

Ellis, K.L. 1985. Effects of a new transmission line on distribution and aerial predation of breeding male sage grouse. Report for Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Sandy, Utah.

Conclusions and management implications: A number of interesting and useful conclusions can be drawn from this study. The following is a manifestation:

1. Breeding male sage grouse will not tolerate drastic environmental manipulation adjacent to a lek,
2. The placement of transmission line structures in the lane between leks and day use areas will cause an alteration of normal dispersal patterns,
3. The placement of transmission line structures in close proximity to a lek (within 200 m in this case) will cause an increase usage of the structures as hunting sites by raptors in the area,
4. Increased usage of towers adjacent to the lek by raptors will result in increased harassment of lekking grouse,
5. New transmission line routes should avoid leks and/or day use areas by at least 1.2 km and preferably by 1.5 km if breeding activity is to remain undisturbed, and
6. Males are very selective in the choice of day use areas and these areas must be considered as important as the lek site itself when altering an area adjacent to a lek.