

# Sagebrush Conservation Initiative

Nevada Department of Wildlife

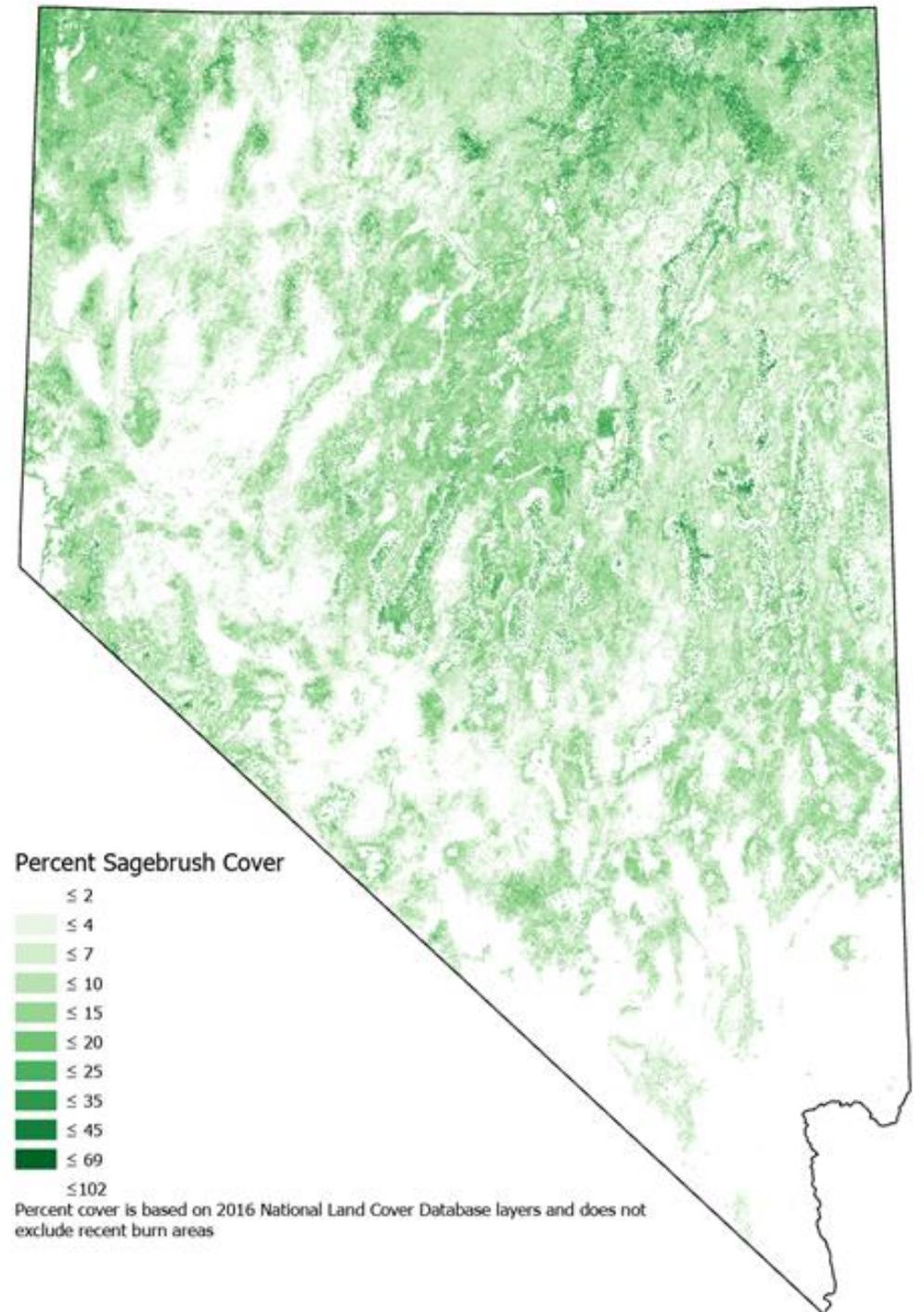
Alan Jenne, Habitat Division Administrator

January 24, 2020



# Sagebrush Habitat

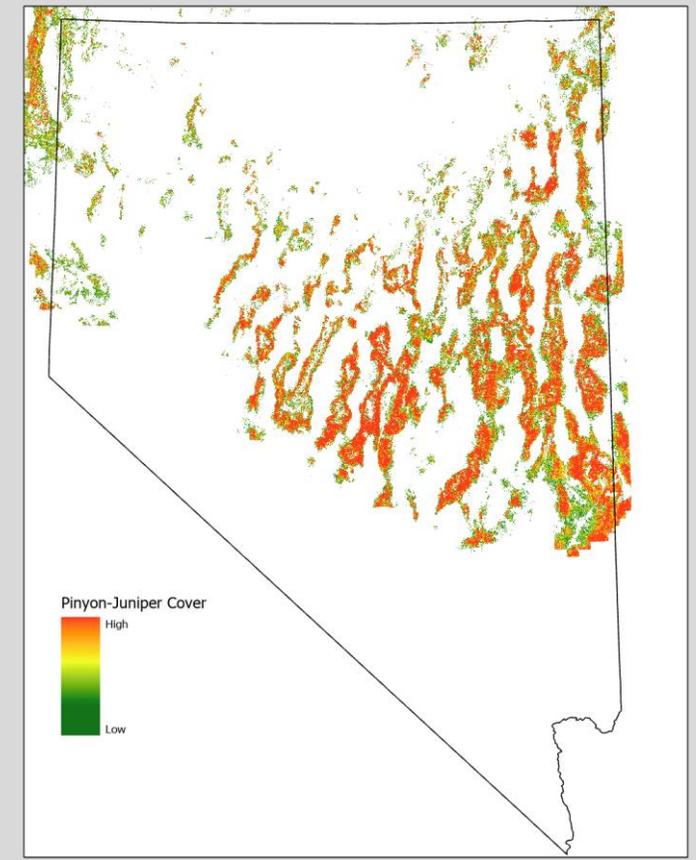
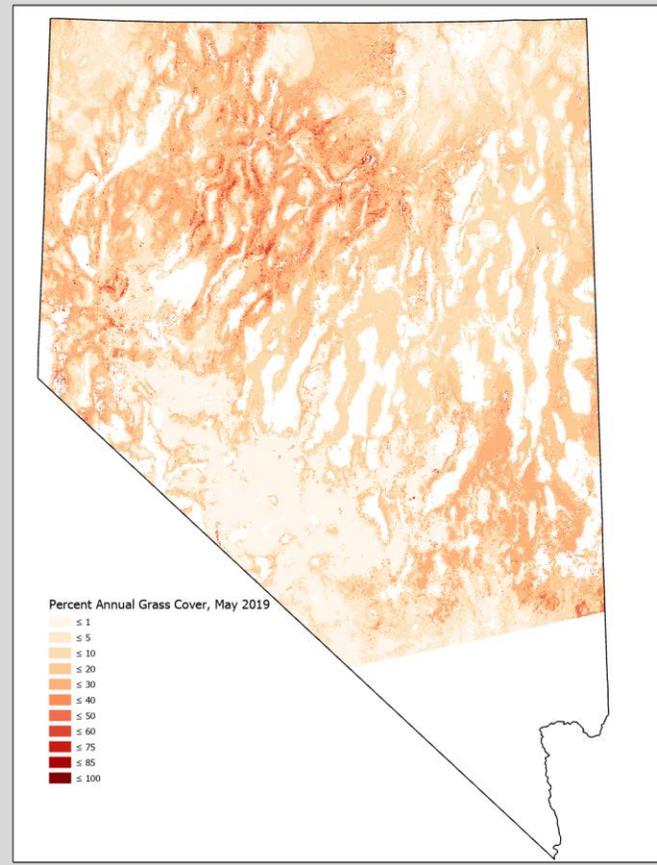
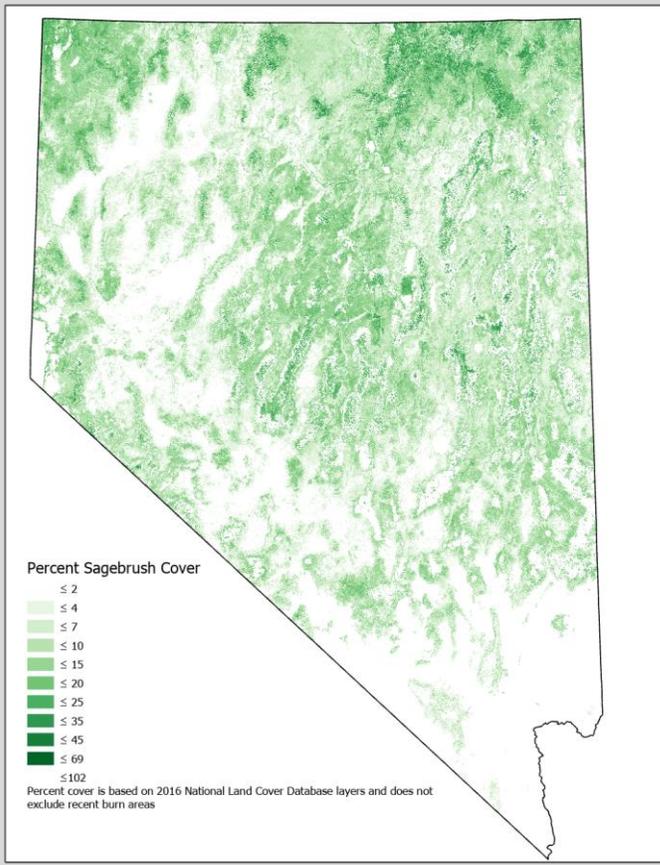
- Approximately 40 to 50 million acres
- 27 distinct species or subspecies in Nevada





Sagebrush Community  
Supports >370 Species

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## Sagebrush Habitat Communities:

- Approximately 40 to 50 million acres sagebrush
- Approximately 100 million acres of cheatgrass across the west, approximately 15 million acres in Nevada largely overlapping with sagebrush habitat
- Approximately 45 million acres pinyon-juniper across the West with approximately 9 million acres in Nevada
- 70.1 million acres of total land in the State of Nevada



# Initiative Cornerstones

- Wildfire and Invasives
- Conifer Encroachment
- Connectivity of Species and Habitats
- Diverse and Productive Habitats



527614 4514212 ± 16 ft WGS84  
S (T), 5960 ft, 2017-07-16 09:58:06-07:00

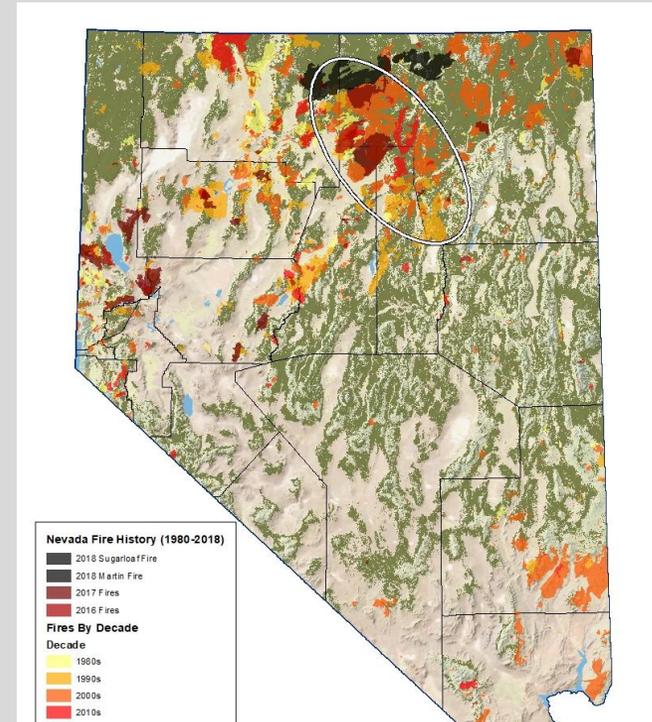
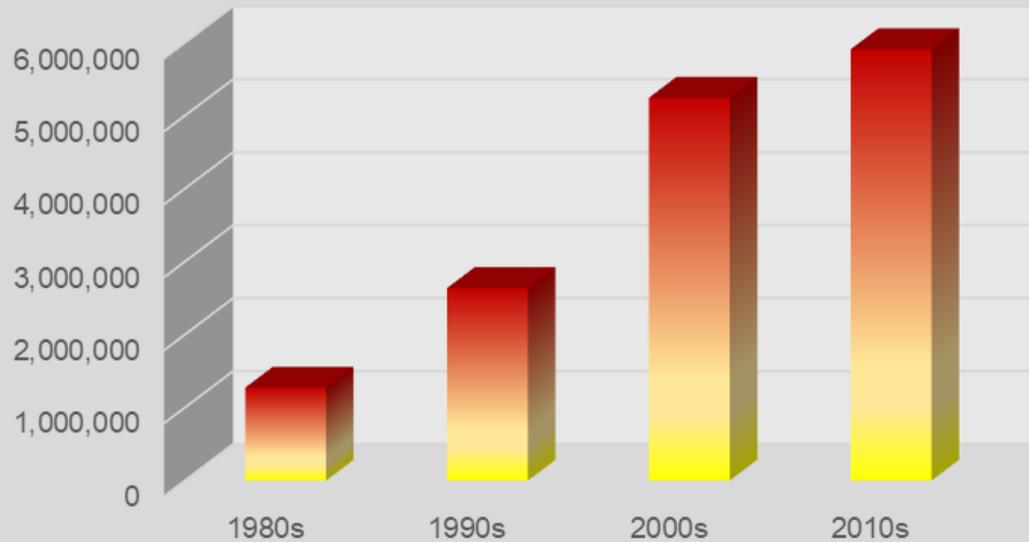


Rooster's Comb Fire. Sheep Creek Range. Sheep Creek 2.

# Threat: Wildfire

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Number of Acres Burned in Nevada by Decade



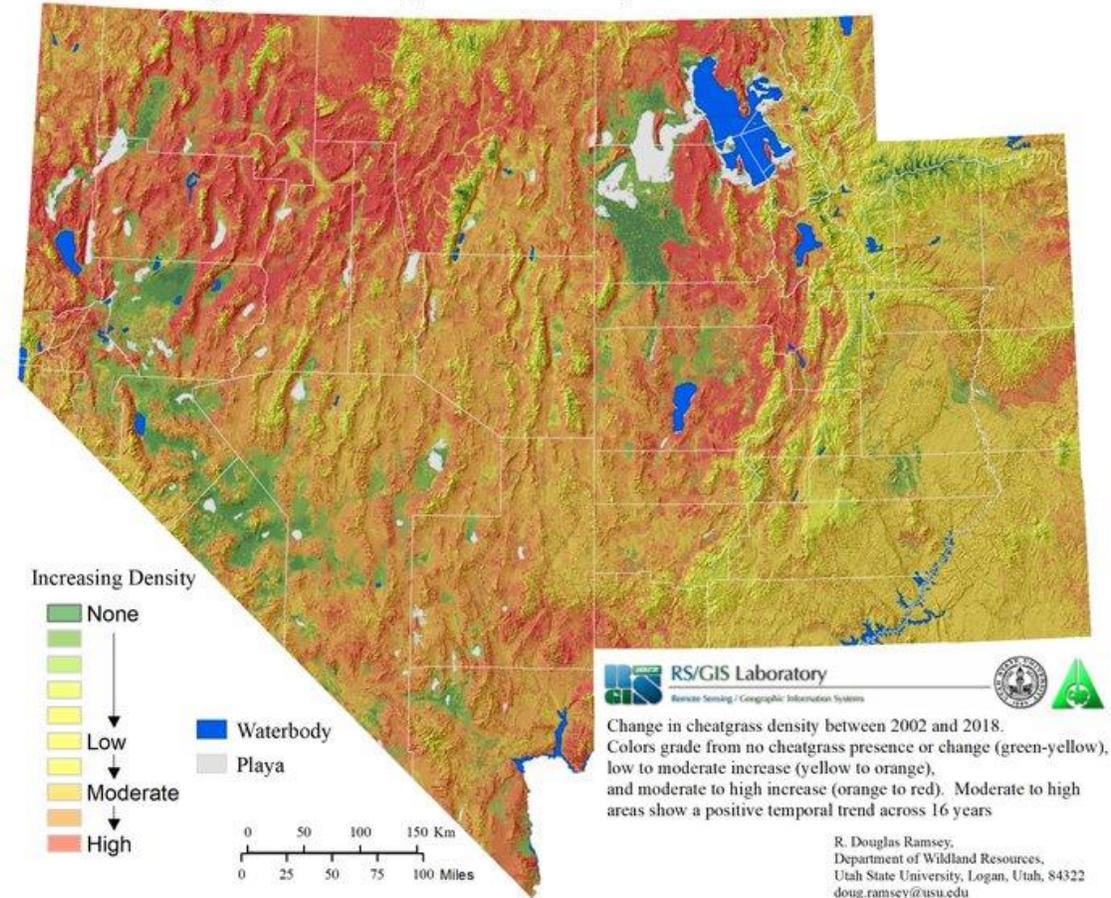
## Threat: Wildfire

- Cumulative burned acres nearly doubling by decade:
  - 1980s = 1.3 million acres
  - 1990s = 2.6 million acres
  - 2000s = 5.3 million acres
  - 2010s = 5.9 million acres

# Threat: Cheatgrass Invasion

- Increased fire frequency in low elevation sagebrush
- Historic over-utilization
- Expanding road/linear feature networks

## Utah / Nevada Change in Cheatgrass Density from 2002 to 2018

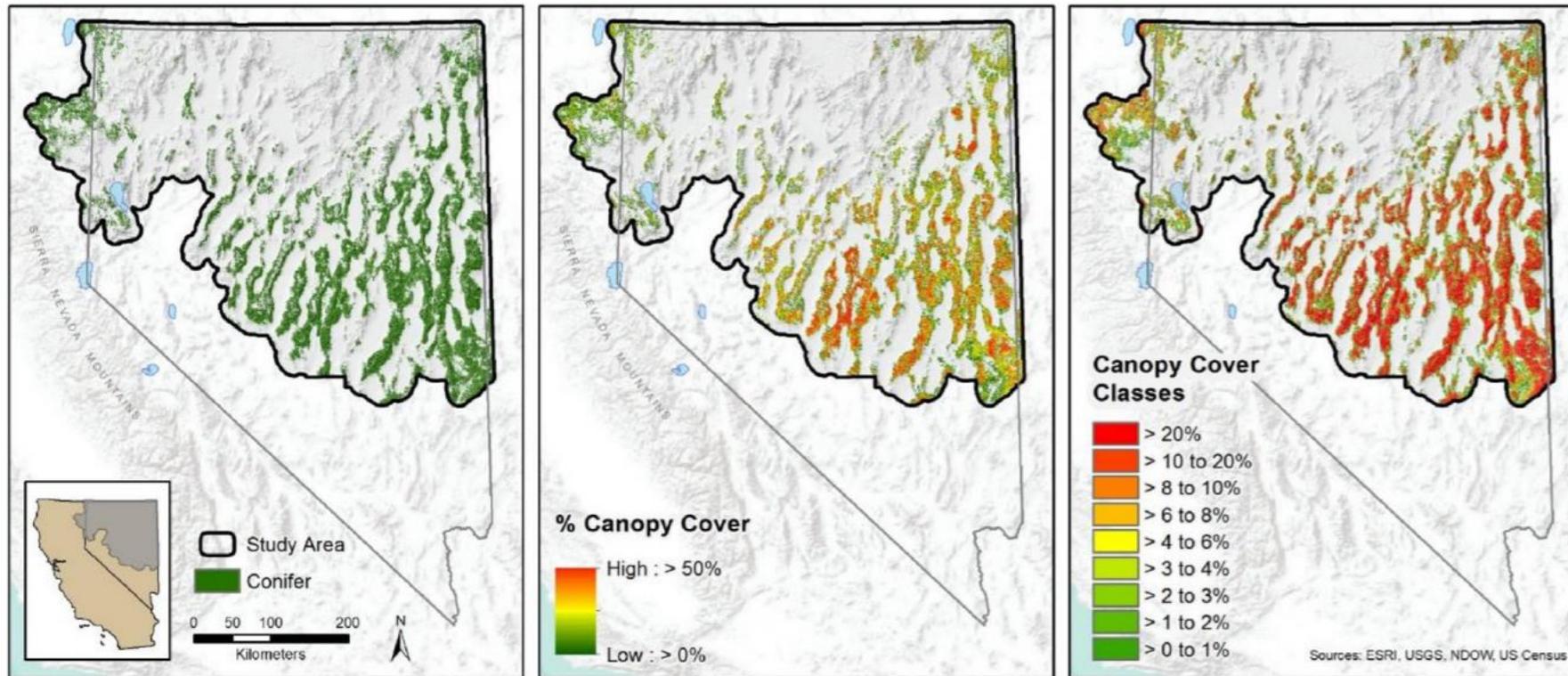




## Threat: Pinyon – Juniper Expansion

- Cool and wet period from ~1860-1900 promoted conifer recruitment
- Wildfire control during same time period through recent allowed for expansion

200 – 600 Percent increase  
since settlement



# Threat: Pinyon - Juniper Encroachment



Values: Diverse and  
Productive Habitats

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Values: Connectivity of Species and Habitats

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## Next Steps:

- Develop Priorities and Strategies with Partners
- Commit Funds and Resources



Questions?

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