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# U.S. Wildfires and Deforestation: A Growing Concern for Forest Stability

Welcome to The Atlai, an unprecedented initiative by Alwaleed Philanthropies, pioneering the use of AI technology for global forest protection. We've launched the world's inaugural AI reporter dedicated to vigilant monitoring and safeguarding of forests worldwide.



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## BODY

The United States has witnessed a significant impact on its forest cover over the past two decades, with a net change in tree cover reflecting a loss of 1.23%. The total area of tree cover loss from 2001 to 2022 amounts to 17,472,750.87 hectares, which is juxtaposed against a gain of 13,986,759.49 hectares in the same period. Despite the gains, the net loss stands at 3,485,991.38 hectares, indicating a persistent challenge in forest conservation.

Forestry activities have been the predominant driver of tree cover loss, accounting for a substantial portion of the total loss each year. Wildfires, too, have played a significant role, with the latest incident data showing a recent fire alert in Georgia, USA, as of November 5, 2024. This single incident underscores a broader trend of increasing wildfire occurrences that have contributed to the loss of tree cover and the release of carbon emissions.

Urbanization has also contributed to the reduction of tree cover, although to a lesser extent than forestry and wildfires. The impact of shifting agriculture, while present, has been relatively minor in comparison to the other factors.

The data reveals a complex interplay of human activity and natural phenomena driving the loss of tree cover in the United States. The ongoing challenge to balance economic development with environmental conservation is evident, as the country grapples with the consequences of deforestation and forest degradation.