

# Nevada Forest Health Highlights 2007



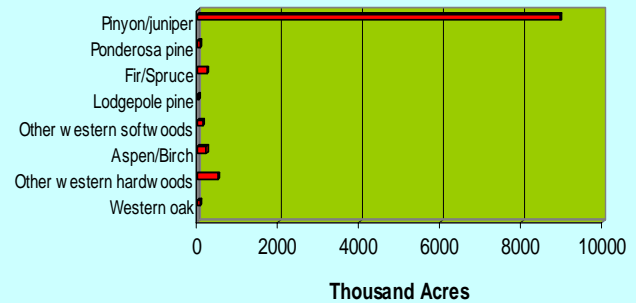
## The Forest Resource

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 11.1\* 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 (98%), with 212,500 acres of forest land in private ownership. From a statewide perspective, the majority (81%) 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](#).

Forest Land by Forest Type Group in Nevada  
2004-2005



## 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 2007 saw a slight decrease in the amount of area burned in wildfire with nearly 900,000 acres consumed compared to 1.3 million acres in 2006. Average annual net growth of all live trees on forested lands for 2004-2005 has averaged 394 thousand cubic feet per year. The average annual mortality during that same time period was 7,224 thousand cubic feet per year.

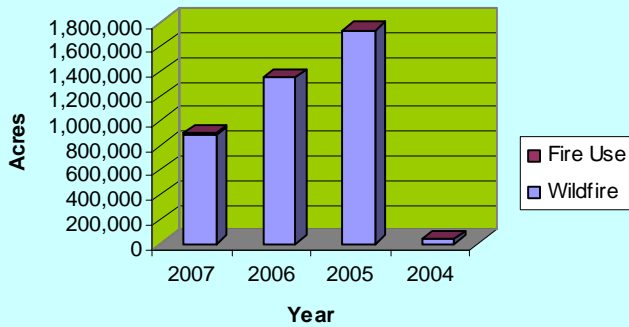
\* acres of forest type slightly decreased from the 2006 forest health highlight report due to FIA basing annual reports on 10% forest cover rather than 5% forest cover used in prior years. These numbers are based upon a 20% sample of FIA plots.

## Forest Health Issues

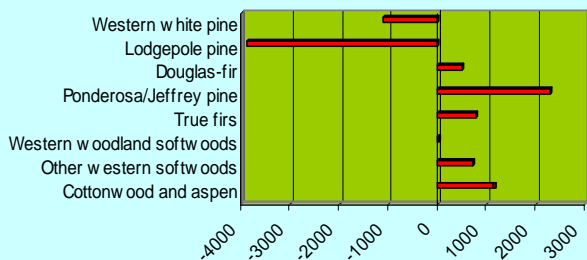
**Aspen decline** has increased 60% to 12,500 acres compared to the 7,500 acres observed from the air in 2006. A specific causal agent has not been identified. Rather it appears to be a result of the interaction of a number of factors, including several pathogens, insects, and drought. It has declined somewhat across the state, but there were significant increases in Nye and Humboldt counties, mostly due to increased acreage surveyed in 2007. **Pinyon ips**, continues to decrease in Nevada with approximately 500 acres being affected this past year. **Mountain pine beetle** effects continues to multiply, mainly from large increases in high-elevation whitebark and limber pines in northeastern Nevada. **Mountain mahogany** defoliation due to drought affects was evident on more than 13,000 acres in 2007 mostly in eastern 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 2007. These numbers are underestimates for the year because of limited aerial observations in some parts of the state due to smoke from fires. Comparisons with other year's data can not be done directly because of this limitation.

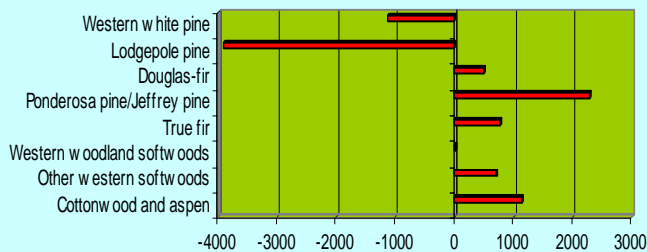
### Acres Burned by Fire in Nevada



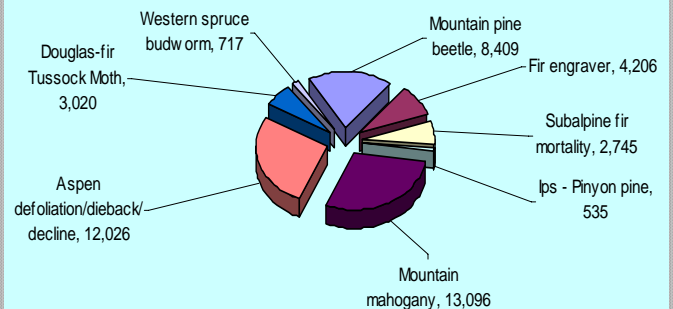
### Average Annual Net Growth of Growing Stock (x1000) cubic feet) on Forest Land by Species Group in Nevada 2004-2005



### Average Annual Mortality of Growing Stock (x1000 cubic feet) on Timber Land by Species Group Nevada 2004-2005

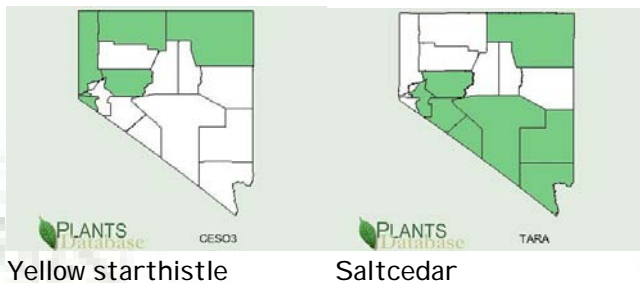


### Principal Damaging Agents Detected from the Air in Nevada 2007 Acres Infected



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.

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.



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

Two other non-native invasive plants, Musk Thistle and Tall White Top are found throughout the state.



**For More Information:**

[Forest Health Protection](#)  
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 USDA Forest Service  
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 Ogden, UT 84403

[Interior West Forest Inventory & Analysis](#)  
 USDA Forest Service  
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