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Habitat Needs of Pinyon-Juniper Birds



Management Issue: Pinyon-Juniper Encroachment



1973



2005

Photos by R. Tausch

Recently Burned Area



Population Trends for Some Pinyon-Juniper Birds

From Breeding Bird Survey data 1966-2007 (Sauer et al. 2008):

Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

Gray Flycatcher	+
Plumbeous Vireo	0
Juniper Titmouse	0
Mountain Bluebird	0
Black-throated Gray Warbler	0
Virginia's Warbler	0

Population Trends for Some Pinyon-Juniper Birds

From Breeding Bird Survey data 1966-2007 (Sauer et al. 2008):

Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

Western Scrub-Jay	-3.4%/year	p<0.001
Pinyon Jay	-6.4%/year	p<0.001
Mountain Chickadee	-3.0%/year	p<0.001

Example: Pinyon Jays 2013



Nesting Season

- March 15 – May 30



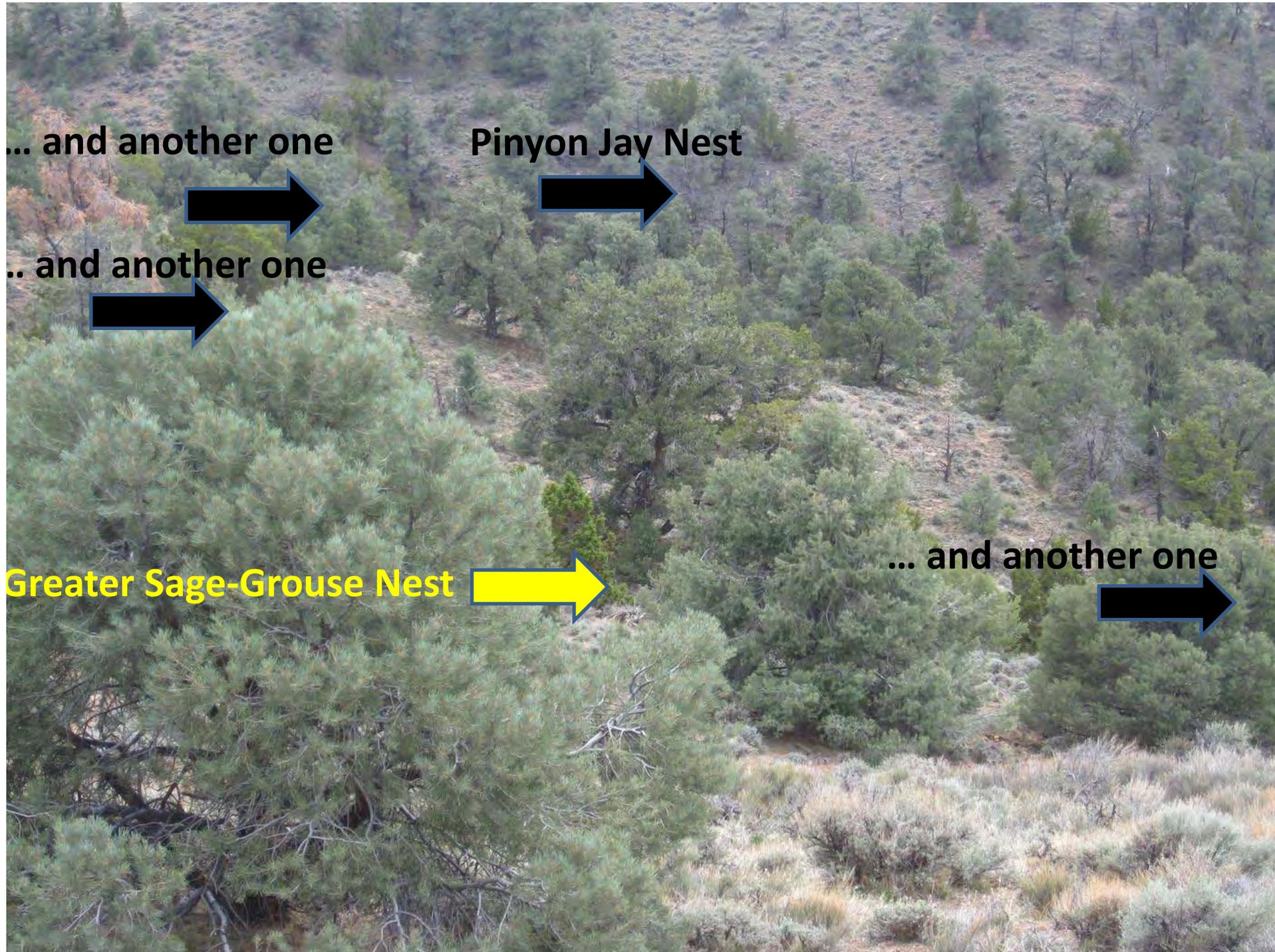
Nesting Habitat

- In mature – old stands of pinyon-juniper
- Usually within 1 km of sagebrush edge



Nesting

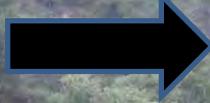
- Traditional colonies of 150-300 individuals
- About 30-60 nests (cooperative breeder)
- Within area of 200-300 m diameter
- Nests vulnerable and undefended
- May nest in very close proximity to sage-grouse and other species
- Communal roost site in very close proximity



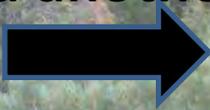
... and another one



Pinyon Jay Nest



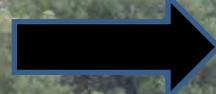
.. and another one



Greater Sage-Grouse Nest



... and another one



Cache Sites

- Anywhere within apprx. 5 – 8 km



What happens after treatment?



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Draft Guidelines For PJ Treatments

- Clearance surveys for nesting Pinyon Jays and Sage-Grouse March 15 – May 30
- Avoidance of traditional colony and roost sites by distance TBD
- Retain high-priority trees (TBD)
- Aggressive monitoring and research; species declining at 4-5% a year

Contacts

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