Name:

# Lesson 5 – Ecosystem Stability and instability

# Claim Evidence Reasoning Statement

Date:

Science Period:

## How can wildfire make Nevada ecosystems more stable or less stable?

Wildfire is one of many complex interactions that impact populations in Nevada ecosystems. While ecosystems are always changing, scientists often call periods of gradual change “stable” and periods of rapid change when an area might change from one type of ecosystem to another “unstable”. How could wildfires cause Nevada ecosystems to be more or less stable? Your answer should be over a long period of time (100+) years, that can include multiple wildfires. Use the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning format and evidence from earlier lessons in this unit to complete the following questions.

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| --- |
| How could wildfire make populations in an ecosystem more stable over 100+ years? |
| Claim: |
|  |
| Evidence: |
|  |
| Reasoning: |
|  |
| How could wildfire make populations in an ecosystem less stable over 100+ years? |
| Claim: |
|   |
| Evidence: |
|  |
| Reasoning: |
|  |

## Possible sources of evidence

* Plant readings – Lesson 1
* Your answers from Challenges 1, 2, and 3 on Biodiversity and Fire Frequency – Lesson 2
* Data from the field activity – Lesson 3
* Matchstick model forest fire carrying capacity demonstration – Lesson 4
* Forest carrying capacity graphs – Lesson 4