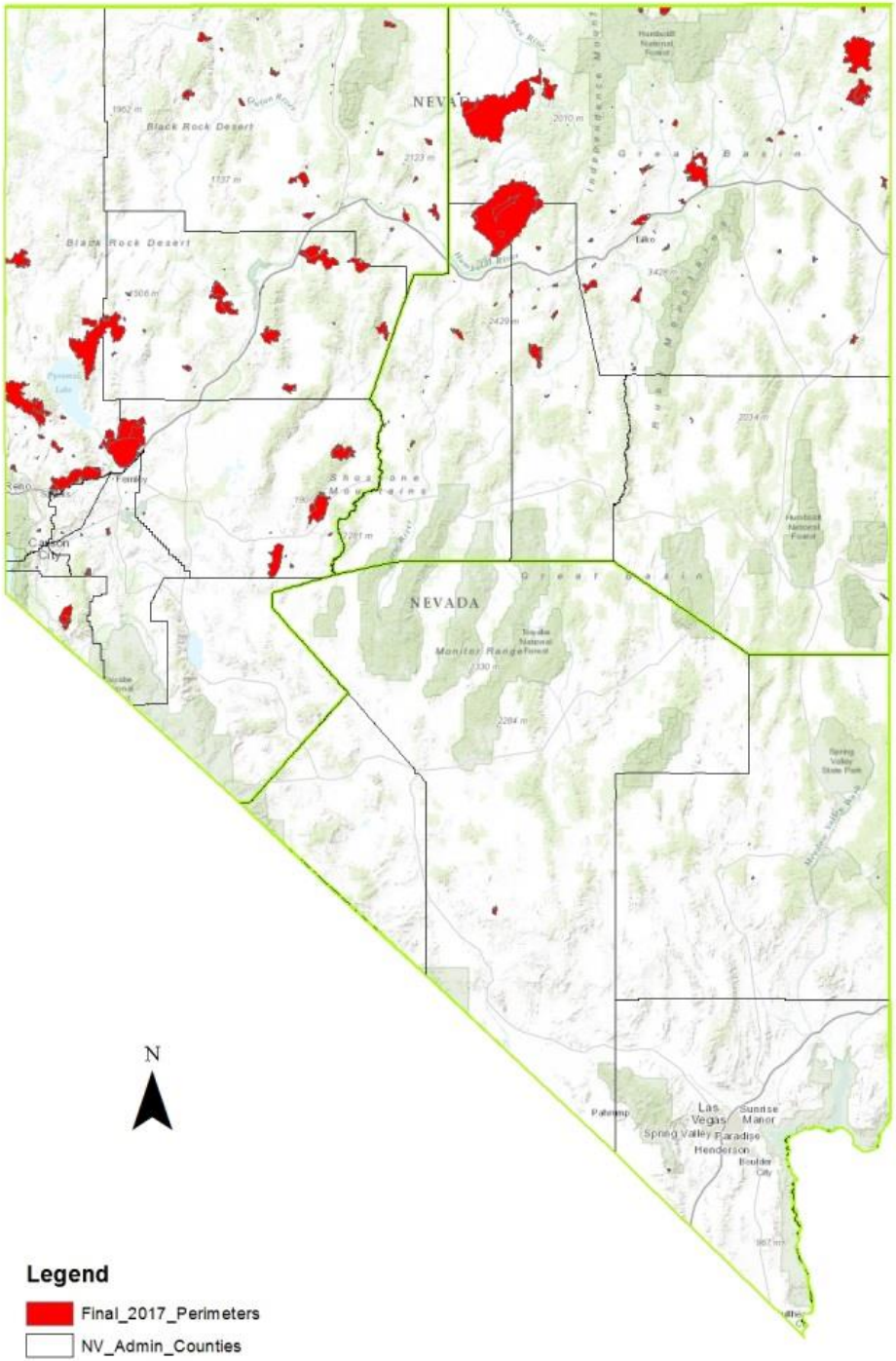
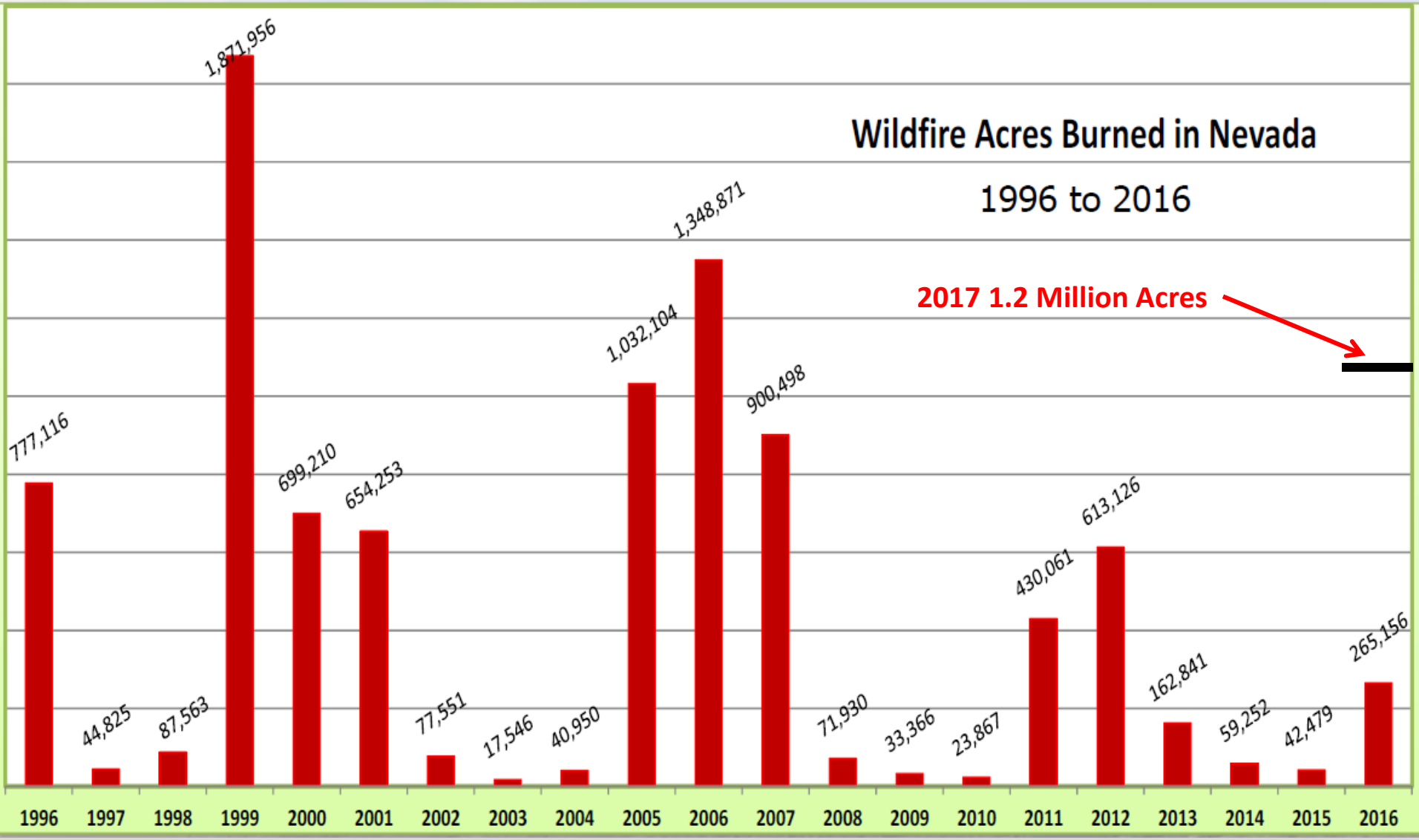
2017 Wildfire Update
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

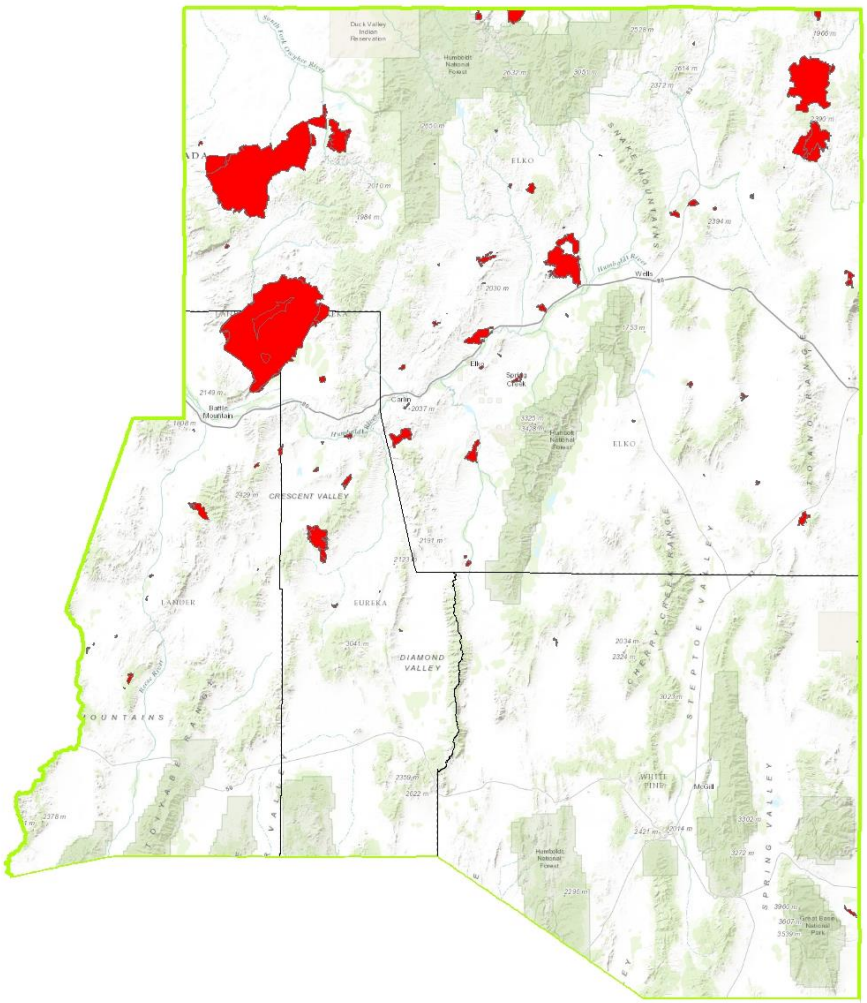
In 2017 approximately 1.2 million acres were lost to wildfire.



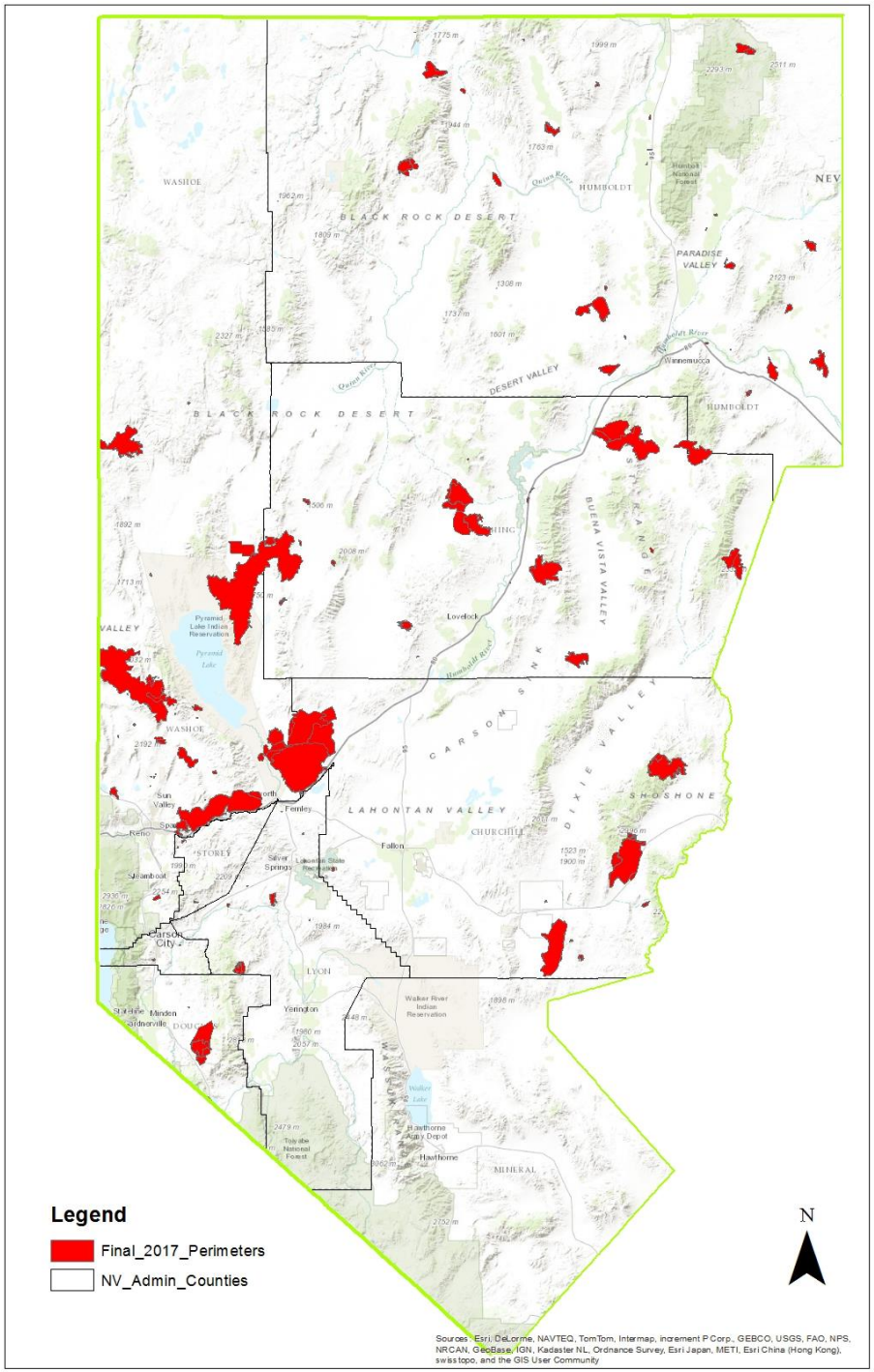

Wildfire Acres Burned in Nevada
1996 to 2016
2017 1.2 Million Acres
777,116
44,825
87,563
1,871,956
699,210
654,253
77,551
17,546
40,950
1,032,104
1,348,871
900,498
71,930
33,366
23,867
430,061
613,126
162,841
59,252
42,479
265,156
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016

NDOW Eastern Region Wildfires

FIRENAME	GISACRES	FIRENAME	GISACRES
4 Mile Ridge	292.5	Midas	327.7
Black Point	12602.4	Mill	479.2
Boyd Kennedy	91.0	Nine Mile	310.4
Cadro	15.9	Oil Well	7500
Chase Spring	559.6	Pine	291.6
Cole Creek	6540	Pole Creek	6541.3
Cornucopia	1559.3	Potato	822.9
Cortez	1832.5	Raven	424.5
Cottonwood	13267	Red Hill	315.7
Delano	15080	Red Springs	4680.2
Dolly	293.4	River Ranch	1379.4
Dry Gulch	54249.1	Rocky Butte	15.7
Dry Hills	435.2	Roosters Comb	218380
Dump	76.9	Sadler	94.7
Five Mile	13.7	Secret	121.3
Flower Pass	617.8	Silver Zone	15.0
Fox Springs	81.0	Sixteenmile Creek	12.9
Halleck	148.3	Snowstorm	146518.3
Hatchery	1169.4	Summer	1246.3
HD Summit	1386.4	Tabor Flats	25100
Hobson	337.7	Tank	828.9
Ibapah	193.6	Transfer	999.9
Leppy	11.1	Varden	280.3
Maidens Grave	151.8	White Horse	2625.0



NDOW Western Region Wildfires				
FIRENAME	**GISACRES**		**FIRENAME**	**GISACRES**
447	20.3		Lizzie	86.3
Alpine	34.4		Long Valley	83733.0
Aspen	315.2		Mahogany	5122.6
Barrett Springs	3297.8		Majuba	49.7
Black Mountain	965.7		Mill	14.0
Bottom	108.7		MM 115	12.5
Bravo17	22964.0		MM 136	40.4
Brenda	633.0		MM 155	14882.6
Centroid	94.1		MM 155	22375.6
Chickadee	11.4		MM 94	33.3
Cold Springs	1525.4		National	12.6
Coleman	21.5		Nightingale	450.0
Draw	27506.0		Phoenix	6970.8
Dry Hill	2000.2		Poker Brown	15531.8
Dry Lake	434.4		Poleline	35.1
Earthstone	41544.6		Preacher	5330.4
Eden	11.8		Quail Canyon	23.4
Flats	18.2		Quinn	3634.2
Fort Churchill	199.6		Sage	14.9
Grass Valley	11589.0		Sandy Wash	26.4
Happy Creek	1580.1		Shelton	159.6
Hollywood	5298.7		Spanish	207.2
Hot Springs	1000.0		Speedway	38.4
Hungry	14.1		Stewart	157.7
Iron Point	1317.8		Stone House	51.3
King Valley	2045.5		Tracy	25.5
Kunkel	38.6		Trinity	8895.7
Lahontan	263.5		Truckee	98954.3
Leonard Creek	3549.7		Tungsten	16755.0
Limbo	1883.7		Twin Buttes	562.0
Limerick	14599.8		Winnemucca Ranch	4798.8



Rooster's Comb Fire. Sheep Creek Range. Sheep Creek 2.

Effects of Wildfire on Game Species

Scientific Literature

- In general, wildfires can benefit elk by:
  - Stimulating forage production
  - Creating a patchy mosaic of thermal cover and foraging areas
  - Promoting successional changes in habitat types

This elk was captured in an old burn near thermal cover

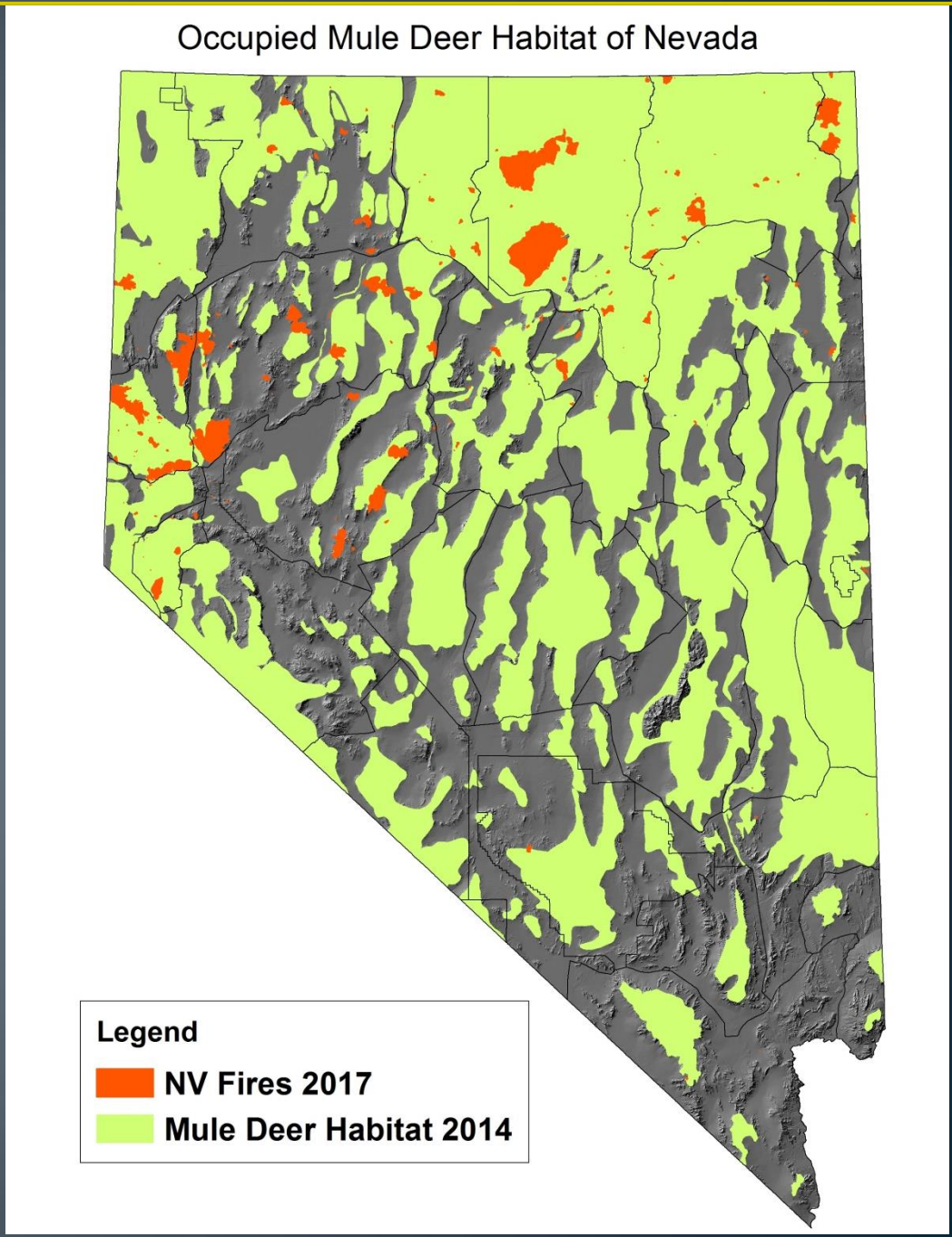
What about in Nevada?

- It Depends.
  - Prevalence of range conversion to cheatgrass.
    - Elk will capitalize on its early emergence but nutritional value is poor.
  - Fire behavior and severity
    - Do unburned patches remain or was the fire widespread?
  - Success of reseeding efforts and native recovery.

Fire effects can differ by elevation

- Wildfire effects:
  - Fire above 7,000 ft in Nevada may be beneficial
  - In some areas, such as in the Carson Range where sage grouse are absent, fires that occur between 5 and 6,000 ft reduce decadent bitterbrush and regenerate young bitterbrush, serviceberry, and Ceanothus.
    - Browse dependent species, such as bighorn sheep, may benefit for a few years.
    - Monotypic stands of cheatgrass and other invasive species can be problematic at any elevation, and these communities often dominate after a wildfire,

In 2017, wildfires burned numerous vegetative communities used by mule deer in Nevada



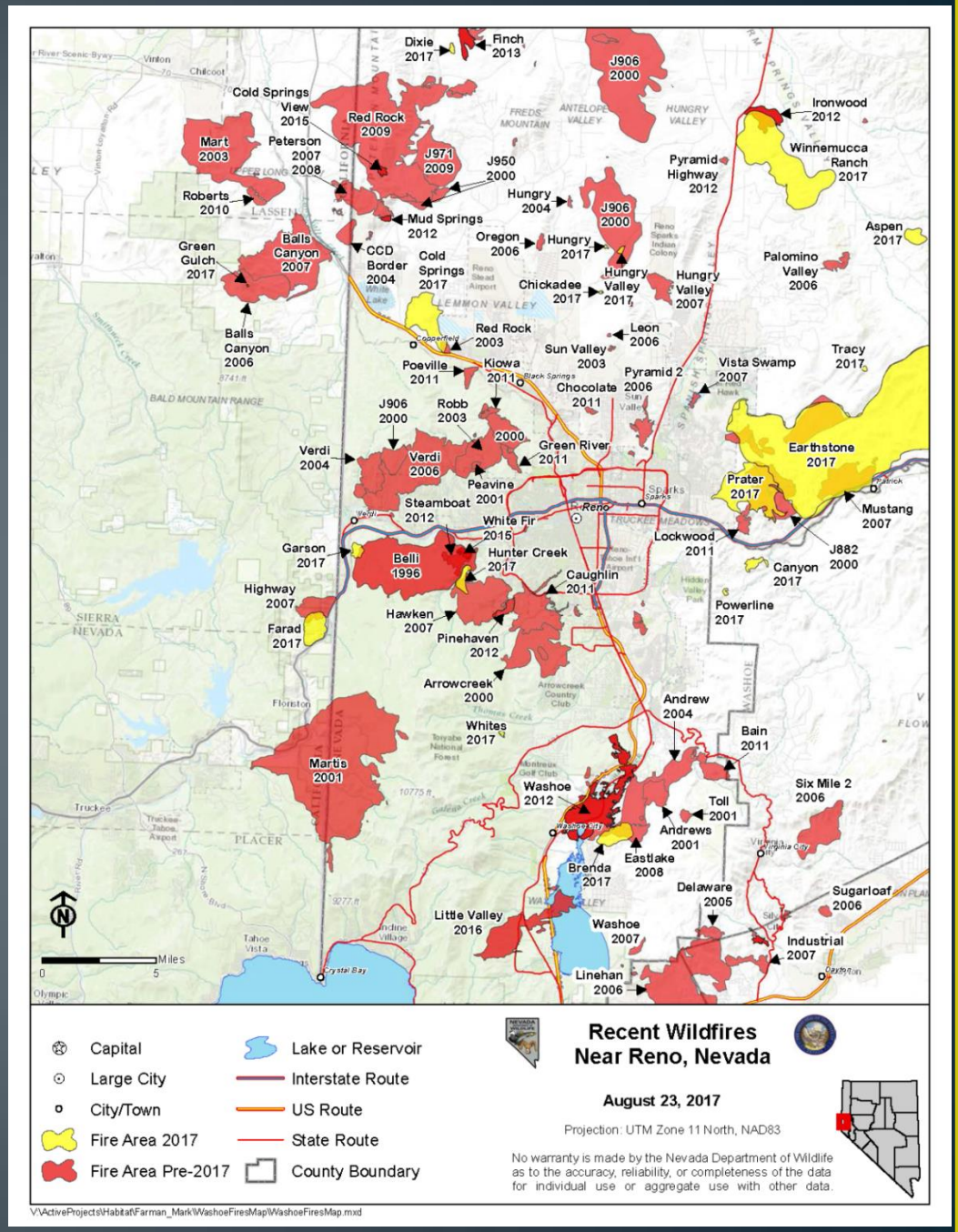
Specific Classifications of Mule Deer Range Affected by 2017 Wildfires

Habitat Type	Acres Burned	Percent of Total
Agricultural	2,950	0.5%
Crucial Summer	34,289	6.3%
Crucial Winter	128,141	23.5%
Low Density	211,977	38.9%
Summer Range	13,122	2.4%
Transition Range	15,268	2.8%
Winter Range	15,886	2.9%
Year-round	122,635	22.5%
Totals	**544,268**	100%

Wildfires near Reno NV

- 2017 Fires = Yellow Polygons
- Pre-2017 Fires = Red Polygons

Many of these fires have severely affected winter ranges used by mule deer



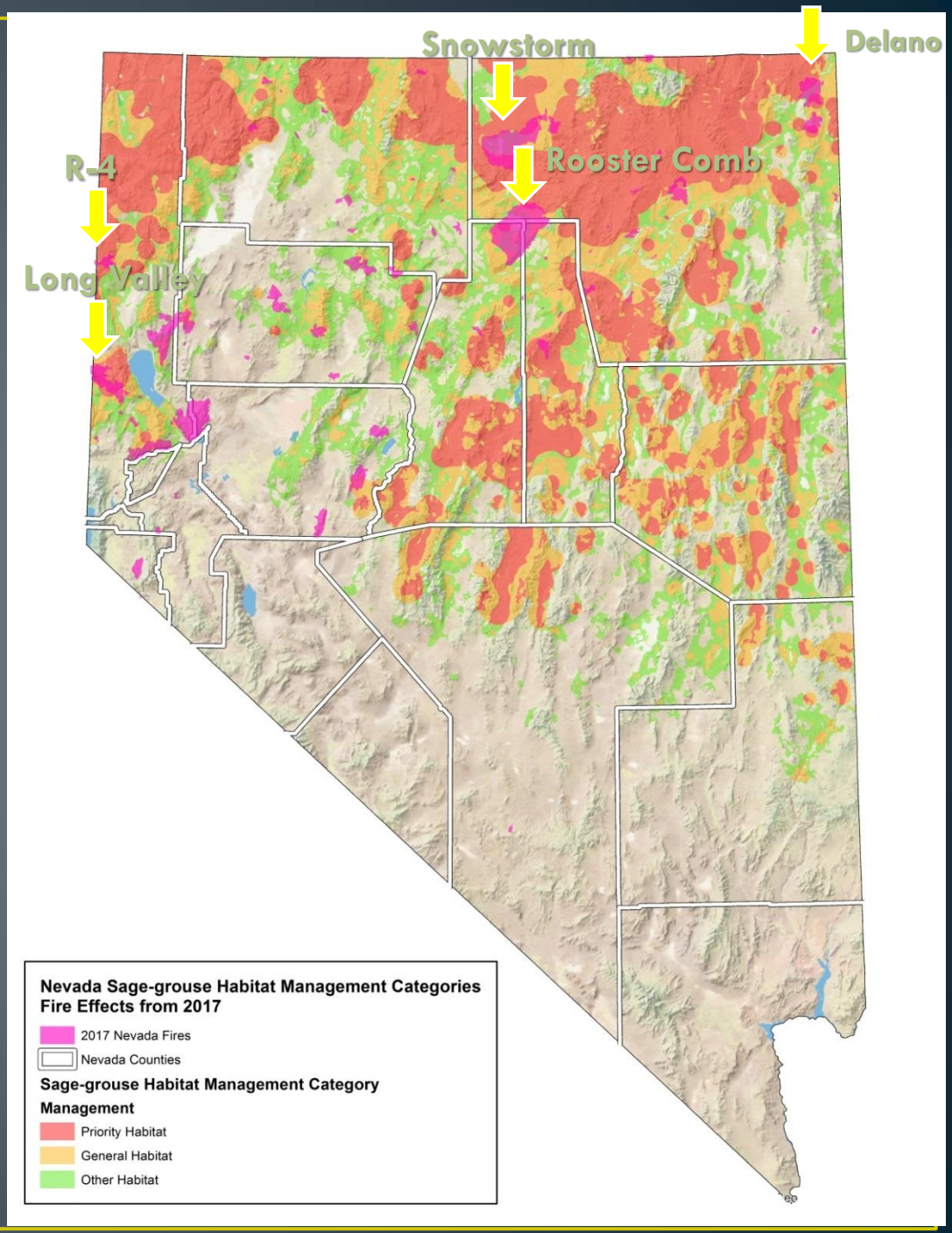
2017 Fire Impacts on Greater Sage-grouse in Nevada

Sheep Spring Lek – Virginia Mountains

Greater Sage-grouse Fires of Concern

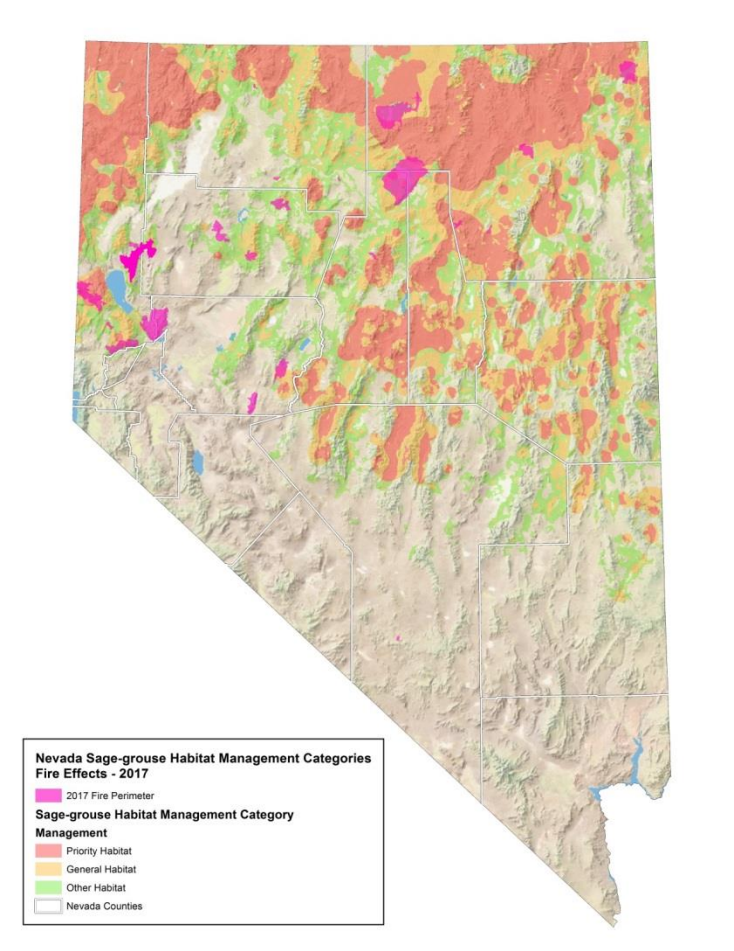
Priority Habitat Management Area in Red; General Habitat Management Area in Orange

Fire	Size
Long Valley:	57,439 ac.
R-4:	17,962 ac.
Snowstorm:	171,118 ac.
Rooster Comb:	229,851 ac.
Dry Gulch:	55,439 ac.
Delano:	27,344 ac.



Total Sage-grouse Habitat Acres Burned in 2017 (by Management Category)

- PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT CATEGORY (red color):
- 275,706 ac.
- GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT CATEGORY (orange color):
- 311,493 ac.
- ***Combined, this is an area larger than the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge***



Summary of Wildfire Effects on Game Species

- In general, wildfire effects on game species throughout Nevada are more deleterious than beneficial.
- Favorable fires require specific climatic and vegetative conditions.
- Wildfires are unplanned
  - Conditions rarely favorable
  - Outcomes undependable at best

2017 NDOW Fire Rehabilitation

Fire Name	Acres Burned	Seed Costs	Seed Application	Herbicide	TOTALS
Rooster	218,380	$456,000.00	$154,000.00	$0.00	$610,000.00
Hotpot (south strip)		$39,158.00	$11,970.00	$0.00	$51,128.00
Delano	15,080	$35,301.00	$15,180.00	$0.00	$50,481.00
Cole Creek	6,540	$13,833.00	$6,000.00	$0.00	$19,833.00
Oil Well	7,500	$86,215.00	$34,560.00	$0.00	$120,775.00
Cottonwood	13,267	$7,500.00	$6,000.00	$0.00	$13,500.00
Tabor Flats	25,100	$25,483.00	$15,312.00	$0.00	$40,795.00
Ely Seed		$159,959.00	$0.00	$0.00	$159,959.00
Long Valley	83,733	$85,496.25	$27,495.00	$0.00	$112,991.25
Hot Springs	1,000	$20,161.00	$24,000.00	$0.00	$44,161.00
Bravo 17	22,964	$79,894.90	$23,357.00	$0.00	$103,251.90
Tungsten	16,755	$126,776.27	$26,457.50	$0.00	$153,233.77
Draw	27,506	$84,448.16	$14,702.50	$0.00	$99,150.66
Herbicide				$289,600.00	$289,600.00
TOTALS	437,825	$1,220,225.58	$359,034.00	$289,600.00	$1,868,859.58

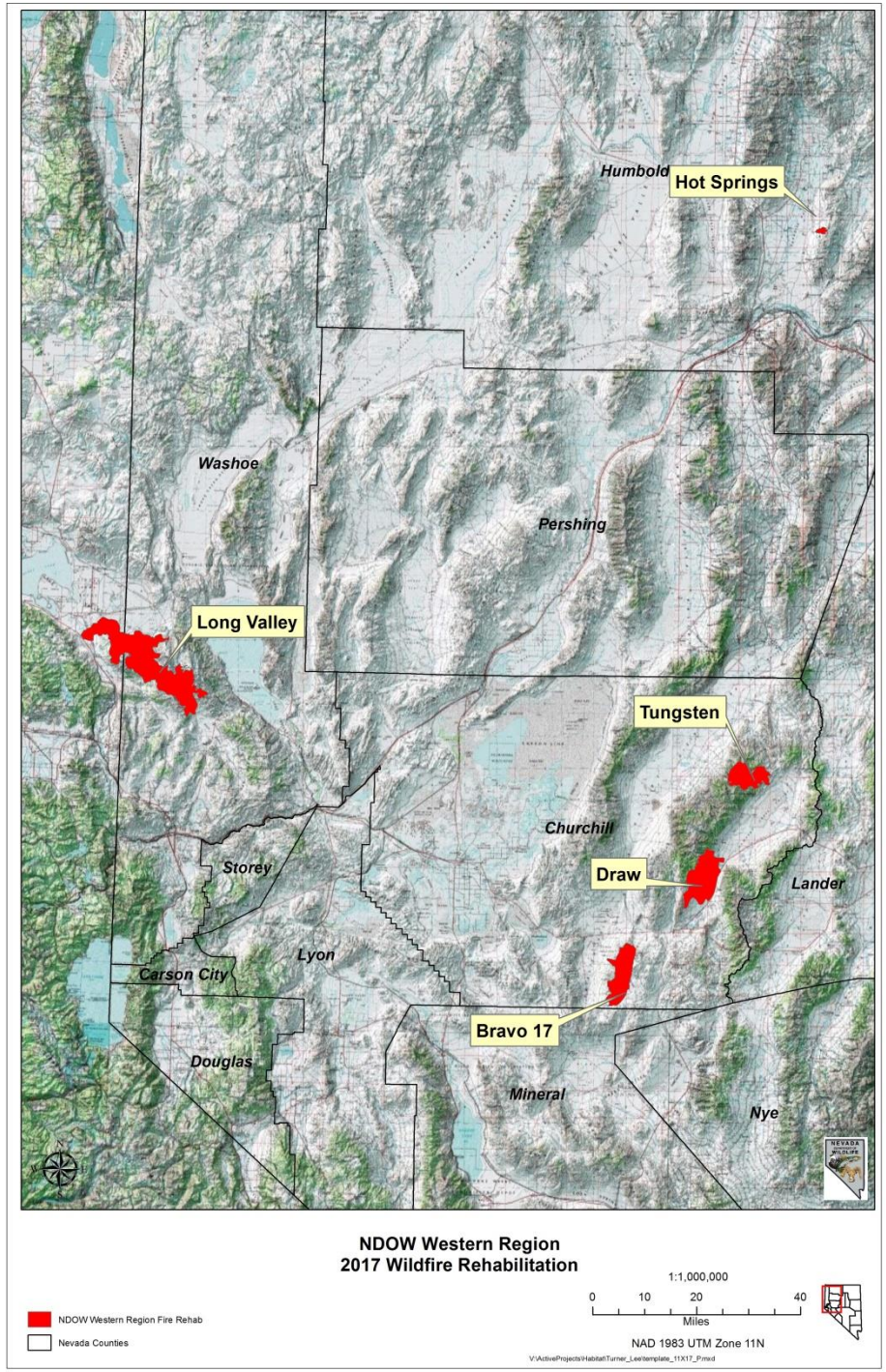
2017 NDOW Fire Rehabilitation Financial Contributions

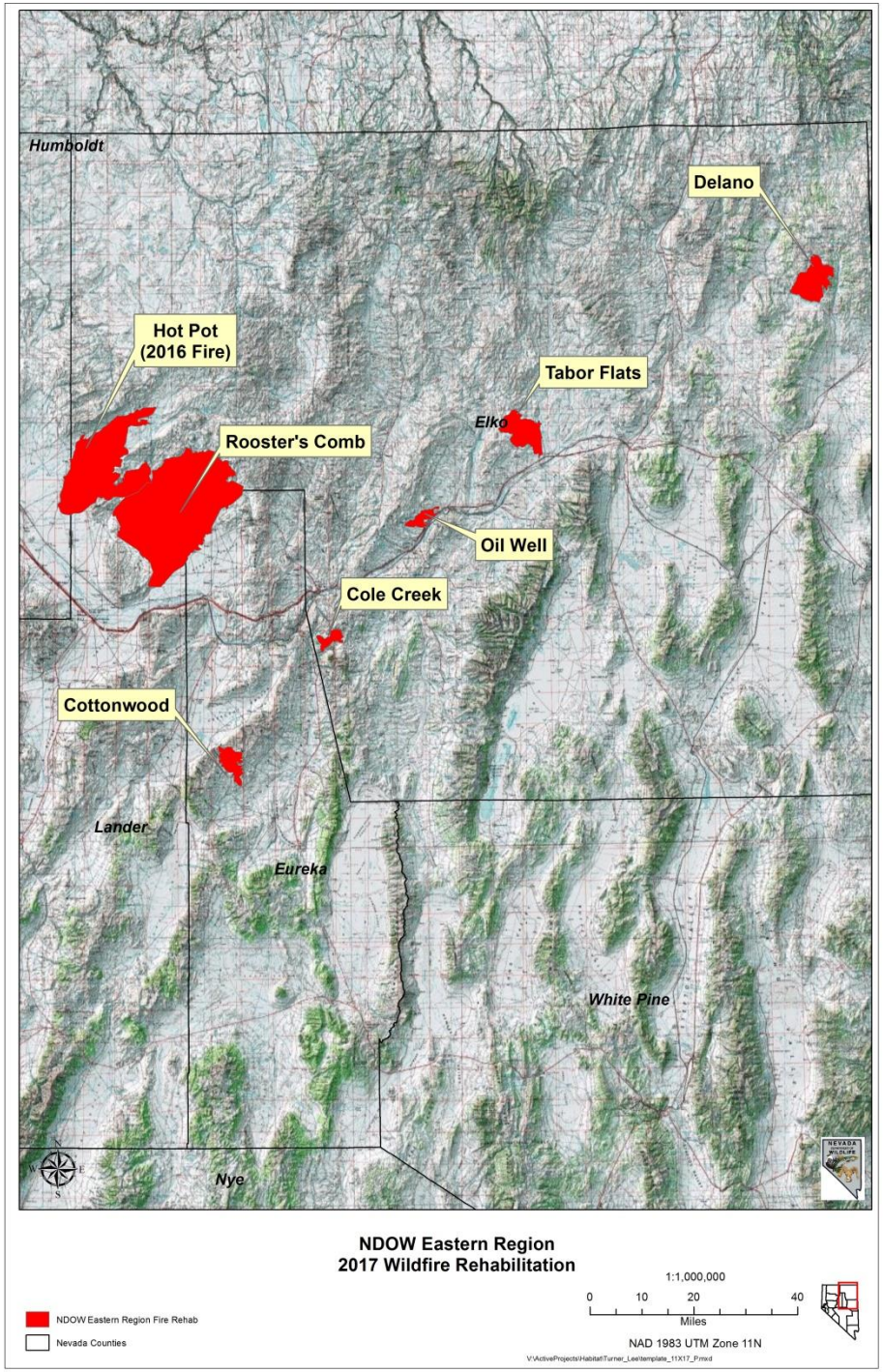
NGO Contributions Totaling $340,000
NBU Reno
NBU Midas
NBU Elko
Carson Valley Chukar Club
Battle Mntn Nat. Wild Turkey Foundation
NV Chukar Foundation
NV Muleys
Mule Deer Foundation
Woodland Village HOA
Barrick
Newmont

Grant Sources $1,400,000
Dream Tag $250,000
Heritage Trust $66,000

2017 NDOW Western Region Fire Rehabilitation

Long Valley	**83,733 acres**
Draw	**27,506 acres**
Bravo 17	**22,964 acres**
Tungsten	**16,755 acres**
Hot Springs	**1,200 acres**



2017 NDOW Eastern Region Fire Rehabilitation

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