit burns on a day-to-day basis based on area conditions. However, there are not many landowners around now that want to do private land burns or know how to safely.

**Minnesota Sharp-tailed
Grouse Society**



MSGGS values its members, communications and funds. To reduce newsletter mailing costs, con-serve funds for other important outreach and habitat opportunities, and allow special communications via email, members are encouraged to provide their email addresses to membership coordinator, Dave Dickey, at 99whitetail@gmail.com. MSGGS will not share members' email addresses. Hard copies of newsletters will continue to be mailed to members with no e-mail address and/or those that desire a hard copy.

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