Post-Rim Fire Management for the Birds

Ryan Burnett
12/18/2013

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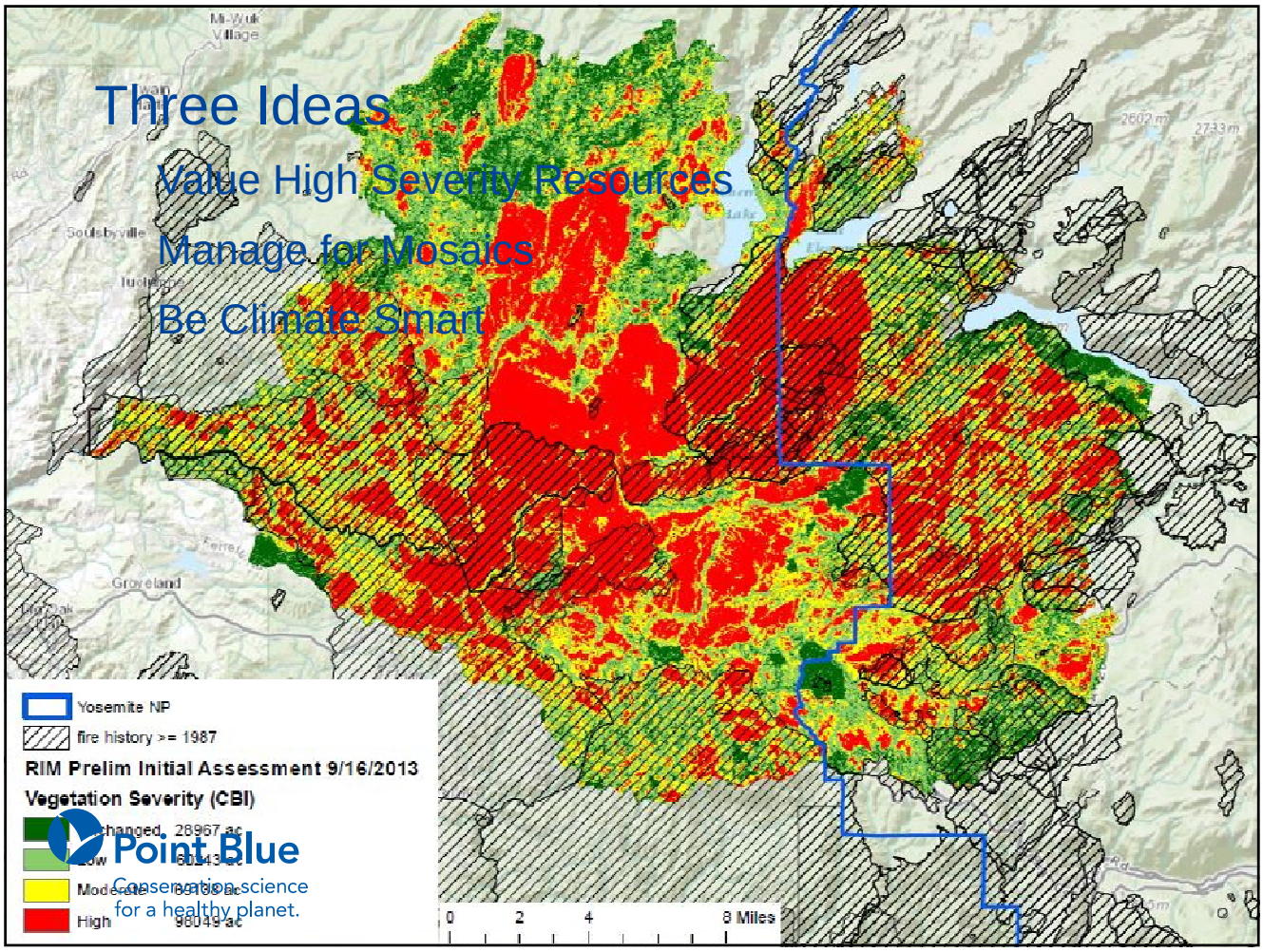

Three Ideas

- Value High Severity Resources
- Manage for Mosaics
- Be Climate Smart

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Value High Severity
It supports the most [illegible] bird community compared to surrounding green forests
Prompts the [illegible] of fire suppressed disturbance dependent resources (e.g. aspen, riparian hardwoods, oak, & herbaceous)
Be strategic and measured in assisting natural processes
Fungus & flowers to shrubs & snags
Recommendation: Evaluate where best to manage for these resources and allow natural processes to dominate
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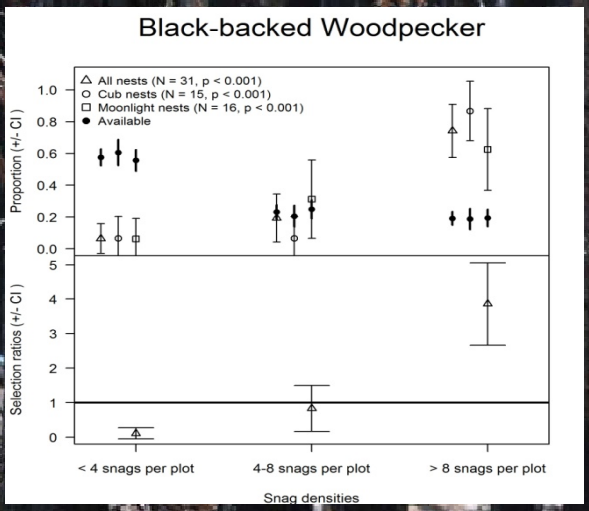
Black-backed Woodpecker



Snag Density at Nest Sites = 134/acre

Nest Tree DBH = 14 inches

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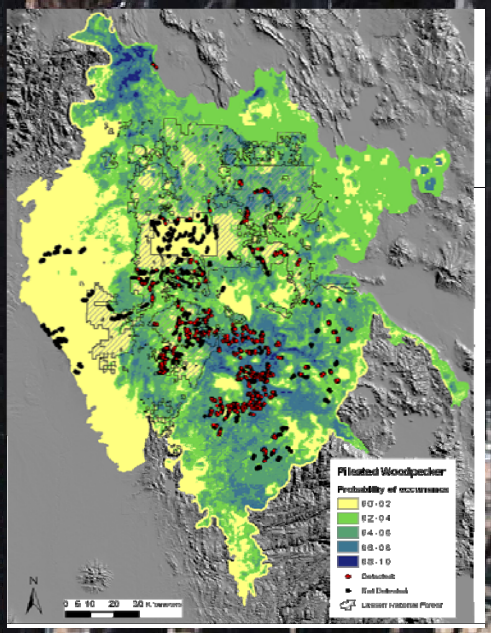
Black-backed Woodpecker

Develop a spatially explicit habitat suitability model for the Rim Fire

- Help identify areas to set aside
- Ground truth in coming years



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Black-backed Woodpecker Recommendations

- Leave large blocks of un-salvaged areas (>200 acres)
  - >100 ft^2 of snag basal area per acre
  - pockets > 250 snags/acre (>9 in.)
  - > 5000 feet elevation
  - CWHR M&D stands of size class 4, 5, & 6
  - lodgepole, fir, Jeffrey pine, mixed conifer
  - retain some adjacent to green forest or in areas with patchy effects
  - retain in areas of high beetle activity

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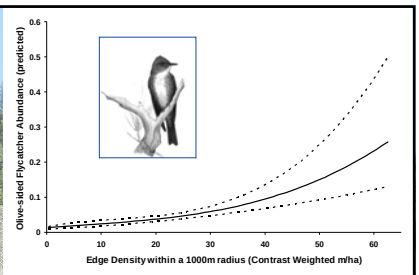
Manage for Mosaics



- Retain high severity patches adjacent to green forest
- Prioritize resiliency of remnant green forest in and surrounding fire
- Limit replanting in mixed severity areas with smaller patch sizes
- Ensure restoration treatments are compatible with use of prescribed & managed fire
- Consider poking holes and intensively managing “founder” stands
- Reforest in variable density clumping with unplanted areas interspersed
- Reinforce heterogeneity with fire

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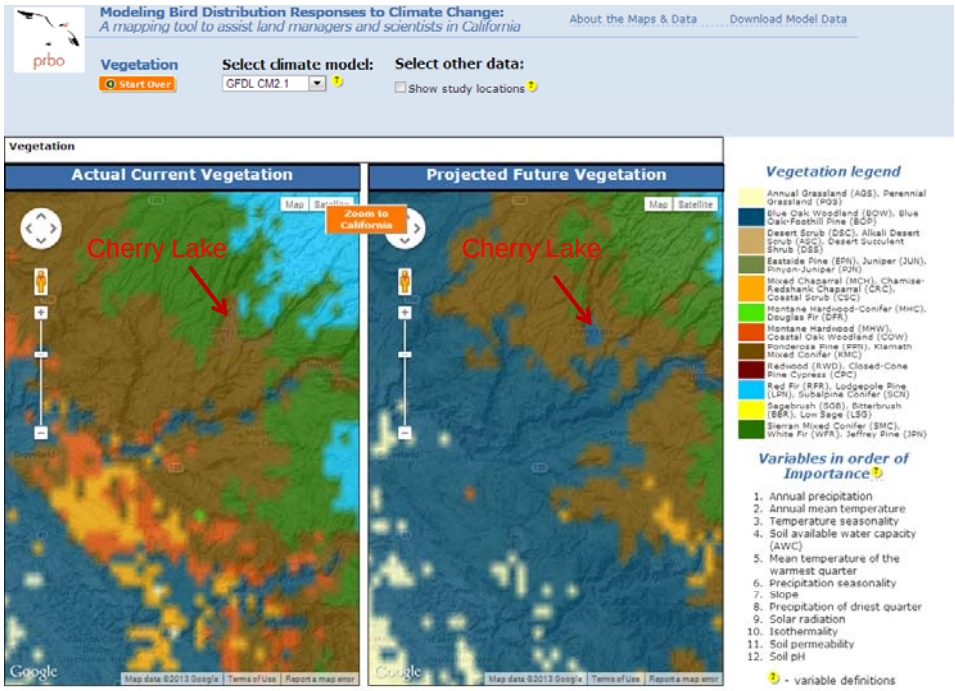
Be Climate Smart



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A Climate Smart Lens

Promote resiliency to predicted future fire

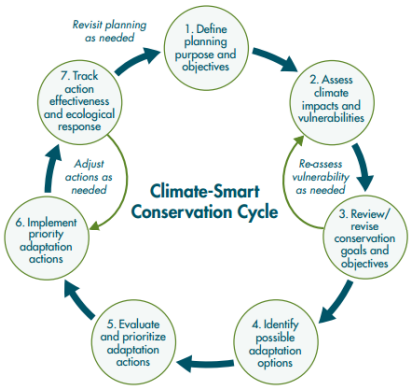
Manage for change – enhance the systems adaptive capacity

Avoid mal-adaptation

Experiment with active and passive management areas

Lean heavily on natural processes (fire)

Be creative, monitor & adapt



National Wildlife Federation

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