

Subject:

8-13-14 eBlast from Utah NRCS



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EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT TACKLES SAGE GROUSE FENCE MARKING



Cache Valley Boy Scout Kaden Hart selected marking 5-miles of fence in Rich County as his Eagle Scout Project. He used NRCS-supplied 3-inch white vinyl fence markers designed to protect the greater sage-grouse from potential collision strikes. In late July he coordinated his project with Taylor Payne, an NRCS-[SGI](#) partner biologist working out of the Randolph NRCS field office. The fence markers were supplied by the Utah NRCS office as part of a statewide drive to mark up to 128 miles of fence in high collision risk sage grouse habitat areas.

Kaden's mother, Rae Ann Hart, who is employed by the USU College of Natural Resources and has done extensive work on sage grouse management in Utah and the Intermountain West, was on hand to provide assistance and support. With the help of friends, his mom, and his brother, he was able to complete approximately 5-miles of fence marking across valuable winter habitat in Rich County. The accompanying photos show Kaden (second from right in the group photo), working with his mom who is shown placing markers.

In high-risk areas near leks, up to 1.2 sage grouse collisions per mile of fence have been documented. Studies have shown up to an 83 percent reduction in sage grouse collisions following the marking of fences. Fence marking may also reduce collision and entanglement risk of a variety of other wildlife species. This technique is increasingly being applied by landowners and land managers as a simple way to reduce a threat to sage grouse.

There are still locations and fence markers available for scouts, civic, church, and other groups to organize a sage grouse fence marking service project. Contact your local NRCS field office to learn more about those opportunities, or NRCS State Biologist [Casey Burns](#).

Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah



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