

Name: _____

Date: _____

Student Journal: Sagebrush Steppe Habitat Assessment

✓ Fledglings

Provide information about the location and habitat components found at the this site.

Habitat Assessment Site:

Habitat components found at this site:

Food: _____

Water: _____

Shelter: _____

Space: _____

Using your observation skills, walk through the habitat and search for these specific sagebrush steppe habitat aspects. Place a tally mark next to each aspect each time you observe it. If there is anything interesting you come across, write a description of your findings. You will discuss the habitat assessment results at the end.

Sagebrush steppe Habitat Aspect	Tally	Interesting Observations
Large area of native grasses and herbs (soft stemmed plants)		
Large area of sagebrush and other shrubs		
Scattered, mature junipers, with no more than 10% canopy cover (mature junipers will have a rounded top, broken branches, & lichen growth)		
Signs more management is needed (examples may be young junipers or cheatgrass)		

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Using the information on the previous page and the chart on this page, answer the following questions.

Sagebrush Steppe Habitat Aspect	Associated Obligate Bird Species
Large area of native grasses and herbs	Grasshopper Sparrow
Large area of sagebrush and other shrubs	Sage Grouse, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow
Scattered, mature junipers	Ferruginous Hawk, Chipping Sparrow, Raven

1. Which habitat aspect did you find the most of? Which bird species are most dependent on this habitat aspect?

2. How many mature juniper trees did you come across during your observation? What information does that give us about the health of this habitat?

3. Did you see any evidence of juniper management? What evidence did you observe?

4. Given your assessment results, do you think that this sagebrush steppe habitat is healthy or do you think it needs more management? Why?