

<b>NAME OF SPECIES: Phasianus colchicus</b>	
<b>Synonyms:</b>	
<b>Common Name: Ring-necked pheasant, pheasant, ringneck, rooster, cock</b>	
<b>A. CURRENT STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION</b>	
I. In Wisconsin?	1. YES    X                      NO <input type="checkbox"/>
	2. <u>Abundance</u> : Wild ring-necked pheasants are found in WI, but their populations are supplemented by stocking efforts.
	3. <u>Geographic Range</u> : Pheasants are a permanent resident throughout the southern 2/3rds of WI (1, 2, 3, 4).
	4. <u>Habitat Invaded</u> : Pheasants can survive in areas with little cover. They are commonly found on outskirts of large cities and are successful in most grassland habitats (2). Disturbed Areas X    Undisturbed Areas <input type="checkbox"/>
	5. <u>Historical Status and Rate of Spread in Wisconsin</u> : Pheasants were brought into WI in 1916 for recreational purposes (15). They are now present throughout most of the state; but, according to the Breeding Bird Survey, their population is declining in the south-central and southeastern part of the state, with an increase in the northern and western parts of the state (4).
	6. <u>Proportion of potential range occupied</u> : Almost all potential WI range is currently occupied, roughly the southern 2/3 of state.
	7. <u>Survival and Reproduction</u> : According to a 1975 study by Gates, et. al, pheasant survival rate was "high" at 30% in the winter months (6). Another study done in Iowa stated that pheasants have a life span of less than a year and only 2-3% of the population will survive to age 3 (7). In the same Iowa study the brood survival rate was around 43% (7).
II. Invasive in Similar Climate Zones	1. YES    X                      NO <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Where (include trends)</u> : The bulk of the US pheasant population resides in the Midwest.
III. Invasive in Similar Habitat Types	1. Upland X Wetland X Dune <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie X Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Grassland X Bog <input type="checkbox"/> Fen <input type="checkbox"/> Swamp X Marsh X Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Stream <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Pheasants live in open country, agricultural fields, brushy areas, shelterbelts, cattail marsh (5) and are successful in grasslands and prairies (1,2,3,5,6,7,9, 10).
IV. Habitat Affected	1. <u>Where does this invasive reside</u> : Edge species X    Interior species
	2. <u>Conservation significance of threatened habitats</u> : Pheasants do not destroy natural habitat. They feed in/on agricultural crops and grassland crops, but generally they do not threaten natural habitat. Pheasants do compete with natural prairie and grassland species of wildlife. Generally CRP fields are beneficial to pheasants (1).
V. Native Habitat	1. <u>List countries and native habitat types</u> : Pheasants originally ranged from Asia Minor across southern and central Asia to eastern China and Korea (15). Habitats included grassland, marshes, and brushland.
VI. Legal Classification	1. <u>Listed by government entities?</u> The WDNR regulates pheasants and classifies them as a game bird.
	2. <u>Illegal to sell?</u> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO X Notes: Pheasants are stocked in WI by the WDNR and other

	organizations, such as local rod and gun clubs. There are numerous game farms and hunting clubs in WI that sell pheasants and pheasant hunts. In order to sell pheasants a license is required.
<b>B. ESTABLISHMENT POTENTIAL AND LIFE HISTORY TRAITS</b>	
I. Life History	<p>1. <u>Type of Animal</u>: Mammal <input type="checkbox"/> Bird X Reptile <input type="checkbox"/> Amphibian <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2. <u>Age of Maturity or Time of self-sufficiency</u>: Chicks usually hatch in June or early July and become independent in early to mid-August. At 16 weeks the chicks resemble adult pheasants (10).</p> <p>3. <u>Gestation Period</u>: It takes 37 days to complete the reproductive cycle for pheasants (7). Incubation is about 23 days, clutch size is usually 10-12 eggs, and young are precocial (15).</p> <p>4. <u>Mating System</u>: Polygamous X Polyandrous <input type="checkbox"/> Monogamous <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Notes</u>: Female- or harem-defense polygyny. Males defend and guard harems, breeding with all or most of the females.</p> <p>5. <u>Breeding/ breeding period</u>: Breeding season can start in early April but most breed in May (10). Pheasants reproduce once/year but can renest if their first nest is destroyed. They can have up to 11 chicks (7).</p> <p>6. <u>Hybridization potential</u>: Determination of seriousness of the hybridization issue was not found, but hybridization can occur between pheasants and native grouse (8).</p>
II. Climate	<p>1. <u>Climate restrictions</u>: Pheasants exhibit a higher survival rate in southern areas than in northern areas (5). Snow depth has an effect on pheasants (5). Populations also impacted by severe winters and spring rainfall (15).</p> <p>2. <u>Effects of potential climate change</u>: Pheasants may shift their range in response to climate changes. Most likely their range will expand northward with a warming trend.</p>
III. Dispersal Potential	<p>1. <u>Pathways - Please check all that apply</u>:</p> <p><u>Unintentional</u>: Bird <input type="checkbox"/> Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles/Human <input type="checkbox"/> Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p> <p><u>Intentional</u>: Ornamental <input type="checkbox"/> Forage/Erosion control <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine/Food: Recreational X Other:</p> <p>2. <u>Distinguishing characteristics that aid in its survival and/or inhibit its control</u>: Pheasant are tolerant of humans and do relatively well in areas of intense agriculture.</p>
IV. Ability to go Undetected	1. HIGH <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM <input type="checkbox"/> LOW X During breeding season the rooster pheasant exhibits his unmistakable cackle. These birds are readily observed.
<b>C. DAMAGE POTENTIAL</b>	
I. Competitive Ability	<p>1. <u>Presence of Natural Enemies</u>: Pheasant have every natural enemy a grouse species has - fox, coyotes, birds of prey, raccoons, skunks, cats, dogs, and weasels.</p> <p>2. <u>Competition with native species</u>: Pheasants are known to compete with native grouse (8, 14). Pheasants are very territorial and aggressive (8) and are known to displace native grouse species.</p>

	<p>Pheasants exhibit brood parasitism by laying eggs in nests of other native upland species (8). Pheasants can negatively impact many native grouse species. They are known to parasitize nests of many species and will harass and even kill prairie chickens, gray partridge and northern bobwhite quail (12). Pheasants have been known to parasitize nests of sharp-tailed grouse (13).</p> <p>1. Rate of Spread:          -changes in relative dominance over time:          -change in acreage over time:          HIGH(1-3 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM (4-6 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> LOW (7-10 yrs) X          Notes: Pheasants are not having an easy time in WI and much of the wild population is being supplemented with pen-raised birds. Stocking is very prevalent in Wisconsin.</p>
<p>II. Environmental Effects</p>	<p>1. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community composition?</u>          YES X NO <input type="checkbox"/>          Notes: Rooster pheasants are known to aggressively harass prairie chickens, and pheasant hens will lay eggs in prairie chicken nests. This interaction may hurt potential reintroduction efforts of native prairie chickens in areas where pheasants are present (11).</p> <p>2. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community structure?</u>          YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO X          Notes:</p> <p>3. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community functions and processes?</u>          YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO X          Notes:</p> <p>4. <u>Exhibit Parasitism?</u> YES X NO <input type="checkbox"/>          Notes: Pheasants exhibit brood parasitism.</p>
<p><b>D. SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS</b></p>	
<p>I. Positive Aspects of the Species to the Economy/Society:</p>	<p>Notes: Pheasant hunting contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars in WI, and millions of dollars around the US. Pheasant hunting is a well established tradition in many parts of the country, including WI.</p>
<p>II. Potential Socio-Economic Effects of Requiring Controls:          Positive:          Negative:</p>	<p>Notes: Requiring controls would decrease revenues generated by pheasant hunting. Loss of pheasant hunting opportunities would be a loss of tradition/culture. Controlling pheasants may help prairie chickens, but prairie chickens are affected more by loss of large blocks of contiguous grassland cover.</p>
<p>III. Direct and Indirect Socio-Economic Effects of the Animal :</p>	<p>Notes: Pheasants create jobs and money for the economy.</p>
<p>IV. Increased Costs to Sectors Caused by the Animal:</p>	<p>Notes: n/a</p>
<p>V. Effects on Human Health:</p>	<p>Notes: Pheasants may carry and transmit a number of diseases to domestic fowl.</p>
<p>VI. Potential Socio-Economic Effects of Restricting Use:</p>	<p>Restriction may drive pheasant gamefarms out of business and/or contribute to a loss of hunting traditions.</p>

E. CONTROL AND PREVENTION	
I. Costs of Prevention (please be as specific as possible):	Notes: Millions of dollars in lost revenue, besides the amount of money expended on control efforts. Preventing stocking of pheasants may be all that is needed.
II. Responsiveness to Prevention Efforts:	Notes: If stocking efforts were stopped, pheasant numbers would likely decrease in Wisconsin.
III. Effective Control Tactics:	Mechanical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chemical <input type="checkbox"/> Times and uses: Do not stock pheasants. Liberalize hunting season. Discontinue grassland/wetland habitat management programs.
IV. Minimum Effort:	Notes: Expand hunting seasons.
V. Costs of Control:	Notes: n/a
VI. Cost of Prevention or control vs. Cost of Allowing Invasion to Occur:	Notes: The cost of preventing and controlling would be too great vs. allowing the "invasion" to occur.
VII. Non-Target Effects of Control:	Notes: Unemployment, loss of money
VIII. Efficacy of Monitoring:	Notes: Monitor pheasant range and distribution via BBS and CBC.
IX. Legal and Landowner Issues:	Notes: A proposal to eliminate the ring-necked pheasant from WI would likely face strong public opposition.

#### F. REFERENCES:

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6	( <a href="http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/EcoNatRes.DNRBull85">http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/EcoNatRes.DNRBull85</a> ) Gates, John et al. 1975. Reproduction of an East Central Wisconsin Pheasant Population. Technical bulletin. (Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources), No. 85) Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1975.
7	<a href="http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/pheaslhs.html">www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/pheaslhs.html</a>
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