

# Chapter 6: Wildlife Stories

Conservation Science

Unit 1

February 14, 2023

# Passenger Pigeons

- Historically population in billions
- Deforestation, disease, and unregulated hunting
- Went extinct in less than 100 years



# Passenger Pigeons

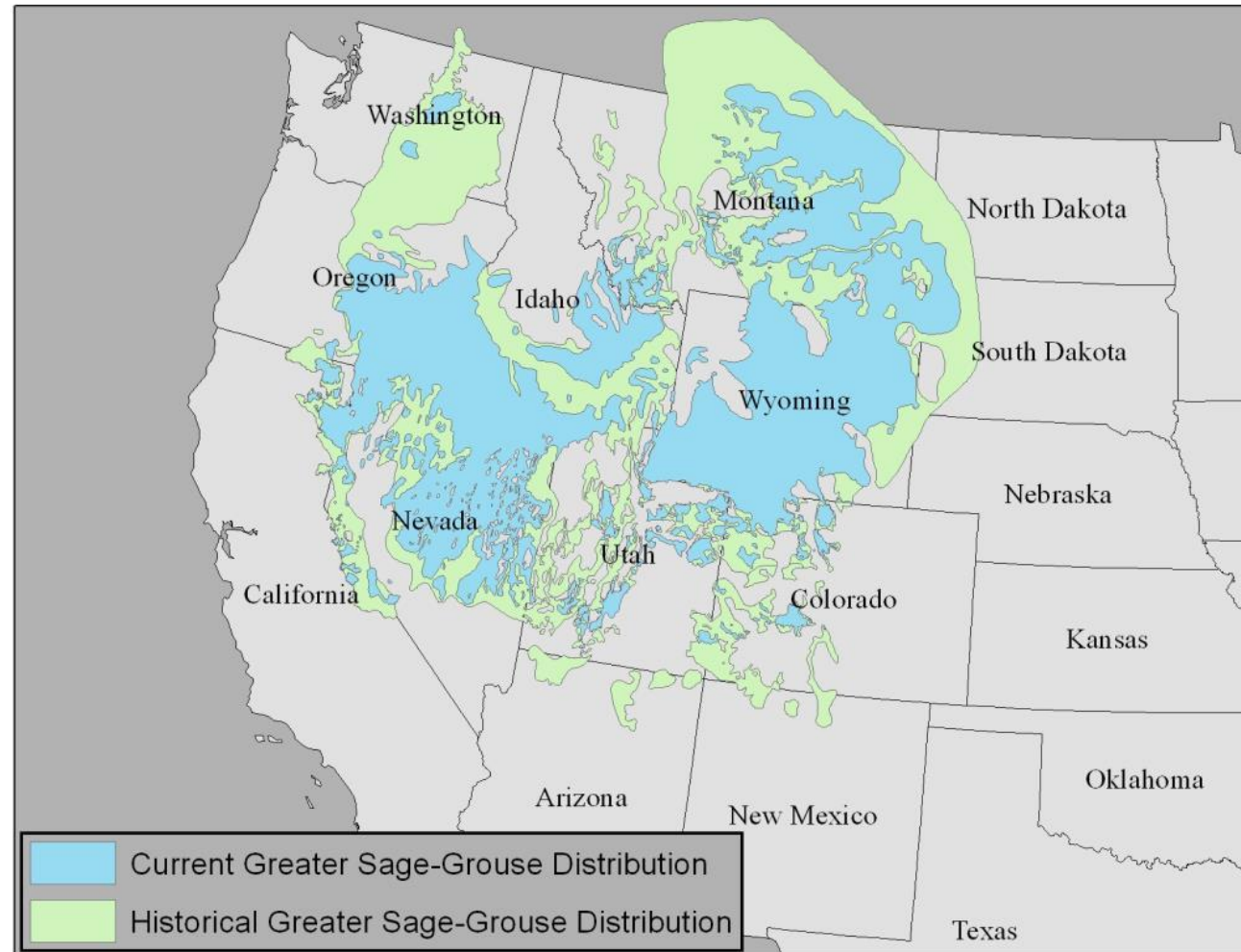


# Greater Sage Grouse

- Since 1985, population has declined due to habitat loss
- Currently found in 11 U.S. states and 2 Canadian Provinces
- Determined that listing under ESA no longer needed in 2015
- Current range is 64% federally owned, 31% privately owned, 5% state owned



# Greater Sage Grouse -- Range



Credit: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# The North American Wild Turkey

- Pre-Columbian population estimated at 10 million
- Due to market hunting and habitat loss population down to 200,000 by 1920
- Regulations, habitat restoration, and relocation, population recovered to more than 6 million
  - National Wild Turkey Federation

# The North American Wild Turkey



# Whooping Cranes

- Most rare, endangered and highly monitored bird
- Prior to European Settlement population was 10,000
- Down to 15 by 1941
- Listed as Endangered Species before ESA was passed and is still listed today



# Wood Ducks

- Habitat loss and market hunting drove numbers extremely low by 1900s
- Played role in Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Today, third most harvested duck species



# Canada Geese

- Suffered and recovered similarly to Wood Ducks
- Today, more geese than ever before
- Now have resident geese that do not migrate like other individuals of species
- 2 million geese harvested during 2019-2020 hunting season, population still thriving beyond management goals



# Threatened or Endangered Ungulates

- Key Deer
  - Only found on 26 islands in Florida Keys
  - National Key Deer Refuge established in 1957
  - Listed as endangered in 1967
- Woodland Caribou
  - Southern Selkirk subpopulation listed as endangered in 1984
  - Increase in wolf population became largest source of mortality

# Ungulates -- Key Deer



# Ungulates -- Woodland Caribou



# Regionally Recovered Ungulates

- Elk

- Prior to European settlement, population estimated at 10 million
- By 1900s, fewer than 100,000 left
- Thanks to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, recovered to over 1 million in 24 states
- To be reintroduced to new areas, support from area and large tract of habitat away from roads and development necessary

# Ungulates -- Elk





# Thriving Ungulates

- White-tailed deer
  - Risen from 300,000 to over 3 million
  - Thrive in urban areas



# Chapter 5-6 Review

- Most of land across country is privately owned
- The goal of management on private lands is creating sustainable plan while allowing revenue stream
- Voluntary assistance programs are available to create land management goals
- Upland birds, waterfowl, and ungulates have faced population declines
- Elk are regionally recovered thanks to management goals and plans
- White-tailed deer are thriving because of their ability to live in urban areas