

Misc. Grazing Topics

...From a Firefighter Point of View



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How Does Grazing Affect Wildland Fire Behavior?



Grazing Affects Wildfire Behavior

- Surrogate for natural/historical wildfire?
- Manages surface and ladder “fuels” (vegetation)
- May change grass/plants that grow
- **Reduce heat production (intensity) and ember production**
- Visually, we see shorter flame lengths, slower fire spread, and less embers
- Slower spreading fires (not wind driven and/or on a steep slope) may stop
- Less water is needed to make vegetation unable or less likely to burn and/or extinguish

2009 Pendleton Fire San Bernardino County



2017 Detweller Fire
Mariposa County



2017 Pocket Fire Sonoma County



2019 Kincade Fire Sonoma County



Grazed Area

Roof/building
damaged by wind

2020 Glass Fire Sonoma County



2020 Prescribed Burning







Grazing is a “General Term”

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- Different types of animals
- Different grazing intensities
- Variations by vegetation types
 - Grass
 - Brush
 - Timber
- Slope limitations
- May not be a standalone treatment
 - Grazing before another treatment type
 - Grazing after another treatment type
 - Sequence of treatments
- Maintenance



Right side of trail grazed (current year)
Left side partially masticated (prior year)



Left side of trail grazed
Right side not grazed











Chainsaw (“Fuels Crew”)
Treatment after Grazing



Other Misc. Topics

- Animal health and public perception
- Damage caused by “escaped” animals
- Logistical support of contractor grazers
- Coordination, documentation, etc.
- Cost
- Plan



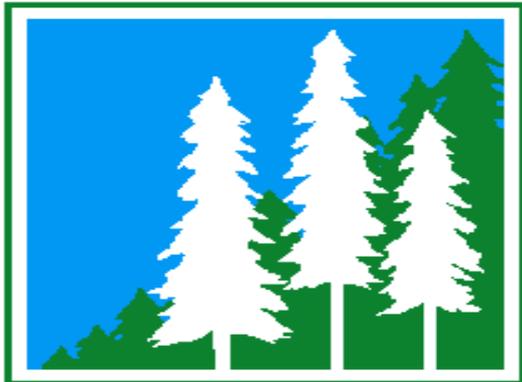
Do I Have Time to Keep Talking.....

- If not, my presentation is complete
- If we do, then I would like to talk about an “old” research project that has guided my motivation to do “fire prevention work” including grazing

The Cone Fire

A demonstration of role of thinning and wildfires

California Wildfire
Blue Ribbon Commission
Thousand Oaks, California

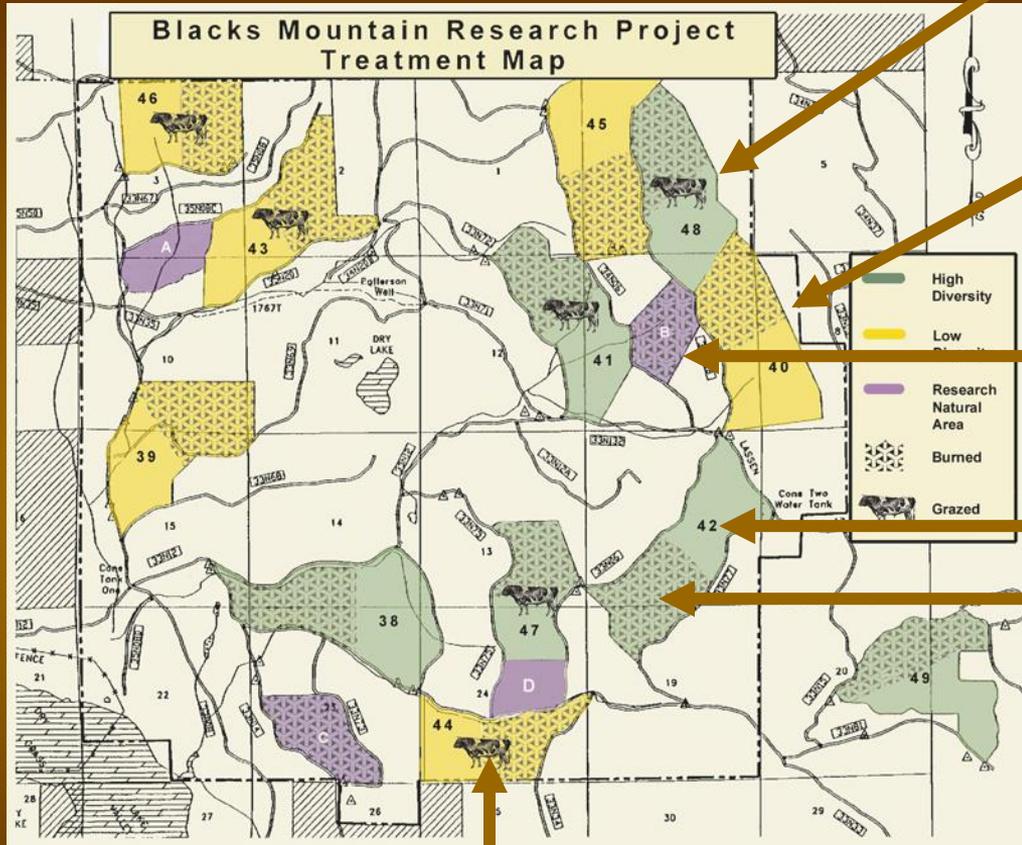


Philip S. Aune

Vice President

California Forestry Association

January 7, 2004



High Diversity Plot

Low Diversity Plot

RNA

Split Plot

Unburned

Burned

Grazed Plot

Low Diversity, Grazed Plot



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Cone Fire

Point of Origin

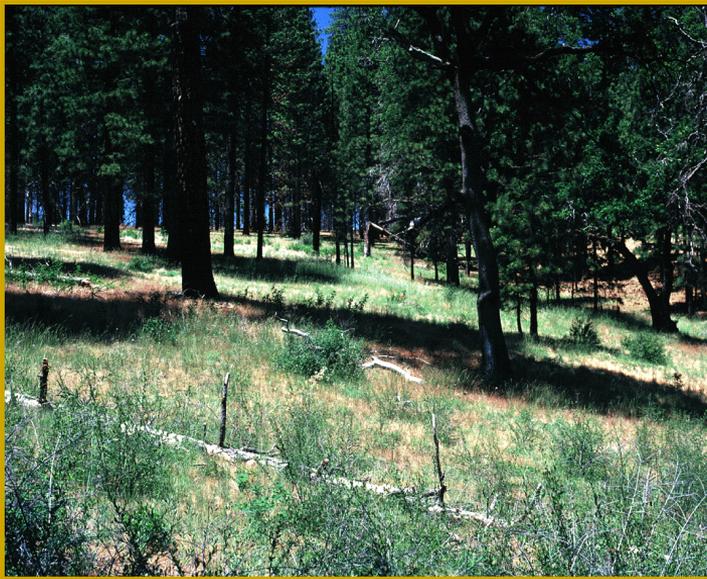


Road



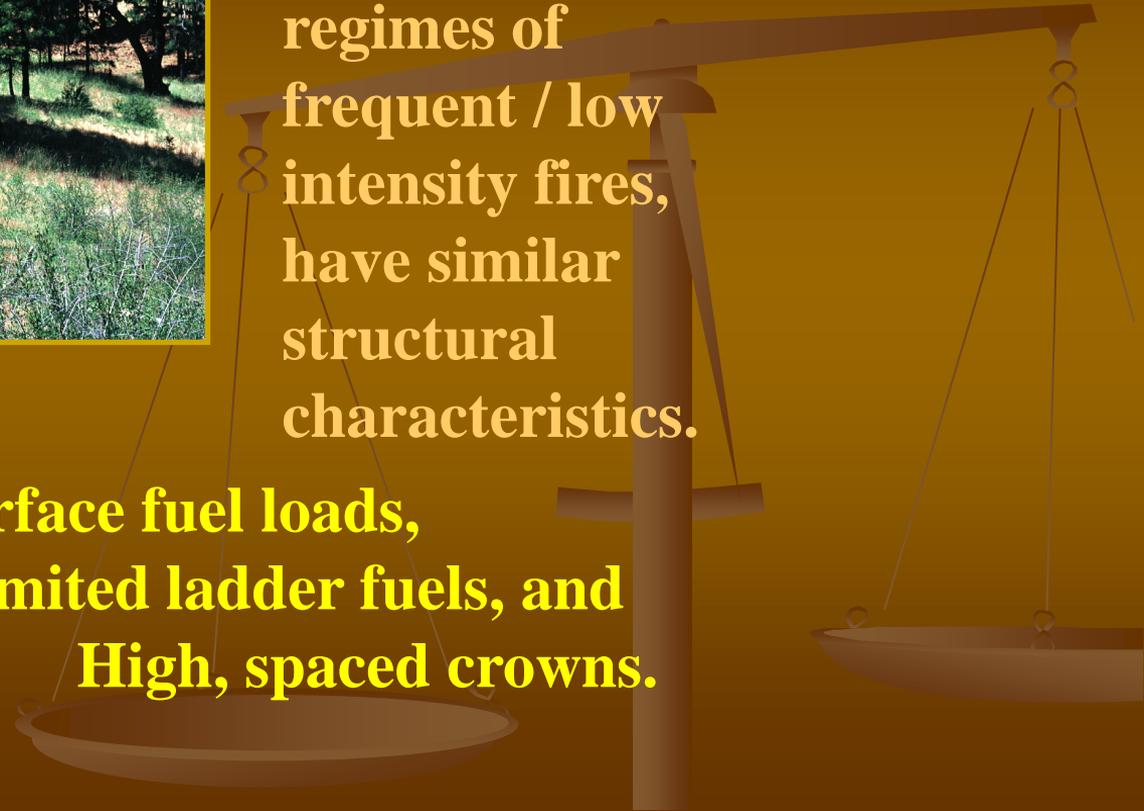
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Stands that survive fires in forests with fire regimes of frequent / low intensity fires, have similar structural characteristics.

**Low surface fuel loads,
Limited ladder fuels, and
High, spaced crowns.**



http://www.psw.fs.fed.us/Tech_Pub/gtrs.html

**For more
information on
Blacks Mt study
see:**

**W.W. Oliver
2000
PSW-GTR-179**



United States
Department
of Agriculture
Forest Service

Pacific Southwest
Research Station

General Technical Report
PSW-GTR-179



Ecological Research at the Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest in Northeastern California

William W. Oliver

