Waterfall Fire Interpretive Trail
Community & K-12 outreach guide

- Western Nevada College
- Desert Research Institute
- NSF-EPSCoR Climate Change Grant support
- Carson City, Nevada
- http://www.wnc.edu/waterfall

Appendix A lists the plant species observed or collected and identified at the Waterfall Fire Study sites during the Spring and Summer months of 2009.

Plant Surveys take place at each Study Site along the trail at intervals during the Spring and Summer. There are eight study sites that contain 3 plots each staked 2m x 2m square.


Aug 25, 2007
Site 1c: drill-seeded post-fire sagebrush and grazed
Site 2c: aerial seeded post-fire sagebrush
Site 1a: unburned sagebrush
Site2a: unburned sagebrush with firebreak activity
Site 1b: post-fire burned and unseeded.
Site 3c: drill-seeded post-fire sagebrush and grazed
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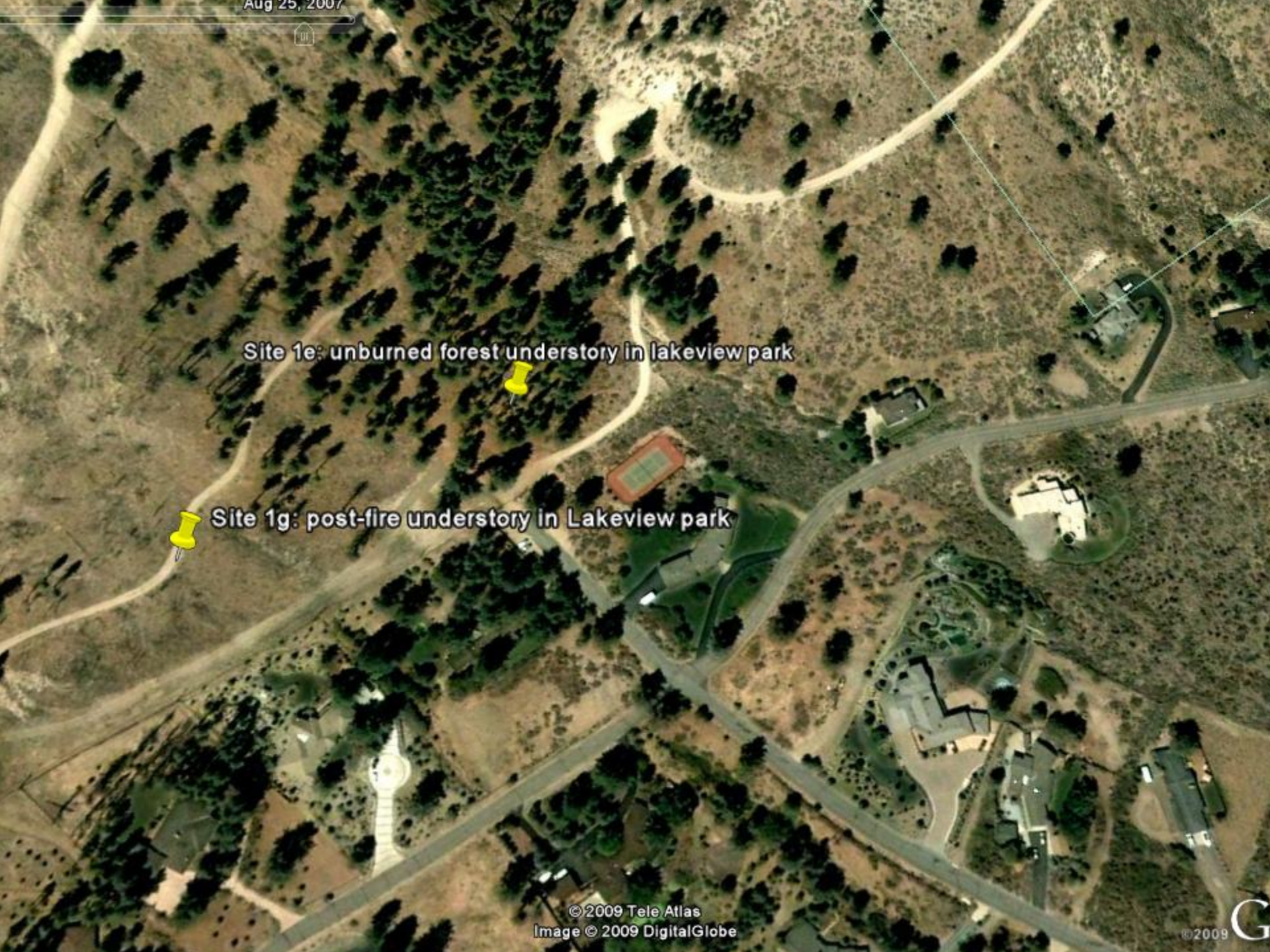
Aug 25, 2007
Site 1e: unburned forest understory in lakeview park
Site 1g: post-fire understory in Lakeview park
© 2009 Tele Atlas
Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe
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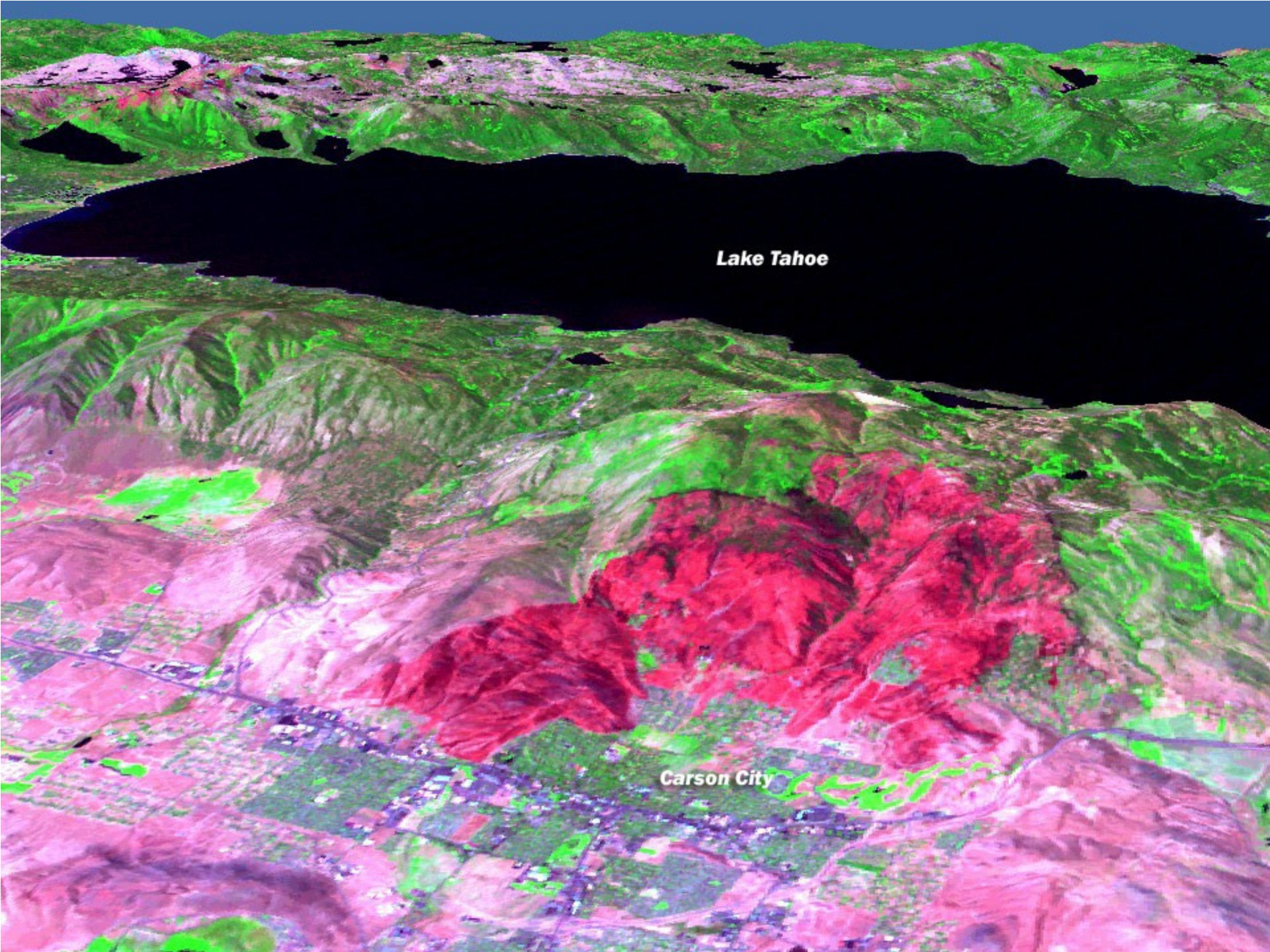
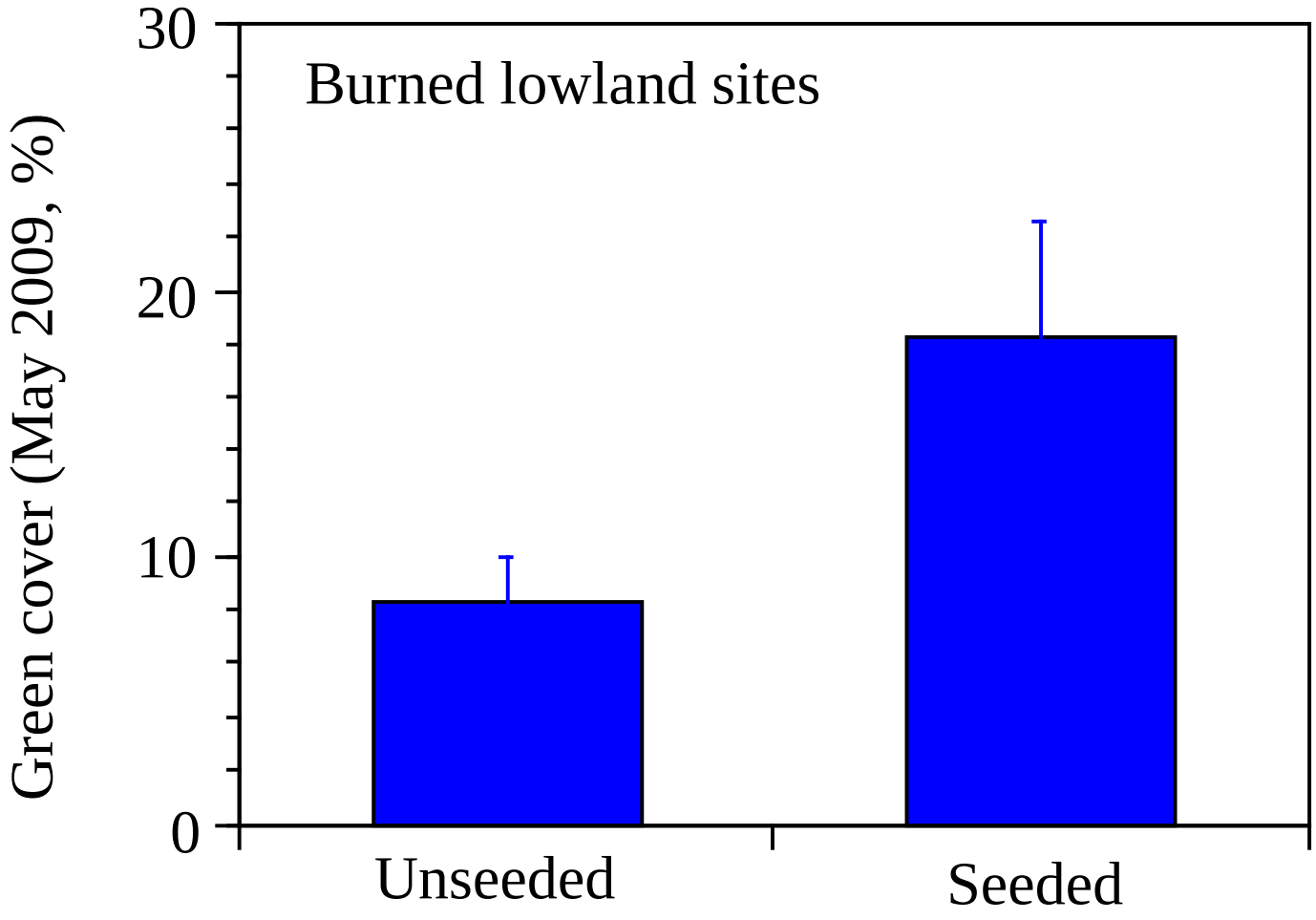
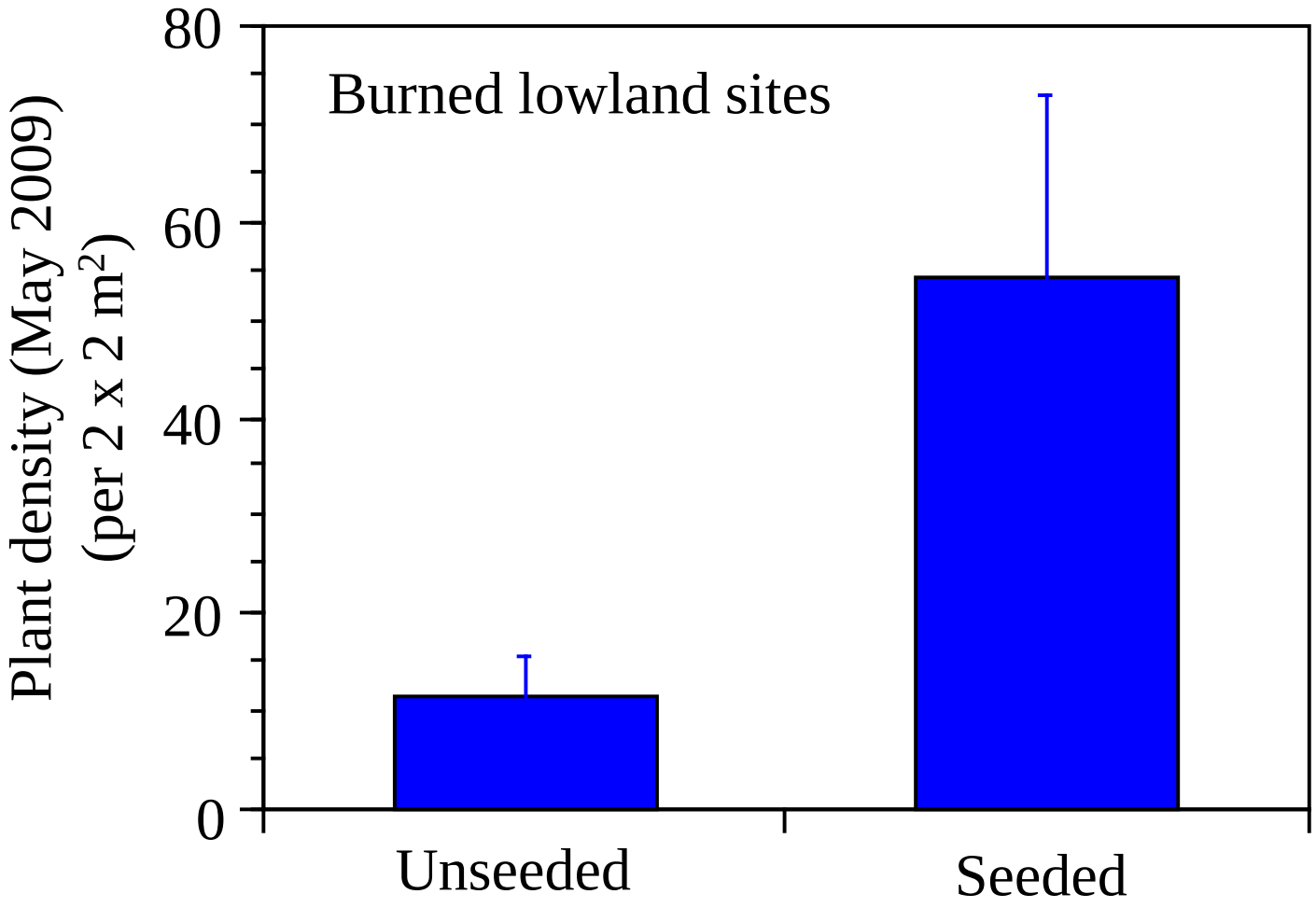
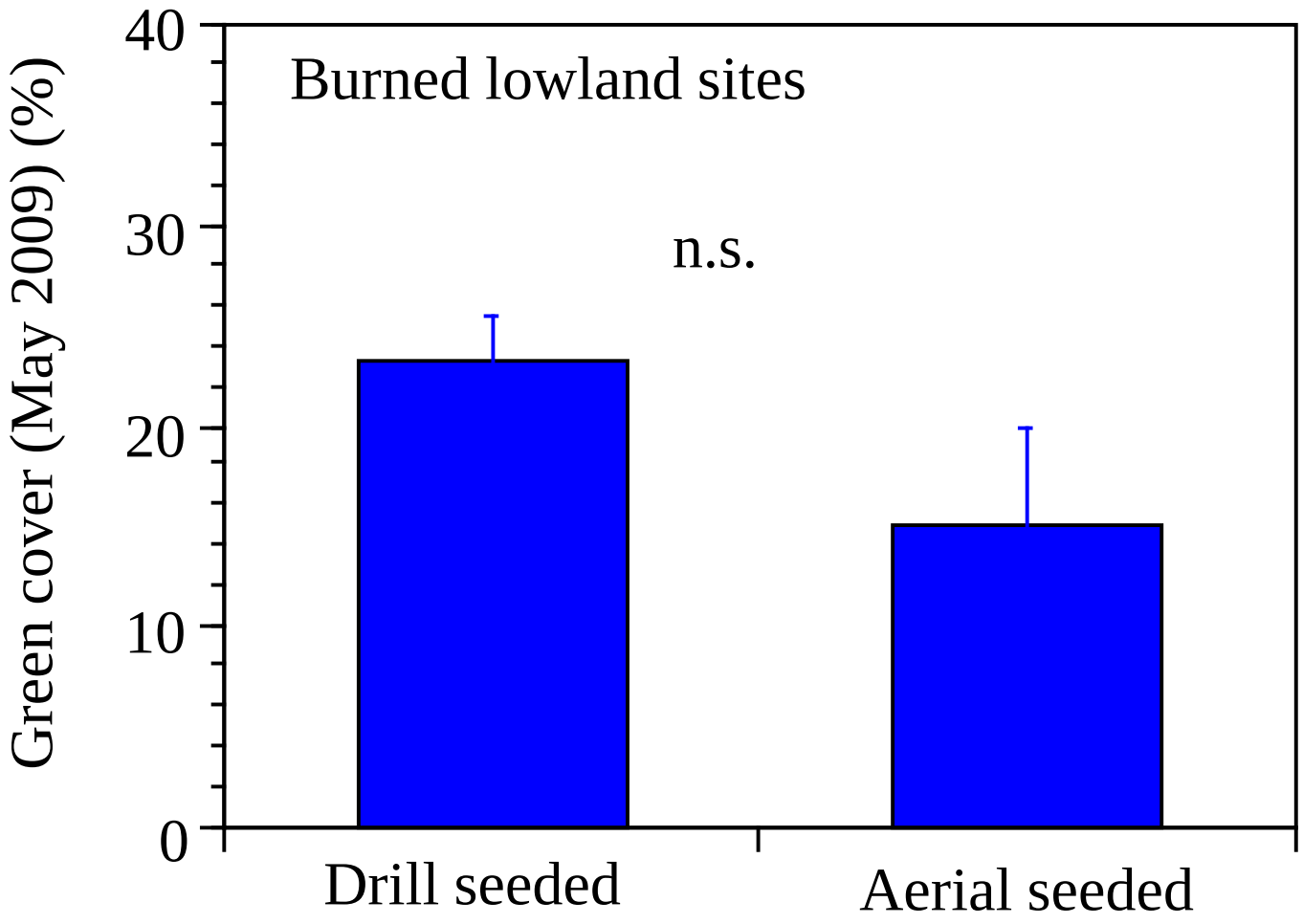

Lake Tahoe
Carson City


Burned lowland sites
Green cover (May 2009, %)
30
20
10
0
Unseeded
Seeded


Burned lowland sites
Plant density (May 2009)
(per 2 x 2 m²)
80
60
40
20
0
Unseeded
Seeded


Burned lowland sites
n.s.
Green cover (May 2009) (%)
40
30
20
10
0
Drill seeded
Aerial seeded

Star Party night at the Observatory is each Saturday at dusk weather permitting. You can also access the weather station for current and historical data.

- The trail begins at the Jack C. Davis Observatory parking lot. There might be a lecture or discussion within the observatory for groups when arranged with the college.

- The trail descends along the WNC Observatory Planetary Walkway.

- The trail follows down the bike path south and west of the college.

- Measure height of plants on trail
- Measure soil temperature
- Observe what kinds of plants there are for each season

- Measure soil temperature at different locations, shade and sunny, and times of the day
- This simple thermometer has a built-in shovel as a base

- Counters keep track of how many plants are in a square plot

- Magnifying glasses help to see up close

- Assistance from a teacher or grandparent makes for a fun learning environment
- Kids tend to see more, and adults tend to focus on specific, plants

- Plants, cones, seeds, can be collected, but in limited supply for group study.
- Plants that are pressed allow each participant to document their discovery on the trial.

Acknowledgements

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Alice Sady

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Sean Sady and Ashton Sady, featured in slide show

Mike Sady, WNC Science Professor, presentation and photos