

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

**Susan Prichard, University of Washington – FERA**

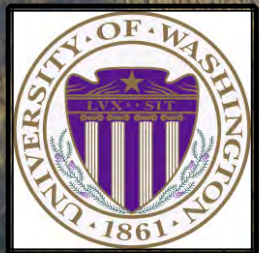
**Robert Gray, RW Gray Consulting**

**Paul Hessburg, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station**

**Nicholas Povak, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station**

**Brion Salter, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station**

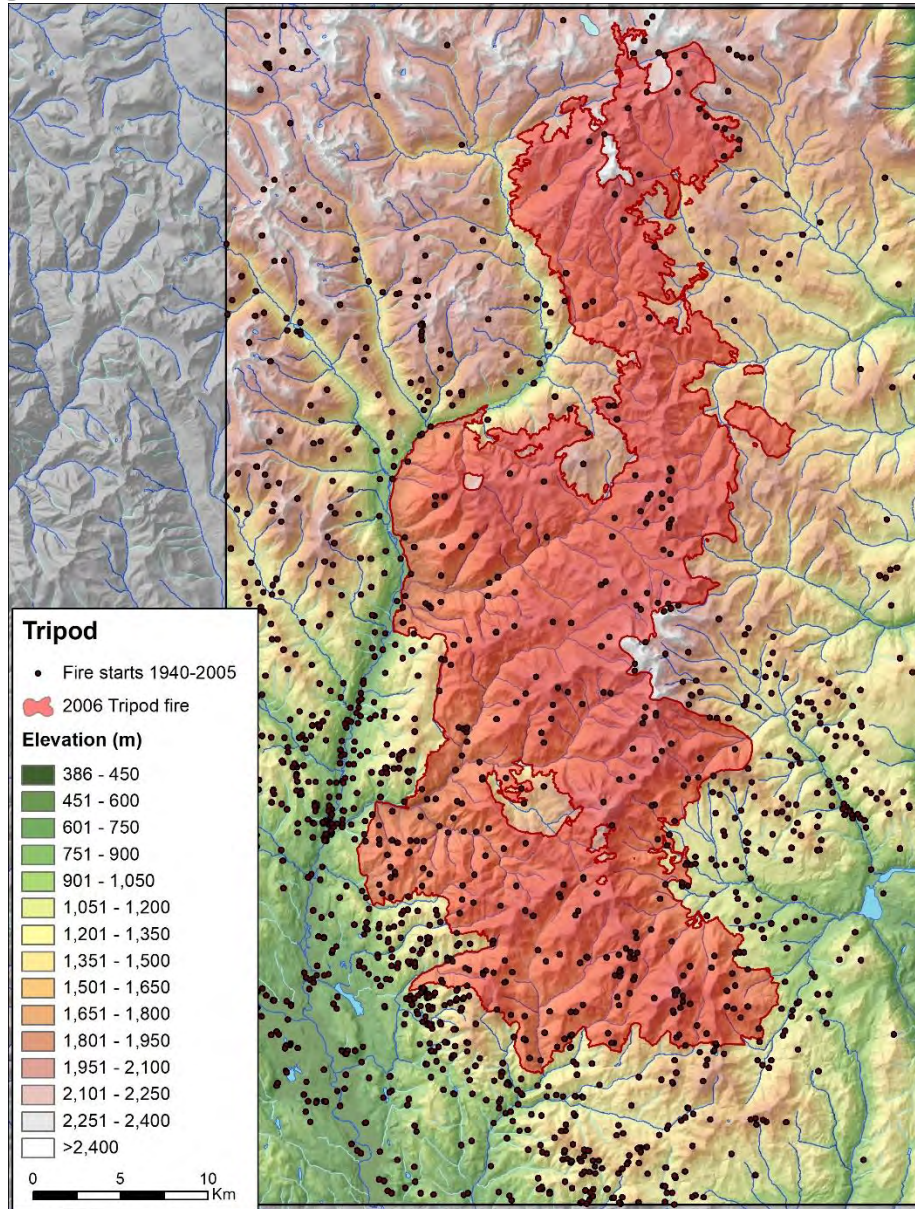
**Camille Stevens-Rumann, Colorado State University**



# AGENDA

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

# Tripod Historical Fire Starts

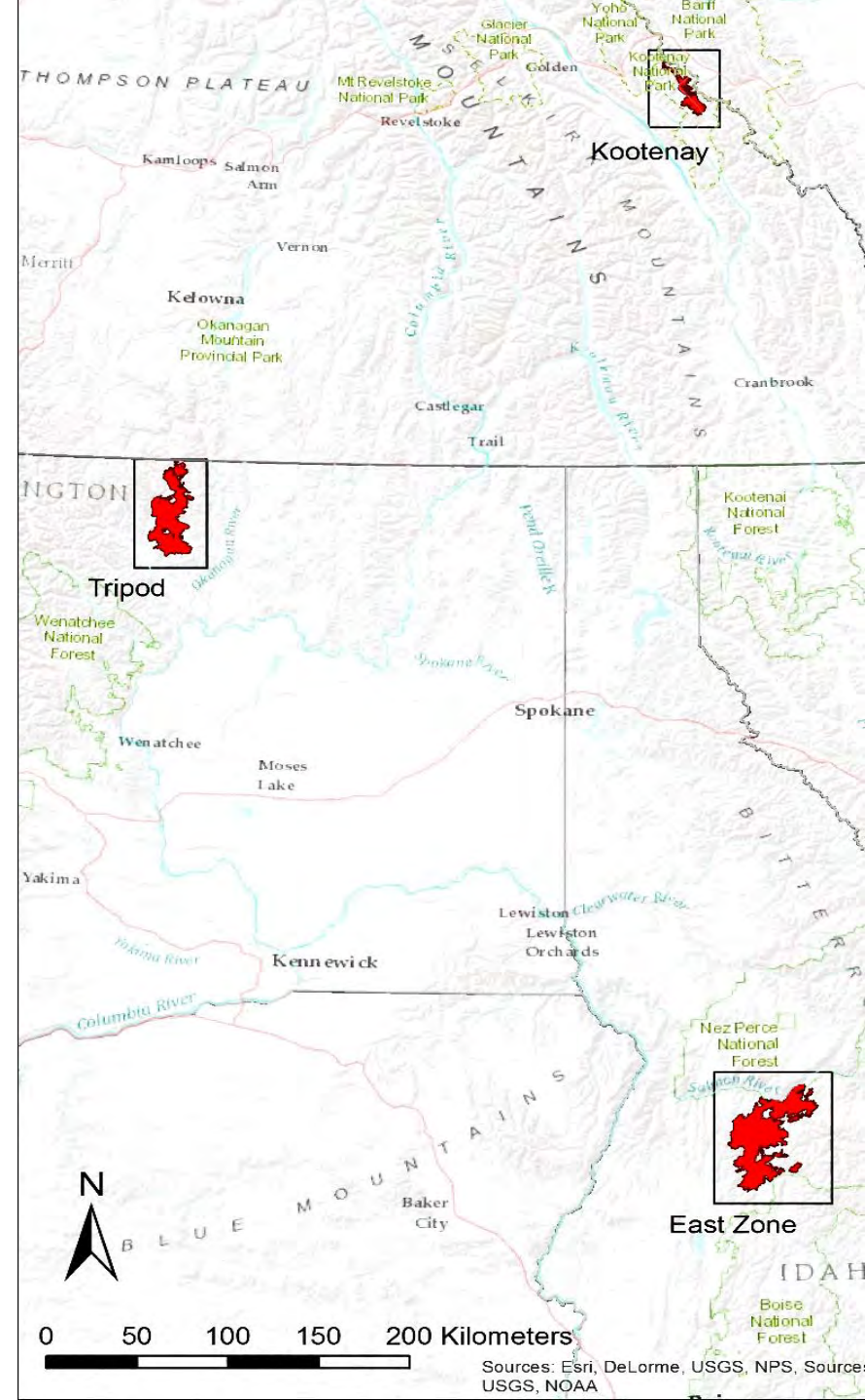


Suppressed fire starts (1940 – 2006,  $n > 300$ )

# Objectives

To evaluate the effects of past wildfires on the:

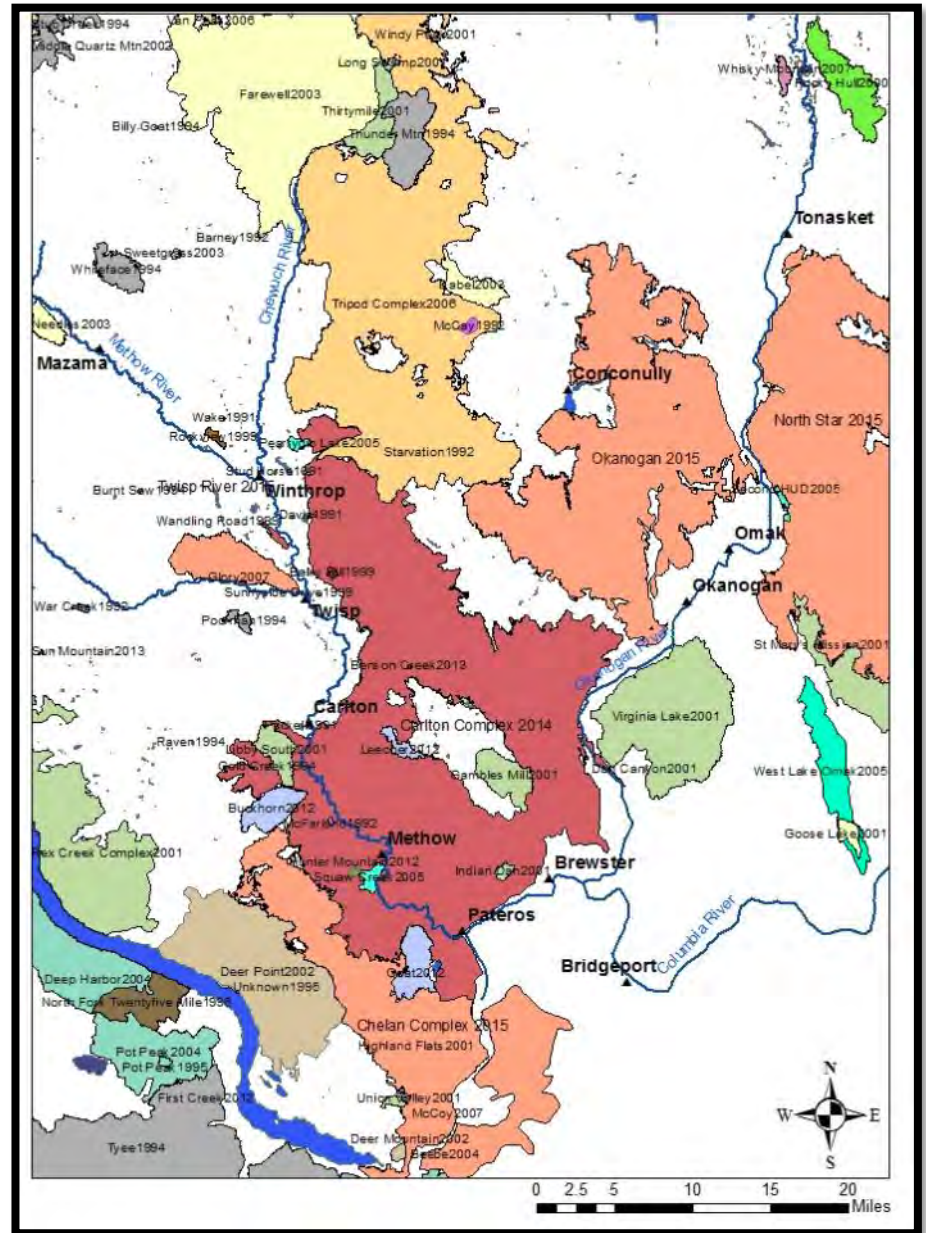
- 1) Characteristics (e.g. fire spread and severity)
- 2) Management (e.g. firefighting strategies and costs) of subsequent wildfires.



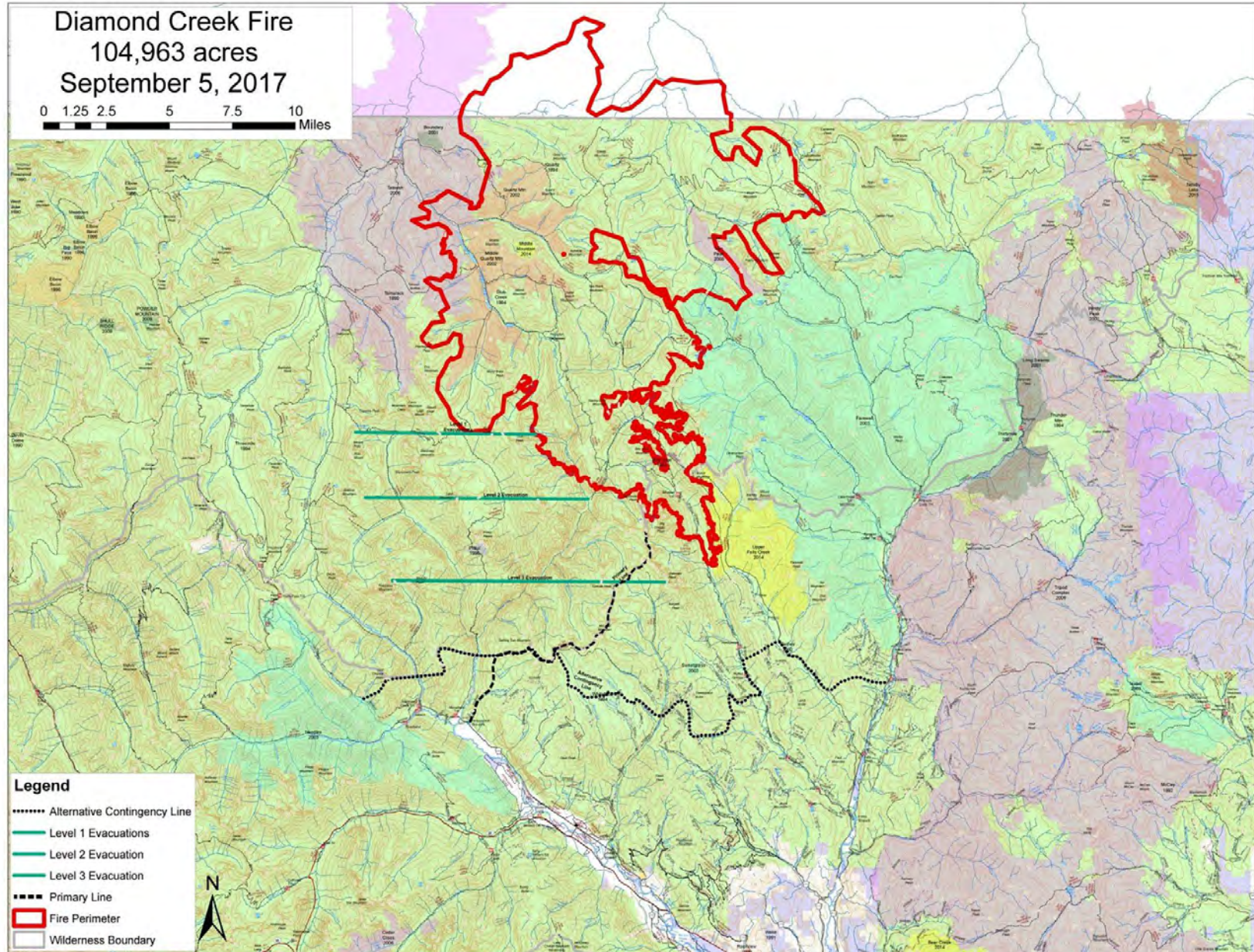
# Research Questions

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?



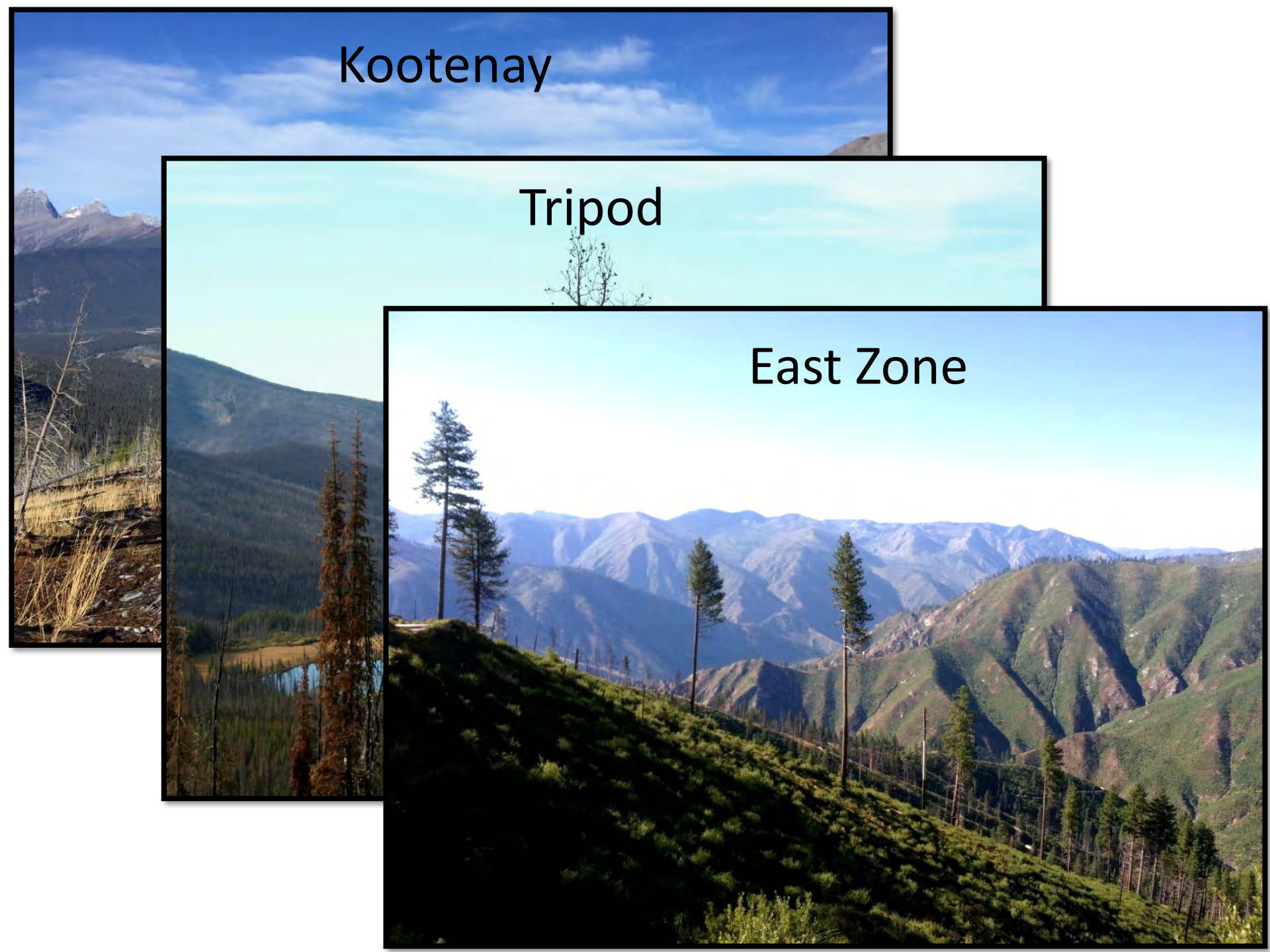
# Research Questions, cont.



Kootenay

Tripod

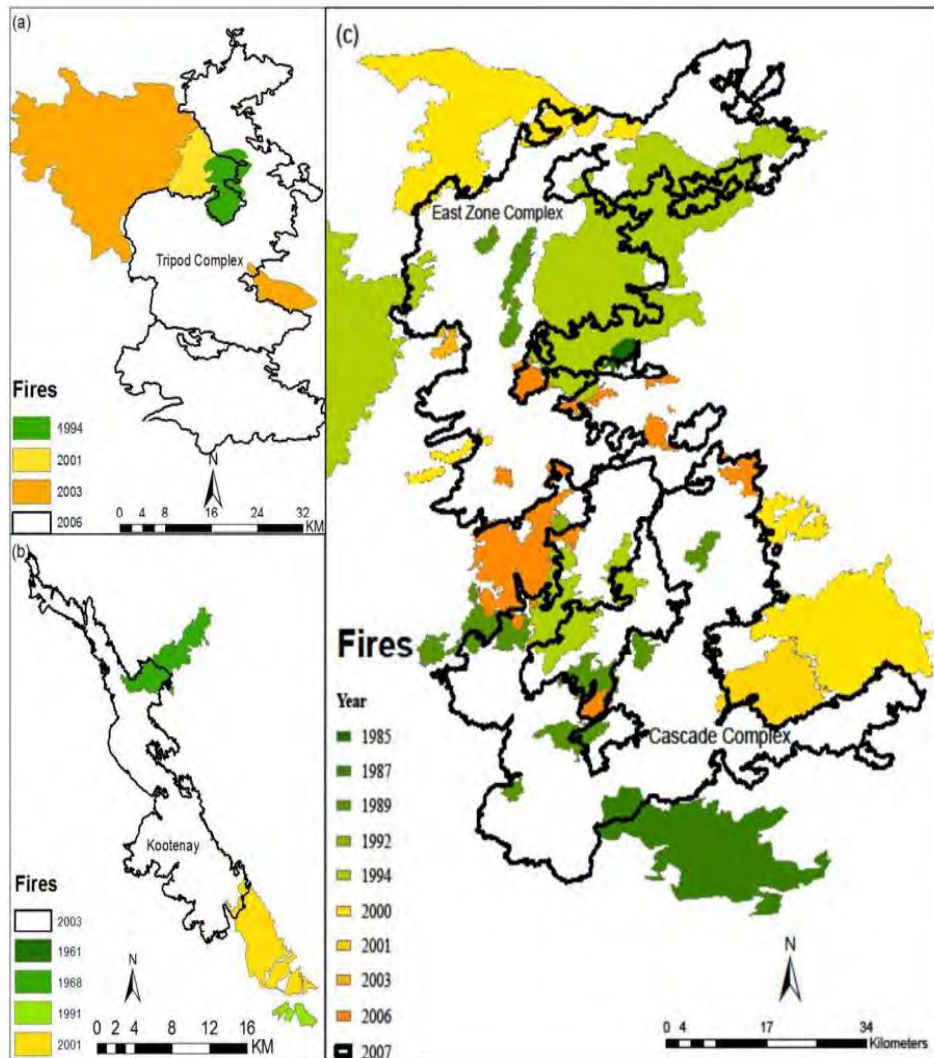
East Zone



# Task 1 – Burn Severity Analysis

Prior wildfires influence burn severity of subsequent large fires

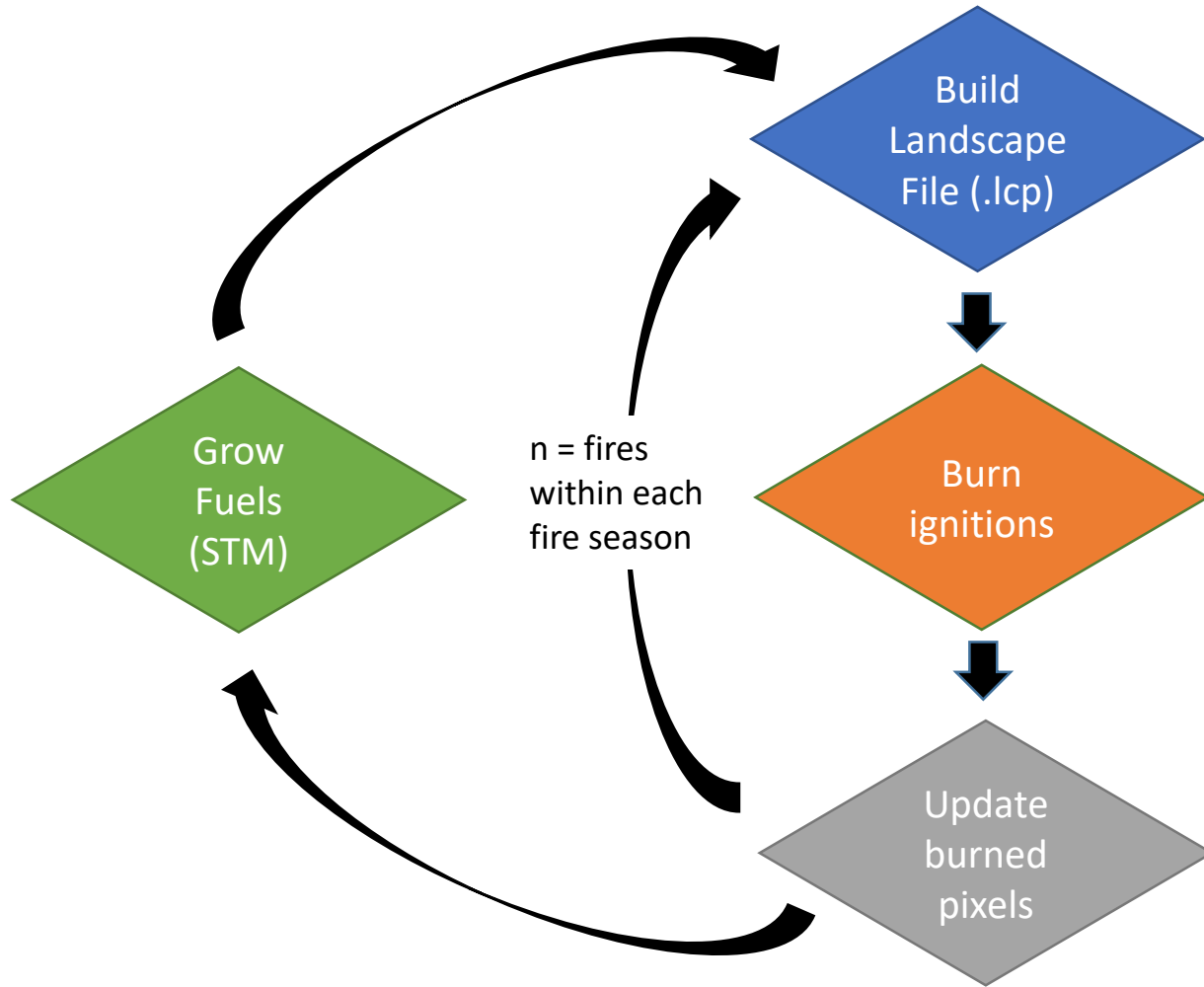
Camille S. Stevens-Rumann, Susan J. Prichard, Eva K. Strand, and Penelope Morgan



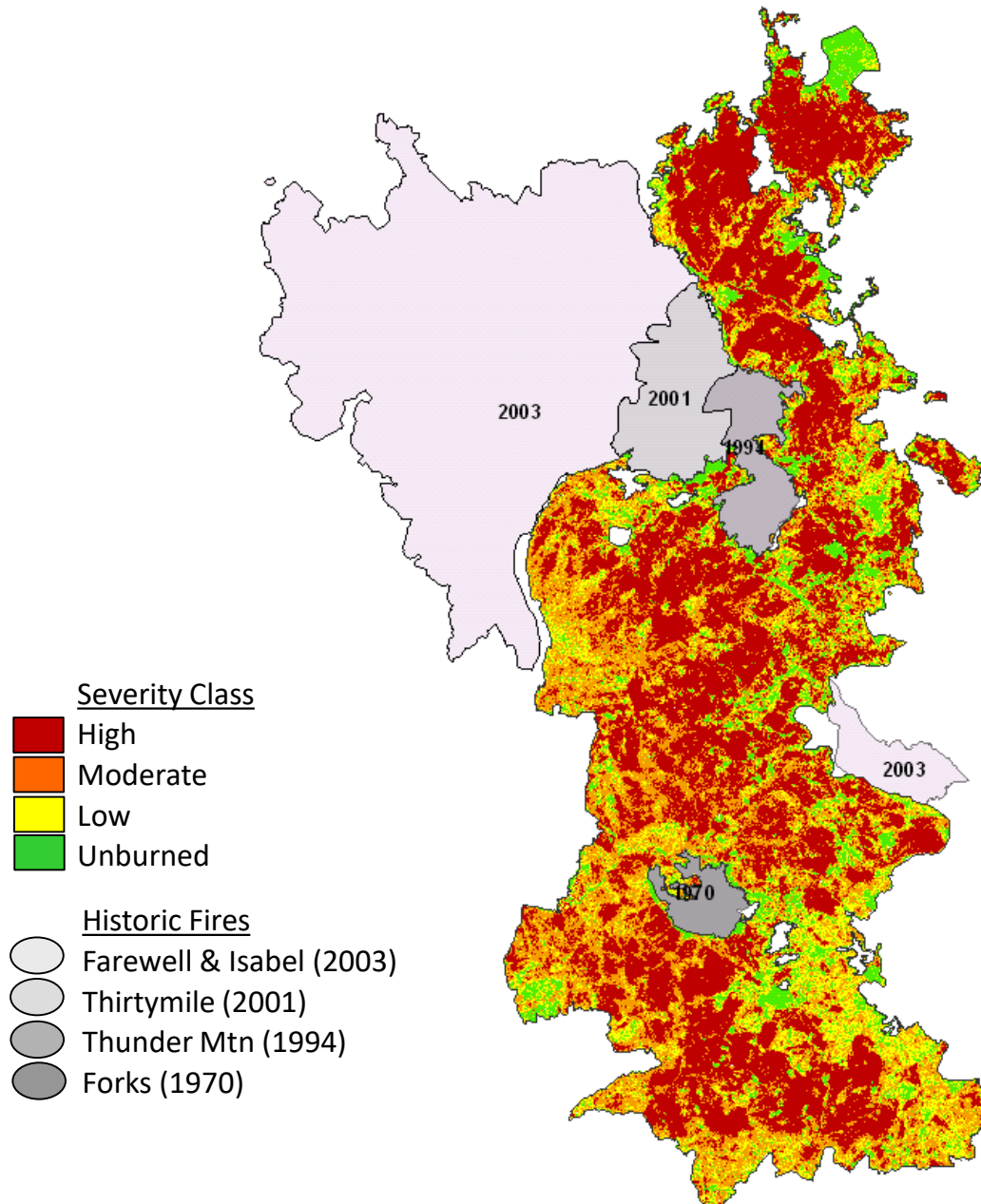
- ❖ Past burn severity reduced subsequent burn severity—more resistant
- ❖ Even under extreme fire weather conditions, vegetation, topography, and past burn severity all impacted reburn severity



# Task 2 – Spatial Simulation Modeling



# Task 3: Evaluate Alternatives to Tripod 2006



# Tripod Progressions and Weather (July 2006)

BurnDate, Time	Cumulative 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 Date	Max Temp (F)	Min RH (%)	Avg Wind (mph)	Avg Wind Dir (°)	Max Gust (mph)	Wind Direction	Haines Index
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     Let it burn

SITUATION INFORMATION				
Location of fire, cause				
Weather forecast				
Short-term fire behavior prediction (FARSITE)				
Objectives and requirements				
RISK ASSESSMENTS				
Relative risk assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities</li> <li>• Air quality</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Fisheries</li> <li>• Forest health</li> </ul>	Communities / other ownerships Risk, Air Quality	Water quality, fisheries	Fish & wildlife Habitat	Forest health, restoration
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				

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# State and Transition Model Development



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



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



**State 3A:** Stem exclusion closed-canopy. Fuel model 2. 50-89 yr.



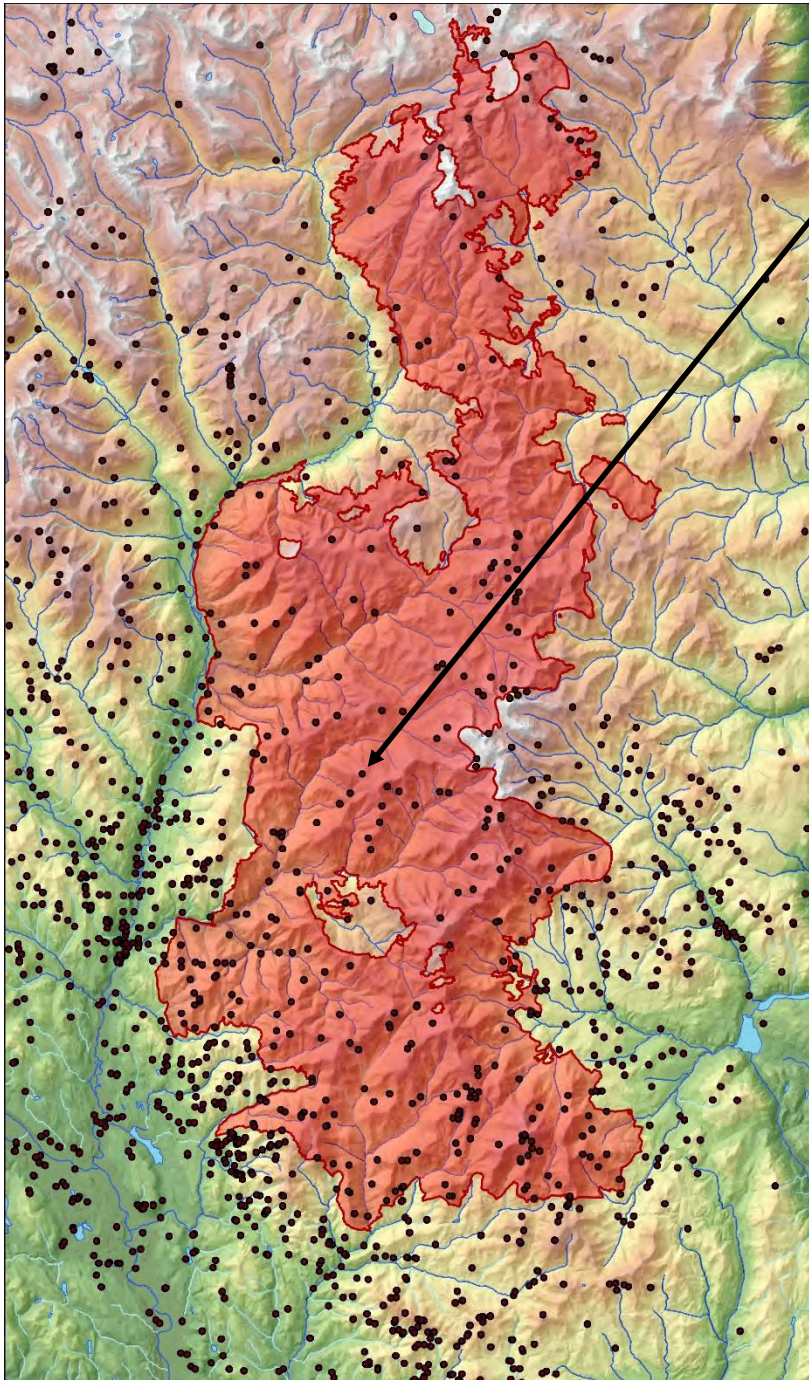
**State 4A:** Understory reinitiation.  
Fuel model TU5. 90-129 yr.



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

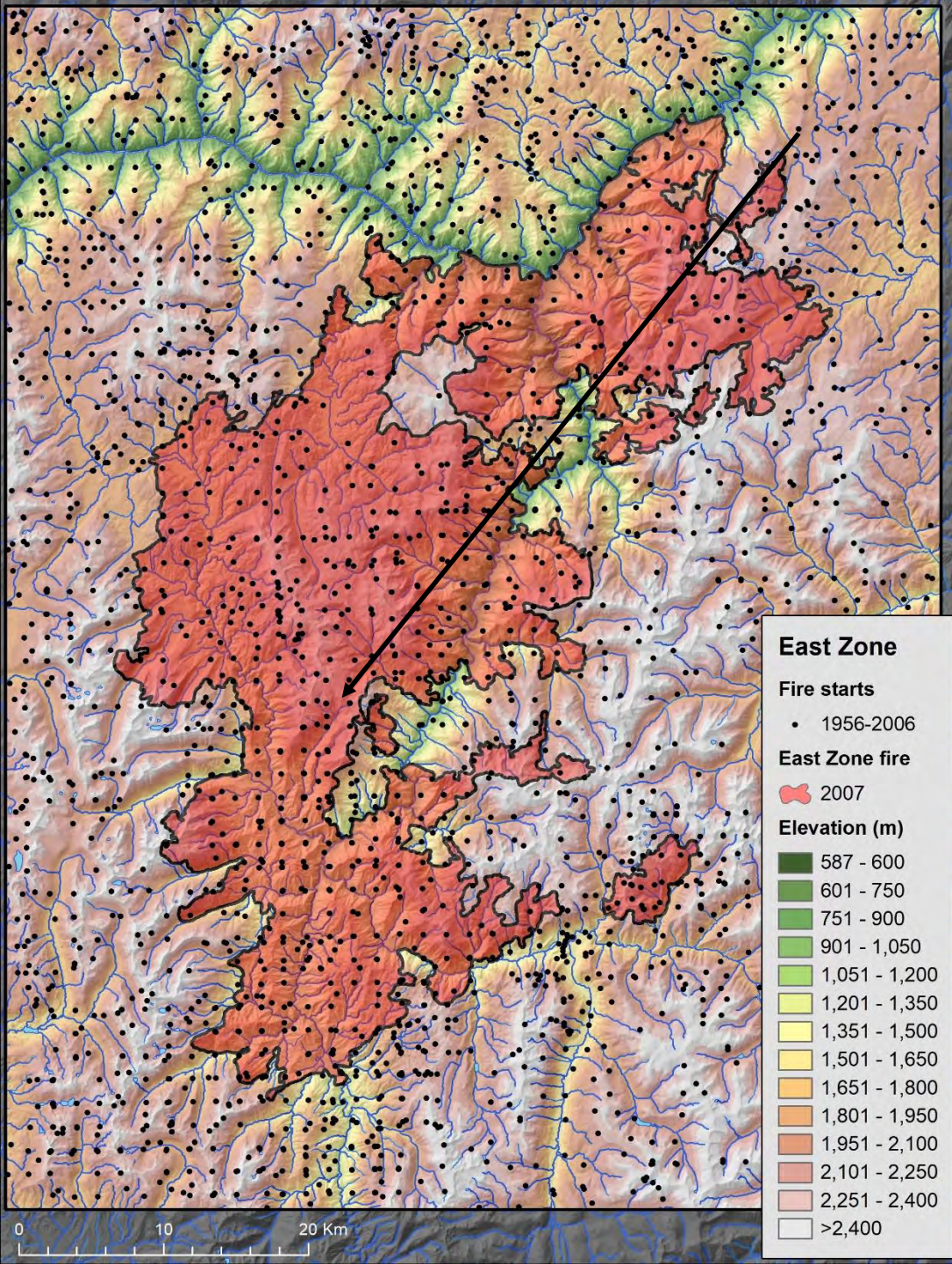


**State 6A:** Old forest multi-story.  
Fuel model TU5.  $\geq 180$  yr.



### **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.

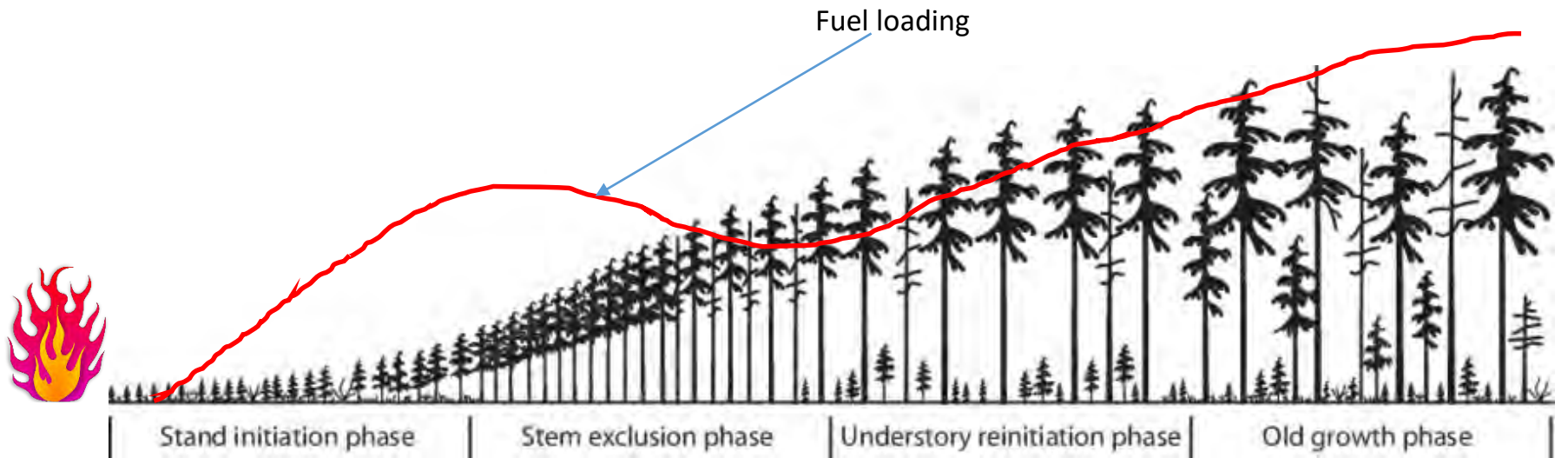


## Pixel burned in 1956

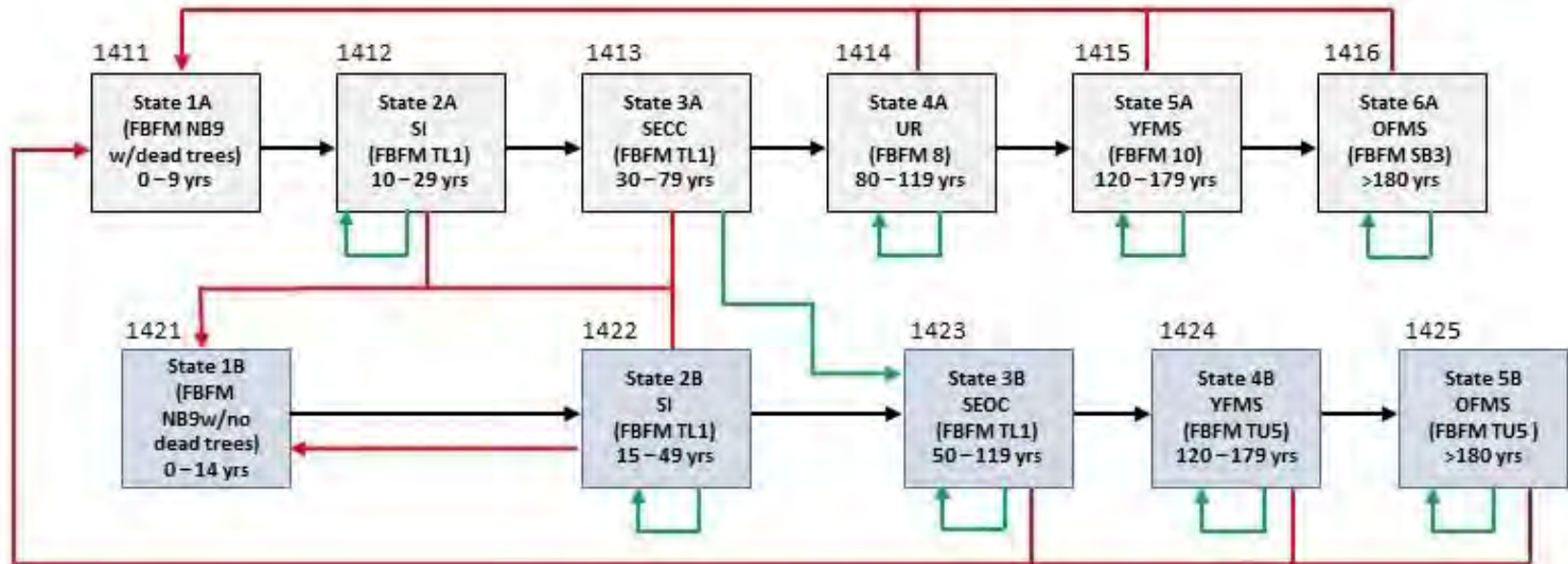
- Assigned State 1A following fire season
- Add a time step prior to 1956
- In the absence of fire, this pixel will transition to State 2A in 1957.



# Fuel succession is a continuum....



# State and Transition Model Tripod Cold Moist Conifer



No Fire →  
 Low severity fire →  
 Moderate and high severity fire →

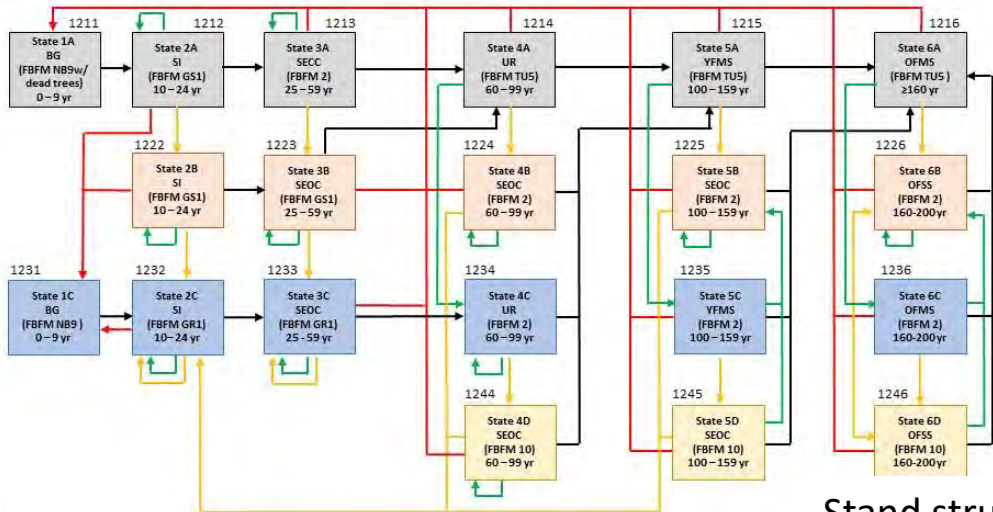
State 2A ← Pathway  
 SI ← Stand structural class  
 (FBFM TL1) ← Fire behavior fuel model  
 10 - 29 yrs ← Length of time

# 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.



No fire  
 Low severity fire  
 Moderate severity fire  
 High severity fire

Stand structure, fuel condition inputs  
 Fuel moisture, fire weather, terrain inputs  
 Fire behavior and effects outputs



- ❖ Low severity fire: 25% mortality
- ❖ Mod severity fire: 25-70% mortality
- ❖ High severity fire: >70% mortality

Behave inputs													Behave outputs			Flame Length Bins								
State	Season Bin	FBFM	Structure	Canopy cover (%)	Canopy height (m)	Canopy base height (m)	Canopy Bulk Density (kgm3)	Mortality tree species	DBH cm	1-hr (%)	10-hr (%)	100-hr (%)	Live herb (%)	Live woody (%)	Foliar herb (%)	20-ft windspeed (kph)	Air temp (°C)	Slope steepness (%)	Flame length (m)	Fire type	Probability of mortality (%)	low	mod	high
1A		NB9	BG	1	2.1	0	0.00019												0.7	PASSIVE	10	< 0.75	> 0.75 < 0.85	> 0.85
2A	1a	GS1	SI	18	6.4	0.6	0.03200	PIPO	5	7	8	10	34	75	90	8	12	35	0.9	PASSIVE	79			
2A	1b									4	5	7	19	68	90	13	33	35	0.6	PASSIVE	10			
2A	2a									5	6	9	61	98	120	8	21	35	0.8	PASSIVE	31			
2A	2b									4	5	7	51	78	120	10	26	35	0.9	PASSIVE	80			
2A	2c									4	4	6	37	65	120	11	39	35	1.1	PASSIVE	80			
2A	2d									3	3	5	36	60	120	16	46	35	0.6	PASSIVE	8			
2A	3a									8	8	12	45	92	90	6	14	35	0.9	PASSIVE	79			
2A	3b									4	5	8	30	65	90	11	34	35	1.2	PASSIVE	12	< 1.25	> 1.25 < 1.4	> 1.4
3A	1a	2	SEOC	34	14.6	0.1	0.02980	PIPO	28	7	8	10	34	75	90	8	12	35	1.4	PASSIVE	70			
3A	1b									4	5	7	19	68	90	13	33	35	1.2	PASSIVE	19			
3A	2a									4	5	7	51	78	120	10	26	35	1.3	PASSIVE	96			
3A	2b									4	4	6	37	65	120	11	39	35	1.4	PASSIVE	80			
3A	2c									3	3	5	36	60	120	16	46	35	1.6	PASSIVE	80			
3A	2d									8	8	12	45	92	90	6	14	35	1.1	PASSIVE	11			
3A	3a									4	5	8	30	65	90	11	34	35	1.4	PASSIVE	71			
4A	1a	TUS	UR	34	19.8	1	0.02750	PIPO	36	7	8	10	34	75	90	8	12	35	1.5	PASSIVE	11	< 1.6	> 1.6 < 1.8	> 1.8
4A	1b									4	5	7	19	68	90	13	33	35	1.8	PASSIVE	75			
4A	2a									5	6	9	61	98	120	8	21	35	1.5	PASSIVE	16			
4A	2b									4	5	7	51	78	120	10	26	35	1.7	PASSIVE	40			
4A	2c									4	4	6	37	65	120	11	39	35	1.8	PASSIVE	80			
4A	2d									3	3	5	36	60	120	16	46	35	2.1	PASSIVE	80			
4A	3a									8	8	12	45	92	90	6	14	35	1.3	PASSIVE	9			
4A	3b									4	5	8	30	65	90	11	34	35	1.8	PASSIVE	76			
5A	1a	TUS	YFMS	45	27.4	1	0.02750	PIPO	46	7	8	10	34	75	90	8	12	35	1.5	PASSIVE	8	< 1.75	> 1.75 < 1.85	> 1.85
5A	1b									4	5	7	19	68	90	13	33	35	1.8	PASSIVE	98			

# Cold Dry Conifer STMs



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



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



**State 3A:** Stem exclusion closed-canopy. Fuel model 2. 50-89 yr.



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

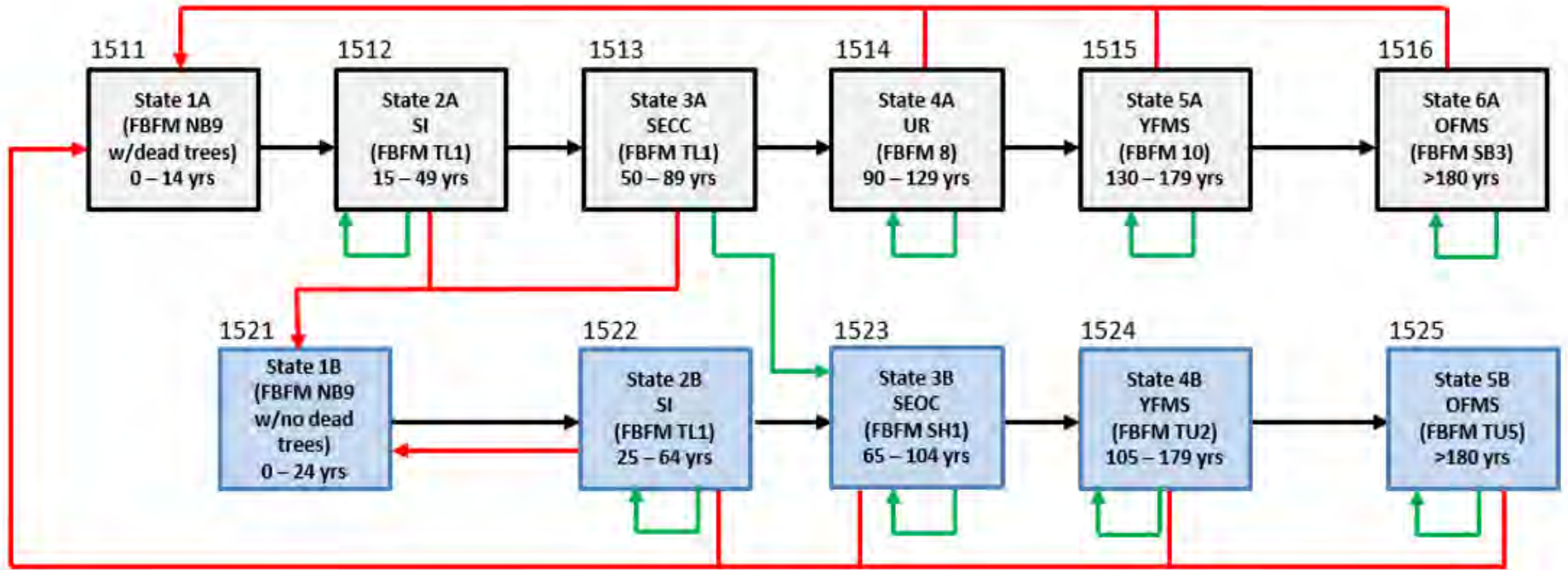


**State 5A:** Young forest multi-story.  
Fuel model TU5. 130-179 yr.



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

# Cold Dry Conifer Model



No Fire



Low severity fire



Moderate and high severity fire



# Dry Mixed Conifer STMs



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



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



**State 3A:** Stem exclusion closed-  
canopy. Fuel model 2. 25-59 yr.



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

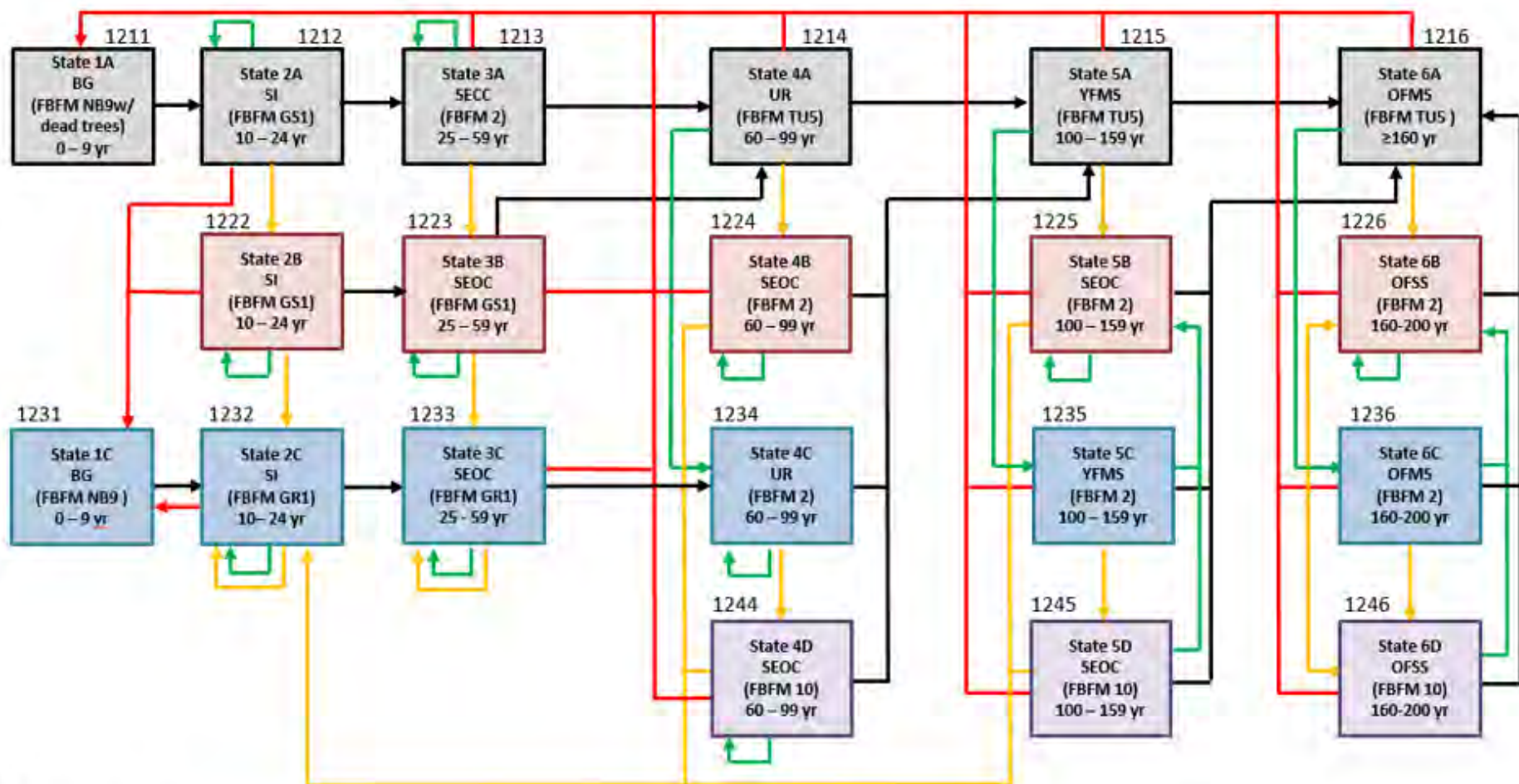


**State 5A:** Young forest multi-story.  
Fuel model TU5. 100-159 yr.



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

# Dry Mixed Conifer Model



- No fire →
- Low severity fire →
- Moderate severity fire →
- High severity fire →



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



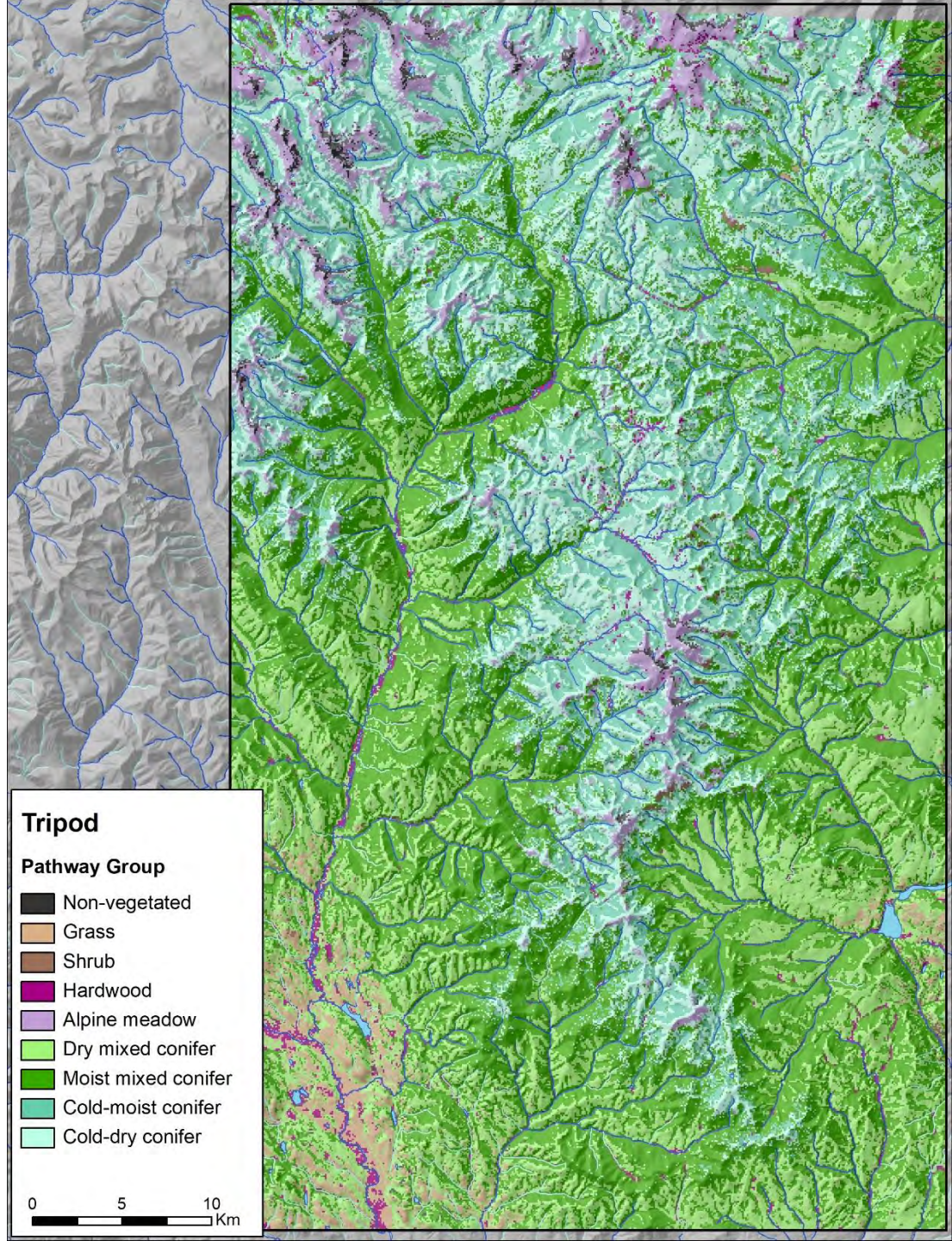
**Authors:**

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# Base Landscape Development



# 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 valley-bottom settings for all forest types/pathway groups.
- 3) 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.

StateID	Pathway Group	State	Max Time in State	FBFM Name	FBFM	CC	CH	CBH	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

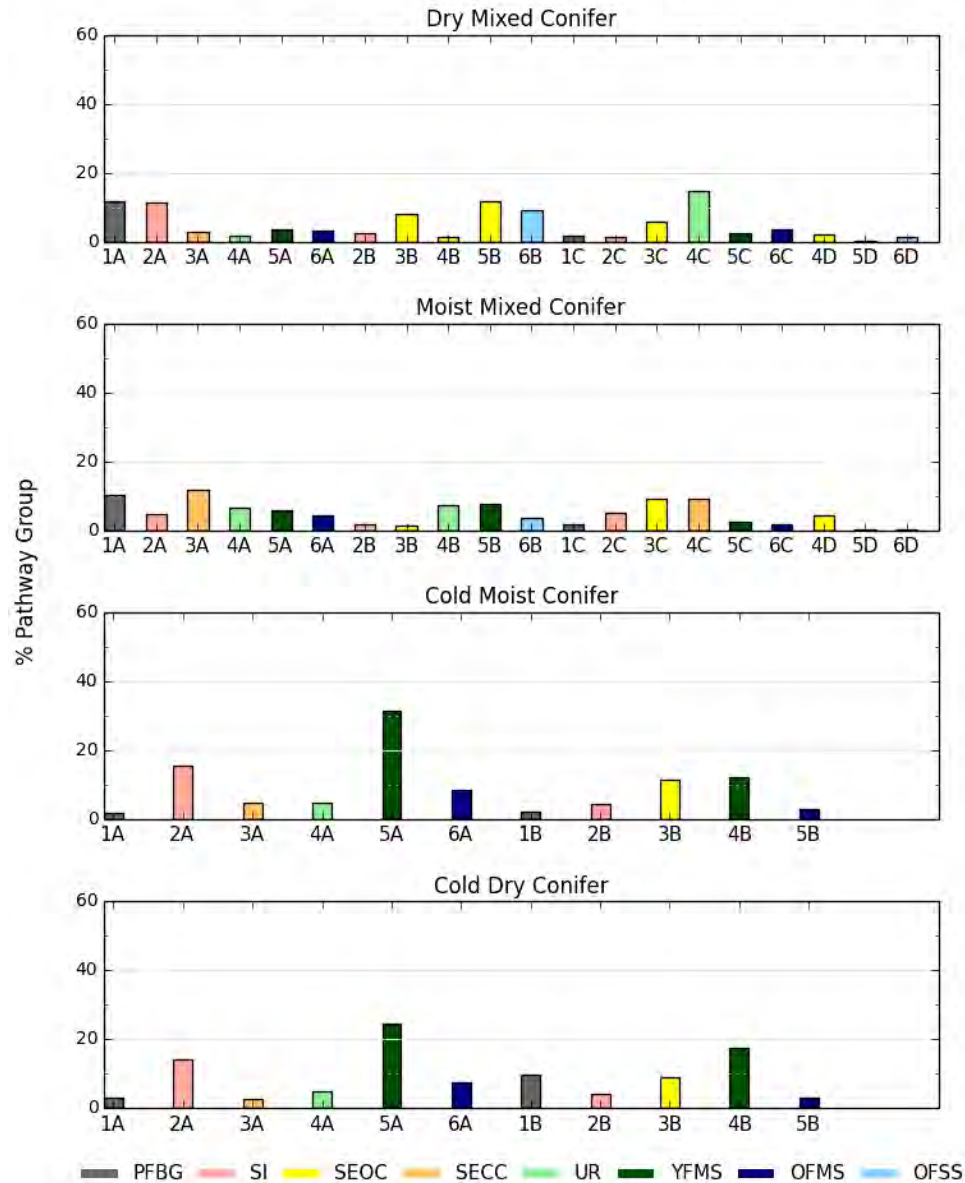
- Allows for daily ERC, wind speed and direction to vary across burn period.
- Some stochasticity allowed in fire progression.
- Command line version was available, allowing us to integrate into geospatial modeling framework.
- Commonly used in WFDSS – our implementation was more of a hybrid between 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 – state movies

State Proportion: Year 0300





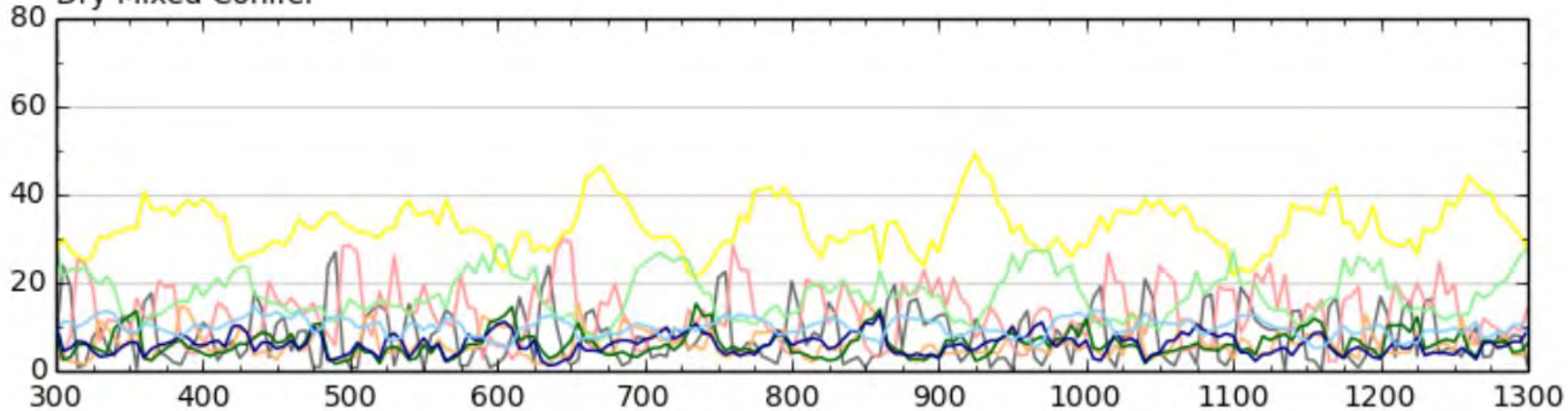
# Tripod 3000-year Calibration and Spin Up

## Forest Structure

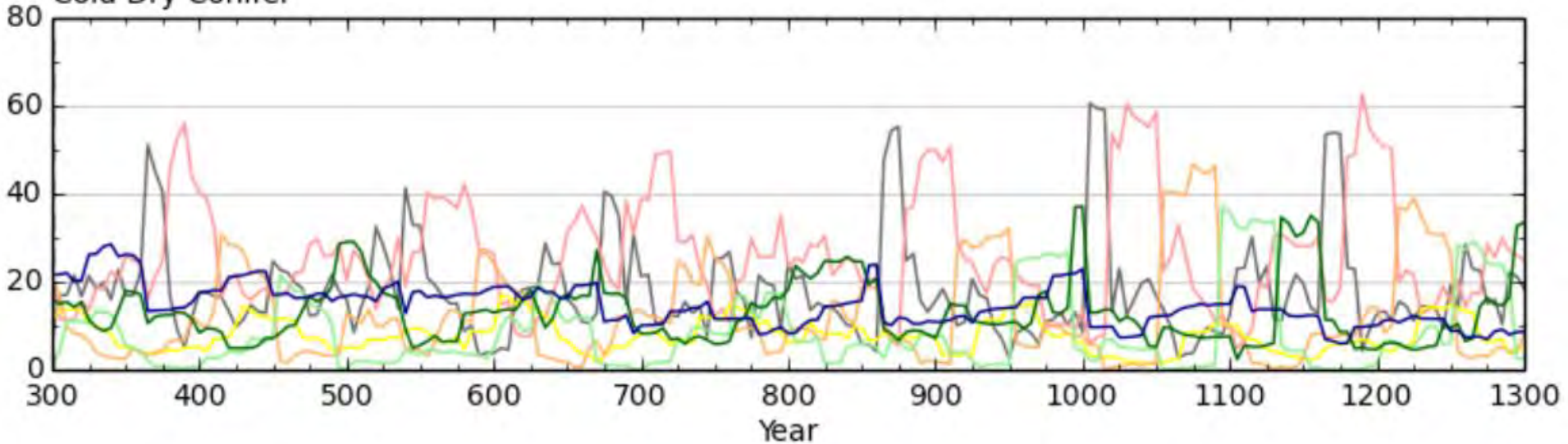


# Tripod Year 300 - 1300

Dry Mixed Conifer



Cold Dry Conifer



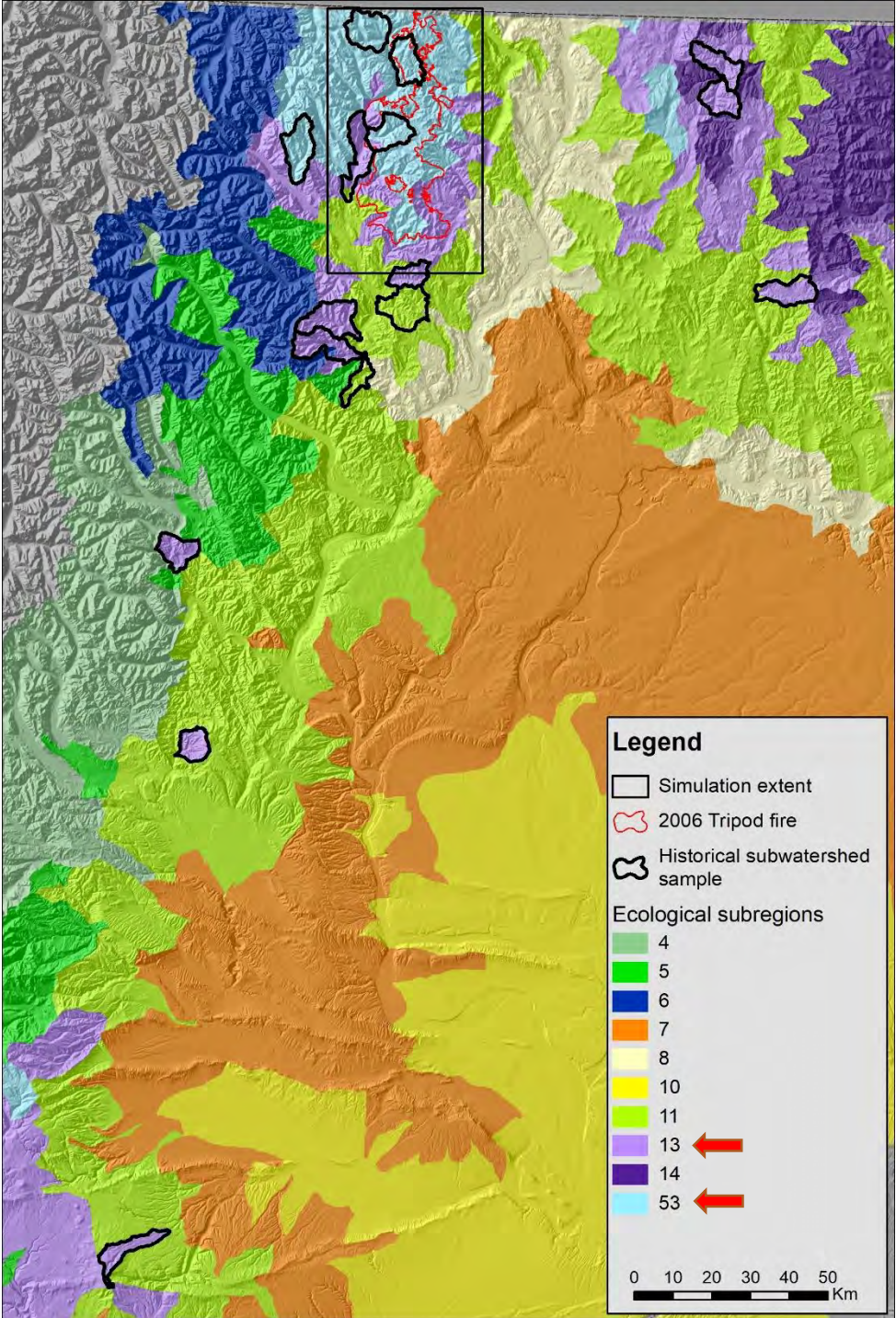
Legend: PFBG (black), SI (red), SEOC (yellow), SECC (orange), UR (green), YFMS (dark green), OFMS (blue), OFSS (light blue)

# East Zone 3000-year Calibration and Spin Up

## Forest Structure



# 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
CMC	SEOC	5.1	0.0	0.0	14.6	56.3
CMC	SECC	4.9	0.0	0.0	49.1	81.8
CMC	UR	15.7	0.0	0.0	70.1	100.0
CMC	YFMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.0	100.0
CMC	OFMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	46.5
CMC	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

# AGENDA

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>1300 – 1330</b>	Introductions Project overview and meeting goals Brief review of 2006 Tripod incident	Prichard
<b>1330 - 1400</b>	Review of wildland fire decision making process	Dickinson / OkWen Fire Staff
<b>1400 – 1415</b>	BREAK	
<b>1415 – 1445</b>	State and transition models	Prichard
<b>1445 – 1515</b>	Base landscape development	Povak / Salter
<b>1515 – 1545</b>	Comparative wildland fire management scenarios	Hessburg
<b>1545 – 1630</b>	Workshop goals, mock decision analysis of 2006 Tripod Fire under alternative landscapes	All
<b>1630 – 1700</b>	Management applications	Prichard

# 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:  $ERC \geq 67$  and  $Wind \geq 20$  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:

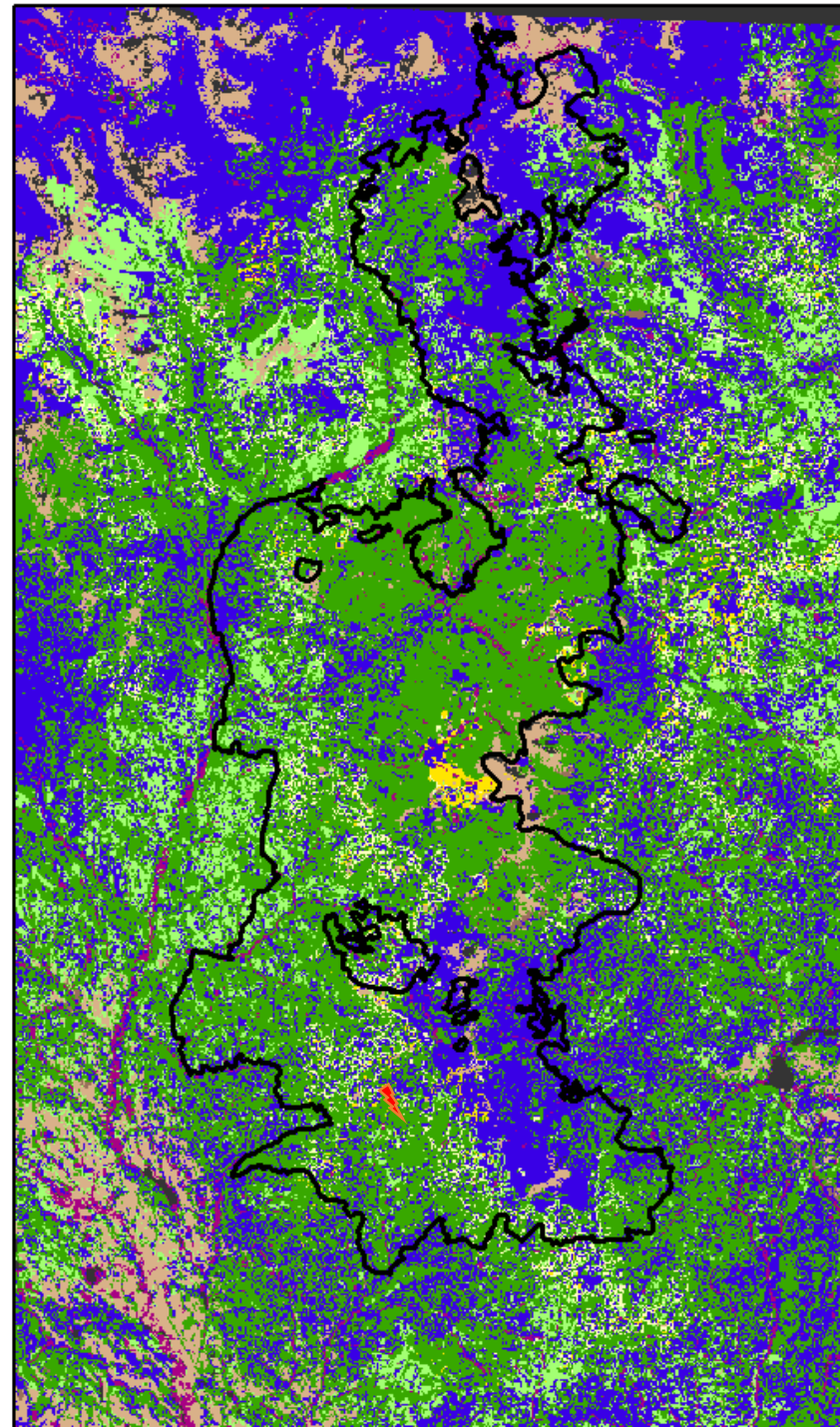
- Ignition date between 135 and 304 (May 15 to Oct 31)
- Ignition day threshold to burning:  $ERC \geq 55$
- Minimum of 1 burnable pixel within ignition perimeter

# Results - Tripod

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

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

## Legend





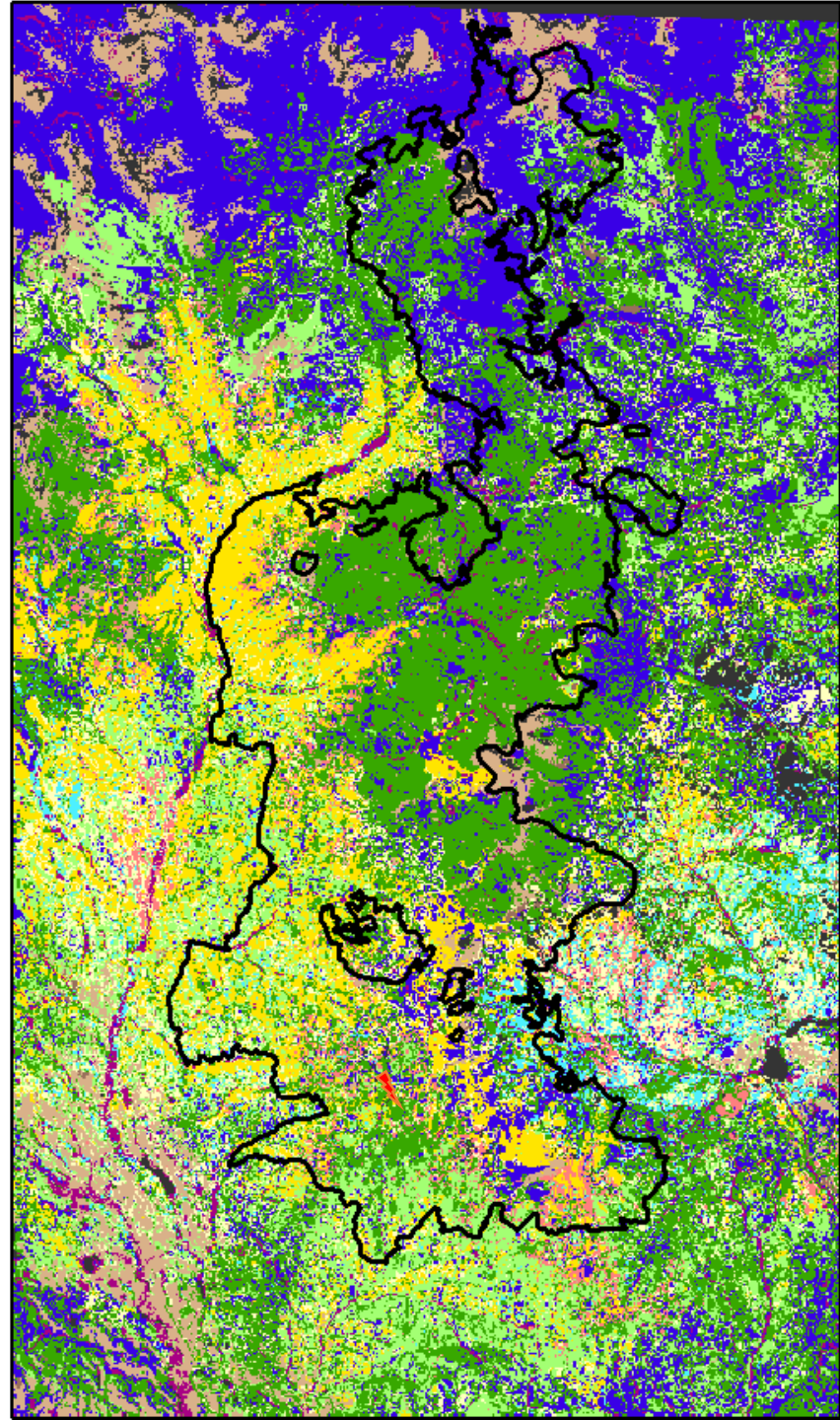
# Results - Tripod

## 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.

### Legend

	10 - SI
	11 - SEOC
	12 - SECC
	13 - UR
	14 - YFMS
	15 - OFMS
	16 - OFSS
	17 - herbland
	18 - shrubland
	19 - hardwood
	20 - NF/NR







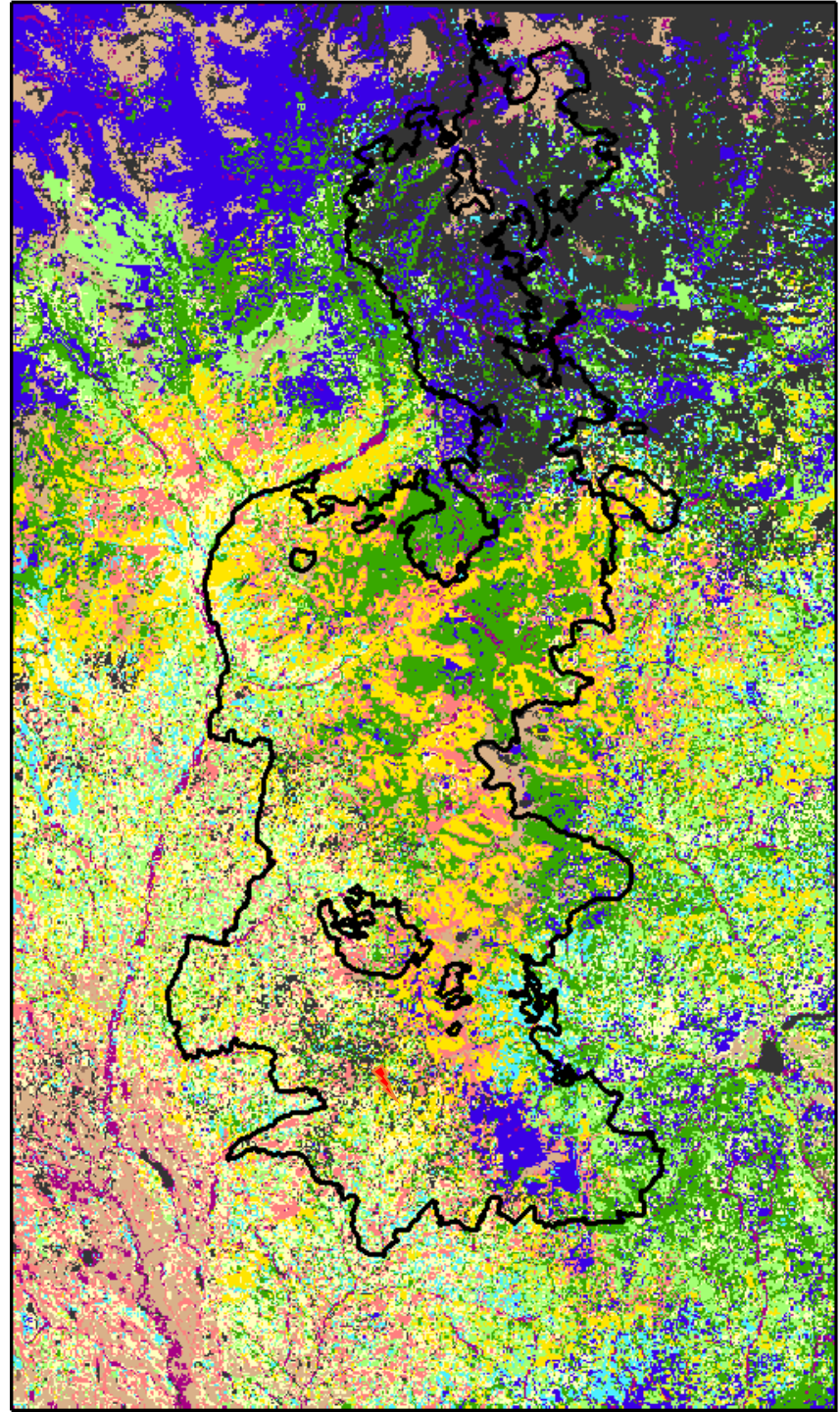
# Results - Tripod

## C) Partial Suppression

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

### Legend

	10 - SI
	11 - SEOC
	12 - SECC
	13 - UR
	14 - YFMS
	15 - OFMS
	16 - OFSS
	17 - herbland
	18 - shrubland
	19 - hardwood
	20 - NF/NR



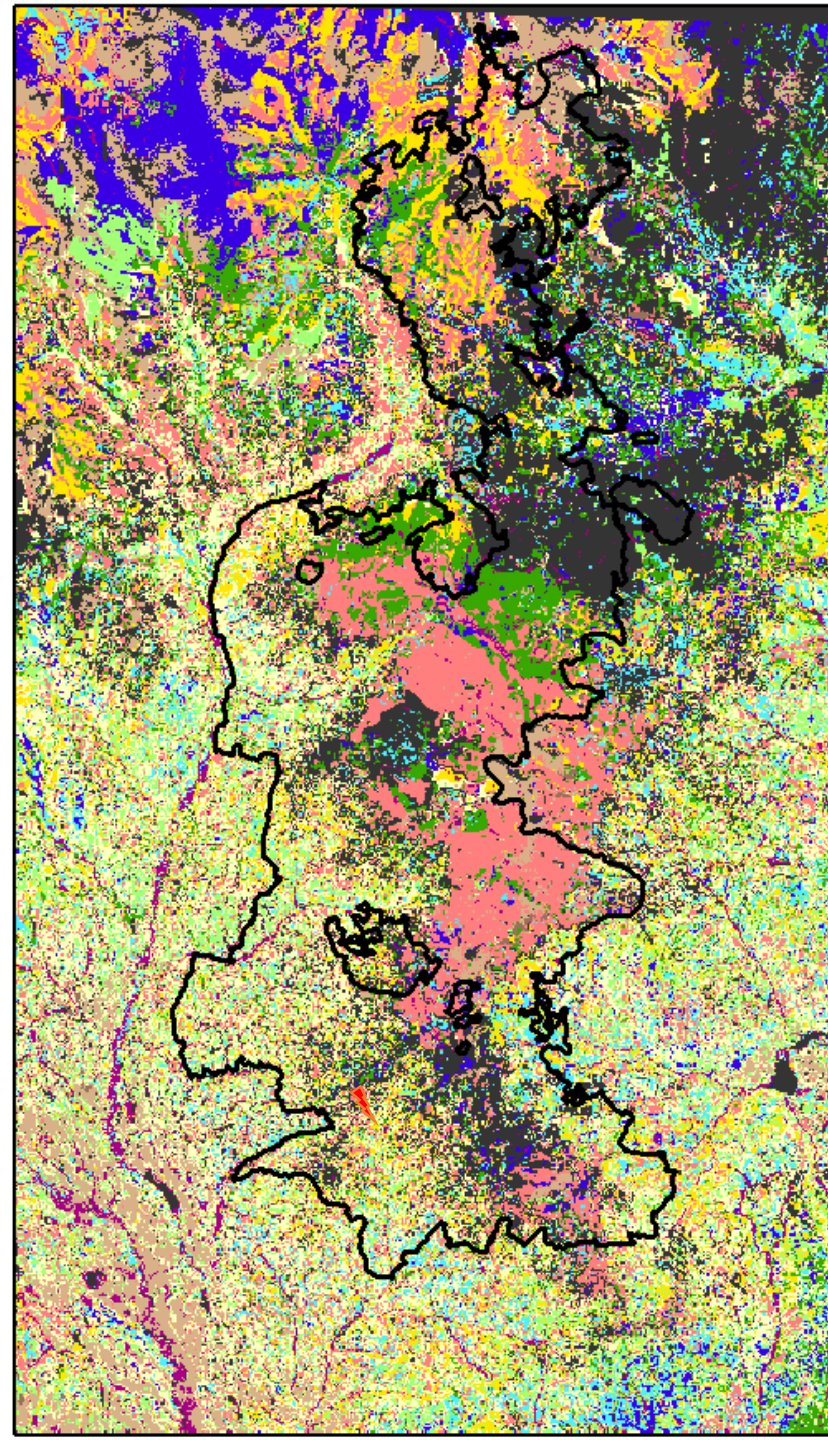
# Results - Tripod

D. No suppression  
(let it burn)

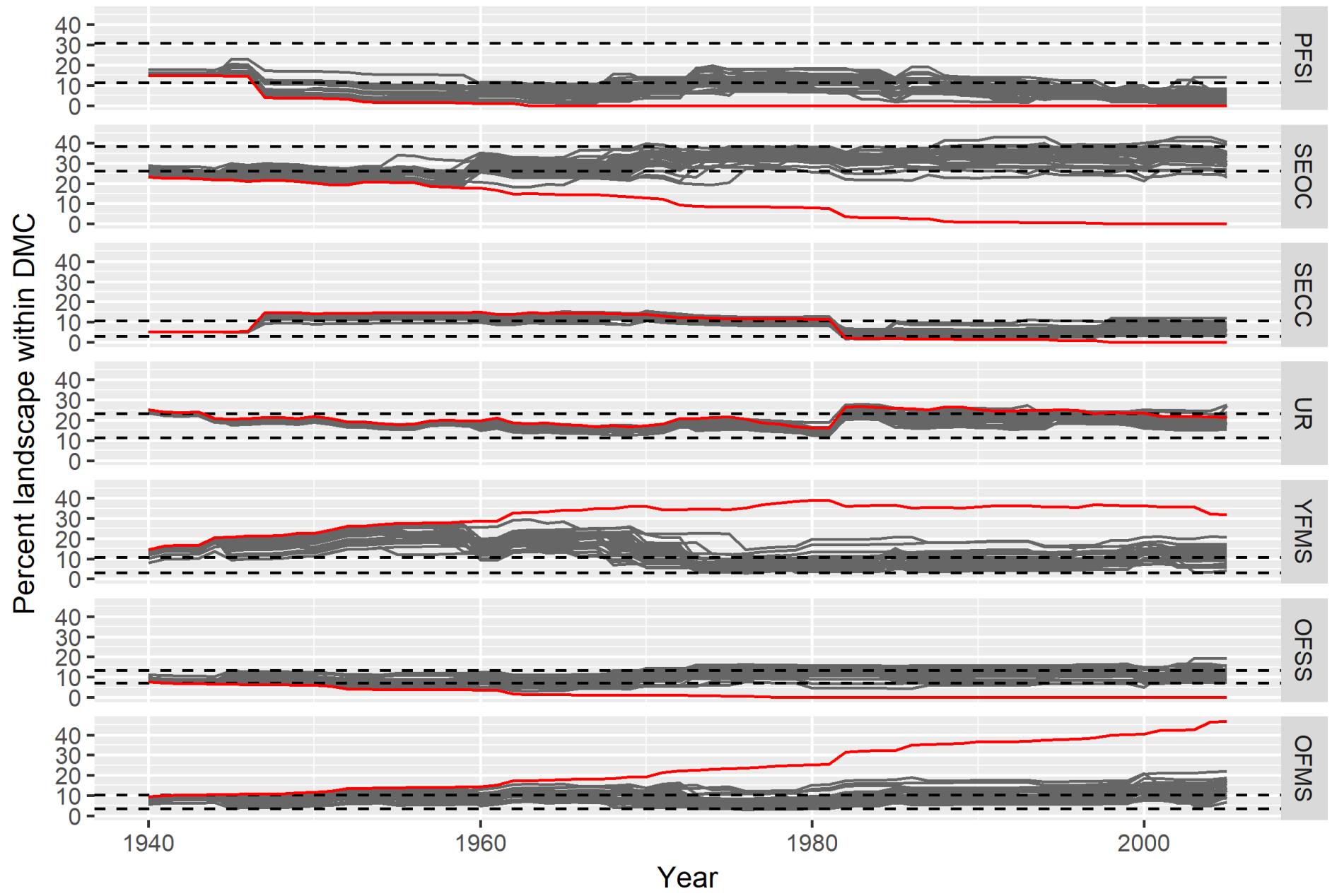
- Landscape supports low percentage of mature forest
- Highest pixilation of any of the scenarios.
- Patches of young forest multistory and old forest multistory generally surrounded by recent burns (black pixels) and regenerating forest.

## Legend

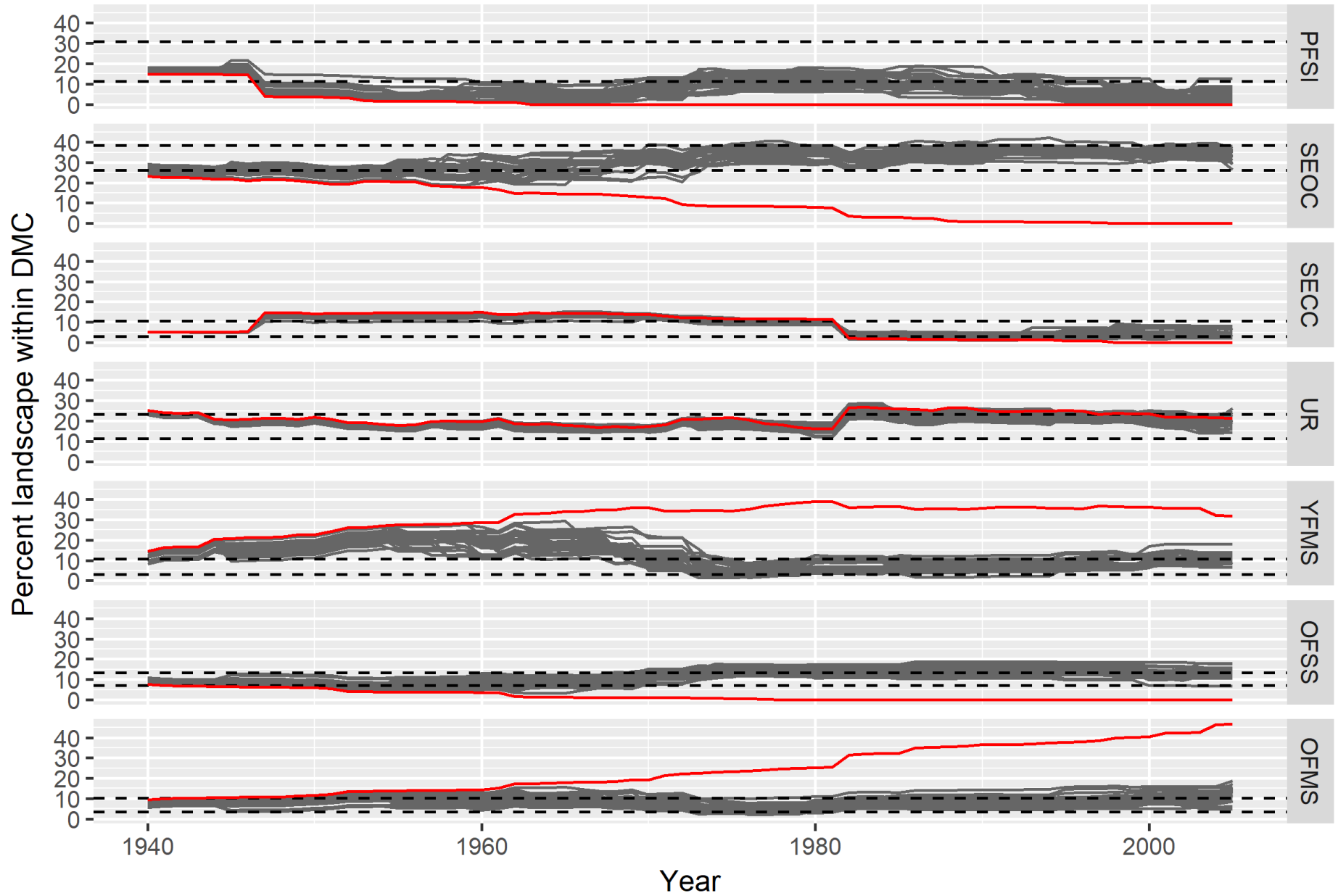
	10 - SI
	11 - SEOC
	12 - SECC
	13 - UR
	14 - YFMS
	15 - OFMS
	16 - OFSS
	17 - herbland
	18 - shrubland
	19 - hardwood
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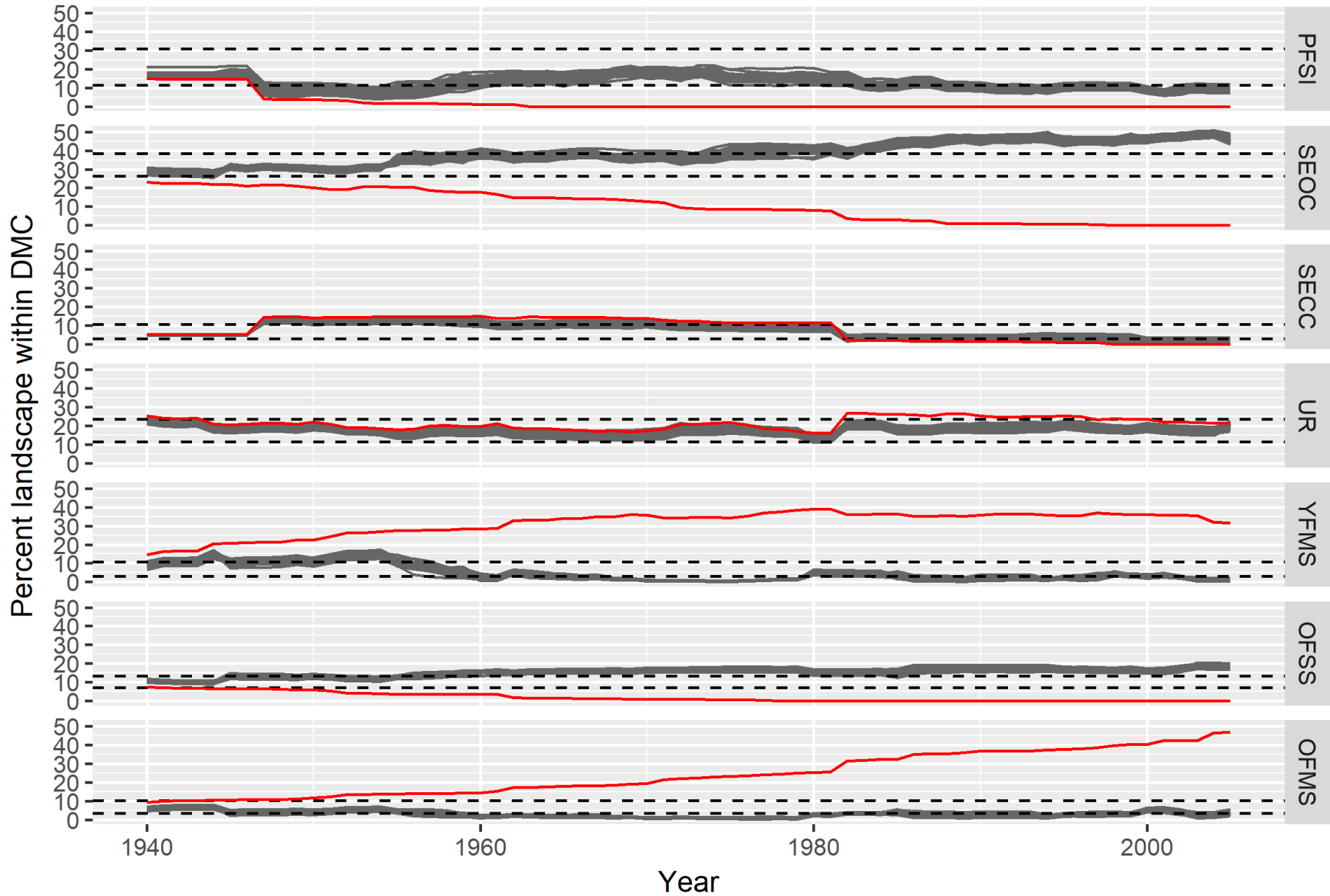
# DMC: Full suppression



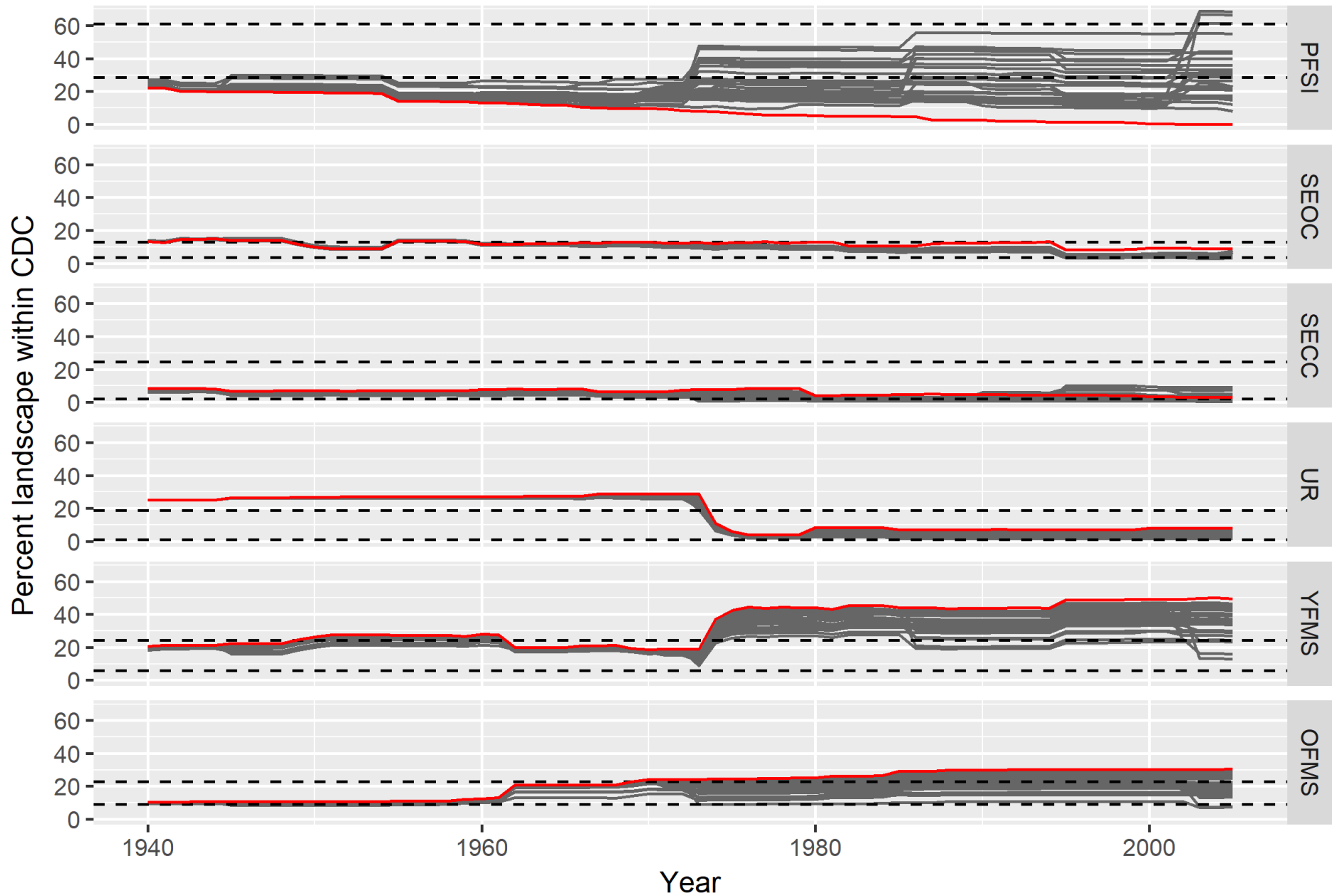
# DMC: Partial suppression



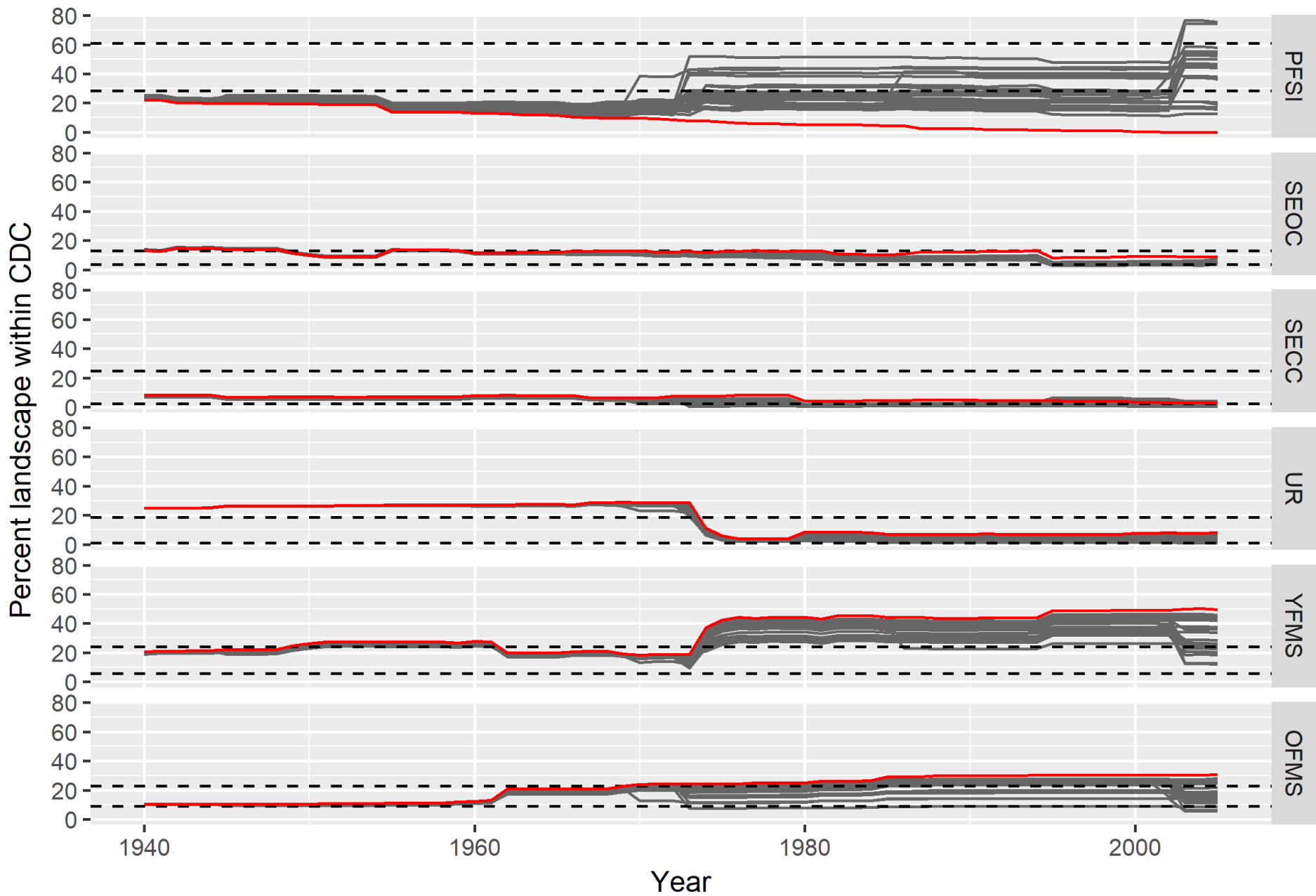
# DMC: No suppression



# CDC: Full suppression

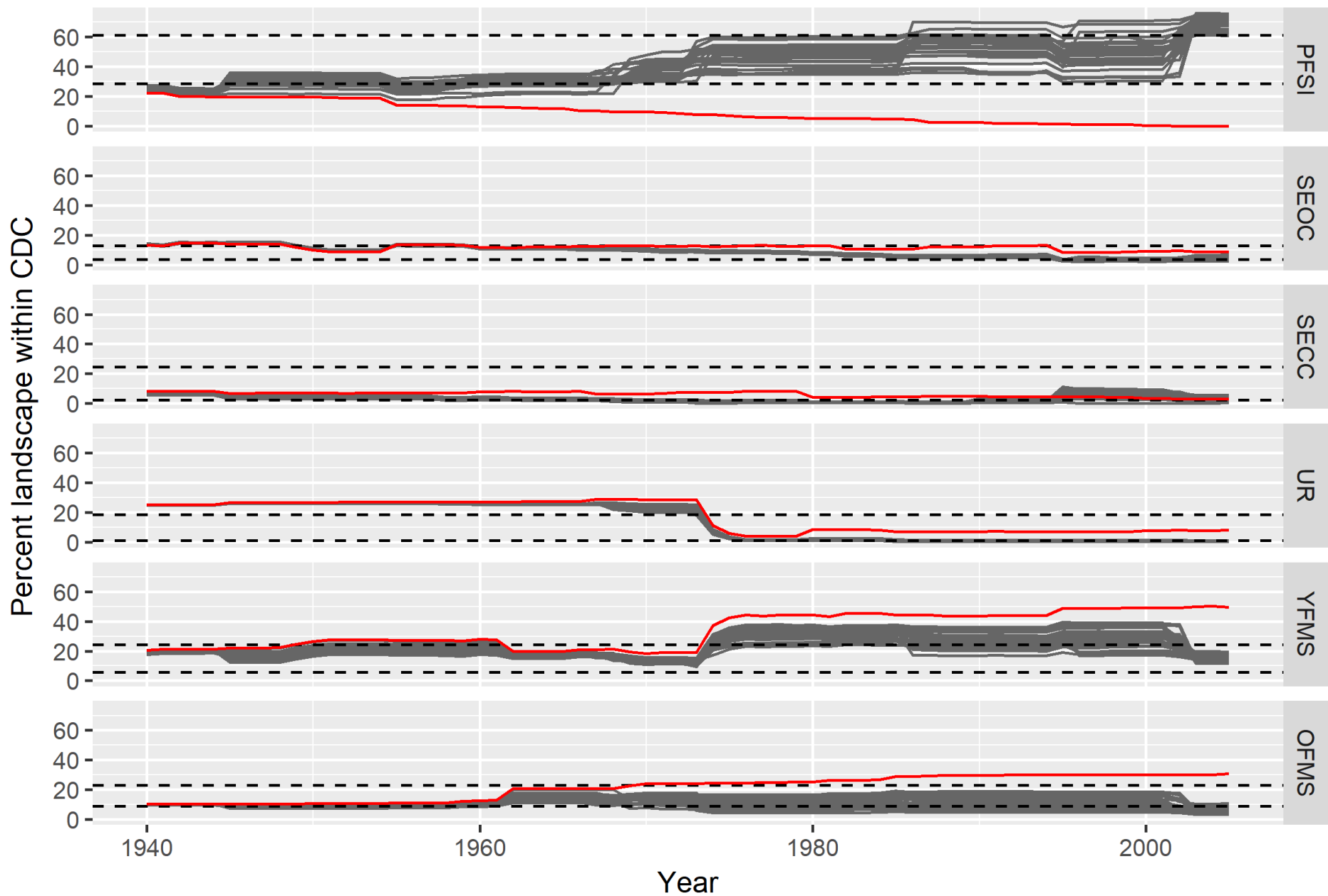


# CDC: Partial suppression





# CDC: No suppression



# AGENDA

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# Summary

- 1) Proactive wildland fire management can reduce the likelihood of large-scale vegetation and fire regime shifts associated with large fires.
- 2) **No fire** and **Full Suppression** scenarios represent “boom and bust” landscapes -- continuous mature forests are capable of supporting large fire spread.
- 3) **Managed wildfires** and **Let it Burn** 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

# Next Steps

1) Manager workshops

Influence of burn mosaics on firefighting strategies,  
resource allocations

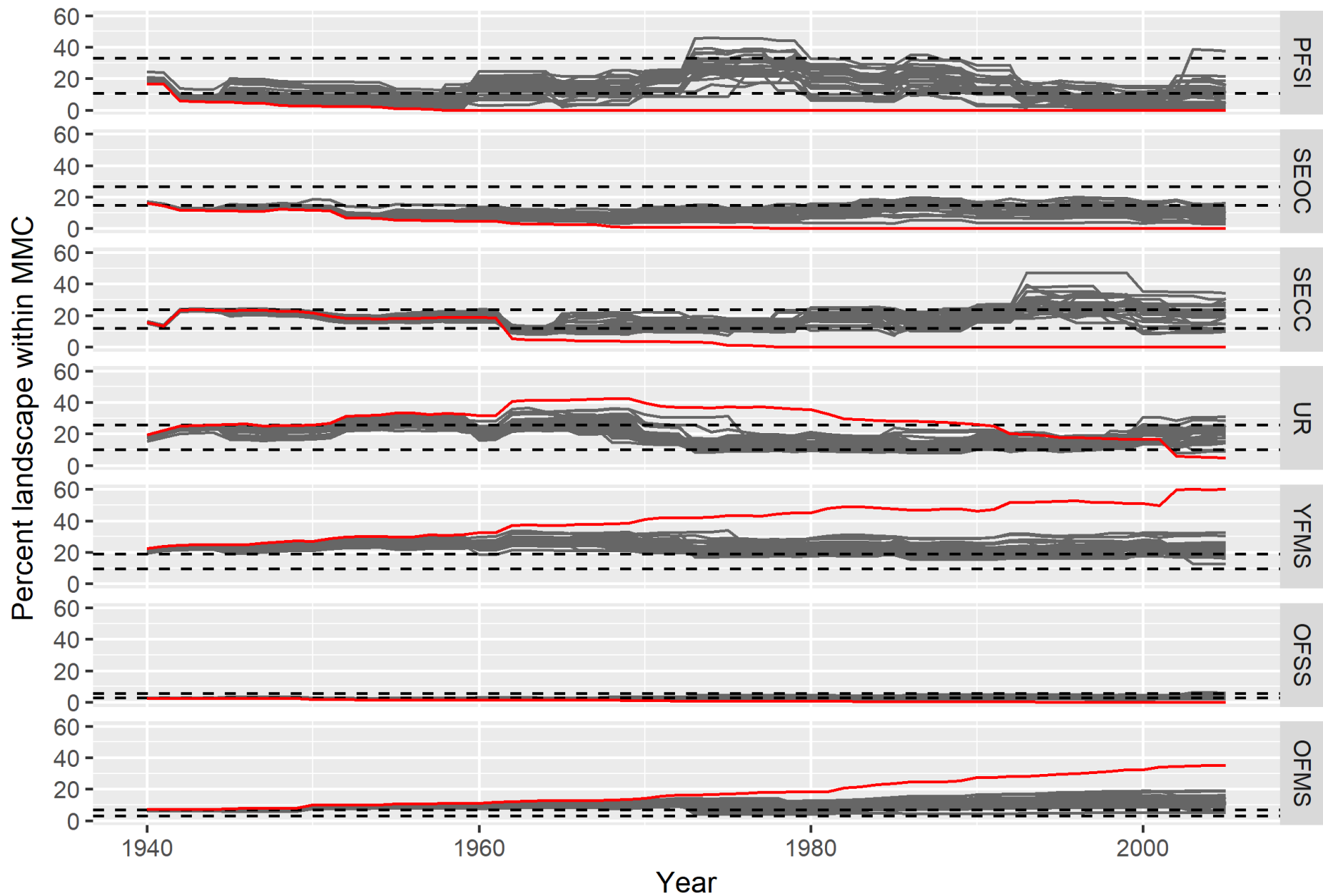
2) WFDSS training layers to explore management  
scenarios

3) State and Transition Models (further refinement)

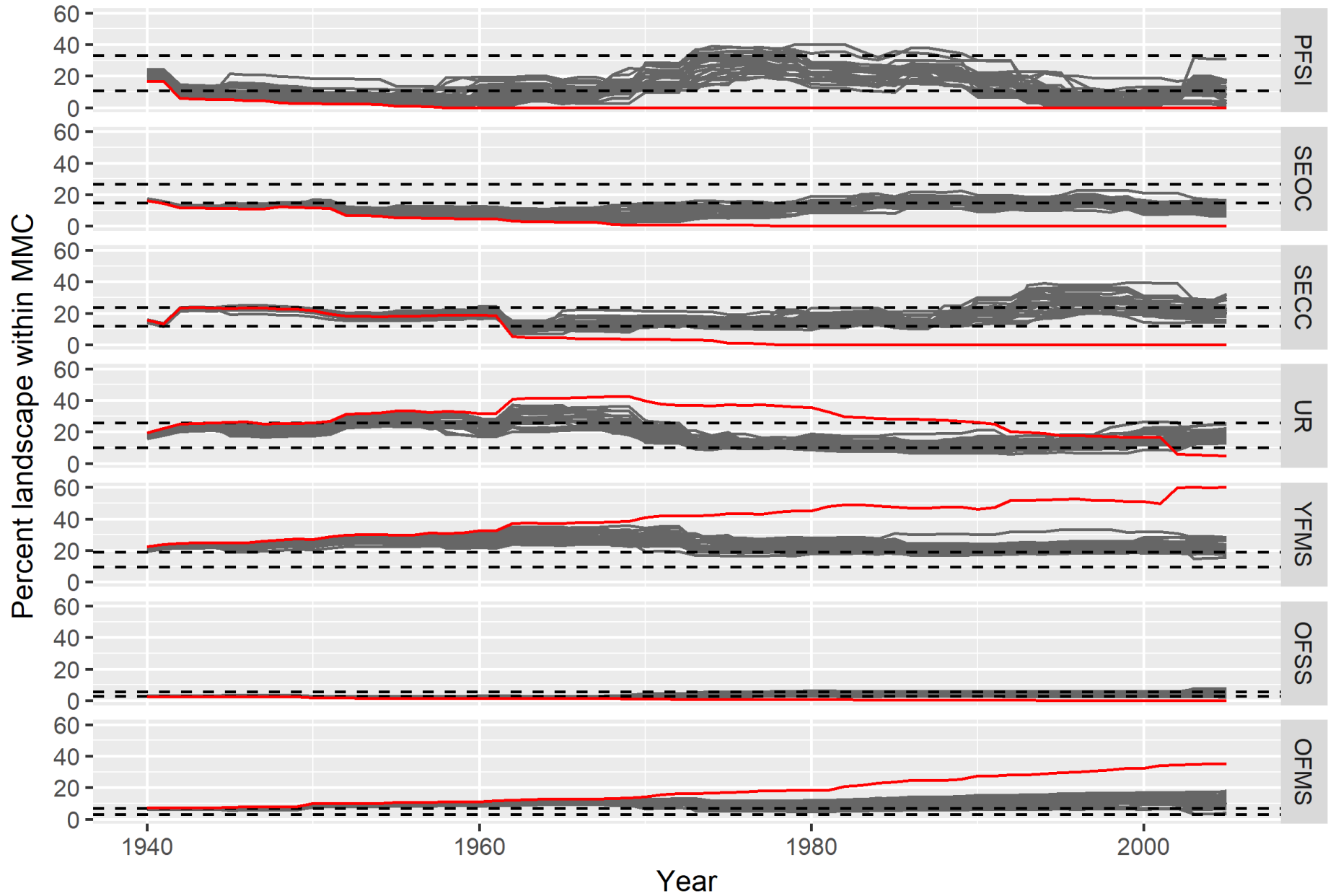
4) Lessons learned (STM refinements, overfiring  
landscapes with anthropogenic fire)

5) Climate change landscape scenarios

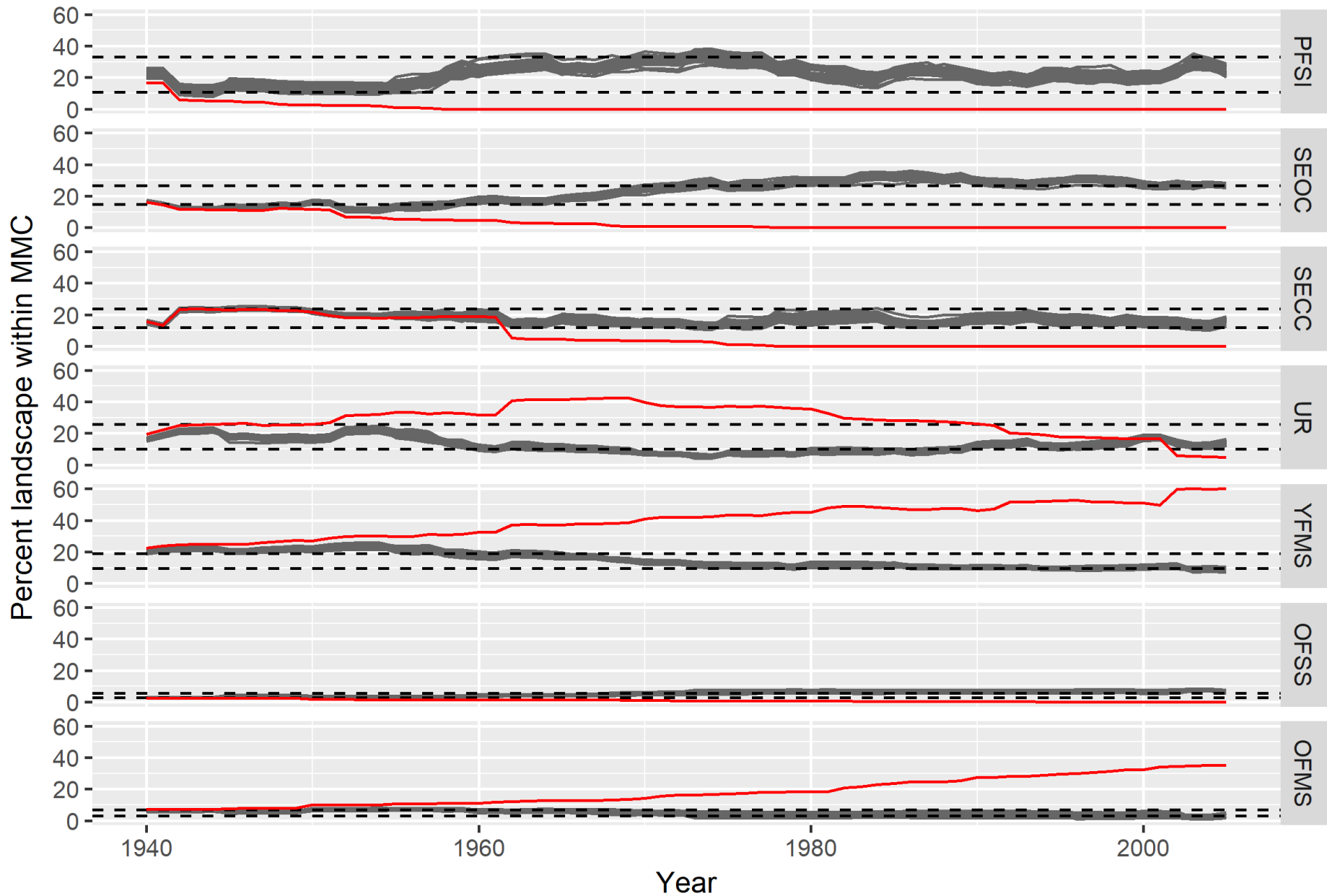
# MMC: Full suppression



# MMC: Partial suppression

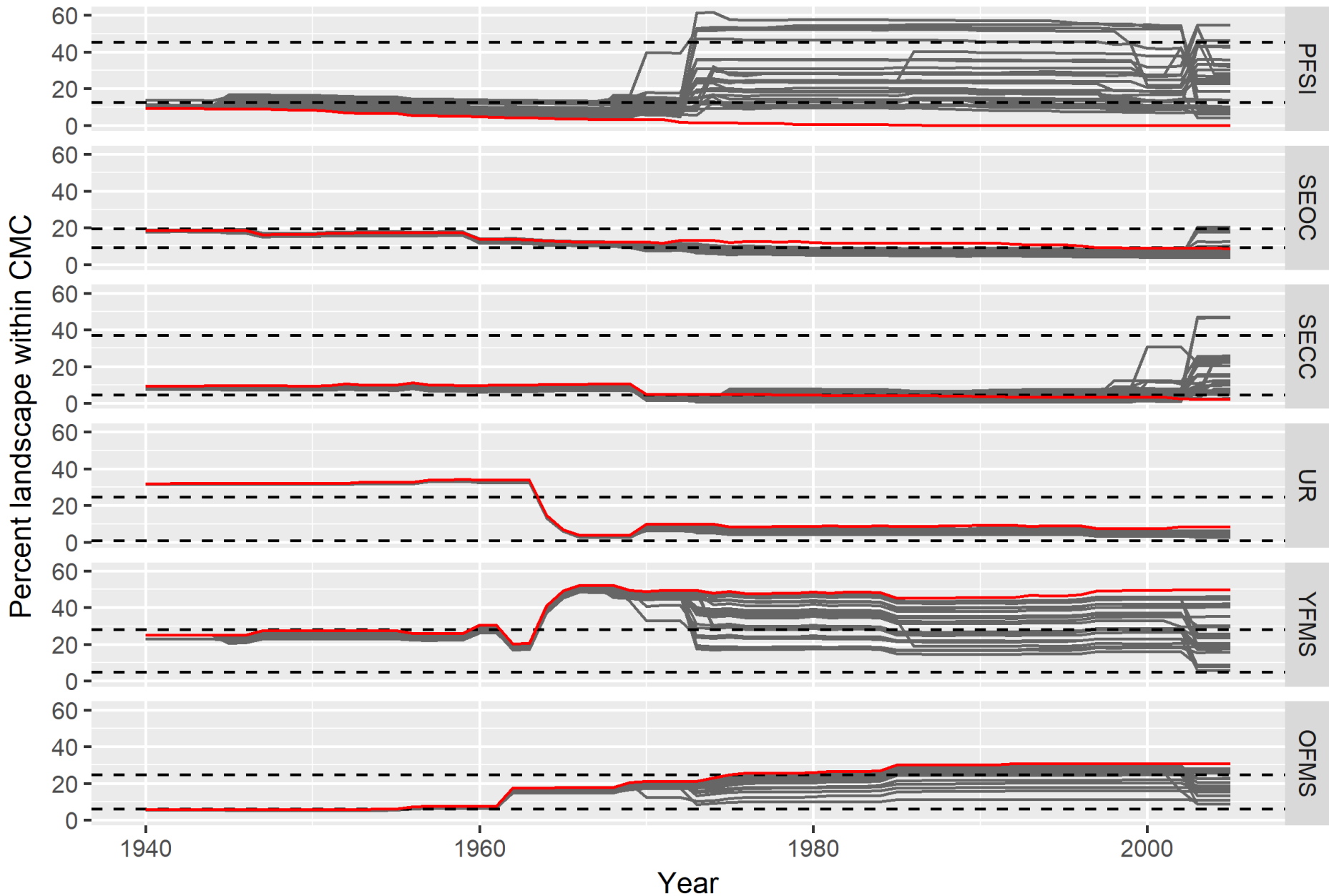


# MMC: No suppression





# CMC: Partial suppression



# CMC: No suppression

