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





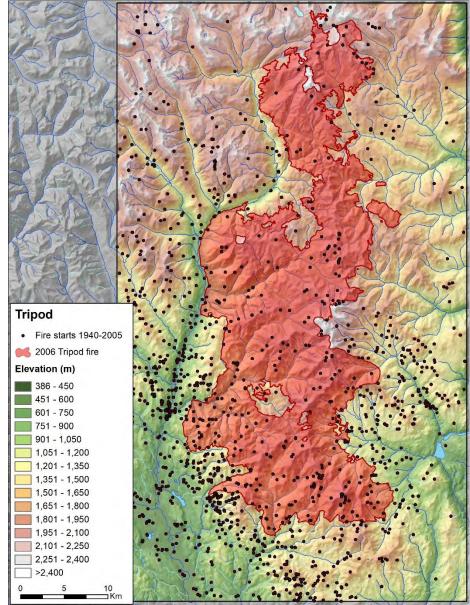




AGENDA

| 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 – 0940 | Discussion | Gray & Prichard |
| 0940 - 1000 | Break and load into vans | ALL |

Tripod Historical Fire Starts

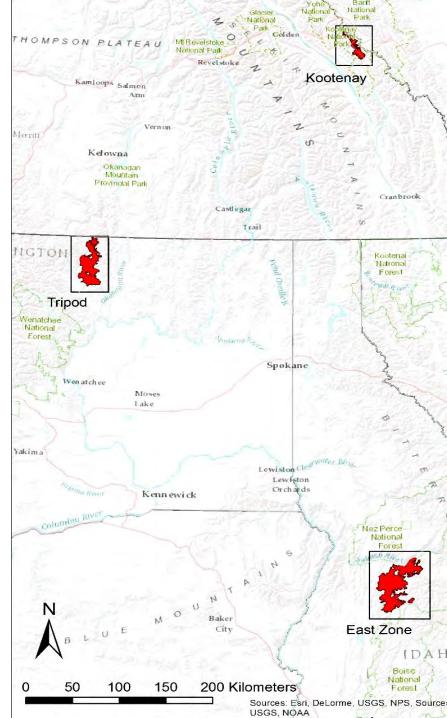


Suppressed fire starts (1940 – 2006, n > 300)

Objectives

To evaluate the effects of past wildfires on the:

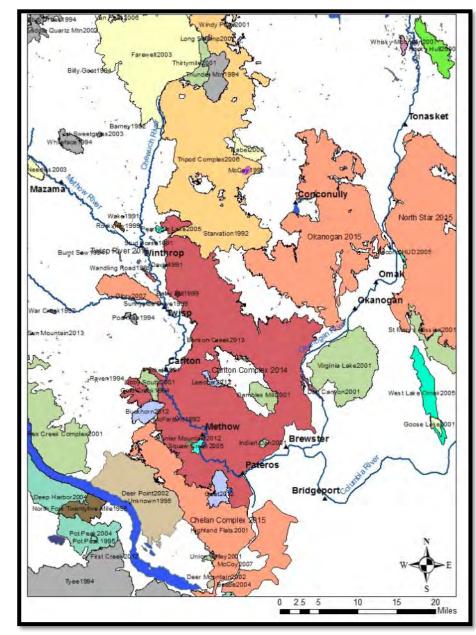
- 1) Characteristics (e.g. fire spread and severity)
- Management (e.g. firefighting strategies and costs) of subsequent wildfires.



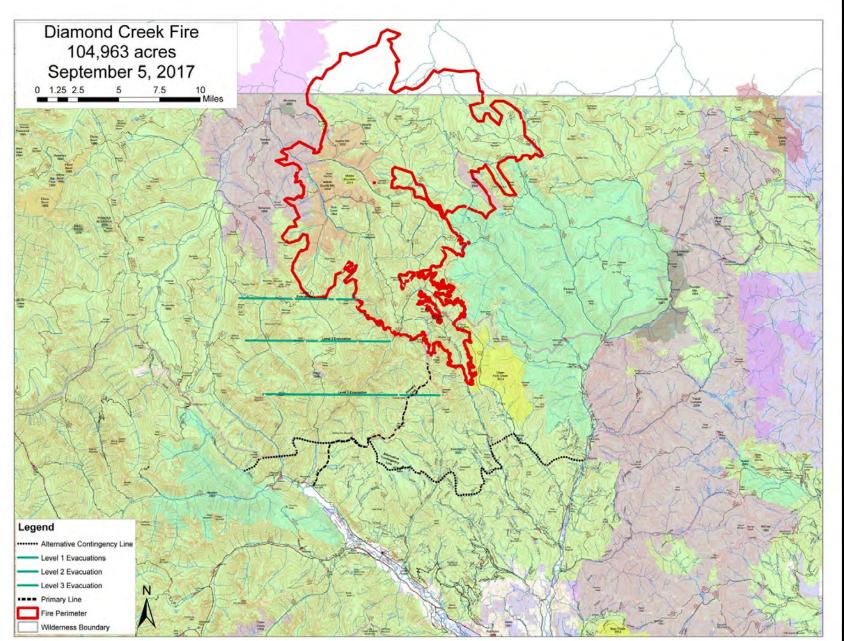
Research Questions

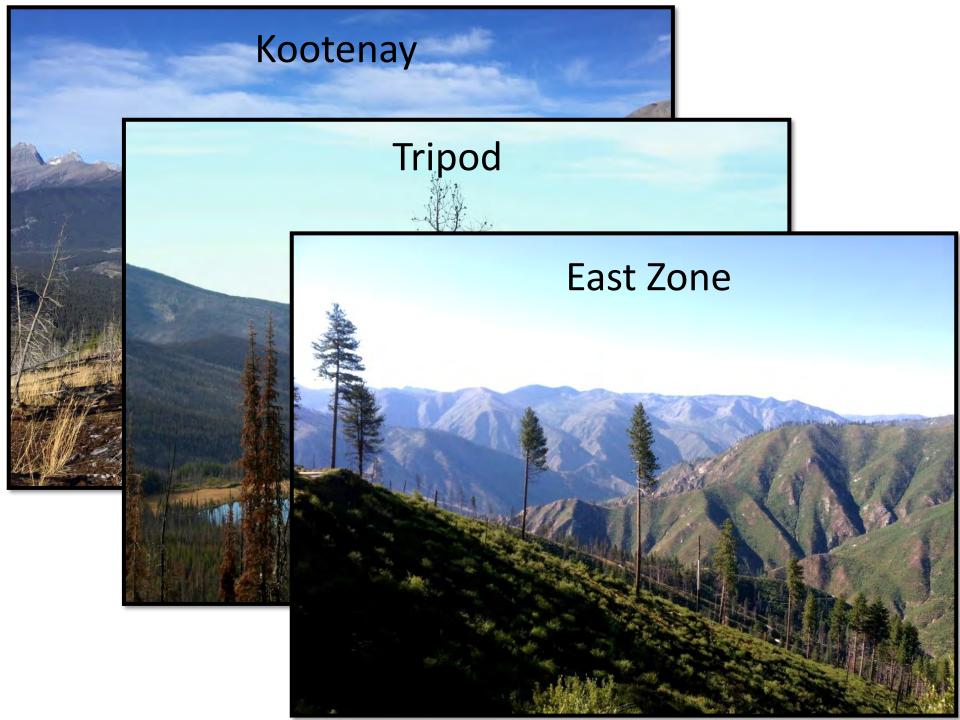
How do the location, size and age of past wildfires influence subsequent wildfire behavior and effects?

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



Research Questions, cont.

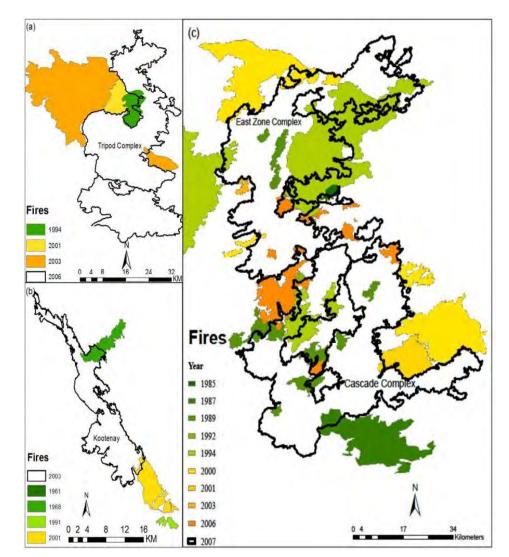




Task 1 – Burn Severity Analysis

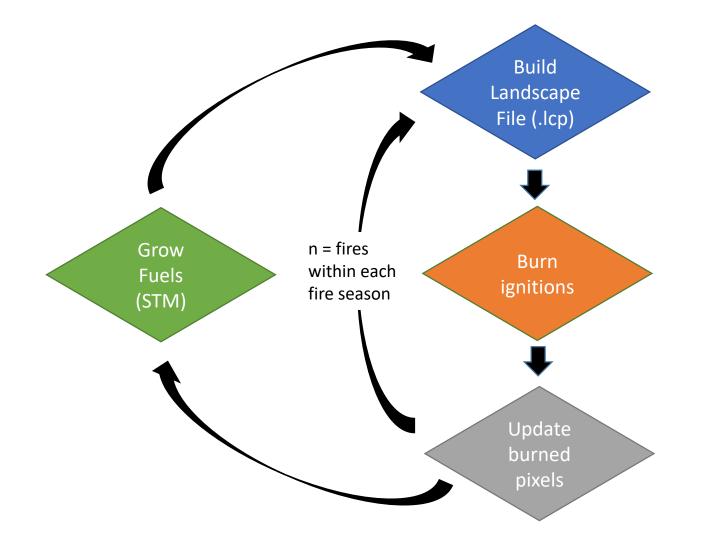
Prior wildfires influence burn severity of subsequent large fires

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

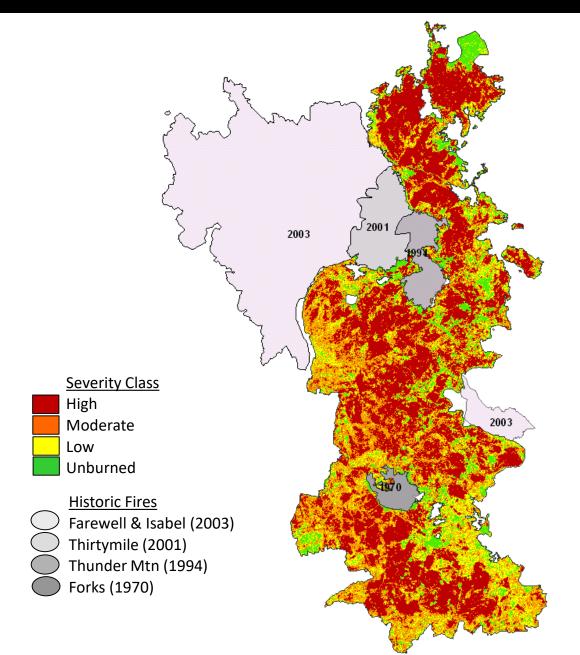


- Past burn severity reduced subsequent burn severitymore resistant
- Even under extreme fire weather conditions, vegetation, topography, and past burn severity all impacted reburn severity

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 | | |
| Communities | other ownerships | quality, | Habitat | health, | | |
| Air quality | Risk, Air Quality | fisheries | | restoration | | |
| Water quality | | | | | | |
| Wildlife habitat | | | | | | |
| Fisheries | | | | | | |
| Forest health | | | | | | |
| 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 restoration | | | |
| Management action points | | | | | | |
| Cost estimates | | | | | | |

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 – 0940 | Discussion | Gray & Prichard |
| 0940 - 1000 | Break and load into vans | ALL |

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.



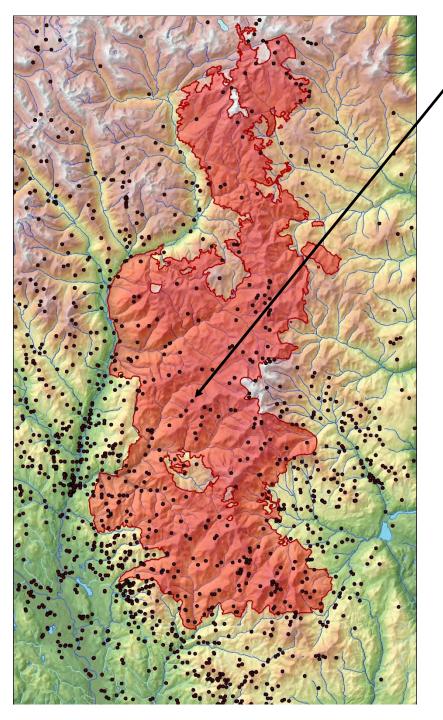
State 5A: Young forest multi-story. Fuel model TU5. 130-179 yr.



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

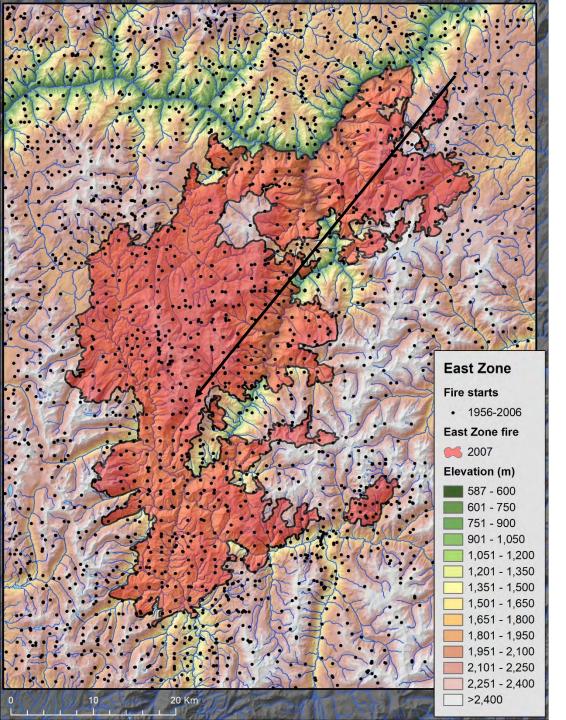


State 6A: Old forest multi-story. Fuel model TU5. ≥ 180 yr.



DMC Pixel burned 1940

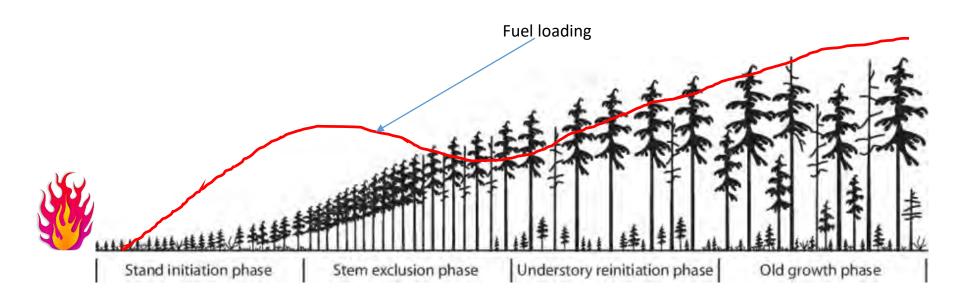
- Assigned State 1A following fire season
- Add a time step prior to 1941
- In the absence of fire, this pixel will transition to State 2A in 1949.



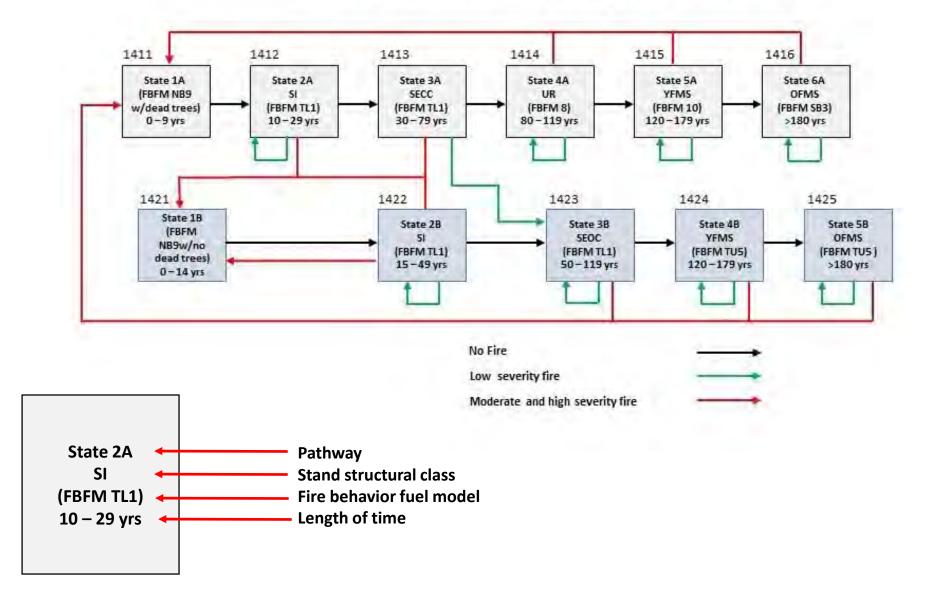
Pixel burned in 1956

- 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.

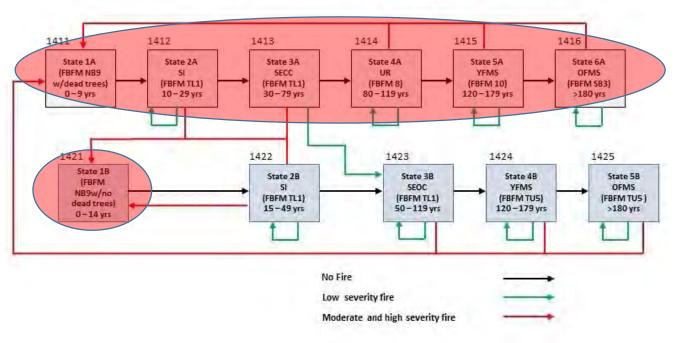
Fuel succession is a continuum....



State and Transition Model Tripod Cold Moist Conifer

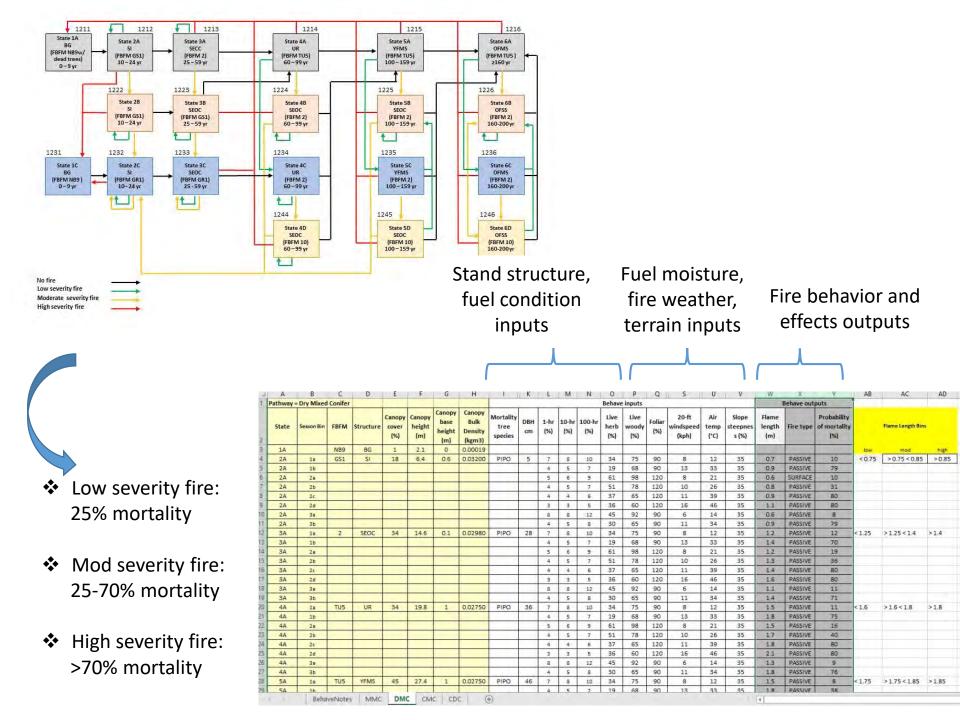


Difference between pathways – function of fire behavior/effects at each successional stage



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.

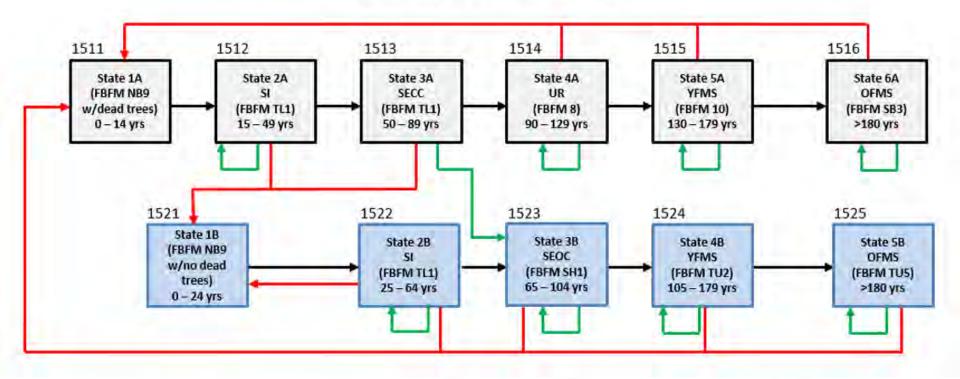


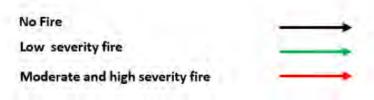
State 3A: Stem exclusion closedcanopy. Fuel model 2. 50-89 yr.



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.

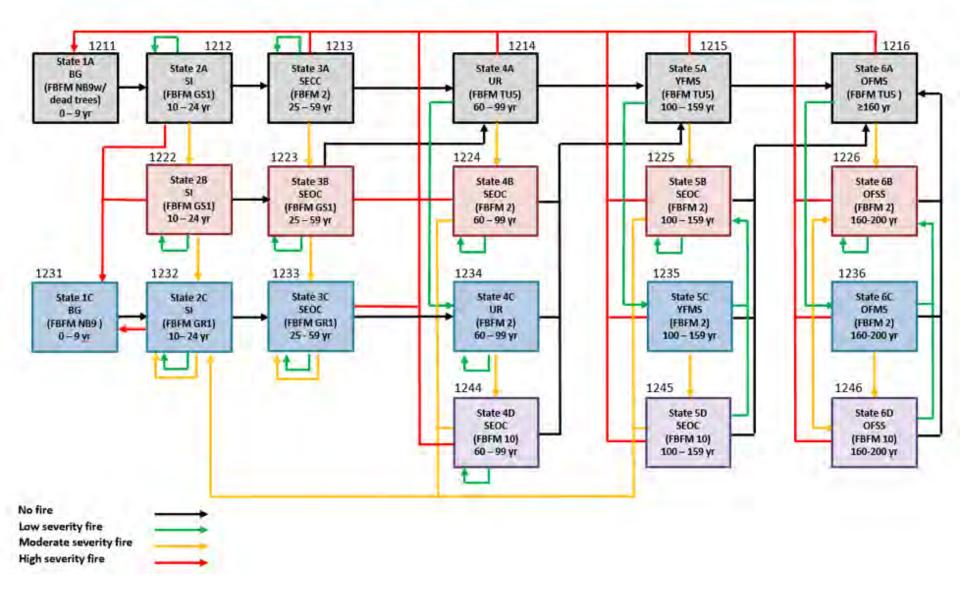


State 3A: Stem exclusion closedcanopy. Fuel model 2. 25-59 yr.



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

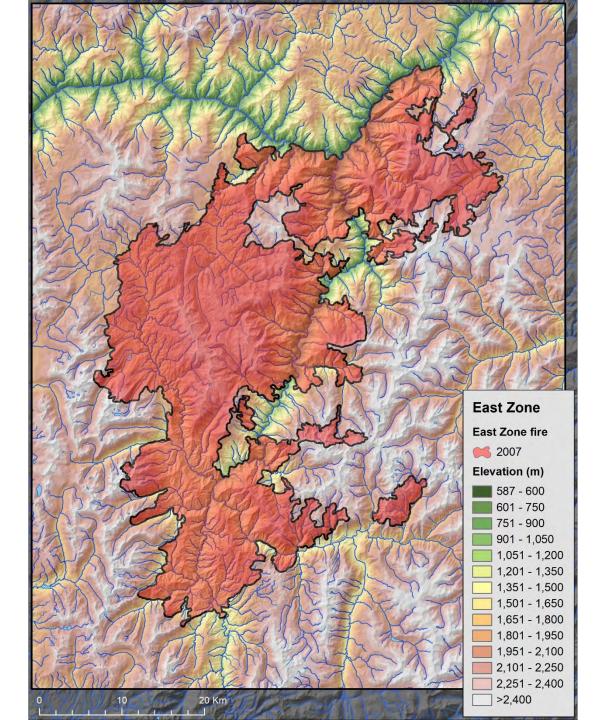


Authors:

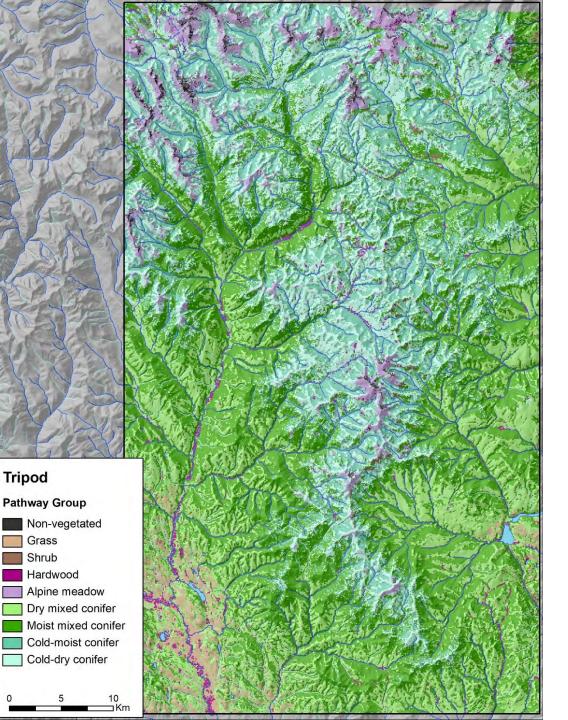
Susan Prichard, Bob Gray, Richy Harrod, Paul Hessburg, Nicholas Povak, and Brion Salter

AGENDA

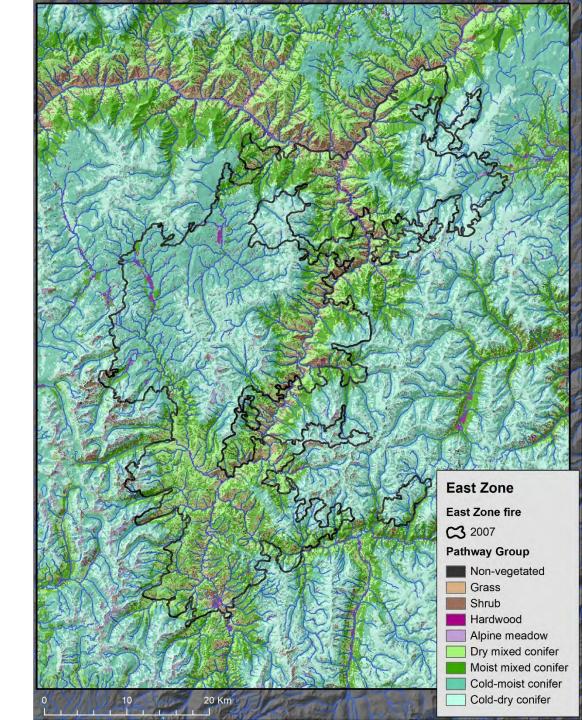
| Agenda | Details | Presenter |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 0800 - 0820 | Introduction to the Reburn Project | Prichard |
| 0820 - 0840 | Vegetation and fire dynamics | Gray |
| 0840 - 0900 | Wildland fire management scenarios | Prichard |
| 0900 - 0920 | Climate change and landscape resilience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



Base Landscape Development (Tripod)



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

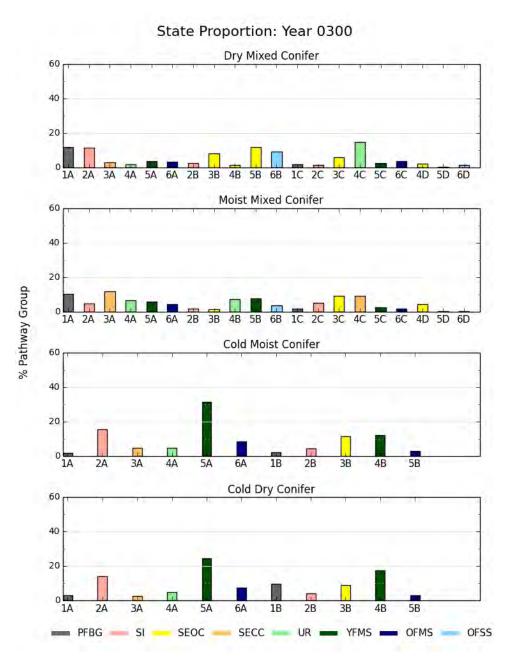
FSPro

- 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.

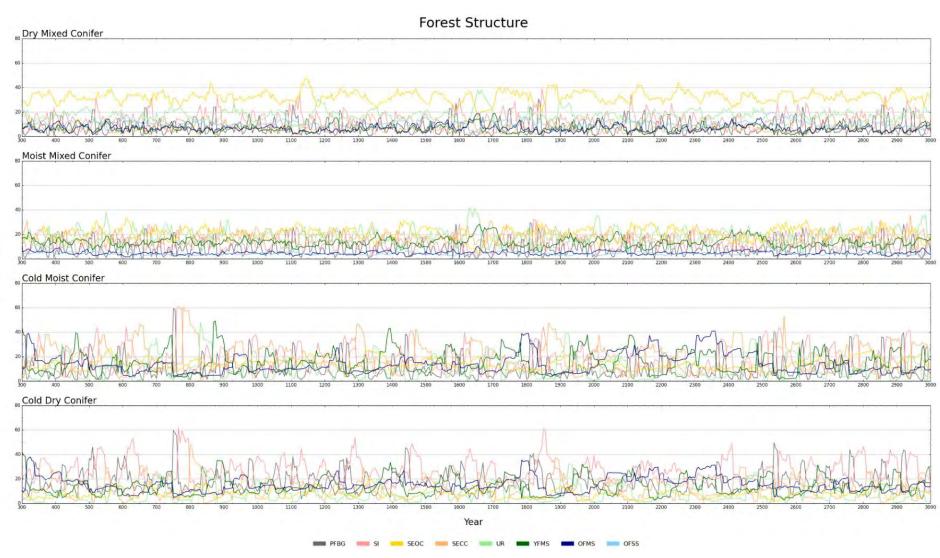
Simulation Modeling Steps

- 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)
- 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

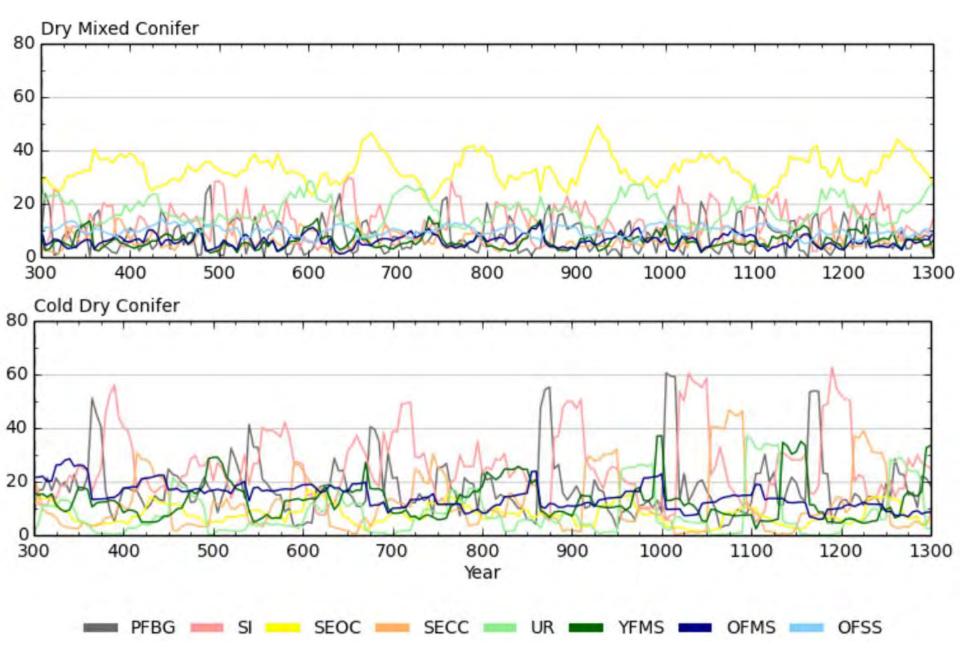
Calibration Tool – state movies



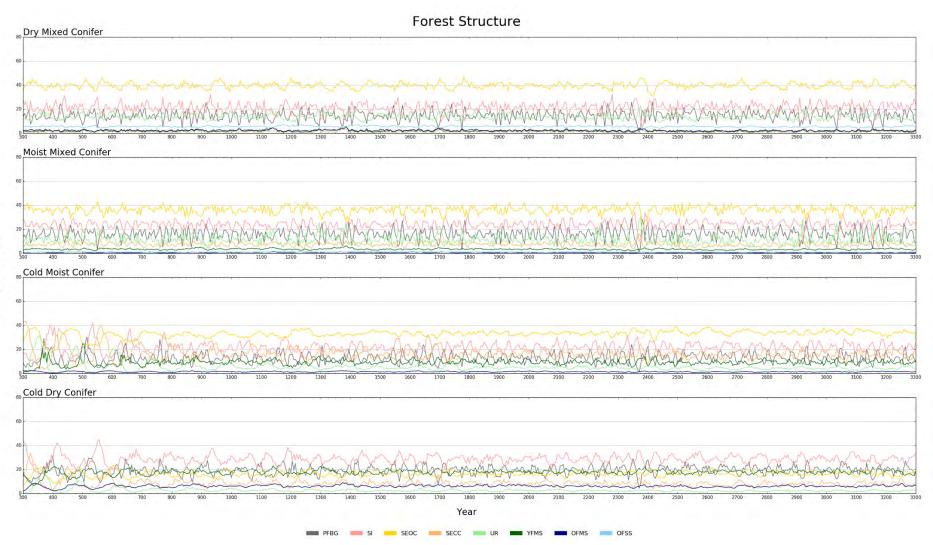
Tripod 3000-year Calibration and Spin Up



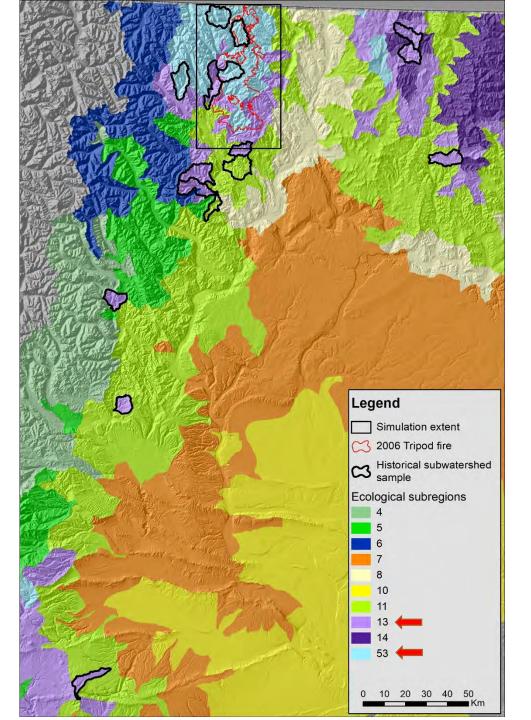
Tripod Year 300 - 1300



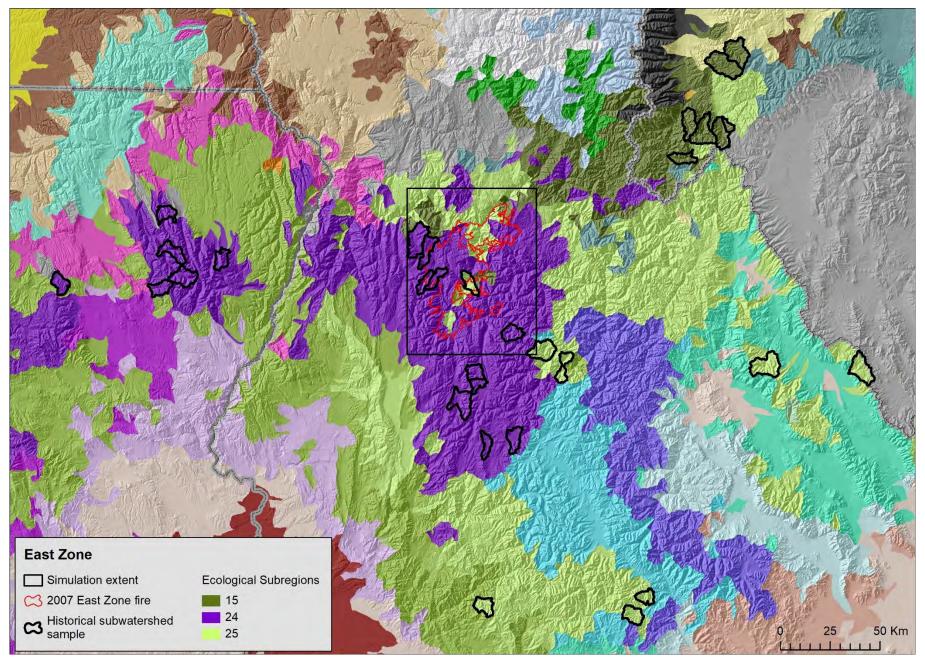
East Zone 3000-year Calibration and Spin Up

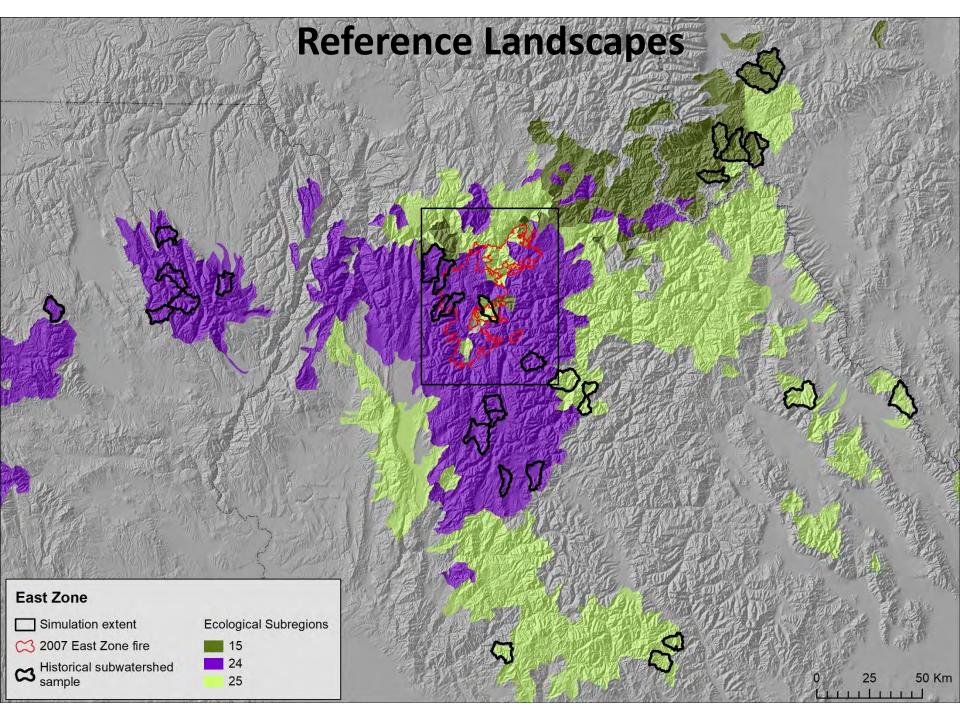


Reference Landscapes



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 |
| | | | | | | |
| СМС | 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

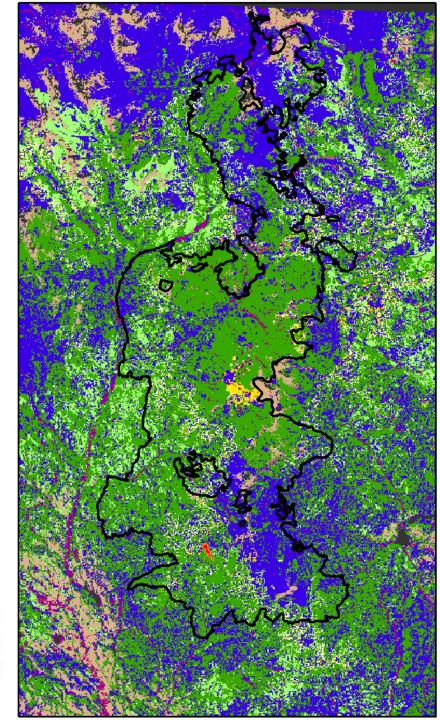
D) No Suppression – all ignitions that meet thresholds to burning:

- 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)

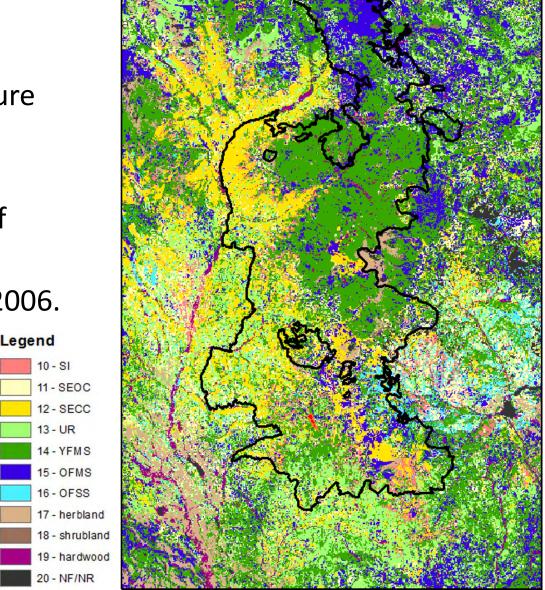
Homogenous landscape, mostly of young and old multi-storied forests.





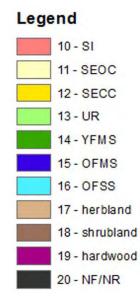
B) Full Suppression (2% fires)

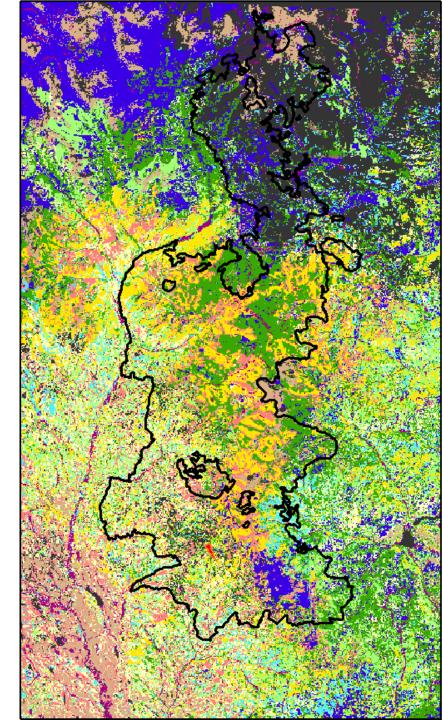
- General infilling of the landscape with more mature forests prior to 2006.
- In some iterations of this scenario, random draws of wind scenarios resulted in large, recent fires before 2006.



C) Partial Suppression

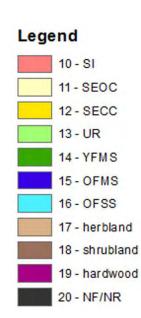
- Finer-grain landscape mosaics at lower elevations that support dry, mixed conifer forests
- Large, recent fire in cool highelevation mixed conifer forests.

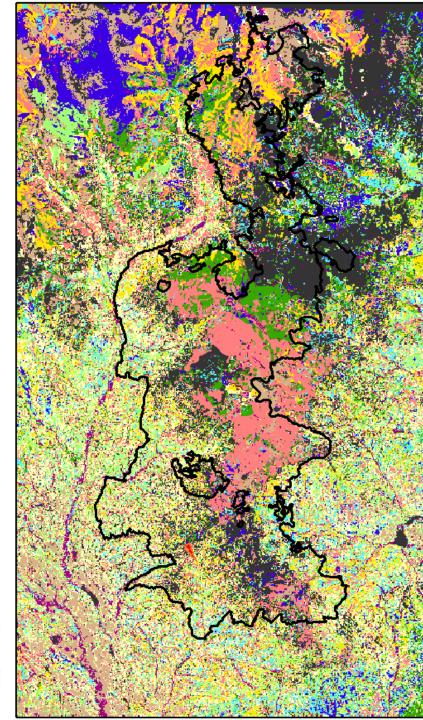




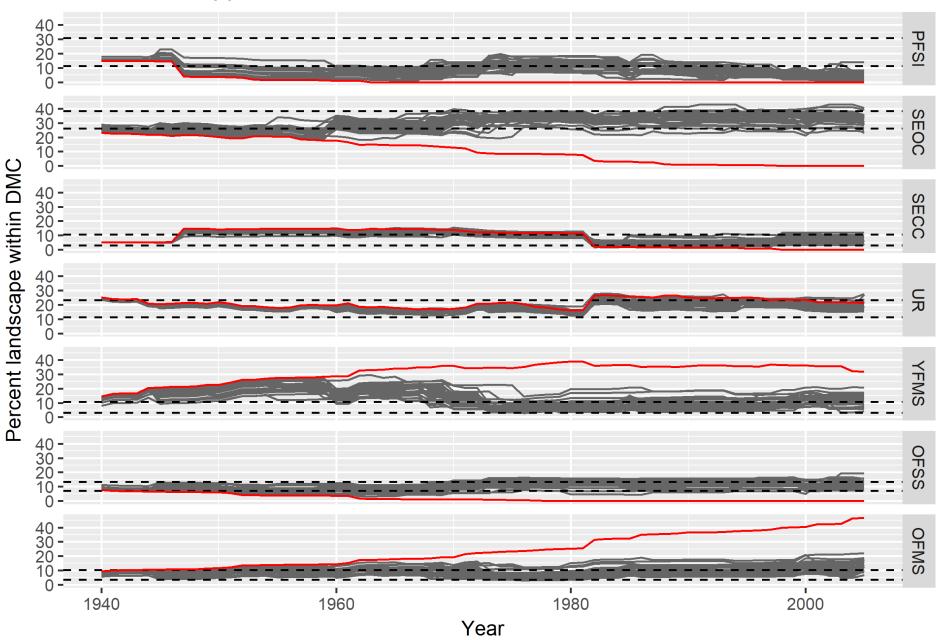
D. No suppression (let it burn)

- 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.

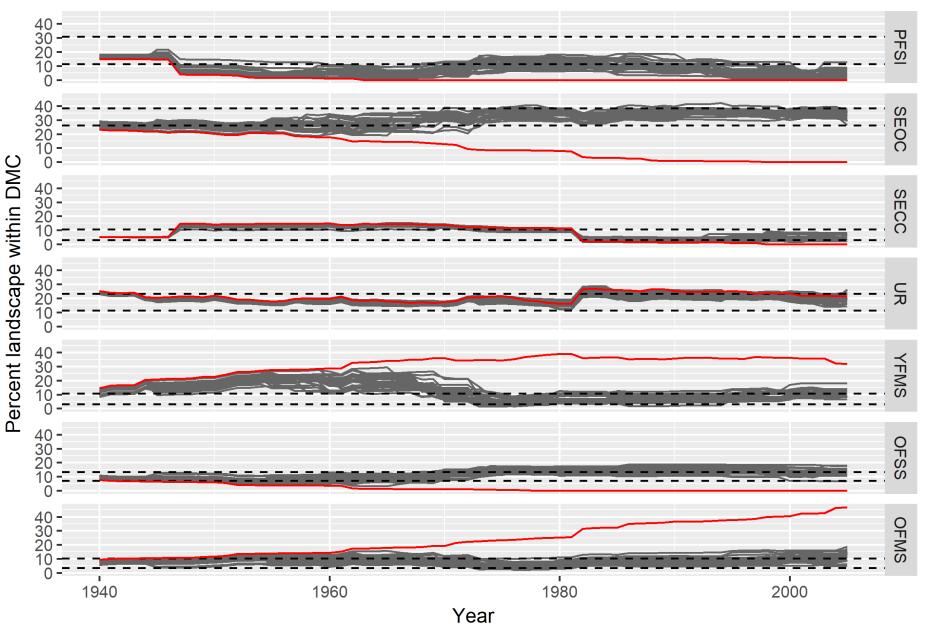




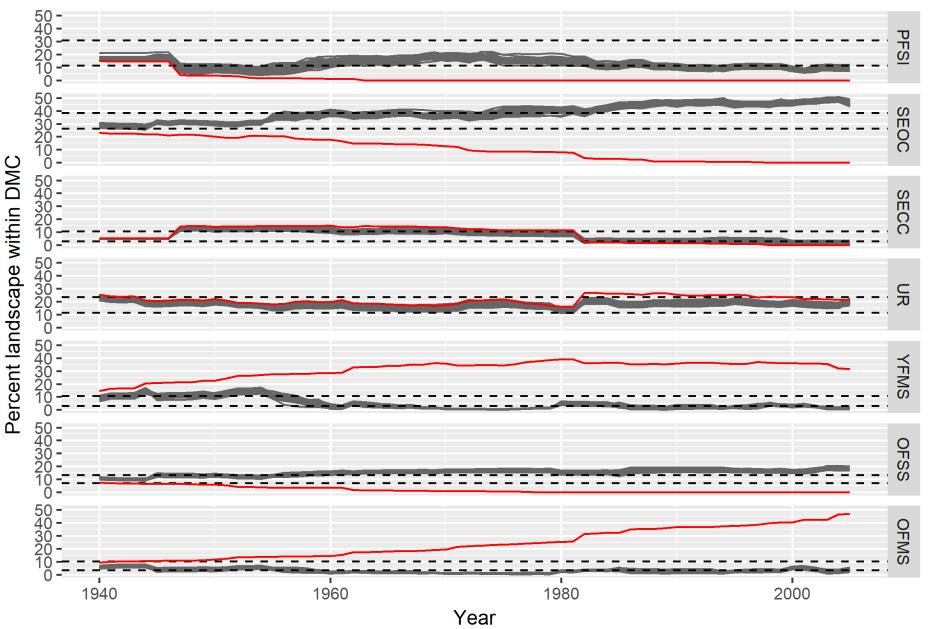
DMC: Full suppression



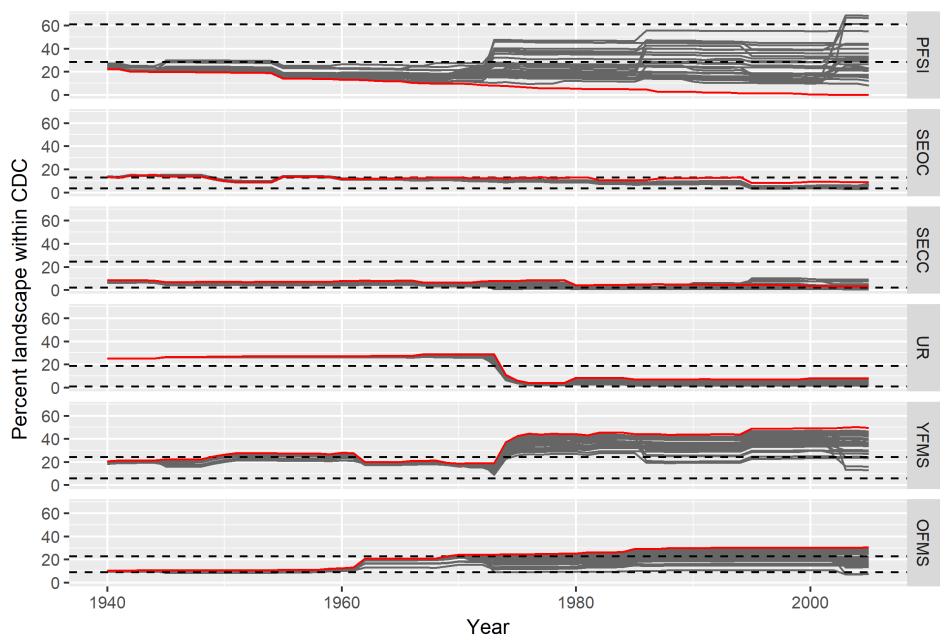
DMC: Partial suppression

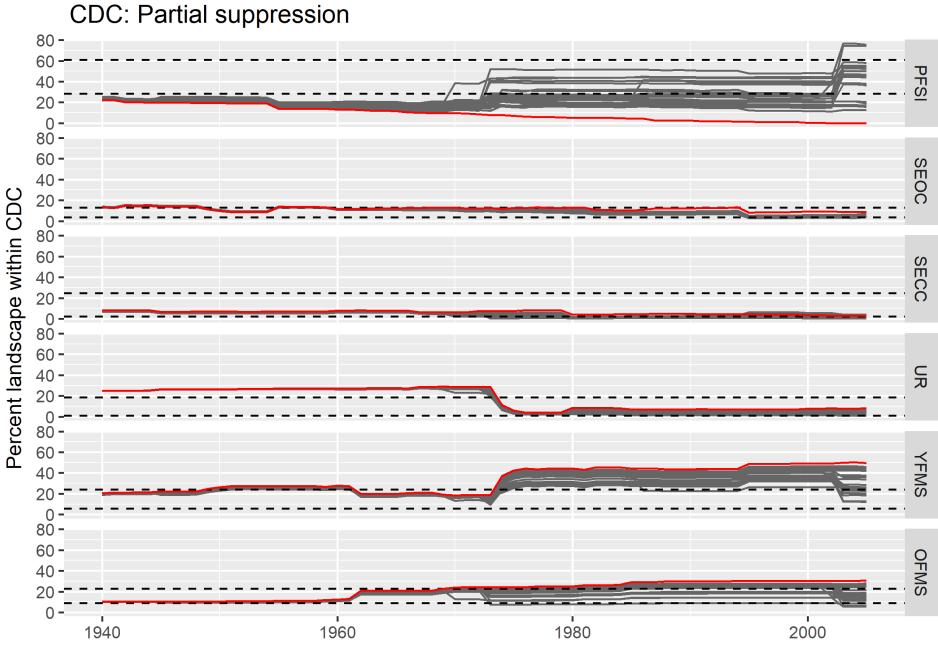


DMC: No suppression



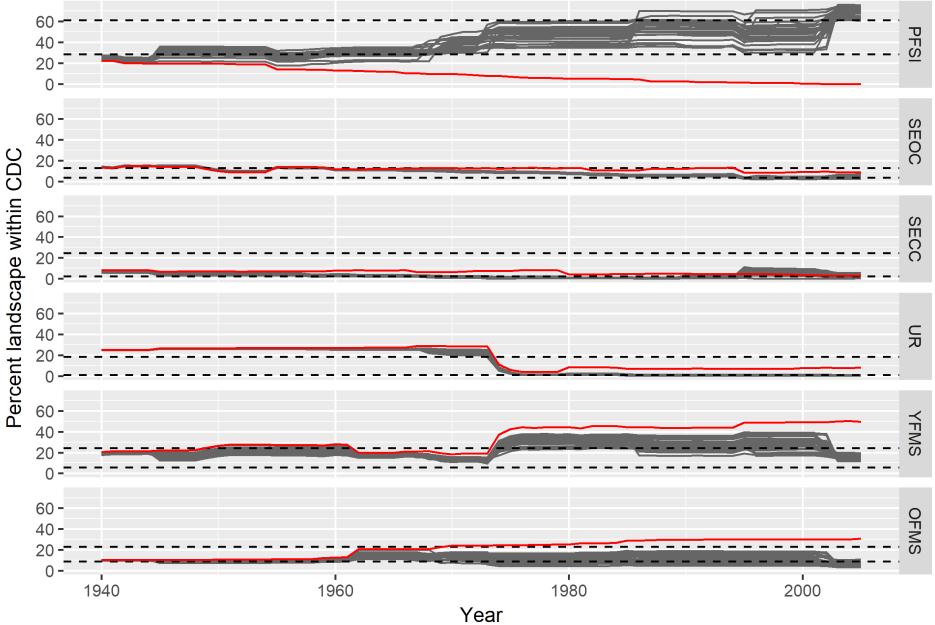
CDC: Full suppression





Year

CDC: No suppression



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.

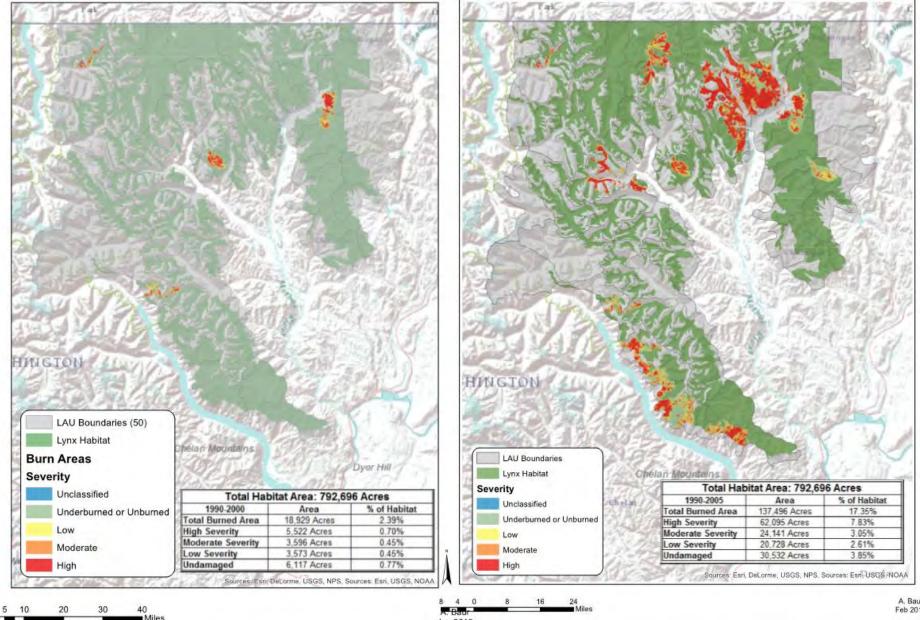


Management Applications

- 1) Wildfire management decision making use of patch mosaics in suppression operations and managed wildfires
- 2) Implications of wildland fire management scenarios for wildlife habitat (e.g., Canada Lynx)
- 3) Climate change evaluating resilience of landscapes
- 4) Carbon storage carrying capacity of landscapes under varying wildfire scenarios

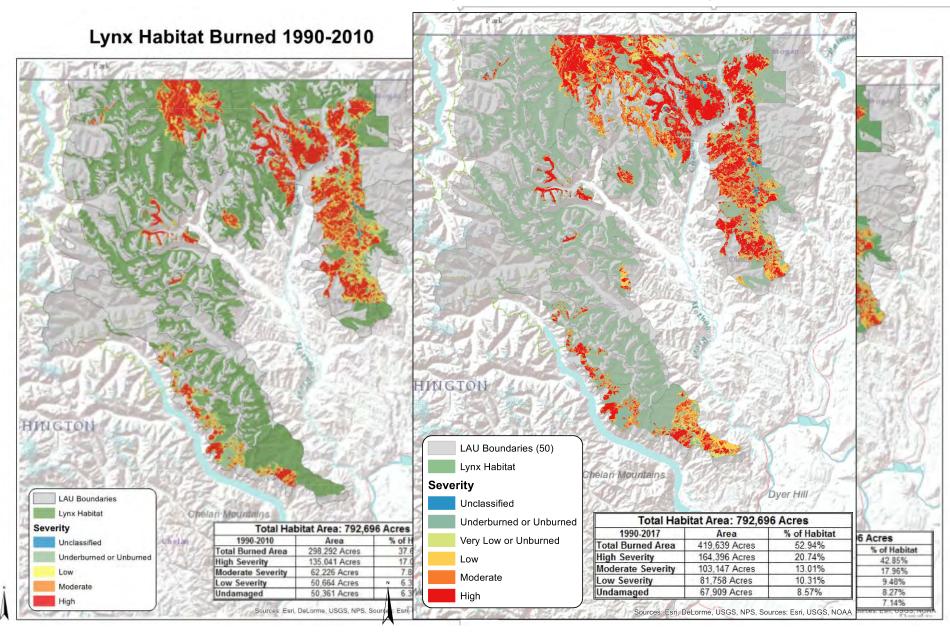
Lynx Habitat Burn Severity 1990-2000

Lynx Habitat Burned 1990-2005

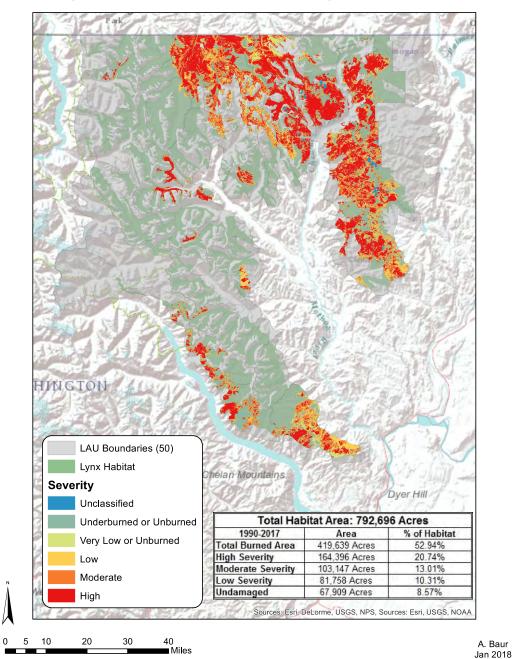


Jan 2018

Lynx Habitat Burn Severity 1990-2017



Lynx Habitat Burn Severity 1990-2017



Management Applications –

1)Wildlife habitat management in the context of fire– habitat is dynamically generated and tied to burn mosaics

- **2) Managed wildfires I**mplications 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

Next Steps

- 1) Correct historical ignitions on Tripod landscape (remove anthropogenic ignitions)
- 2) State and Transition Models (better syncing with Lynx habitat may be possible)
- 3) WFDSS training layers to explore management scenarios

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

Next Steps

1) Manager workshops Influence of burn mosaics on firefighting strategies, resource allocations

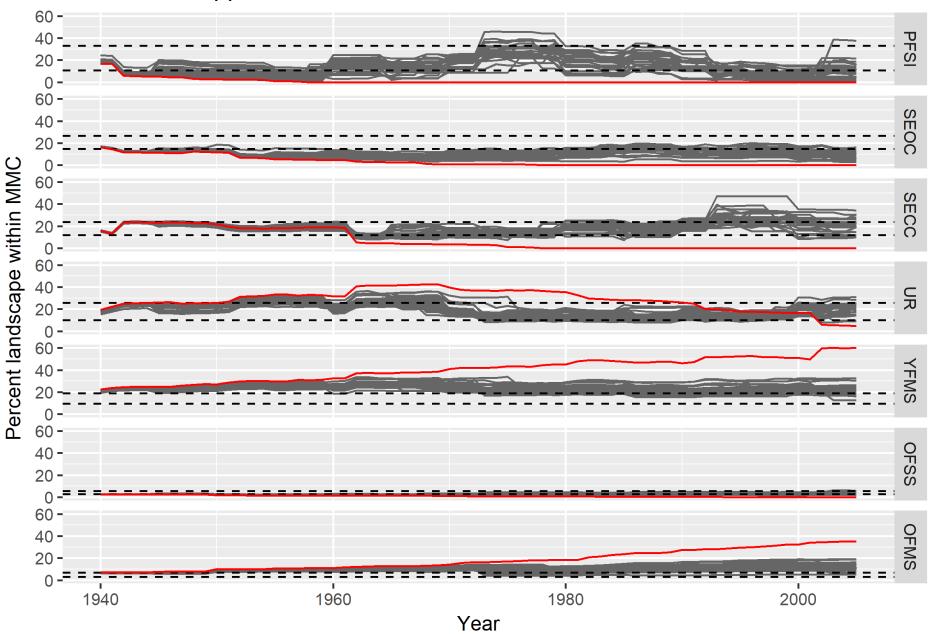
2) WFDSS training layers to explore management scenarios

3) State and Transition Models (further refinement)

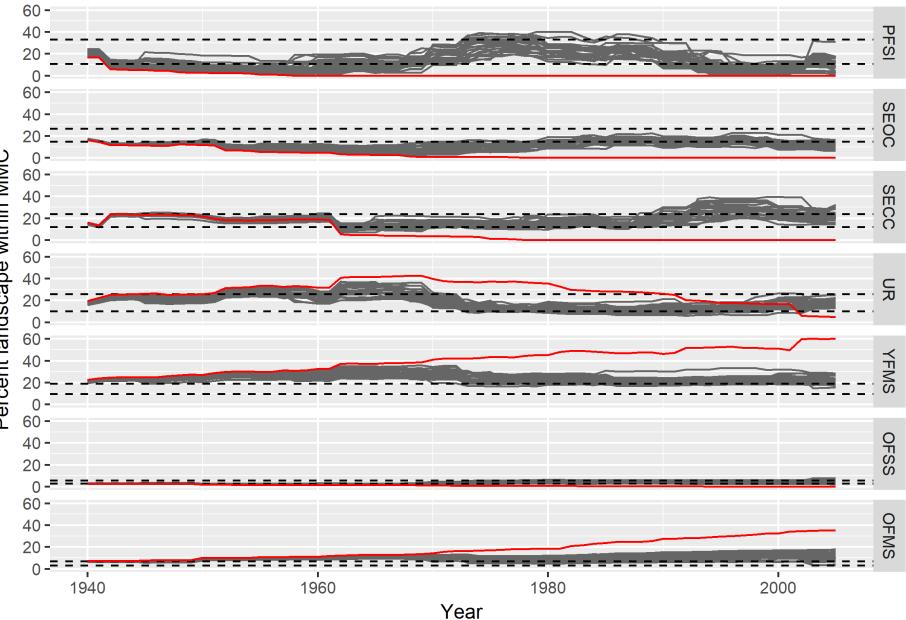
4) Lessons learned (STM refinements, overfiring landscapes with anthropogenic fire)

5) Climate change landscape scenarios

MMC: Full suppression

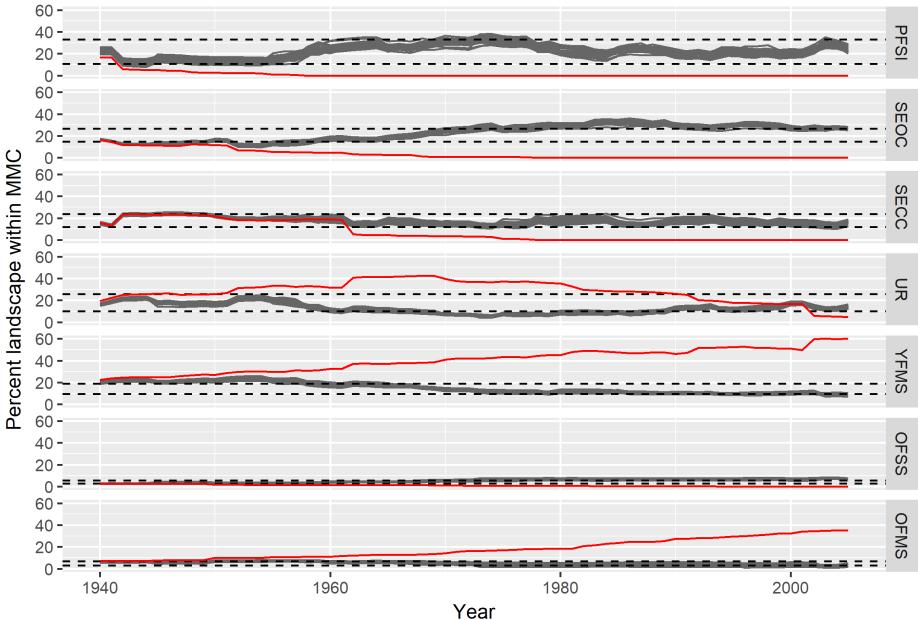


MMC: Partial suppression

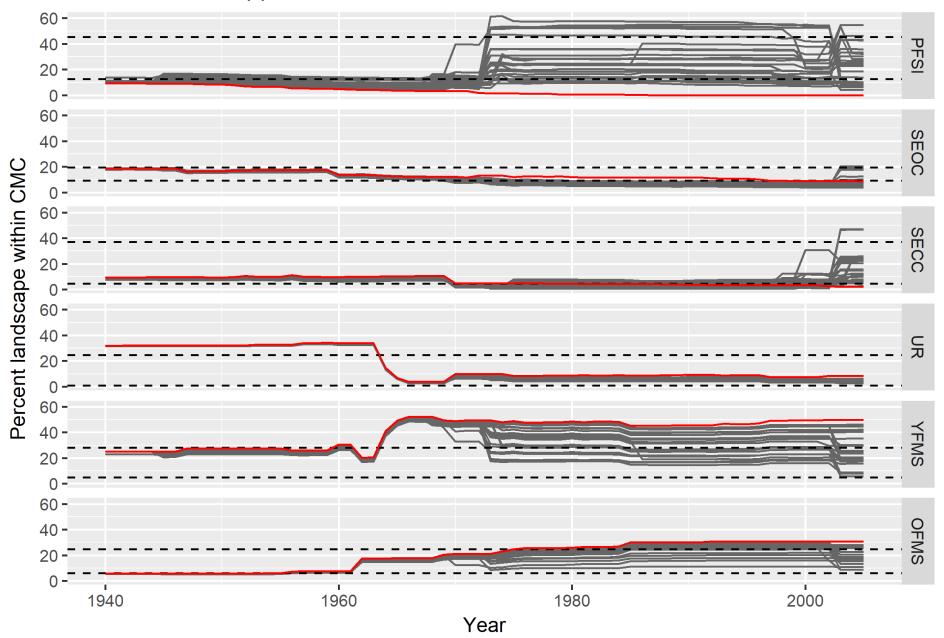


Percent landscape within MMC

MMC: No suppression



CMC: Partial suppression



CMC: No suppression

