# Biodiversity in natural and managed early seral forests of southern Oregon

# Final Report: Fall 2022

MEG KRAWCHUK (OSU, PI) MATT BETTS (OSU), MARK SWANSON (WSU), JIM RIVERS (OSU), JAKE VERSCHUYL (NCASI), AJ KROLL (WEYERHAEUSER) GRAHAM FRANK (OSU, PHD STUDENT) How well does the early-seral stage of productionoriented forests support biodiversity associated with its closest natural counterpart?

- Four taxa: Birds, bees, ground beetles, plants Intensive Mgmt.
- Biodiversity = Diversity and composition
- Comparison among sampling strata
- Associations with environmental gradients



2-5 yr









17-20





# Timeline

#### Expected completion: Summer / Fall 2023 (final year funded by NCASI)











# Summer sampling





# Summer sampling



















Disturbance Type

Fire
Clearcut
Salvage

# Carabids

- Taxonomic work complete 5858 individuals, ~40 species, 22 genera
- Gradient from "weedy" disturbance-adapted species, to forest holdovers
- Range of dispersal and foraging strategies









# Bees and floral resources

#### ~10,000 individual bees over three field seasons

xonomic work slated for completion by







# Undergraduate thesis on exotic plants



Sarabeth Pearce-Smith – OSU Honors College, CoF Natural Resources major











# Thank you!

Funding FWHMF Program (OSU CoF) NCASI BLM OSU CoF Mentored Employment Program

Site Access BLM, USFS, Weyerhaeuser, Manulife, Roseburg Forest Products, Chinook Forest Management

#### Field Crew & Lab Techs

Rya Rubenthaler, Ken Burton, Kait Wright, Alan Moss, Cara Kildall, Helen Payne, Cassidy Lee, Skye Greenler, Logan Bradley, Meghan Sullivan, JP Pow, Emma Tate, Brycen Rogers, Nick Esser, Lucinda Boyle, Daniel Spence

Bee Taxonomy: Linc Best Carabid Taxonomy Training: Jim LaBonte





#### **Final Progress Report**

# Assessing the response of aquatic biota to alternative riparian management practices

Dana Warren - Oregon State University

Ashley Coble - NCASI

Many project collaborators





**Manulife** Investment Management







Giustina Land & Timber Co.





#### **Presentation outline**

#### (Development of our research program at OSU)

- 1. Study questions and conceptual framework
- 2. Identifying patterns
- 3. Exploring relationships that link patterns to key metrics
- 4. Developing hypotheses based on relationships
- 5. Testing hypotheses
  - In observational studies
  - In experimental studies
    - Gap study
    - Riparian Alternatives Study

**Management implications?** 

## A focus on LIGHT

## Why light?

- Stream biota (fish) are affected by more than just habitat
- Stream light can be a key control on primary production (and therefore the rest of the food web)
- Stream light influences stream temperature
- High quality food resources that respond to increasing stream light (algae) that shows up disproportionately in higher trophic levels

#### **Broader contextual questions**

- How important is light to stream ecosystems in Oregon?
- How much does light vary within and among streams in Oregon?

Observational studies Explore pattern...

#### **Broader contextual questions**

- How important is light to stream ecosystems in Oregon?
- How much does light vary within and among streams in Oregon?
- Would management that affects riparian forest cover and changes stream light affect streams and stream biota?
  - "positive" effects of changing light?
  - "negative" effects of changing light?
- Can we use what we learn about the influence of changing canopy cover and associated influences on light to inform riparian management?

#### **Broader contextual questions**

Experimental studies Explore Process...

- Would management that affects riparian forest cover and changes stream light affect streams and stream biota?
  - o "positive" effects of changing light?
  - $\circ$  "negative" effects of changing light?
- Can we use what we learn about the influence of changing canopy cover and associated influences on light to inform riparian management?

## 2. Identifying patterns



## 2. Identifying patterns

Patterns in stream light

- Spatial
- Temporal



## 2. Patterns of light in streams - SPATIAL



### 2. Patterns of light in streams - TEMPORAL



# Take home messages (1)

- 1. Light is spatially variable in streams and far more variable in late-succession forests
- 2. Late succession forests have more light on average than mid-succession forests in PNW forests
- 3. The greater light in late-succession forests is a result of periodic canopy gaps

### 3. Exploring relationships that link patterns to key metrics







## ECOSPHERE

#### Linking riparian shade and the legacies of forest management to fish and vertebrate biomass in forested streams \*

MATTHEW J. KAYLOR<sup>1,†</sup> AND DANA R. WARREN<sup>1,2</sup>







Citation: Kaylor, M. J., and D. R. Warren. 2017. Linking riparian shade and the legacies of forest management to fish and vertebrate biomass in forested streams. Ecosphere 8(6):e01845. 10.1002/ecs2.1845

**Relationships with and among algae and stream biota** 



## Relationships with and among algae and stream biota



## Take home messages (2)

- 1. Streams with closed canopy mid-succession riparian forests are largely light limited
- 2. Local increases in stream light can create hotspots of primary production and nutrient demand
- 3. Stream reaches with more light have, on average,
  - More algae
  - More macroinvertebreates
  - More fish

## 4. Developing hypotheses based on relationships

Moderate increases in light that create reductions in canopy cover lead to increases in the abundance and or biomass of higher trophic levels in streams through bottom-up processes

- At local scales
- And over time

## 5. Testing Hypotheses

- 1. Shading Study (Local scale)
- 2. Gap study (<100 m reaches; one gap)
- 3. Riparian Alternatives study (300m reaches; variable changes)


ARTICLE

#### Aquatic food web response to patchy shading along forested headwater streams

Emily D. Heaston, Matthew J. Kaylor, and Dana R. Warren



Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 00: 1-10 (0000) dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2017-0464

#### \*FWHMF funded project







# Take home messages (3)

- 1. Patchy shading over part of the stream reduces streambed algae at local and reach-scales
- 2. Declines in stream light also lead to reach-scale declines in stream macroinvertebrates, fish, and salamanders

# Experiment 2 - Gaps





# **Experiment 2 - Gaps**

# Study sites

McKenzie River tributaries

- **3 USFS Pairs**
- 3 Weyerhauser Co. Pairs

## **BACI study design**

- Pre-treatment sampling 2017
- Post-treatment sampling 2018



#### Pre Treatment





#### Reach Reference Treatment

## <u>Light</u>

#### Light flux to stream 2017 (PRE-treatment)



PAR (mol/m<sup>A</sup>2 day)

## <u>Light</u>

#### Light flux to stream 2017 (PRE-treatment)



## <u>Light</u>

#### Light flux to stream 2018 (POST-treatment)



## <u>Algae</u>





## <u>Algae</u>

#### Benthic algal standing stocks 2018 (POST-treatment)



# Stream Temperature

Forest Ecology and Management 474 (2020) 118354



Stream temperature responses to experimental riparian canopy gaps along forested headwaters in western Oregon \*



Allison Swartz<sup>a,\*</sup>, David Roon<sup>b</sup>, Maryanne Reiter<sup>c</sup>, Dana Warren<sup>a,b</sup>



\*FWHMF funded project

# **Stream Temperature**



Stream temperature responses to experimental riparian canopy gaps along forested headwaters in western Oregon  $$\mathbf{*}$$ 



Allison Swartz<sup>a,\*</sup>, David Roon<sup>b</sup>, Maryanne Reiter<sup>c</sup>, Dana Warren<sup>a,b</sup>



\*FWHMF funded project

## **Fish**





• Adult Cutthroat trout biomass increased in 4 of 5 sites following gaps (but increases were small)

McTE

W-113

Loon

W-100

Chucksney

 YOY trout responses were mixed

# Take home messages (4)

- Creating canopy gaps next to the stream led to increases in benthic primary production and slight increases in trout biomass in 4 of 5 sites.
- 2. Stream temperature was not substantially affected by the gaps and the changes that did occur were linked to stream size (with smaller streams more susceptible to change)

# **Experiment 3 – Riparian Alternatives**

# Assessing the response of aquatic biota to alternative riparian management practices



### **BACI study design**

- 2 years Pre-treatment sampling
- 2 years Post-treatment sampling
- Staggered start/finish

# Moving from Theory to Practice



# **1. Study Questions and Conceptual Framework**

#### **Project-specific questions**

Our study goal is to determine how water quality and stream biota respond to three alternative riparian management options (buffer gaps, thinning, and variable retention) relative to standard fixed-width buffers and to a wholly unharvested unit. To meet this overarching goal, we had the following objectives:

- Quantify bottom-up factors, including algal standing stocks, primary production, and macroinvertebrate abundances, that may affect growth, abundance, and overall production of fish and salamanders in headwaters
- Quantify the short-term (<3 yr) responses of fish and salamander abundance, total biomass, and summer growth across riparian prescription alternatives.
- In each stream, determine how temperatures vary by treatment and whether significant temperature responses can be linked to other watershed or stream features such as stream size, water residence time, or substrate embeddedness.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests Research Program

# Quick review of the experimental design

## Treatments target a gradient of shading and light availability





#### 1. Uncut

"control" ?

"control" ?

Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests Research Program

## Stream Sampling Layout

HOBO TidbiT - Temperature Logger (n=4)



# **Major Accomplishments**

- Established 6 blocks of study streams (30 streams total) in OR coast range with project partners
- Collected pre-treatment data for at least 1 year at all sites
- Collected 1 year post-treatment data at 1 block (5 streams)
- Trained 10 undergraduate field technicians over 3 years
- Published 1 paper
- Supported 1 undergraduate honors thesis (manuscript from thesis will be submitted soon)

# Major Challenges

- COVID
- Fire
- Site Selection
  - Loss of sites from fire
  - Fish bearing streams (ODFW classifications not always accurate)

# <u>Products</u>

6 presentations or posters

- Sanders, A.M.<sup>^</sup>, A.A. Coble, A.G. Swartz<sup>^</sup>, M. River, P. James, and D.R. Warren. **2022**. Effects of fire and smoke on water temperature and dissolved oxygen in headwater streams. *Freshwater Science*
- Neal, N.<sup>^</sup> 2022. Abiotic and biotic predictors of coastal giant salamander (*Dicamptodon tenebrosus*) in headwaters of the Oregon Coast Range. Oregon State University Honors College Thesis

# Thank you



Year • 2019 (Pre) • 2020 (Pre) • 2021 (Post)

Total Daily LUX (lumens/day)





#### Post Treatment





#### Reach Reference Treatment

# Take home messages (4)

# <u>Light</u>

1) Light levels go up when you cut trees (Phew!!)

## <u>Algae</u>

- 1) Algal standing stocks increased
- 2) Spatial pattern largely consistent with light

### **Invertebrates**

1) Can't really say at this point . . .

## <u>Fish</u>

- 1) Increases in trout YOY in response to the gap
- 2) Larger size at age and aparant growth of YOY in gaps
- 3) Mixed results on adult trout responses
  - BUT less mass loss in gap sites over summer
- 4) Increases in sculpin (n=1)
- 5) Declines in salamanders in gaps
- 6) Limited change in overall vertebrate biomass at the reach scale

### Temperature. . .

Responses of Fish to Forest Management: Evaluating How Different Riparian Reserve Configurations Affect Fish and Food Webs in Headwater Streams

**Ashley Coble - NCASI** 









Oregon State University College of Forestry

**Manulife** Investment Management

Landowner collaborators



**Dana Warren - Oregon State University** 

**Ashley Sanders - Oregon State University** 



Giustina Land & Timber Co







# Predictions

P2.3 Carrying capacity at streams with greater streamlight increases because of increased food availability

"Arising tide ..."





Change in Light



# <u>Valsetz</u>

# Control (unharvested)







Harvest Unit

N

2.25

4.5

9 Kilometers

# **Valsetz**

# Fixed Width (50 ft)







# Current Practice (>20 ft)



#### \*affected by 2021 ice storm




2.25

4.5

## <u>Valsetz</u>

# Gaps (40 m gaps in 50 ft buffer)



9 Kilometers



Light









Blow down event likely a factor here. . .

#### Post-treatment

Blow down event likely a factor here. . .









# Richness responses were inconsistent

(due in large part to variability in pre-treatment years)



Overall relative density responses were variable

(due in part to variability in pretreatment data)







#### <u>Fish – Valsetz</u>



Pre 1 Pre 2 Post 1 Post 2

#### <u>Fish – Valsetz</u>



- Strong YOY response in sites with large changes in light
- Mixed or no consistent response in YOY in sites with moderate light

#### <u>Fish – Valsetz</u>

Abundance of age >1+ cutthroat trout over time normalized to reference site



#### Fish – Valsetz



Abundance of age >1+ cutthroat trout over time normalized to reference site

- Clear cohort response in 2 sites
- Cohort carry-over unclear in 2 sites
- Need to explore other replicate blocks

#### Fish – Walton



Pre 1 Post 1



Pre 1 Post 1

## **Questions?**

#### Acknowledgements

Landowners: Manulife Investment Management and Roseburg Forest Products

Field crews 2019-2022: Alex Boe, Molly Hamilton, Zowie DeLeon, Rylee Rawson, Annika Carlson, Nathan Maisonville, Rory Corrigan, Nate Neal, Maya Greydanus, Jacqui James, Tyler Parr, Ncole Miller, Brenna Cody, Alex Foote, and Ciana Carr

#### Funding: OSUFWHMF grant and NCASI, Inc.







Oregon State University College of Forestry

**Manulife** Investment Management













🕸 Pre 1 🖨 Pre 2 🖨 Post 1 🖨 Post 2

## **QUESTIONS?**

#### Funding:

- NCASI
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests Grant Program
- OSU Ag. Research Foundation



#### **Other contributors:**

 The many forest engineers, managers, and resource specialists at the collaborating companies



## **Fieldwork and data collection:**

- Ashley Sanders
- Nathan Maisonville
- Rylee Rawson
- Annika Carlson
- Zowie DeLeon

Black-backed Woodpecker vital rates in unburned and burned forest within a fire-prone landscape

Cameryn Brock

Jim Rivers OSU College of Forestry Jake Verschuyl NCASI



## We evaluated key vital rates within green and burned forest



**Objective #1. Quantify nest survival in green vs. burned forest** 

Nest survival ↑ in burned forest



**Objective #2. Evaluate post-fledging survival in green vs. burned forest** 

• Post-fledging survival  $\uparrow$  in burned forest

## Lots of woodpecker nesting data were collected!

#### >1100 person-hours nest-searching across 3 years of field work

Species	2018	2019	2021
Black-backed Woodpecker	19	32	45
White-headed Woodpecker	6	2	1
Williamson's Sapsucker	7	2	0
Red-breasted Sapsucker	4	0	0
Red-naped Sapsucker	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	21	15	4
Northern Flicker	13	4	1
American Three-toed Woodpecker	1	3	1
Total	71	58	53

#### No differences found in nest survival or reproductive output



#### No clear patterns regarding nest age at time of failure



#### Differences found in nest initiation date, chick body condition



## No differences in post-fledging survival

Hazard ratio = 1.04 (95% CI: 0.45, 2.41) Forest type:  $\chi^2$  = 0.51, *P* = 0.47





## Most fledgling mortality occurred in first 3-4 weeks





# Project leveraging: assessing parental provisioning behavior across green and burned forest



n=58 nests and ~155 hours of footage across 3 years

## **Project leveraging: multi-order habitat selection**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> order selection (geographic range)





4<sup>th</sup> order selection (use of habitat elements)

4<sup>th</sup> order selection: nest-tree use vs. availability (n=94)



2<sup>nd</sup> order selection: home range use vs. availability (n=240 plots)



3<sup>rd</sup> order selection (habitat elements)



### **Project leveraging: food availability in green forests**



#### **Project leveraging: natal dispersal and population connectivity**





#### **Extensive student engagement on project**

# **URSA Engage**





Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation



#### Many thanks...

#### Funding and in-kind support:

National Council for Air and Stream Improvement; Oregon Department of Forestry; Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests Program, College of Forestry, Oregon State University; Chemult Ranger Station, Fremont-Winema National Forest; LightHawk Conservation Flying, Animal Behavior Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, Klamath Basin Audubon Society, East Cascades Audubon Society

#### **Logistical support:**

A. Holland, C. Brock, M. Kuzel, B. Howland, C. Ross, V. Hawk, L. Bee, N. Quatier, J. Ford, T. Lorenz, A. Stillman, N. Palazzotto, C. Buhl, C. Weekly, J. Pellissier, M. Gostin, A. Markus, D. Antle, J. Easter, J. Swingle, R. Lewallen, C. Steele, D. Riffle, M. Johnson, J. Welch, C. Weekly, J. Dachenhaus, E. Woodis, D. Mainwaring



# Development of native bee identification keys for the Pacific Northwest

Jim Rivers OSU College of Forestry Lincoln R. Best OSU College of Agriculture
# Available bee identification keys are challenging to use, even for experts

- Scopa weak (Figs. 8-5a, 8-6) or absent; T5 with longitudinal median zone of fine punctation and short hairs weakly developed or absent; apical labral process without keel (as in Fig. 65-1i) or keel reduced to weak carina ..... 2

#### Idealized drawings often don't work well in the real world



#### Key used to teach bee identification in Oregon Bee School



# Our project will create two wild bee identification keys, in both online and print formats



Species-level keys for: Bombus ♀ and Bombus ♂



Images courtesy of ODA

# Joshua Dunlap ODA

# 1





## The Bees of the Willamette Valley

#### A Comprehensive Guide to Genera





By August Jackson

#### Bumble bee key encompasses 28 species and will leverage 473 existing ID templates from Paul Williams (NHM, London, UK)

Black-tailed Bumble Bee (Bombus melanopygus)





Images courtesy of ODA and Paul Williams



#### Modified from Williams et al 2014

#### Key to Female Bombus species of the PNW

1a Hindleg tibia with a pollen basket (corbicula), the outer surface flat without long hair in the center as well as short anterior and posterior fringes; S6 without lateral keels -> 2 (Pollen collecting species)

1b Hindleg tibia without a pollen basket, the outer surface convex with dense long hair in the center as well as short anterior and posterior fringes; S6 with lateral keels -> **26** (Cuckoo Bumble bee)

2a (1a) Midleg basitarsus distal posterior corner rounded -> 3 (Pyro; S.Str.; Cullu; Alpino)

2b Midleg basitarsus distal posterior corner with a sharp spine -> 24 (Bombias; Thoraco; Subterr)

3a (2a) Cheek about as long as broad, or longer than broad, the lateral ocellus always small and its center located posterior to the narrowest line between the eyes -> **4** (Pyro; Alpino)

3b Cheek shorter than broad, the lateral ocellus small *and* its center located posterior to the narrowest line between the eyes, *or if* the cheek is nearly equal in length and breadth *then* the lateral ocellus is

- 27 Couplets
- Differentiates 28 Bombus species



#### Modified from Williams et al 2014

#### Key to Male Bombus species of the PNW

1a Eye similar size and shape of female eye -> 3

1b Eye enlarged and bulbous -> 2

2a (1b) Eyes weakly convergent dorsally; penis valve head dorsoventrally flattened, curved in toward the body midline and sickle-shaped -> 22 (*Cullumanobombus*)

2b Eyes strongly convergent dorsally, penis valve head laterally flattened, straight and about 5x as long as broad -> *Bombus nevadensis* 

3a (1a) Antenna short, antennal flagellum less than 2.5x the length of the scape; penis valve head greatly broadened dorsoventrally, flared outward and forming a broad funnel shape -> 21 (Bombus)

3b Antenna long or very long, antennal flagellum more than 2.5x the length of the scape; penis valve head either straight, or outcurved from the body midline, or incurved toward the body midline as a sickle shape, or as a short, broad, deep spoon shape -> **4** 

- 26 Couplets
- Differentiates 28 Bombus species







FIG 5





FIG 12



### Joshua Dunlap Oregon Department of Agriculture



























Page 40 in BBNA





Bombus s.str.



Cullumanobombus



Subterraneobombus















Pyrobombus



Psithyrus





#### Generic-level bee key encompasses 56 genera in 6 families





- 78 Couplets
- Differentiates 56 genera



#### **Modified from MMD**

#### Key to the bee genera of the PNW

1a With three submarginal cells -> 2

1b With two submarginal cells; rarely only one -> 40

2a (1a) Hind tibial spurs absent -> Apis mellifera

2b Hind tibial spurs present -> 3

3a (2b) Jugal lobe of hind wing absent -> Bombus

3b Jugal lobe of hind wing present -> 4

4a (3b) Posterior portion of second recurrent vein distinctly arcuate distad -> Colletes

4b Posterior portion of second recurrent vein not arcuate distad -> 5

5a (4b) Marginal cell pointed, apex on costal margin of wing or, if bent away from margin or truncated, apex less than about three vein widths from costal margin; stigma usually large, usually broader and much longer than prestigma, margin within marginal cell usually convex -> **6** 





# Where we're headed:

- 5th round draft to be delivered by August Jackson by Jan. 1, 2023
- Imaging the remaining characters for the keys: 1/3 of the generic images, and 1/3 of the *Bombus* images to complete by Spring 2023
- Graphic design and layout by the team, led by A.Jackson Summer 2023
- Delivery of print version on online version September 2023

#### Many thanks...

#### Funding and in-kind support:

Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Arthropod Collection, Oregon Bee Project, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSU Extension

#### **Logistical support:**

J. Dunlap, J. Labonte, C. Marshall, A. Melathopoulos, J.Vlach, A.Jackson



Images courtesy of ODA

### Multi-scale Habitat Value of Slash Piles for Pacific Martens and Fishers

Jordan Ellison<sup>1,2</sup>, Katie Moriarty<sup>1</sup>, Angela Larsen-Gray<sup>1</sup>, and John Bailey<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc.

<sup>2</sup>Oregon State University

Funding from **Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests research program** and the **National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc.** 



# *J***NCASI**

IMPACT. SCIENCE. SOLUTIONS.

# Pacific fisher (*Pekania pennanti*)

- Southern Sierra population State (2019) and Federally (2020) Endangered
- New petition for listing entire west coast population filed Sept. 13, 2022





Mark Linnell

# Pacific marten (*Martes caurina*)

- Coastal Distinct Population Segment Federally Threatened (2020)
- State Endangered in California (2019)

# **Connected, structurally complex forests**

Erika Anderson



# Woody debris



Caylen Kelsey

# **Slash Piles**



ev



### **Objective 1:** Pile Visitation

Document pile visitation by martens and fishers

Quantify associations between pile visitation and stand/pile characteristics



## **Objective 1: Pile Visits**

# Forest Camera Slash Pile Camera Slash Pile Stand Adj Stand

## Camera Surveys

- (California only)
  - 69 stand-pairs surveyed
  - $\bullet 354 \text{ cameras}$
  - •>1.6 million photos collected and tagged

#### **Detection dog teams**

• Used in California (n = 45) and Oregon (n = 8)

				Kilomete	rs
				Ruomete	10
0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	

Tim Lawes














#### **Objective 2: Small mammal communities**

Generate estimates of small mammal abundance, diversity, and energetic biomass at slash piles and in the surrounding landscape



#### **Objective 2: Small** mammal trapping

#### **18 replicates**

• 946 individuals from 16 species



## Preliminary data: Small Mammals





# **Objective 3: Fire Behavior**

Model effects on surface fire behavior with occurrence of slash piles



# Intensive Sampling

19 stands between California (n = 10) and Oregon (n = 9)

- Ages 0-7 years
- 3-6 vegetation and woody debris plots
- Up to 10 piles sampled per stand

Generate custom fuel models



# Summary of accomplishments

78 stands surveyed between Oregon (n = 9) and California (n = 69)

>1.6 million remote camera images collected and photo-tagged

946 unique small mammal captures over 18 trapping replicates

Presented at:

- +  $68^{\text{th}}$  Annual Meeting of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society, 2021
- Western Forestry Graduate Research Symposium, 2021
- Annual Meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society, 2022
- Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Society, 2022

# Next steps

Develop fire behavior models at slash piles

Model small mammal community metrics and energetic biomass at slash piles

Develop GLM describing associations between fisher detections at slash piles and stand and pile characteristics

Ellison MS Thesis, anticipated March 2023

# Acknowledgements

**Field crew**: Shalom Fletcher, Dustin Marsh, James Mackenzie, Jordan McBain, Fiona McKibben, Jason Moriarty, Brandon Shea

**Green Diamond field crew**: Erika Anderson, Maddie Cameron, Drake Fehring, Theannah Hannon, Isley Jones, Jason Labrie, Jim Lucchesi, Ashley Morris, Kira Parker, John Roos

**Additional support** from Laurie Clark, Desiree Early, Keith Hamm, David Lamphear, Micaela Szykman Gunther, Alyssa Roddy, and Jake Verschuyl

**Rogue Detection teams:** Justin Broderick and Winnie, Will Chrisman and Hooper, Jenn Hartman and Filson

Photos from the field: Tim Lawes

**Photo-taggers:** Sandy Diaz, Alanna Garcia, Kelly Johnson, Sabrina Ott, Louis Salas, Anna Schwecke

Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests Research Program

**Questions?** jordan.ellison@oregonstate.edu



# Oregon State University College of Forestry

**NCASI** 

IMPACT. SCIENCE. SOLUTIONS.



# **Red tree voles in working forests**

#### Jason Piasecki<sup>1,2</sup>, John Bailey PhD<sup>2</sup>, Katie Moriarty PhD<sup>1,2</sup>

KAJK

<sup>1</sup> National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI)
 <sup>2</sup> Oregon State University, College of Forestry





## Red tree vole (Arborimus longicaudus)









# Study Goals

- 1. Quantify relative abundance of red tree vole nests
- 2. Estimate nest density
- 3. Quantify detection rates of red tree vole nests
- 4. Estimate nest status (e.g., occupied, recently occupied, old) and use by other arboreal mammals
- 5. Quantify red tree vole colonization and extirpation rates at the nest level
- 6. Estimate nest survival from 2019-2022





## 2021 Study Range





# Surveying for red tree voles





## Surveying for nests in young forests



- climbed
- occupancy



# Fixed 1km<sup>2</sup> plots (1/ha) Ground based search All nests in live crown Cameras installed to confirm tree vole



#### S NCASI MPACT. SCIENCE. SOLUTIONS.

# Surveying for nests in old forests

- Fixed 1km<sup>2</sup> plots (1/ha)
- 'vertical' plots
- Canopy based search
- All nests in live crown climbed
- Cameras installed to confirm tree vole occupancy







## Tree vole signs



#### Douglas-fir resin ducts

#### 45° cut twig





# Fresh Douglas-fir cuttings

#### **Project Summary**

- 2019 to 2022 (22 months total)
- 63 stands surveyed
- 1044 individual nests climbed
- 260 camera installations 40 captures

# 2048 nest survey points over study





NCASI

Tree vole nests

S(t + stand\_age + nest\_size), AICc weight 35.42% S(stand age + nest size), AICc weight 20.24%



n=151



#### Nest Size (cubic m) 0.1









Tree vole nests

#### S(t + stand\_age + nest\_size), AICc weight 35.42%





Nest Size (cubic m) 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5





#### Tree vole nests S(t + stand\_age + nest\_size), AICc weight 35.42%





Nest Size (cubic m)

0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4

0.5



#### Tree vole nests S(t + stand\_age + nest\_size), AICc weight 35.42%







# Proportional RTV nest density (young forests)





#### Proportional RTV nest density (forests within 1300m of OF) $\mathcal{S}$ NCASI SCIENCE, SOLUTIONS





## 5 NCASI

## Observations: nest colonization/extirpation



2020

2021

#### 2020

#### Colonization

#### Extirpation



#### 2021





# Captures





#### Conclusions

#### Conclusions

- Successfully implementing two methods to assess tree vole occupancy
- Continue to observe low nest/tree vole occurrence surrounding the 50yr-60yr age classes
- Continue to observe both colonization and extirpation across all age classes where voles are found

#### Limitations

- Detectability in old forest





# 2022 Objectives – NAFO Wildlife Conservation Initiative

- Tag and evaluate camera data for conspecific interactions
- Identify predation events -
- Evaluate microhabitat structure availability vs nesting habits





# 2022 Objectives – Oregon Wildlife Foundation

- Evaluate detectability in forests over 80yrs using climb-survey method
- Dedicated 2-person crew





## Acknowledgements

Field crew – Cody Berthiaume, Mackenzie McCoy, Salix Scoresby,
Kaitlin Webb, Jacob Baker, Ian Shriner, Mark Stevens, Jessie Ritter,
Stephanie Loredo
Training and consulting – Eric Forsman, Jim Swingle, Mark Linnell

Photos – Tim Lawes, Ian Shriner, Jake Baker





LONE ROCK RESOURCES

#### A Weyerhaeuser

#### Manulife Investment Management

# OREGON WILDLIFE FOUNDATION








## Questions?



16 A 13 6 A A

Jason Piasecki Graduate Research Assistant – OSU College of Forestry



# Oregon State

College of Forestry

Quantifying the effects of wildfire on water quantity, water quality, and fish: The Hinkle Creek Watershed Study revisited

Kevin D. Bladon, Dana R. Warren, and David Roon

> FWHMF Project Update November 18, 2022







#### Hinkle Creek (2001–2011)

- S. Fork Hinkle: 2,117 ac (857 ha)
- Nested watersheds: Fenton, Clay, Russell, and Beebe
- Harvested 2005/06 & 2008/09: 704 ac (283 ha)
- Parameters measured:
  - streamflow
  - suspended sediment
  - stream temperature
  - chemical water quality
  - invertebrates
  - fish



#### 2020 Archie Creek Fire

- Umpqua River Basin
- 131,542 acres (531 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Burn severity
  - High: 32.9 %
  - Moderate: 44.0 %
  - Low: 14.2 %
  - Unburned: 8.9 %
- Burned area included sub-watersheds from the original Hinkle Creek Watershed Study



#### **Objectives**

- Quantify wildfire effects on streamflow
- Quantify wildfire effects on water quality (N, P, C)
- Relate water quantity and quality responses to changes in primary productivity, fish abundance, and fish biomass
- Compare effects from wildfire to effects from forest harvesting by leveraging data from the original Hinkle Ck study





#### Wildfire impacts on a range of ecosystem components



#### **Timeline**

Activity	Year 1 (2022)				Year 2 (2023)				Year 3 (2024)	
	Su	Fa	Wi	Sp	Su	Fa	Wi	Sp	Su	Fa
Deploy ISCOs for water samples										
Reinstall flumes to quantify streamflow										
Water quality and quantity monitoring										
Lab processing of water quality samples										
Fish, amphibian, primary productivity sampling (previously funded)										
Erosion, TSS, DOC, stream temperature, soil, and vegetation sampling (previously funded)										
Data analysis										
Dissemination of results at professional meetings (e.g., SFA, AGU) and FWHMF annual meeting										
Manuscript writing and submission										

#### Stage and discharge

- Stage: Pressure transducers and staff gauges installed at 11 sites through stream network
- Barometric pressure: 2 centrally located barometers installed across study region
- Discharge: Spring 2022 reinstalled Montana flumes in S. Fork headwater streams to facilitate comparison with original HCWS



#### Stream and air temperature

- Installed across the stream network:
  - 17 stream temperature sensors
  - 3 air temperature sensors

 Sensors measure every 60 seconds and store data every 15 minutes



### Stream temperature





- Post-harvest: T<sub>7daymax</sub> 0.2–0.5 °C increase post-harvest
- Post-fire: T<sub>7daymax</sub> median values ~2.5–6.0 °C warmer than the highest median value in the pre- or post-harvest periods

### Suspended sediment





 NOTE: Different sampling regimes b/n original study and current study that still need to be resolved



### Stream nutrients - nitrate





## Stream nutrients - phosphorus





#### **Primary productivity**

- ~250 instantaneous measurements across the stream network monthly during the summer low flow period
- tiles deployed to periodically scrape and quantify algal biomass and chl-a







#### Fish Density - Pools





- Coastal cutthroat trout mean density over course of the study (tributaries & catchment): 0.04–0.36 fish m<sup>-2</sup>
  - Post-harvest net increase in tributaries: +0.11 fish m<sup>-</sup>
     <sup>2</sup> (p = 0.091); suggestive evidence of a difference at catchment level
- Post-fire mean density at catchment level: 0.41 fish m<sup>-2</sup>





 Coastal cutthroat trout mean biomass over course of the study (tributaries & catchment): 0.69–5.19 g m<sup>-2</sup>

 Post-harvest net increase in tributaries: +1.54 g m<sup>-2</sup> (p = 0.047); suggestive evidence of a difference

 Post-fire mean biomass: 12.9 g m<sup>-2</sup>

#### **Communications and engagement**

#### Presentations

- Bladon, K.D., Cole, R.P., Donahue, D., Graham, E., Grieger, S., \*McCredie, K., Myers-Pigg, A., Roebuck, J.A., \*Roon, D.A., Scheibe, T.,
  \*Wampler, K.A., and Warren, D. 2022. Wildfire effects on catchment hydrology and biogeochemical processes. American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. Dec. 12–16, 2022, Chicago, IL. (Invited)
- \*McCredie, K., Bladon, K.D., and DeLuca, T.H. 2022. Disentangling pre- and post-fire forest management effects on water quality and soil health in the Hinkle Creek Watershed, Western Oregon. American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. Dec. 12–16, 2022, Chicago, IL.
- Bladon, K.D., Warren, D.R., Roon, D.A., Swartz, A., \*McCredie, K., and Ivie, J. 2022. Wildfire and post-fire management effects on water quantity, water quality, and aquatic ecology: The Hinkle Creek Watershed Study revisited. Nov. 3, 2022. Umpqua Hydro Breakfast, Roseburg, OR. (Invited)
- Roon, D.A., Bladon, K.D., Warren, D.R., Swartz, A., \*McCredie, K., and Ivie, J. 2022. Wildfire and post-fire management effects on water quantity, water quality, and aquatic ecology: The Hinkle Creek Watershed Study revisited. Sep. 28, 2022. National Council for Air and Stream Improvement Fall Meeting, Vancouver, WA. (Invited)
- Warren, D.R., Roon, D.A., Swartz, A., Bladon, K.D. 2022. Cold-water fish persist in a stream system with elevated summer temperatures after a severe wildfire. Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Oregon State Implementation Committee Meeting. Sep. 21, 2022. Virtual.

#### Field tour

• Hinkle Creek Watershed Study Revisited: Wildfire effects on water quantity, water quality, and aquatic ecology. September 15, 2022, Hinkle Creek Watershed, OR. OFIC and NCASI members. (17 attendees)

#### Media

- Media: Timber Fires and High-Water Temperatures Didn't Impact an Oregon Trout Stream Population. Sport Fishing. Oct. 17, 2022. https://www.sportfishingmag.com/news/timber-fires-high-water-temperatures-didnt-impact-oregon-trout-stream-population/.
- Media: Warmer stream temperatures in burned-over Oregon watershed didn't result in fewer trout. PhysOrg. Oct. 4, 2022. https://phys.org/news/2022-10-warmer-stream-temperatures-burned-over-oregon.html.

#### Publications

• Warren, DR., Roon, D., Swartz, A., and Bladon, K.D. 2022. Cold-water fish persist in a stream system with elevated summer temperatures after a severe wildfire. Ecosphere. 13(9): e4233. doi: 10.1002/ecs2.4233.

#### Student engagement or professional development

- Three MS students (Ivie, McCredie, Pimont)
- Six undergraduate field assistants
- Two post-doctoral scholars and one FRA

## Acknowledgements

## PI's on the original Hinkle Ck project:

- Arne Skaugset
- Bob Gresswell
- Judy Li
- Kermit Cromack
- Lisa Ganio
- Mick Adams





Oregon State University

OHOLOGY AND WATERS



ENTERING VATERSHED RESFARCH AREA





IMPACT. SCIENCE. SOLUTIONS.

## Post-Wildfire Resurvey of Terrestrial Salamanders on Managed Forests

Tiffany Garcia, Jessica Homyack, Claudine Reynolds, Meg Krawchuk, and AJ Kroll





## Direct **Impacts** Impacts

- Downed wood management
- Salvage logging
- Fire Intensity
- Species of Conservation Concern

#### Ensatina eschscholtzii oregonensis- Ensatina



- Common Species in PNW forests
- Widely distributed in W. Oregon
- Large home and dispersal range
- Associated with downed wood
- Reduced occupancy and abundance probabilities after harvest

#### Batrachoseps wright- Oregon Slender Salamander



- Cryptic Species endemic to Oregon
- Narrow distribution
- Tiny home and dispersal range
- Oregon Priority Species
- Associated with downed wood
- No detected impact of harvest on occupancy probability

2013-2019 Terrestrial Salamander Survey





#### Treatment

Harvested / Burned Unharvested / Unburned Unharvested / Burned / Salvaged Harvested / Unburned

#### **#** Resurvey Stands

15 15 7 + 8 new plots 15





#### Harvest

# Project Objective: Quantify impacts of wildfire and harvest on salamander occupancy and abundance on managed timberlands.

- 1. Impacts of pre- and post-fire harvest
- 2. Contextualize fire severity and downed wood condition

#### **Temporal and Spatial Lens:**

- Use information gained from the salamander survey (2013-2019)
- Add new sites to increase statistical power for a treatment comparison using only 2022-2023 data

#### Methods:

- Survey spring 2023 and 2024- all 60 (or 75) sites
- 12 weeks field seasons with 3 person crew



#### **Summary of Accomplishments**

- Site Selection
- **Field Housing and Hiring**
- **Permissions and Permits**
- **Survey Season**
- **Database Construction**



## Acknowledgments



## Where is it the most effective to restore streams? Salmon Habitat Restoration using Large Wood: Linking Stream Geomorphic Change and Restoration Effectiveness

Catalina Segura, FERM Madelyn Maffia, FERM Eric Suring, ODFW

OREGON



# Introduction

- We know that LW pieces promote fish habitat.
- In many systems the limiting factor to fish populations is availability of winter habitat.
- Natural wood recruitment leads to forced-pool-riffle morphologies.
- Historic riparian clear-cutting led to deciduous dominated forests and simplified channels.
- While wood additions are common, success is rarely quantified.



# **Objectives**

- 1. Assess the resilience of the fish habitat changes observed one-year post LW restoration to changes observed 6-yrs post restoration.
- 2. Investigate the geomorphological changes triggered by LW restoration in three reaches based on the comparison of annual topographic surveys conducted 1-yr pre- to 5-yrs post-restoration.
- 3. Assess the stability of LW structures at the basin scale by comparing a wood survey conducted in 2016 to a new 2022 survey.
- 4. Investigate the relationship between local and basin scale habitat/geomorphic metrics and fish populations response after the restoration in the context of long-term fish population data.







This indicate that habitat has continued to increase as the channel adjusts to the wood introductions.

Blue or light blue increased from 29.2% to 65.2% Blue or light blue increase by 80% since 2014











# **Objectives**

- 1. Assess the resilience of the fish habitat changes observed one-year post LW restoration to changes observed 6-yrs post restoration.
- 2. Investigate the geomorphological changes triggered by LW restoration in three reaches based on the comparison of annual topographic surveys conducted 1-yr pre- to 5-yrs post-restoration.
- 3. Assess the stability of LW structures at the basin scale by comparing a wood survey conducted in 2016 to a new 2022 survey.
- 4. Investigate the relationship between local and basin scale habitat/geomorphic metrics and fish populations response after the restoration in the context of long-term fish population data.








#### S3 Annual XS Scour Relative to Prior Year

# **Objectives**

- 1. Assess the resilience of the fish habitat changes observed one-year post LW restoration to changes observed 6-yrs post restoration.
- 2. Investigate the geomorphological changes triggered by LW restoration in three reaches based on the comparison of annual topographic surveys conducted 1-yr pre- to 5-yrs post-restoration.
- 3. Assess the stability of LW structures at the basin scale by comparing a wood survey conducted in 2016 to a new 2022 survey.
- 4. Investigate the relationship between local and basin scale habitat/geomorphic metrics and fish populations response after the restoration in the context of long-term fish population data.



Last summer we measured every piece of LW larger than 10 cm in diameter and 1 meter in length

= 1600 pieces

For every log measured

- Diameter
- Length
- LW extent (Partial Spanning /Full Spanning)
- Orientation (Orthogonal/ Parallel /Oblique)

Every 100 meters we measured

- Channel confinement
- Floodplain connectivity



# **Objectives**

- 1. Assess the resilience of the fish habitat changes observed one-year post LW restoration to changes observed 6-yrs post restoration.
- 2. Investigate the geomorphological changes triggered by LW restoration in three reaches based on the comparison of annual topographic surveys conducted 1-yr pre- to 5-yrs post-restoration.
- 3. Assess the stability of LW structures at the basin scale by comparing a wood survey conducted in 2016 to a new 2022 survey.
- 4. Investigate the relationship between local and basin scale habitat/geomorphic metrics and fish population response after the restoration in the context of long-term fish population data.

Preliminary results at the basin scale indicate increases in Mill Creek fish populations after the restoration in 2016.

We also have fish absence and presence data per tributary from electrofishing surveys.



### Posters and presentations

- Presented to 2022 ODFW Salmonid Life Cycle Monitoring Symposium, June 8, 2022, presented by Madelyn Maffia
- A poster contribution to the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, December 12–16, 2022 will be presented by Madelyn Maffia
- A poster contribution to the Pacific Northwest Water Research Symposium, April 13-14, 2023, will be presented by Madelyn Maffia

## Students involve in the project

- Madelyn Maffia, Master Student in Water Resources
  Science.
- Melissa Mauk, Sydney Anderson, and Will Potter, Undergraduate field assistants
- Michal Tutka, Graduate student in the department of Biological and Ecological Engineering advised by Dr. Desiree Tullos, is additionally partnering with us to investigate LW impact on flow depth and velocities of varying log jam orientations in the same sites where we have been working.
- Madelyn secured additional funding from the CoF SUGAR Program to an undergraduate technician, Christopher Neihoff, to assist with the basinwide survey during the summer of 2022.

## To do:

- · Hydraulic modeling at bankfull flow for the three sites..
- Continue the analysis of 7 years of geomorphic information pre- (2014) and post (2015–2021) restoration at three reaches.
- Based on the field data collected last summer we will develop metrics of geomorphic response to orientation and volume of log jams to extrapolate data to the basin scale.
- Investigate the relationship between geomorphic metrics derived and fish populations at the tributary and basin scales.

# Acknowledgements

- FWHMF
- Weyerhaeuser
- CoF





