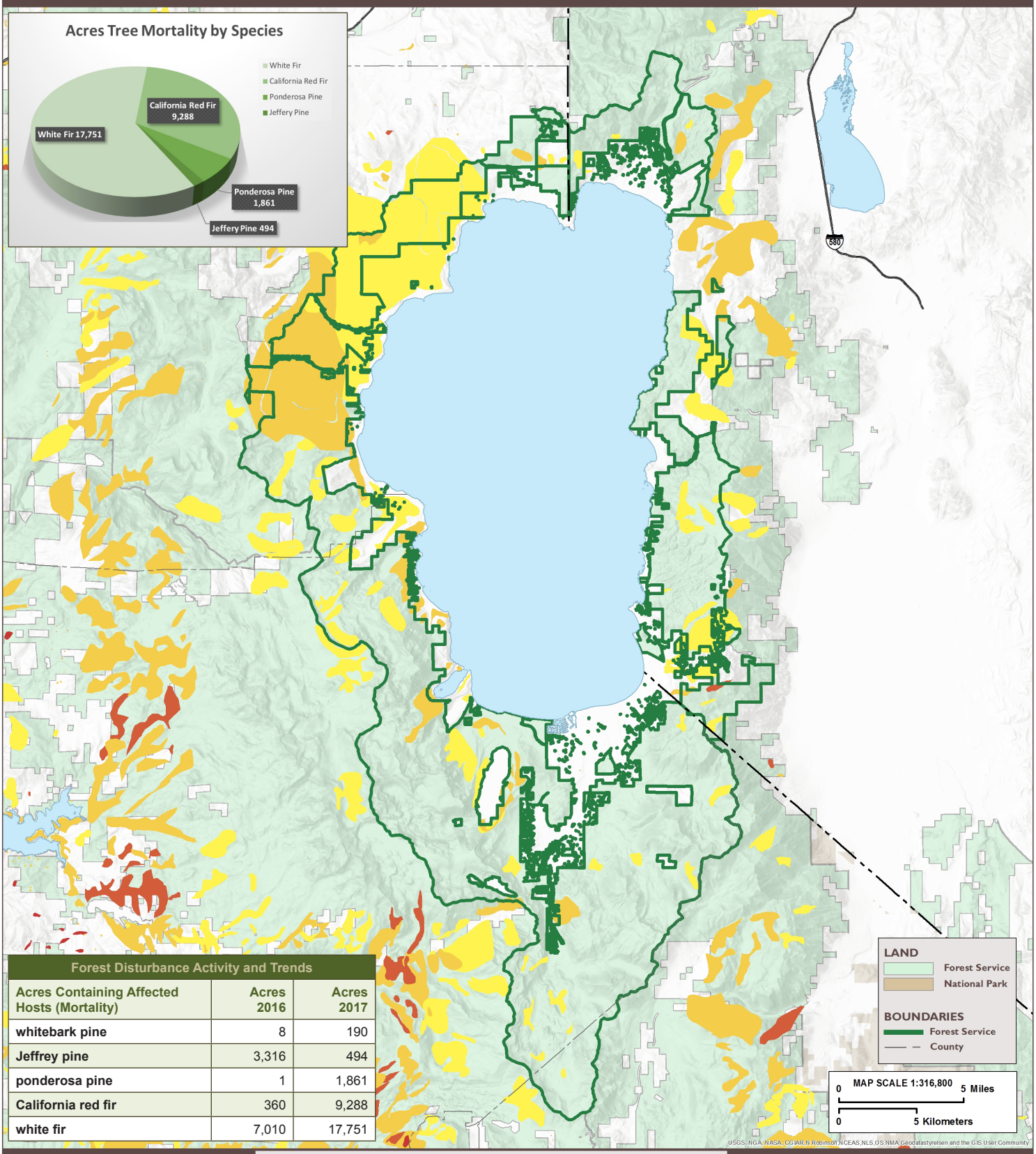
AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY, 2017
LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT

USDA
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



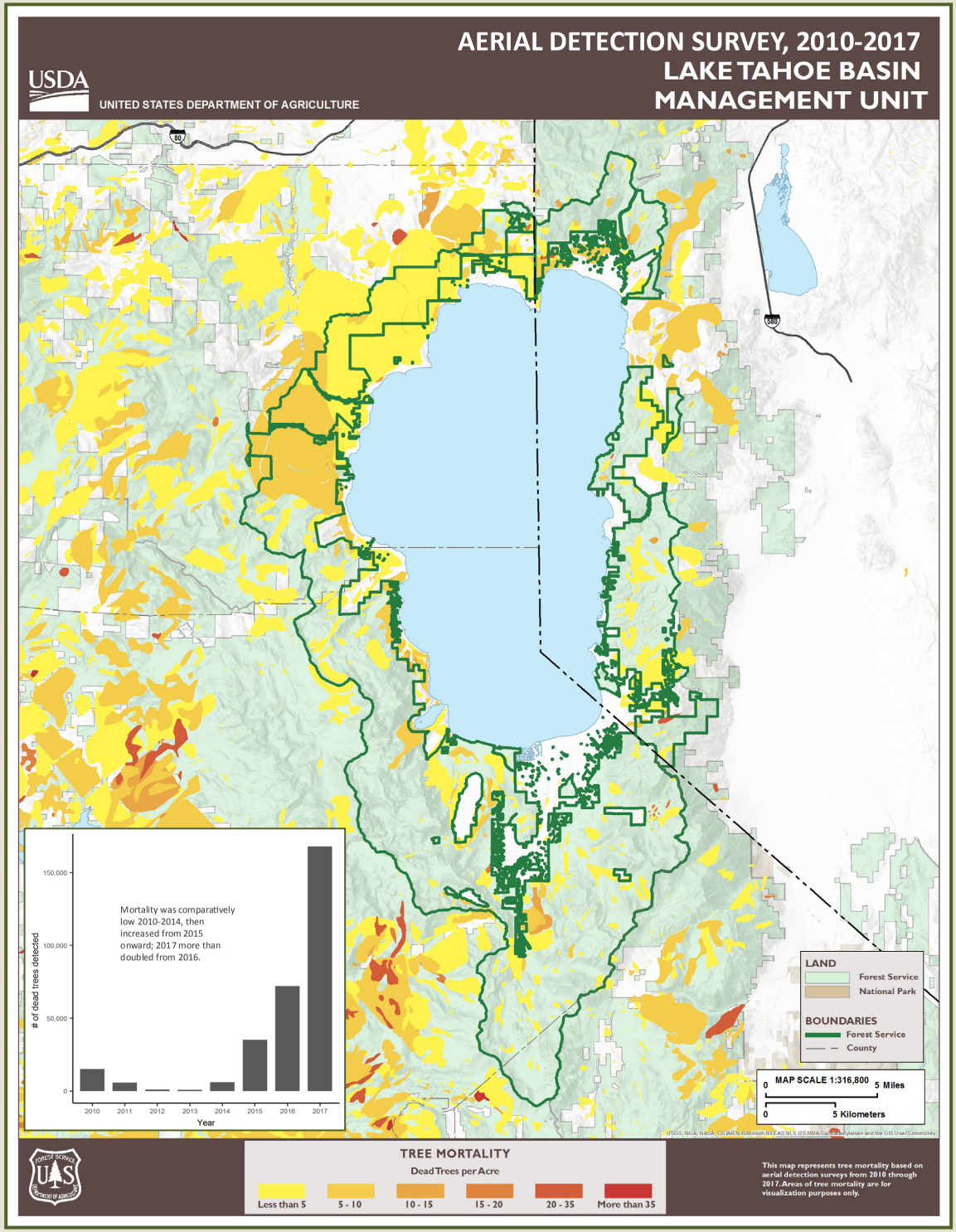
Forest Disturbance Activity and Trends		
Acres Containing Affected Hosts (Mortality)	Acres 2016	Acres 2017
whitebark pine	8	190
Jeffrey pine	3,316	494
ponderosa pine	1	1,861
California red fir	360	9,288
white fir	7,010	17,751

TREE MORTALITY

Dead Trees per Acre

Less than 5 | 5 - 10 | 10 - 15 | 15 - 20 | 20 - 35 | More than 35

This map represents tree mortality based on 2017 aerial detection surveys. Areas of tree mortality are for visualization purposes only.



Area around Meeks Bay on the west shore of Lake Tahoe. Notice the widely scattered older pine mortality and more recent fir mortality.

Highlights

- Overall mortality more than doubled from an estimated 72,000 dead trees in 2016 to 168,000 dead trees in 2017. Acres affected nearly tripled from less than 12,000 to almost 30,000.
- White fir mortality was again predominant and had the largest increase from an estimated 51,000 dead trees in 2016 to 111,000 dead trees in 2017.
- California red fir mortality also increased from an estimated 3,500 dead trees in 2016 to more than 44,000 dead trees in 2017.
- Ponderosa pine mortality increased from near zero dead trees recorded in 2016 to more than 11,000 dead trees in 2017.
- Jeffrey pine mortality decreased from an estimated 17,500 dead trees in 2016 to less than 1,000 dead trees in 2017.
- Whitebark and lodgepole pine mortality both increased from approximately 20 and 30 dead trees in 2016 to 190 and 270 dead trees in 2017 respectively.