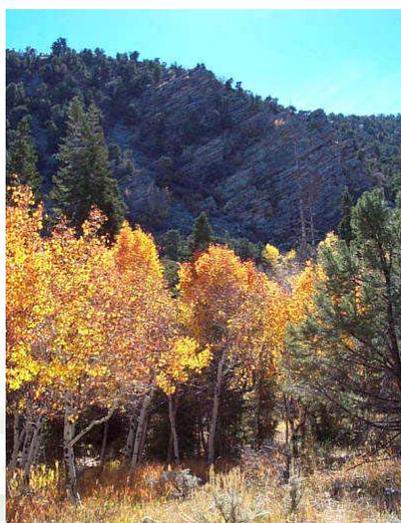


Nevada Forest Health Highlights 2006

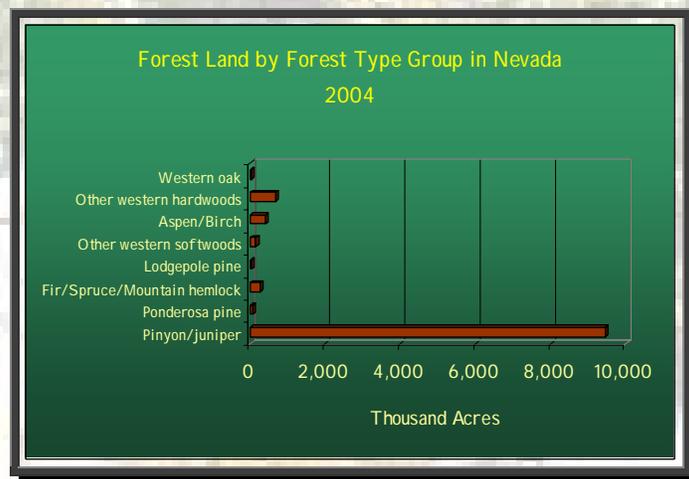


The Forest Resource

Nevada is unique in its forested component among the western states. The state is characterized by some 300 forested mountain "islands" separated by wide non-forested basins. Eighty-six percent

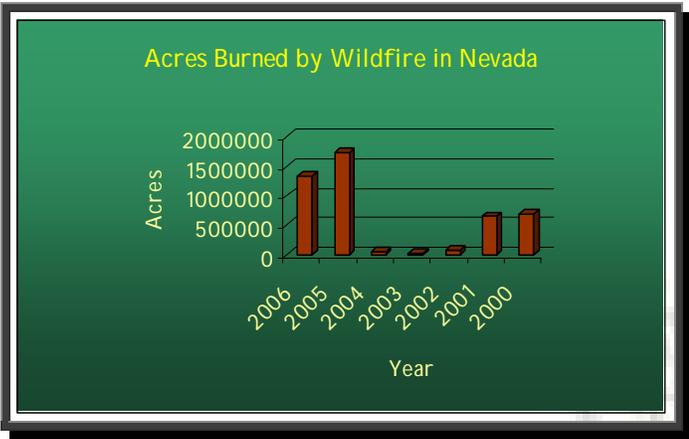
of the state is non-forest and about 83 % of the land is federally owned. Though the area of forest land is relatively small, the value of this resource is immeasurable in terms of commodities, recreational uses, and aesthetic properties. Healthy wildland and urban forests provide multiple benefits for Nevada's diverse population. Although little of Nevada's 12.5 million acres of forestland produces commercial timber, it does provide other wood products, watershed protection, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. Together with the urban forests in the state's communities, Nevada's forests are a critical resource in this sparsely forested state.

The majority of the forested lands are publicly owned (94%), with 755,415 acres of forest land in private ownership. From a statewide perspective, the majority (95%) of Nevada's forests are composed of pinyon and/or juniper species. Other forest types are restricted to the higher elevations in the state's 314 mountain ranges. Detailed information is available from the [Interior West FIA](#).



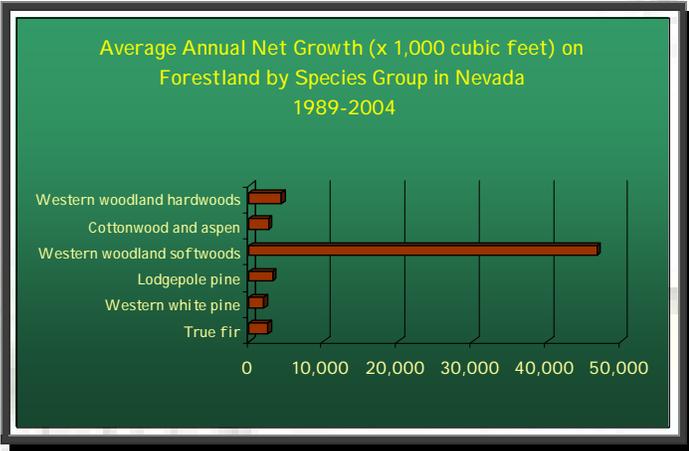
Components of Change

Nevada's forests are host to several common pests which plague Western forests. Widespread stress to the trees - brought on by drought conditions - weakened individual trees creating favorable conditions for the pests. *Wildfire* is a major change component for Nevada's forest and rangelands. The year 2006 was significant for the amount of area burned in wildfire with over 1.3 million acres. Average annual net growth of all live trees on forested lands for the past 15 years has averaged 855 thousand cubic feet per year. The low figure is due to the average annual mortality during that same time of 62,675 thousand cubic feet per year.

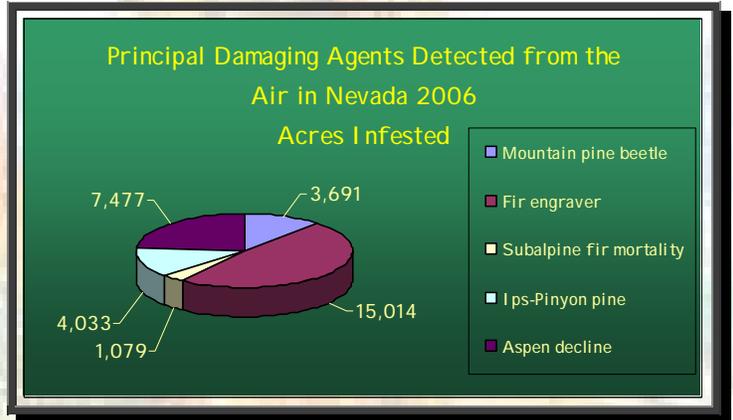
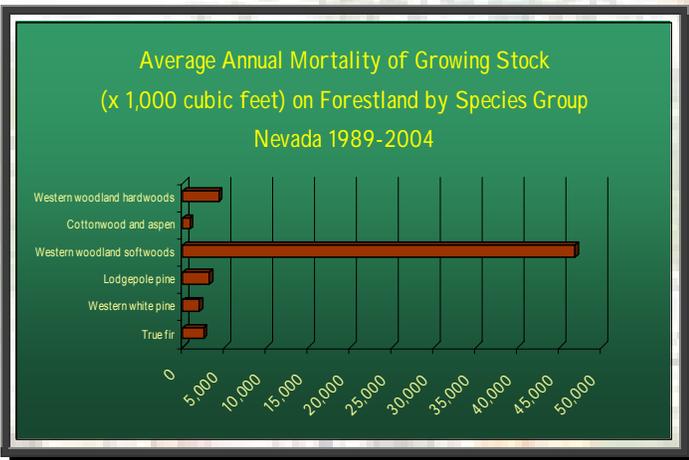


Forest Health Issues

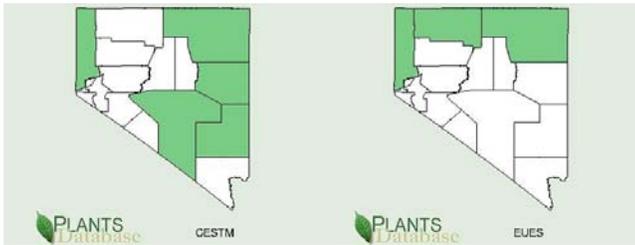
Aspen decline was observed from the air affecting nearly 7,500 acres in Nevada. A specific causal agent was not identified. Rather it appears to be a result of the interaction of a number of factors, including several pathogens, insects, and drought. It has declined somewhat across the state, but there were large increases in Douglas County and far western Nevada. **Pinyon ips**, which has been so prevalent in Nevada in recent years, has dropped to near endemic levels. **Mountain pine beetle** increased five-fold, mainly from large increases in high-elevation whitebark and limber pines in northeastern Nevada.



The following chart provides data on the main insect and disease agents causing damage to Nevada's forests based on observations from the air in 2006. These numbers are underestimates for the year because of limited aerial observations in some parts of the state. Comparisons with other year's data can not be done directly because of this limitation.

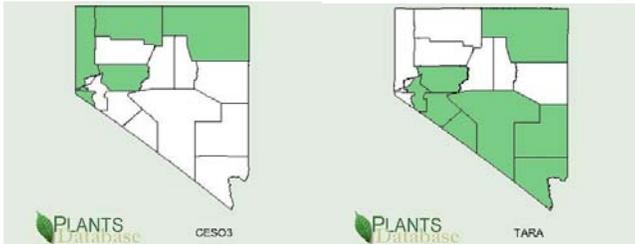


Non-native invasive plants continue to be major issues in the forests and rangelands of Nevada. The annual economic impact of invasive plants on public lands in Nevada through reduced wildlife-related recreation is estimated to range from \$5 to 17 million. Distribution of several of the more significant non-native invasive plants are illustrated below.



Spotted Knapweed

Leafy Spurge



Yellow starthistle

Saltcedar

Source: [NRCs Plants Database](http://www.nrcsplantsdatabase.com)



Nevada has 31 cooperative weed management areas established and nine weed districts. Over 22,000 acres were treated by the CWMAs in 2006 and over 24,000 acres with weeds were inventoried.

For More Information:

[Forest Health Protection](#)

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 USDA Forest Service
 4746 S. 1900 E.
 Ogden, UT 84403

[Interior West Forest Inventory & Analysis](#)

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