

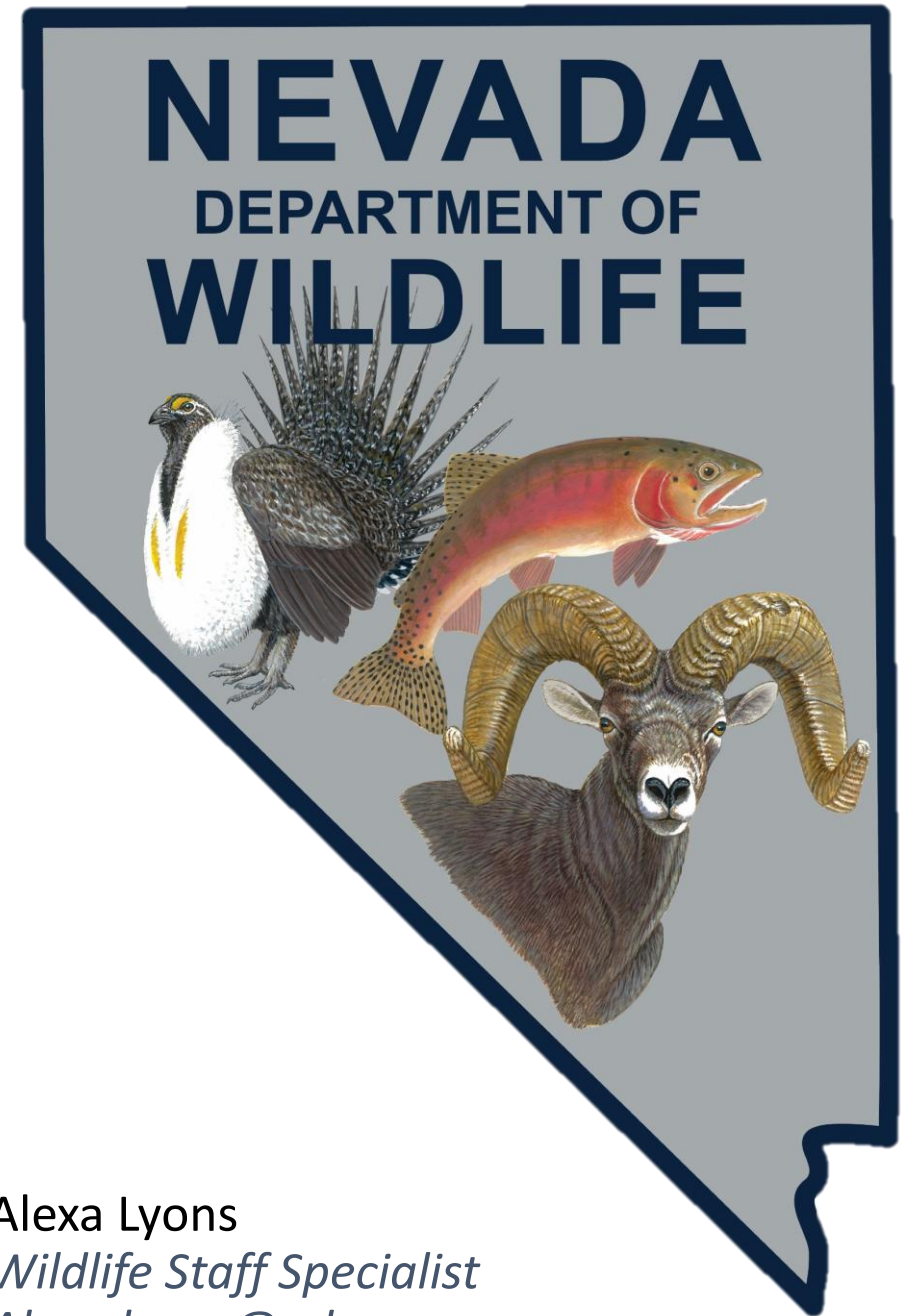
Wildfire Restoration Updates

Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
April 16, 2026

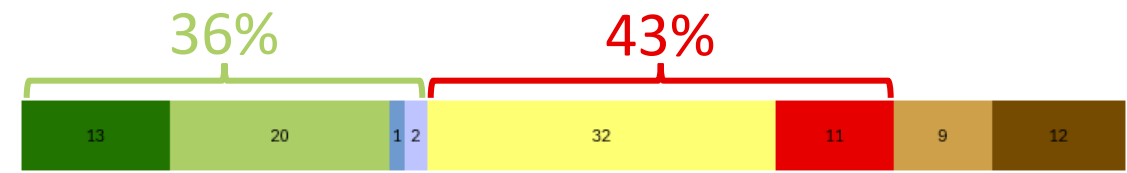
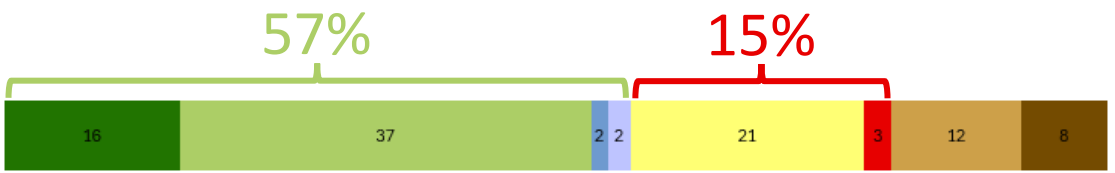
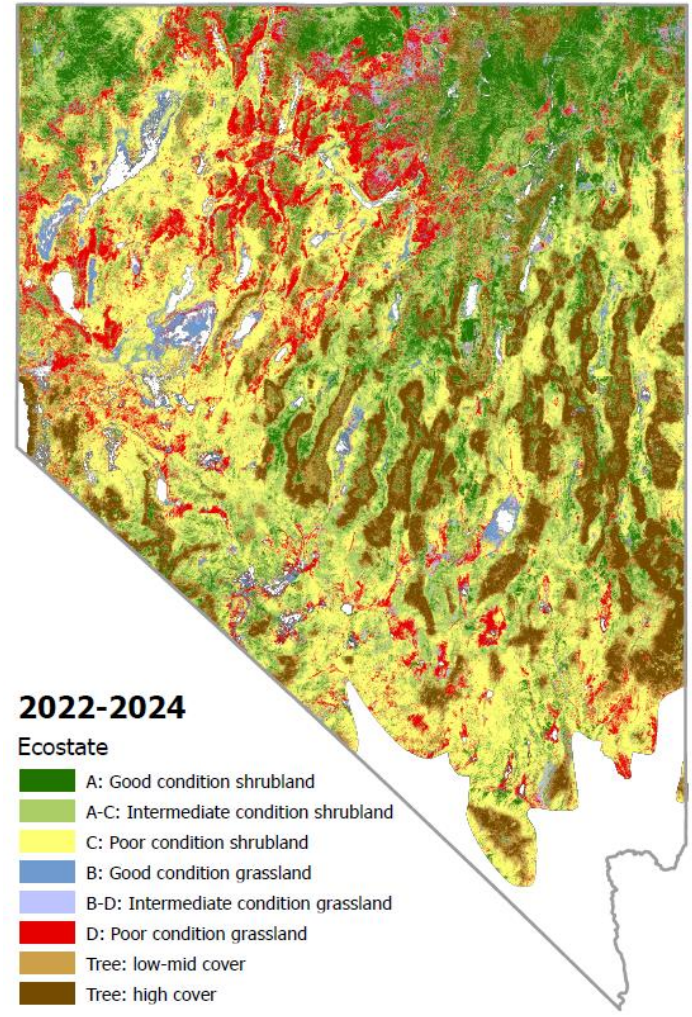
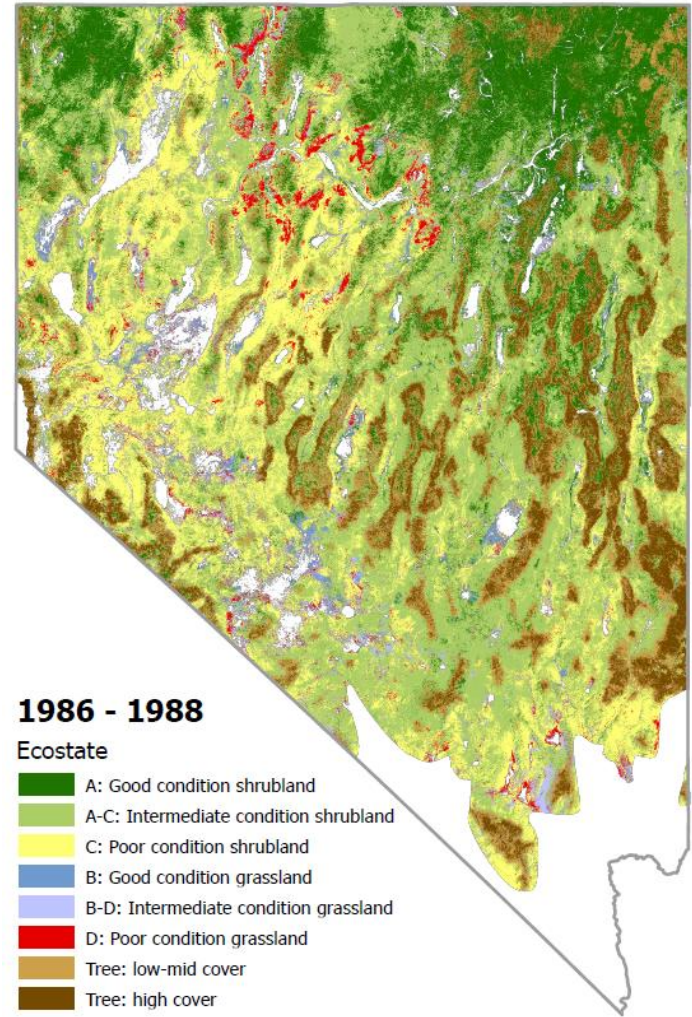
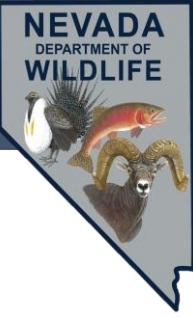
Mark Freese
Habitat Division Administrator
Markfreese@ndow.org

Matt Glenn
Wildlife Staff Specialist
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Alexa Lyons
Wildlife Staff Specialist
Alexa.lyons@ndow.org



Wildfire and Invasive Species Challenge



Wildfire in Nevada Over the Last 30 Years

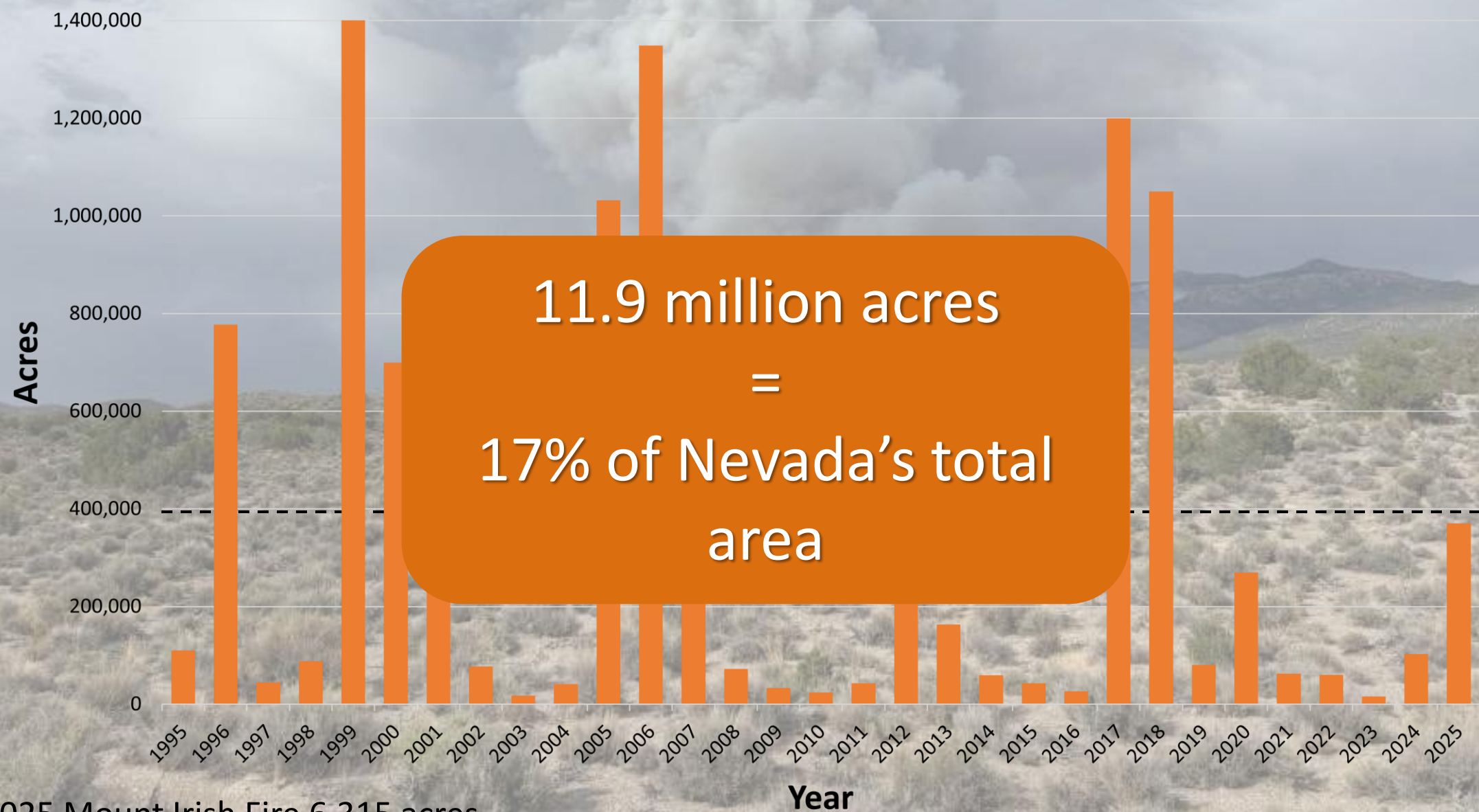
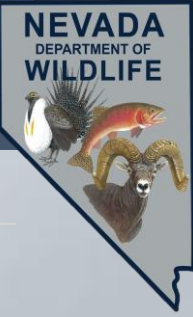
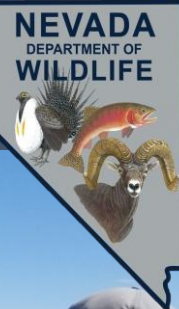


Photo: 2025 Mount Irish Fire 6,315 acres

Restoration & Rehabilitation Approach



Partnerships & Cooperation

- Leverage resources & fill gaps
- Federal vs. State Fiscal Years

Opportunistic

- Private or public land
- Triage when resources are limited

Nimble and Flexible

- Contracting & Implementation

Personnel & Funding Limitations

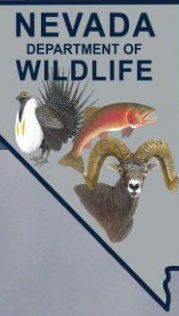
- But we are scrappy! (and persistent)

Constraints

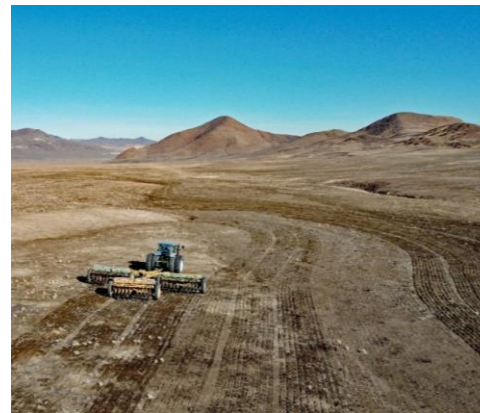
- Ecological, Permitting, Logistical



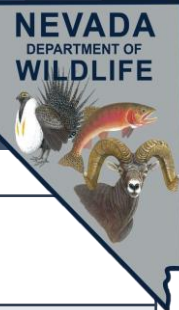
Restoration & Rehabilitation Methods



- Herbicide
- Seeding
- Seedling Planting
- Pinyon-Juniper Removal
- Spring & Riparian Protection
- Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) and Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS)
- Streambank Restoration and Stabilization
- Water Developments
- Pond Construction and Rehabilitation
- Fish Habitat Structures
- Land Acquisitions and Easements

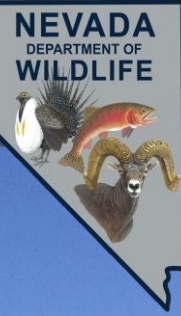


Restoration Program Funding



Federal – State Match 3:1	\$3.8 million for FY27 from Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grant	
Assistance Agreement Funds	\$8 million from our federal partners (BLM, USFS, USFWS, Navy, etc.)	
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Donations	<p>\$2 million from NGOs</p> <p>Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Mule Deer Foundation Nevada Muleys Muley Fanatics Sierra Front Chapter</p>	<p>National Wild Turkey Federation Chukar Chasers Carson Valley Chukar Club Nevada Chukar Foundation</p>
Dream Tag Funds	\$490,000 awarded in FY26	
Mitigation Funds	Ruby Pipeline, Spring Valley Wind, Ormat McGinnis Hills, Ormat Tuscarora, etc.	
Existing Internal State Funds	\$1 million awarded in FY26 from Heritage and Special Reserve Accounts	
AB578 Better Together Funds	\$4.1 million awarded in FY26 to spend by end of FY27	

Herbicide for Invasive Annual Grass Control

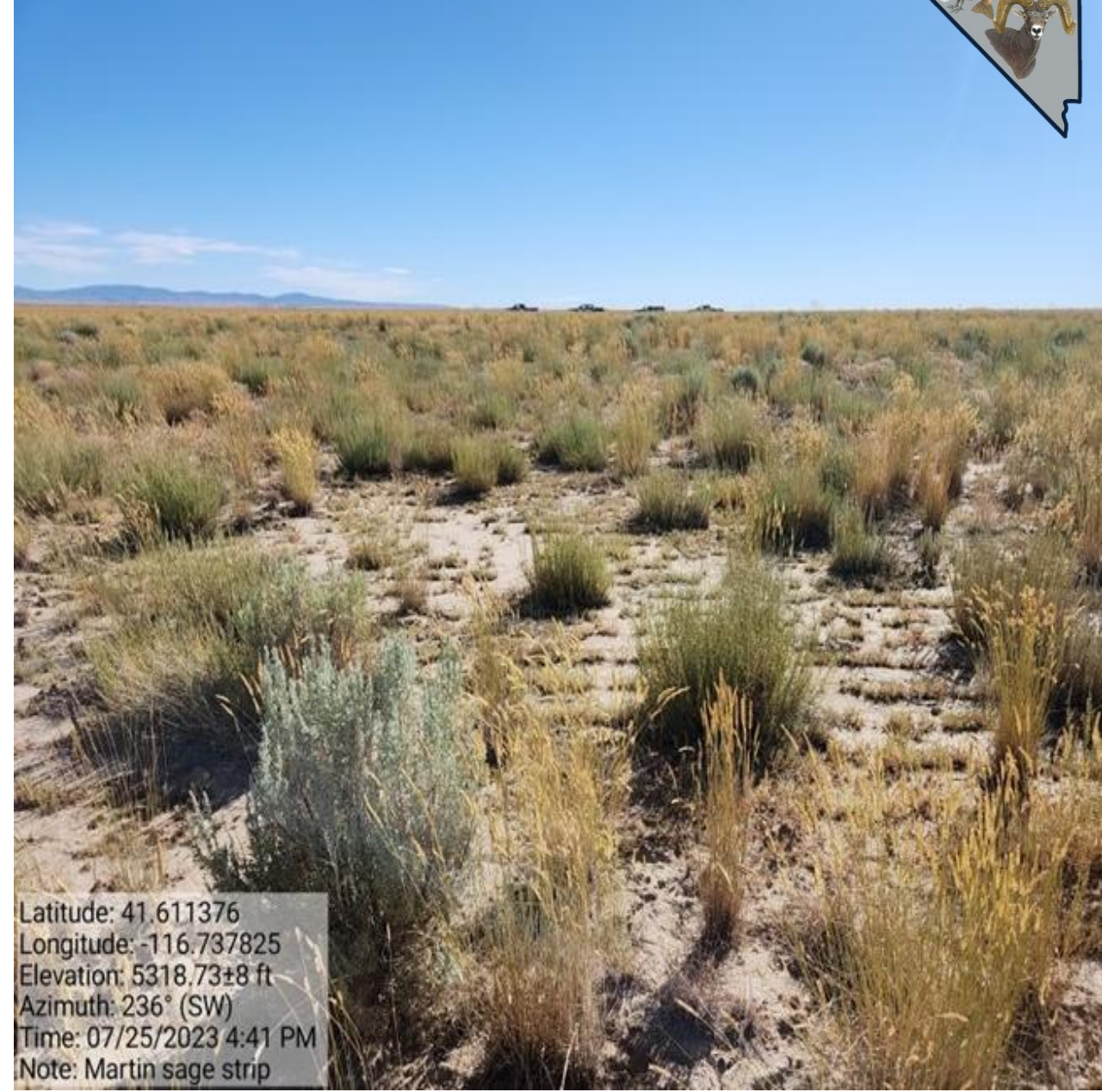
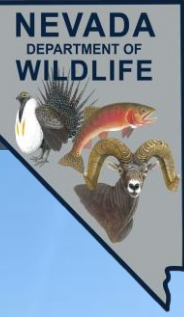


Treated

Untreated



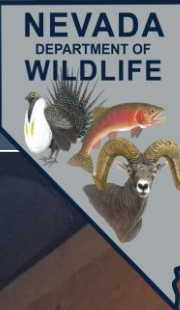
Drill and Aerial Seeding



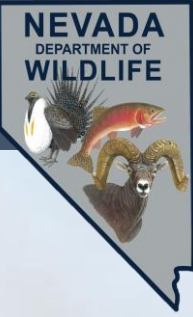
Latitude: 41.611376
Longitude: -116.737825
Elevation: 5318.73±8 ft
Azimuth: 236° (SW)
Time: 07/25/2023 4:41 PM
Note: Martin sage strip

Powered by

Hand Planting Seedlings



2025 Wildfire Season



602 Fires

297 Human Caused

261 Natural

44 Undetermined



370,194 Acres



Per County

Elko ~246,000

Nye ~51,400

Pershing ~18,300

All other counties:

~54,500



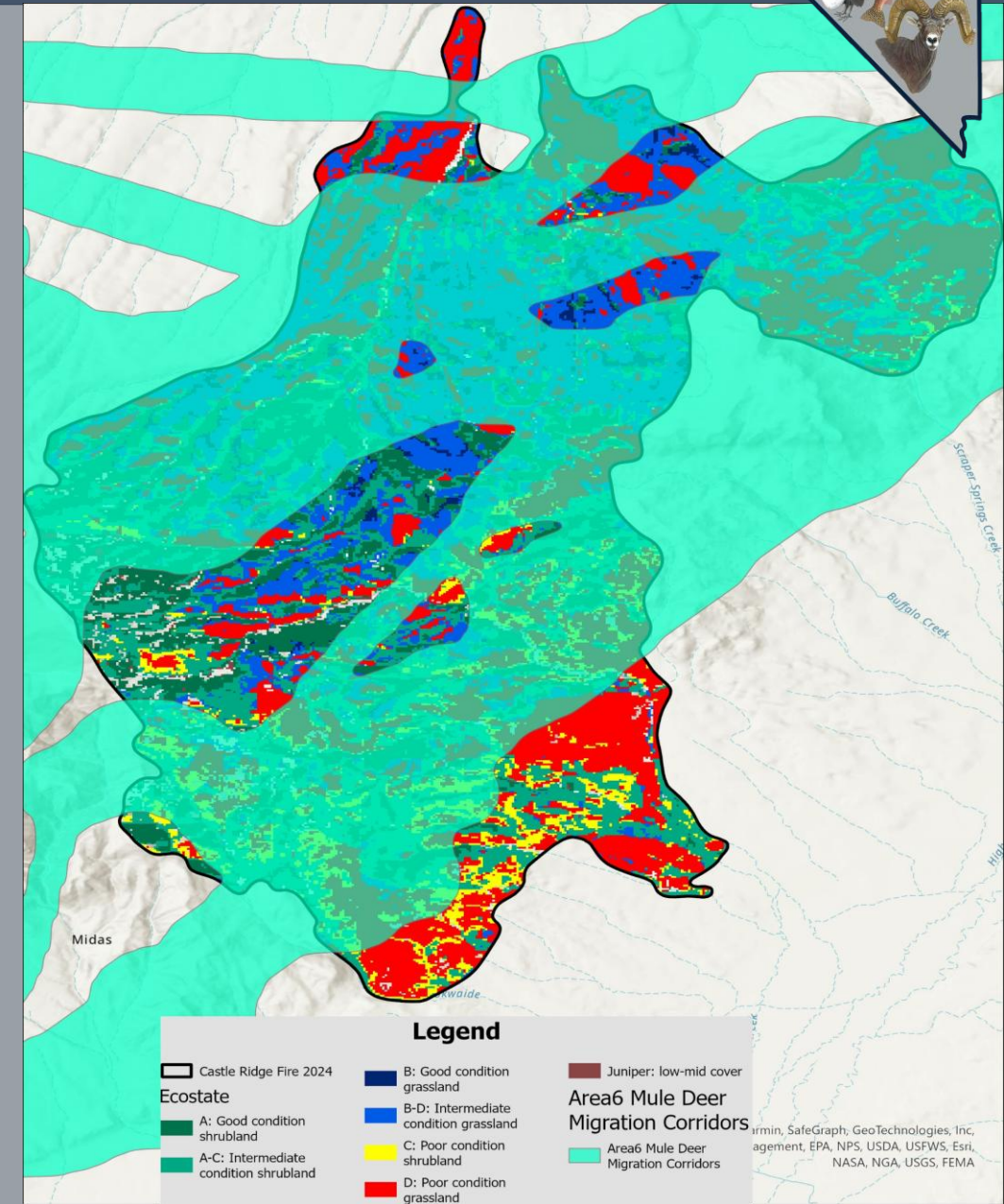
Prioritizing Wildfire Rehabilitation

Prioritization Considerations

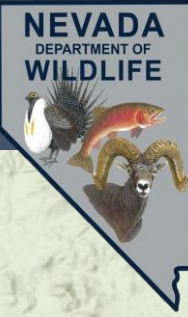
- Wildlife habitat values
- Site potential
- Likelihood of success
- Land Status
- Dominant vegetation community before fire
- Topography and substrate
- Ecological Site Description
- Disturbance Response Groups
- Plus many many more...

2025 Priorities by Region

- Eastern Region
 - Cottonwood Peak
 - Jakes
 - Adobe Mountain
- Western Region
 - Moonshine
 - Bartlett
 - Barber
- Southern Region
 - Mount Irish



Armin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, agement, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA



2025 Eastern Region Wildfire Priorities

Cottonwood Peak Fire

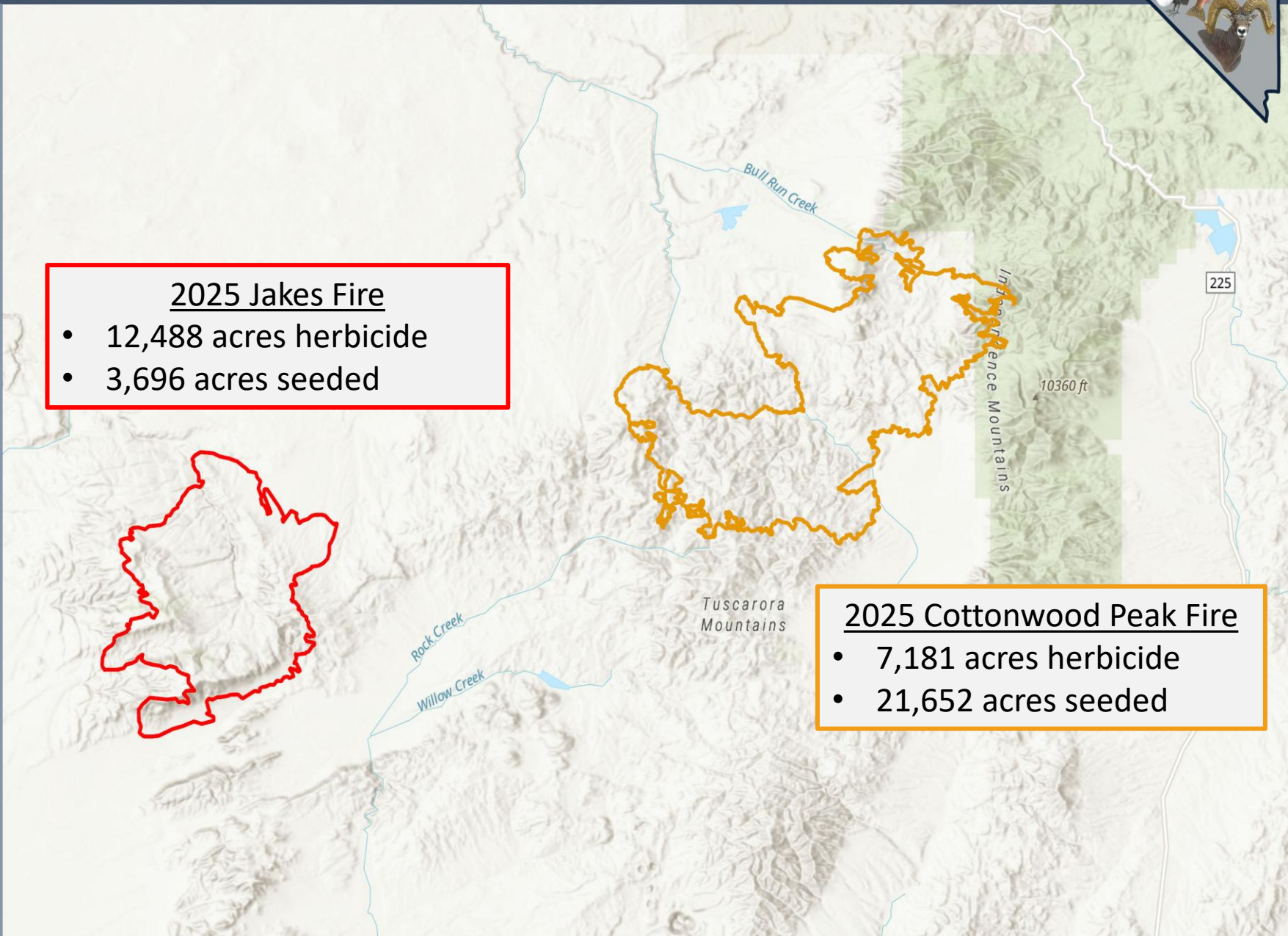
Burned 132,603 acres in the Tuscarora Mountains

Resource Concerns – Sage Grouse, Sagebrush Sparrow, Mule Deer, Red Band Trout & Preble’s Shrew

Jakes Fire

Burned 82,216 acres in the Snowstorm Mountains

Resource Concerns – Sage Grouse, Mule Deer, Brewers Sparrow, California Bighorn Sheep, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout & Hoary Bat



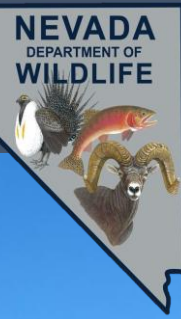
2025 Jakes Fire

- 12,488 acres herbicide
- 3,696 acres seeded

2025 Cottonwood Peak Fire

- 7,181 acres herbicide
- 21,652 acres seeded

2025 Statewide Restoration Accomplishments



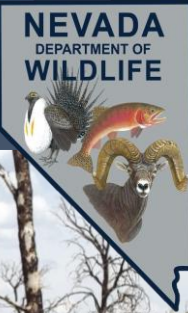
Latitude: 41.526286
Longitude: -116.17062
Elevation: 6743.6±13.4 ft
Azimuth: 281° (W)
Time: 09/09/2025 4:34 PM
Note: Cottonwood Peak Fire



151,028 total acres treated

\$2.7 million from Federal, State, NGO and Mitigation partners

2025 Statewide Vegetation Monitoring



645 plots monitored across 18 project sites
5,200 unique sampling visits since 2011

2020- 2025 Acres Burned vs Acres Treated by NDOW

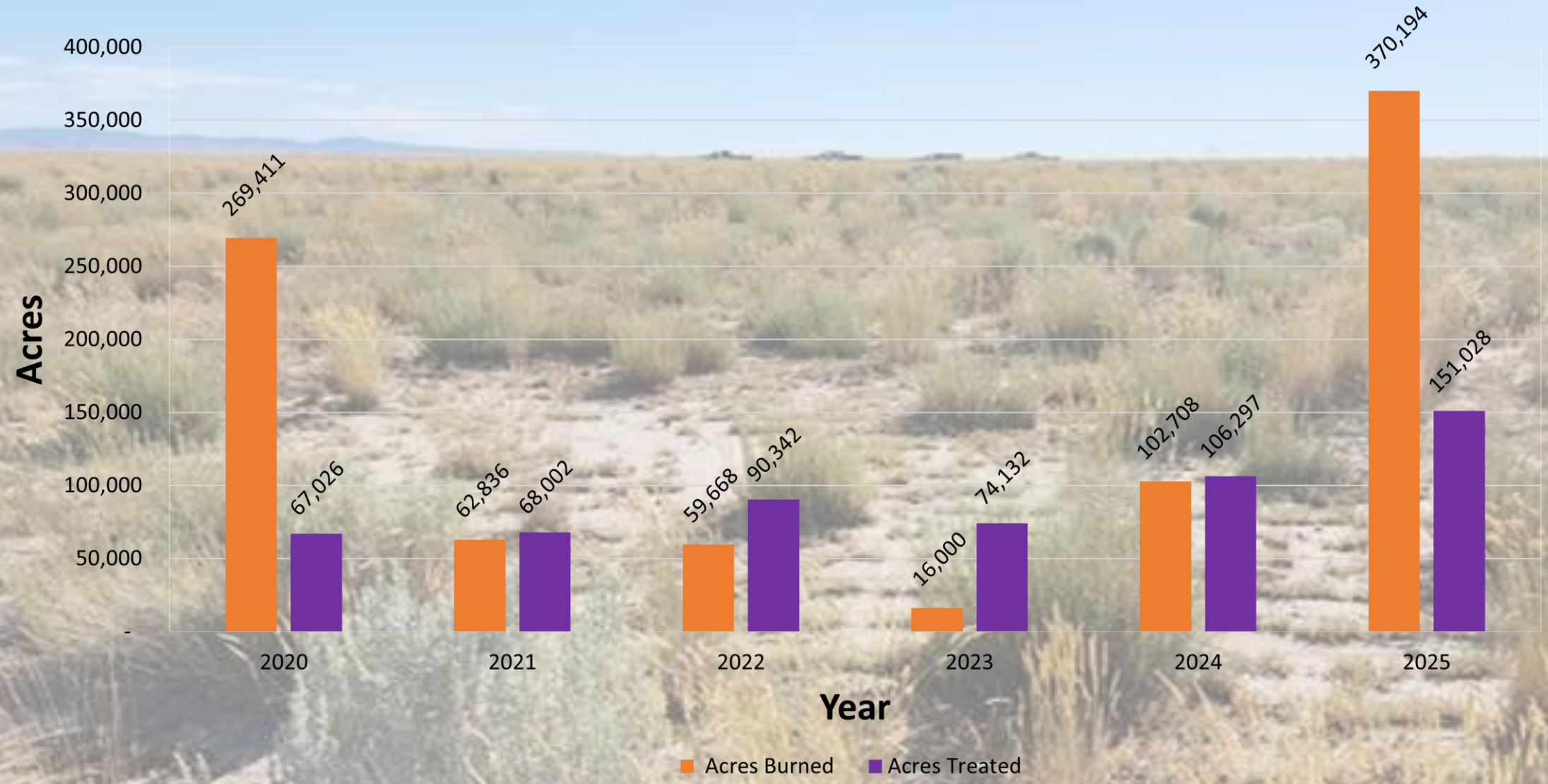
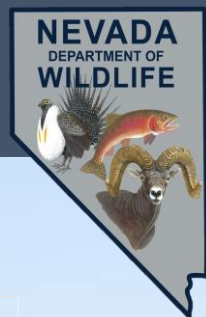
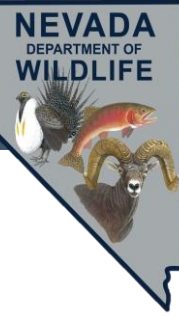


Photo: 2018 Martin Fire Seeding (July 2023)

Limiting Factors and Lessons Learned



Limiting Factors

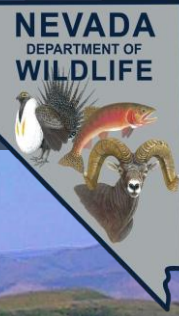
- Capacity
- Funding
- Locally adapted seed (especially forbs)
- Seed availability (on high fire years)
- NEPA availability



Lessons Learned

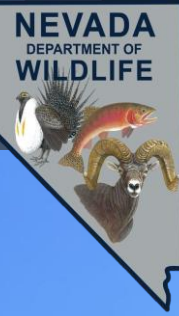
- Herbicide can greatly increase seeding success and be just as effective at lower formulations = cost savings
- Hedge bets by including non-natives in seed mixes where site potential is low
- Seeding before snow flies is ideal
- Can take 2-4 years for seeded species to emerge

Wildfire Restoration 2020 – 2025 Cumulative Accomplishments



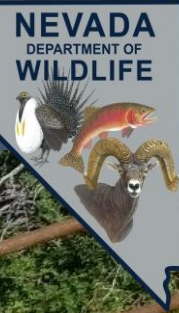
556,827 acres treated or **870 square miles**
~\$12.6 million from Federal, State, NGO and Mitigation partners

Other 2020 – 2025 Cumulative Accomplishments



44,233 acres of PJ treated or **69 square miles**
\$4 million from Federal, State, NGO and Mitigation partners

Other 2020 – 2025 Cumulative Accomplishments



2,068 acres of riparian areas protected and **200,407 linear feet** of fence
\$2.8 million from Federal, State, NGO and Mitigation partners

Questions

