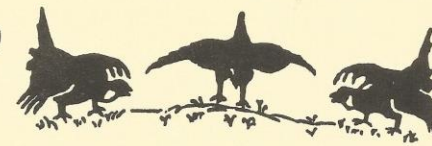


# GROUSE GROUP SEQUENCE

- **Fifty years ago. The Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society was hatched, in answer to declining prairie chicken habitat and numbers. In 1985, folks also noticed the decline in Minnesota sharptails, and a small group said “let’s copy the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society,” and form a Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, and that hatched in 1986 (thank you, MPCS). A couple years later, another egg was laid, this time in Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society was hatched. And a couple years later, the Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association, and a couple years later, along came the Manitoba Sharptails Plus fledgling chick.**

**MINNESOTA SHARP-TAILED  
GROUSE SOCIETY**



P.O. BOX 3338  
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55803



**MINNESOTA SHARP-TAILED  
GROUSE SOCIETY**

P.O. BOX 3338 • DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55803

**dedicated to the management and restoration of sharptails**

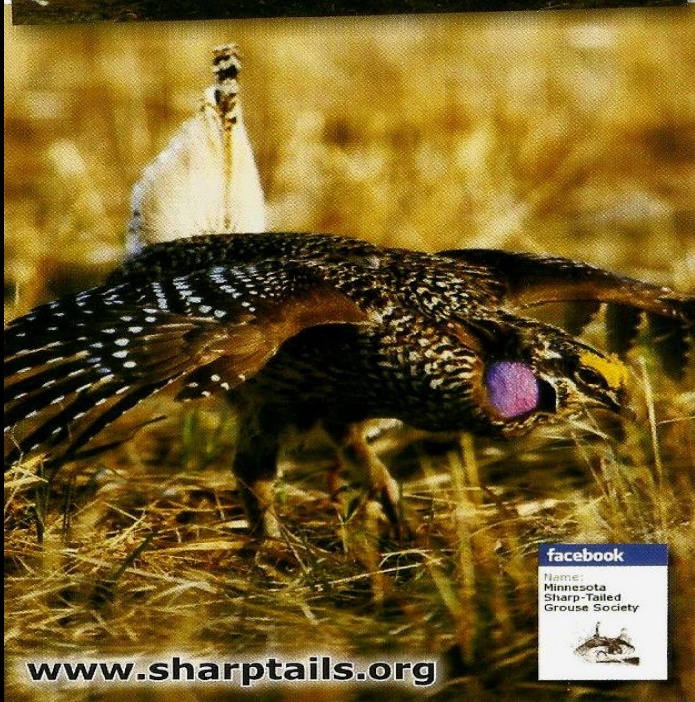
**in Minnesota for the benefit of hunters and non-hunters**



**MINNESOTA  
SHARP-TAILED  
GROUSE SOCIETY**



Dedicated to the management and restoration of sharp-tailed grouse.



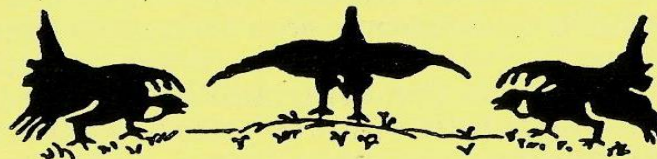
[www.sharptails.org](http://www.sharptails.org)

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Name:  
Minnesota  
Sharp-Tailed  
Grouse Society



**SHARPTAILS  
MINNESOTA'S  
BRUSHLAND  
GROUSE**



**MINNESOTA  
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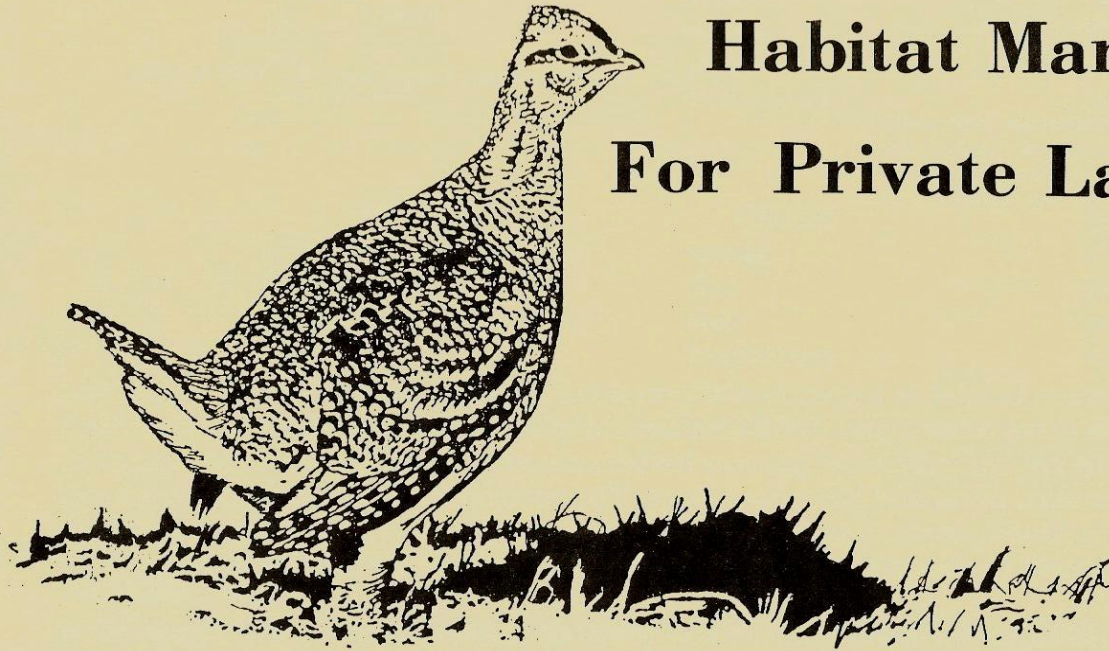
ON THE WEB AT [www.mnsharptails.org](http://www.mnsharptails.org)

dedicated to the management  
and restoration of sharptails  
in Minnesota for the benefit  
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# Sharp-Tailed Grouse

## Habitat Management For Private Landowners

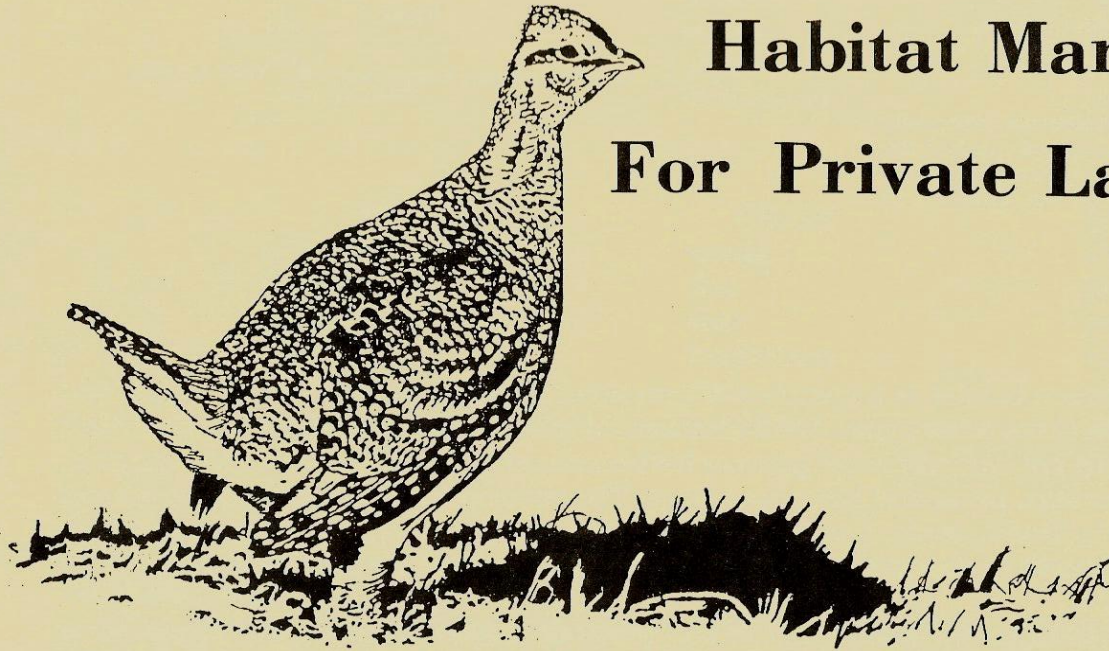




# Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Habitat Management

For Private Landowners





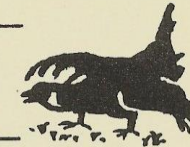






P. O. BOX 3338  
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55803

AUTUMN 1986



## HOW DID WE START?

BY ROCHE LALLY

I'd heard it so often before. I'd heard it from my dad, from my friend's dads, and from land owners where we hunted. It started to sound like a broken record - "You should have been here twenty or thirty years ago. There were flocks of birds in every field."

To a lesser degree, I'd seen it myself. In the dozen or so short years that I've hunted sharptails, it sure seemed that birds were becoming less abundant. Every year we had to go farther to locate birds, even as far as Manitoba and Saskatchewan. What was happening?

I figured it was time to find out. I recalled a biologist who had checked us in the Warroad area years ago. I found him, still working on sharptails, at the DNR's Forest Wildlife Populations and Research Group in Grand Rapids. I asked Bill Berg ("Mr. Sharptail") what was happening with the bird.

Bill told me that the long term decline in the sharptail population was primarily due to three factors:

1. Natural succession. The grass-brushland habitat that sharptails require is aging rapidly.
2. Intensive clearing of marginal agricultural lands was destroying vast acreages of sharptail habitat.
3. Conifers were being planted in sharptail habitat, primarily by DNR Forestry.

"What if the habitat destruction isn't stopped?" I asked. Bill's answer was the last thing I wanted to hear. "If the current trend isn't reversed, the population will continue to decline, and sharptail hunting could end within 5 years."

"What can we do?" I asked. Bill's answer seemed obvious. "Form a group of concerned sharptail enthusiasts to focus some attention on the bird's plight, and to put pressure on DNR to better manage the sharptail resource. Currently in Minnesota there are groups representing the interests of deer, waterfowl, ruffed grouse, pheasants, turkeys, and furbearers. There are even groups dedicated to protected species like quail, prairie chickens, and wolves. BUT THERE IS NOBODY TO SPEAK FOR THE SHARPTAIL, a bird that was once our third-ranked resident upland



AUTUMN 1986





**SPRING 1987**







WAYNE HOSHAL











WILLOWSIPPI  
STATE WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA

DEDICATED TO  
OPENLAND ECOSYSTEMS  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES







**FIRST BRUSH CUT 1992 HINCKLEY**













**ONLY MSGS HUNT 1997**





# MSGGS GRANT SOURCES

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES—

State lottery proceeds, ongoing.

HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS---sales tax/lottery proceeds?, 2002 to 2012. Ended in 2012.

WATER, LANDS, LEGACY, AND ARTS AMENDMENT (also called Lessard Amendment). Constitutional Amendment passed unanimously in the 2008 election. Adds 3/8 of 1% to State Sales Tax and good for 25 years.

PARTNERSHIPS---Pheasants Forever, Elk Foundation, etc.



# LCMR-FUNDED BRUSHLAND BIOMASS PROJECT

A \$200,000 LCMR grant to UMD/NRRI and  
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society

1. INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF HARVESTING BRUSHLANDS FOR BIOMASS PRODUCTION.
2. ASSESS BRUSH LANDSCAPES AS WILDLIFE HABITAT.
3. DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION AND PLANNING/MANAGEMENT APPROACHES FOR BRUSH LANDSCAPES.



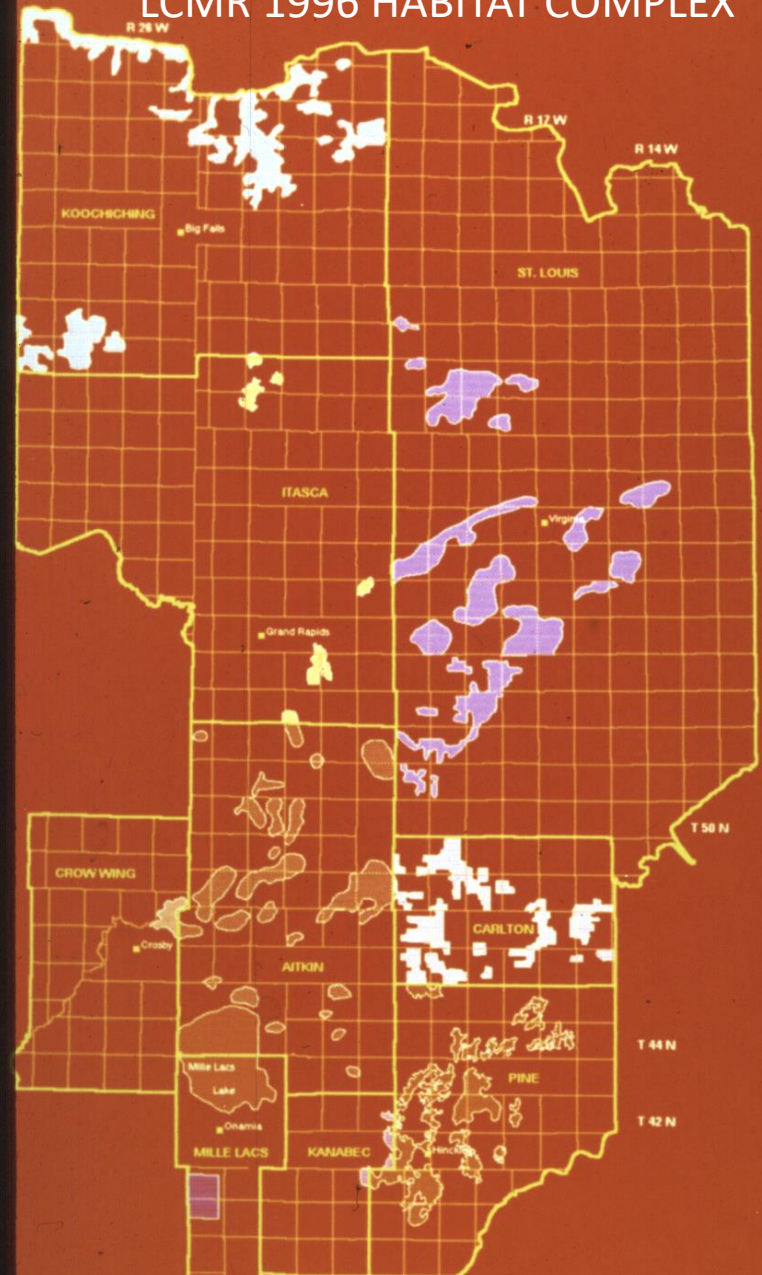
**DON CHRISTIAN NRRI LCMR BIOMASS 1996**





Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Complexes  
East Central Range

LCMR 1996 HABITAT COMPLEX



County

St. Louis	454 sq mi	29 %
Koochiching	332 sq mi	21.2 %
Aitkin	272 sq mi	17.4 %
Pine	215 sq mi	13.7 %
Carlton	189 sq mi	12.1 %
Itasca	89 sq mi	5.5 %
Mille Lacs	35.8 sq mi	2.3 %
Crow Wing	16.5 sq mi	1.1 %
Kanabec	13.1 sq mi	.8 %







# HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS 2002 TO 2010













ROLLER CHOP LITTLE FORK WMA 2009









# MSGS FIRST ACQUISITION AT GUN LAKE WMA 2010





