### Influence of Past Burn Mosaics to Future Fire Behavior and Implications for Management

Susan Prichard, University of Washington – FERA Robert Gray, RW Gray Consulting Paul Hessburg, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station Nicholas Povak, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station Brion Salter, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station Camille Stevens-Rumann, Colorado State University





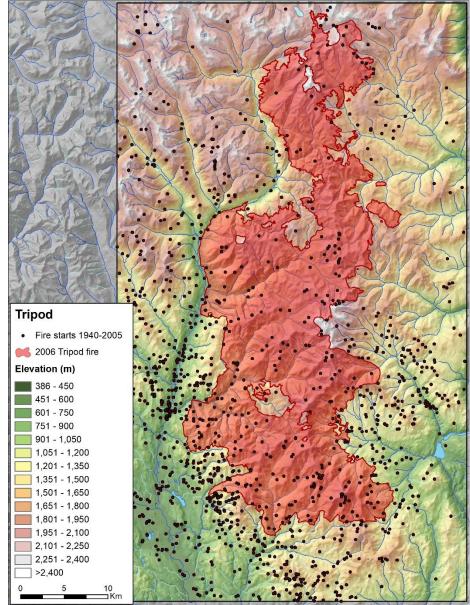




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Agenda	Details	Presenter		
0800 - 0820	Introduction to the Reburn Project	Prichard/Stevens-Rumann		
0820 - 0840	Vegetation and fire dynamics	Gray		
0840 - 0900	Wildland fire management scenarios	Prichard		
0900 - 0920	Climate change and landscape resilience	Prichard		
0920 - 0940	Discussion	Gray & Prichard		
0940 - 1000	Break and load into vans	ALL		

### **Tripod Historical Fire Starts**

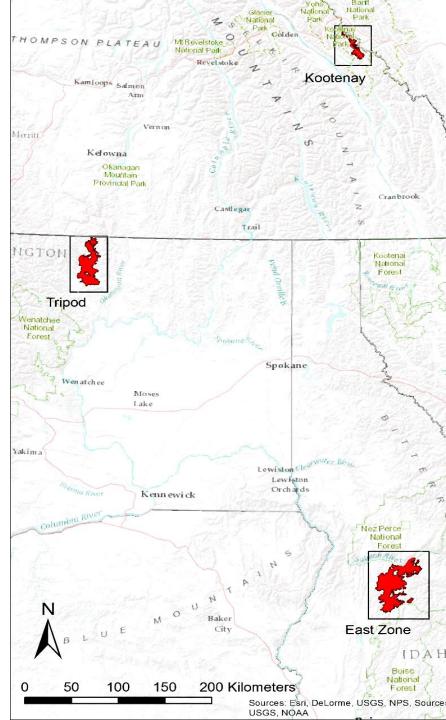


Suppressed fire starts (1940 – 2006, n > 300)

# Objectives

To evaluate the effects of past wildfires on the:

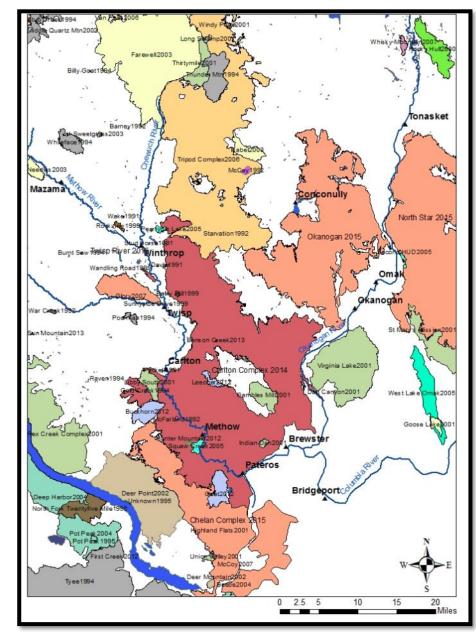
- 1) Characteristics (e.g. fire spread and severity)
- Management (e.g. firefighting strategies and costs) of subsequent wildfires.



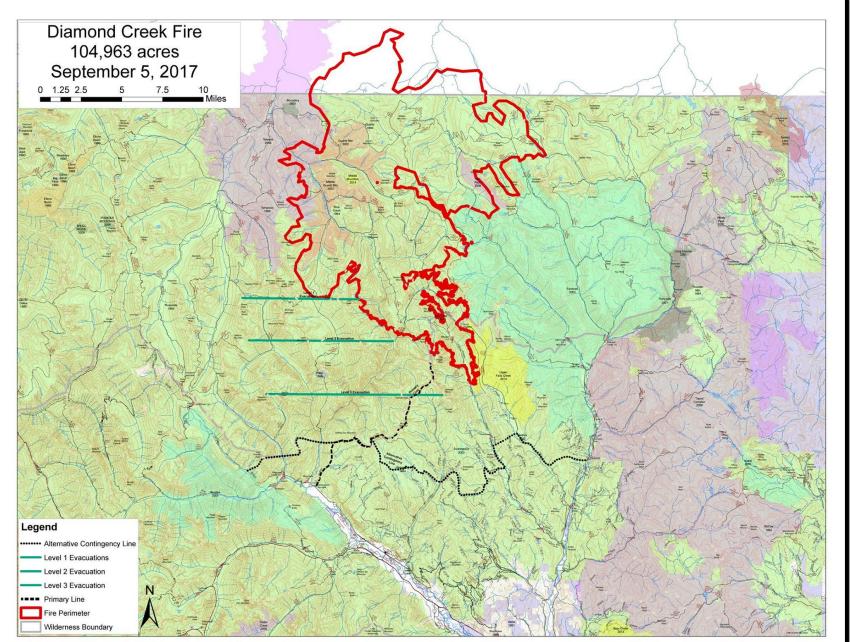
## **Research Questions**

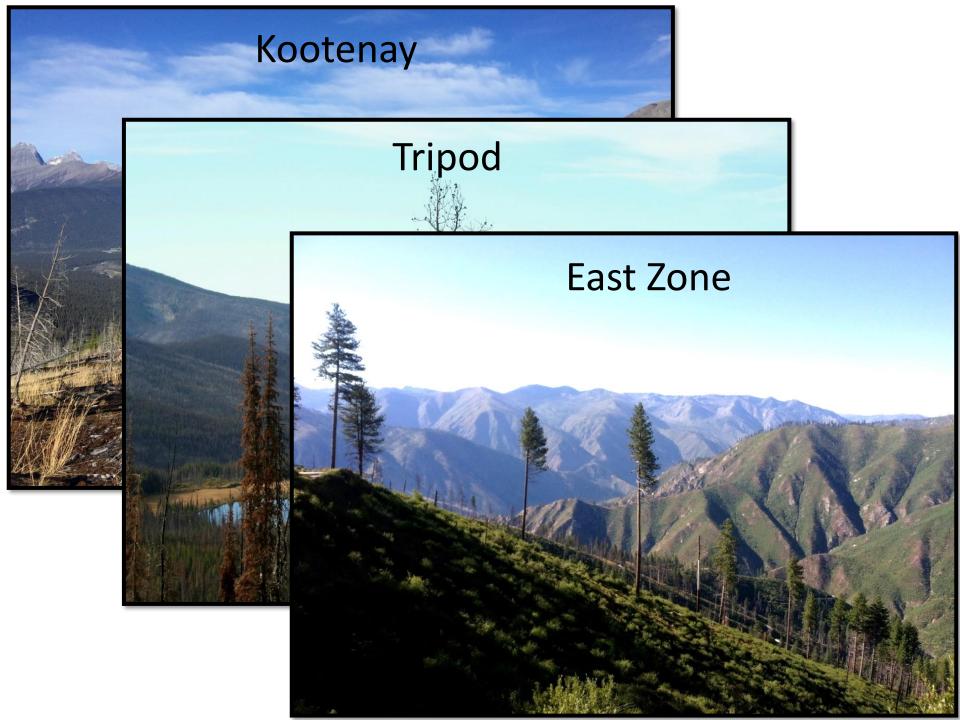
How do the location, size and age of past wildfires influence subsequent wildfire behavior and effects?

Were past wildfires effective as barriers to subsequent fire spread or to mitigate burn severity?



### **Research Questions, cont.**

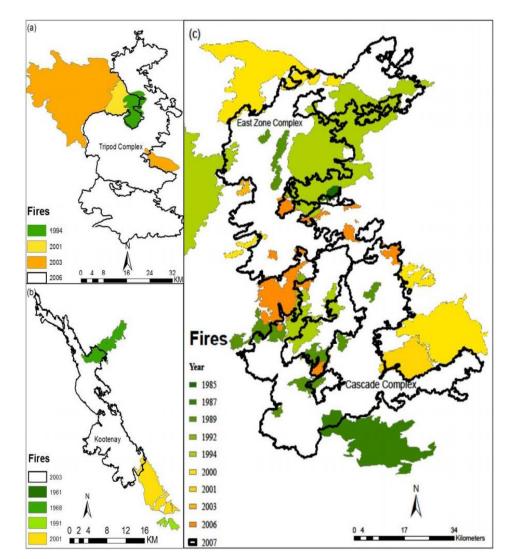




# Task 1 – Burn Severity Analysis

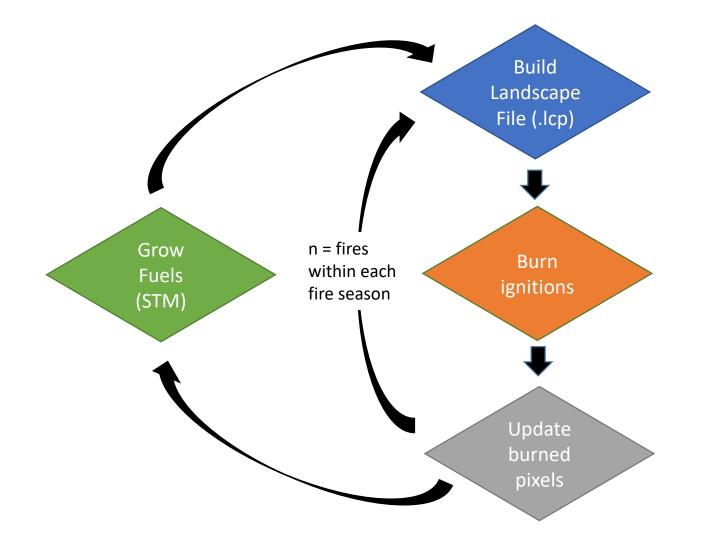
### Prior wildfires influence burn severity of subsequent large fires

Camille S. Stevens-Rumann, Susan J. Prichard, Eva K. Strand, and Penelope Morgan

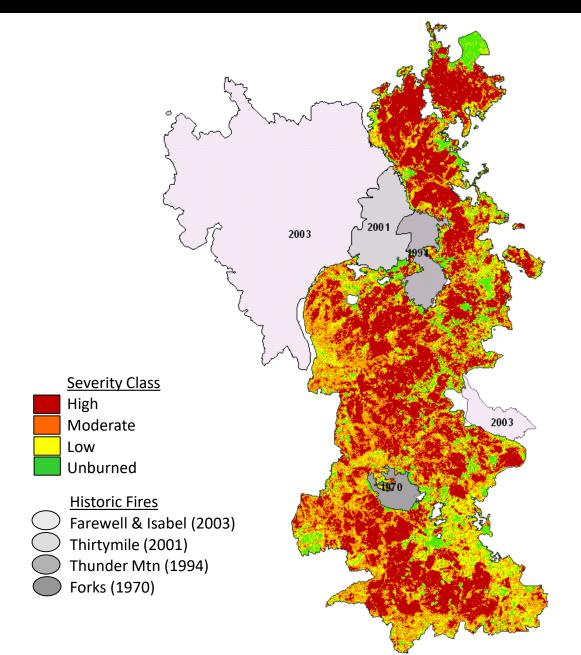


- Past burn severity reduced subsequent burn severitymore resistant
- Even under extreme fire weather conditions, vegetation, topography, and past burn severity all impacted reburn severity

## Task 2 – Spatial Simulation Modeling



### Task 3: Evaluate Alternatives to Tripod 2006



### **Tripod Progressions and Weather (July 2006)**

	Cumulative
BurnDate, Time	Acres
7/24/06 9:00 PM	110
7/25/06 10:42 AM	1,267
7/26/06 8:00 AM	4,223
7/27/06 11:00 PM	14,985
7/28/06 9:00 AM	16,765
7/29/06 11:00 PM	27,106
7/30/06 11:00 PM	35,475
7/31/06 11:00 PM	35,838
8/1/06 11:00 PM	36,544
8/2/06 11:00 PM	40,831
8/4/06 2:19 AM	43,941
8/5/06 8:48 PM	49,328
8/6/06 10:13 PM	62,938
8/8/06 9:28 PM	74,587
8/10/06 2:00 AM	79,321
8/12/06 4:00 PM	82,754
8/13/06 2:00 AM	83,288
8/14/06 2:00 AM	89,509
8/15/06 2:00 AM	95,122
8/16/06 2:00 AM	99,388
8/17/06 2:00 AM	103,399
8/18/06 2:00 AM	109,441
8/19/06 2:00 AM	114,566
8/20/06 2:00 AM	119,640
8/21/06 2:00 AM	124,807

Burn	Max	Min RH	Avg Wind	Avg Wind	Max	Wind	Haines Index
Date	Temp (F)	(%)	(mph)	Dir (°)	Gust	Direction	
					(mph)		
7/13/06	66	21	1	187	15	S	
7/14/06	69	31	2	221	15	SW	
7/15/06	72	22	1	194	14	S	
7/16/06	74	15	2	220	11	SW	
7/17/06	77	16	3	229	16	SW	
7/18/06	82	14	1	241	13	SW	
7/19/06	75	20	3	228	16	SW	
7/20/06	73	28	3	167	15	S	
7/21/06	82	16	2	181	12	S	
7/22/06	89	21	2	143	12	SE	
7/23/06	95	15	1	203	10		
7/24/06	92	14	4	252	12	W	
7/25/06	81	19	6	316	18	NW	
7/26/06	88	11	5	273	20	W	2 Very Low
7/27/06	91	12	3	267	19	W	3 Very Low
7/28/06	71	23	6	329	16	NW	5 Moderate
7/29/06	82	18	2	165	16	S	4-5 Moderate
7/30/06	65	25	2	244	14	SW	3 Very Low
7/31/06	61	24	2	225	15	SW	3 Very Low
8/1/06	70	21	1	233	13	SW	3 Very Low
8/2/06	74	16	5	263	20	W	3 Very Low
8/4/06	77	17	1.3	188	12	S	4 Low
8/5/06	76	20	2.7	210	14	SW	4 Low
8/6/06	81	17	2	194	13	S	4 Low

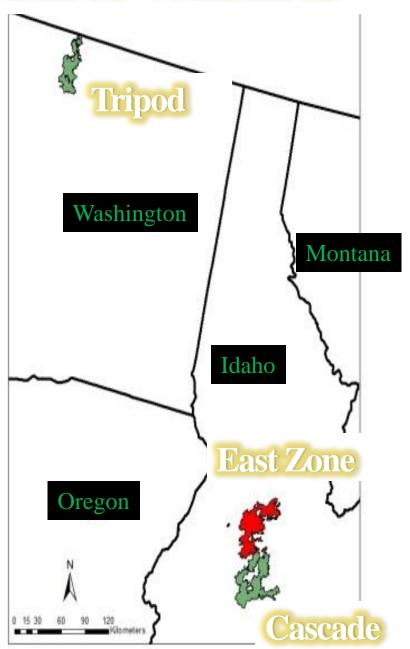
# **Wildland Fire Decision Analysis**

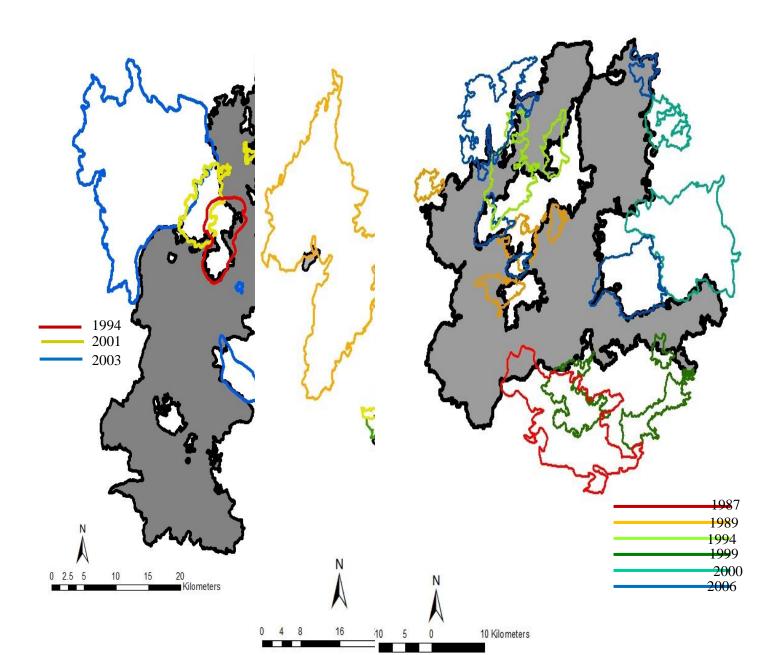
#### Strategic Planning - Fire Decision Analysis

Sample incident decision document (WFDSS would normally be decision of record)

Alternative Landscape: 🗹 No Fire	Full Suppression	Managed wildfires		
SITUATION INFORMATION				
Location of fire, cause				
Weather forecast				
Short-term fire behavior				
prediction (FARSITE)				
Objectives and requirements				
RISK ASSESSMENTS				
Relative risk assessment	Communities /	Water	Fish & wildlife	Forest
<ul> <li>Communities</li> </ul>	other ownerships	quality,	Habitat	health,
<ul> <li>Air quality</li> </ul>	Risk, Air Quality	fisheries		restoration
<ul> <li>Water quality</li> </ul>				
Wildlife habitat				
Fisheries				
<ul> <li>Forest health</li> </ul>				
Values inventory				
Extended risk assessment		•		
Weather and fire behavior				
analysis				
Benefits analysis				
Cost analysis				
HAZARD/RISK CONTROL				
Incident objectives &				
requirements				
Course of action				
Strategies	Full suppression	Managed wildfire	Forest restorat	ion
Management action points				
Cost estimates				

# **Three Wildfires**





# Methods

### Spatial Autoregression (SAR)

Multiple predictor variables to predict a single response: burn severity

Tripod: 326,541 points East Zone: 905,805 points Cascade: 975,414 points Туре

Wildfire data

**Fire Weather** 

Predictor Variables Past burn severity Distance to Edge (m) Time since fire

> MaxTemp(°C) AvgTemp(°C) MaxGust(kph) AvgWind(kph) MinRH (%)

Canopy height (m) Canopy bulk density (kg/m3)

Vegetation

Cover Type Canopy Cover (%) Existing veg height (m)

Elevation (m) Hill Shade Slope(degrees) Solar radiation (WH/m^2)

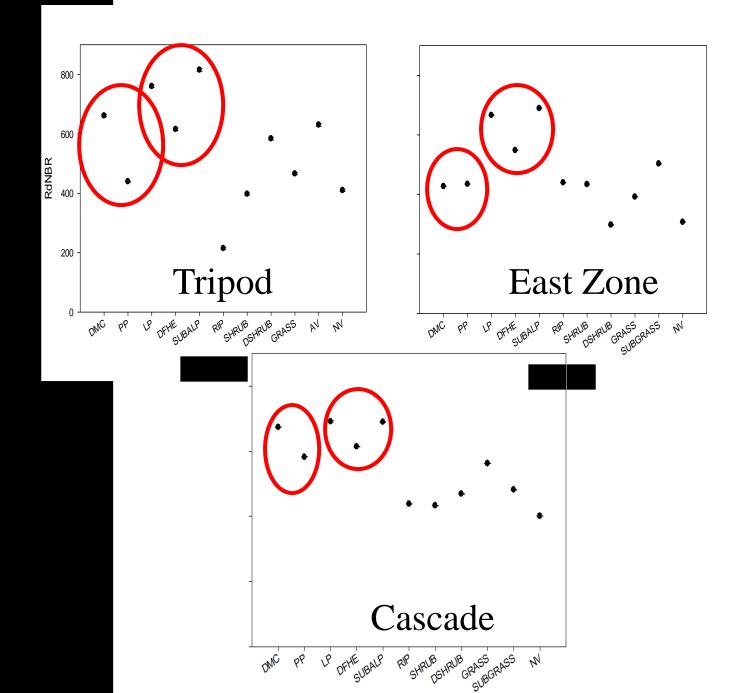
Topography

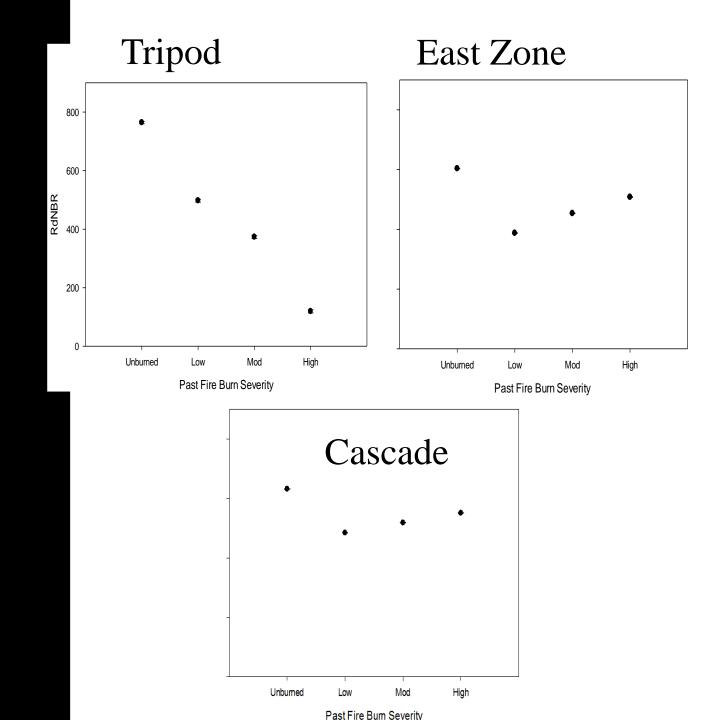
Topographic wetness (TWI)

Valley bottom Ridgetop

# **Final model**

Fire	Tripod	East Zone	Cascade
<b>R</b> <sup>2</sup>	0.92	0.73	0.77
AIC	4211617	12705587	13728154
Past burn severity			
Distance to edge			
Cover type			
Max temp			
Valley	$\checkmark$		
Slope or TWI			
Elevation			
Canopy cover			
Max gust	·		





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# **State and Transition Model Development**



**State 1A**: Post-fire bare ground. Fuel model NB9. 0-14 yr.



**State 4A:** Understory reinitiation. Fuel model TU5. 90-129 yr.



**State 2A**: Stand initiation. Fuel model GS1. 15-49 yr.



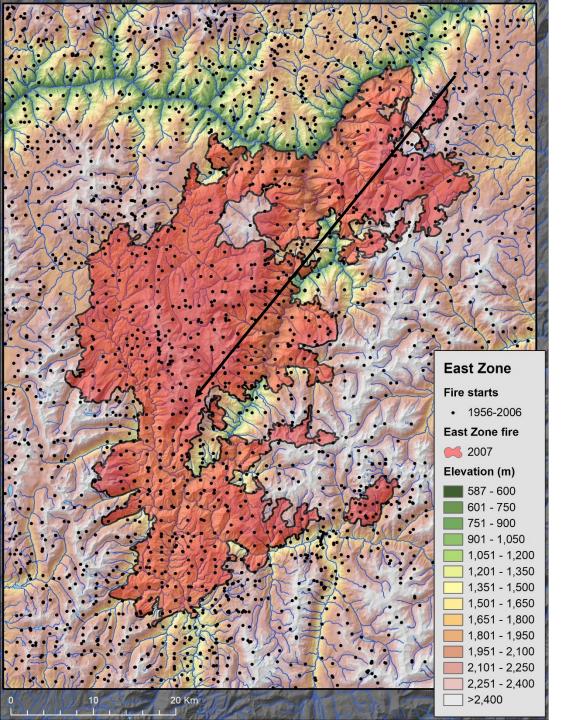
**State 5A**: Young forest multi-story. Fuel model TU5. 130-179 yr.



State 3A: Stem exclusion closedcanopy. Fuel model 2. 50-89 yr.



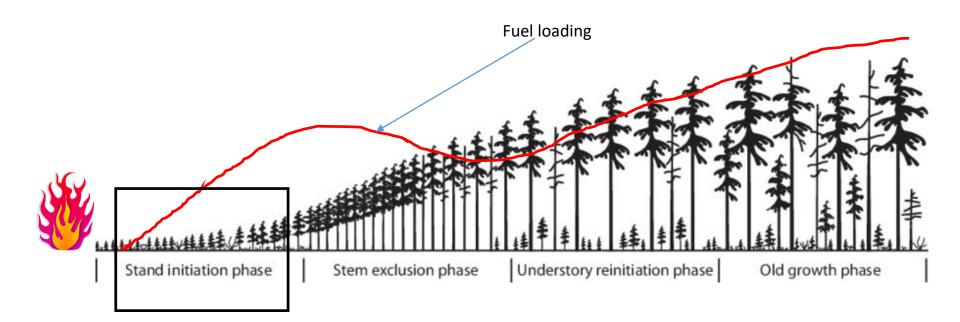
**State 6A**: Old forest multi-story. Fuel model TU5. ≥ 180 yr.



#### Pixel burned in 1956

- Assigned State 1A following fire season
- Add a time step prior to 1956
- In the absence of fire, this pixel will transition to State 2A in 1957.

### Fuel succession is a continuum....



#### Ecological succession using stand structure classes (ICBEMP)



#### Fuelbed succession (chronosequence) using FCCS, local fuel succession models







The primary carrier of fire in GR2 is grass, though small amounts of ad farel may be present. Load is greater than GR1, and fuelbed may be more ous. Shrubs, if present, do not affect fire behavior.

Fine fuel loed (t/ac) 1.10 inacteristic SAV (ft-1) 1820 ratio (dimensioners) 0.2015



TU1 (161)



carrier of fire in TU1 is low load of grass and/ shrub with litter. Spread rate is low; flame length low. Fine fuel load (t/ac) 1.3 Dharacteristic SAV (th-1) 1606 ing ratio (dimensionless) 0.00885 without current (across) 20

TUS (165) Very High Load, Dry Climate Timber-Shrui



: The primary canter of fire in TUS is heavy forest litter with a shrub or small tree understory. Spread rate is moderate; flame length moderate. Fine fuel load (t/ec) 7.0 Characteristic SAV (t/-1) 1224 udding ratio (dimensionless) 0.02009 molisture content (percent) 25



imary carier of fire in TUS is heavy forest litter with a shrub o tree understory. Spread rate is moderate; fame length moderate Fine fuel load (t/ac) 7.0 Characteristic SAV (t-1) 1224 sing ratio (dimensioniess) 0.02009 noisture content (percent) 25



TUS (165)

Very High Load, Dry Cilmate Timber-Shrub

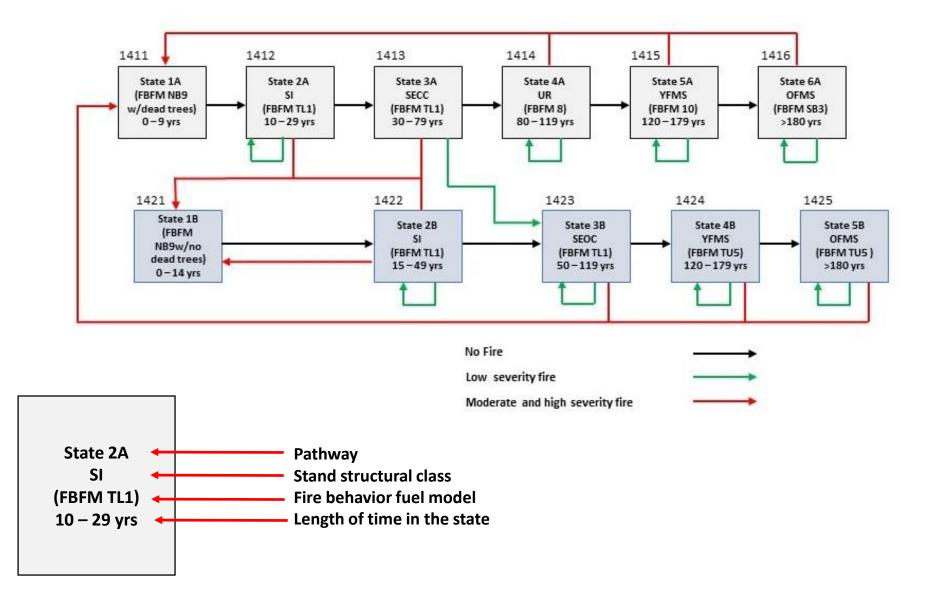


\$83 (203)

High Load Activity Fuel or Moderate Load Biov

Rine fuel load (t/ac) Characteristic SAV (t-1) Packing ratio (dimensionless) Extinction moisture content (percent)	1935 0.01345
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#### State and Transition Model Tripod Cold Moist Conifer



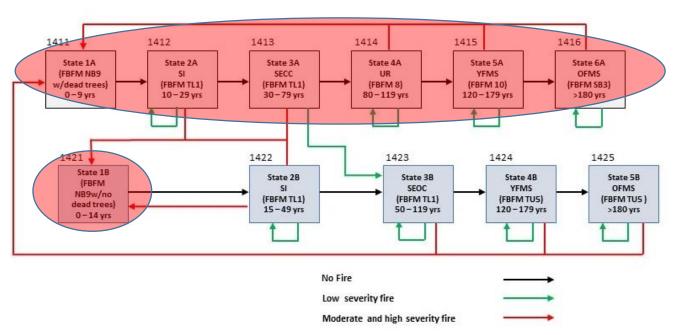
# 4) Cold Moist Conifer

The cold moist conifer STM follows successional trajectories in lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests on moist sites that are somewhat more productive than the cold dry conifer STM but with the same states and pathways.

ID	State	Time	Stand	Surface	Canopy	Canopy	Crown	Canopy
		period	structure	fuel	bulk	base	closure	height
		(yr)	class	model	density	height	(%)	(m)
					(kg/m³)	(m)		
	1A	0-9	PFBG	NB9	0.0010	0.0	10	2.0
	2A	10-29	SI	TL1	0.0673	0.5	30	6.1
	3A	30-79	SECC	TL1	0.0993	0.8	70	16.2
	4A	80-119	UR	8	0.1137	0.8	60	22.3
	5A	120-179	YFMS	10	0.1185	0.8	65	33.2
	6A	≥180	OFMS	SB3	0.1185	0.4	70	33.2
	1B	0-14	PFBG	NB9	0.0010	0.0	5	2.0
	2B	15-49	SI	TL1	0.0336	0.5	26	6.1
	3B	50-119	SEOC	TL1	0.0673	1.0	46	22.3
	4B	120-179	YFMS	TU5	0.1185	0.8	65	33.2
	5B	≥180	OFMS	TU5	0.1185	0.6	70	33.2

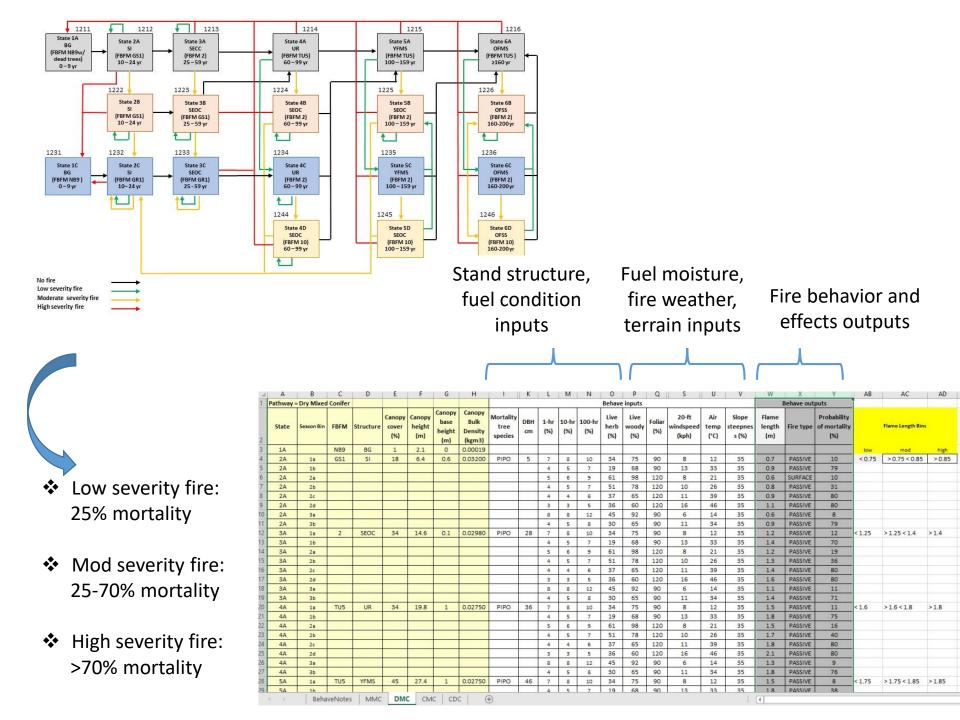
**Table 6:** Cold moist conifer STM surface and canopy fuel assignments by state.

# Difference between pathways – function of fire behavior/effects at each successional stage



#### State and Transition Model Tripod Cold Moist Conifer

- Fuel load from antecedent forest carried forward through several stages of forest and fuel succession
- Fuels from antecedent forest mostly consumed early in succession on pathway "A" in a reburn. The result is much lower fuel loading carried forward on pathway "B" through several stages of succession.



# **Cold Dry Conifer STMs**



**State 1A**: Post-fire bare ground. Fuel model NB9. 0-14 yr.



**State 4A:** Understory reinitiation. Fuel model TU5. 90-129 yr.



**State 2A**: Stand initiation. Fuel model GS1. 15-49 yr.



**State 5A**: Young forest multi-story. Fuel model TU5. 130-179 yr.

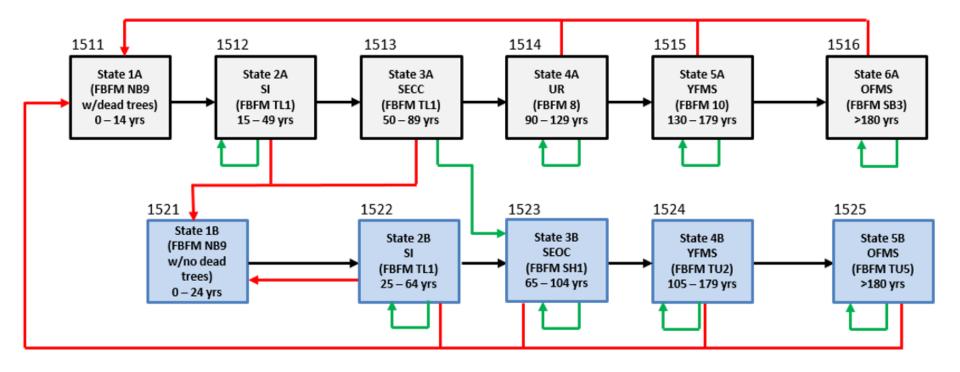


State 3A: Stem exclusion closedcanopy. Fuel model 2. 50-89 yr.



**State 6A**: Old forest multi-story. Fuel model TU5. ≥ 180 yr.

### **Cold Dry Conifer Model**





# **Dry Mixed Conifer STMs**



State 1A: Post-fire bare ground. Fuel model NB9. 0-9 yr.



**State 4A:** Understory reinitiation. Fuel model TU5. 60-99 yr.



State 2A: Stand initiation. Fuel model GS1. 10-24 yr.



**State 5A**: Young forest multi-story. Fuel model TU5. 100-159 yr.

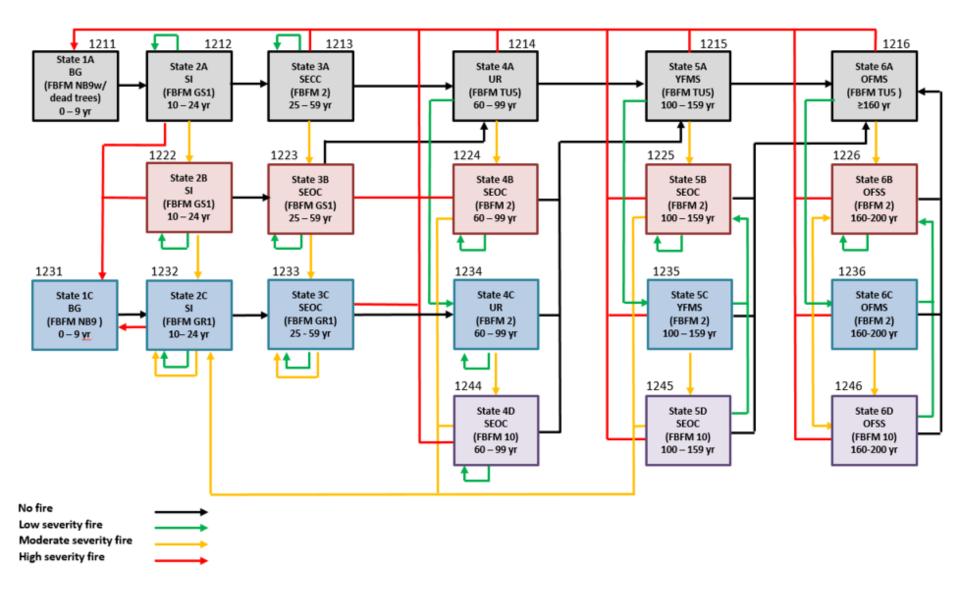


State 3A: Stem exclusion closedcanopy. Fuel model 2. 25-59 yr.



**State 6A**: Old forest multi-story. Fuel model TU5. 80-120 yr.

#### **Dry Mixed Conifer Model**



State and Transition Models of semi-arid forest landscapes in western North America: fire and fuel pathways



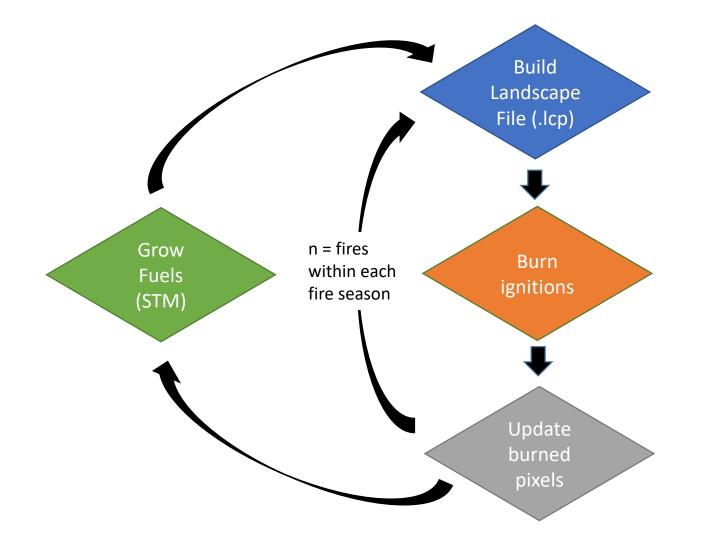
#### Authors:

Susan Prichard, Bob Gray, Richy Harrod, Paul Hessburg, Nicholas Povak, and Brion Salter

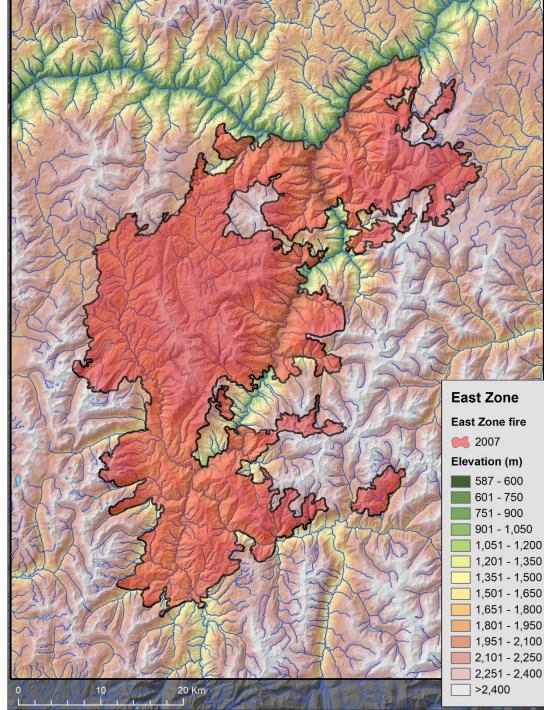
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## Task 2 – Spatial Simulation Modeling

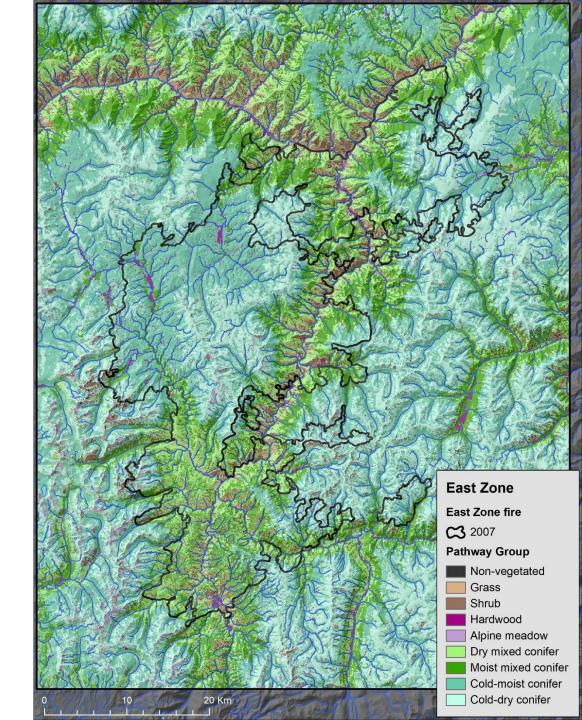






McCall ★

# Base Landscape Development (East Zone)



## Pathway Group Map Development

- 1) Spatially represented Pathway Groups across the study area (LANDFIRE base map reclassified to pathway groups and states).
- 2) Fine-tuned using aspect and topographic ridgetop and valleybottom settings for all forest types/pathway groups.
- For high-elevation forests used biophysical setting to differentiate high-elevation cold-dry and cold-moist and also between lower elevation dry-mixed conifer and moist-mixed conifer.

	Pathway		Max Time	FBFM							
StateID	Group	State	in State	Name	FBFM	СС	СН	СВН	CBD	FRST_SS	Structure
1111	NoPath	1A	9999	NB9	99	0	0.0	0.0	0.0000	20	BG - rock/water/ice
1121	NoPath	1B	9999	GR4	104	0	0.0	0.0	0.0000	17	herbland
1131	NoPath	1C	9999	GS2	122	0	0.0	0.0	0.0000	18	shrubland
1141	NoPath	1D	9999	TU1	161	60	15.0	5.0	0.1314	19	hardwoods
1151	NoPath	1E	9999	TU1	161	0	0.0	0.0	0.0000	17	montane meadow
1211	DMC	1A	10	NB9	99	1	2.1	0.0	0.0019	20	PFBG
1212	DMC	2A	15	GS1	121	18	6.4	0.6	0.0320	10	SI
1213	DMC	3A	35	2	2	60	14.6	0.8	0.0298	12	SECC
1214	DMC	4A	40	TU5	165	34	19.8	1.0	0.0275	13	UR
1215	DMC	5A	60	TU5	165	45	27.4	1.0	0.0275	14	YFMS
1216	DMC	6A	9999	TU5	165	55	36.6	1.5	0.0320	15	OFMS
1222	DMC	2B	15	GS1	121	15	5.5	0.6	0.0205	10	SI
1223	DMC	3B	35	GS1	121	25	13.7	1.5	0.0228	11	SEOC
1224	DMC	4B	40	2	2	30	18.3	1.0	0.0259	11	SEOC
1225	DMC	5B	60	2	2	40	27.4	2.0	0.0275	11	SEOC
1226	DMC	6B	40	2	2	55	36.6	3.0	0.0275	16	OFSS
1231	DMC	1C	10	NB9	99	1	2.1	0.0	0.0019	20	PFBG
1232	DMC	2C	15	GR1	101	15	5.5	0.6	0.0205	10	SI
1233	DMC	3C	35	GR1	101	25	13.7	1.5	0.0228	11	SEOC
1234	DMC	4C	40	2	2	30	18.3	1.0	0.0259	13	UR
1235	DMC	5C	60	2	2	40	27.4	1.5	0.0275	14	YFMS
1236	DMC	6C	40	2	2	55	36.6	1.0	0.0275	13	UR
1244	DMC	4D	40	10	10	34	19.8	1.5	0.0275	11	SEOC
1245	DMC	5D	60	10	10	45	27.4	1.5	0.0275	11	SEOC
1246	DMC	6D	40	10	10	55	36.6	2.5	0.0320	16	OFSS

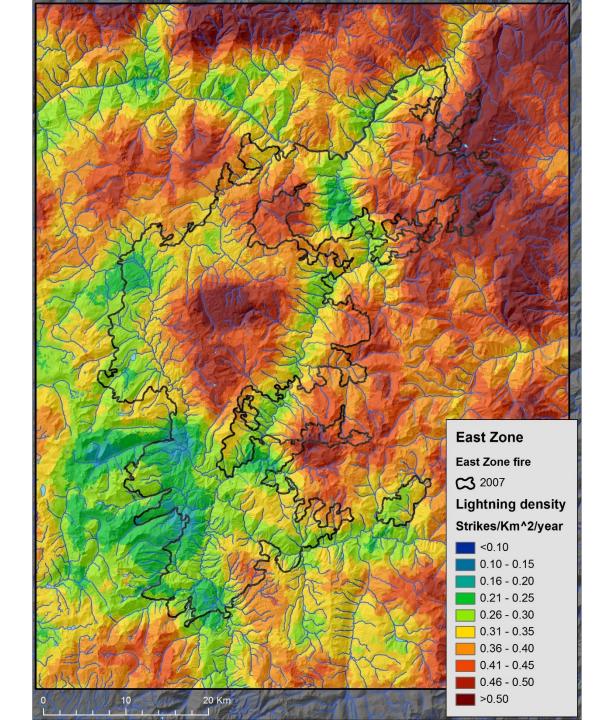
## **Model Selection**

### FSPro

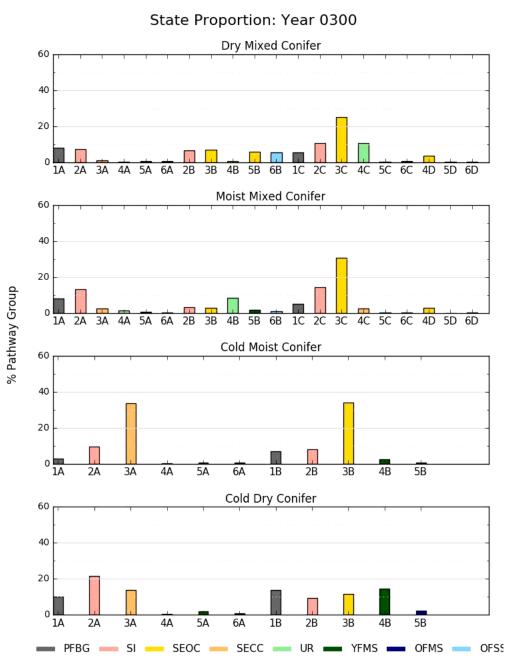
- Allows for daily ERC, wind speed and direction to vary across burn period.
- Some stochasticity allowed in fire progression.
- Command line version was available, allowing us to integrate into geospatial modeling framework.
- Commonly used in WFDSS our implementation was more of a hybrid between FSPro and MTT that ran a single fire but varied weather across the burn period.

## **Simulation Modeling Steps**

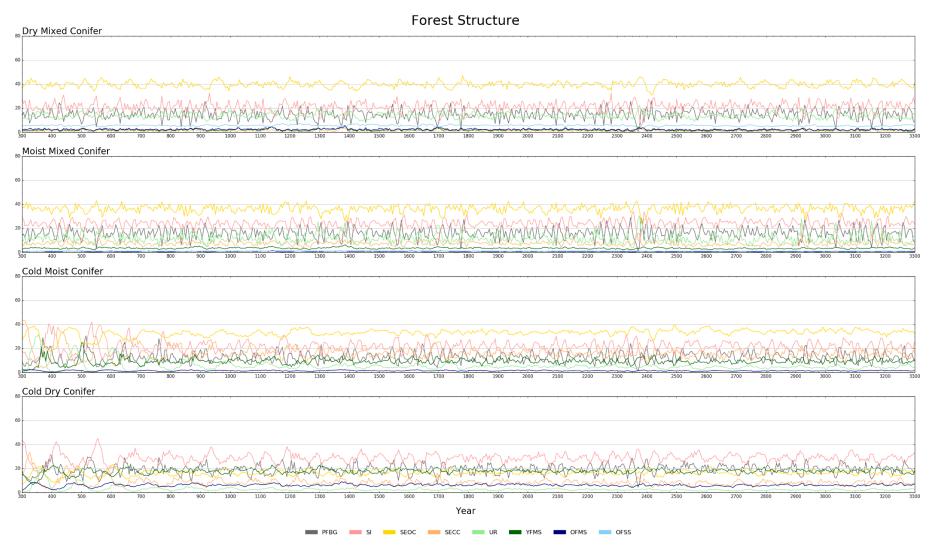
- 1. Start fire season with year + 1 and any STM transitions.
- 2. Randomly select fire year (number of fires)
- 3. For each fire, randomly select Julian date for ignition (based on known distributions of events)
- 4. Spatially allocate fires using lightning probability map
- 5. Ignite each fire by date (drawn from weather stream data for that day)
- 6. Fire runs until two consecutive days of ERC < 55 (2 week maximum)
- 7. Burned pixels remain NB9 through fire season
- 8. At end of fire season convert modeled flame lengths to burn severity and update state map



### **Calibration Tool – East Zone state movies**

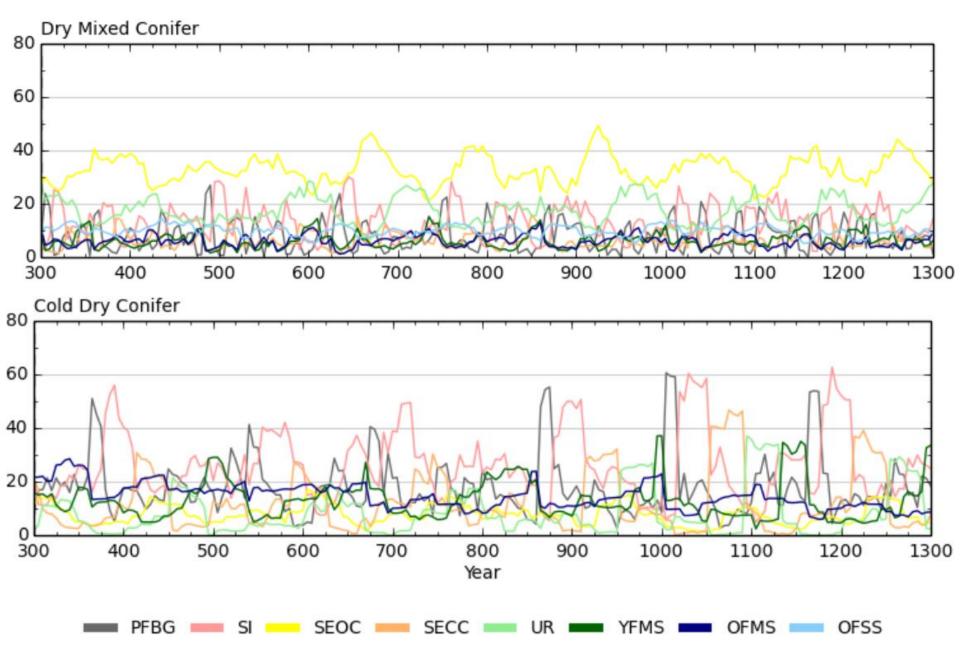


## East Zone 3000-year Calibration and Spin Up

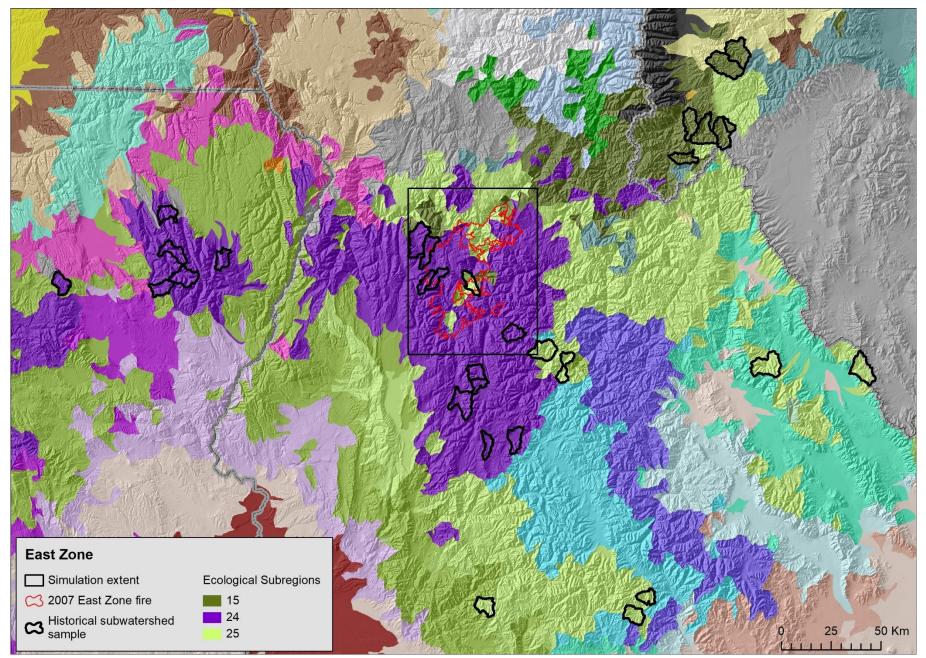


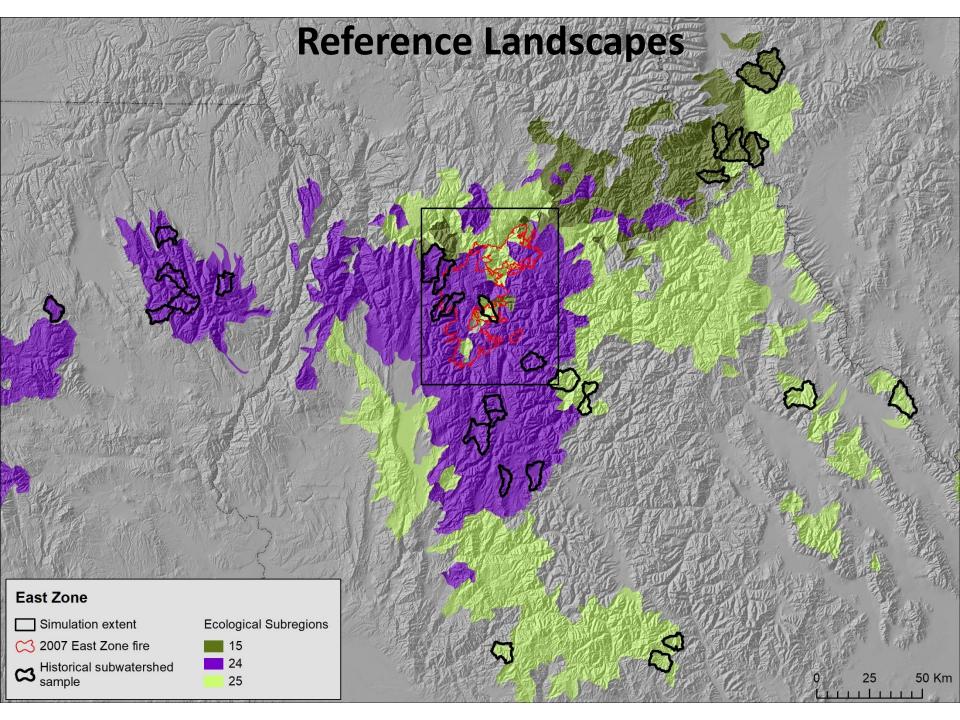


## **Tripod Year 300 - 1300**



## **Reference Landscapes**





## **Comparison with Historical Reference Landscapes**

PWG	Structure	HRV_Median	HRV_min	HRV_10th	HRV_90th	HRV_max
DMC	PFSI	7.9	0.0	0.0	47.4	65.0
DMC	SEOC	20.0	0.0	1.4	47.9	49.9
DMC	SECC	0.4	0.0	0.0	8.6	17.0
DMC	UR	23.5	0.0	0.0	51.8	92.3
DMC	YFMS	4.2	0.0	0.0	19.3	43.2
DMC	OFMS	1.1	0.0	0.0	43.8	52.8
DMC	OFSS	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.6	22.4
MMC	PFSI	11.4	0.0	1.3	30.7	87.7
MMC	SEOC	10.2	0.7	2.1	25.3	37.8
MMC	SECC	7.2	0.0	0.1	38.2	90.4
MMC	UR	17.0	0.0	2.2	44.1	50.2
MMC	YFMS	5.5	0.0	0.0	32.6	71.6
MMC	OFMS	16.1	0.0	0.0	38.8	47.7
MMC	OFSS	1.3	0.0	0.0	14.3	20.0
CMC	PFSI	3.6	0.0	0.0	35.2	73.7
СМС	SEOC	5.1	0.0	0.0	14.6	56.3
СМС	SECC	4.9	0.0	0.0	49.1	81.8
СМС	UR	15.7	0.0	0.0	70.1	100.0
СМС	YFMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.0	100.0
СМС	OFMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	46.5
СМС	OFSS	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	53.5
CDC	PFSI	7.8	0.0	0.0	33.2	79.1
CDC	SEOC	14.3	0.0	0.0	48.3	100.0
CDC	SECC	0.4	0.0	0.0	21.2	73.6
CDC	UR	12.2	0.0	0.0	65.5	100.0
CDC	YFMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.9	41.2
CDC	OFMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.7	64.2
CDC	OFSS	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.1	35.8

## **Wildland Fire Management Scenarios**

- A) Complete absence of fire -- no ignitions
- **B)** Modern Suppression -- only fires that escape suppression
- Escaped wildfire threshold:
  - Ignition date between 135 and 304 (May 15 to Oct 31)
  - Minimum of 1 burnable pixel within ignition perimeter
  - Ignition day threshold to burning: ERC ≥ 67 and Wind ≥ 20 mph
- **C)** Partial Suppression -- managed wildfires in the late-summer and fall fire seasons and escaped wildfires (above)
  - Ignition date between 187 and 304 (July 5 to Oct 31)
  - ERC < 67 and Wind  $\leq$  10 mph within first 5 days

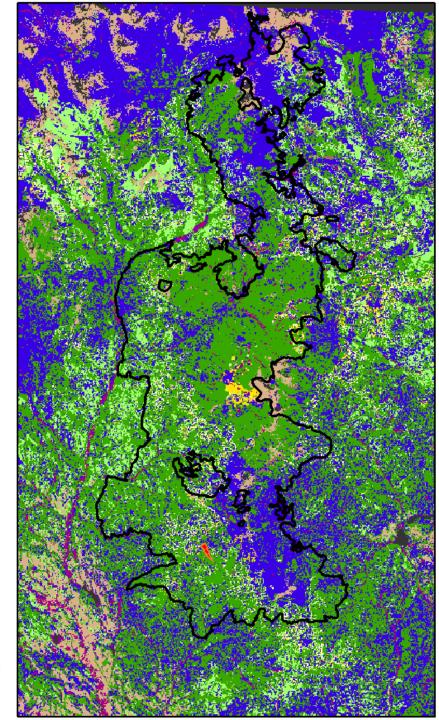
### D) No Suppression – all ignitions that meet thresholds to burning:

- Ignition date between 135 and 304 (May 15 to Oct 31)
- Ignition day threshold to burning:  $ERC \ge 55$
- Minimum of 1 burnable pixel within ignition perimeter

A) Complete absence of fire (no ignitions from 1940 to 2005)

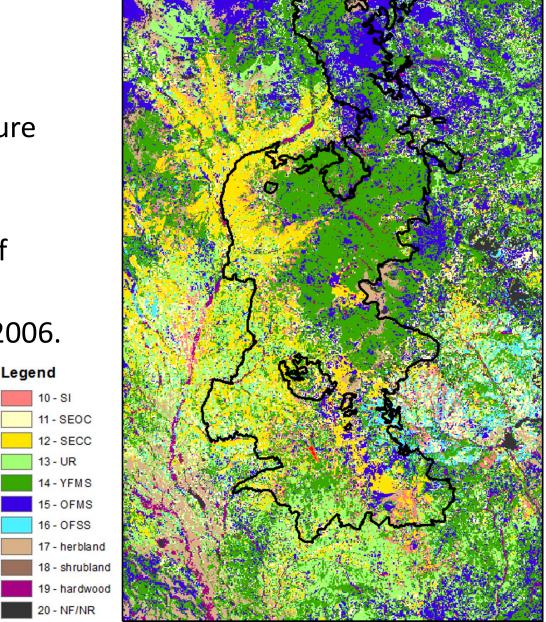
Homogenous landscape, mostly of young and old multi-storied forests.





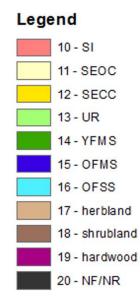
B) Full Suppression (2% fires)

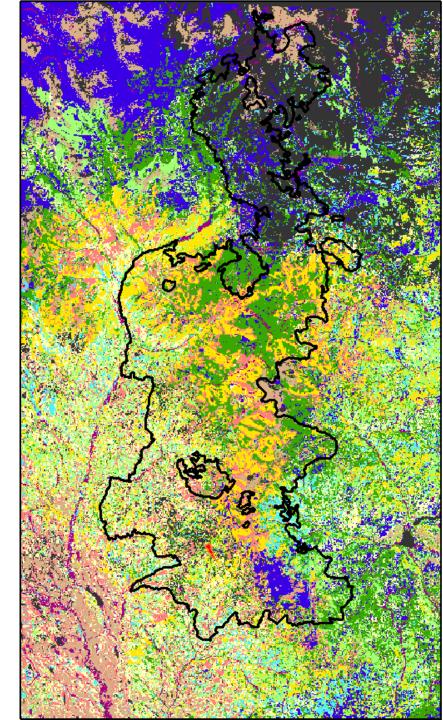
- General infilling of the landscape with more mature forests prior to 2006.
- In some iterations of this scenario, random draws of wind scenarios resulted in large, recent fires before 2006.



C) Partial Suppression

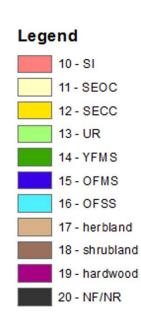
- Finer-grain landscape mosaics at lower elevations that support dry, mixed conifer forests
- Large, recent fire in cool highelevation mixed conifer forests.

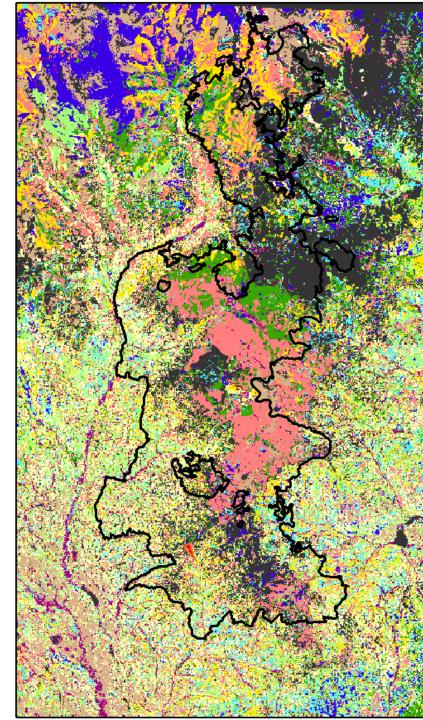




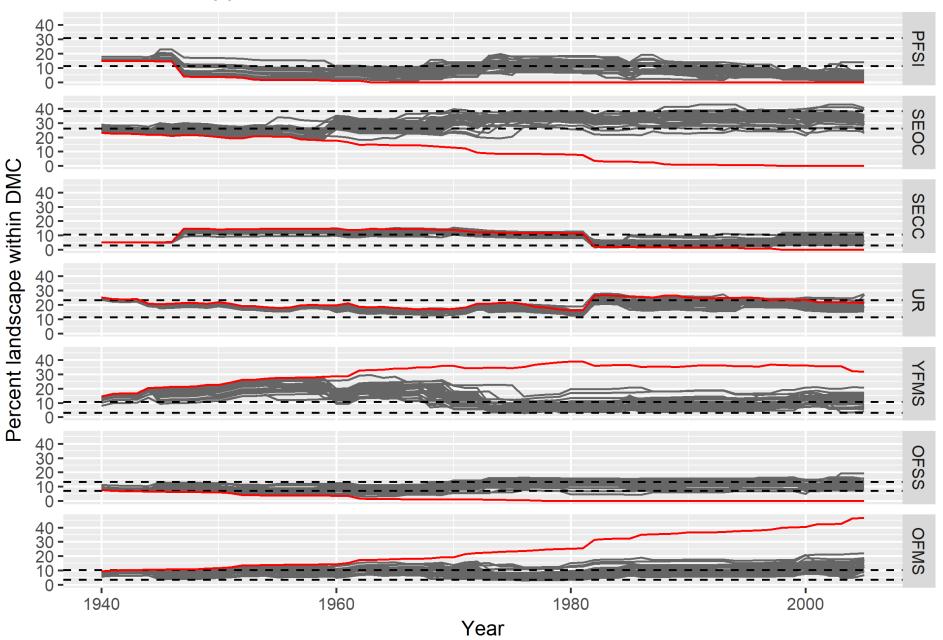
D. No suppression (let it burn)

- Landscape supports low percentage of mature forest
- Highest pixilation of any of the scenarios.
- Patches of young forest multistory and old forest multistory generally surrounded by recent burns (black pixels) and regenerating forest.

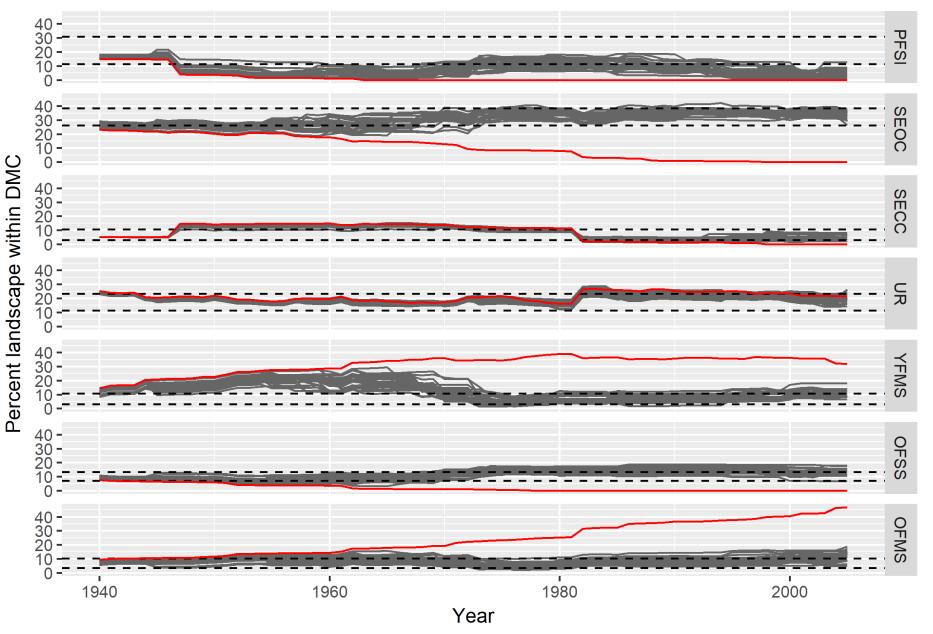




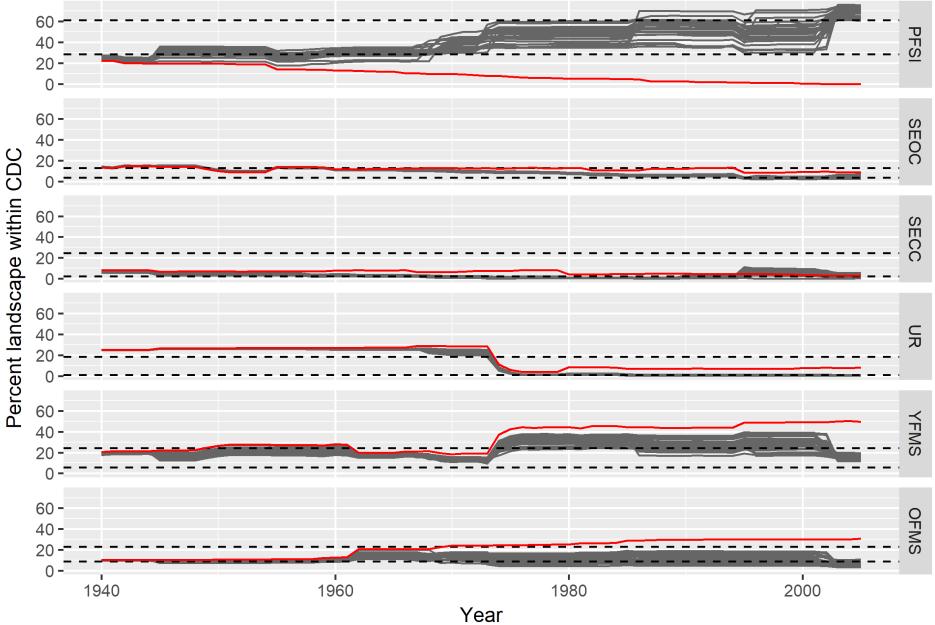
#### DMC: Full suppression



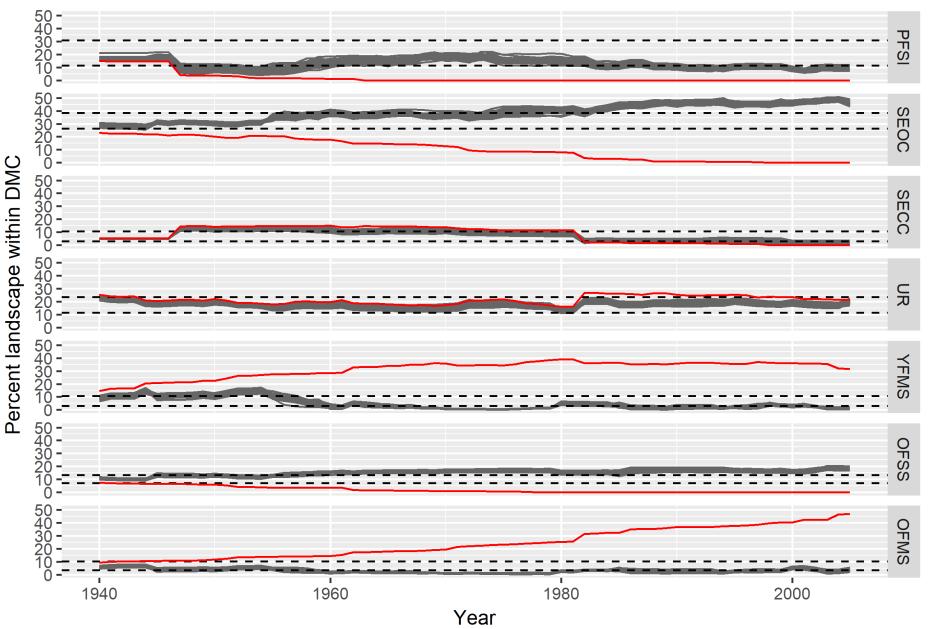
### DMC: Partial suppression



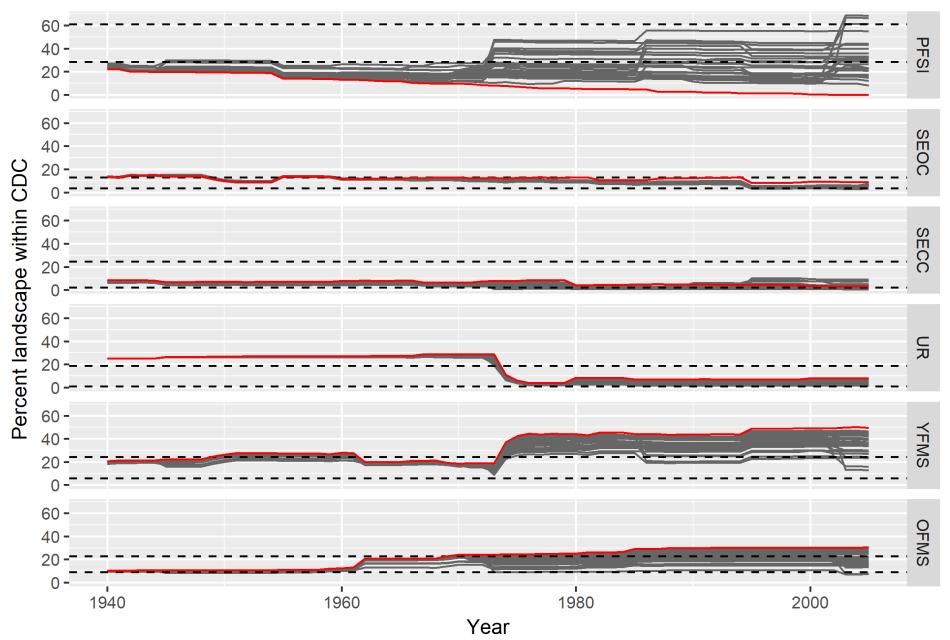
### CDC: No suppression

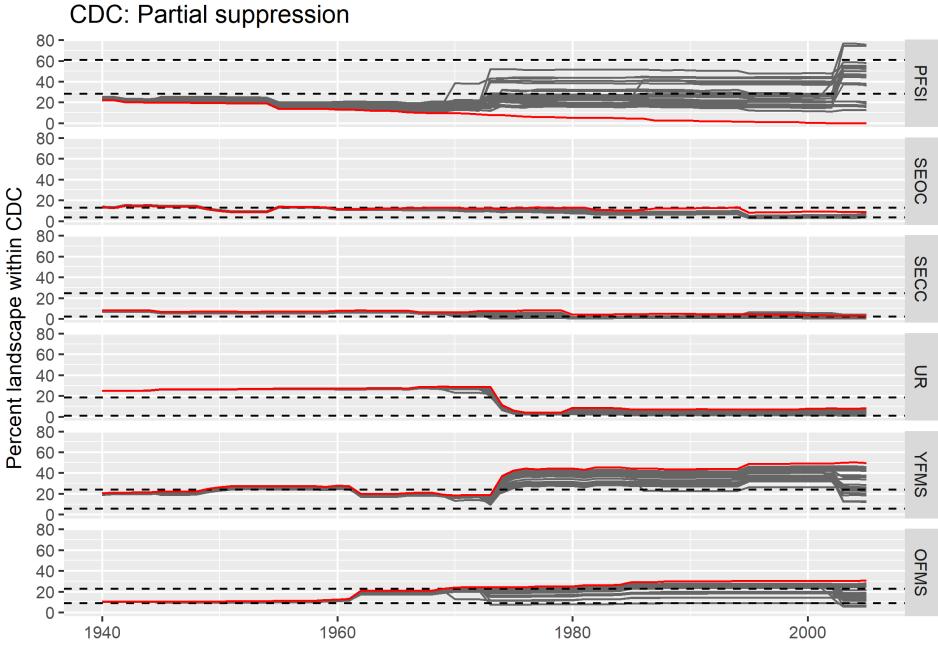


#### DMC: No suppression



### CDC: Full suppression





Year

## Summary

- 1) Proactive wildland fire management can reduce the likelihood of large-scale vegetation and fire regime shifts associated with large fires.
- 2) <u>No fire</u> and <u>Full Suppression</u> scenarios represent "boom and bust" landscapes -- continuous mature forests are capable of supporting large fire spread.
- **3)** <u>Managed wildfires</u> and <u>Let it Burn</u> Scenarios have finer-grained patch mosaics and would potentially result in markedly different approaches to wildland fire management.

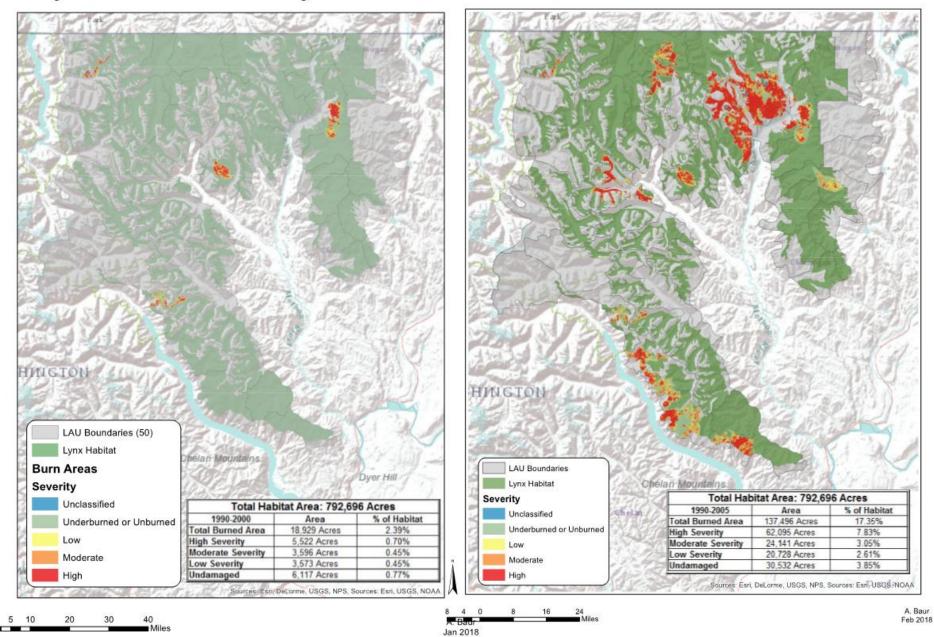


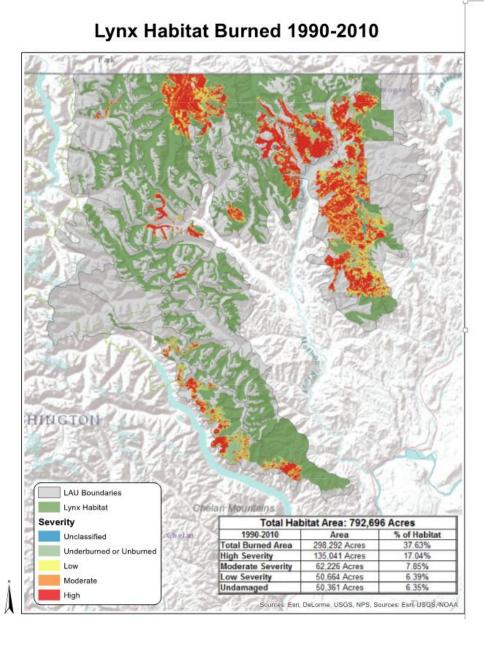
## **Management Applications –**

- **1)Wildlife habitat management in the context of fire** habitat is dynamically generated and tied to burn mosaics
- **2) Managed wildfires -** implications of managed fire scenarios for wildlife habitat (e.g., Canada Lynx)
- 3) Climate change improving resilience of landscapes
- **4)** Carbon storage stabilizing carrying capacity of landscapes under varying wildfire scenarios

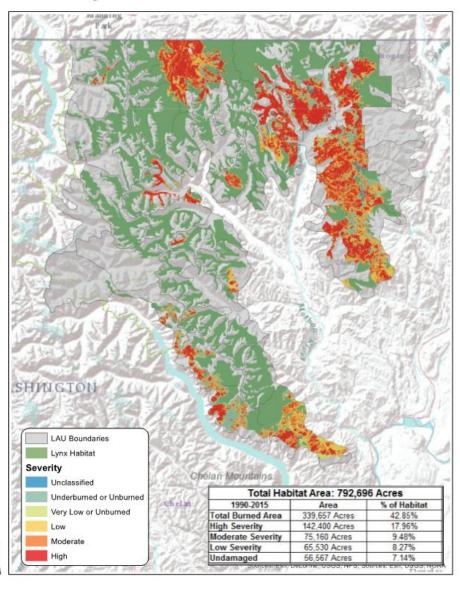
#### Lynx Habitat Burn Severity 1990-2000

#### Lynx Habitat Burned 1990-2005

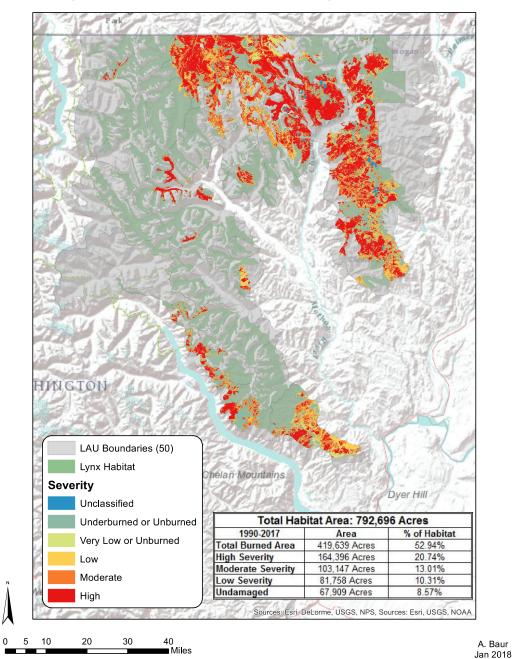




#### Lynx Habitat Burned 1990-2015



#### Lynx Habitat Burn Severity 1990-2017



### **Next Steps**

1) Complete management scenarios for East Zone, Kootenay

2) State and Transition Models – datasets for carbon, emissions inventories, wildlife habitat

3) WFDSS training layers to explore management scenarios

4) Climate change scenarios, what happens when 2006 is a moderate scenario?

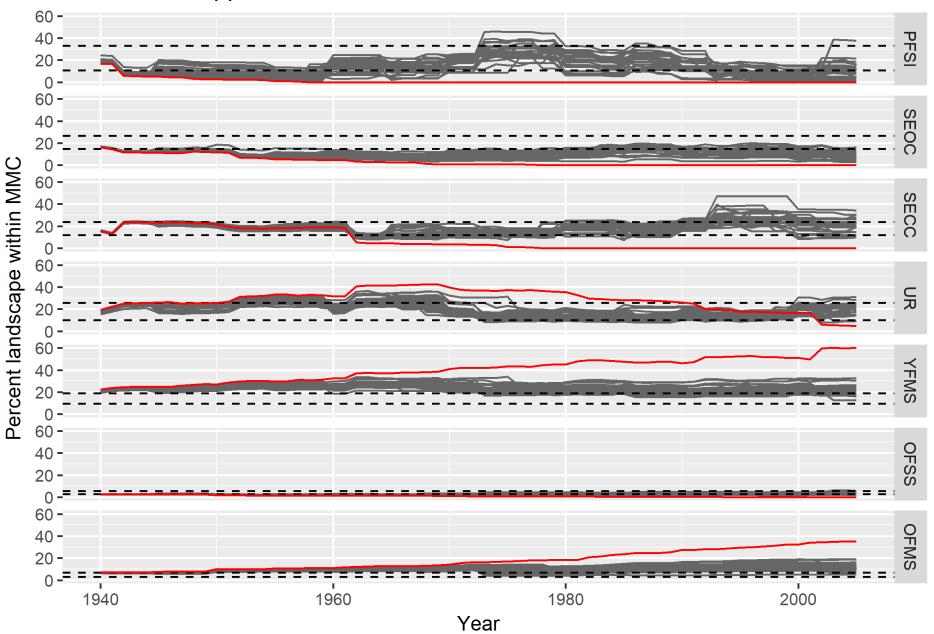
## AGENDA

Agenda	Details	Presenter
0800 - 0820	Introduction to the Reburn Project	Prichard
0820 - 0840	Vegetation and fire dynamics	Gray
0840 - 0900	Wildland fire management scenarios	Prichard
0900 - 0920	Climate change and landscape resilience	Prichard
0920 - 0930	Discussion	Gray & Prichard
0930 - 1000	Break and load into vans	ALL

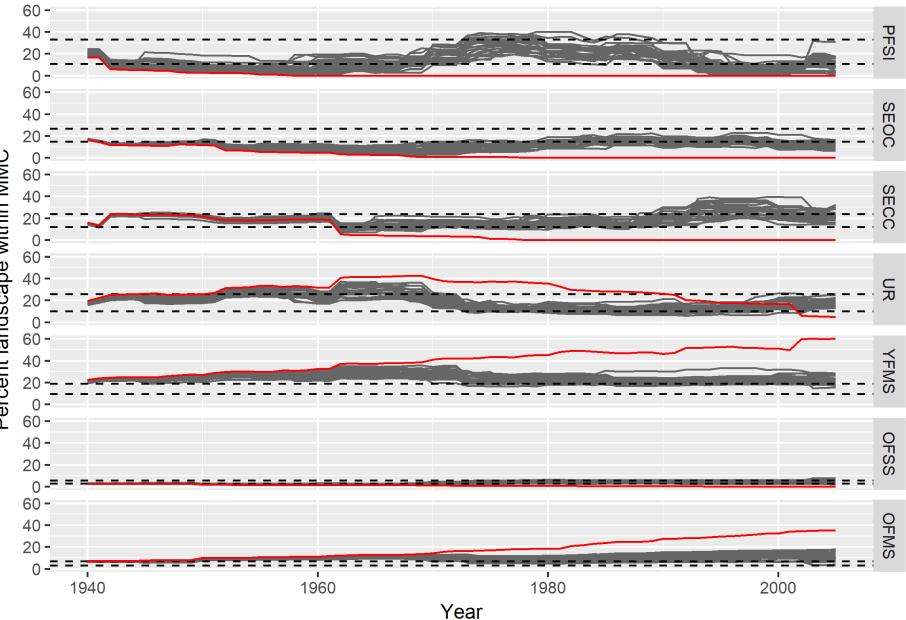


### **EXTRA SLIDES**

#### MMC: Full suppression

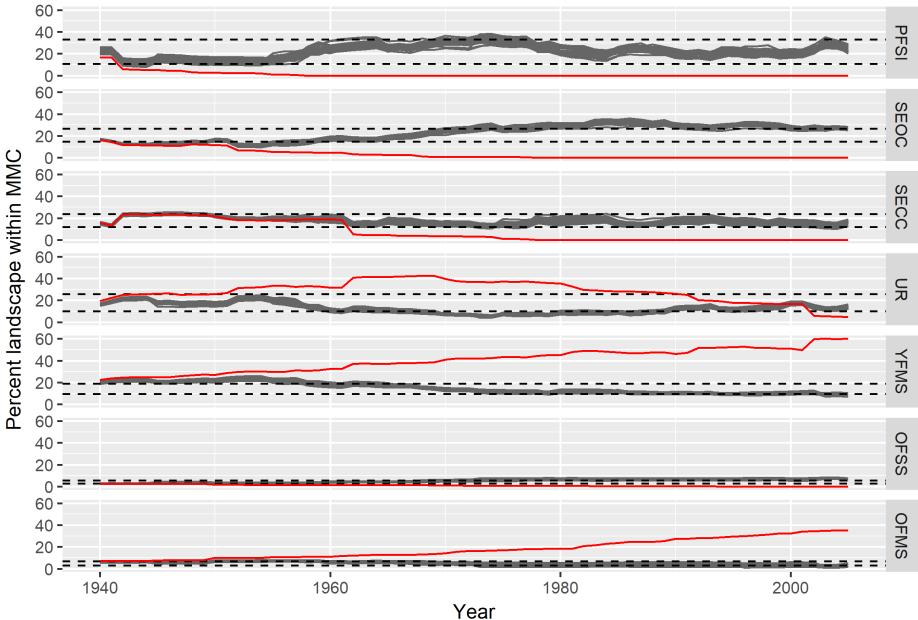


#### MMC: Partial suppression

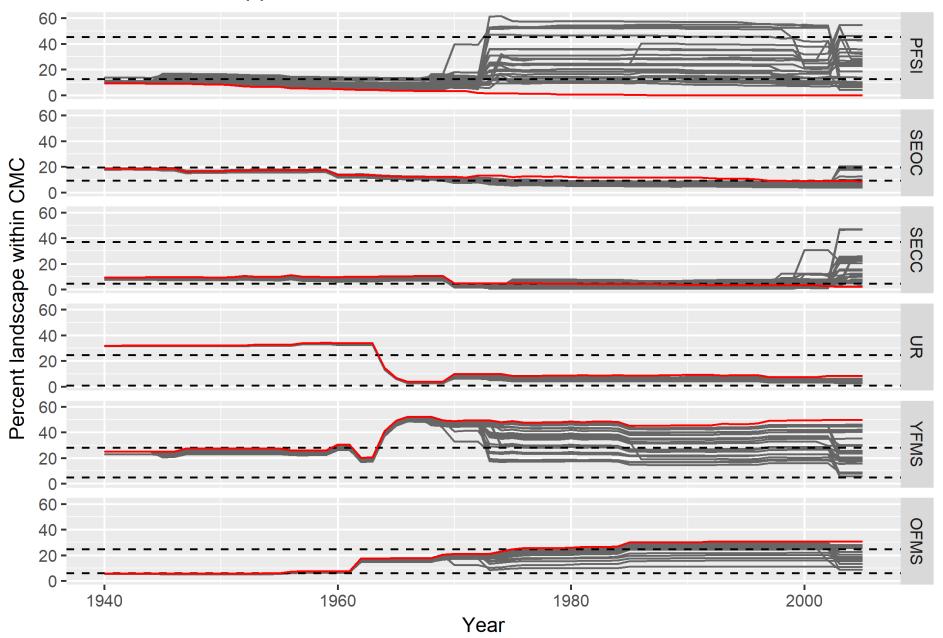


Percent landscape within MMC

#### MMC: No suppression



#### CMC: Partial suppression



#### CMC: No suppression

