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Ecology, Biodiversity, Management, and Restoration of Aspen in the Sierra Nevada

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Abstract—This report was commissioned by the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit to synthesize existing information on the ecology and management of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) in the Sierra Nevada of California and surrounding environs. It summarizes available information on aspen throughout North America from published literature, internal government agency reports, and experienced scientists and managers. The historic distribution, abundance, and ecologic role of aspen in the Sierra Nevada are discussed, along with the reproductive physiology of aspen. Issues that affect aspen health and vigor in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere are covered, along with methodology for assessing the condition of aspen and monitoring the effects of management activities to restore and maintain aspen. Descriptions of the types of aspen that occur in the Sierra Nevada are presented along with alternative techniques to manage and restore aspen that are applicable wherever aspen is found.

Key words: aspen, *Populus tremuloides*, ecology, management, disturbance, Sierra Nevada, Lake Tahoe basin, monitoring, and assessment

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