

Agency: Sage grouse spending to top \$750 million by 2018

February 12 2015

Spending on a government-sponsored initiative to help struggling sage grouse populations in the West is projected to exceed \$750 million by 2018.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Thursday the money will conserve an estimated 8 million acres of [sage grouse](#) habitat. Federal officials are more than halfway to that goal since starting the Sage Grouse Initiative in 2010.

The chicken-sized birds are found in 11 Western states. They're being considered for [federal protections](#) after their numbers plummeted in recent decades.

About \$425 million in government and private funds already have been spent on conservation easements and other measures to reverse the bird's decline.

The USDA will spend almost \$200 million more over the next four years. Private contributors and other government agencies are expected to provide an additional \$130 million.

© 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Agency: Sage grouse spending to top \$750 million by 2018 (2015, February 12) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-02-agency-sage-grouse-million.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.